

# Reston CONNECTION

Vicky Hadjikyriakou, owner of Reston restaurant, Kalypso's Sports Tavern watches from afar (not pictured) as the Kalypso Leprechaun docks at Lake Anne.

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MARCH 18-24, 2020

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# OPINION

## Session Wrap-Up 2020

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM  
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)

The General Assembly session that adjourned last week was a busy one; 3,001 bills and resolutions were introduced, and 1,351 of those passed. But the historic nature of the session was not in the number of bills introduced: it was in the shift in philosophy governing the state that went from conservative to progressive. The Associated Press termed it "one of the most consequential sessions in Virginia's history."

Some of the more noteworthy bills that passed are summarized below. I voted for them unless otherwise noted.

The General Assembly ratified the **Equal Right Amendment** after about 40 years of refusing to do so. Virginia is the 38<sup>th</sup> state to ratify the ERA; federal courts will decide if the amendment was ratified within the deadline set for it.

Numerous laws that had been put in place over the last several decades to make it difficult for a woman to have **access to an abortion** were repealed including a mandatory 24-hour waiting period and ultrasound testing. Dozens of **Jim Crow era laws** that limited the rights of Black people were removed from the code as they had been declared unconstitutional by federal courts years ago. Local governments were given authority to determine the fate of **Confederate monuments** in their jurisdictions.

The **Virginia Values Act** prohibits discrimination in housing and employment for all persons. My bill to bring **protections of the hate crime law** to all persons regardless of



### COMMENTARY

sexual orientation or gender identity passed as did other bills to **prohibit LGBTQ discrimination**. **Conversion therapy** on minors is banned under a new law.

Major bills passed to **make voting easier**. No-excuse absentee voting passed, and election day will now be a holiday. Repeal

of the photo ID requirement for voting passed. The environment received extra attention. The **Clean Energy Act** sets Virginia on course to be carbon neutral by 2045 as well setting timelines on the move to wind and solar power and the use of more renewables. My bill to **clean up the Chesapeake Bay** with more nutrient management of agricultural run-off passed as did my bill to manage the menhaden fishery as an important part of the ecology of the Bay.

Seven of the eight bills to **end gun violence** proposed by Governor Northam passed including my bill to establish universal background checks for all firearm purchases. Other bills to limit handgun purchases to one a month passed as did a bill to limit gun possession for persons who are the subject of a restrictive order for violent behavior.

The biggest step in decades towards **transportation** improvements passed. The additional gas tax raised by the bill will provide monies necessary to improve the roads in the state as well as provide monies for mass transit and rail. A bill to ban holding a **cell phone** while driving passed. No longer will driver's licenses be suspended for unpaid court fees and fines under a bill that passed. Undocumented immigrants will be able to get a driver's license.

For workers, the **minimum wage** will be going up from its current \$7.25 to \$9.50 this year and to \$12 in three years. My bill to raise the minimum wage at a greater level was incorporated into the bill that passed. A bill to allow **collective bargaining** between local governments and their employees passed.

**Balance billing** for hospital and medical costs are eliminated by another bill that passed. A Virginia **health insurance exchange** will be established to replace the federal one.

I voted against a bill that passed that allows five cities to have a referendum on **casino gambling**. I voted for a bill that will ban thousands of slot-machine-like games of skills in restaurants and stores.

Possession of a small amount of **marijuana** has been decriminalized. As part of legislation to end the **school-to-prison pipeline**, a bill passed to prohibit students from being found guilty of disorderly conduct for actions in school.

A **constitutional amendment** to have a 16-member panel of legislators and citizens redraw legislative and congressional district lines passed for a second time and will be on the ballot for voter approval in November.

A \$135 billion **biennial budget** provides more money for pre-school education, raises for teachers and state employees, more school counselors, more developmental disability waiver slots, free community college for certain eligible students, among other improvements.

For more information on bills summarized here and on other legislation passed, go to <https://lis.virginia.gov/>. Most bills have not been signed by the Governor but are expected to be.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## A Pattern That Can't Be Ignored

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to the article titled "Wellbeing: Inflicting Pain to Gain Relief" (Connection, March 4-10, 2020.) As mentioned in the article, there has been a rise in teen self-harm over the years. I think it is important to take a step back and recognize the causes of the increases in self-harm. This isn't something that is randomly affecting people but rather something that is largely affecting teens, starting as early as middle school. This is a pattern that cannot be ignored.

Why is it that so many teenagers are experiencing self-harm? Could it be our school environments? Could it be that screen time is replacing in-person contact? Perhaps teenagers find that their only outlet left is to turn to self-harm. It's vital that we help

the individuals going through self-harm, but it is just as important that we take a step back and try to understand the outside forces that have caused this disproportionate pattern in teenagers. I believe that there is something more significant going on than individual events but rather a group of people situated in a society that could be an outside force causing this problem. It is up to us to address this.

Lianna Williams  
Vienna

## Inspirational Fight for Women's Rights

To the Editor:

This year's Women's History Month is particularly special because Virginia became the 38th state to ratify the Equal Rights

Amendment (ERA). The ERA is designed to guarantee equal rights for all American citizens, regardless of gender. While it's disappointing to know that it took so long to ratify women's equality, we have seen women, such as, Malala Yousafzai, fight for justice in all parts of the world. As a college student and young Muslim women, seeing someone like her who is not afraid to fight for women's rights while maintaining her Muslim identity is inspirational.

