

# CONNECTION

Reston ♦ Oak Hill Herndon ♦ Chantilly ♦ CENTRE VIEW

OPINION, PAGE 4 ♦ BULL RIDERS, PAGE 6 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 9 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 10

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



From left, Finn and Alli's message to the governor is written across the outline of Virginia at Chantilly High School last Tuesday, Sept. 27; about 200 students there joined the walkout.

Helping Hungry Students  
PAGE 7

Herndon and  
History of Rail  
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Protest  
For Peers  
PAGE 3

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## ROUNDUPS

### Centreville Day Is Saturday, Oct. 15

The 30th annual Centreville Day is Saturday, Oct. 15. It runs from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. in Historic Centreville Park, 5714 Mount Gilead Road (off Braddock Road, across Route 29 from the IHOP). The free festival includes a parade, live entertainment throughout the day, and a marketplace where children may wear their Halloween costumes and trick or treat while their parents shop.

There's also a children's activities area, a Safety Expo with police and fire vehicles and equipment, and a food court. And the history train within the park will visit historic Mount Gilead, the Old Stone Church and St. John's Church. See next week's paper for a more detailed story.

### Police Department Hosts K9 Krawl

The Fairfax County Police Department's Victim Services Division is holding its 15th annual 5K K9 Krawl

on Saturday, Oct. 15, from 8:30-11 a.m., outside 12099 Government Center Parkway (Public Safety Headquarters) in Fair Oaks. Register at <http://bit.ly/k9krawl22>.

Check-in is at 8:30 a.m.; the walk starts at 9 a.m. Activities include a police K9 unit demonstration, a raffle, deejay, facepainting, dog-costume contest, pet portraits and resource tables. Animal shelter dogs will also be available for adoption. The goal of this free event is to increase awareness of the link between domestic violence and animal cruelty.

### Fire Stations to Hold Open Houses

In celebration of Fire Prevention Week, all Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Stations will host open houses on Saturday, Oct. 15, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Stop by Stations 17 and 28 in Centreville, Station 15 in Chantilly, and Station 21 in Fair Oaks to meet local firefighters and paramedics, join in children's activities, learn about fire safety, and see the fire trucks and ambulances.

#### BULLETIN BOARD

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

#### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

GrandInvolve Seeks Volunteers. Would you like a unique and interesting volunteer experience to make a difference in a school, classroom, or in one child's life? GrandInvolve.org facilitates rewarding, flexible adult volunteer opportunities

at Fairfax County Title I elementary schools, providing classroom assistance with math, reading, and other simple educational tasks. Visit [www.GrandInvolve.org/volunteer-with-us](http://www.GrandInvolve.org/volunteer-with-us) for details and to complete an interest form. Or email [info@grandinvolve.org](mailto:info@grandinvolve.org).

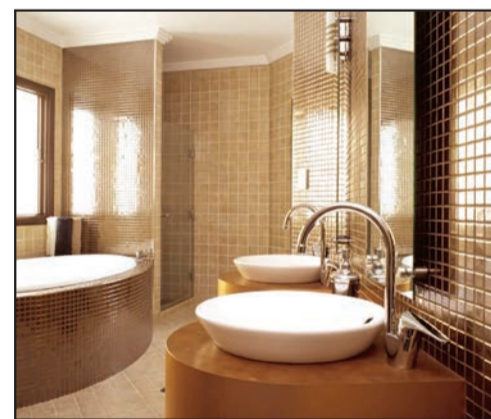
#### GIANT FOOD ANNOUNCES LOCAL PRODUCE BOXES

Giant Food announces the relaunch of its Local Produce Boxes featuring locally sourced, in-season produce sold exclusively

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11

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# NEWS

## 'We Can Scream for Help, but We Are Never Heard'

Chantilly High students walk out to support their trans peers.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

Basically, transgender students want people to know they're human beings with feelings and rights. And hearing Chantilly High teens plead last week for LGBTQ students to be as respected as their straight peers was both moving and heartbreaking.

"I came to school to learn," said one boy. "I didn't come here to fight, get harassed or called a girl. And I learned that, as a community, we can scream for help, but we are never heard."

He was addressing some 200 students last Tuesday, Sept. 27, joining more than 12,000 across Virginia who walked out of their schools to protest Gov. Glenn Youngkin's proposed new policies targeting trans youth. After several speeches outside the school, Chantilly LGBTQ students and their supporters then marched to the nearby Greenbriar Town Center and back.

Chanting "Trans rights are human rights," many wore rainbow, bi and other pride flags around their shoulders. And several carried signs reading, for example, "Protect Trans Kids;" "You Can Try to Hide Us, but We Won't Go Away;" "Yes, I am in the Right Bathroom;" "Equality between Students;" and "My Identity is Not a Tragedy."

If Youngkin's policies are approved, the Virginia Department of Education would: Prohibit schools from protecting closeted students and require school districts to forcibly out them; ban gender-neutral pronouns; bar trans students from using restrooms aligning with their gender identity; and allow people to misgender and deadname (use someone's birth name, instead of the one they've adopted upon transitioning) students.

These policies would also allow parents to deny a student access to school-counseling services, regardless of the student's wishes and mental health. They'd also remove provisions requiring schools to minimize gender segregation in extracurriculars and train school mental-health professionals in supporting LGBTQIA+ students. And they'd prohibit students from socially transitioning and expressing their gender identity.

Sophomore Lily Payne organized Chantilly's walkout and was pleasantly surprised by the large turnout. "I thought about 50 people would come, and we got about 200," she said.

Saying Youngkin's policies would affect the lives of "more than a million students" in Virginia, Payne told the crowd, "We appreciate everyone who's taking time out of their school day to stand up for either your rights or your classmate's rights." Mary P.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Chantilly High School students returning to school after marching to the Greenbriar Town Center.



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

March participants displaying their signs and flags.

said people may comment on the proposals through Oct. 26, and she urged the students to do so at <https://townhall.virginia.gov>.

The young boy who said he just wants an education told attendees, "I came to school to make a better future, in hopes of saving my community. All I want is a fair shot to learn – but it's hard when your entire day is full of mistreatment."

"We need to fight for our rights," said student Allina. "It's messed up that our parents have to put it in writing to the school to request basic respect for us – and to use my preferred pronouns and name."

Senior Brian Ng, who's straight, spoke as an ally. "When he ran for governor, Youngkin claimed he wanted to return excellence to our schools," said Ng. "But in his world, excellence means shunning transgender students from our school community, making them feel inferior and terrorizing them to comply with rules conflicting with their identity."

