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# CONNECTION

Reston ♦ <sup>Oak Hill</sup> Herndon ♦ Chantilly ♦ CENTRE VIEW

On Oct. 14, the first day of early in-person voting at satellite offices in Fairfax County, individuals line up to cast their ballots at the Herndon Fortnightly Library.



## In-Person Early Voting Locations Open

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## 'Though Things Were Hard, He Persevered'

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## 'A Diagnosis of Cancer Changes Everything'

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# ‘A Diagnosis of Cancer Changes Everything’

## Nonprofit Bite Me Cancer Celebrates 10th Anniversary.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

**L**ed by Chantilly High grad Nikki Ferraro, Bite Me Cancer just celebrated its 10-year anniversary. The nonprofit raises money for research and awareness for Thyroid Cancer.

Since September is also Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and Thyroid Cancer Awareness Month, it was fitting that Ferraro founded Bite Me Cancer in that month, too. And she did it while she was still in high school.

At just 17, she was diagnosed with a rare form of thyroid cancer. A week later – and a month before undergoing a major surgery – Ferraro formed a Relay for Life team, named Bite Me Cancer, and raised \$20,000 for the American Cancer Society in the two months leading up to the relay.

But that was just the start for her. Even though she was busy beginning her senior year of high school, she was driven to start a foundation to keep the support going to help others like her. So in September 2010, Ferraro



PHOTO COURTESY OF SHARON FERRARO  
Nikki Ferraro's foundation, Bite Me Cancer, celebrates 10 years.

ro officially founded Bite Me Cancer.

**TO DATE**, it's funded seven two-year grants – given directly to the individual researchers – and is currently raising funds for its eighth grant.

“When I was diagnosed, there wasn't any drug treatment available for my kind of thy-

roid cancer,” explained Ferraro. “Greater research is needed for better treatment options for all forms of thyroid cancer, as well as to find a cure or prevention methods. Thyroid cancer is not the ‘good cancer.’ I'm so proud of our research accomplishments, but more is definitely needed.”

In addition, donations to Bite Me Cancer are also used to support and inspire teenagers battling cancer. And again, this focus came from Ferraro's own experience as a patient.

When she was diagnosed, she didn't receive specific support for her age group. She also realized that other teenagers were either sitting in pediatric wards – where only the younger children were receiving special treats – or waiting in adult units where nothing was given to the teens to improve their morale.

“Being a teenager is already challenging, with becoming more independent, making new friends, and juggling all the schoolwork and activities,” said Ferraro. “In this age group, teenagers are trying to find out who they are – and having a diagnosis of cancer changes everything. They have to depend on their parents much more than they should, at that age, friendships are challenging, and they don't receive anything to boost their spirits.”

SEE BITE ME CANCER, PAGE 7

## AREA ROUNDUPS

### Hire Workers from the CLRC

The Centreville Labor Resource Center (CLRC) is once again open, and its workers are ready and eager to serve the community. The center is at 5944 Centreville Crest Lane, in the lower part of the Centreville Square Shopping Center, closest to Route 29. Hours are Monday-Saturday, 6 a.m.-noon; phone 703-543-6272.

Workers are available for a variety of projects, including landscaping, raking leaves, painting, carpentry and cleaning. Go to <http://centrevilleimmigrationforum.org/centreville-labor-resource-center/>

for details about requesting workers, plus the center's modified procedures to facilitate social distancing.

### O+ Blood Donations Are Needed

Inova Blood Donor Services is currently experiencing a critically low supply of O+ blood and is asking the community to help by donating this type blood. In addition, all successful blood donations are now being tested for COVID-19 antibodies. For more information, and to make an appointment to donate blood, go to [www.inovablood.org](http://www.inovablood.org).

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### SPECIAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

**Public Budget Hearing**  
Nov. 4, 2020, 6:30-8 p.m.

This meeting will be held virtually.  
Please use the information below to  
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**Passcode:** 263425

Members may provide comment on  
Reston Association's 2021 Capital  
and Operating budgets at this public  
hearing.



A partial view of the voting line at North County Government Center in Reston for early in-person voting.

PHOTOS BY  
MERCIA HOBSON/  
THE CONNECTION



## In-Person Early Voting Locations Open

Voters cite ballot controversy and deep divide in the country.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he need to drop their ballot into a secure drop-off box or slide it into a voting machine, spurred thousands of voters to wait in long lines on the first day of in-person early voting at satellite locations in Fairfax County on Oct. 14. With Virginia's new state law permitting registered voters to use absentee/early ballots, an additional 14 in-person early voting satellite locations opened that day. Another location opened in Great Falls on Saturday, Oct. 17. The 15 new locations are in addition to the Main Fairfax County Government Center's location open 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Friday and Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Except for the Government Center and the new Great Falls locations, voting times at the 14 new locations are weekdays, 1 p.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Great Falls location is open Saturday, Oct. 17, 24, and 31, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Any registered Fairfax County voter can vote early and at any early site. The last day to vote at any early location is Saturday, Oct. 31, at 5 p.m. In addition to expanding the number of polling locations, Fairfax County instituted curbside and drive-up voting at these sites, a critical resource for voters who are unable to enter an in-person polling place to cast their vote.

