

# CONNECTION

Reston ♦ Oak Hill Herndon ♦ Chantilly ♦ CENTRE VIEW

## NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

2020-2021

PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Santa, Stars & S'mores 2019 - A winter night's walk down dark shadowy paths through Runnymede Park in Herndon until the sounds of music and carols ring out and warm lights glow is a family tradition by Herndon Parks and Rec.

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# NEWCOMERS GUIDE 2020



'In our past lies the hope for our future,' reads the small lettering at the bottom of the Town of Herndon seal. The settlement was named Herndon in 1878 and incorporated in 1879. A historic home built in 1870 on Elden Street in the Town of Herndon. Behind it is St. Timothy's Protestant Episcopal Church, built in 1871 which currently houses Herndon's Masonic Lodge #264.

Herndon Dairy Farming-Historical markers throughout the Historic District of Herndon tell the town's history. Many of the town's older structures are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Nearly 40 years after Herndon became a town, The Big Fire of 1917 consumed the downtown. Over time, other buildings in the downtown fell into ill-repair beyond saving. A new downtown project leans toward final execution and shovels in the ground, hopefully by the end of 2020.

## Postcards from Herndon

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION



Teens plugin and jam on the Town Square in front of the board-and-batten Herndon Depot, listed on the National Register of Historic Places (79003039) and Virginia Landmarks Register (Listing Date 04/17/1979).



Youth and adults help clean up the Runnymede Park Sugarland Run watershed and various other park and stream locations in the town. Herndon is dedicated to strengthening its urban forestry programs. The town is a certified Tree City USA Community and has its own Community Town Forester.



During National Night Out for Herndon Police Department, SPO Adil Aftab talks with children and introduces them to his partner, explosive ordnance detection K-9 Jude.



A town tradition held 2019, the Herndon Homecoming Parade- Sixty-six units and well over 1500 participants marched. Herndon Homecoming 2020 will be held Saturday, Oct. 24.

# NEWCOMERS GUIDE 2020

## Welcome

We're lucky to call Fairfax County home.

BY CHAIRMAN JEFF MCKAY

**W**elcome to Fairfax County. You are moving here under unusual and unprecedented times. These last few months however, have reminded me why I'm proud to lead Fairfax County as Chairman of the Board of Supervisors and why I have been proud and so fortunate to be able to call it home for all of my life.

In Fairfax County, we take COVID-19 seriously. The impacts of the virus have been far reaching. It has caused difficulty and anxiety for so many, including for my family and me. Our response to this virus has been data driven and responsive as we have learned more about COVID-19. Our low community transmission rates and stable percent positivity rates reflect that.

From the beginning, my Northern Virginia regional colleagues and I worked together with our state partners to implement a slower reopening. It was a difficult decision, but we weren't comfortable with how our data looked. Because of the work we did then and our residents' compliance with COVID-19 mitigation strategies now, we have avoided the surges in cases that have been observed around the country and in other parts of Virginia.



Jeff McKay, chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, lives in Lee District with his wife Crystal and his daughter Leann and his son Aidan.

Despite all the uncertainty around us, we are lucky to live in Fairfax County. We have 23,000 acres of parkland, which includes 427 public parks and 325 miles of trails, to enjoy when you want to be outside safely. One of my favorite escapes has been Huntley Meadows Park in my neighborhood. It

makes me thankful for our continued investment in our greenspaces and efforts to protect the environment.

In addition, the community rose to help and continues to inspire me. There are so many people in Fairfax vulnerable to this virus who still cannot leave their homes. So

simple acts mean a lot, even if it is just picking up your neighbor's groceries or talking to a friend when they need support. Fairfax County's Neighbor to Neighbor program is one project in that spirit. The program joins neighbors together as volunteer groups and connects them with their older neighbors who need a hand. It is truly a grassroots initiative with volunteers involved across the County.

Navigating this pandemic has not been a straight path forward. We have had to pivot to save lives. And our work won't stop when there's a vaccine. Over time, in Fairfax County we have made significant investments in our infrastructure that have well positioned us to respond. Our sophisticated Health Department, first responders, and County frontline workers are all dedicated to our community. Their work has been exceptional and remind us why a responsive, well run government is essential in times like these. As we navigate a world beyond COVID-19, we will continue to fight for what's important: investing in people, programs, education, and creating a Fairfax that works for everyone, just as we have always done. Our community will make it through this together. Fairfax County is a great place to live and work and I hope that you quickly feel at home.

## About the Connection in 2020

**T**his year, 2020 in the time of the pandemic, has been brutal for so many.

More than 21,000 residents of Fairfax County have tested positive for COVID-19, and more than 600 people here have died.

Life is vastly different than it was pre-pandemic. Most students have not been face-to-face with their teachers or classmates since March. Lucky families are merely juggling homeschooling and home child care with telecommuting and meetings via Zoom.

Less fortunate parents have jobs that cannot be accomplished remotely, and they must find a way to have their children cared for at home while they go to work, risking infection. Even less fortunate people have lost their jobs.

Families of all stripes are facing food insecurity and demand at food pantries has skyrocketed.

Thousands of families could be facing eviction.

Small businesses and their employees hope that Congress will deliver more help. The Paycheck Protection Program was designed at the beginning of the crisis to pay employees for two months. Employees face unemployment; businesses face closure and/or bankruptcy. Customers are unlikely to return to retail businesses, restaurants and other public places in sufficient numbers for revenues to rebound until after the pandemic is under control.

Local newspapers, including the Connection newspapers, are facing an existential threat from the combination of nationwide downturn in newspaper advertising that has been worsening over several years, compounded by the economic crisis of coronavirus.