It is disappointing that Pakistan and other Muslim countries deny women the access to education, which is what Malala Yousafzai bravely fought for. The Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) emphasized the importance of education for both genders. He said, "It is the duty of every Muslim man and every Muslim woman to acquire knowledge."

This Women's History Month, as we celebrate Virginia's historic

achievement, let us also not forget about Muslim women role models such as Malala Yousafzai or political leaders, such as, Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib. Let's come together to celebrate the achievements of women from all nationalities and religions.

Sabiha Basit  
Centreville

### Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors.

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## Global to Local: This Is Not a Test

WEEK ONE: 03/09-03/15

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

**W**e are in this together to save the lives of people in Fairfax County, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the nation and across the globe - a fight against COVID-19. It's real; it's here, and this is not a test. Take it seriously. Cesar del Aguila, Town of Herndon Councilmember, reflected on the week's events late Sun. night, March 15. "This is a generational transformation to our country and culture. This will affect everything. How we work, communicate and congregate," he said.

During the days leading up to Sunday, March 15, events related to COVID-19 escalate. Residents and leaders in the Town of Herndon, nearby communities of Reston and Great Falls, Fairfax County, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the nation and globally try to make sense of it and how best to respond. They consider needs and risks as COVID-19 spreads.

**TUESDAY, MARCH 10:** The World Health Organization releases the statement: "The International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC), UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO) today issued new guidance to help protect children and schools from transmission of the COVID-19 virus... In the event of school closures, the guidance includes recommendations to mitigate against the possible negative impacts on children's learning and well-being. This means having solid plans in place to ensure the continuity of learning, including remote learning options such as online education strategies and radio broadcasts of academic content, and access to essential services for all children."

In Fairfax County, Health Director Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu and Benjamin Schwartz M.D., Division Director, Epidemiology and Population Health, Health Department provide a coronavirus (COVID-19) briefing to the Board of Supervisors at its regular meeting. "What you will hear today is the Health Department turning up that dial-in collaboration with partners like the healthcare community, schools and businesses, community organizations and leaders of our diverse ethnic communities and places of worship and so on...and minimize potential impact of this global public threat on our community," says Addo-Ayensu.

Schwartz addresses the Supervisors. "The spread is mainly from person-to-person through respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes...those droplets do not remain suspended in the air...and only travel less than six feet. That is our magic distance," he said... Is this going to be a global pandemic that engulfs our communities and our country?" says Schwartz. "Certainly, we cannot predict the future, but I think there is a better question than what can we predict, and that is what



PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION  
**Thursday, March 12: Restaurants are empty shortly after 7 p.m.**



**Friday, March 13: School is closed because of COVID-19, yet only two children play on the equipment in Herndon.**

we should be planning for," he says.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11:** The World Health Organization officially declares the new coronavirus disease COVID-19 a pandemic. It is rapidly spreading far and wide.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 12:** COVID-19 becomes a reality in Fairfax County. At a press conference that evening, Jeff McKay, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, says, "It is a challenging and evolving situation, but we are well prepared in Fairfax County." Dr. Scott Brabrand Superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools says they will guide with a "tiered approach" collaborating with local medical authorities and others. He adds that the public schools will stay open because there is no evidence of "community spread" in the Northern Virginia area of the virus, according to health officials.

At 11:34 p.m. that evening Fairfax Schools

@ fcps tweets: "All FCPS schools will be closed Friday, March 13, 2020. School offices and central offices will open on time with an unscheduled leave policy in effect for 12-month employees. (Condition 2). More details to follow."

**FRIDAY, MARCH 13:** World Health Organization announces: "More than 132,000 cases of COVID-19 have now been reported to WHO, from 123 countries and territories. 5,000 people have lost their lives, a tragic milestone. Europe has now become the epicenter of the pandemic, with more reported cases and deaths than the rest of the world combined, apart from China. More cases are now being reported every day than were reported in China at the height of its epidemic...Our message to countries continues to be: you must take a comprehensive approach. Not testing alone. Not contact tracing alone. Not quarantine alone. Not social distancing alone. Do it all."

## COVID-19 Pandemic hits the area.



**Friday, March 13: Fairfax County schools are closed. At Hutchison Elementary School in Herndon, Dawn Dzurilla, food manager at Terraset Elementary School in Reston, distributes grab-and-go meals to students.**

Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam declares a state of emergency in response to the coronavirus pandemic as public school districts across the Commonwealth start to announce closures. "Quite frankly, we're getting mixed messages from the federal government. We find that unacceptable, so I'm taking the lead on this, but we will do everything and continue to do everything in Virginia to keep Virginians safe," says Northam. A declaration is an administrative tool that allows for additional flexibility in dealing with the virus.

Fairfax County Public Schools announces schools closed through April 10; for staff who work less than 12 months, schools closed for at least two weeks. According to the Fairfax County Public Schools website: "We will reassess schools reopening for those staff members after two weeks, and we will make that decision no later than Friday, March 27...Schools will be open on Monday, March 16, to assist with providing technology to students in grades 3-8 that do not have technology at home."