**WHEN THE POLLS OPENED** at 1 p.m. on Oct. 14, voter lines at the North Government Center in Reston and the Herndon Fortnightly Library wrapped around their respective buildings and down nearby sidewalks. On the second day, a similar scene played out. Voters who applied and received their official absentee ballots in the mail could jump the three-to-four-hour line and drop their ballots in the drop-off boxes.



**Wanting to be among the first in line and prepared for the extended wait, early voters at North County Government Center are seen seated in lawn chairs before the satellite polling station opened on Wednesday, Oct. 14.**

According to Todd Strelow of Reston, Elections Supervisor Herndon Fortnightly Library, on Oct. 14, 343 individuals voted in-person on the machines, 128 of them were Town of Herndon residents. Additionally, 267 voters who had secured official absentee ballots from the County of Fairfax Office of Elections, dropped their ballots in the drop-off box, equaling a total of 591 ballots cast. In Reston, Dan Per-Lee Elections Supervisor North County Government Center reported that on Oct. 14, 494 individuals voted in-person with an additional 356 voters dropping their ballots in the drop-off box, equaling a total of 850 ballots cast.

SEE EARLY VOTING, PAGE 7



PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

**During the Women's March on Herndon, a sister event of the Women's March in Washington D.C., held Oct. 17, 2020, demonstrators march on the Washington & Old Dominion Railroad Trail that runs through the Town of Herndon.**

## Mobilizing Voters

Locals gather for Women's March on Herndon, sister event of the D.C. Women's March 2020.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

**D**emonstrators gathered Saturday, Oct. 17, shortly before 3 p.m. for the Women's March on Herndon, a grassroots event held in the community and part of the nationwide, socially distanced marches held in union with the Women's March 2020 in Washington D.C. This year's D.C. event like those locally, focused on mobilizing voters and protested Trump and the pending Supreme Court nomination. Herndon organizers Coco Buck, Brenna Danatzko and Athena Waitt wanted to host a community option for citizens to have their voices heard and rise up for their rights. Buck posted on the event website: "We will not allow the current government administration to endanger our lives any longer."

Audrey Largarde, 7, of Herndon and her mother, Becky, sat on the Herndon Town Green's grass waiting for the march to begin. Audrey held tight to her cardboard protest sign. Lettering around the child's crayoned red hearts read: "Women's rights are human rights." Becky Largarde said, "I will do work in racial justice. I have a daughter."

Buck reiterated the Women's March 2020 message and core premise of wanting to build on



**Audrey Largarde, 7, of Herndon and her mother, Becky, wait for the Women's March on Herndon to begin.**

the fight for justice and equality that Ruth Bader Ginsberg championed. She said, "We encourage people to cast their ballots." According to the Women's March website, the organization needed "a huge and powerful mobilization to help energize the nation and inspire millions to turn out to vote."

Marchers started on the Town Green behind the Herndon Municipal Center, made their way to Elden Street, and ended at the Old Town Hall. There, one of the speakers, Virginia State Senator Jennifer Boysko (D-33) said, "We elected officials work for you and women have shown us that elected official can no longer overlook the needs and concerns women raise. Your voice matters and it's imperative that you stay involved."



# An Amazing Year

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

**W**ith more than two months remaining in 2020, I can already say that it has been an amazing year in Virginia's history. When the events of 2020 in the Commonwealth are reviewed in the future by historians in the context of the state's history, the conclusion is going to be that Virginia underwent a consequential and transformative period equal to or superior to any other period of its history. For a state that is so rich with history I realize that might seem like an over-statement, but I believe my conclusion is fully supported by the facts.

I am not talking about surviving the COVID-19 pandemic or enduring what is likely to be called the absolute worst presidency in the history of the country, as important as both these situations are. I am talking about what went on with the Virginia General Assembly and its future impact on the state.

The year opened with a regular General Assembly session with many new faces from the 2019 elections. Never has there been a House of



## COMMENTARY

Delegates that was younger with more racial and sexual diversity. A Jewish woman took over the reins of power in the House of Delegates. More women and Blacks became committee chairs than ever before. And there was a determination to deal with unresolved issues that had plagued the state for decades and in some instances for centuries. The Governor was clearly on board to lead such a session.