He said if straight students were forced to use a restroom of the opposite gender, they'd be "vehemently opposed" because they don't identify with that gender. "So imagine how you'd feel if a governor who doesn't know your life, situation or how many times you've

struggled with your identity made you use that bathroom," said Ng. "It sounds more like a policy of a right-wing, autocratic government, not the American government."

He said Youngkin doesn't know how many times trans students were beaten up and were the brunt of slurs simply for existing. But, added Ng, "Understanding the importance of acceptance and mitigating their pain is what Chantilly students do. We provide a safe haven for our trans youth; but right now, our school's being forced to abandon that responsibility."

"We all need to stand together and show our state government and America that Virginians are not complicit – and we won't stop until we defeat this hateful policy. Write to the governor and send emails to defend the values of our community."

A female student referenced research stating, "The more support queer youth have, the lower their rates of depression and anxiety." She told the crowd, "These new policies will effectively ignore our needs and target and harm us. Misgendering and deadnaming is a common practice used to bully queer people – and under this state policy, it's fully protected. And trans kids in elementary and middle school won't be able to fight on their own, for fear of being outed."

A sophomore girl acknowledged all the LGBTQ people of color at the walkout. "Our issues and lives matter, too," she said. "I walked out today because I won't let a governor I couldn't even vote for take away basic rights from me and my community. We've worked so hard and come so far, and I won't watch it all fall down now."

She's seen firsthand the damage caused when minors in "unsafe households" are outed, plus the "severe emotional and mental issues" brought on by their constant deadnaming and misgendering. "I know there's a kid in elementary school who feels different, is trying to figure out their identity and needs a better world than this one," she said. "I know because I used to be that kid. But today, we're standing up for ourselves, and we won't go down without a fight. Our safety is our right."

During the march, a straight sophomore boy said he was participating for his brother, who came out to him when he was in sixth grade. "I didn't even know what it meant," he said. "But ever since, I've supported him."

Sophomore Alina S. said, "Both me and my younger sibling identify as transgender and lesbian, and I'm also gender-fluid. Growing up, I didn't know what trans or LGBTQ was, and I want to make sure there's a safe space for her to grow up and that she gets more education about it than I did."

SEE WALK OUT, PAGE 7



## Listen to the Young People

BY DEL. KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM

Last week as thousands of students throughout Virginia walked out of school to protest the horrible and cruel revisions to school policy related to transgender students, I was reminded of another student walkout to protest an earlier unjust situation. The facilities provided to Black and white children for their education were unequal as were the programs for them. The year was 1951 when schools for Black and white children were segregated but in no way could they be considered equal as an earlier Supreme Court decision required. Sixteen-year-old Barbara Johns in Prince Edward County recognized that the white children in her county went to a new brick school while the Black children were relegated to a tarpaper shanty with a potbelly stove and outside toilet

facilities. She organized a walkout of the Black children that resulted in a court case that went all the way to the Supreme Court where it was consolidated into the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision in 1954 that found that separate facilities were inherently unequal. White Virginia political leaders fought the decision in many ways with "Massive Resistance" for nearly two decades before the schools in Virginia were finally desegregated.

So important was the act by the brave teenager, Barbara Johns, that she and the progress her actions brought about are remembered on the Virginia Civil Rights Memorial on Capitol Square in Richmond. As a young person she could see the ways segregation unfairly disadvantaged Black children, and she stood up to bring attention to the



Plum

issue and ultimately the beginning of a solution to it. She deserves the statue near the Capitol that honors her.

The children numbering in the thousands who walked out of their schools this past week are to be congratulated and thanked. A model school policy to be adopted by local school boards related to transgender students issued several years ago has been proposed to be revised by the current administration in Richmond. The proposed guidelines are being characterized as cruel and inhumane for transgender students.

The walkouts were organized by a youth LGBTQIA+ advocacy group, Pride Liberation Project. A statement the group issued said that "these revised guidelines will only hurt students in a time when students are facing unparalleled

mental health challenges and are a cruel attempt to politicize the existence of LGBTQIA+ students for political gain." The political gain references the campaign of the current governor that pitted parents and their rights as broadly defined by the administration against teachers and the schools that have a responsibility to all children. Putting transgender students in the middle of this political debate, it seems to me, can only be considered cruel and inhumane.

The proposed revised guidelines are open for public comment until Oct. 26, 2022.

Already ultraconservative groups are encouraging their members to record their support for the revisions. Those of us who recognize that the proposed revisions are a mistake need to record our support for the current policy without revisions at <https://townhall.virginia.gov/L/comments.cfm?GDocForumID=1953>.

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Virginia DoE Proposal Harms Students, Families and Educators

The changes proposed by Governor Youngkin to Model Policies on Transgender students are damaging to students, families, teachers, businesses and public education.

Transgender and Gender-Expansive students, since the Sept. 16 release

date, are already missing school

for fear of mistreatment. Reports of suicidal thinking and active self-harm are proliferating. Families are wondering if Virginia will remain a safe place in which to raise their children. Many have expressed that Virginia is telling them that they and their children are suddenly unwelcome here.

Beyond transgender students, LGBTQIA+ people are impacted, and all marginalized folk know that there is a target on them too.

In the first few months of 2020, the Virginia General Assembly passed and the Governor signed a law, Senate Bill 161/House Bill 145 which created VA Code § 22.1-23.3.

Treatment of transgender students to ensure that transgender students were supported "in accordance with evidence-based best practices." In response, the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) reached out to LGBTQIA+

supportive organizations and mental health care professionals to create the 2021 "Model Policies for the Treatment of Transgender Students in Virginia's Public Schools" (2021 Model Policies). These model policies focused on the evidence-based practices required by the law.

On Sept. 16, 2022, the Virginia Department of Education released new guidelines, "2022 Model Policies on the Privacy, Dignity and Respect for all Students and Parents in Virginia's Public Schools." These policies are not evidence-based or based on best practices. In addition they seem to have had no input from transgender, gender-expansive, non-binary, or gender non-conforming individuals or support organizations. Exclusion of the people impacted by the policies ensures the policies will not meet the needs of those impacted.

In these 2022 Model Policies, "all" doesn't really mean "all."

These new policies do not meet the wording of the law, and certainly not the intent.

The Youngkin VDOE seems to be targeting trans and non-binary youth specifically to prevent them from being comfortable in school. The 2022 policies:

- ❖ Specifically exclude sexual orientation and gender identity from the "discrimination, harassment, and bullying" policy

- ❖ Require parental permission for a student to speak to a school counselor in any way about their gender

- ❖ Require unreasonable documentation for changing a student's name and gender in school records

- ❖ Require teachers to misgender students due to an inability to change school records

- ❖ Completely ignore nonbinary students, and that some states allow a nonbinary gender marker on birth certificates

- ❖ Prevent teachers and counselors from doing their jobs and being trustworthy adults for students

- ❖ Address athletics, which the law specifically excludes and which the current (2021) Model Policies, in accordance with the law, do not address. The law has not changed, so the inclusion of athletics in the 2022 proposal is puzzling.

