

CONNECTION

Reston ♦ Oak Hill Herndon ♦ Chantilly ♦ CENTRE VIEW

Election Storm Of the Century

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PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Controversy over Road Plan in Centreville

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Teaming Up for A Terrific Trunk-or-Treat

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The first voters walk into the polling station on Election Day 2020, Tues., Nov. 3 in the Dranesville District of Fairfax County at Precinct 320, Herndon # 2, Herndon Community Center.

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NEWS

Hunter Mill District Winter Coat Closet Continues

Distribution limited to five Saturdays November through March.

By MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

As the weather gets colder, the need for coats and winter outerwear is greater than ever this season for community members who are unsheltered. Cornerstones, in partnership with the Hunter Mill District Supervisor's Office, is once again running the Hunter Mill District Winter Coat Closet, donating new and gently used, clean coats and new hats, gloves, mittens and scarves to all who need them.

Due to the ongoing impact of COVID-19, the Coat Closet will run outdoors and on a modified schedule. In Reston, distribution will be held at North County Government Building, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, one Saturday each month now through March, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The dates are Nov. 14, Dec. 12, Jan. 9, Feb. 6 and March 6. All participants must wear masks.

Donations of new or gently used, clean coats, and



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Coats and outer winter wear previously offered. (File photo 2018)

new hats, gloves, mittens and scarves will only be accepted on Nov. 14, Dec. 12 and Jan. 9 during donation hours of operation. Children's and youths' coats and extra-large adult sizes, 3X and larger, are especially appreciated.

For volunteer and donation information, contact Susan Alger, Director of Volunteer and Community Engagement, at 571-323-1383 and Nate King, Donations and Drives Coordinator, at 571-323-9569.

A testimonial posted on the Cornerstones' website reads: "On behalf of the Hunter Mill District office and Cornerstones, we thank the volunteers and donors for the time and energy invested in making the Hunter Mill Winter Coat Closet such a success this past winter! With their help, over 5,000 coats and more than 1,300 winter accessories went home with our neighbors in need! This program would not happen without the care and concern that they translate into action all winter long."

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NEWS

Election Storm of the Century

Saying the vote counts is an understatement.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Election Day 2020 will go down in history. It may take a few days or weeks to count ballots, and what happens today, tomorrow and on Inauguration Day cannot be predicted. What is known is that COVID-19 affected nearly every aspect of the election, from how the candidates campaigned to how voters cast their ballots. On Nov. 2, the day before the election, national Covid cases soared to 100,000 cases a day. The Virginia Department of Health reported 1026 new cases in the Commonwealth, with increasing cases for 14 days and increased percent positivity for 21 days.

In a rundown of the 2020 General Election in Fairfax County, early voting ended on Saturday, Oct. 31. The County saw a record-breaking number of early votes cast. Long lines with lengthy waits became the norm at the County's early election sites such as the Herndon Fortnightly Library, North County Governmental Center in Reston and the Great Falls Library.

According to Brian Worthy, Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs there are 787,214 registered voters in Fairfax County. On Sunday, Nov. 1, the day after early voting ended, Worthy said that Fairfax County totaled more than 399,600 ballots cast in person when the polls closed Saturday. These are unofficial numbers and the final official vote total ultimately reported to the state may be different. Gary Scott, Fairfax County General Registrar and Director of Elections said the early votes cast amounted "to about 58% of what they thought the total turnout would be for this election." He added, "But we're still expecting to see at least 200,000 people cast their ballots on Nov. 3."

Well before dawn on Election Day 2020, Tuesday, Nov. 3., voters lined up at polling places across the County, including those in the local area. Tom Cranmer, Election Officer at the Dranesville District of Fairfax County, Precinct 328 Hickory, Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike said that as of 7 a.m., an hour after the polling place opened, they had checked-in 100 voters. "A lot of people freezing outside."