Gun safety measures that had been talked about for years even as gun violence and mass murders had increased were enacted and signed by the Governor. Some had suggested for years that terrible things would happen if all gun transfers required a universal background check, but that system is now in place as a result of a bill I introduced that passed and was signed by the Governor. The more than 22,000 gun advocates most of whom were armed that assembled around the Capitol did not deter the Assembly from doing what it knew had to be done.

Non-discrimination legislation passed with

the Virginia Values Act being one of the most comprehensive in the nation. Voting laws were changed to make voting easier and more accessible as voters are now learning as they cast their votes in this election. Many Jim Crow-era laws were repealed.

The special session called to deal with budgetary and other issues related to the pandemic built on the successes of the regular session with a pivot to criminal justice and policing reform. Civilian review boards have been empowered to investigate police-related complaints. Chokeholds were essentially eliminated as were rubber bullets and military-type equipment in local policing. Traffic stops for minor offenses—a big part of racial profiling—are now banned. Jury sentencing has been eliminated in what some are describing the most significant criminal justice reform. And there is even more that I will detail in future reviews.

Benjamin Franklin was asked at the conclusion of the Constitutional Convention what kind of government we have. He responded, "A republic, if we can keep it." In Virginia, we can say that we now have one of the most progressive governments in the country. To keep it, however, will require future vigilance and work. Many of the advances I celebrate here will become the stuff of future political campaigns where bigotry and fear will be used to try to turn the state back.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Vote for Diversity in Herndon

To the Editor:

The Town of Herndon is guaranteed to have a Council led by Democrats given that 6 of the 8 people running for Council are on the Democratic sample ballot. As a life-long Democrat and current member of the Town Council, you might think I'd be happy with this news. I'm not. A core tenet of democracy is government by the people. Our elected officials should represent the community they govern, and this includes multiple political philosophies.

In light of this, please consider voting for Stevan Porter and Clark Hedrick. They are both worthy candidates who are dedicated to service and will provide some balance to the Council in their views and perspective. Stevan is an active member of Rotary, a volunteer paramedic, and has consistently attended Council meetings. Clark is a lawyer with professional experience in land use and infrastructure and serves on the Board of Zoning Appeals. I'd also strongly suggest that everyone consider "bullet voting", and vote for no more than 3 candidates. This tactic provides a stronger chance

that your top 3 candidates will win instead of diluting your vote with your 4th, 5th, and 6th choices. On the Democratic ballot, my top choice is Sean Regan who has served on the Planning Commission for over 8 years and I know him to be a strong independent thinker and fiscal conservative.

Herndon is a hometown for everyone. I believe in the value of inclusion and that we're stronger because of our diversity – demographic, experiential, and cognitive. I hope that we elect a Council that will offer balance and give voice to a healthy exchange of ideas which is critical to a representative democracy.

**Jennifer Baker**  
Herndon

*Council Member, Town of Herndon, July 2014 – December 2020;  
Vice Mayor, July 2014 – December 2018.*

### We Are Not Better Off Now

To the Editor:

Regarding this 2020 election... never mind that President Trump took children away from their parents at our southern border. Never mind his withdrawal from

the Paris climate agreement, the Iran nuclear deal and the World Health Organization. Never mind that he continually attempts to abolish the Affordable Care Act. Never mind his self-inflicted trade war with China. Never mind that he has led our country into having unprecedented national debt. Never mind his inaction when foreign governments killed American citizens. Never mind his support of the "very fine people" in white nationalist groups. Never mind that he turns his back on our allies and kowtows to dictators, surrendering the United States' leadership role in the world. Never mind his use of unrequested militarized Federal agents on peaceful protestors. Never mind all that if you want.

Now his willful inaction on the COVID-19 pandemic has cost more than 200,000 American lives, record breaking unemployment, national fear and ongoing unrest. Our country cannot take four more years of this. You already know the answer to that age-old question: No, we are not better off now than we were four years ago.

Don't let anything keep you from voting.

**Barbara Glakas**  
Herndon

### Opposing County Bond Measures

To the Editor:

Please VOTE NO on all 4 Fairfax County Bond Measures. You cannot vote yes to support almost a half billion dollars in new County debt if you have not invested the time to read the County budget.

Don't mirror the irresponsible behavior of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. There is no such thing as free money and these bond measures create more unnecessary debt burdening the future of all residents. Tax revenues are going to be down and are used to fund essential county services. If these bond measures support essential community needs then Fairfax County should stop unnecessary expenditures and, in doing so, there will be money in the base budget to pay for what is needed. Just read the budget and see for yourself.