The new policies exclude transgender, non-binary, and gender non-conforming students and ensure an unsafe environment for transgender, gender-expansive, non-binary, and gender non-conforming teachers, administrators, staff, and parents. With all of the discussion in these policies of parental rights, the rights of the par-

ents of students most affected are ignored entirely.

The 2022 Model Policies are inconsistent with section 1.A and section 2 of Senate Bill 161 and the identical House Bill 145 passed by the General Assembly and signed by the Governor of Virginia on March 4, 2020. No new legislation has been passed, and the VDOE is not empowered to rewrite state law.

We the undersigned organizations insist that the VDOE withdraw the 2022 Model Policies. We enjoy school boards to retain or enact policies that are consistent with the 2021 Model Policies.

**FCPS Pride, Inc.**  
**Fairfax County Federation of Teachers**  
**FCPS Asian Educators**  
**Hispanic Educators Association of Fairfax**  
**GLSEN NoVA**  
**4 Public Education**  
**Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington**  
**Anti-Defamation League, Washington DC**  
**Transgender Education Association of Greater Washington**  
**Fairfax Education Association**

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SCREENSHOT VIA TAKE A MOMENT - PEDESTRIAN, BIKE AND TRAFFIC SAFETY CAMPAIGN - YOUTUBE  
**Jeffrey McKay (D), Fairfax County Board of Supervisors chairman**



SCREENSHOT VIA TAKE A MOMENT - PEDESTRIAN, BIKE AND TRAFFIC SAFETY CAMPAIGN - YOUTUBE  
**Walter Alcorn (D), Hunter Mill District supervisor**

# 'Take a Moment'

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
 THE CONNECTION

**M**otor vehicle crashes, bicycle safety and pedestrian safety in Fairfax County; a new campaign called "Take a Moment," will attempt to address them all at once.

On Sept. 27, Chairman Jeffrey McKay (D); Walter Alcorn (D), Hunter Mill supervisor; Steve Steiner, Hunter Mill resident; Police Chief Kevin Davis; John Lynch, VDOT district engineer; Melanie Meren, school board member; and others gathered at the intersection of Wiehle Avenue and the W&OD Trail to introduce the "Take a Moment-Pedestrian, Bike, and Traffic Safety Campaign."

"This is not just a marketing campaign," McKay said. "We are putting our money where our mouth is."

According to Chief Davis, in a county of 1.2 million and 400 square miles, traffic fatalities today stand at 22. "That's two more than this time last year. Year-to-date, our pedestrian fatalities stand at 13. That is three more than the county had at the same time last year," Davis said. He added that overall, throughout Fairfax County, crashes are down by 400, but the county still has a long way to go. Fairfax County Police issued 5,000 more traffic citations this year compared to the same time last year.

"But we want you to put us out of business. I am sure Chief Butler and the Fire and Rescue Department want you to put them out of business as well when it comes to responding to these often very horrific crashes that happen too often in our community," Davis said. He added that while the number one traffic citation issued in Fairfax County is speeding, the number two traffic citation is failure to obey a traffic device or traffic sign.

McKay says Fairfax County will spend \$100 million on pedestrian safety over the next six years. That total includes \$25 million this year from the county's carry-over budget that the board will consider in the next few weeks.

The Take a Moment campaign is multifaceted. Disconnect while driving, walking, or cycling. Note that school zones and neighborhoods



SCREENSHOT VIA TAKE A MOMENT - PEDESTRIAN, BIKE AND TRAFFIC SAFETY CAMPAIGN - YOUTUBE

**John Lynch, district engineer, Northern Virginia District, VDOT**

require extra caution. Stop for school buses and let the children board and disembark safely. Drive, walk, and bike with awareness. Make eye contact with pedestrians and cyclists. "All these things are so important and literally only 'take a moment' of our time," McKay said.

McKay described his recent near-miss, pedestrian-vehicle crash that occurred as he was about to cross a street in Alexandria. A driver was looking in the opposite direction from where McKay stood. Before looking around to see if a pedestrian was nearby, the driver pressed the gas pedal and missed him by inches. "I'm one of the lucky ones who took a moment and looked at that car (and) knew that person wasn't making eye contact with me. ... I had to take action to protect myself," McKay said. "We must all take a moment as a community together to stop tragic accidents that are occurring throughout not just our county but really throughout the region and throughout the country."

School board member representative



SCREENSHOT VIA TAKE A MOMENT - PEDESTRIAN, BIKE AND TRAFFIC SAFETY CAMPAIGN - YOUTUBE

**Melanie Meren, Hunter Mill District representative, FCPS**

Meren said that schools are responsible for teaching and educating the county's students. Still, students and staff need to arrive safely at school for that to happen. "Please slow down," said Meren. She urged parents to talk to their children, especially those driving, about making safe and wise choices and to take a moment.

Hunter Mill District Supervisor Walter Alcorn (D) said that the timing of the "Take a Moment" campaign in Reston was significant due to the upcoming opening of the Silver Line's next phase. More people will walk and bike from their homes to the Metro, commuting to work, D.C., or Dulles International Airport.

During the campaign's unveiling, construction noise mixed with speakers' remarks. They had assembled on the parallel horse/all-terrain bike trail adjacent to the paved nine-foot-wide asphalt Washington & Old Dominion rail trail. According to Alcorn, the trail will get a new pedestrian bridge over Wiehle Avenue. After comple-

## Pedestrian, bike, and safety campaign: will it be enough?

tion, planned for the fall of 2023, the Wiehle Pedestrian Bridge Project would improve vehicle, bicycle, and pedestrian access to the Wiehle-Reston East Metro station across from Sunset Hills by replacing the "difficult" at-grade crossing over Wiehle. The new bridge would accommodate this location's asphalt W&OD trail and gravel path.

According to the Project Information Sheet, the estimated cost is \$12 million, Federal-State Grant Fund, Fund 5000, and is part of the Reston Metrorail Access Improvement Program.