In the midst of this, we at the Connection hear the call to continue to serve our communities. We still seek to fulfill our mission by continuing to publish, even with reduced resources. It's still our mission to provide information about where to get help and how to help; to disseminate information about the virus and efforts to stem its spread; to tell the stories of those who are helping, of those who are hungry; of those who have gotten sick with the virus, of those who are caring for the sick; and those who are performing essential jobs, from grocery clerk to firefighter to nurses and doctors. It's still our mission to tell the stories of those working for social and racial justice, and battling income inequality in the time of COVID.

Perhaps most of all, it is still our mission to deliver the local news you need, to help make sense of what is happening in your community, to advocate for community good, to provide a forum for dialogue on local concerns, and to record achievements, milestones and events in the community and people's lives. It is still our mission to cover the normal news of the local communities.

We want to know if someone in your family or your community published a book, started a business, became an Eagle Scout, raised money for a good cause, accomplished some feat like running a marathon, supporting a cause or having art included in an art show. We publish photos and notes about personal milestones and community events, including births, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, awards and obituaries.

Tell us: how are you surviving in the pandemic?

We also publish notes about news and events from local businesses. Notes about openings, new employees and anniversaries are welcome.

For many months, there were no calendar listings in our papers. Everything was cancelled. Now there is a return of some outdoor events, and many virtual events. If you are planning an event, we appreciate getting notice at least two weeks ahead of the event, and we encourage photos.

Your community Connection newspaper is published by the independent, locally owned Local Media Connection LLC, serving the suburbs of Metropolitan Washington in Northern Virginia and Potomac, Md. Our flagship paper, the Alexandria Gazette Packet, is one of the oldest continuously publishing papers in the country, beginning publication in 1784.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



### CONTACT

For advertising and marketing information, see [www.connectionnewspapers.com/advertising](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/advertising) email [sales@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:sales@connectionnewspapers.com) or call 703-778-9431.

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# NEWCOMERS GUIDE 2020

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



Supervisor Foust, Fairfax County Park Authority representatives, and community members celebrated the opening of the Outdoor Education Classroom/Picnic Shelter at Riverbend Park



Aerial view of Clemyjontri Park with parking addition. Photo provided by the Fairfax County Park Authority.

## Dranesville Welcomes You An excellent place to live, raise a family, and do business.

BY SUPERVISOR JOHN W. FOUST  
(D-DRANESVILLE DISTRICT)



The Dranesville District includes McLean, Great Falls, Herndon and some areas of Vienna and Falls Church and has about 125,000 residents. It runs from the Arlington County border to the Loudoun County border along the beautiful Potomac River. Herndon is a quintessential small American town with a rich heritage and strong sense of community. It also has a vibrant transit area developing around a new Metro station that will open soon. McLean is an active community with some of the most beautiful neighborhoods in the Metropoli-

tan region. Only a few miles from Tysons and the Dulles Corridor, Great Falls is a semi-rural community where residents actively participate in preserving its history and protecting its environment.

Dranesville includes some of the best County and National parks in the region including Riverbend Park, Great Falls Park, and Scotts Run Nature Preserve. The District is also home to numerous excellent public schools including the high achieving and highly regarded Langley, McLean, and Herndon High Schools. Throughout the District, there are excellent libraries and active arts communities. All three communities have outdoor summer concert series and old-fashioned farmers' markets.

The introduction of Metro's Silver Line has provided an alternative to the automobile for Dranesville residents. Expansion of the Silver Line to Dulles Airport and into Loudoun, scheduled to open in 2020, will make traveling that much easier. The excellent schools, parks and libraries, lovely neighborhoods, active youth sports and arts programs, and its active, interesting, and friendly residents make Dranesville an excellent place to live, raise a family, and do business.

Fairfax County, and especially Tysons and the Dulles Corridor, continue to grow and provide excellent business and employment opportunities for Dranesville residents. Our challenge in the coming years is to ensure that the growth is balanced with expanded public facilities and public services so that future generations will be able to enjoy living in Dranesville as much as the past and

current residents have enjoyed making their homes here.

If you are looking to get involved in the community, there are many civic and community organizations always in need of new people. Take a look at the McLean Citizens Association [www.mcleancitizens.org](http://www.mcleancitizens.org) and the Great Falls Citizens Association [www.gfca.org](http://www.gfca.org). Volunteer opportunities can be found at <https://www.volunteerfairfax.org>

I hope you will sign up for my community notices and updates, which provide information on important goings on in Dranesville and the County. Visit my website at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dranesville/> and subscribe to our newsletter.

Welcome to the Dranesville District. It has been my honor to represent Dranesville residents on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for the past 12 years. I look forward to continuing to serve you in the future.

## A Must-See in District

We are fortunate to have many wonderful parks, historical features, and community events in the Dranesville District. The following are some of my favorites. While some of the events listed below have been postponed because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the parks are open, and I hope that these special community events will be able to resume in 2021.

**Clemyjontri Park:** Since opening in 2006, more than 200,000 visitors have enjoyed this unique playground where children of all abilities can play side-by-side. Equipment allows children who have physical, sensory, or developmental disabilities to have a parallel playground

experience of fun and exploration. The park also includes a carousel, picnic pavilion, and new trackless train. The parking lot has recently been expanded so more visitors can enjoy the park.

6317 Georgetown Pike, McLean

**Riverbend Park:** This park offers over 400 acres of forests, meadows, and ponds. Trails include a 2.5-mile portion of the Potomac Heritage Trail that links national and regional parkland. Kayaking, canoeing, and fishing are all available on the Potomac River. Another reason to visit Riverbend Park is to take advantage of the recently completed Outdoor Education Classroom/Picnic Shelter that opened this spring.

