

# CONNECTION

Reston ♦ Oak Hill Herndon ♦ Chantilly ♦ CENTRE VIEW

## Meet People and Pets of Herndon, Reston

PET CONNECTION: PAGE 8

Good morning, Herndon. What better way to start the day than doggie kisses all-around at the Canine Coffee Klatch of Herndon? (From left) Jason Sickles and Daisy, Ann Null and Mocha, and Marcy Belcher and Petey meet at the Green Lizard where the humans grab cups of coffee while the poochies enjoy doggie biscuits and canine comradery.

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PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

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PET CONNECTION

**Pets 'Helping Us Cope'**

Cindy Morrow of Reston writes: "Like many people during this COVID-19 pandemic, we are relying on our pets to help us cope. Blu, Sam and Molly are helping myself and my neighbors, George and Margie Dellagiarino, providing companionship, cuddles and lots of kisses. They get us out walking on a regular basis and have even helped us monitor blue bird boxes at Lake Fairfax.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED  
 Molly and Margie walking and keeping the paths clean.



Sam (on the table), Molly, Cindy Morrow and Blu stopping for treats after monitoring bluebird boxes.

You can read any of this week's 15 papers digital editions here:

[www.ConnectionNewspapers.com/PDFs](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com/PDFs)



**Bellas Enjoys Her Birthday Cake**

Andrea Ryder of Centreville submitted this photo of Bellas, 10 years old, eating her birthday cake with Amanda.

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# NEWS

Fairfax County Health Dep    

## COVID-19 Case Data for Fairfax Health District

### Cases by Locality

Each locality in Fairfax Health District has a different number of residents. To be able to compare the impact of COVID-19 between localities, we are presenting the case count per 100,000 persons in order to account for the differences in population sizes. This number takes the count of cases in a locality, divides it by the total population in that locality and multiplies it by 100,000.

Fairfax County <b>15,304</b> Case Count	City of Fairfax <b>74</b> Case Count	City of Falls Church <b>55</b> Case Count
Fairfax County <b>1329.9</b> Cases per 100,000 persons	City of Fairfax <b>301.1</b> Cases per 100,000 persons	City of Falls Church <b>372.3</b> Cases per 100,000 persons

FAIRFAX COUNTY GOVERNMENT WEBSITE

Covid-19 case data for Fairfax County shows the number of cases per 100,000 at 2708.8 for Herndon Zip Code 20170 compared to 1329.9 for Fairfax County. Herndon is experiencing slightly more than twice the Covid-19 load than the average of all areas in Fairfax County. (Updated July 26, 2020).



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/ THE CONNECTION

Members of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Herndon, Jane Pattison, Roy Geiger and Dennis Pattison offer support during the targeted community Covid-19 testing event held at their church on Sterling Road in Herndon.

# Ensuring a Vulnerable Community is Tested

## County Health Department Targets Covid Cluster in Herndon.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

**O**n Thursday, July 23, the Fairfax County Health Department partnered with the nonprofit organization Cornerstones and multiple other groups to coordinate and perform targeted Covid-19 testing in a vulnerable community within Herndon ZIP code 20170. “A village came together in Herndon to bring free medical testing to our community,” said Kerrie Wilson, CEO and President of Cornerstones. According to John Silcox of the Fairfax County Health Department, the agency continues to respond to the fluid situation caused by the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). One way is to conduct community testing events in locations like the one in Herndon that used data to show a cluster of high risk spread among community members, many with limited resources.

To choose which communities might benefit most from targeted testing, Silcox said the Department used input from the outreach teams, partners like Cornerstones and others, and epidemiology data to determine the location and register people for the free testing. The community testing, the second in Herndon, was not like drive-up tests publicized in the media. Instead, the July 23 testing event and its location were not released to the general population to specifically target residents in the neighborhood. “COVID-19 testing in the Herndon area is critical, because we know there is a high rate of infection,” said Bill Threlkeld, Division Director, Community Building and Self-Sufficiency Programs at Cornerstones.