**Ethel Pascal**  
Great Falls

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# 'Though Things Were Hard, He Persevered'

## Memorial brick installed to honor Juwaan Espinal.

By BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

**J**uwaan Espinal's life was cut short at age 22, but he left a lasting impact upon all who knew and loved him. And some three dozen people gathered recently outside Centreville Elementary to honor Juwaan and see a brick installed in his memory in the brick garden outside the school.

He attended Centreville Elementary from 2002-09; and after he died, the school established the Juwaan Espinal Kindness Counts Award to be given each year at the sixth-grade graduation. Now, a brick there captures his spirit with the words, "Juwaan Espinal: His smile lit up a room, and now heaven."

He was wheelchair-bound due to cerebral palsy, and digestive problems caused by his condition led to his death in April – just a month shy of his 23rd birthday. Yet despite every obstacle he'd faced, his positive attitude and zest for life inspired both his family and community.

"Juwaan wasn't disabled," said Lamar Turner, who led the socially distanced, mask-wearing attendees in prayer at the start of the Oct. 10 ceremony. "God made him perfect so all of us could be touched by his smile, love and tenaciousness to be happy."

**JUWAAN** graduated from Centreville High and was a huge Wildcats football fan. Turner's sons, A.J. and Kobie, played football there and became friends with Juwaan, who was a fixture on the sidelines during games, rooting for his beloved team.

"He was always giving of himself, and today we come to honor and remember him," said Turner. "God, we thank You so much for the blessings that Juwaan brought to so many of us. Even in his pain, he lifted us. He had an ability to affect each and every one of us. God, help us live every day of life to the fullest, like Juwaan did."

Joy Weiner taught Juwaan in grades second through sixth. "He had a happy and loving personality," she said. "He was an integral part of Centreville Elementary School and everyone gravitated to him and loved

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



Attendees bowing their heads during the ceremony's closing prayer.



Juwaan Espinal at a Wildcats football game.



Ibis Espinal

him. And even though things were hard, he persevered."

Calling Juwaan a "witty, strong, fearless and humble, young man," his mother, Ibis Espinal, told the crowd her son always wanted to fit in and be treated like anyone else. He was nonverbal but, at Centreville Elementary, he was taught how to "talk" via a communication device and learned how to operate his wheelchair.

There, he also made lifelong friends. "Juwaan was part of the school choir, and he learned all the songs and sang at the concerts," said Espinal. "He sang in his own way and had most of his teachers crying with joy. He participated in the Reading Club, where sixth-graders would read stories to the younger students, and he had a waiting list for him to do it. Juwaan also adopted 'Juwaan Time,' which meant personal, one-on-one time with another person. And he led his sixth-grade graduation ceremony and received a spirit award."

But, added Espinal, "He wouldn't have been able to accomplish some of these goals without the encouragement and dedication from the school administration, teachers, aides, occupational and physical therapists, doctors and case manager working together."

She also thanked particular family members, friends and organizations for all their support of her son. And to his sister, Shanelle, she said, "He loved you so much. You taught him how to say 'Yes' and 'No,' helped with his homework, and taught him to play, smile, wink and dance."

"In his short life, Juwaan inspired, changed and gave all his love to everyone who knew him," continued Espinal. "He had so much strength and courage throughout his life – even fighting at his final moment. I know he's no longer in pain, has earned his wings and is in heaven watching over all of us."

"Juwaan knew he had a strong foundation of love in the community," said Espinal. "Thank you, Centreville Elementary; Juwaan loved you so much. I just miss my boy." Then, as Shanelle read the words inscribed on her brother's brick, she cried.

**AFTERWARD**, it was placed into the brick garden at the front of the school.

"It's a way to honor Centreville Elementary students who've died," said Principal Josh Douds. "It's important to remember Juwaan and all that he did. I taught fifth grade when he was here. He was always laughing and brought smiles to everyone's faces. My hope is that he'll bring smiles to everyone else's faces as they enter the building. His memory lives on."

Later, Shanelle said it was "heartwarming to see how many people loved my brother. His spirit was influential, and it's astonishing how many people he touched. And he couldn't even talk – he did it with his eyes and his smile."

\* To contribute to the Kindness Counts Award, send checks to Centreville Elementary School, attn. Juwaan Espinal, 14330 Green Trails Blvd., Centreville, VA 20121, and write "Kindness Counts Award" on the memo line.



## Centreville Fire Captain Promoted to Battalion Chief

(From left) Capt. Marc Straubinger, of Centreville Fire Station 38's C-shift, presents Capt. Tracey Reed a plaque in appreciation of her work as EMS Supervisor in Battalion 3, C-shift, on her last day there. Reed was just promoted to Battalion Chief and has now moved to B-Shift.