8700 Potomac Hills, Great Falls

## Foust: Places I would take a newcomer in Dranesville District.

**Colvin Run Mill Historic Site:** Colvin Run Mill offers visitors a chance to step back in time. There are tours of the restored mill, which was built around 1811. A general store offers stone ground cornmeal, wheat flour, grits, "penny candy," snacks, and drinks. Trails are available for quiet walks. Live music, craft demonstrations, ice cream making, and seasonal activities are offered from February through December.

10017 Colvin Run, Great Falls

**Turner Farm:** Originally the site of a dairy farm, the 52-acre park offers a unique mix of educational and recreational facilities. Observatory Park offers the public a chance to see the night sky from one of Fairfax County's darkest spots through permanent-

ly mounted telescopes. The Analemma Society partners with the Park Authority to provide astronomy programs at the observatory. Equestrians can enjoy a cross country course and a large multi-purpose arena with stadium jumps and dressage makers. Small children can enjoy a tot lot. Under the Park Authority's Resident Curator Program, the historic Turner Farmhouse has been restored and is now occupied by the Turner Farmhouse Foundation, under the direction of Sarah Kirk.

925 Springvale Road, Great Falls

**Runnymede Park:** The Town of Herndon owns and maintains this 58-acre park. It

SEE PLACES, PAGE 11

# Downtown Herndon Becomes Reality

## Mayor Lisa Merkel previews development underway in the Town of Herndon.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

**D**uring the pandemic, traditions have given way to new experiences as individuals, businesses and nonprofits morphed, reinventing themselves to succeed. The Herndon Town seal reminds citizens, “In our past lies the hope of our future.” One event in the town’s past changed the course of Herndon, with far-reaching impact into the next century. On the night of March 22, 1917, a fire consumed much of downtown Herndon. For decades, multiple plans for a new downtown faltered for one reason or another. According to comments made by Mayor Lisa Merkel in 2018 as reported in the Connection, Oct. 26, 2018, “I am running for re-election because I want to see our Downtown Project finally come to life. Downtown has been my focus since being elected in 2010, and we’re closer to making it happen than ever before.”

On Sept. 1, 2020, Lisa Merkel, Mayor of the Town of Herndon provided her thoughts on development in the downtown and at the Herndon Metro Station. The four-term mayor is stepping down and decided not to run in the November 3, town elections. Her last day of office is Dec. 31.

“A lot is going on in our downtown right now...The Comstock project is still moving forward. I know everybody is anxious for an update and for ground to be broken. I sure am. But it is going forward...Across the street, Aslin Brewery is making great progress on their building with the rooftop deck...Jimmy’s has done an entire remodel to the interior of the original building...Of course, all the restaurants have their outdoor dining...Herndon Beer Garden...(is) working with our staff with their plans...All of that will feed into the Downtown Redevelopment when that is complete. So, in the next one to three years, our downtown is really going to come alive with all these new establishments in addition to what’s already down there...”

The outdoor seating that we approved has really brought a sense of vibrancy, which has been great during COVID. We all love our bike trail, the W&OD and the Green Liz-



MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION  
**Town of Herndon Mayor Lisa C. Merkel**

ard and all they offer right now in the downtown.

What I think a lot of people love here is the sense of community. We are all so used to going to our local establishments, going to Friday Night Live, walking around our town and seeing friends out and about. We know all the dogs and where the dog bowls are in the neighborhood and when that all came to a screeching halt in March and April, it was really hard.

(As for the Metro area), a couple of properties have been approved. It’s going through the process right now. I just saw the site plan review...What people can expect over the next several years is a mixed use development, with retail on the ground floor with amenities and then a mix of office and office and retail above. The Herndon Metro area, which is 38 acres adjacent right at the Metro stop, makes up 1 percent of the town’s land area. This is where the higher density development will be. It is the only place that makes sense in Herndon.

(For the South Elden Street plan) the overall idea of that is making it a more pleasant walkable experience because people are going to want to use Elden Street to get toward the Metro.”

— Mayor Lisa C. Merkel, Sept. 1, 2020.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Mayor Lisa C. Merkel with husband Dave Merkel and children. Lila, 12, and Zachary Merkel, 16.**

### Follow the Progress

The town website highlights current development projects and provides specifics.

- Downtown Herndon Center: Building Design - Site Plan Sheet 6.01
- 555 Herndon Parkway: Development Plan Sheet 4.0 - Conceptual Design
- Fairbrook: Special Exception Conceptual Design
- Parkview: Development Plan Conceptual Design
- Park Place: Zoning Map Amendment Conceptual Design

### MAYOR'S FAVORITE PLACES

Herndon Mayor Lisa Merkel on a must-see places and events in Herndon:

- ❖ Trails and Parks - from Runnymede to Haley Smith, there’s something for everyone in Herndon’s 11 parks and 2 town greens
- ❖ Downtown Watering Holes - Jimmy’s, Mile20 at the Breeze, Green Lizard, Sully’s, Aslin and Herndon Biergarten (coming soon!)
- ❖ The Herndon Historic Markers - find these bronze markers all over town, telling the tale of Herndon’s history!
- ❖ Friday Night Live - every Friday night May - August, Town Green
- ❖ The Herndon Halloween House - Spring Street every Fall
- ❖ Sunset Business Park - so many locally owned hidden gems - N’Used, Weird Brothers Coffee, 100 Bowls of Soup, Next Stop Theatre, Rowan Tree, Scoop of the Hill, WoiBoi Hot Chicken (ask for the Merkaroni Chicken Salad from the Secret Menu!) and More!
- ❖ So many International and specialty markets - Lotte, Fresh World, HMart, MOMs, Sprouts and tons of other tiny markets from around the world; one in every shopping center!
- ❖ Folly Lick Trail Rock Wall. If you go adventuring on the Folly Lick Branch Trail, look for the Folly Lick Rock Wall. If you pick up the Folly Lick Trail at the end of Monroe St., cross the stream and turn right. Paint a rock..