St. Joseph Catholic School in Herndon announces it is closed until Apr. 10. However, students can access the building to gather materials for distance learning, which begins Tuesday, March 17.

Fairfax County Emergency Information, Fairfax Alerts posts 4:26 p.m.: "Fairfax Alerts: Two new presumptive positive COVID-19 cases announced Friday, March 13 <https://bit.ly/2WdrGWW> nixle.us/BPC4E

Fairfax County Emergency Information, Fairfax Alerts posts 6:20 p.m.: "March 13 daily update: info on getting tested, school closures, SACC, courts, businesses and more <https://bit.ly/3cZ4mST> nixle.us/BPCFC"

Shelves at local Costco, Walgreens, Giant and other stores empty of given items, with rationing of goods such as rice, sugar and antiviral cleaning supplies. Home Depot in Reston posts a sign "No N-95 masks."

Emergency food programs stand up overnight at five public schools to cope with food

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# This Is Not a Test

FROM PAGE 3

insecurity for some of the community's neediest. At Hutchison Elementary School in Herndon, Dawn Dzurilla, food manager at Terraset Elementary School in Reston, helps out. She stands on the sidewalk in front of a table piled high with grab-and-go meals. In the first thirty minutes of being open, she reports 96 free lunches served at no cost to students and 12 adult lunches at \$2 each distributed. Plans are to expand the food distribution to other schools the week of March 16, according to the FCPS website. A spokesperson for Fairfax County Schools confirms, "The grab-and-go meals are available to anyone, regardless of age or residency."

In the Town of Herndon, a handwritten sign inside the Herndon Community Center reads, "HCC Classes CANCELLED Friday @12:00 until Sunday night." The hallway is empty. No one is in the gym, two people are in the exercise room and one person is in the pool. At an adjacent outdoor playground, a woman, who asked not to be identified, sits with a bottle of sanitizer in her hands and watches children from a karate studio play on the equipment.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 14:** Fairfax County Emergency Information, Fairfax Alerts posts: "Four new presumptive positive COVID-19 cases announced Saturday. Details: <https://bit.ly/38Knv7G> nixle.us/BPEQN

"The total number of (COVID-19) cases in the Fairfax Health District is now 10. The results are considered presumptive, pending confirmation by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which has not yet occurred for any of the cases." The alert adds: "One of the individuals is a Fairfax County Public Schools teacher at Lynbrook Elementary School."

The release quotes Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu, Director of Health with the Fairfax County Health Department, to say: "At this time, there is no evidence of sustained community spread of the novel coronavirus, and the risk to the general FCPS community remains low."

Reston Community Center announces on its website: "RCC will follow Fairfax County Government decision-making and guidance...Our facilities are receiving added hygienic cleaning attention regularly...Aquatics Patrons: The CDC has issued the following guidance with respect to the ability of people to use swimming pools during the pandemic: There is no evidence that COVID-19 can be spread to humans through the use of pools and hot tubs." As of 3:30 p.m., RCC cancels 15 programs and events at its Lake Anne Community Center Only two programs remain open.

The Virginia Department of Health reports the state's first COVID-19 death, a hospitalized man in his 70s who previously tested positive for COVID-19 and died of respiratory failure after acquiring the virus through an unknown source.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 15:** Closures trend. "VDH (Virginia Department of Health) is no longer reporting the pending number of tests as testing capacity has expanded to include commercial laboratories. Commercial laboratories report all results to VDH," according to the Virginia Department of Health.

At 1:08 p.m. Fairfax County Emergency Information posts: Senior Centers, Adult Day Health Care Centers closed effective immediately. Details: <https://bit.ly/39To4xm> nixle.us/BPFN4.

Additionally, beginning Monday, March 16, Fairfax County will provide meal delivery service to regis-



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

**Saturday, March 14: John Hobson chooses some mushrooms at the Great Falls Farmers' Market, a Winter Indoor Market located at the Great Falls Grange, 9818 Georgetown Pike Great Falls.**

tered participants who wish to obtain them. County staff will be contacting participants and caregivers directly to make those arrangements."

At 4:46 p.m., Fairfax County Emergency Information posts: "Fairfax Alerts: Park, library and other community facilities to close for two weeks. Details: <https://bit.ly/39To4xm> nixle.us/BPFN4

At 6:07 p.m., Fairfax County Emergency Information posts: Fairfax Alerts: Guidance for community events includes state ban on gatherings of more than 100. Details: <https://bit.ly/33IYm2b> nixle.us/BPGBJ

The Herndon Community Center and Tennis Bubble close until Mar. 27; preschool classes close until April 10, according to the Herndon Parks and Recreation Facebook page.

At 7:43 p.m., Fairfax County Emergency Information posts: "Fairfax Alerts: Circuit Court open Monday, General District Court cancels all dockets (GDC bond hearings will continue)."

Meanwhile, small crowds are out and about at weekend events in the northwestern area of Fairfax County. An indoor Farmers Market in Great Falls Saturday at the Grange draws a reported 100 patrons over the four hours of operation, with individuals spread out over the two floors. In Herndon, families and individuals stroll and cycle on the W & OD Trail. In Reston, the Kalypso Sports Bar Leprechaun arrives by pontoon boat, docking at Lake Anne. He distributes gold coins much to the delight of the 10-person crowd. In Herndon, patrons visit a local nursery planning their next garden.