Elizabeth Schreffler, Chief Election Officer from Precinct 222 Reston #3, Reston Community Center- Lake Anne said there were 30 people in line when the polls opened. "I anticipate it will be pretty slow." At 9 a.m. Schreffler said, "We had 216 voter check-ins so far." At 10 a.m. Schreffler reported a total of 270 voter check-ins.

Visit the Virginia Department of Elections website, Nov. 3, 2020 General and Special Elections to view results.



Voters lineup well before dawn on Election Day 2020, Tuesday, Nov. 3 in the Dranesville District of Fairfax County at Precinct 320, Herndon # 2, Herndon Community Center.

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION



Town of Herndon elections for Town Council and Mayor coincide with the Nov. 3, 2020 election.

VIEWPOINTS

What do you hope this election changes?

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/
THE CONNECTION



"I hope it brings back the civility and compassion we've been missing." - Joyce Burd, 30-year Herndon resident, teacher
"I'd like to see a united nation again. No more divisiveness." - Mark Burd, 30-year resident of Herndon, project manager.



"No more of the orange guy." - D. Singh, 3-year resident of Reston, government support



"I'm hoping we return to civility and there is a restoration of balance." - Nancy Chen, 2-year resident of Reston, government employee



"We have hope." - Yamil Abdi Yusef, 15-year resident of Reston



"I hope this election changes how all of us are better connected." - Jariq Ullah, less than 1-year Reston resident, government

The Results Are In!

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



COMMENTARY

This column is being written before election day with a schedule for publication the day after the polls close. It may be a bit optimistic to suppose that the results of the many election day contests will be known by the next day, but I surely hope for my own sanity and those I know that the results will be known right away. The eagerness of voters to see these elections over with is evident by the historically high number of persons casting their votes early. In some localities the number of votes cast early eclipsed the total number of votes cast in that place four years ago. The event reported on social media where a voter asked those standing in line how long they had been waiting to vote and got the response "four years!" may not have actually happened, but it certainly captured the sentiment of many including myself that the last nearly four years have been a disaster for

our country and its institutions. Pandemic aside we have much to do to restore faith in our institutions and confidence in each other and our communities.

In Virginia there were elections only for federal offices this year as state offices are filled in "off year" elections. Next year voters will choose a new governor—as Virginia governors cannot succeed themselves—lieutenant governor, attorney general and all members of the House of Delegates. While the results for federal offices are just coming in with some congressional races downstate reflecting the wide division of opinions reflected nationwide, there are those who are already lining up for the statewide positions that will be on the ballot next year. If you thought that some space would be freed up on your e-mail accounts with the elections this year being over, think again. Many people have already announced for election next year with

more no doubt coming soon from whom you will be receiving pleas for support and of course for funding to make their election possible.

While we understandably might want a respite from politics, the sudden shift in attention to the next election cycle is good news. It shows our faith in the system and our understanding of the need for healing and active work to repair the immense damage of the last nearly four years. The peaceful evolution of power has been a hallmark of the American system of government from its beginning, and the several attempts to disrupt that process have in the long run been over-ridden. I know the threats that have been made about the transition of power this year, but I am counting on an overwhelming vote result that will erase any doubts about the true winners. Over time with leaders who represent true American values we can deal with the needs of American citizens with honesty, decency, compassion, and equality. The people will have spoken, and the results are in. It is time to put the horrors of the recent past behind us and build a stronger country because we have had a glimpse of the alternative!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Risks of Flying Over Residential Areas

To the Editor:

<Re: 'No Way to Mitigate Roar of Jet Engines Overhead', Connection, October 28-November 3, 2020>

It is my understanding aircraft cross the planned development at 900 feet every three to five minutes throughout the day. Although the focus of the argument thus far has been on noise levels, as a former Air Force pilot, I am surprised no one has brought up the safety aspects of placing a development directly under the flight path of large commercial aircraft. For example, the most dangerous portion of any flight is the first take off of the day by an aircraft. Why? The aircraft is fully fueled and this is the first time the engines will be at full power. I have been in emergency situations like this with 80 passengers in the back and the first thing a pilot in command does is to look for a place to put the aircraft down if it is no longer flyable. Placing a development under the flight path makes the choice infinitely more complicated. The same concern applies to an aircraft in a landing situation. Do we really want an aircraft with an engine fire or other critical in flight emergency flying directly over a residential development?

