

# CONNECTION

Reston ♦ Oak Hill Herndon ♦ Chantilly ♦ CENTRE VIEW



## Children, Bicycles and Patriotism Galore

NEWS, PAGE 8

Small-town Americana: To help their residents celebrate the Fourth of July together, Centreville's Newgate community held a children's bike parade through the neighborhood. Riley Woodfield, 3, is all set for parade.

## NAACP and Herndon Mother Allege Police Misconduct

NEWS, PAGE 5

## 4th of July 2020 Reston Style

NEWS, PAGE 3

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CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 6

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JULY 8-14, 2020

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## COMMENTARY

# Not Over Until It Is Over

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

**H**undreds of new laws went into effect last Wednesday. A total of 1,289 new laws passed the General Assembly in its regular session in January and February and were signed into law by Governor Ralph Northam.

Even more telling than the number of bills passed is the fact that the new laws in total were the most progressive to ever pass the General Assembly reflecting the shift in power to Democrats who now control both houses of the General Assembly and the Executive Mansion for the first time in more than two decades. A summary to the new laws can be found at <http://dls.virginia.gov/pubs/idc/idc20.pdf>.

While it has been fewer than four months since the legislature adjourned sine die, it seems like an eternity with the unfolding of events of the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting quarantine and the civil and racial unrest sparked by the murder of George Floyd. The impact of the pandemic on the economy necessitates another session of the General Assembly to adjust the biennial budget we just passed months ago to reflect the realities of a plunge downward in revenues. The choices we make will not be easy as we reduce budgets of programs we just recently celebrated. The protests in the streets remind us that we need to get on with significant reforms in policing and criminal justice as I discussed in this column last week.

The Governor is expected to call a special session for probably late August. It will have the broadest

agenda of any special session on record. In addition to making tough decisions on the budget, legislators will be asked to enact new laws to further ease access to voting with the challenges COVID-19 makes for voters and to reform policing in very fundamental ways. Already the interested parties are starting their email campaigns to sway legislators on these issues.

None of these issues are over until it is over. One of the highlights of the regular session was the passage of my bill to require a background check for all gun purchases. Already the opponents of gun safety legislation have filed a lawsuit seeking an injunction blocking the expanded background checks that they contend are unconstitutional. I believe the courts will support the law as a necessary action of the legislature to keep the public safe.

More than 22,000 persons demonstrated at the Capitol on one day during the regular session supporting what they term second amendment rights and opposing any gun safety bills; 16,000 of them were armed with all types of guns. They were not successful in that effort with seven of eight proposed gun safety laws passing. They have already starting an intense email campaign against any bill such as the one that failed to ban assault weapons.

The message in the intense and prolonged protests in the streets that can be summarized as "Black lives matter" must be addressed in the special session. A number of sweeping proposals will be before the legislature with support and opposition. It is not yet over on these issues as well that require our strong voices and advocacy in order to become law.

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## NEWS

An FCPS employee prepares a classroom for In-Person Instruction with Social Distancing, one of two plans for academic year 2020-21.



SCREENSHOT FCPS

# Q&A on Back to School

## Superintendent takes questions at Virtual Town Hall.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

**F**CPSS hosted a virtual Town Hall Meeting on July 6, to answer questions about its two Return to School Plans-Full-time Online Instruction Details or In-Person Instruction with Social Distancing Details. Superintendent Scott Brabrand said, "Our kids need us to return to school in a responsible, safe manner... And we are returning to school, empowering you to make the choice of what's best for your child, and for your family."

Brabrand announced the school system extended the deadline for plan choice from July 10 to July 15 and that he would recommend to the school board on Thursday to push back the first day of school to Sept. 8. "Our teachers and staff would still come back at their normal times," he said.

Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services Sloan Presidio and director of the office of special education procedural support Jane Strong joined Brabrand. Questions covered various topics, including the switching choices, safety, curriculum, technology and extracurricular activities.

## Q&A

What if my child isn't thriving in a virtual or in-person setting?

Brabrand: We're building two completely different school systems... for a whole year... We can't simply have a preference to change back and forth week to week, month to month.

How, are you going to track the testing for the coronavirus if children are showing symptoms?