## RELIABLE SOURCES (NOT SOCIAL MEDIA)

Current information on the COVID-19 pandemic changes not just daily but hourly. Situation reports are being updated; facts presented and myths knocked down. Reliable information can be sourced from local to global sites such as:

Fairfax County - Fairfax County Health Department  
[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health/novel-coronavirus](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health/novel-coronavirus)  
Call 703-267-3511. The center is open from 9:30 a.m. until 9 p.m. on weekdays and from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekends. Residents can text FFXCOVID to 888777 to receive updates from Fairfax County about COVID-19.

State of Virginia - Commonwealth of Virginia Health Department: Virginia Department of Health (VDH)  
[www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus)

National Center for Disease Control and Prevention  
[www.cdc.gov/covid19](http://www.cdc.gov/covid19).

Global - World Health Organization <https://www.who.int>

## VIEWPOINTS

The Connection asked residents to reflect on how COVID-19 was affecting their lives.

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

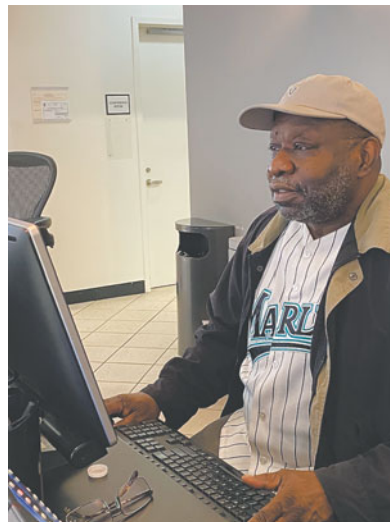


**Natalia Vintimilla, 15, of Herndon** - I'm not allowed to go to other people's homes. I can always walk my dog, though. He's a priority.

**Alexa Schoenenfeldt, 15, of Herndon** - My parents are restricting me from going anywhere with a large crowd.



**Joanne Guzman of Herndon** - We had some concerns (about COVID-19). My first reaction was to work from home. Pictured with baby Elle, 1 1/2.



**Vincent Brown of Herndon works in Reston** - I'm doing the same things I always did before. I work with the general public, and you have to take caution, always.



**Vicky Hadjikyriakou, owner of Reston restaurant, Kalypso's Sports Tavern watches from afar (not pictured) as the Kalypso Leprechaun docks at Lake Anne.** - We're fortunate we have a beautiful patio where people can enjoy the warm spring weather in the outdoor air. We are open for business, mindful of the concerns of our community and taking precautions as the CDC recommends.

## COMMENTARY

# A Time to Look Through Others' Eyes

BY KERRIE WILSON  
CEO CORNERSTONE

**L**ike you, this past week was spent assessing risk and evaluating business options, trying to determine the best course of action in the face of COVID-19 for my family, and for the people we serve at Cornerstones through the many dedicated employees and volunteers who make our work possible.

No doubt, you have already read posts by non-profit, philanthropic, and government agencies. This is going to be an unprecedented event in our nation's history, and every person, family, business and institution is called on to consider what they can contribute for the greater good. We are in this together. Here's a start.

If you were well-organized and had the means to stock up on cleaning supplies and hand sanitizers, consider what your family needs for the next couple of weeks and donate the rest to a safety net organization. Cornerstones and other front-line nonprofits are open for business. We need to wipe down the doors and keyboards, disinfect the kitchen, meal service counters and dining tables, and children's play space and cots.

**AT CORNERSTONES**, we are taking the health and safety of our employees seriously, but our business compels us to look out for the "rest of them." Whenever you hear "first responder," remember that's not just our critical public safety and health officers. It's also the social workers, teachers, health care workers, community organizers from nonprofit and government agencies on the front lines in any crisis.

Many people who turn to Cornerstones have jobs that can't provide work at home or alternative schedule; they don't receive paid leave benefits and must go to work or lose their job, even if they are at risk. Or maybe ignore self-care because they need a paycheck to face an urgent issue today.

Early last week, worried parents began calling Cornerstones about securing a safe place for their young children, or a location where school-aged youth can access the internet, keep up with class-

room work, eat lunch, and be under the watchful eye of a caring adult. These hardworking parents don't have telecommuting options. Then began the desperate calls from people already living on the edge - families and individuals who are behind in rent and now facing the stress and fear of losing hours, their jobs, and more. In that same period, I spoke with a Cornerstones care manager and her client, who offered a rather humbling perspective on this crisis. For some in our community, this is just another trauma to endure - homelessness and poverty, chronic illness, racism, and lack of hope. It is good to look through others' eyes from time to time.

**TODAY**, there are 100+ homeless men, women, and children staying at our Embury Rucker Community Shelter in Reston, or on a mat or cot in our winter overflow and hypothermia programs. These individuals don't have the same options for self-quarantine or social distancing when one is dependent on residential facilities like shelters. And Cornerstones, county social workers, and nursing staff are right there with them, providing daily care and support.