Steve Steiner, 73, who lives in the Hunter Mill District and is an experienced cyclist, talked about his crash with a car that left him with a concussion, internal injuries, broken ribs, \$100,000 in medical bills, and a \$36,000 airlift to Fairfax Hospital by medivac. It happened at the Fairfax County Parkway Trail intersection and Dulles Toll Road Exit 11. According to Steiner, he entered the intersection and saw an SUV coming toward him. He said the driver was not looking at him because she was preparing to turn on the Fairfax County Parkway. Steiner veered right, but the car's bumper crushed his bike broadside. He hit the car's windshield, and landed in the southbound parkway lane. An off-duty federal officer behind the car that hit him turned his vehicle around and blocked him.

Steiner had plenty of time during his recovery to consider what else could have been done to prevent a similar crash. Jersey barriers, traffic signals, trail signs, and more were present where he was hit. According to Steiner, a driver's default behavior at this intersection and others like it is to prioritize the right turn and keep moving. "Their attention is focused left rather than right, where a cyclist or pedestrian may be attempting to cross the intersection," Steiner said, in his opinion, that significant safety improvements would result if authorities approved a modest financial investment to install signage prohibiting such right turns at locations where trails intersect.

"We need our residents to be part of this team, and that's what this campaign is all about," McKay said. "Take a moment and potentially save a life."



# BULL RIDING

PHOTOS BY TOM MANNING/THE CONNECTION



The Bressler family from Fairfax arrive at the invitational.



Friends from Fairfax are ready for the festivities to kick off.

## Bull Riders Return to EagleBank

Fans return with enthusiasm; Virginian finishes second.

The Professional Bull Riders tour returned to EagleBank Arena in Fairfax with the Autolite FRAM Invitational from Sept. 24-25. Some of the top bull riders in the world competed in the newly launched Challenger Series. Alex Marcil-

io from Macaubal, Brazil won the event as the only rider to go a perfect two-for-two by finishing strong on the last ride of the weekend with a top score of 86.5 points. Michael Lane from Tazewell, Va. finished second while newcomer Mynar Barrientos from Brazil placed third.



Eder Barbosa from Goiabeira, Brazil attempts to ride Recall in the opening round.



David and Kim Sanders from Centreville are big PBR fans. David was picked out of the crowd as the best dressed fan and won a gift card.



Varnei Jose Santana Junio from Ipatinga, Brazil tries his best on Dirty Dog.



Jacob Steele from McLean was excited to win the fan obstacle course.



# SLHS Food Pantry Supports 250+ Students and Families Weekly

Registration open for benefit 0.5K race to stock the shelves.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

**A** SLHS PTSA Food Pantry spokesperson announced on September 26 that distribution had surpassed 1 million pounds of food and toiletries since opening in March 2017. But the need continues to grow as more than 275 students and families in the South Lakes High School pyramid use the pantry and food distribution each week.

To help support the need, registration is open for the 5th Annual SLHS PTSA Food Pantry: “Do It Your Way 0.5 K” race on October 16, 2022, 2-4 p.m. “We’re thrilled that the 5th Annual Do it Your Way 0.5k will be in person on October 16. It’ll be the most re-

warding 650 steps you’ll take all year,” said pantry co-founder Roberta Gosling.

“Our famous donut station is returning so that “race” participants can fuel up at the halfway mark and push through those last 325 steps. We’re looking forward to seeing all the costumes and some really big teams this year with a goal of getting 500 people out on the Plaza. Participants can also look forward to some cool swag, including the collector finisher medal and race bib,” Gosling added.

The race is a PR Run & Walk live event, but it can also be completed virtually all weekend long at any location. All proceeds go toward food, toiletries, and other necessities for the more than 275 students and families who use the pantry and food distribu-

tion each week. Co-Founder Andy Sigle said that the curbside distribution at the SLHS PTSA Food Pantry is truly the best 30 minutes of his week. “Over the 18 months that we’ve been distributing curbside, we’ve truly gotten to know so many of our wonderful neighbors,” he said.

According to volunteer Rosa Simon, the car line for the SLHS PTSA is not a line seen anywhere else. “These families expect to have real conversations with us, real support with no judgment. Kids will bring us colored pictures, blow bubbles out of car windows, and proudly show how they wear their seat belts. Moms will report weekly how kids are doing at school and home. Kids look forward to Thursday Food Pantry day because they know it will be fun.”



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

### Empty shelves

The first 500 race registrants get a packet filled with swag, including a race bib and sponsor goodies. Student registration is \$10,

SEE SLHS FOOD PANTRY, PAGE 8



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

From left, Finn and Alli’s message to the governor is written across the outline of Virginia.



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Some of the students listening to and encouraging the speakers.

## Students Walk Out to Support Their Peers

FROM PAGE 3

“Not everyone identifies with their biological gender, and reinforcing it at school is basically psychological torment,” she explained. “Often, kids have to hide their gender identity from their parents for years – and forcing them to reveal it is cruel and unusual punishment.”

Together, students Finn and Alli carried a large sign saying, “Y’all means all” against a

background shaped like Virginia. Finn said he wasn’t marching for himself, but “for my friends, because I don’t want them to face lives where they’re constantly bullied and have their existence denied.”

As for Alli, she said, “I’m a senior, and when I was in middle school, I had a friend who wasn’t treated correctly because of their gender identity – and they took their life; we were both 13.”



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Students head down Stringfellow Road as the march begins.



# HISTORY

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/ THE CONNECTION



Joanna Ormesher, president of Arts Herndon, adjusts one of the photos for the exhibit. Artifacts and historic photos

## Half a Century of Milk Trains, Mayors and Milestones

### Arts Herndon exhibit focuses on town's history.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

The chief operating officer and president of Arts Herndon, Joanna Ormesher, recently offered a visitor a sneak peek at its “Sights and Sounds of Early Herndon” exhibit. The exhibit retells the town’s history from 1880 to 1930 through historical photographs, artifacts, and wall labels. The show opens on Oct. 6 and runs until Oct. 27 at 750 Center Street, which is in the downtown area and close enough to restaurants that one can walk to them.

The exhibit is presented in collaboration with the Herndon Historical Society. Much of its content details the first fifty years of the town’s life, its people and initial growth spurt. That was when the downtown depot was a junction stop for the milk trains with passenger cars that made scheduled stops at Herndon on their way to and from D.C.

“Arts Herndon is thrilled to feature this legendary and representative collection as we once again work with a local group to

share another historical exhibit for all ages, free and open to the public,” Ormesher said.

The works provide an intimate look at the town’s ragged struggles and pride as well as the buildings and pieces of equipment the town lost to fire, time, and destruction before preserving its history became the norm. Against the backdrop of period-appropriate sounds, the framed and professionally lit exhibit of black and white, and sepia images capture moments in the lives of the local tradespeople, fire department volunteers, and the town’s movers and shakers.