COVID-19 Case Data for Fairfax Health District had flagged ZIP code 20170 Herndon. It continued to rank in the highest



Fairfax Medical Reserve Corps volunteer DeEnna Wedding of Vienna and Patrice Chadbourne Registered Nurse at the testing site in Herndon.

Zip codes out of the 42 in the County for COVID-19 cases per 100,000 persons. Data the weekend after the testing event showed Herndon with the sixth-highest rate of Covid-19 cases in the County’s 42 Zip codes per 100,000 persons, at 2,708.8, slightly over twice the County average rate of 1329.5 cases per 100,000. The Health Department underscored on its website that numbers on its data dashboard actually “underestimate the true burden of COVID-19 in the community.”

The July 23 community testing clinic was the second one held in Herndon. The Fairfax County Health Department reported in its June 30 Covid-19 update by Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu, Director and Dr. Benjamin Schwartz, Medical Epidemiologist that at



Members of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Herndon, Jane Pattison, Roy Geiger and Dennis Pattison offer support during the targeted community Covid-19 testing event held at their church on Sterling Road in Herndon.

three previous testing clinics, one in Herndon, and the two others in Mt. Vernon and Springfield, “among those who tested positive, all with known race/ethnicity were Hispanic; 75 percent were working aged adults and 25 percent were children.”

At that time, the Fairfax County Health Department released epidemic curves indicating a narrowing of racial/ethnic disparities through June 20, however, Herndon 20170 remained one of the most highly impacted areas in the County. Zip code 20170 includes the entire Town of Herndon, population approximately 23,000 and regions outside the town, such as but not limited to areas adjoining Dranesville Road to Route 7

and sections west of Fairfax County Parkway. The County reported the total population in Zip code 20170 at 41,236. Adjacent County Zip codes did not trend in the same manner, leaning toward Herndon as an outlier and need-based, targeted community testing.

“As an add-on, through the resources of the First Baptist Church of Vienna and their partners, and logistical support from Cornerstones, Fairfax County, and of course our host (for the testing site), Holy Cross Lutheran Church, we were able to offer 20-25 pound boxes of free produce to all those who tested,” said Threlkeld. The food distribution was not announced as part of the testing. “For those in need, those partially dependent on pantries and other supplemental food supports, finding fresh produce can be difficult,” he said.

According to Silcox, Dr. Benjamin Schwartz, Director of Epidemiology and Population Health attended the testing event as the Incident Commander. A combination of Fairfax County Health Department employees and Medical Reserve Corps volunteers had been pre-fitted before the event with personal protective equipment and wore them when conducting the testing. Safety was priority number one for the Health Department. It followed the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention infection control guidance before, during, and after the event. Indoor HEPA air scrubbers operated during the event, and the County contracted with a commercial cleaning company to clean and disinfect the testing space afterward. Rules for social distancing and face coverings were enforced at the testing site. All attendees were required to wear face coverings when standing in line and in the building. If an individual did not have a face covering, one was provided Silcox said.

All information was strictly confidential

SEE TESTING, PAGE 4

# WFCM Golf Tournament Proves Big Success

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

Western Fairfax Christian Ministries (WFCM) helps people in need, all year 'round, and a fundraising golf tournament brings in some of the money enabling it to do so. That was the case with its Second Annual Spring into Action Golf Tournament, held June 22, at Chantilly National Golf and Country Club.

Sixteen foursomes participated, and they – along with the event's sponsors – helped the nonprofit organization raise nearly \$20,000. United Bank sponsored the breakfast, and Keener Insurance sponsored the lunch. Various entities also sponsored the tees and gift bags.

Because of COVID 19, breakfast and gifts were provided in carts, and lunch was given to the golfers "to go" or could be eaten on the club's patio. All in all, the event was a big success.

"We're thankful for our sponsors and the participants," said WFCM Executive Director Harmonie Taddeo. "We were happy to have three pastors present, as well as Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce President John Boylan, plus Mike Coyle from Sully District Supervisor Kathy Smith's office."