Brabrand: A student that comes in not wearing a mask will be subject to a temperature check... Any kid that presents with concerns... will be sent down to the school clinic. If they make an assessment that there are concerns, they will be sent to an isolation room... Parents will be... asked to come as expediently as possible to pick up their child. According to Brabrand, the County is committing to hiring 200 more contact tracers for the schools.

How will they ensure each teacher at high schools and middle schools sanitize all desks and chairs in the 5-8-minute periods rotation of students?

Brabrand: I would not be honest as superintendent to tell you that every time your child changes classes that the desks will be wiped.

What online platforms will be used for virtual options?

Brabrand: We're going to continue to use Blackboard Collaborate Ultra... We will also allow Google...

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FCPS

**FCPS Superintendent Scott S. Brabrand answers questions at the July 6 Return to School virtual Town Hall Meeting.**

and we will be piloting a new platform Schoology.

I'm wondering about the Academy.

Brabrand: We have no plans to cancel the Academy Programs... Academies offer very unique courses that will be dependent-based on whether the teacher is returning and, in the manner, that the teacher is returning.

Children...may not get every elective class that they wanted.

I want to know about sports, Marching Band, and extracurricular activities.

Brabrand: The Department of Education is working with the Virginia High School League... No decision has been made yet about high school sports. We have allowed conditioning to resume for fall sports.

What standards will be implemented to monitor student and staff physical and mental wellness?

Brabrand: We have a protocol in place where we look at student data around absences... We've already identified... children and those families who weren't able to connect as much with teachers.

"I will continue to do everything I can to reach out to this community and give you the honest truth as best that I can, with all the information that I can. That is my commitment to you today, tonight, tomorrow and for the year ahead," said Brabrand.

**THE WEEK BEFORE**, Fairfax County Federation of Teachers, Fairfax Education Association and Association of Fairfax Professional Educators issued a joint statement. "Our educators are overwhelmingly not comfortable returning to schools," said Trina Williams, President of Fairfax County Federation of Teachers. "It is absolutely unacceptable that FCPS has established an arbitrary deadline for employees and students to make decisions about the next school year without adequate data or specific information," said Becca Ferrick, President of Association of Fairfax Professional Educators. "We believe our community as a whole should not return to in-person learning until a vaccine or treatment is widely available for COVID-19, said Kimberly Adams, President of the Fairfax Education Association.

OAK HILL/HERNDON / RESTON / CHANTILLY CONNECTION / CENTRE VIEW ❖ JULY 8-14, 2020 ❖ 3



PHOTO COURTESY OF VDOT

The new ramp from I-66 east to Route 28 north opens this week.

## New Ramp from I-66 East to Route 28 North

**T**he first, new exit ramp and bridge for the under-construction, I-66/Route 28 Interchange is slated to open ahead of schedule – on or about this Wednesday, July 8. Drivers on I-66 east will exit to Route 28 north using the new flyover ramp just prior to Route 28 and the old, loop ramp.

It's an early milestone for the I-66 Outside the Beltway project and is the first of several, permanent, traffic-pattern changes happening this year at I-66/Route 28. The old ramp will close permanently to allow for construction of new, north-

bound, Route 28 through-lanes and additional ramps for the redesigned interchange.

A new ramp from Route 28 south to I-66 east is planned to open in August. The revamped Route 28/I-66 Interchange will improve traffic flow on both highways and provide access to and from the future I-66 Express Lanes.

Later this year, the remaining traffic signals on Route 28 between Westfields Boulevard and Route 29 will be removed, and a new overpass to reconnect Braddock and Walney roads will open.



FILE PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

**Robert Reed enjoys the company and a walking assist from canine friends.**

## Send Photos for the Pet Connection

The Pet Connection, a twice-yearly special edition, will publish the last week of July, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by Thursday, July 23.

We invite you to send stories about your pets, photos of you and your family with your cats, dogs, llamas, alpacas, ponies, hamsters, snakes, lizards, frogs, rabbits, or whatever other creatures share your life with you.

Tell us the story of a special bond between a child and a dog, the story of how you came to adopt your pet, or examples of amazing feats of your creatures.

Just a cute photo is fine too. Our favorite pictures include both pets and humans.