The Herndon Silver Line Station is poised to open in late fall 2022. It goes in the same direction as the now-abandoned railroad bed and could lead to the town’s second wave of significant growth and development.

The town of 1880-1930 bears little resemblance to the town’s 2022 diverse community with its population of 24,600 with nearly 36.9 percent Hispanic, 33.7 percent white, 18.5 percent Asian, 7.2 percent Black or African-American, and the remainder other. (Source: Town of Herndon)

Census records show that 422 people



Herndon prospered as a railroad shipping point for surrounding dairy farmers in Fairfax County, the leading dairy-producing county in Virginia, according to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

lived in the new town in 1880, one year after it was officially incorporated, with most of its council members being northern transplants. Half of the 88 household heads were born in Virginia, and most were white men who worked as farmers or laborers. The farming community and railroad quickly assisted Herndon’s rapid ascension to the top of Virginia’s dairy farming industry. During that time, the downtown area turned into a place where people went to buy agricultural equipment, groceries, and pharmaceuticals, unlike the current downtown, which is awaiting a significant mixed-use redevelopment project with an arts center.

“As a gallery, studio, and performance venue, Arts Herndon continues to present visual and performing arts, studio classes, and studio space to our richly diverse community,” Ormesher said. She added that the Arts Center includes a shop where artisans sell handcrafted jewelry, glasswork, fiber and textiles, wood pieces, pottery, and other items, such as limited quantities of Town of Herndon history books by local authors. A reception with remarks from the curators and light refreshments will be held on Oct. 14 at 6:30 p.m.

## SLHS Food Pantry Supports 250+ Students and Families Weekly

FROM PAGE 7

Adult-\$25, Families \$60, and Teams \$25/person. There is a VIP option at \$100. That registration includes front-row seats to the action and additional goodies; however, only a limited number of VIP registrations are available.

Raffle tickets are available at five dollars each: \$20 for five and \$50 for 15. The grand prize is a custom design sterling silver and 18 karat gold, blue pantry necklace adorned with colorless and green brilliant cut diamonds valued at \$800. Additional prizes are to be announced.

Platinum Sponsors: Rustic Love Vienna,

Reston Community Center; Sustaining Partners: Trader Joe’s Reston, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Restoration Church; Gold Sponsor: NuAxis Innovations; Raffle and DJ Sponsor: Aspen Jewelry Designs; Silver Sponsors: Dev Technology Group, Century21 Redwood, Wegmans, Long & Foster Reston; Plaza Sponsor: Lake Anne Brew House; and Local Merchant Sponsors: Om-Made Peanut Butter, The Bike Lane, New Trail Cycling, Unbroken Tattoo, Chesapeake Chocolates, Ben & Jerry’s

Join/Donate: SLHS PTSA, no shipping charges at <http://www.southlakesptsa.org/shop>.



Volunteers are ready to serve the nearly 250 who come to the SLHS PTSA pantry weekly.



# CALENDAR



**Furia Flamenca: "A Trip to Spain"** will be presented on Saturday, Oct. 8, 2022 at The Alden Theater in McLean.

**SEPT. 15-OCT. 9**

Mlima's Tale by Lynn Nottage. Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 and 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. At 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons. Tickets: \$50 general admission, \$47 seniors (65+), \$15 students, educators, and military. Purchase online at [www.1ststage.org](http://www.1ststage.org) or 703-854-1856.

**SEPT. 24-OCT. 30**

Fall Festival. At Reston Farm Garden Market, 10800 Baron Cameron Ave., Reston. The festival will run Friday, Saturday and Sunday September 24 to October 30 with five 90 minute online ticketed sessions. Fall Festival hours are Friday through Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m., 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., and 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. \$28 per child and \$7 per parent, children 2 and under free. For times and tickets visit <https://www.restonfarm.com/fall-fest>.

**OCT. 1-30**

"Modern Illuminations – Knowledge and Power" by Rosemarie Forsythe. Presented at Reston Art Gallery and Studios. Rosemarie Forsythe's intricately detailed paintings depicting symbols of knowledge, strength, hope and resilience will be presented in a featured exhibit, "Modern Illuminations – Knowledge and Power," at Reston Art Gallery and Studios (RAGS) from October 1 until October 30. Everyone is invited to meet Forsythe when she is at the gallery for the show's opening weekend, October 1 and 2.

**THURSDAYS/OCT. 4-25**

Big & Messy Art classes for kids, a four-session class. Brown's Chapel Recreation Area, 1598 Browns Chapel Road, Reston. Click this link to register or for further details: [Big & Messy Art class details](#). Kid-create Studio partners with Reston Association.

**OCT. 6-27**

Sights and Sounds of Early Herndon. [www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

At Arts Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. The Herndon Historical Society, in collaboration with Arts Herndon, is pleased to announce a unique exhibition that will include many never seen before unique photos of the town of Herndon from the 1880-1930 time period. The exhibit will also include artifacts from Herndon's past. Exhibition visitors will experience a special view of early Herndon life, how our forefathers and families lived and worked. Visitors are invited to attend a free reception at Arts Herndon on October 14 at 6:30 p.m.

**OCT. 7-8**

The Friends of the Great Falls Library semi-annual book sale at the library on Friday, Oct. 7 and Saturday, Oct. 8 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. each day. Interested readers can attend a pre-sale event (for \$10 admission) on Thursday, Oct. 6 from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Volunteers are needed for the upcoming book sale, with set up starting on Oct. 5. For more information on the sale or to volunteer, contact [friendsofthegreatfallslibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofthegreatfallslibrary@gmail.com).

**SATURDAY/OCT. 8**

Mykle Lyons Commemorative Concert. 12-6 p.m. At Lake Anne Plaza (Waterfront), 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. Concert in honor of Mykle Lyons, LAWPA, with the help of Kalypso's and Roxplosion. They are setting up a memorial scholarship fund with tax-deductible scholarship donations going to Friends of Music at George Mason to help a deserving music student at George Mason University.

**SATURDAY/OCT. 8**

National Alliance on Mental Illness Walk. 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. At Tysons Corner Center, The Plaza, McLean. Walk with NAMI to help open doors for everyone from every walk of life to have access to mental health resources and the community they deserve. The largest grassroots mental health organization is dedicated to raise \$115,000 to "improve the lives of

people with mental illness." Go to <http://ow.ly/3fTp50KNb95> to register now

**SATURDAY/OCT. 8**

Furia Flamenca: "A Trip to Spain." 11 a.m. At The Alden Theater, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. This interactive Hispanic Heritage Month show for families by Furia Flamenca introduces children to flamenco music and dance, shares some of the art form's history and invites audiences to participate in flamenco-making.

