

CONNECTION

Reston ♦ Oak Hill Herndon ♦ Chantilly ♦ CENTRE VIEW

The Herndon High School Homecoming parade extends down Elden Street on Saturday, Oct. 8.

Herndon On Parade

PAGE 8

Centreville Day Coming Up

PAGE 3

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OPINION, PAGE 4 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 7 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 6

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OCTOBER 12-18, 2022

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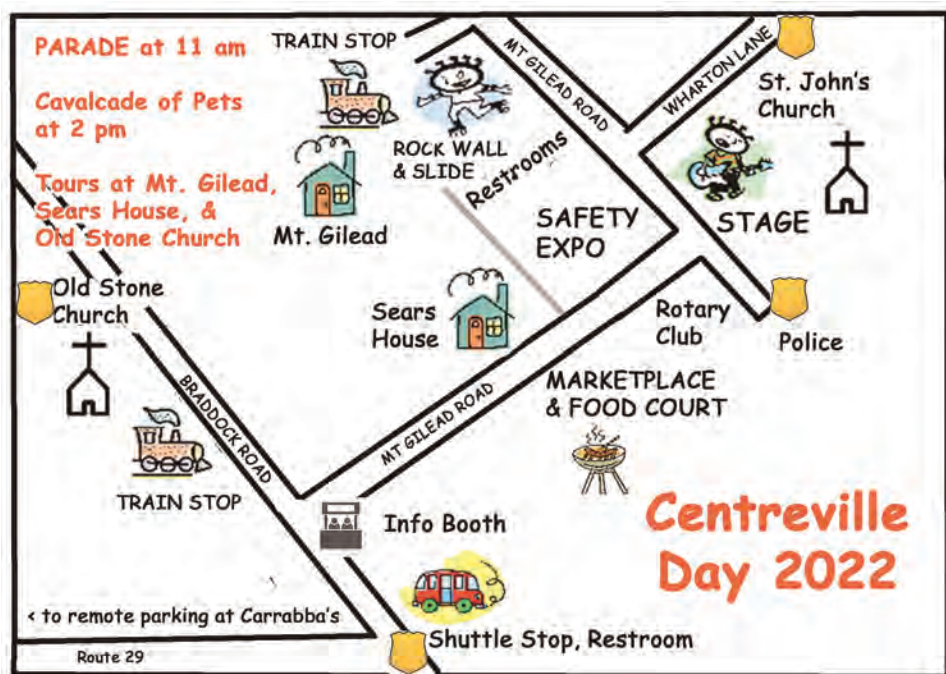
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Reston Association members are
encouraged to provide comments
on the association's 2023 Capital
and Operating budgets at this
public hearing.

NEWS



Map of the 2022 Centreville Day activities.

COURTESY OF CHERYL REPETTI



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Cub Scout Pack 2011 marches in last year's Centreville Day parade.

'Enjoy a Fall Day with Family and Friends'

This Saturday's Centreville Day marks three decades of fun.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Historic Centreville Park is the place to be this Saturday, Oct. 15, as area residents celebrate the 30th annual Centreville Day. The free event at 5714 Mount Gilead Road (off Braddock Road, across Route 29 from the IHOP) runs from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and offers fun activities for the entire family.

"It's exciting to mark 30 years of Centreville Day" said Planning Committee Chair Cheryl Repetti. "It began in 1992 to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the town charter, and it's kept going since then."

"It's a friendly, welcoming event; and thanks to our sponsors and vendors, Centreville Day is free," she continued. "With no fees for parking or shuttles, plus free children's rides, everyone in the community can come and enjoy a beautiful fall day with family and friends."

The festivities include a parade, crafters and other vendors, live entertainment, a safety expo, food court, trick-or-treating, a cavalcade of pets and tours of historic buildings. While people are arriving, the Magic Hands Orchestra will perform on the main stage at 9:45 a.m. Then at 10 a.m., Supervisor Kathy Smith (D-Sully) will present awards to the Centreville Day Citizens of the Year.