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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**

# CALENDAR

## NOW THRU NOV. 5

Haunted Wine Tours. 6:30 p.m.; 7:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. At The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. The Haunted Wine Tours are back for the fifth year in a row, in a new condensed version, so you can enjoy real ghost stories and award-winning wine all while staying safe. Due to the restrictive environment surrounding COVID, there are far less tickets available this year. Therefore priority access to tickets go to wine club members.

## NOW THRU DEC. 7

MCC Fantastic Fall Scavenger Hunt. Join your friends, family and community for McLean Community Center's Fantastic Fall Scavenger Hunt. This exciting fall virtual event allows for you and your team to compete against others and win prizes. This is the perfect event to stay local and have fun with your friends and family. The Fantastic Fall Scavenger Hunt is a game played on a smart phone in which teams complete 75 missions (or challenges) both indoors and outdoors. Missions include answering questions, taking specific photos or videos, finding a specific item, geocaching or completing specific tasks as given in a list provided by the Game Master. The scavenger hunt will take place in and around McLean and from your own home. Participants work in small teams of 4-10 players. Team captains must be 16 years old or older. Visit the website [www.McLeancenter.org](http://www.McLeancenter.org).

## NIGHTMARE ALLEY

The Workhouse Arts Center announces that "Nightmare Alley" Haunted Drive-Thru is coming to Lorton for this year's Halloween season. "Nightmare Alley" is the first immersive drive-thru Halloween experience in the region. Zombies, swamp creatures, creepy clowns, and scary dolls are among 13 different scary scenes taking up residence on the Workhouse campus. These new campus inhabitants will scare and entertain visitors experiencing the attraction from the safety of their cars. There will be 13 nights of fright, now through Saturday, Oct. 31. Fridays and Saturdays from 7-11 p.m. each weekend in October, and Sundays in the middle of the month (October 25) from 7-10 p.m. Visit <https://www.workhousearts.org/nightmare-alley/>

## OCT. 22-25

Calling all runners. The Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc. will have its National Run for Refugees, a virtual 5K. Over 3 days you can run (or walk) your race wherever you are and submit your time miles to the ranking. You can also set up your own peer fundraising page. Through your participation you can help raise donations and awareness for refugees. Please sign up here: <https://www.jbsports.com/ecdc-virtual-national-run-for-refugees>

## OCT. 23-25; AND OCT. 30-NOV. 1

The Alden Theatre at the McLean Community Center (MCC) is presenting its third and final fall performance of its popular, socially distanced theater program, Drive-Thru Drama in October. New York City-based company Recent

Cutbacks was commissioned by The Alden to write the new show, "Objects in Mirror May Be Spookier Than They Appear." The show will be presented over three weekends, from 6 p.m.-8:15 p.m., Friday-Sunday, Oct. 23-25 and Oct. 30-Nov. 1. Tickets are \$20 per car/\$15 MCC tax district residents. The performances will be held in the parking lot of MCC at 1234 Ingleside Ave. Visit: [www.aldentheatre.org](http://www.aldentheatre.org) or call 703-790-0123, TTY: 711.

## FRIDAY/OCT. 23 AND NOV. 6

Evening Campfire. 7 to 8:30 p.m. At Lake Fairfax Park, 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. Come to Lake Fairfax Park for an evening campfire the whole family can enjoy. Explore the wonders of the natural world through activities, such as nature walks, animal presentations and interactive fun. Learn about nature and our place in it. Topics vary by date. Of course, no campfire would be complete without s'mores. The cost is \$12 per person, and the events are designed for participants age 3 to adult. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Call 703-471-5414.

## FRIDAY/OCT. 23

Fine W(h)ine: Cabaret. 7-8 p.m. Online. Rev. Russell and Amy have long histories with wine and whining. Tune in to this live fundraiser comedy show, and donate according to how hard you laugh (or groan). Visit the website: <https://2020-10-fine-whine.eventbrite.com/?aff=cnnews>

## SATURDAY/OCT. 24

You're Majoring in What? -- The Journey to Become a Theatre Artist Against Your Parents' Wishes. 2 p.m. Part of the Virtual Round Table Discussion Series at 1st Stage in Tysons. Free. In these forums, they'll talk and share questions and thoughts with artists, actors, designers, musicians and directors about experiences they have faced as professional artists. Artists participating include Debra Kim Sivigny, Bob Barlett, Ron OJ Parsons, José Carrasquillo, Thembi Duncan, and more. Pre-registration is required and space is limited. Registration is available now at [www.1ststage.org](http://www.1ststage.org).