**MONDAY/OCT. 10**

Life Story Writing. 4-5 p.m. Virtual. Join in an engaging presentation on how writing themed autobiography stories can enhance and enrich your personal legacy. Led by Craig Siulinski, proprietor of Sharing Legacies. Link to the registration page: Introduction to Life Story Writing - Fairfax Library Calendar - Library Home ([fairfax-county.gov](http://fairfax-county.gov))

**MONDAY/OCT. 10**

Touch-A-Truck. 10 a.m. – noon. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Parents and children can enjoy the Fairfax County Public Schools' holiday by joining MCC for this FREE event that gives kids the chance to see, touch and explore some of their favorite cars and trucks.

**TUESDAY/OCT. 11**

McLean Historical Society Meeting. 7:30 p.m. At the McLean Community Center in McLean. The McLean Historical Society will feature noted author Sandra Grimes presenting "Circle of Treason," the story of Aldrich Ames, a former CIA officer who was convicted of espionage in 1994. Everyone is welcome. For further information, contact Carole Herrick at 703-356-8223.

**WEDNESDAY/OCT. 12**

Fall Harvest Festival. 8 a.m. to noon. At Oak Marr Farmers Market, Oak

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 10

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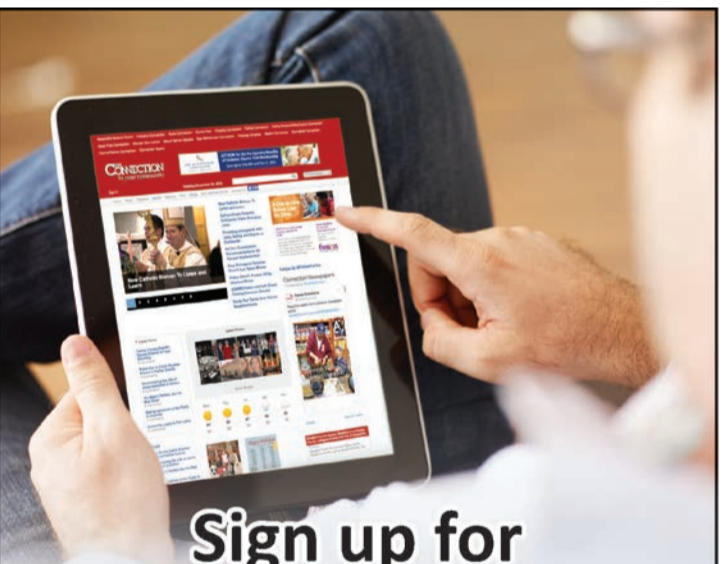


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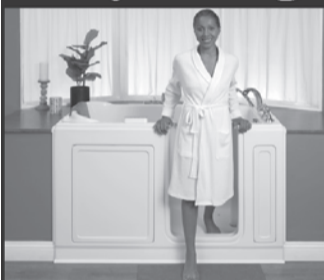


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**CALENDAR**

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Marr Rec Center, 3200 Jermantown Road, Oakton. Will feature live music, free samples of warm apple cider, a free pumpkin painting activity, and activities for children and families. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmers-markets](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmers-markets)

**FRIDAY/OCT. 14**

Fall Harvest Festival. 8 a.m. to noon. At McLean Farmers Market, Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Will feature live music, free samples of warm apple cider, a free pumpkin painting activity, and activities for children and families. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets)

**FRIDAY/OCT. 14**

The Boy Band Project. 7 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The Boy Band Project transports you back to a time when the boy band phenomenon dominated pop culture and TRL was appointment television. Delivered with their own special mix of handsomeness, tongue-in-cheek humor and talent from Broadway's "Wicked," "Hairspray" and "Mamma Mia" (and more), these boys recreate the sounds and choreography of your favorite boy bands, from NKOTB to One Direction.

**OCT. 14-16**

Farm Harvest Days at Frying Pan Farm. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Frying Pan Farm Park in Herndon. Watch the cider press in action, milk a goat, shell corn, peel apples, meet the farm animals and see traditional farm demonstrations. Take a wagon ride around the park or take a spin on the carousel. Have you ever wondered what it was like to operate large equipment? Come see these up close and speak with those that operate them at Big Truck Night, which takes place on Friday, Oct. 14, 2022 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. For even more family fun at Frying Pan, visit the Fall Carnival that runs concurrently. There will be games and rides and tasty food and beverages for sale. Carnival tickets may be purchased online, and an unlimited carnival ride pass is available for use on Friday and Sunday afternoons.

**OCT. 14-16**

Capital Art & Craft Festival. At Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly. The Fall Capital Art & Craft Festival will feature art in more than a dozen mediums including glass, jewelry, leather, paintings, prints, photography, pottery, wearable art and wood. Friday, Oct 14: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Saturday Oct 15: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sunday Oct 16: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tickets: \$10 in advance; \$12 at the door. Visit [www.CapitalArtAndCraftFestivals.com](http://www.CapitalArtAndCraftFestivals.com)

**SATURDAY/OCT. 15**

NVMR Train Station Open House. 1-5 p.m. At Vienna Train Station, 231 Dominion Road, NE, Vienna. Stop by the Historic Vienna Train Station where you can see and hear HO scale model trolleys and trains including Thomas and some of his friends on display and in operation. Great family fun and activity for the young and young-at-heart.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

Hosted by the Northern Virginia Model Railroaders. See [www.nvmr.org](http://www.nvmr.org).

## SATURDAY/OCT. 15

Free Black History Concert. 3 p.m. At 8641 Lewinsville Road, McLean. Historic Pleasant Grove is hosting the acclaimed Washington Revels Jubilee Voices ensemble for a free Black History Celebration featuring traditional African American song, poetry, and dance. This event will take place in a quaint 1895 church setting, now an historic site. Visit [www.HistoricPleasantGrove.org](http://www.HistoricPleasantGrove.org).

## OCT. 15-16

Pumpkin Pop-Up and Halloween Experience. 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. At Tysons Corner Center, The Plaza, McLean. What better to bring in the fall season and get into the Halloween spirit than at Tysons Corner Center's Fall Festival? The Pumpkin Pop-Up and Halloween Experience invites everyone to engage with the community with a farmer's market, wine tasting, live pumpkin carving demos, food sales, music, and a costume contest.

## SATURDAY/OCT. 15

Fall Book Sale. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Centreville Regional Library, 14200 Saint Germain Drive, Centreville. Bag Sale on Sunday from 2 - 5 p.m. Fiction for all ages; extensive variety of nonfiction, audiobooks, DVDs and audio CDs.