The Rev. Tom Montgomery, of St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Cen-

treville, said, "It has been our pleasure to support such a worthwhile ministry in western Fairfax County. WFCM has helped so many people throughout the years; it makes a wonderful ministry partner."

Phil Hicks, branch manager/assistant vice president of Sandy Spring Bank in Chantilly, also praised the organization. "This may seem like a very dark moment in our history," he said. "But thankfully, WFCM is there to bring us some much-needed light."

"WFCM's staff and volunteers have been providing food and financial assistance throughout the pandemic," said Andrew Casteel, Acorn Financial CFO and WFCM Board vice president. "So it was great to participate in this golf tournament supporting families at risk of hunger and homelessness in our community."

In June alone, WFCM gave food to 470 households representing 1,573 individuals – an estimated 91,000 pounds of food. In FY 20, it provided an estimated 641,520 pounds of food total.

So, said Taddeo, "At a time when WFCM is serving more households in the community than ever before, we are grateful to our supporters who gave of their time and treasure to sponsor and/or golf in our second annual golf tournament. It was a great opportunity to connect, while raising much-needed funds."



Ebony Lofton of United Bank during WFCM's golf tournament.



Chamber of Commerce President John Boylan takes a swing.



Andrew Casteel and daughter Elizabeth smile from their golf cart.



Caleb Taddeo (Harmonie's son) plays in the golf tournament.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF HARMONIE TADDEO

## Testing Targets Covid Cluster in Herndon

FROM PAGE 3

and treated like the medical record it was. It was not shared with other agencies, including immigration officials. Silcox said that individuals did provide their name, address, phone number, and limited information about their household and whether they had symptoms of COVID-19 illness. "We use this information to be able to assess their need for a rapid test and so that we can contact the individual about their test results," he said.

According to Silcox, the Health Department collected 358 specimens at the Herndon site on July 23. Of those, 50 rapid tests were performed on-site in the County's mobile lab for those experiencing symptoms. Clients who received a rapid test received their results within an hour or so. The other specimens would be processed at the County's public health laboratory with results provided to clients within 48-72 hours.

**TESTING** is one vital step the Health Department uses to "Box In" the virus. The

other three are to isolate quickly, identify contacts through tracing and quarantine contacts. "If a person tests positive, a representative from the Health Department will talk to them about their illness, answer questions and provide guidance on how to take care of themselves and prevent spreading COVID-19 to other people by staying home... During those interviews, we will identify others who may have been in close contact with the individual during the time they were infectious so that we may reach out to them as part of our contact tracing," said Silcox.

"At that point, the Department would assess whether the person needed other supports to self-isolate successfully. If needed, they would refer the infected person to Fairfax County's Coordinated Services Planning and other community organizations for short-term, emergency help with basic needs such as food, clothing, housing, transportation, etc. Fairfax County is using hotels as isolation, quarantine, protection, and overflow shelter for people experiencing homelessness, as well as people who do not have the ability to isolate or quarantine safely in their own home," said Silcox.

To meet the need for large-scale contact tracing efforts, Fairfax County Health Department is partnering with the Institute for Public Health Innovation (IPHI) to hire and train staff for COVID-19 contact tracing efforts. On July 16, the Fairfax County Health Department reported: "The Fairfax Health District has brought on close to 150 staff to help with contact tracing since June, with dozens more to be added in coming weeks in an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19. But with the need to fill approximately 400 positions, more Fairfax County residents are being encouraged to apply. "Visit <https://www.institutephi.org/careers/> for information."

### It Took a Village

"We could not have pulled off this special food distribution and provided such a wonderful donated resource to local families and individuals without the help of so many enthusiastic people. Thursday was a sweltering hot day, but our dedicated volunteers still came out to help. We are so happy to engage volunteers again in these outdoor, low risk activities. Thanks to our volunteers'

continued and generous support, Cornerstones is working to ensure that everyone can live a healthy, connected life in our community." (Susan Alger, Director of Volunteer and Community Engagement at Cornerstones).