Let us know about an upcoming event  
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# NEWCOMERS GUIDE 2020

A finished street in the residential community, Commonwealth Place at Westfields.



BONNIE HOBBS/  
THE CONNECTION

## Centreville and Chantilly Look Toward the Future

Homes and transportation projects are on the horizon.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

With an eye toward the future, several land-use and transportation projects are in the works in Centreville and Chantilly. Below are details about some of them:

### Development Projects

#### Commonwealth Place

Commonwealth Place at Westfields is a project of developer Regency Centers and involves a parcel of land across the street from the Chantilly Wegmans, along Newbrook Drive. An amended rezoning enables it to have both residential and retail uses.

Being built are 550,000 square feet of residential uses, including 120 single-family, attached homes and 112 multifamily units – stacked townhouses – for 232 homes total. The developer also proposes constructing 100,000 square feet of retail/movie theater/shopping center uses there.

#### Sully District Community Center

Fairfax County is building the Sully District Community Center on a 5-acre site at the intersection of Wall Road and Air and Space Museum Parkway in Chantilly. The roughly 30,000 square-foot building will serve as a multigenerational center for the surrounding communities, so it's geared for residents of Chantilly, Centreville and Oak Hill.

It will also be the new and permanent home of the Sully Senior Center and will include a healthcare component, as well. The community center will offer a broad array of services, programs and activities for people of all ages and abilities. Estimated cost is more than \$20 million, and the project is scheduled to be completed in 2022.

Planned are three, multipurpose rooms for programs both day and evening, plus an arts-and-crafts

room, game room, exercise room, offices, kitchen and pantry. The facility will also feature a gym with two basketball courts. There'll be programs for youth after school and during the summer. And the center will provide a meeting place for groups and organizations, too.

### Transportation Projects

#### Route 28 Widening

Rush hour on Route 28 in Centreville can be pretty slow going. But a multimillion-dollar widening project should improve things considerably. It won't become reality until 2023, but plans are well underway toward making that happen.

Route 28 will be widened from four lanes to six, for about 2.3 miles, from the bridge over Bull Run to the interchange at Route 29 at the Prince William/Fairfax County line. Besides adding more through lanes to Route 28, the project will provide additional lanes on side streets to improve traffic flow.

It will also improve intersection operations, upgrade existing traffic signals and improve bicycle and pedestrian crossings. In addition, new, 10-foot-wide, shared-use paths will be created on both sides of Route 28. This Fairfax County project is being done in cooperation with VDOT and the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority.

The whole shebang is estimated to cost \$76,625,000, and it's completely funded from a variety of sources. In May, the county signed a contract with the design-builder, Shirley Contracting Co. And at the 60-percent plans stage, Shirley will hold a public hearing before construction starts, to explain all the details to the community.

#### Route 29 Widening

During the afternoon rush hours, Route 29 between Buckley's Gate Drive and Union Mill Road is 1.5 miles of painfully slow, bumper-to-bumper traffic. That's when residents are heading home to Centreville, or points west, trying to avoid I-66 west's gridlock at the same time.

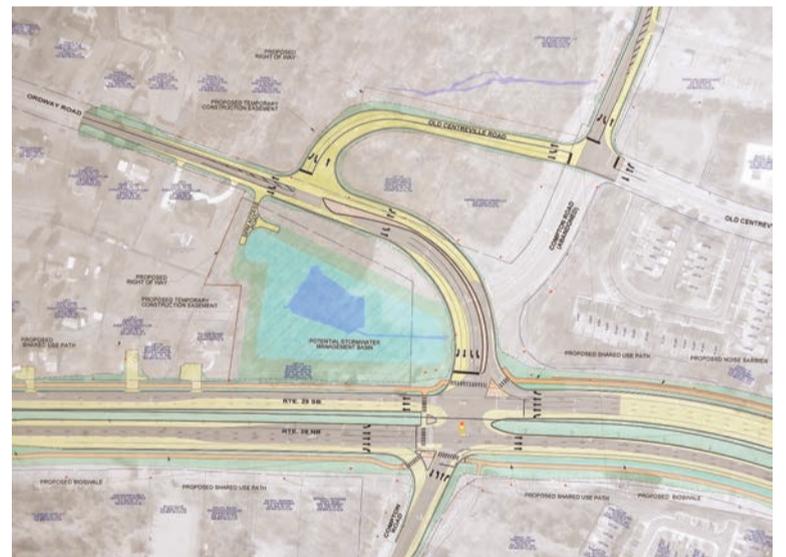


Artist's rendition of the Sully District Community Center in Chantilly.

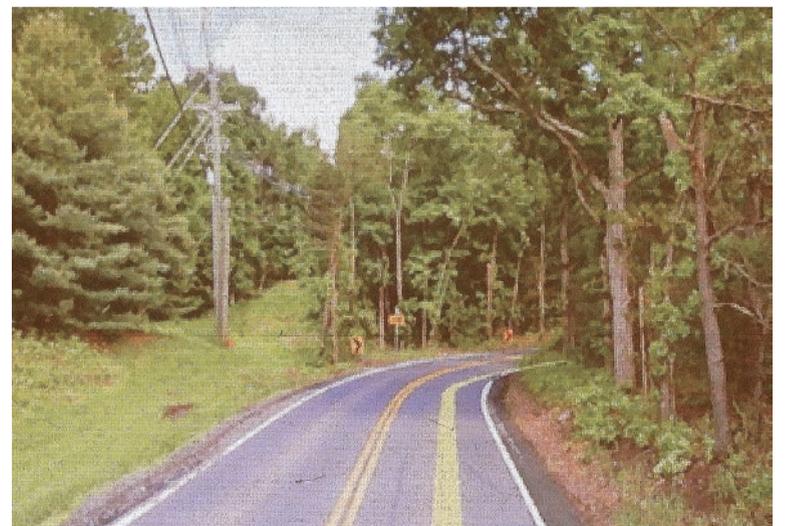


BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

The Sully District Community Center's construction site near the Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly.