American Legion Post 1995 organizes the parade, which includes fire, police and sheriff's personnel, McGruff the Crime Dog, various Scout groups and dancers. And individuals and families are welcome to deco-



Attendees ride the history train past some of the vendors' tents.



Daisy Scouts on parade during the 2021 event.

rate a bike or scooter and join the fun; costumes are encouraged. Participants gather near Wharton Park Court, with the parade stepping off from Wharton Lane at 11 a.m., passing the stage shortly before noon and continuing along Mt. Gilead Road to Braddock Road.

Entertainers featured onstage throughout the day will be the Liz Deal Trio, Centreville Dance Academy, Chroma Harp Korean Women's Ensemble, Amici Harmonica Ensemble, Harang Sori Korean Folk Dance Group, Northern Virginia Wushu Academy, and singer-songwriter (and Westfield High student) Kylie Brown.

All types of pets are welcome in the pet cavalcade, which begins at 2 p.m. Those interested are encouraged to stop by the Rotary Club table near the stage, before then, to sign up their pets. Then at 3:30 p.m., people will vie for the coveted pineapple award in Centreville Day's always entertaining hula contest.

Children may wear their Halloween costumes and trick or treat in the vendors' marketplace. They may also challenge themselves on the Boy Scout monkey bridge,

whoosh down a giant, inflatable slide or see how high they can go on the climbing wall.

They can try their skill at old-fashioned games on the lawn of the Mount Gilead house, learn about recycling from the Girl Scouts, and meet archaeologists and WWII reenactors. They and their parents may also enjoy rides on the trackless history train which travels throughout the venue and even visits the Old Stone Church. St John's Church, the Spindle Sears House, and Mount Gilead – which will all be open for tours.

And when everyone has worked up an appetite, they may quell their cravings in the food court, which features tasty food from around the world. Bangkok House will offer its popular Pad Thai and other Thai dishes, and El Chef Latino is bringing pupusas, quesadillas and other dishes.

Comfort food is on the menu at A Southern Fish Fry, and Home Made Sweets, Kona Ice and Pop's Praiseworthy Popcorn will fill anyone's sweet tooth. In addition, the Old Stone Church will sell hot dogs and baked goods, and St. John's Church will offer coffee and desserts.

At the Safety Expo, Sully District police

officers, Fairfax County Sheriff's personnel and other agencies will display their special equipment – including a ride that will convince children to wear their seatbelts. The Sheriff's Office will make free child IDs, and McGruff will be on hand for photos with children.

Besides local businesses and nonprofits, a wide variety of artisans will be in the Marketplace. There'll be jewelry, home décor, games, puzzles, prints and paintings, fantasy novels and many other items, just in time for holiday shopping.

Parking is at Carrabba's Italian Grill off Trinity Parkway and Route 29. Free shuttles will run throughout the day. Braddock and Mount Gilead roads will be closed that day, as will part of Wharton Lane – especially during the parade.

Centreville Day benefits the Friends of Historic Centreville, which puts on this event, and it's made possible by the generosity of many local sponsors. For more information, go to www.CentrevilleDay.org.

— CHERYL REPETTI CONTRIBUTED TO THIS STORY.

Celebration of Our True Beginnings

DEL. KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM

On Monday, Oct. 10, we celebrated for just the second year Indigenous Peoples Day. President Biden proclaimed the day in 2021 to "celebrate the invaluable contributions and resilience of Indigenous people." His proclamation issued this year added the purpose of Indigenous Peoples Day to "honor the sovereignty, resilience, and immense contributions that Native Americans have made to the world."

In 1977, the United Nations International Conference on Discrimination against Indigenous Populations in the Americas advocated for Indigenous Peoples Day to replace Columbus Day. Since then, more than a dozen states have made the change. In 2020, Governor Ralph Northam declared the second Monday in October the first Indigenous Peoples Day in Virginia, calling it an "important step in creating an inclusive, honest Commonwealth." The state is home to 11 native tribes.