As a business leader, I'm trying to make sense of the official guidance, while balancing public health and individual risks against the greater good of our daily work. It has not been easy.

I hope for now we have "gotten it right" with the many modifications Cornerstones has made to minimize risk while sustaining basic needs.

If you have the flexibility to work from home or in an office space that allows for social distancing, I hope you'll do your part to minimize additional exposure to yourself and those around you. And as you consider the greater good, please do what you can to check on elderly or school-aged neighbors who may need a watchful eye, a meal, or other support. Be prepared to pitch-in with financial support to nonprofits that have to stretch tight budgets and staff resources to keep serving our community.

And most importantly, please take care of you and your loved ones and remember those who need our help, are ill and will be diagnosed, and those who take on additional risk during this time.

## Shape, Line, Color and Texture Come Together

**Reston jeweler and artist - Sandra Dovberg.**

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

**R**eston Art Gallery & Studio at Lake Anne Village Center in Reston is the second home to award-winning jewelry and metal art object artist Sandra (Sandy)

Dovberg, who relocated to Reston from upstate New York. Her art objects and fine jewelry are hand-crafted, one-of-kind works that reflect the essence of the materials and the skill of the artisan. Sterling silver, translucent agate, malachite and dichroic glass make their way into pendants, necklaces and more. Dovberg is also a painter combining representation and abstract.

The Reston Art Gallery & Studio is privately owned and located at 11400 Washington Plaza West, Reston. It is open to the public on Saturdays and Sundays from 12 to



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

**Sandra (Sandy) Dovberg displays one of her original pieces of jewelry.**

5 p.m. or by appointment. Visit Dovberg at [www.sandracdovbergart.com](http://www.sandracdovbergart.com).

**VDOT** Virginia Department of Transportation

### PUBLIC NOTICE

**Proposed Limited Access Control Changes  
Dulles International Airport Access Highway  
and Dulles Toll Road from Fairfax County  
Parkway to Monroe Street and  
Route 28 from Dulles Toll Road to  
Frying Pan Road  
Fairfax County  
Willingness for Public Comment**

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) are accepting comments regarding proposed limited access control changes for the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project along the Dulles International Airport Access Highway and the Dulles Toll Road (Route 267) between Fairfax County Parkway and Monroe Street, and for Route 28 (Sully Road) between the Dulles Toll Road and Frying Pan Road in Fairfax County. The project will extend the Washington Metrorail Silver Line from Reston to Ashburn. The initiative aims to improve connectivity between Washington and the Dulles Corridor. This project will involve changes and/or breaks in limited access control.

Review the project information and National Environmental Policy Act documentation as required by the Federal Transit Administration at MWAA's Metrorail extension project office at 198 Van Buren Street, Herndon, VA 20170. Please call ahead at 703-572-0800 or TTY/TDD 711 to ensure appropriate personnel are available to answer your questions.

The VDOT Northern Virginia District Office and MWAA invite public comments related to the proposed limited access control changes. Comments must be sent to Mr. Arif Rahman, Project Manager at the above address or [Md.Rahman@vdot.virginia.gov](mailto:Md.Rahman@vdot.virginia.gov) on or prior to **April 6, 2020**. Please reference "Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project Limited Access Control Changes" in the subject line.

VDOT and MWAA ensure nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT Civil Rights at 703-259-1775 or Martha McAllister, MWAA, at 703-572-0506.

State Project: 0267-029-900, C501  
UPC: 97226



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An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.

-Werner Heisenberg

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- Springfield Connection
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**NEWS**

**Reston Updates-Releases & Alerts**

**Lucky Leprechaun 5k postponed to June 14.**

The following updates were made available to the Connection Newspapers as of March 16, 2020:

**Reston Association** is monitoring news regarding the coronavirus (COVID-19) and would like to encourage members to take the necessary precautions as recommended by the Fairfax County Health Department and other local, state and federal agencies. In addition, RA is canceling all recreational activities and events and most meetings through March 29.

**Reston Community Centers** at Lake Anne Plaza and Southgate Community Center facilities are closed to the public. Essential services employees will report as needed and able. Fairfax County Government has taken this action in an abundance of caution to help the community prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. RCC facilities are closed for at least the next two weeks. Patrons will be receiving refunds for canceled programs and activity; just complete the Refund Request Form or send an email to RCCContact@fairfaxcounty.gov with the applicable information about your purchase. Refunds will be processed as quickly as [possible; typically, refund processing takes a few days to a couple of weeks, depending on the manner of payment.

**Supervisor Walter L. Alcorn (D-Hunter Mill):**

How to Help Your Neighbors

We are entering a challenging few weeks when it

is more important than ever for neighbors to help neighbors...If you are able, please consider donating blood: Inova Blood Donor Services...Meals on Wheels-Volunteer Meals on Wheels drivers are urgently needed in the Lawyer's Road area of Reston on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 10:15 to 11:45 a.m. ...Embry Rucker Shelter, 11975 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston, VA 20190, 703-437-1975...Cornerstones is asking shelter volunteers, including meal servers, front desk staffers, donations assistants, and childcare providers, as well as scheduled volunteer groups, to refrain from coming in for the next two weeks, March 12 to 27... Cornerstones is requesting donations for the shelter. There is a table set up in front of the building at 11975 Bowman Towne Drive in Reston to drop off donations. Cornerstones Food Pantry /Assistance Services, ASAPP, 11484 Washington Plaza West, Suite 120, Reston, VA 20190, 571-323-1410...You may come into the pantry to make your donation. The location is 11484 Washington Plaza West, Suite 120 in Reston. If you do not want to enter the building, call 571-323-1410, and a staff member may be able to assist you outside...Herndon Neighborhood Resource Center, 1086 Elden Street, Herndon, VA 20170, 703-435-6830. Donations needed: Cleaning products—Clorox wipes, bleach, other disinfectants, spray bottles, paper towels.