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# ‘Workers Have Been Hit Hard Financially’

## Centreville Labor Resource Center holds a food drive.

By BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

For people living from paycheck to paycheck, a global pandemic makes things infinitely worse. The day laborers from the Centreville Labor Resource Center (CLRC) know this fact firsthand.

When COVID-19 forced the center to close, the workers who booked jobs through the facility were left without a way to support themselves and their families. So the center – run by the nonprofit Centreville Immigration Forum (CIF) – has been holding food drives for them.

“We try to do a collection for our members twice a month,” said CLRC Manager Colleen Dowling. “And even during high season, when we’re open, they struggle financially because the jobs aren’t constant. They never know when they’re going to work or not.”

So, thanks to the help and generosity of the community, she and her assistant, Nelson Alava, stood outside the center on Saturday, June 27, receiving food donations for the workers. They collected rice, dried black beans, canned tomatoes, oatmeal, cooking oil and tortilla flour.

“We sent emails to employers and our contacts and also put out the word on Facebook,” said Dowling. “We’ve been closed for two months and jobs haven’t been going out very often. The workers have been hit hard financially, so we’re trying to do what we can to assist them during the crisis.”

The CLRC’s goal is to feed 50 worker families per food drive. In addition, every Wednesday, the center partners with Centreville United Methodist Church, which holds a first-come, first-served, food distribution that’s open to everyone.

**MOST OF THE WORKERS** come from Central American countries such as Guatemala. So, explained Dowling, “One of the main reasons we needed us to do this is because – if our members go to other food pantries, they often get food they’re not familiar with, such as peanut butter and jelly. They don’t know how to use and prepare these items or just don’t like them.

“So our Directiva – a workers group that holds seats on the CIF board – told us we needed to provide them with the foods that are often staple items in their pantries,” she continued. “Then, once we finish collecting



Colleen Dowling and Nelson Alava with some of the food donated for the workers of the Centreville Labor Resource Center.



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION  
Resident Sumant Raturi donating 20 pounds of black beans.

it, we’ll pack it into reusable shopping bags and distribute it to their homes via volunteer drivers to keep it as contact-free as possible.”

Among those bringing food contributions were Marian Coronado, who donated dry pasta, and Sumant Raturi, who brought 25 pounds of rice and 20 pounds of black

beans. Ellen and Jeff Church, of Chantilly’s Franklin Farm community, came with diced tomatoes, spaghetti, black beans, rice, and corn flour for making homemade tortillas and tamales.

SEE FOOD DRIVE, PAGE 5

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BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Ellen and Jeff Church carry bags full of food, including canned tomatoes and corn flour for making tortillas and tamales.

## Food Drive in Centreville

FROM PAGE 4

“We support the CLRC anytime we can,” said Ellen Church. “And we know these families need help right now because of COVID-19, so we’re just happy we’re able to do something small that can make a difference for them.”

Dowling said the CLRC “really appreciates the community’s generosity, and the workers thank everyone, too, because this food means so much to them. Every time we drop it off, they always thank us pro-

fusely and give us their blessings. So I want to pass that along to everyone who’s donated food.”

**FOR THE NEXT** collection date and a list of the food items needed, go to the Centreville Immigration Forum’s and Centreville Labor Resource Center’s Facebook pages. Most of all, though, said Dowling, “The best way to help these workers is by hiring them and giving them an income. This food will only last so long – but employing them will benefit them for much longer.”

### AREA ROUNDUPS

## Reston Chamber Elects New Board of Directors

The Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce (GRCC) announces the recent election and upcoming installation of its 2020-2021 Board of Directors.

“The GRCC has been blessed with corporate citizens who accept a nomination to serve in the important leadership role as a member of the board of directors,” states Charles Kapur, President and CEO of the GRCC. “Each year the membership elects, by by-law, the chair-elect and the new and re-appointed members of the board of directors. The slate of directors was unanimously approved by the GRCC membership, through both live voting and submitted ballots.”

Dee Kakar of M&T Bank will now begin his term as chairman of the board, as Maggie Parker of Comstock concludes her year of leadership. Tom Madden of Visual Impact Productions will be installed as chair elect.