I also do not understand the logic given citizens living in Alexandria constantly complain about noise coming from Reagan National Airport. Does not the Board understand the situation will be the same in this instance?

In this case the Board individually and collectively would be using extraordinarily poor judgement in approving this development.

Norman P. Byers
Colonel, USAF (Ret)
Burke, Virginia

A Generation Capable of Change

To the Editor:

What kind of world do you want to live in, a world where you have no problems or issues to fix in your community? A world where you are always living in comfort and safety? Or a world where you are constantly fighting for your people, fixing mistakes that your people did not even make. Any reasonable person would pick the first option, but some people don't have a choice. Why weren't we taught as students the many issues happening in our world right now? Why are we only taught about events that happened years and years ago, that we cannot change

or fix? Of course, students should be taught of this country's and this world's history. But what about the history that is taking place at this moment. So many young students have interests, passions, and goals they just can't accomplish in their position. They have no other option but to settle and push aside their dreams to make it through life. We need to be given the proper opportunities that can help us find what we can strive for and what we love. We should be educated and informed about all the injustices happening right now because I know that young people can make a difference. This shouldn't be a debate or an argument, there just has to be change. I know so many young, bright, individuals that so desperately want to make a change, but simply don't know if their voices are being heard. They feel as if their efforts have no outcomes and words have no meaning. But we, as a community, need to prove them wrong.

This generation is going to be the one to make a change, so they need support, love, a quality education, and they need someone to believe in them. Only then can they make the change they know deep down they are capable of.

Manal Khalid
Centreville
Westfield High School, 16,
Junior

Kindness During a Very Difficult Year

To the Editor:

The lines to vote early at the Springfield-Franconia Government Center were a 3-4 hour wait every day for two weeks. I was heartened to see people with children, pregnant women and disabled older Americans insist on voting in person rather than use the convenient curbside voting alternative. The determination emanated everywhere.

Then along comes World Kitchen: Peruvian Brothers delicious beef or vegetable empanadas handed out free to the voters. If that isn't enough, Mediterranean food take out restaurant chef comes along from "Little Sesame" and distributes free cauliflower shawarma pita sandwiches and water. . Delicious!

For once, I saw kindness during a very difficult year. I thank those companies for their acts of kindness and I wanted to let others know, the food was great!

Lillian Brooks
Springfield



Controversy over Road Plan in Centreville

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County's current Comprehensive Plan calls for realigning Braddock and Old Lee roads in Centreville to cut through Rock Hill District Park, with Braddock ending in a T at Old Lee. But VDOT says it's too expensive and prefers instead to make "interim, low-cost improvements."

It favors adding a traffic signal, plus a 200-foot, southbound, right-turn lane and a 1,100-foot jughandle lane to accommodate the existing, eastbound left turns. The work would include realigning the S curve on Braddock by cutting 20 feet deep into the

ground and removing a large section of rock.

Residents told VDOT that's a terrible idea because it would just add more traffic to Braddock from Loudoun County, making it harder for Centreville residents to access that road. But VDOT chose that plan, anyway.

And championed by Supervisor Kathy Smith (D-Sully) – without any public hearing beforehand – in July, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors recommended it receive nearly \$16 million in Smart Scale funding from the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB).

VDOT held an online public hearing, Sept. 30, and Will Steinhilber, with the county's Transportation Department, said the project would "maximize safety and operations."

Questions submitted by residents were read, without their names identified.

They suggested a traffic light, roundabout or turn lane at that intersection, but VDOT's Andy Beacher said they wouldn't best address traffic congestion there. When someone asked, "Why are you spending an enormous amount of money for a short-term fix?" Beacher said it would provide the most value for its cost.