"We had about 20 volunteers working 2-hour shifts throughout the day for the fresh produce distribution (10 came through Fairfax Co., the other ten were Cornerstones' volunteers). Volunteers, staff and the bus drivers from FASTRAN unloaded 300 boxes of produce. Volunteers and staff also set up all our tents and tables to start the day. Succeeding shifts helped people carry the heavy boxes to their cars. The final shift helped break down, load, and carry the remaining boxes to Cornerstones pantry for distribution to local families and individuals later this week...From April – June, 621 households received Food Pantry assistance from Cornerstones for the first time. That's a 216 percent increase over the same period in 2019." (Margaret Anne Lara Senior Director, Marketing and Communications Cornerstones)

# Mildred DeBell Scholarship Is Awarded to Kelly Elson

Westfield High grad looks forward to teaching.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

**K**elly Elson, a 2020 graduate of Westfield High, has been awarded the first Mildred DeBell Scholarship. It was presented to her, June 22, by the Beta Zeta Chapter of the honorary teachers' sorority, Alpha Delta Kappa.

The members of Beta Zeta have given scholarships to future teachers for nearly 20 years. But this year, they were pleased to rename the scholarship in memory of chapter member Mildred DeBell, who was one of Centreville's first teachers.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CONNIE DEBELL  
**Mildred DeBell**

Raised near Winchester, DeBell graduated from high school in Strasburg in 1934. Four years later, in 1938, she moved to Centreville to teach first grade in the old, wooden, Centreville Elementary School (now Mountain View High School). She was there two years, then taught fourth grade at Bailey's Crossroads, returning to Centreville Elementary to teach seventh-grade part time during WWII.

DeBell was also Centreville's unofficial historian and a valued member of the community. Her late husband, Stuart, served 16 years on Fairfax County's Board of Supervisors, including two terms as chairman. And Mildred was one of the charter members of the Rocky Run Garden Club, along with Eleanor C. Lawrence, in whose name the Centreville park was preserved.

In 2003, DeBell was chosen as the Sully District's honorary Lady Fairfax. And in 2017 – at age 99 – she was named Centreville Day's Citizen of the Year and Honored Community Historian. She died in January, just two months shy of her 102nd birthday.

**IN A TALK** with Beta Zeta members a few years ago, she told them, "The joy of teaching is creating things." DeBell then described how she created curriculum, led musical programs and used her small teacher's salary to purchase classroom supplies – which were scarce during the tough years of the Depression and war. But she fervently believed that, "If you can do anything to bring a little joy to someone, it makes life worthwhile."

Similarly, the enthusiasm she expressed was echoed in Elson's application for the DeBell scholarship. Elson graduated with a 4.3 GPA and praise from her teachers for her ability to inspire other students. Her calculus teacher said she was a leader in her class



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALICE FOLTZ  
**Scholarship winner Kelly Elson**

team, encouraged others and kept everyone on task with her own enthusiasm and initiative.

Elson was also a member of Westfield's Varsity Dance Team, the Symphonic Band and the Wind Symphony. And besides school activities, she was an active youth leader and volunteer at Centreville United Methodist Church. She'll attend UVA in the fall and looks forward to preparing for a career in elementary education.

Discussing her goals, Elson said, "Infusing humor, fun and even silliness into teaching – while still maintaining an effective, efficient learning environment – is one of the many exciting and, yes, overwhelming challenges that I know awaits me in the coming years." And, she added, "I can't wait."

She hopes to emulate her own teachers who made every minute of her 90-minute classes count. Elson said they motivated their students by being trustworthy, so that the students knew they could depend on them.

Now, said Elson, "I look forward to many, long nights preparing lessons and grading assignments. But I'm also excited about the many, adventurous days with my students who will surely energize, invigorate and amuse me, no end."