“The 2020 - 2021 year will be a challenging yet defining year for businesses and the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce,” states Dee Kakar. “I am committed to the challenge of furthering the conversation on diversity, social injustice, and inclusion. We will invent new ways of promoting business and continue our history of being a leader in the Dulles Corridor.”

Stay in touch with GRCC on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @RestonChamber, on LinkedIn.com, call 703-707-9045, and learn more at [www.restonchamber.org](http://www.restonchamber.org).

## Eat Pizza, Help the Community

Mellow Mushroom Pizza’s community-giving program, “A Pie for A Pie,” is helping neighbors. For every pizza it sells this Thursday, July 9, Mellow Mushroom in Chantilly (14335 Newbrook Drive) will donate pies to Western Fairfax Christian Ministries, and Mellow Mushroom in Herndon (1030 Elden St.) will donate pies to Herndon Cares.

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Reston Hospital Center is placed among the top 5 percent of all short-term acute care hospitals reporting patient safety data.

## Reston Hospital Center Receives Patient Safety Excellence Award™

Reston Hospital Center is a recipient of the Healthgrades 2020 Patient Safety Excellence Award™. This distinction places Reston Hospital Center among the top 5 percent of all short-term acute care hospitals reporting patient safety data as evaluated by Healthgrades, the leading resource that connects consumers, physicians and health systems.

During the study period (2016 through 2018), Healthgrades 2020 Patient Safety Excellence Award recipient hospitals demonstrated excellent performance in safeguarding patients in the Medicare population, as measured by objective outcomes—risk-adjusted patient safety indicator (PSI) rates—for 13 PSIs defined by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). A 14th PSI included in the evaluation is Foreign Objects Left in Body During a Surgery or Procedure which is a “never” event and does not have an expected rate.

Healthgrades found that patients treated in hospitals receiving the Patient Safety Excellence Award were, on average\*:

48.3 percent less likely to experience a collapsed lung due to a procedure or surgery in or around the chest, than patients treated at non-recipient hospitals.

54.4 percent less likely to experience a hip fracture following surgery, than patients treated at non-recipient hospitals.

66.8 percent less likely to experi-

ence pressure sores or bed sores acquired in the hospital, than patients treated at non-recipient hospitals.

63 percent less likely to experience catheter-related bloodstream infections acquired at the hospital, than patients treated at non-recipient hospitals.

In addition, if all hospitals in the country performed at the level of award recipients for each of the 13 patient safety indicators, 110,864 patient safety events could have been avoided.\*

“Our community can feel confident that Reston Hospital Center is the right choice, with nationally recognized doctors and services. Patient safety is a top priority at Reston Hospital Center and we continually work to ensure our quality initiatives result in an outstanding patient experience and the best possible healthcare outcomes,” said John Deardorff, President and CEO of Reston Hospital Center and HCA’s Northern Virginia market. “Further, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Reston is going the extra mile to ensure patient safety and security is paramount. We’ve implemented several key processes and protocols including, screening and temperature checks for all patients, visitors and staff, universal masking, social distancing, hand hygiene and routine deep cleaning of public and patient areas.” For more information about Reston Hospital Center visit [www.restonhospital.com](http://www.restonhospital.com) or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

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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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## Questions and "Canswers"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

"Very interesting," to quote Artie Johnson from "Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In," that "crazy-kooky" comedy show from the 70s. What's interesting is what my oncologist will say concerning the July 6th CT scan of my upper torso (lungs), the first such scan I will have had in almost six months. That interval being twice the usual and customary three-month schedule I've been on for years. The reason for this abnormally long interval? As you regular readers know, I was being treated for my second cancer: stage II, papillary thyroid cancer. Now that the treatment and all is complete, we can return to the scene of the original crime, if you know what I mean, and begin assessing/treating my underlying cancer: stage IV, non small cell lung cancer, which presumably has not disappeared in the last six months. To say my life depends on these findings is a bit obvious. Nevertheless, keeping one's eye on the ball is what is characterized-as-"terminal" patients have to do. (We're in constant touch with our mortality.)