Another person said, "I'd like to have a public meeting about this – not just you guys telling us what you want to do. FCDOT Director Tom Biesiadny said that'll happen if the project's funded."

Frustrated, a resident asked, "What's the point of this meeting, if you guys have al-

ready made up your mind about what you're going to do?" Beacher said they wanted to clarify what'll happen, going forward. He also noted environmental impacts won't be studied until funding's secured. And Biesiadny said the CTB will hold a public meeting and receive written comments before deciding on this project.

Afterward, many residents were angry their questions weren't read and answered, and their concerns not taken seriously. So one of them, Kathleen Leggette, later held her own, in-person meeting on her Centreville property – which the project would directly impact. She also invited two members of Virginia's General Assembly to hear residents' viewpoints firsthand. (See sidebar).

County Leaders 'Strategically Eliminated Citizens' Voices'

Residents vent to Helmer, Marsden about Braddock, Old Lee roads.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Upset that neither Fairfax County's Board of Supervisors, nor VDOT, seem to care about residents' objections to proposed "fixes" for Braddock and Old Lee roads, Kathleen Leggette hosted her own, town-hall meeting. Held Oct. 18, in her Sully Estates yard off Braddock Road, some 60 people attended, including Del. Dan Helmer (D-40) and State Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37).

VDOT's plan would send a new road through her property – in a 100-year floodplain, the Chesapeake Watershed and a Resource Protection Area – and endanger the wildlife and environment there. So VDOT's so-called "interim" road would cause permanent damage to her land.

"Civic engagement is important in a democracy," Leggette told the politicians. "And your coming here makes a statement that our voices should be heard."

Helmer said the matter deserves more than "a one-way dialogue with just VDOT talking." And Marsden, chairman of the senate's Transportation Committee, said VDOT needs to work with the residents in person "so you can make sure your government is doing right by you, the people living in this community."

"In Fairfax County, we're currently seeing policies representing only one segment – developers," said resident Bob Petrine. "Citizens are here today to protest this. Kathy Smith leads the Supervisors' powerful, Land-Use Policy Committee – and is, literally, the fox in the henhouse. The public process has been virtually nil and an insult to transparency and decency. The Supervisors are flaunting the will of the people and the health of the environment."

RAISED IN VIRGINIA RUN, Marlena Carr wanted to know how VDOT would manage the resulting stormwater-runoff increase to have the least impact on the environment. And Kay Kimball, who lives on Braddock,



Del. Dan Helmer



State Sen. Dave Marsden



Sheila Dunheimer

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



Kathleen Leggette



Beecher Brown



John Litzenger

said, "Loudoun wants to expand it to four lanes, all the way to Route 28 in Manassas, and I'm concerned about the impact on the trails and our real-estate values."

Sully Estates' Grant Cates said he often sees drivers cross the yellow lines on the S curve and suggested extending it at its apex to go into Rock Hill Park. "Then do a roundabout there to smooth traffic flow into Westfields, plus 2/10 of a mile of a new road," he explained. "It would reduce congestion on Old Lee and get the jughandle off this property."

Virginia Run's Jim Hart was most concerned about the project's environmental impact. "We're just downhill from the largest stand of a globally rare, oak and hickory forest in Virginia," he said. "Environmental-impact studies should be done first. The Cub Run Stream contains the threatened wood turtle, and there'd be massive disturbance in

the floodplain, uphill from the Occoquan."

Stressing that the CTB needs stakeholder buy-in for projects to move forward, he urged residents most affected by this one to make their voices heard. He also said VDOT's plan would result in more traffic – and large trucks – from Loudoun on Braddock. "The two-lane segment of Braddock was never intended to be the main way between Loudoun and Route 28 in Centreville," said Hart. "These neighborhoods weren't meant to be commuter neighborhoods."

Steve Chulick of Virginia Chase lives near another tricky curve on Braddock. "I've seen accidents there that came close to the houses," he said. "And improving the S curve will bring more traffic onto my section of Braddock, too."