**MEMBERS** of Alpha Delta Kappa know full well the hard work involved in teaching, as well as the joy of learning that teachers experience with their students. So its Beta Zeta Chapter was pleased to award a \$1,000 scholarship to future teacher Elson.

*Beta Zeta's members are current and retired teachers and administrators in Fairfax and Loudoun counties. They support each other's professional and personal growth, in addition to helping Western Fairfax Christian Ministries, the Centreville Immigration Forum and other entities support local families and youth throughout the year.*

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## COMMENTARY

# The Third Reconstruction

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



Virginia and the southern states of the Confederacy lost the Civil War with the surrender of Robert E. Lee to Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House, Virginia, on April 9, 1865, but for more than another hundred and fifty years it appeared that the South may have won the peace. There was the Emancipation Proclamation, three amendments to the Constitution, and a period of Reconstruction to guarantee the new social order without slavery, but Southerners who favored the old order found ways around the new laws to perpetuate a society of racial segregation and inequalities. Jim Crow laws replaced slave codes, oppressive laws limited the freedoms of Blacks, unequal schools limited their opportunities, and various voting limitations kept Blacks from registering and voting. There were thousands of lynchings to remind Blacks of their status in society and a Lost Cause

movement that erected thousands of monuments in celebration of the old order of white supremacy. After World War II, historian C. Vann Woodward wrote that America went through a Second Reconstruction as Blacks started to win significant victories against racist policies and laws with the various civil rights laws that passed including the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and Supreme Court decisions like Brown v. Board of Education ending school desegregation. Even those advances were short-lived and limited; the Voting Rights Act was repealed, and inequalities suffered by Blacks in educational programs and employment persisted. The mistreatment of Blacks by policing authorities became more tolerable than society could stand. A series of events over many years culminating with a police officer murdering George Floyd from his knee on Floyd's neck signified that, like the original Reconstruc-

SEE PLUM, PAGE 7

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**-Werner Heisenberg**

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**THE CONNECTION**  
NEWSPAPERS

# COMMENTARY

## Plum

FROM PAGE 6

tion, the Second Reconstruction left many inequalities and much work to be done. The Black Lives Matter message seems finally to have been heard and finally for many understood. There is no postponing change.

Much of what has been happening to date in what Rev. William Barber II has termed a Third Reconstruction has been symbolic but important. No longer do visitors to the original House of Delegates chamber in the Capitol in Richmond have to walk around a bigger-than-life and impossible-to-miss statue of Robert E. Lee. While his statue on Monument Avenue remains at present, it too will be taken down as soon as the court case about it is resolved. Throughout Virginia and the South more statues have been removed along with other symbols of the old South. Even the state of Mississippi gave up the Confederate flag as part of its flag.

More meaningful changes are coming. As a member of the House Public Safety Committee I am pleased with the public testimony we received last week. Other hearings are scheduled for this week and next to determine the changes we need to make in our policing policies and criminal justice system to remove the racial biases. We will enact important changes at a special legislative session in August. We have had two chances at getting reconstruction right for all our citizens; we must commit ourselves to making this third effort a charm!

## CONNECTION

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## Wait. What?



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

"Thyroid cancer." Again? I thought the point of last week's surgical biopsy was to genetically-sequence a lung cancer tumor. Now you tell me the radiologist/pathologist found more thyroid cancer. As it already has happened, my oncologist - in coordination with my endocrinologist, said that my most recent CT scan showed "excellent results" (from my previous thyroid cancer treatment - which ended with radioiodine therapy), and furthermore noted that the thyroid cancer was confined to my neck. Yet a few weeks later, the thyroid cancer is back in my lungs. What happened? Or more importantly perhaps, what didn't happen?

Well, if I understand what my oncologist said to us over the phone on Wednesday, disappointing as it initially sounded, it might not be at all bad. Apparently, the dose of radioiodine (nuclear medicine) I received had been modified (reduced) due to my pre-existing kidney function issue. Since this modification was not a "normal" dose, it didn't locate all the thyroid cancer tumors; the smaller ones, that is, so the presumption was that all the thyroid cancer had been found, identified and eliminated. Until last week's biopsy found otherwise. What does it all mean? I'll try to explain, although I'm sure I'll get lost in the science somewhere.