## SATURDAY/OCT. 24

Running of the Ghost 5K. 4 p.m. At House 6 Brewing Company, Ashburn. With Halloween in the air, they are celebrating the 11th running of the Ghost 5k. Runners are encouraged to run in costume. The event centers on the spook-tacular theme of Halloween and incorporates a virtual costume contest, and a "haunted" 3.1 mile course! Great fun for the entire family. All registered runners will receive a commemorative technical long sleeve glow in the dark race shirt, glow in the dark medal, and Halloween candy mailed to their home. The ghostly 5k lollipop style course through the surrounding neighborhoods of One Loudoun will be open for one hour after the start of the race. Digital timing will be used to capture finishing time. Awards to overall & overall second place Male and Female, first and second male and female in the following

age groups will be mailed to each winner: 10 and under, 11 - 12, 13 - 14, 15 - 18, 19 - 29, 30 - 39, 40 - 49, 50 - 59, 60 - 69, 70 +. Register on-line at [www.Ghost5k.com](http://www.Ghost5k.com). For more information email: [Ghost5k@m-b-logistics.com](mailto:Ghost5k@m-b-logistics.com) Connect on social media: [www.facebook.com/ghost5k](http://www.facebook.com/ghost5k), @Ghost5kandScarecrowSprint

## SATURDAY/OCT. 24

"An Evening with Jim Van Slyke." 7:30 p.m. At NextStop Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Award winning singer, songwriter and recording artist, Jim Van Slyke has headlined sold out appearances on concert stages around the globe including New York's historic Friars Club, Feinstein's at Lowes Regency, and Birdland Jazz Club. Visit [www.nextstoptheatre.org/the-parking-lot-concerts](http://www.nextstoptheatre.org/the-parking-lot-concerts).

## SATURDAY/OCT. 24

Making a Scarecrow. At Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Family members of all ages are invited to celebrate the season by creating a scarecrow to use for a fall decoration. Just bring some old clothing to stuff with hay, and afterward, pose with your new friend and take a picture in front of our 1794 Federal style home. Family or pod groups of up to six people will have their own area outside for creating their friend. There will be six family groups per 45-minute session. Slots are still available; make your reservation at least two days before the event. The cost is \$20 per family. The rain date is Oct. 25, 2020. Call 703-437-1794.

## SUNDAY/OCT. 25

Virtual: McLean Uncorked. 5-6 p.m. Wine Down the Fall—A Wine Tasting Experience at Home. Enjoy a true wine experience, one sip at a time, connecting with wonderful wines and fellow wine lovers. Unique wines will be available to pre-purchase by registrants at Chain Bridge Cellars in McLean. For beginners and connoisseurs alike, this wine experience will not disappoint! A wine expert will lead this session and explore various aspects of the art of wine including terroir, production, grape varieties, structure, food/wine interaction, pairing and much more. Participants must purchase wine separately. Free; registration is required.

## SUNDAY/OCT. 25

McLean Uncorked. 5-6 p.m. Virtual: Wine Down the Fall—A Wine Tasting Experience at Home. Enjoy a true wine experience, one sip at a time, connecting wonderful wines and fellow wine lovers. Unique wines will be available to pre-purchase by registrants at Chain Bridge Cellars in McLean for this tasting. Selected wines are from regions and wineries, famous and under the radar—all with great stories to tell. A wine expert will lead this session and explore various aspects of the art of wine including terroir, production, grape varieties, structure, food/wine interaction, pairing and more. Free; registration is required. Activity No. 2010.220. Participants must purchase wine separately. Visit [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org).



## Fatal Car Crash in Herndon

Detectives from Crash Reconstruction Unit are investigating a fatal car crash that occurred Wednesday, Oct. 14 night in Herndon. Officers responded around 9:02 p.m. to the intersection of Centreville Road and McLearen Road for a crash involving a 2007 Jeep Grand Cherokee and a 2015 Ford Super Duty tow truck. A preliminary investigation determined the Jeep was traveling northbound on Centreville Road when the driver turned

onto eastbound McLearen Road, crossed the center median and crashed into a tow truck traveling in the westbound lanes. The driver, Jonathan Szott, 30, of Herndon, was taken to a hospital where he was pronounced deceased. Detectives are working to determine if speed or alcohol were factors in the crash.

Anyone with information about this crash is asked to contact Crash Reconstruction Unit at 703-280-0543.

## New Exit from I-66 West to Rt. 28 North

Beginning on or about this Wednesday night, Oct. 21, the current ramp from I-66 West to Route 28 North will permanently close. Drivers will access Route

28 North via a new exit ramp slightly east of (prior to) the old exit ramp. This change is part of the I-66 Outside the Beltway project.

# Bite Me Cancer

FROM PAGE 2

As a result, she took matters in her own hands and created Teen Support Bags. They contain several items to help teenagers pass the time, feel less alone while in the hospital or undergoing treatment, and be inspired. These treats include a baseball cap, journal, earbuds, an Amazon gift card, fuzzy socks, a T-shirt to customize, a game book, plus various Bite Me Cancer items that promote the foundation's "Attitude is Everything" motto.