Centreville's Chris Terpak-Malm said VDOT representatives "take comments but aren't really listening. How could this be bet-

ter than simple stop signs and a stoplight? The land in Rock Hill Park isn't pristine parkland. And if they spend \$16 million to do this project, they're never going to do the Comp Plan [alignment that goes through that park]."

Sierra Club member Ann Bennett wanted something "less detrimental" chosen. "Environmental concerns are too often the last priority," she said. "More concrete and asphalt aren't the answer."

"Loudoun wants to erase all the hard work the Planning Commission did to protect the environment and endangered species in Cub Run," said former Sully District Planning Commissioner John Litzenger. "Cut off the funding for this, until we can get it right."

"COVID has become our Supervisors' best friend," said Centreville's Carol Hawn. "They're making decisions in developers' best interests and not listening to us. Braddock shouldn't be widened into a four-lane thoroughfare just so Loudoun can quickly get to Route 28. That's why the Comp Plan is the way it is – but the Supervisors are just ignoring it."

Beecher Brown, who lives adjacent to Braddock, said, "We see no benefit here. Keep Loudoun drivers on Route 50." And Sully District Council member Sheila Dunheimer worried that this project could adversely affect people's private wells.

Resident Jehanne Arslan questioned Fairfax County's leadership. "Once you lose your clean water, where do you go?" she asked. "Why wouldn't the Supervisors want to protect areas like this that have been previously set aside for protection?"

Leggette read comments from Sully District Council's Jay Johnston. "Our rural way of life in Western Fairfax County is under attack, due in part to politicians who care more for their own legacy than for the residents of this region," he wrote. "We don't have to stand by and watch every square inch of [our land] turned into residential neighborhoods or paved with roads allowing traffic from other regions to flow freely through Western Fairfax County."

SEE RESIDENTS, PAGE 7

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before the event.

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Announcements

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Obituary

Obituary



Virginia Elizabeth (Carrico) Booker died Sunday, September 27, 2020, at Tall Oaks Assisted Living, in Reston, Virginia, at the age of 99. Virginia was born on July 9, 1921, at Sibley Hospital, the third child and first daughter of William Temple Carrico, Sr., and Nellie Nadalie (Willett) Carrico. She is survived by her husband, David C. Booker, whom she married in 1941, divorced in 1984, and then, remarried in 2012. She is also survived by her daughter, Judi Booker (Jim Wilcox), of Winchester, Virginia; her son, Gary Booker, of Warrenton, Virginia; and son, Brian Booker, of Longmont, Colorado. Her grandchildren are Scott Booker, of Richmond, Virginia; Holly Booker, of Denver, Colorado; and Adam Booker, also of Richmond. Virginia was pre-deceased by her siblings, William T. Carrico, Jr., the Honorable Harry L. Carrico, and Mildred J. (Carrico) Watts; and her eldest son, D. Michael Booker.

Virginia graduated from Lee-Jackson High School in Fairfax County in 1939, and attended Madison College in Harrisburg, Virginia, for three semesters before getting married. Virginia was a kindergarten teacher for much of her professional career and she continued her education throughout her life. She and David moved to Reston in 1967. Virginia completed a certificate in Spiritual Direction at Shalem Institute for Spiritual Development and for many years guided members of Reston's Washington Plaza Baptist Church in dream interpretation. At age 70 she set out in a new direction, moving to Wilmington, North Carolina, where she knew no one, to manage a metaphysical boutique for a close friend. She thrived in that environment, but, following the death of her son, Michael, returned to Reston to be near her children and grandchildren.

A graveside service will be held at a future date, to be announced. Donations in her honor may be made to Cornerstones, Inc. (of Reston/Herndon).

261 FEARLESS CLUB OF RESTON

The 261 Fearless Club DC Metro, part of a network of noncompetitive, social women's running clubs around the world, has launched a location in Reston. It will meet on Sundays at 4 p.m. in Browns Chapel Park. Membership is open to all women, and no running experience is required. Information is available on the Club's Facebook page, at <https://www.facebook.com/261fearlessclubdcmetro>, or by email at 261fearlessclubdcmetro@gmail.com.