—MERCIA HOBSON

**Facelift for Lake Anne Dock**

The main Lake Anne dock is being torn out and reconstructed, including dredging 5 ft. of sediment of drainage accumulated in the channel underneath the dock from Lake Newport and Browns Chapel Park.

In addition, major work is underway simultaneously in the canal beyond the Van Gogh Bridge, including major bulkhead replacement and dredging of the canal.

The work is being performed by Reston Association contractor Lake Services Inc. and subcontractors. End result will be major for upkeep and appearance of the area.

The estimated total cost of the works is \$1.1 million according to Chris Schumaker, RA's Chief of Capital Projects. The work began at the end February and expected to be completed o/a May 1.



**Steam shovel removing sediment sucked from underneath the Lake Anne Dock by hydraulic dredging equipment.**



**View of steam shovel in action from Washington Plaza Cluster across the water from dock work.**

PHOTOS BY JOHN LOVAS

# BULLETIN

Submit civic/community announcements at [ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar](http://ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar). Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

## FAIRFAX COUNTY ACTIVATES CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION CENTER

- Fairfax County activated a Joint Information Center in response to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) on March 13.
- ❖ **Fairfax County Health Department COVID-19 webpage** – [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health/novel-coronavirus](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health/novel-coronavirus)
  - ❖ **Emergency Information Blog** (you can subscribe by email or follow by RSS) – [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/blog](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/blog)
  - ❖ **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Call Center** – The community may call 703-267-3511 with questions. The call center is open from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. weekdays and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekends.
  - ❖ Residents may also text FFXCOVID to 888777 to receive updates from Fairfax County about COVID-19.
  - ❖ **Twitter** – @fairfaxcounty and @fairfaxhealth
  - ❖ **Facebook** – [www.facebook.com/fairfaxcounty](http://www.facebook.com/fairfaxcounty) and [www.facebook.com/fairfaxcountyhealth](http://www.facebook.com/fairfaxcountyhealth)

## INPUT SOUGHT ON PLAN FOR HERNDON-RESTON SILVER LINE BUS SERVICE

Fairfax County Department of Transportation will hold a third round of community meetings and engagement opportunities to encourage public input on the preferred plan to provide enhanced Fairfax Connector bus service in the Reston and Herndon areas, including connections to the future Metrorail Silver Line Phase 2 stations. The preferred service plan was developed based on public input received through community engagement in 2019, stakeholder engagement and technical analysis. After this final round of community input meetings, FCDOT will finalize the preferred plan based on public feedback and technical analysis and take to the Board of Supervisors for approval.

- Attend an Interactive Community Meeting:
- ❖ **Hutchison Elementary School** - 13209 Parcher Ave., Herndon  
Saturday, March 21, 2020, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
Meeting location is accessible via Fairfax Connector Route 937 and Route 950.
  - ❖ **South Lakes High** - 11400 South Lakes Dr., Reston  
Wednesday, March 25, 2020, 7-9 pm.  
Meeting location is accessible via Fairfax Connector routes RIBS 2 and Route 551.
  - ❖ **Sully District Governmental Center** - 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly  
Wednesday, April 1, 2020, 7-9 p.m.  
Meeting location is accessible via Fairfax Connector routes 640 and 642.

## MONDAY/MARCH 23

**DMV2Go at the Pavilion.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at 11900 Market St., Reston Town Center. The wireless office on wheels offers all DMV services: driver's license and ID card applications and renewals, driving records, vehicle titles, license plates, decals, order disabled plates, and more. Information on all services available at [dmv.virginia.gov/general/#dmv\\_2go](http://dmv.virginia.gov/general/#dmv_2go).

## SUPPORT GROUPS

**Parent Support Partners**, a service of the Healthy Minds Fairfax initiative, are all parents who have received training and are qualified to offer education, support and assistance at no cost to families or caregivers. They provide reliable information that families can use in decision-making and are familiar with services and resources that can help families in distress. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthymindsfairfax](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthymindsfairfax) or [www.nami-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html](http://www.nami-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html).