BITE ME CANCER has partnerships with

INOVA Children's Hospital, the National Institutes of Health, Johns Hopkins University Hospital, Medstar/Georgetown University Hospital and almost 130 other hospitals around the country. Since establishing its Teen Support Bag program in June 2012, Bite Me Cancer has distributed bags to nearly 7,500 teenagers in every state and in Washington, D.C.

The foundation has a board of directors and five committees of volunteers; there are no paid staff members. For more information, or to donate to Bite Me Cancer, go to [www.bitemecancer.org](http://www.bitemecancer.org).

# Early Voting

FROM PAGE 3

The Connection asked voters in Reston and Herndon why they chose to vote early. At the North County Government Center in Reston, Mark Pitchford and his wife Tashunda of Reston sat in folding chairs at the front of the line. "We want to be sure our votes are counted. We didn't trust the postal system," he said. Tashunda added, "What I learned is to be prepared. This is our Plan A, chairs and early." Marcy and Thomas Wilbur of Herndon were also at the front of the line in Reston. Marcy said, "I'm here today because it is critical for everyone to vote, especially in this election due to the controversy regarding ballots." According to Lourdes Mercado of Reston, she was voting because of a "hunger for change in our government, society and us as individuals." She said, "This is the first time I've witnessed a deep divide in our people and government as well."

Voters in Herndon echoed similar remarks. According to Tanya Forbes who voted in Herndon, she did not receive her absentee ballot in the mail and was concerned. "With my work schedule, I had to come today." Pointing to the lettering on her mask, Kim Reynolds of Herndon said, "Ruth sent me."

There are three ways to vote in the upcoming elections on November 3, according

to Fairfax County. To vote absentee by mail, individuals should apply now. The deadline is Friday, Oct. 23. The fastest and most secure way to apply is online on the Virginia Department of Elections website.

For in-person early voting, there are the 14 satellite voting locations that opened Wednesday, Oct. 14, the one in Great Falls that opened Saturday, Oct. 17 and the Fairfax County Government Center that opened Sept. 18. The last day to vote early at all these locations is Saturday, Oct. 31, 5 p.m.

ON ELECTION DAY, Tuesday, November 3, polling places in Fairfax County will be open as usual, from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. The Fairfax County Park Authority will host six new polling locations. The action was taken to ensure maximum available parking, enhance public safety relative to traffic and COVID-19 social distancing, and allow election officials to accommodate potentially large crowds. These six sites, Cub Run RECenter, South Run RECenter, Oak Marr RECenter, Spring Hill RECenter, Frying Pan Farm Park Visitor Center and Green Spring Gardens Horticulture Center, will be closed to customers to facilitate voters. Visit Office of Elections - Fairfax County for more information about early voting, vote by mail, sample ballots, track ballots, registering to vote and election results.

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## "I'll Think About That Tomorrow"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

What I'm thinking about - and being thankful for, today, is the disappearance of all the side effects I've been experiencing during the last four weeks or so since I began my pill regimen for my papillary thyroid cancer treatment. Too many to list but upwards of a dozen side effects which encompass all activities from those of daily living to others pertaining to just plain living. Let me reprint the warning that came with the pills: "People using this medication may have serious side effects. However, your doctor has prescribed this drug because he or she has judged that the benefit to you is greater than the risk of side effects." Put that in your pipe and smoke it. That's what I have to smoke every day, if you know figuratively what I mean?

The bigger question, the overriding concern/anxiety is what exactly the thyroid cancer is doing now having been left unmedicated for the last nine days? How irreparable is the damage being done when the cancer has been left unchecked? Moreover, to the extent there has been some damage, is restarting treatment even an option or have I already failed the tolerance test? Being a cancer patient is a never-ending series of questions and/or concerns for which there is hardly clarity. As I have been led to believe/educated since my initial lung cancer diagnosis, there will be no more guarantees coming.

But of course improvements in cancer treatment and ongoing research have improved survivability, and with many patients, myself included, turned the cancer treatment into a chronic disease type protocol, like diabetes. Nevertheless, cancer is in control, the doctors are not. There are no slam-dunks in cancer treatment. How would I ever be able to unwind myself from years of stress and fear just because? I couldn't. A cancer patient today sort of means, I'll likely be a cancer patient tomorrow. I don't see how I could shake that self-image.