SUNDAY/NOV. 22

Trout Fishing in America. 3 p.m. This Grammy-nominated music act returns to Reston to entertain audiences of all ages. Part of the 2020 - 2021 Professional Touring Artist Series (PTAS) at the CenterStage. \$10 Reston/\$20 Non-Reston. All performances take place at the CenterStage, located at Reston Community Center Hunters Woods. Visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com/ptas.

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COVID DRIVE THRU TEXT SITE IN HERNDON

CVS Health has opened a new COVID-19 drive thru test site in Herndon. The address is CVS Pharmacy, Centreville Road, Herndon. The announcement follows CVS Health's recent announcement that children aged 12 years and older are now eligible for testing at select CVS Pharmacy drive-thru testing locations across the country. Currently, most test results from specimens collected at CVS test sites across the country will be available within 2 - 3 days.

RCC EARNS NATIONAL ACCREDITATION

Reston Community Center joins the ranks of elite park and recreation agencies across the country by earning accreditation through the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). This distinguished accomplishment was awarded during the 2020 NRPA Annual Conference: A Virtual Experience. CAPRA accreditation is the only national accreditation for park and recreation agencies, and it is a measure of an agency's overall quality of operation, management and service to the community. This mark of distinction indicates that an agency has met rigorous standards related to the management and administration of lands, facilities, resources, programs, safety and services. As part of the accreditation process, Reston Community Center had to demonstrate compliance with 151 recognized standards and document all policies and procedures. Visit www.nrpa.org/CAPRA.

Announcements

Announcements

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Announcements

Announcements

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Apparent Murder-Suicide in Centreville

Fairfax County police detectives from the Major Crimes Bureau are investigating a possible murder-suicide in Centreville. Police say a husband and wife were both found dead Sunday morning at a townhouse in the Newgate community.

Officers responded to the 14400 block of Black Horse Court shortly before 10 a.m. for a reported shooting. Outside the home, they discovered Esmeralda Renderos, 45, suffering from an apparent gunshot wound. Inside, officers found Henry Cardona, 37,

who'd also sustained an apparent gunshot wound. Both were pronounced dead at the scene.

"Preliminarily, detectives believe Cardona shot Renderos as she arrived to the home before shooting himself," say police. "Renderos and Cardona were married but believed to be separated."

The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner will conduct autopsies to confirm their manner and cause of death.

— BONNIE HOBBS

Residents Oppose Braddock, Old Lee Roads Plan

FROM PAGE 5

Johnston said the Supervisors and Planning Commissioners have used the pandemic for "more aggressive political maneuvering and misguided decisions," enabling them to rush land-use cases to approval. They've "strategically eliminated citizens' voices," he wrote, by holding online meetings and making important decisions virtually, "knowing citizens are less likely to join such meetings."

He said the road changes will alter Braddock's rural character forever and negatively impact residents living along that road. "[VDOT] plans to take private land, raising the road above the floodplain, right where you're standing today," wrote Johnson. "And affected residents haven't been able to speak at public hearings about the insurmountable traffic and destruction of habitat [it would cause]."

Furthermore, he stressed, "We recognize the paramount importance of protecting the Occoquan Watershed and upholding Fairfax County's environmental policies in its Comprehensive Plan. We've long supported protecting residential neighborhoods from development impacts, including traffic, stormwater, noise, and other detrimental effects, as well as protecting wildlife and the environment."

JOHNSON WANTS the Supervisors to withdraw their funding request, reconsider their vote for the jughandle, hold a public hearing in the Government Center and conduct an environmental-impact study. "Billions were spent modifying Route 50 as the primary route for Loudoun traffic coming east," he wrote,

adding that the county should stick with the road realignment already in its Comprehensive Plan.