I still have two types of cancer: non small cell lung cancer and papillary thyroid cancer. However, I may have thyroid cancer in the lungs which actually may be better than having lung cancer in the lungs. The reason being: papillary thyroid cancer is curable whereas non small cell lung cancer is not (it is treatable though). Moreover, thyroid cancer is slow-growing and at present, so small that there may not be any treatment to follow. To learn more definitively what is happening in my body, I'm scheduled for a PET scan this week and then another surgical biopsy the following week. This time the biopsy will be a lung biopsy. This will get tissue from within the lung (a bit of a lung-collapsing risk), not from the periphery (the lymph nodes). Presumably, this biopsy will provide some clarity.

According to my oncologist, I have a dozen or so tumors in my lungs, some of which may be thyroid cancer. Unfortunately, it's not practical or prudent to biopsy all of them so a complete assessment will not be possible. Therefore, an educated guess will have to be made: continue to treat the lung cancer with immunotherapy or not, and/or only treat the thyroid cancer which given its small size and slow-growing nature wouldn't require any treatment - for now. And might not for years.

But if there are more tumors that are lung cancer - which the doctors can't confirm, and I'm not receiving any treatment for them (because of the thyroid cancer diagnosis), won't my lung cancer tumors grow? And since one medicine doesn't work against two types of cancer, I may not be receiving treatment for the cancer that's really active and receiving treatment for the cancer that is not active. And the only way to find out what types of cancer exist is to biopsy each and every tumor - which is not going to happen. As my oncologist said in response to our characterization of this damned if I don't and damned if I do scenario as being very complicated: "Mr. Lourie has always been a complicated patient."

As I review this column and reconsider what my oncologist has advised going forward, it's not only complicated, it's confusing and a bit disorienting. What exactly do I have and what are the risks, and more importantly: what is my life expectancy? Nevertheless, as my oncologist said: "I'm glad we did this biopsy." Me, too.

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

# PET CONNECTION

Officer Ashman of the Herndon Police Department is training with K9 Ranger. “They work hard, but also make time for fun,” said Lisa Herndon, Public Information Specialist Herndon Police Department.



PHOTOS BY  
MERCIA HOBSON/  
THE CONNECTION



From kittens in 2019 to the cats’ meows of 2020, the felines belonging to Virginia State Senator Jennifer Boysko (D-33) of Herndon remain as cute as ever. (File Photo 2019)

“Jane Eyre, the darker kitty, and Elizabeth Bennett, the striped cat, were rescued about a year ago from Homeless Animal Rescue Team (HART). We love them,” said Virginia State Senator Boysko of Herndon in 2020.

## Meet People and Pets of Herndon, Reston

The pup pictured in the two photos, the one with Herndon Police Department Chief Maggie DeBoard and the other with Lisa Herndon, Public Information Specialist, is Brooklyn, a male American Bulldog who belongs to Officer Brathwaite (aka “Officer G”). “While Brooklyn isn’t a Herndon Police K9, he is loved by the entire HPD family and often visits the station and attends town events,” said Lisa Herndon.



Jasper is a nine-year-old rescue dog and was ready to be put down two days before I got him. He loves to chase squirrels, and he just found out about Canadian geese. - Lani Young of Reston at Lake Anne Plaza Reston.



(From left) “This is Sapphire. She’s my girl. I think Tanner has Pumpkin. Mmmmm... maybe it’s Spice. Sapphire loves nibbling on rabbit food and licking people’s legs.”- Reston Farm Market employee, Khalil Nelson (left) with fellow employee Tanner Thomas.



“I’m Miko, and this is my dog, Pickle. What I love about Pickle is that he is playful and mischievous. He loves to get biscuits at Great Harvest and meet up with the other dogs at Green Lizard bike shop.” - Miko B. of Herndon