## ONGOING

**Assistance League of Northern Virginia** is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization that feeds, clothes and educates children in need. Assistance League's philanthropic programs touch the lives of thousands of children, including those at 11 Title 1 elementary schools in Fairfax and Prince William counties and the City of Alexandria. There are many volunteer opportunities for community members to contribute to helping those in need through Weekend Food for Kids, tutoring programs and providing new clothing and layettes. To learn more, email: [info@alnv.org](mailto:info@alnv.org), or visit [www.alnv.org](http://www.alnv.org)

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## Feeling Pale By Comparison



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

In a peculiar way, my cancer treatment and all has sort of gotten lost in the coronavirus talk. With so many changes to our regular lifestyle occurring on a daily basis, it feels as if nothing else matters. Granted, one's health is the most important consideration, but now the talk is about everybody's health. Nevertheless, how do I throw caution to the wind and interact with my environment when doing so might endanger the very stability I've worked over 11 years to maintain? I mean, I have to live my life, but will there be a cost to do so? I realize that the good of the many outweigh the good of the few but Spock was speaking from outer space. How do I, while in and out of treatment down here on Earth not worry about myself?

I realize life will go on for almost all of us, but will there be consequences for those unable to secure proper care? Will decisions be made about allocating resources because demand has far outstripped supply? How does life for cancer patients undergoing treatment fit into this new paradigm where so many people might need some kind of medical care? Will there even be enough health care professionals to administer the kind of life-sustaining treatment many of us seriously-diagnosed patients have come to expect and need?

Unfortunately, only time will tell, and there may very well be little of it in the interim, during which we can anticipate and plan accordingly. So many decisions will likely be made by the powers that be that might not exactly consider my set of cancer circumstances. In a way, I might be collateral damage. There simply might not be enough room and medicine and staff and all to accommodate my needs. It's nothing personal. It's just business, or rather the lack thereof. With so much of the world's population affected while going about their usual and customary routine, who, what, where and how will there be any prioritization? Moreover, what about people who are already sick and challenged by a weakened immune system (like yours truly), will the competition from newly diagnosed coronavirus patients overwhelm our health care system?

I can't assume that life will go on as it always has. That would seem to be incredibly naive. I need to proactively make the necessary arrangements and/or contingency plans. I can't presume that being a cancer patient will always get me through the door. I'd like to think I take priority. But it might not be about priority, it might be about availability and a dwindling supply not able to keep up with demand.

Still, going down this rabbit hole of fear, anxiety and worry doesn't help either. As I have since the date of original diagnosis, back in late February, 2009, I need to make the best of a bad/challenging situation. I need to roll with the punches and be prepared for any eventuality and take the good with the bad and vice versa. Normal left the building a long time ago for me. The problem is that building to which I metaphorically refer is the very building where I get my ongoing medical treatment. And though I don't anticipate being kept away from that building, the reality is that it's out of my control.

As with anticipating the results of CT scans and lab results, all in good time, or bad. I need to keep the same positive attitude as I always have because though I might be at greater risk than many of you regular readers, we are all at risk, apparently. As such, if there is indeed anything to be gained by so many people being so similarly affected, the reality is that there are strength in those numbers and even though it may feel that right now the whole world is upside down, things eventually will right themselves. They always do. I just hope I'm still smiling when the dust settles.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.

# CALENDAR

**Editor's Note:** Be aware that many events could be cancelled as precaution to the spread of COVID-19. Please check before heading to events. Submit entertainment announcements at [www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/). The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

## ONGOING

**AARP Tax-Aide Program.** Now thru April 14. At RCC Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Tuesdays: 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.; Thursdays: 4:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.; and Saturdays: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Free. For taxpayers with low and moderate incomes with special attention to those 60 and older. AARP's Tax-Aide program was created nearly 40 years ago to assist older adults as well as persons with low and middle incomes in successfully navigating the tax code. All tax preparation is free and confidential. For more information, contact the Lifelong Learning Program Director, Casmera Lebron at 703-390-6157.

## WEDNESDAY/MARCH 18

**Legacies: A Chinese Mosaic.** 10 a.m. At Scrawl Books, 11911 Freedom Drive, Reston. New members are joining the Wednesday Morning Book Club each month to discuss memoirs and biographies of fascinating people from both the past and present. This month, readers will discuss Legacies: A Chinese Mosaic by Bette Bao Lord, who was born in China, raised in America, authored the bestselling novel Spring Moon, is wife of a former American ambassador to China, and was a resident in Beijing during the "China Spring" of 1989. All are welcome to attend.

**Navigating the Digital World.** 6-8:15 p.m. At South Lakes High School, 11400 South Lakes Dr., Reston. Support your family in navigating the digital world and a screening of "LIKE."

## MARCH 19-21

**"Singin' in the Rain."** 7:30 p.m. At Dominion High School, 21326 Augusta Drive, Sterling. Cost: \$10 adults \$5 students.

## MARCH 20-21

**Open Auditions.** Friday 7-9 p.m.; Saturday noon to 3:30 p.m. At Sterling Community Center, 120 Enterprise Street, Sterling. Open auditions for the Sterling Playmakers' production of "The Laramie Project" to be presented in June. For

ages 16-plus. More information at: <https://sterlingplaymakers.org/events/the-laramie-project/>

## SATURDAY/MARCH 21

**Bikes for the World Event.** 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. At St. Anne's Episcopal Church, 1700 Wainwright Drive, Reston. Bikes in any condition will be accepted as long as they're repairable and not rusted out; non-working bikes can be used for parts. Bikes will be prepared onsite for shipping around the U.S. and the world. A suggested donation of \$10 per bike is requested to help deliver the bicycle. Contact Sarah Murphy at [sarahkeyesmurphy@gmail.com](mailto:sarahkeyesmurphy@gmail.com). Visit the website: [bikesfortheworld.org](http://bikesfortheworld.org)

**Reduced Shakespeare Company's Hamlet's Big Adventure.** 3 p.m. and 9 p.m. At Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. In this hilarious (and completely fictional) prequel to Hamlet, nothing is rotten in the state of Denmark. There's laughter and joy and music and more laughter as teenage Hamlet leaps into action in this Washington, DC-area, premiere. Written and Directed by Reed Martin and Austin Tichenor. Cost is \$25 Reston/\$35 Non-Reston.