## SATURDAY/OCT. 15

Fire Prevention Week. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center Street, S., Vienna. The Vienna Volunteer Fire Department is teaming up with the National Fire Protection Association to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Fire Prevention Week. This year's campaign, "Fire won't wait. Plan your escape", works to educate everyone about simple but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe from home fires. Visit [www.vvfd.org](http://www.vvfd.org).

## OCT. 21-23

19TH ANNUAL GREAT FALLS STUDIO TOUR: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit artists in their studios, watch them work, participate in activities, and purchase art – just as the fabulous fall foliage is erupting in color. [greatfallsstudios.com](http://greatfallsstudios.com).

## BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 2

through Giant Delivers. Available throughout the summer without a subscription or commitment, the boxes retail for \$20.00 and contain six or more items from local farms in Maryland, Virginia and Delaware. For more information and to purchase a local produce box, visit <https://giantfood.com/pages/giants-local-best>.

## METRO TRANSIT POLICE TO USE BODY WORN CAMERAS

The Metro Transit Police Department will equip officers with body worn cameras (BWC), adding a new tool to MTPD's crime fighting initiatives. The program is designed to create an additional layer of transparency for sworn officers who protect Metro customers and employees. MTPD is in the initial stages of developing the program, supported by a grant award from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) of approximately \$905,000.

## VIRGINIA ABC EXTENDS CLOSING HOURS IN 31 STORES

To provide greater customer convenience, the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority (ABC) has extended Monday through Saturday closing hours from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in 31 stores. Customers are encouraged to visit Virginia ABC's website at [www.abc.virginia.gov](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) to search for stores and view operating hours, as well as order spirits online for in-store or curbside pickup, or home delivery in select areas.

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[com/arttour22](http://com/arttour22)

## SATURDAY MORNINGS

Summer Programming for Kids. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. At Reston Museum, 1639 Washington Plaza, Reston. Reston Museum is launching new summer programming for kids! Visit the Reston Museum to participate in fun and creative activities inspired by Reston's history. Program is free and everyone will receive an Explore Reston packet.

## NOW THRU DEC. 31

Crafts for Kids. 10 a.m. to 12 noon. At Reston Art Gallery and Studios, 11400 Washington Plaza W at Lake Anne, Reston. Free, themed art projects for children (with guardian) are offered at Reston Art Gallery and Studios every Saturday from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. Visit the website: [www.restonartgallery.com](http://www.restonartgallery.com)

## SATURDAYS UNTIL DECEMBER

The Reston Farmers Market (sponsored by the Fairfax Co. Park Authority) will take place at Lake Anne Village in Reston from 8 a.m.-noon. SNAP beneficiaries receive up to \$20 match. Visit <http://restonfarmersmarket.com/>

## MCLEAN FARMERS MARKET

The McLean Farmers Market opened for the 2022 season on May 6th, at Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. The market will run every Friday from 8 a.m. to noon through Nov. 11. Local farmers and producers will sell fresh produce and fruits; breads and pastries; prepared foods; meats: herbs; flowers, and more. All products are grown or produced by the vendors and come from within 125 miles of Fairfax County. For more information, see: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/>

## HERNDON FARMERS MARKET

Thursdays through Nov. 3, 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 765 Lynn St., Herndon, VA, 20170 <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/herndon>

## GREAT FALLS FARMERS MARKET

The Great Falls Farmers Market Outdoor Market is open every Saturday, Spring and Summer, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., 778 Walker Road, Great Falls. For vendors and weekly highlights see <https://www.greatfallsfarmersmarket.org/>

## WALKING/RUNNING PROGRAM

Calling women – need a fun program to start or restart your walking and/or running program? Check out the Women's Training Program with Reston Runners <https://restonrunners.redpodium.com/2022-womens-training-program>. It is an 8-week program meeting each Monday evening at 6:30 p.m. at South Lakes High School to complete a 3 mile course by walking, walk/ run or running. All coached by a great group of women.

## SUPPORT GROUPS

Parent Support Partners, a service of the Healthy Minds Fairfax initiative, are all parents who have received training and are qualified to offer education, support and assistance at no cost to families or caregivers. They provide reliable information that families can use in decision-making and are familiar with services and resources that can help families in distress. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthymindsfairfax](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthymindsfairfax) or [www.nami-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html](http://www.nami-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html).

## ONGOING

The Shepherd's Center of Northern Virginia Caregivers' Support Group takes place the first and third Tuesdays of each month, 10-11:30 a.m. via Zoom. This group is for caregivers of family members with dementia. Meetings are gently facilitated. For more information and to get the Zoom link, contact Jack Tarr at [jtarr5@verizon.net](mailto:jtarr5@verizon.net) or 703-821-6838.

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Thank you to the hundreds of supporters who helped to keep all your Connection Newspapers alive throughout Alexandria, Fairfax County, Arlington County and Potomac, Md. along with affiliated websites and digital media. Now we need help again in 2022.

Each local newspaper's mission aspires to provide greater community service, and we do know that our communities are better off if we continue to publish. Last year's financial support from readers and supporters like you bridged the shortfall before Federal PPP funding arrived, and both made our survival possible. We now await a decision for a grant from Rebuild Virginia in early February that we hope will help us in 2022 and beyond. But we need help to survive the first quarter, always a brutal time for cash flow in weekly newspapers. Thank you.

Please, help save these historical papers.

All gifts will be used to fund our printed newspapers and websites and to meet obligations to our loyal and patient employees, writers, contractors and suppliers.

The ongoing pandemic continues to crush many newspapers across the country, and our newspapers continue to be at risk. The Northern Virginia area's best read and most trusted source for community news includes the Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette and all Connection Newspapers in the metropolitan region.

The pandemic has hit small businesses hard, which in turn has reduced advertising revenue that keeps these local newspapers alive to provide hyper local news to residents. It feels like no small miracle to be looking forward into 2022.

The pandemic has been a bear, financially and otherwise. Revenue plummeted at the beginning in 2020. Some beloved advertisers have stayed the course supporting us throughout, and many more have done what they can. In the fall of 2021 we saw the return of some advertising for events and Grand Openings, but now omicron clouds the horizon in so many ways. Revenue still remains short of expenses despite our greatly curtailed costs.

Connection Newspapers has been offering these local newspapers to residents for over 200 years. Countless residents have grown up with these papers covering significant moments in the lives of family and children, news, community events, school activities, and even pictures of your dogs and cats. Internet news and large national newspapers cannot provide the local connection or historical connection that local papers like Connection Newspapers and the Alexandria Gazette Packet provide. If your child, dog, mother, father, neighborhood, school has been featured, you understand the value of local community newspapers.