As in Virginia, the national holiday of Columbus Day is officially recognized in most states, but a day recognizing Indigenous peoples is designated on the same day in about a dozen



states. The celebration of Columbus Day came about in 1934 with a proclamation by President Franklin Roosevelt celebrating Columbus who had become a symbol of Italian American pride. The day was made an official federal holiday in 1968.

In recent years statues of Christopher Columbus have been removed because of the atrocities he committed in the lands he explored. The notion taught in schools and believed by many people that he "discovered America" has been thoroughly debunked. As one of the coordinators of the movement to have a day to celebrate Indigenous people rather than a colonizer expressed it, "We were never discovered. We've always been here. We've always had our own civilization that was different from the colonizers." History supports their position.

According to www.science.org, the precise date for the peopling of the Americas is a long-standing open question. While there is general agreement that the Americas were first settled from Asia, the pattern of migration, its timing, and the place(s) of origin in Eurasia of the peoples who migrated to the Americas remain unclear. The timing of that migration to

America varies from 15,000 to 20,000 years ago—certainly well before Columbus showed up in 1492 or the English in 1607. For too many years there has been little or no recognition of who the Indigenous people were, the civilizations they had established, their advances in agricultures and environmental protection, their form of governance, and their religions. One step in recognizing the peoples who were on this land prior to European exploration and colonization is taking place at Jamestown Settlement Museum where the coming together of the cultures of the Indigenous peoples, the English colonizers and the people they enslaved is being recognized.

As President Biden stated in his proclamation this year, "For centuries, Indigenous peoples were forcibly removed from ancestral lands, displaced, assimilated, and banned from worshiping or performing many sacred ceremonies. Yet today, they remain some of our greatest environmental stewards. They maintain strong religious beliefs that still feed the soul of our Nation. And they have chosen to serve in the United States Armed Forces at a higher rate than any other group. Native peoples challenge us to confront our past and do better, and their contributions to scholarship, law, the arts, public service, and more continue to guide us." The least we can do is to celebrate our true beginnings.

Three Appointed

On Tuesday, October 11, 2022, at the request of Hunter Mill District Supervisor Walter Alcorn, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors appointed three Reston residents to the nine-member Reston Community Center Board of Governors: Beverly A. Cosham, Paul D. Thomas and Shane M. Ziegler.

All three candidates were appointed for three-year terms. Cosham and Thomas were incumbents. Ziegler is new to the RCC Board.

The three-year terms for Cosham, Thomas and Ziegler will begin on November 7, 2022. The appointments were made based upon the official results of the 2022 RCC



PHOTO COURTESY OF RCC

From left: Beverly A. Cosham, Paul D. Thomas, Shane M. Ziegler.

Preference Poll, which ran from September 9 to September 30, 2022. Vote tallies for the three candidates were as follows:

Paul D. Thomas, 1,277; Beverly A. Cosham, 1,181; Shane M. Ziegler, 1,141

Beverly A. Cosham has served on

the RCC Board of Governors since 2001, and she is the current Board chair. She has given decades of service to Reston-area arts groups, including as a founding member of the Reston Chorale and Reston Community Players.

Paul D. Thomas grew up in Res-

ton and was first elected to the RCC Board in 2016. He has served in leadership positions for many Reston organizations, including Reston Association, the South Lakes High School PTSA, and the Fairfax County Human Services Council. Thomas is currently the RCC Board treasurer.

Shane M. Ziegler is the co-founder and President of Reston Forward, a new nonprofit aimed at ensuring new Restonians are connected to their new home through civic education, community service, network and advocacy. Ziegler recently moved to Reston.

ROUNDUPS

Centreville Library's Fall Book Sale

The Friends of Centreville Regional Library will hold a book sale at the library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, this Saturday-Sunday, Oct. 15-16, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Besides fiction and nonfiction for all ages, also available will be audiobooks, DVDs and audio CDs. All proceeds help support the library and its programs.

Children's Trunk-Or-Treat Oct. 19

The third annual Fairfax County Police Department & Friends Trunk-Or-Treat extravaganza is set for next Wednesday, Oct. 19, from 6-8 p.m. It'll be held outside the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Pkwy. in Fair Oaks.