Losing sight of the obvious is the ultimate presumption, not unlike one being innocent until proven guilty. In the cancer world in which I live exists the exact opposite: your cancer is never in remission (innocent). Ergo, you are always guilty (of having cancer). Now whether it moves or grows, the results of one's scan will confirm. It's challenging to not expect the worst, even after 11+ years of experience often receiving good news; the inevitability of the eventual bad news is occasionally overwhelming. I mean, one is not characterized as "terminal" because they're expected to live. The writing may not exactly be on the walls, but apparently it's in the handbook that oncologists use to determine the proper protocol to treat their patient's cancer.

Generally speaking, a serious/terminal diagnosis is rarely affected by the advances of modern medicine and/or a patient's disparate hopes and prayers. For us cancer patients, we're only as secure as the results of our most recent diagnostic scan says we are. So yes, July 6th is an important date for Team Lourie as will the follow-up telephone appointment with my oncologist on July 13th. That's when we'll learn if the road is hitting back at the rubber and whether or not I go forward in hope or backward in despair.

As much ado about something as I am making this situation to be, it's not as if I haven't been down this road before; many, many times since my original diagnosis in late February, 2009. This is just "another day in paradise" to quote Phil Collins. And though this road is the one most traveled, it still doesn't minimize the stakes. It just means that I've been incredibly and amazingly lucky not to have succumbed to this killer disease (lung cancer is by far the leading cause of cancer deaths) as so many hundreds of thousands already have. And though experience helps, it doesn't really change the stakes; it sort of maintains them. All I can do in the interim is try not to consider the negative and recommit to the positive. That positive mantra for me has been, "it's nothing until it's something." And if it is something, it will be bad enough to hear about it then so I don't need to hear about it (presume) it's bad now. For the moment, to quote Sergeant Schultz (John Banner) from Hogan's Heroes: "I know nothing!"

For some reason though, and I may be reading more into it than is appropriate, this July 6th scan seems to be carrying some additional weight. Not that there's anything different in and of itself with this scan compared to the previous one hundred or so that I've had - with or without symptoms, it just seems as if I'm spending more time trying to convince myself that it isn't.

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

Rachel Savage, 7, and brother Max, 6, are about to join the parade.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/ THE CONNECTION



# Children, Bicycles and Patriotism Galore

**S**mall-town Americana: To help their residents celebrate the Fourth of July together, Centreville's Newgate community held a children's bike parade through the neighborhood.



Logan Savage, 2-1/2, is ready to ride.



(From left) The Small brothers, Landon, 3, and Carter, 1, in their wagon.



Samuel Jewell, 2-1/2, in his toy car.



(From left) Noah Zelaskiwicz, 3, Vivian Gabriel, 3, and Ben Gabriel, 7, show their spirit.



PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

A fountain firework colors Lake Anne.

## 4th of July 2020 Reston Style

**Picnics and fireworks continue.**

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

**O**fficial Fourth of July festivities around Reston may have been canceled for Independence Day 2020, but homegrown activities continued. Despite the State of Emergency in effect indefinitely for Virginia in response to COVID-19, people gathered.

Neighbors on Link Drive near Hidden Creek Country Club began their fun mid-day celebration with a socially distanced picnic. "We made the best of the holiday with the traditional hot dogs, soda, and chocolate brownies shared with neighbors under the carport on Links

Drive," said Margot Lebow.

Families and friends congregated at Lake Anne Plaza in Reston throughout the day to eat and play in the spacious outdoor environment. As evening neared, parents opened bags they had brought along and handed their children neon sparklers. They and others set off ground fountains that lit up the plaza spewing colorful sparks. And everyone waited for fireworks -- rumored, not advertised, to be blasted from private boats floating in the reservoir.

A few minutes after 9 p.m., the first aerial firework whistled, and the sky lit up. For the next 30 minutes, Lake Anne in Reston returned to normal.



Fireworks erupt in a brilliant display over Lake Anne in Reston the evening of the 4th of July 2020. Individuals set off the unadvertised show from private boats floating in the reservoir.



Neon necklaces glow, and everyone, waitstaff and diners at Kalypso's Sports Tavern at Lake Anne in Reston, pauses a moment to watch the fireworks illuminate the night sky over the reservoir on Independence Day 2020.