The intersection of Ordway, Compton and Old Centreville roads is a particularly important part of the Route 28 widening project.



A view of the notorious, Braddock Road S curve, on the east side, looking west.

SEE VDOT, PAGE 9

# NEWCOMERS GUIDE 2020

Supervisor Walter Alcorn (D-Hunter Mill District) visits the permanent public artwork for the Reston community at the Colts Neck Road underpass. Artist and educator Ben Volta created Thoreau's Ensemble in 2019, facilitated by Public Art Reston. "We live in a vibrant, diverse community with great trails, lakes, public art and more. Get out and explore," said Alcorn.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

## The Hunter Mill District: Celebrating Diversity

More than 130,000 people call Hunter Mill District home.

BY SUPERVISOR WALTER L. ALCORN  
(D-HUNTER MILL DISTRICT)

Welcome to Fairfax County and to Hunter Mill District! As a long-time resident of our district, I am very happy that you have chosen our outstanding community as your home. You and your family will enjoy our vibrant and diverse neighborhoods, as well as our excellent amenities, including parks, trails, public art and shopping. Please take a few minutes to review the great information The Connection is providing in this Newcomers Guide with more details.

The best asset you will find in Hunter Mill District is our residents. More than 130,000 people call Hunter Mill District home, according to the latest U.S. Census data, covering Reston, Vienna, the southwest corner of Tysons and parts of greater Herndon. We may live

### Contact Information

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Webpage: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/huntermill/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/huntermill/)

❖ Subscribe to Hunter Mill District News Weekly E-Newsletter:

Send an email to [huntermill@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:huntermill@fairfaxcounty.gov) and request to be a subscriber. The newsletter is emailed every Wednesday.

❖ Follow on Social Media:

Twitter: @WalterAlcornFFX  
Facebook: @SupervisorWalterAlcorn  
Instagram: @walteralcornffx

❖ Additional Resources (Phone numbers and email addresses can be found on county web pages.)

Fairfax County Website: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov)  
Fairfax Health District Information/Resources for COVID-19: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/covid19/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/covid19/)  
Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS): [www.fcps.edu](http://www.fcps.edu)

The Hunter Mill District Representative on the School Board:

Melanie Meren  
Call: 571-423-1082  
Email: [www.fcps.edu/index.php/staff/melanie-k-meren](http://www.fcps.edu/index.php/staff/melanie-k-meren)

[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)



Supervisor Walter Alcorn represents the Hunter Mill District on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

in different neighborhoods, but one thing we have in common is that we are a very engaged community that cares deeply about our quality of life and helping each other. This has never been more important than during the pandemic when there have been so many instances of generosity and acts of kindness. I strongly encourage you to also be an engaged resident! Even though it may be virtual for now, join the PTAs at your children's schools, contact your faith community about opportunities to volunteer, and find out how to become involved with your homeowner's association (HOA).

One of my most important priorities as your supervisor is to provide a transparent and participatory local government. Listed below are a number of ways for you to be informed about the many issues we are discussing in Hunter Mill District in 2020, including COVID-19 data and trends, traffic and development, the Silver Line, climate change, public safety, voting and more. I look forward to hearing from you!



Fairfax County's Stuff the Bus food drive is one of many ways Hunter Mill District residents generously supported neighbors in need during the pandemic.

## Things They Love About Herndon

The Connection asked Town of Herndon residents to name the greatest things about living in the area. Here's what they said while shopping at the Fairfax County- Herndon Farmers Market on Thursday, Sept. 24.

— MERCIA HOBSON



PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

(Left) Opal Tew, 6, a lifelong resident of the Town of Herndon: "I like to go to the library and get Elephant & Piggy books by Mo Willems."

(Center) Melina Tew, a 12 year resident of the Town of Herndon, with her two daughters - Issi and Opal: "I like that it feels like a small town- the Homecoming parade, the downtown. It's intimate."

(Right) Issi Tew, 9, a lifelong resident of the Town of Herndon: "I like playing with my friend and going to The Closet (of the Greater Herndon Area). I look for toys. I like the Herndon Community Center's gymnastics and Bready Park."



Elizabeth Bello, a seven-year resident of the Town of Herndon: "I like the peacefulness. I'm a transplant from New York City. I love looking at all the many shades of green here. The library; I like that, and it's a satellite location. I will be voting there on Oct. 14, the first day early voting."

Vicky Robertson, 16 year resident of the Town of Herndon: "The greatest things about living in this area are the sense of community and the ability to walk to different places, like restaurants, the (Washington & Old Dominion -- W&OD (Railroad Regional Park) and hopefully, the new Downtown Redevelopment Project."