Visit [connectionnewspapers.com](http://connectionnewspapers.com) or <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-keep-your-newspaper-printing>  
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## Cancer, Then and Now



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

When my brother was emergency-admitted to the hospital on July 16th, it was just a few days removed from my most recent every-three-months cancer scans. For the following two months or so, until his status was no longer day to day but rather marginally less urgent, I hadn't really focused/ thought too much about my own cancer-affected mortality. It was sort of on the back burner, for a change. And given my brother's tenuous grip on life for a while, it seemed bad form/ totally inappropriate to expend any mental energy on myself considering that he was in such distress (not breathing on his own, connected to a ventilator, 24-7 dialysis, just to name a few of the many life-sustaining medical marvels he was dependent on while in SICU). It was a sort of "all hands to the pump" kind of effort, to quote the Brits. And as the doctors and staff provided my brother round-the-clock care, the least I could do was harness whatever positive vibe I could muster in his direction.

Slowly, but surely, my brother began to rally. Over the course of the last month, he was disconnected from all life-sustaining machinery, taken off all medication and eventually transferred out of SICU into a regular hospital room. There his care was much less intense, and when he began to really recuperate, enough so that a few weeks after his initial transfer there he received the penultimate transfer: to the adjacent rehab hospital with an eye toward the ultimate goal: release and back home. He was getting better every day and as he improved, we improved; in our mood and in our expectations for him. His semi-return to normal enabled me, subconsciously almost, to reconsider my own mortality once again. Not that that's anything new. It's quite old in fact, over 13 and half years old, ever since I was originally diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer in Feb. 2009. But for the last two months, it's been hardly a blip on my internal radar. My attention had been elsewhere.

And I must admit, in a weird kind of way, it was almost a relief to have something else to worry about for a change other than my own mortality. To clarify, it's not as if I forgot that I had cancer, but I was able to not think about all the time, if you know what I mean? I was thinking of my brother, not me. It felt unselfish which for a cancer patient is sometimes a challenging emotion to control. I remember the first bit of unsolicited advice I received from a friend (and fellow cancer patient) after she learned about my diagnosis: "Kenny" she said, "it's all about you now." Words to live by, for sure. Because a cancer diagnosis changes you in every way imaginable and in that aren't so imaginable. It's your life now – full time. As such, it's easy to lose oneself in all the demands and anxiety that characterize a cancer diagnosis and subsequent treatment/aftercare. Sometimes, it's helpful to have a diversion of sorts; to get your mind off your own troubles and try to help another cope. In that way, my brother's hospitalization and subsequent months' long recovery has been instructive. It turns out that even though I have cancer, it doesn't prevent me from doing the right thing on someone else's behalf. For almost six weeks, along with my sister-in-law, Vanessa, we visited my brother in the hospital every day, splitting shifts, so to speak. It wasn't about me. It was about my brother. It felt good to be there.

This week, if all goes according to plan, my brother will finally be home, after almost 10 weeks in the hospital. And with his return home (which itself will present any number of challenges for both Richard and his wife, Vanessa), my own health once again becomes top of mind. He has been in the hospital so long that low and behold, it's time for my quarterly scans already. The party, such as it was, is officially over. With my scans return all the usual mortality fears and questions. One of these days, I'm going to receive the wrong result. After all, when my diagnosis was changed to thyroid cancer three years ago, the medication I was prescribed (the best available at the time) had an effective time of three years or so. We're past that. Now that my brother is out of the hospital – or about to be, I'm back to thinking about me and my cancer and wondering if trouble is lurking.

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



## FILM FESTIVAL



Colin Kaepernick kneeling during the National Anthem is examined in one of the films called "Kaepernick & America."



Banner in Reston.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

# Film Festival Supports Childhood Healthcare

**Don't miss Washington West Film Festival as it kicks off Oct. 13.**

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE CONNECTION

The Washington West Film Festival is a lesser-known film festival coming out of Reston that packs all the punch of the bigger names like Cannes or the Sundance. It kicks off Oct. 13 with the premiere of "Refuge," at the Capital One Hall Tysons Corner.

"Refuge" is a documentary that looks at the friendship of two unlikely candidates in Clarkston, Georgia which they call "the most diverse square mile in America."

The following day starts off with a crowdfunding workshop that examines how to launch a crowdfunding campaign that could help upcoming filmmakers. Then a day of screentime featuring a few horror shorts before the evening production of "Long Live my Happy Head." This documentary is a love story about a Scottish comic book artist with a brain tumor, who uses his art to communicate his experience of cancer.

On Saturday, Oct. 15 at the ShowPlace Icon in McLean, a collection of short films from a group of George Mason University students will be featured.

According to Samantha Dols, the Director of Programming & Impact at the Washington West Film Festival

val, filmmaking is alive and well in Reston. This festival is based in Reston, and has a group of Reston volunteers to help out, and even a few local film fanatics to make the festival happen. The festival is partnered with the Reston Town Center Association and the Reston Community Center. In fact, Robert E. Simon, the namesake of Reston, was on the board of the festival before he died.

In 2015, they changed the name of Reston to Hill Valley for festival week in celebration of a big anniversary event for the "Back to the Future," movie. "DeLoreans flooded Reston Town Center, and Christopher Lloyd and several other cast members joined us for a marathon screening of all films in the series," said Dols.

### Festival's Message

The festival follows a belief that "story can change the world," and their box office proceeds go toward making an impact, supporting childhood healthcare. The "make a difference," message can be seen on Sunday, Oct. 16 with the film "Kaepernick & America," and explores the impact football player



"Red Horizon" is a short documentary that tells the story of a group of pilots dedicated to keeping alive the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen.

### If you go...

For a full schedule, go to [www.filmfest.com/](http://www.filmfest.com/)

Colin Kaepernick made when he took a knee during the national anthem. "That becomes a symbol," said the trailer. The film stokes the flame a little more with a clip of Donald Trump's negative reaction

when he was in office.

Although the festival is full of films with a social message, it's not limited to that, said Dols. "Every year we try to sprinkle in pure entertainment films as well," she said. This year, there is an anti-romantic comedy that fits that genre called "Everybody Loves Jean." The main character, Jeanne, is dealing with her mother's death and meets up with a girl she knew from school.

"At the airport, she runs into Jean, a whimsical and somewhat intrusive former high school classmate." This movie is playing Saturday, Oct. 15 at 1 p.m. at the ShowPlace Icon in McLean.

This is the eleventh year of the festival, and it is usually connected with the Bowtie Cinema in Reston but this year, the theater is undergoing renovations, so they shifted to the Tysons area.

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