**Beethoven's Birthday Bash.** 7:30-9:30 p.m. At UCP Reston, 11508 North Shore Drive, Reston. The Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra of Greater Washington performs Ludwig van Beethoven's Piano Trio in E-flat Major, Op. 1, No. 1 and Septet in E-flat Major, Op. 20. Cost is Adults: \$30; Seniors: \$25; Students: \$20; Children free. Visit the website: <http://www.pacodc.org>.

## SUNDAY/MARCH 22

**Woman Suffragist Presentation.** 1 p.m. At Herndon Depot Museum, 717 Lynn Street, Herndon. In honor of Women's History Month the Herndon Historical Society presents: "Mr. President – How Long must Women wait for Liberty?" By Lynne Garvey-Hodge (aka, Suffragist Mrs. Robert Walker). The Depot will be open from noon until 3 p.m. Donations for this presentation will be accepted.

## TUESDAYS/MARCH 24

**Appraisal Roadshow.** 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. At RA Headquarters, 12001 Sunrise Valley Dr., Reston. The Appraisal Roadshow delivers a treasure hunt experience in a fun, educational and rewarding forum. Bring one personal item such as jewelry, coins, timepieces, porcelain, artwork or other heirlooms, and the appraisal experts will educate the audience with interesting facts and information on what it is, what it's worth and what you can do with your treasure. Private appointments with the experts may be scheduled after the show. Fee: \$15/RA members; \$18/non-member.

## WEDNESDAY/MARCH 25

**Trip to See Second City.** 7-10:30 p.m. Bus pickup at RA Headquarters, 12001 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. Comedy legends, The Second City, return to the Barns at Wolf Trap with an all-new, all-hilarious show that will leave you laughing...funny 'cause it's true. From searing social satire to poking fun at pop culture, you won't want to miss Second City's hallmark mashup of sketch comedy and world famous improv, including audience participation. No two shows are ever the same! Show begins at 8 p.m. Cost is \$52/RA members; \$59/non-members.

## MARCH 26-28

**"Singin' in the Rain."** 7:30 p.m. At Dominion High School, 21326 Augusta Drive, Sterling. Cost: \$10 adults \$5 students.

## SATURDAY/MARCH 28

**National Capital Open Tae Kwon Do Championship.** 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. At South Lakes High School, 11400 South Lakes Drive, Reston. H. K. Lee Academy of Tae Kwon Do of Herndon will host the 2020 National Capital Open Tae Kwon Do Championship. This event attracts approximately 1,500 people, including competitors, coaches, officials, special guests and spectators. All proceeds from spectator admissions will benefit the South Lakes High

School Athletic Booster Club and is one of the Club's largest fund-raisers. Cost is \$10. Visit the [weparksite: https://hkleetkdfamily.com/2020-natl-capitol-open](https://hkleetkdfamily.com/2020-natl-capitol-open)

**Inova Loudoun Hospital Open House.** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Inova Loudoun Hospital, 44045 Riverside Parkway, Leesburg. North Tower "Opening Day" community open house. Activities: sneak peek tours of the Tower, exploring the Inova Children's Hospital ambulance, VR baseball games, crafts, meet the Washington Nationals' mascots. Free. Visit the website: [inova.org/LoudounTower](http://inova.org/LoudounTower)

## SUNDAY/MARCH 29

**Local Author Spotlight.** 2 p.m. At Scrawl Books, 11911 Freedom Drive, Reston. Meet professional writers from the community. Authors Ridley Nelson, Mary Elizabeth Ames, Greg Drost, Bryant Johnson and Mike and Christina Puterbaugh represent a variety of genres and talents. They will introduce their books, discuss the different aspects of publishing and offer a local perspective on the industry.

**Lúnasa with special guest Malinda.** 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. At Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Lúnasa represents a gathering of some of the top musical talents in Ireland. Joining this Reston favorite is rising star Malinda, a singer, songwriter and actress. Cost is \$25 Reston/\$35 Non-Reston.

## MARCH 30-31

**Dare to Lead Workshop.** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days. At Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce, 1886 Metro Center Drive, Suite 150, Reston. Attend a Dare to Lead workshop based on Brené Brown's groundbreaking research led by a certified Daring Way facilitator—one of only a few such facilitators in the world. A Dare to Lead workshop includes facilitation, self-reflection, practical activities, and short videos hosted by Brené on four teachable, observable, and measurable courage building skills. Cost is \$995 (includes materials, lunch, snacks). To register: [imperative-dimensions.com](http://imperative-dimensions.com) or email [lsharon@imperative-dimensions.com](mailto:lsharon@imperative-dimensions.com) or call 703-232-9673.

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