# Home For Sale

Backing to # 9 on the Shenandoah Valley  
Golf Course in Front Royal  
200 Yards from the Club House



When you enter the home, you'll immediately notice traditional details like hardwood floors and crown molding throughout the main living area. Past the large sitting room and formal dining room, you'll find the fabulous kitchen and living room at the back of the home. The renovated kitchen features stainless steel appliances [double wall ovens (one a convection), gas cooktop, granite countertops and tons of cabinet space. There's a pass-thru opening from the kitchen to the living room, which includes a cozy brick propane fireplace and a huge picture window. This home has so many spots to relax or entertain a crowd. Before you even make

it outside, there's a screened porch, which leads out to the backyard. You can grill dinner out on the deck [built with Trex!] or just enjoy drinks under the gazebo in your fenced-in yard. Even though your yard borders the Shenandoah Valley Country Club Golf Course, the wall of towering trees lining the property offers you privacy when you fire up the hot tub on the deck. Around the front, you have a 2-car garage and a wide concrete driveway with extra room to park your RV or boat. Bring the party back inside and head down to the finished basement. You'll find the laundry room and a second living room, as well as a rec room

with a wall of custom walnut built-ins, a fireplace and double doors that open up to the backyard. After the party, you can wind down in your main bedroom suite, which includes a private suite. In fact, all 3 bathrooms have upgrades of fresh paint, new vanities, and tile. This home is as efficient as it is beautiful, with a new roof, gutters & windows. There's also a tankless water heater, upgraded electric, a heat pump with oil backup and a new 500-gallon underground propane tank for the fireplaces. This sprawling rancher is move-in ready, there's no "to-do" list attached. Come take a tour today!

## What the seller loves about this home

This home is move in ready ! New windows, Roof, large concrete driveway, Trex Deck, Gazebo with concrete floor, Landscape by Rivers Edge Landscape, Tankless Water Heater, Heat Pump with Oil Backup, 500 gallon new propane tank underground for stovetop, Convection Oven, Granite Counter Tops, Solid wood bookshelves in the man cave, new gutters, to mention just a few upgrades. Did I mention low taxes !

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## Where to Give Locally To Help with Pandemic Hunger and Beyond

❖ Centreville Immigration Forum, a safe, organized center where residents and contractors can negotiate work arrangements with day laborers. Centreville Square Shopping Center, 5944 Centreville Crest Ln, Centreville, VA 20121. Phone: (703) 543-6272

website: [www.centrevilleimmigrationforum.org](http://www.centrevilleimmigrationforum.org) and email [contact@theCIFva.org](mailto:contact@theCIFva.org)

❖ Closet Of The Greater Herndon Area is a nonprofit thrift shop in downtown Herndon. The Closet recently awarded over \$20,000 in grants to seven local non-profit organizations: Cornerstones, Fellowship Square, Herndon-Reston FISH, Meridians Recovery, Mobile Hope of Loudoun, South Lakes High School PTSA Food Pantry, and Herndon Woman's Club in support of Wreaths Across America. The Closet is a source of low-cost clothing and household necessities and also gives away clothing at no cost to truly needy individuals. 845 Station Street Herndon, VA 20170 (703) 437-7652. Email [TheClosetInc@verizon.net](mailto:TheClosetInc@verizon.net) Web: [theclosetofgreaterherndon.org/](http://theclosetofgreaterherndon.org/)

❖ Cornerstones, 11150 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 210, Reston, serving Reston and Herndon. 571-323-9555, [www.cornerstonesva.org](http://www.cornerstonesva.org).

For nearly 50 years, Cornerstones has been helping neighbors in need. The service area of Cornerstones has grown to include most of northwestern Fairfax County, helping people build more stable lives by connecting them to vital resources that solve their needs for housing, childcare, food or financial assistance. Programs and services include the Embry Rucker Community Shelter, Emergency Food Pantry, Hypothermia Prevention Program, Gifts for Kids and annual Coat Drive. [www.cornerstonesva.org](http://www.cornerstonesva.org).

Contact Nate King, Donations and Drives Coordinator, at 571-323-9569.

❖ Herndon-Reston FISH (Friendly Instant Sympathetic Help), 336 Victory Drive, Herndon, 703-391-0105 [herndonrestonfish.org](http://herndonrestonfish.org) Herndon-Reston FISH has assisted local residents in short-term crises by since 1969. 703-437-0600.

❖ LINK, serving Herndon, Chantilly, Loudoun and more. [holiday@linkagainsthunger.org](mailto:holiday@linkagainsthunger.org). 703-437-1776 [www.linkagainsthunger.org](http://www.linkagainsthunger.org).

❖ Shepherd's Center of Oakton Vienna providing services, personal enrichment, volunteer opportunities for adults 50 and over. Currently serving 3,000-plus mature adults in the region. 703-281-0538,

❖ Touching Heart in Herndon is a nonprofit organization focused on how to enlighten, excite, and educate children about how they can experience the true joy that comes from helping those in need. [www.touchingheart.com](http://www.touchingheart.com), 703-901-7355.

lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way. 2. not appreciated or understood. 3. no longer owned or known



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## NEWCOMERS GUIDE 2020

# VDOT is Riding to the Rescue

FROM PAGE 6

There's also a bottleneck there during the morning rush, with long backups at the intersection of Clifton and Stringfellow roads. But VDOT is riding to the rescue with a plan to widen that stretch of Route 29 from four to six lanes.

The goal is to reduce congestion, while improving safety, operations and access. The project will also add and improve 10-foot-wide, shared-use paths along both sides of Route 29 to provide better bicycle and pedestrian access to the trails at the Fairfax County Parkway/West Ox Road Interchange. Planned, as well, are crosswalk improvements at major intersections, with modified signals to accommodate them.

There'll be intersection improvements at Centreville Farms and Union Mill roads, Clifton and Stringfellow Roads, Meadow Estates Drive and Hampton Forest Way, and Buckleys Gate and Summit drives.

Estimated project cost is \$85.9 million, with \$19 million of that amount yet to be funded. Construction is anticipated to start in late 2022 and take approximately two-and-a-half years.

### Route 50 Improvements

Under normal traffic conditions, the two-mile segment of Route 50 between Route 28 and Stringfellow Road in Chantilly is clogged during the morning and evening rush. It also averages 71,000 vehicles a day and has a high number of crashes.