Leggette also read a letter from resident Daniel Mays, saying, "This road, so close to the Cub Run Stream - protected by law from construction - would endanger the water. And Rock Hill Park doesn't have the engineering challenges the jughandle does, so it shouldn't be more expensive. Ban trucks at the S curve and put a stop sign at Braddock and Old Lee, instead."

Earlier, Leggette used a rope to trace the path of VDOT's proposed road through her land. "It's just 20-24 inches from the stream and 5 feet below the [current] road," she said. It's not logical and makes no engineering sense. A transportation engineer I consulted said VDOT really underestimated the S curve.

"It'll have to take Braddock Road land after the Pleasant Valley roundabout, to the S curve, downhill and from several other properties because it's too steep and won't work. This 'temporary' road is supposed to last 20 years; but by the time they do the design studies and re-engineer the road, we'll have spent \$16 million for a road that'll last 10 years."

While noting VDOT also has to be concerned about Loudoun, Sen. Marsden said, "Probably your best argument is the environmental one. I'm concerned that we're putting that stream in jeopardy. We need to have a meeting like this directly with VDOT and see what we can do in the state legislature to possibly exercise influence. Then, hopefully, Del. Helmer and I can sit down with the Supervisors and hammer out something more workable."

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Better Late Than Never ...



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

... to get a second opinion about one's first cancer; especially if there's now a second cancer to consider. For most of the nearly 12 years during which I've been a cancer patient, my diagnosis has been non small cell lung cancer stage IV. Within the past 10 months or so, it has become apparent and subsequently confirmed by a surgical biopsy of a tumor located in my lungs, that I have papillary thyroid cancer. The big question remains - and has not been agreed to by my endocrinologist and oncologist, is whether I have two types of cancer or just one. And moreover, whether I've always had two types or one primary - previously undiagnosed, that has now metastasized after 10-plus years from the thyroid into the lungs?

From my understanding - or actually what I've been told, it's possible, though hardly prudent to biopsy all the remaining tumors in my lungs to confirm exactly what type (types) of cancer I have. According to my doctors, the medical risks to me are too great. Therefore, the decision has been made to treat the thyroid cancer and to monitor - for lack of a better description, the lung cancer. And I can live with that (hope to live with that I should say). Nevertheless, it seemed an opportune time to get, for the first time in my cancer life, a second opinion. This week, after waiting out the transfer of medical records and a thyroid cancer specialist's evaluation, Team Lourie will be going to the Lombardi Cancer Center at Georgetown University Hospital for an independent assessment. To say we are extremely anxious is an understatement.

When I was initially diagnosed in late Feb., 2009, we did not get a second opinion. Perhaps we were naive, but at the moment the oncologist told us my diagnosis - and prognosis: non small cell lung cancer stage IV. he was not the least bit perplexed and the path forward seemed clear, and we didn't question him too much. A week later, I began chemotherapy. I have never wavered in this decision and I have no regrets about the path I chose. The fact that I have lived years beyond my prognosis has occasionally given me moments of curiosity as to why I was so amazingly lucky to have survived when so many others have not. Not wanting to look a gift oncologist in the mouth (if you know what I mean), I rarely thought to ask. I mean, I was doing so well.

Then about two years ago, a lump appeared under my Adams Apple. Upon examining me/it, my oncologist characterized it as a clone of my lung cancer and did nothing more than note its size and shape when he regularly examined me until the first of three biopsies (of a lymph node) was ultimately performed. It indicated thyroid cancer. This was new information to my oncologist. And so I was referred to an endocrinologist. She took one look at my "Adams Apple tumor" as I called it, and did a needle biopsy right then and there - in her office. She called me two days later with the results. Again, it confirmed thyroid cancer which subsequently led to the removal of my thyroid a month or so later. A few months after that, a hospitalization followed for radioiodine treatment to locate and kill any remaining thyroid cancer. Within another month I began chemotherapy treatment for thyroid cancer. Which is how I am presently being treated. Nothing more has changed. However, we wondered, what about my lung cancer? It was not being treated? As George Costanza asked after having sex with the cleaning lady on an old Seinfeld episode: "Was that a bad thing?"