Somehow, I must, as I'm trying to do now, exult in the joy of a semi uncomplicated, side-effect free existence because ..., it's not guaranteed. I must try even harder to compartmentalize the unknown while savoring this known, relatively easy time. It's not promised and it's not necessarily likely to occur again, certainly not after I return to treatment. But maybe, my new normal will be switching on and off treatment, sort of like I did while being infused with alimta. Though I still had my CT scans quarterly, so long as the scans showed stable, we kept extending the interval between infusions. The goal being to balance effect on the tumors with the quality of life (freedom from side effects and infusion appointments). Eventually, we stretched the interval to as much as seven weeks from the original three enabling me to live - occasionally, a semi cancer free life. Perhaps this on-again, off-again schedule might apply to this recent thyroid treatment. I have to hope because the side effects, as I alluded to initially, have been affecting my quality of life. And if there's one factor driving my better-than expected survival, it has been my attitude, which has derived directly from my management of side effects. Anecdotal speaking (or presuming) being in a good mood, being able to function with normal parameters (to quote Data from "Star Trek: Next Generation") has been a tremendous contributor to my life expectancy (my oncologist refers to me "as his third miracle").

But I can't know for sure. And of course, that's the crux of the problem for many of us cancer patients. One can never know for sure if you're hindering or helping; and since guarantees stopped being made on the ground-zero day you were diagnosed with a "terminal disease" it's often difficult to know which path to follow. Right now, it's easy to follow the path which is creating a more normal/pleasant quality of life. But at what cost? I can't know what the tumors are doing. Perhaps, in taking a break from treatment, I have unleashed the cancer once again. That's my dilemma: reconciling the present with the future, the fear with the familiar, the hope with the inevitable. And it's likely I'll never know if what I've done has been a help or a hindrance. Yet somehow, I have to make plans and decisions. "Tomorrow is another day." Lest, I be gone with the wind.

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



# “Bolster the Blue” Hosting Pro-Police Event



## Support Our Law Enforcement on October 24<sup>th</sup>

A local pro-police organization named “Bolster the Blue” is hosting an event in support of law enforcement on Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>.

The event, titled “Police, Pastors, and Prayer” features special keynote speaker Jason Yates of the organization “My Faith Votes,” and will take place in front of the Fairfax County Courthouse on Page Avenue. Free garage parking is available for anyone who wishes to attend the event.

BOLSTER THE BLUE was started by Fairfax County resident Brenda Tillett, after she and her son decided one day to bring lunch for all of the officers as a way of saying thank you for their service.

Said Tillett, “as my son and I brought hand-written thank-you cards for each officer and lunch, we were humbled by the impact this small gesture had. We wanted to share that feeling of appreciation with officers everywhere again and again.”

POLICE, PASTORS, AND PRAYER is an opportunity for all Fairfax residents who appreciate our law enforcement officers to join in prayer with and for the men and women in blue who keep our communities safe.

In addition to keynote speaker Jason Yates and other guest speakers, the event welcomes local community pastors offering prayers and inspirational messages for our police and our country.

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY: Police, Pastors, and Prayer will feature live DJ’d music, games and activities for kids and adults alike (including face and wrist painting, pumpkin decorating, police sticker scene decorating, cornhole, pumpkin tic-tac-toe, “guess how many candy corns are in the jar,” raffles, and a children’s essay contest.

Food will be available on-site with both a food truck and cotton candy cart present for attendees.

Tables will be available for event sponsors, including the Fairfax County Republican Committee, and Bolster the Blue t-shirts and hats will be available for attendees in exchange for a donation. For more information, email Bolster the Blue at [info@bolstertheblue.com](mailto:info@bolstertheblue.com).

BOLSTER THE BLUE PRESENTS:

## POLICE, PASTORS, AND PRAYER

*with special keynote speaker Jason Yates of My Faith Votes*

OCTOBER 24, 2020 | 2PM - 5PM  
10550 PAGE AVE., FAIRFAX, VA (FREE GARAGE PARKING)  
IN FRONT OF FAIRFAX COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Bring your family and join us for an afternoon of prayer and messages of unity. Enjoy music, pumpkin decorating, face/wrist painting, cotton candy, food, and kids' games with your family.

Meet officers and get to know those who protect and serve us.

Contact us at [info@bolstertheblue.com](mailto:info@bolstertheblue.com) for more information or to get involved.

Flyer distributed by Bolster the Blue for “Police, Pastors, and Prayer”

# BACK THE BLUE

**They risk their lives to keep us safe.**  
But radical left-wing Democrats want to defund and abolish the police, and put suburban families in harm’s way.

## VOTE REPUBLICAN NOV. 3<sup>RD</sup>



### Bolster the Blue Holds Essay Contest for Kids

Bolster the Blue is now accepting submissions for a children’s essay contest, with prizes awarded to the top 3 winners. Entrants should write an essay in 250 words or less describing the story of the police officer pictured above. Submit entries to [info@bolstertheblue.com](mailto:info@bolstertheblue.com).