So VDOT's doing a STARS (Strategically Targeted Affordable Roadway Solutions) study to assess how to make this stretch of road function better and safer. According to VDOT engineer Andy Beacher, STARS is used to develop low-cost solutions to traffic problems.

Toward that end, he said, "We studied all the intersections on Route 50 between Stringfellow and Route 28 and are making recommendations. However, there's no magic bullet for this corridor. It's very congested because of all the commercial development and commuters."

VDOT collected traffic and accident data on seven signalized intersections in the study area and then examined both short-term solutions that would help immediately, plus mid-term solutions that would provide relief into 2030. The estimated cost range for these

improvements is \$8 million to \$11 million. They're not yet funded, but VDOT hopes to get some money via the Smart Scale program.

### Braddock and Old Lee Roads

VDOT is currently assessing potential safety and operational improvements it could make at the intersection of Braddock and Old Lee roads in Centreville, plus the S-curve on Braddock just west of Old Lee. The concept it's promoting involves a jug handle plus realigning the S-curve.

During non-pandemic times, that section of Braddock carries 9,200 vehicles a day, with 8,200 on Old Lee. Eastbound Braddock has heavy traffic congestion and queuing during the morning rush, with southbound Old Lee experiencing the same thing in the afternoon – in addition to people trying to turn onto Braddock. As for the S curve, between 2010-2017, some 18 large trucks have gotten stuck there.

Fairfax County's current master plan calls for realigning Braddock and Old Lee to go into Rock Hill District Park and out again, with Braddock ending in a T at old Lee. VDOT contends it would be too costly. But residents vehemently object to the new proposal, which they say will clog Braddock with Loudoun County commuters, at the expense of Fairfax County's residents.

### Bridge over Cub Run

Plans are afoot to rehabilitate the northbound Route 29 (Lee Highway) bridge over Cub Run to improve safety and extend the overall life of the bridge. The bridge was built in 1954, and Route 29 carries an average of 26,000, combined northbound and southbound vehicles a day at Cub Run.

So this nearly 66-year-old bridge needs upgrades and repairs, and they've been designed to last 75-100 years. The improvements will include removing and replacing the concrete deck, installing steel beams, rebuilding the concrete pedestals, replacing the bridge bearings and repairing cracks.

The work area will run from .15 mile east of White Post Road (near Gate Post Estates) to .08 mile west of Paddington Lane (near London Towne) in Centreville. It's a VDOT project, with an estimated cost of \$3.2 million. Construction was set to start this summer and end sometime during summer 2021.



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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**

**NEWCOMERS GUIDE 2020**

**Postcards from Herndon**



'In our past lies the hope for our future,' reads the small lettering at the bottom of the Town of Herndon seal. The settlement was named Herndon in 1878 and incorporated in 1879. A historic home built in 1870 on Elden Street in the Town of Herndon. Behind it is St. Timothy's Protestant Episcopal Church, built in 1871 which currently houses Herndon's Masonic Lodge #264.



Youth and adults help clean up the Runnymede Park Sugarland Run watershed and various other park and stream locations in the town. Herndon is dedicated to strengthening its urban forestry programs. The town is a certified Tree City USA Community and has its own Community Town Forester.



Herndon Dairy Farming-Historical markers throughout the Historic District of Herndon tell the town's history. Many of the town's older structures are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



PHOTOS BY  
MERCIA HOBSON/  
THE CONNECTION

During National Night Out for Herndon Police Department, SPO Adil Aftab talks with children and introduces them to his partner, explosive ordnance detection K-9 Jude.



A town tradition held 2019, the Herndon Homecoming Parade- Sixty-six units and well over 1500 participants marched. Herndon Homecoming 2020 will be held Saturday, Oct. 24.

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# NEWCOMERS GUIDE 2020

## Places to See

FROM PAGE 4

is the site for many community nature-related events such as the annual NatureFest, the Spring Native Plant Sale, and the Fall Native Plant Sale. Situated near the Sugarland Run Stream, the park attracts over 100 species of bird, deer, fox, and other wildlife. Guided walks are offered to highlight the wildlife on the trails. Two park shelters are available for rent.

196 Herndon Parkway, Herndon

**MPAartfest:** Every October, the McLean Project for the Arts converts McLean Central Park into a free, one-day festival of the arts. Thousands of area residents attend. Vendor tents display the works of numerous juried artists, which are complemented by the exhibitions of children's and seniors' artwork, an Open Studio demonstration, and performances by local musicians.

McLean Central Park, 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean

**McLean Day:** Sponsored by the McLean Community Center, McLean Day is held on the third Saturday in May. The festival features live entertainment, carnival rides, exhibitions, and delicious foods for visitors of all ages. The event also includes booths where artisans, local businesses, civic organizations, nonprofit groups, and local officials showcase their wares.

Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean

**Herndon Festival:** Held in late May, the Herndon Festival offers something for the whole family. The festival features two entertainment stages, 10K and 5K races, carnival rides, hands-on arts and activities, food vendors, fireworks, and more. Enjoy four days of fun-filled activities and entertainment.

## Connection

FROM PAGE 3

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PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION  
**It's Friday Night Live! reimagined for the pandemic; live-streamed from Arts Herndon. (Aug. 2020)**

200 Spring Street, Herndon

**Great Falls Freedom Memorial:** The Great Falls Freedom Memorial was created in 2004 to honor all who have served our country. The Freedom Memorial hosts annual ceremonies, on Memorial Day, September 11, and Veterans' Day, as well as a 5K race on July 4. It is a special place to pay respects to and remember those who have served and sacrificed for our country.