And so we have taken steps to find out what it is we don't know that maybe the doctors know. Unfortunately, my original tissue sample is too degraded to re-biopsy, but all other relevant medical information has been transferred. I don't suppose we'll be able to go too far back in time, but given the future that I ended up having, there's no time like the present to review the past.

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



(Bottom left) Paige Pollard, Commonwealth Preservation Group; Bryce Perry, Deputy Director of Community Development for the Town, (top left) Katie Paulson, Commonwealth Preservation Group and Mel Price, Principal at Work Program Architects during the public meeting in electronic format on Oct. 29 to introduce the newest version of the Town of Herndon Historic District Overlay Guidelines 2020.

Public Hearing on Historic Herndon Nov. 17

Herndon Town Council nears replacing Heritage Preservation Program.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Community members and business owners in the Herndon Preservation Overlay District may soon be presented with new guidance on maintaining and updating their property and Town regulation processes for exterior change. The Herndon Town Council will hold work sessions on Nov. 10 and Nov. 12 and a public hearing on Nov. 17 to consider a resolution to adopt the Revised Heritage Preservation District Guidelines and a Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment, ZOTA # 20-01, to change the name of the Heritage Preservation Overlay district to the Historic Overlay District and to allow for administrative review of certain types of certificates of appropriateness. The public hearing comment period runs through Nov. 17. Email community.development@herndon-va.gov.

Initial action leading toward the development of the 138-page Draft Historic District Guidelines - Dated October 29, 2020 began in 2016 with a reconnaissance level architectural survey of all structures within the Heritage District by EHT Traceries. In 2018, the Town contracted Norfolk-based consultants, Work Program Architects and Commonwealth Preservation Group LLC to draft new guidelines for exterior changes to District properties, a resource guide and the architectural surveys. In December 2019, the consultants and Town staff presented them at a Town Council and Heritage Preservation Review Board special work session.

The COVID pandemic paused a planned

public hearing on the topic, until Oct. 29, 2020. The Town held a meeting and presented the new proposed guidelines. "It's certainly later than we preferred," said Bryce Perry, Deputy Director of Community Development for the Town. Consultants Mel Price, Principal at Work Program Architects, and Paige Pollard and Katie Paulson with Commonwealth Preservation Group presented. While nearly all the material presented remained the same, Price reminded attendees one of the differences between the old guidelines and the new was that the 1989 version was text heavy. Their goal had been to make the guide user-friendly, to clarify where to go for information on contributing, non-contributing, additions, alternative materials (and) new construction. She said, "They're color-coded; it's filled with hyperlinks."

Pollard said they heard "loud and clear" that in Herndon there was a great desire for flexibility in building material selections and they needed to clarify expectations for all parties. "We put a lot of time into the thought process of how we manage flexibility in alternative materials without stymying the review process and also making sure the property owners understand the value... The guidelines are also designed to help the HDRB make consistent decisions," she said.

Paulson shared information about the much-requested Resource Guide, a separate document. "We...pulled some suppliers, if you're looking for new windows...often used for historic replacements as well as places you can find metal shingles...and we've included links to trade directories," she said.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MPO SABRINA RUCK

FCPD officers (from left) MPO Michael Thomas and PFC Anthony Capizzi.

Teaming Up for a Terrific Trunk-or-Treat

On Oct. 28, Fairfax County police and sheriff's officers, plus local businesses, hosted a drive-through, Trunk-or-Treat

in Centreville's Bull Run Regional Park. They handed out treat bags to about 450 children in some 150 cars.



(From left) are Sgt. Thomas Harman (Sheriff's Office); Police Citizen Aide Elizabeth Proper and PFC Morgan Walker (Sheriff's Office) with their spooky display.



Jason Scott, of My Gym in Chantilly, with cuddly, exercising, stuffed animals.



Riley Bolton, of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, camping with some skeletons.