9830 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls (Behind the Great Falls Library)

**Herndon Friday Night Live!** Friday nights during the summer, Friday Night Live! concerts are held on the Herndon Town Green. Concerts are free and feature popular local and regional acts. Most featured bands play rock and roll covers from classic to modern rock, but country and original music are also included for good measure.

Herndon Town Green, 777 Lynn Street, Herndon

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## And So It Continues



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Two-plus weeks into my thyroid cancer treatment, all is as I anticipated. I'm still not in a comfort zone, routine wise, nor side-effect wise, I am feeling some predicted discomfort. I won't self-indulge and list the difficulties that I'm having. I will say that even though I'm extremely thankful not to have experienced any of the more severe side effects (blood clots, arrhythmia), I have felt something. The 'something' I've felt has been made more complicated due to the synthroid pill I take daily, since I had my thyroid surgically removed in late January, 2020. The proper dosage, prescribed to replace the function of the thyroid is not easy to determine. As such, I'm not exactly feeling myself. I'm not sure who it is I'm feeling (as Groucho said because he could never get that close), but it's not who I've come to feel.

The complication I refer to is the effect on my thyroid replacement medication (synthroid) by my thyroid cancer pills. What happens, I'm told, is that the synthroid's effectiveness is partially mitigated by the cancer medication and as a result, I need regular lab work to monitor the situation and maintain proper thyroid replacement. If my thyroid hormone is too low, I'll feel tired and unmotivated. And since a side effect of the thyroid cancer medication is among others, fatigue, I am tired for two reasons: the cancer drug itself and the effect the same cancer drug has on the synthroid pill, which has everything to do with my energy level.

Now, not only am I a two-for-the-price-of-one cancer patient (non small cell lung cancer and thyroid cancer), I am also a thyroid cancer patient being treated for cancer and for the replacement of the thyroid. As a result, in addition to juggling two cancers, I am also juggling one cancer with two semi competing side effects: feeling tired due to low thyroid hormone and feeling tired as a side effect of the thyroid cancer treatment. I imagine one or the other would be manageable but simultaneously, not so much. (I guess it's another BOGO-type situation).

Granted, it's a living and it sure beats the alternative. Still, I was hoping one set of side effects would be enough rather than having to consider a second set (side effects of the side effects, if you will). My concern is compounded by something my oncologist was wary of doing years ago: Treating the side effects, in addition to treating the cancer. Moreover, he said that often it's the side effects that become so debilitating and harmful that the actual cancer treatment itself has to be stopped. And though your quality of life might improve - with the reduction/elimination of the side effects, the cancer is now left untreated and cancer left untreated generally speaking, doesn't usually mind it's own business, if you know what I mean? In either scenario, you're unlikely to be smelling any roses.

And not 'smelling any roses' is what I'm most worried about. Stopping treatment for the thyroid cancer would be bad enough, but what about my previous pre-existing stage IV, non small cell lung cancer diagnosed Feb. 2009? I'm currently not receiving any treatment for that as we defer to the thyroid cancer. If I have to stop the thyroid cancer treatment because of the side effects, will I then re-start the lung cancer treatment for which I had very minor side effects. Is treating the back-up (so to speak) cancer better than not treating the new primary: thyroid cancer? As you can possibly tell, I am potentially between a rock and a very hard place.

Nevertheless, as my oncologist emailed me a month or so ago when we received the results of my third tumor biopsy (which was taken from a tumor inside my lung rather than outside from a lymph node), "Thyroid cancer is better than lung cancer." And though I certainly liked the sound of that when I first read it, the present complications were not yet a part of the discussion. But that's what being a cancer patient is all about: an evolving existence of good, bad and indifferent information with nary a guarantee in sight.

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

# NEWCOMERS GUIDE 2020

The Naturalization Ceremony at Reston Multi-cultural Festival held at Lake Anne Plaza, Reston.



PHOTOS BY  
MERCIA HOBSON/  
THE CONNECTION

## Postcards from Reston



The annual Race To Make It All Better 5K & Family Health Fair held at Reston Town Center.



Reston Holiday Parade



Take a Break Concert Series - [restoncommunitycenter.com](http://restoncommunitycenter.com)



Reston Chorale presents a Memorial Day Star-Spangled Salute partnering with the Brass of the Potomac.

### VIEWPOINTS

## Reston Residents Enjoy 'Small Town Feel'

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

The Connection asked Reston residents what the greatest things about living in the area are. Here's what they said while shopping at the Reston Farmers Market, 1609 Washington Plaza N, Reston.

The market, open 8 a.m.-noon on Saturdays through Dec. 7, is operated by Fairfax County Park Authority and was named the Best Farmers Market in Northern Virginia by readers of Virginia Living Magazine.



Christopher Walker, Reston resident two years: "It's a community feel. I love the green spaces and Lake Anne. I'm a tennis enthusiast, so I enjoy all the available courts. I also enjoy knowing Reston will retain its small town feel."

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/  
THE CONNECTION



Claudelle Gehy, Reston resident for two years: "The community feel. I love the parks. I've been to lake Newport's tennis courts. I recently discovered Lake Fairfax. I walk around the fields and enjoy nature there. As a jogger, I use some of the paths around Lake Audubon."



(Left) Kellyn Dodd, Reston resident for two and half years: "The trails. We love running and riding our bikes. The paths are paved and very well maintained, leaf and snow removal. We love Reston Farmers Market (at Lake Anne Plaza) and like to support the local businesses and shops. We were in Reston Town Center, shopping and eating."

(Right) Kyle Dodd, Reston resident for two and a half years: "We like how great it is here. You are not in the hustle and bustle of D.C. We attend the Cardboard Boat Regatta (at Lake Anne) and enjoy the breweries, Lake Anne Brew House and Local VA, very relaxing."