This free event is a fun and safe way to trick-or-treat in a family-oriented atmosphere, as children receive candy from several decorated car trunks. Those planning to attend must register in advance at <https://bit.ly/fcpdtreat22> to ensure there'll be enough candy for everyone. If it rains, the event will be canceled.

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Challenges for County's Special Education Students

Special Education PTA president and FCPS respond.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Disparities for special education students in Fairfax County Public Schools, cited in the 210-page FCPS Special Education Comprehensive Program Review: Year 2 Final Report by American Institutes for Research, did not surprise Amanda Campbell. She is the president of the Fairfax County Special Education Parent Teacher Association (SEPTA).

Campbell highlighted that the final review mirrored SEPTA's findings to the division. "It was very validating to see it backed by data," Campbell said.

The report was the second of two annual deliverables by American Institutes for Research, which the division contracted in October 2020 to conduct an independent, third-party review of its special education program.

American Institutes for Research presented its Year 1 interim report and presentation document at a session in September 2021, followed by its 2022 Final Report <https://bit.ly/3m3JQpv>. The report's scope did not include special education programs during COVID-19.

The division's four original goals for its special education program to AIR's two-year comprehensive review were: one, design, structure, and processes; two, human capital; three, evidence-based practices; and four, communication. "Restraint and seclusion would be specifically OUTSIDE OF SCOPE for the purposes of this review," according to the division's RFP 2000003084 Special Education Comprehensive Review.

"We are very appreciative of the work that has been done in compiling this report," said Dr. Michelle Boyd, assistant superintendent of Special Services at FCPS. "Our staff has worked closely with students and families, which is reflected in the report's mention of positive feedback from parents on the quality of FCPS instructional staff."

Campbell addressed what she considered the top four important findings of the lengthy review.

❖ First, "Fidelity of implementation is a point that we (SEPTA) have been raising since being chartered in April 2017," Campbell said. She referenced a research question in the final report, "To what extent do schools implement special education services with fidelity?"

Fidelity of the implementation of special education intervention programs is minimal and inconsistent across programs, according to the independent report. And special education services are implemented inconsistently across the district.

Campbell said that programs and best



PHOTO VIA SEPTA.ORG
Amanda Campbell, president of the SEPTA



PHOTO BY FCPS
Dr. Michell Boyd, assistant superintendent of Special Services FCPS



FCPS.EDU/ACADEMICS
Occupational therapists work to address a student's ability to access and participate in school activities.

practices for students with disabilities had been identified. However, teachers and support staff who interact with students face difficulty implementing programs effectively. A poorly implemented program can fail students just as easily as a poorly designed one. AIR's finding was important to Campbell. "If the programs are not implemented with the same evidence-based science, then the outcomes are not going to be the same," she said.

"That time aspect is a critical part of fidelity," said Campbell. The time the program requires is not always what the students receive, according to Campbell. She described scheduling around multiple services as a giant jigsaw puzzle. "It is critical that we get kids the time they need in these programs for them to succeed," Campbell said. To implement a practice or program "with fidelity," teachers should understand how to im-

plement evidence-based practices centered on five elements: adherence, exposure/duration (time), delivery quality, program specificity, and student engagement.

❖ Second was Campbell's concern was that the division's special education services are inconsistently implemented across its five regions and schools (1k.2.). It is "very individualized and dependent on where you live in the county and what school," Campbell said — leading to a question of equity.

The Fairfax County Public Schools division is the eleventh largest in the United States. It serves a diverse population of about 178,635 students from Pre-K through 12. In all, 14.9 percent of the total student population are students with disabilities; 31.7 percent are economically disadvantaged; and 19 percent are English language learners. Approximately 198 schools and centers are

dispersed across five distinct regions within the district, covering 391 square miles.

❖ Campbell's third concern: Students with disabilities disproportionately receive in- and out-of-school suspensions compared with peers without disabilities (1a.3.). SEPTA and the division have discussed this since 2019. The differences are dramatic.

❖ Campbell's fourth concern was how little parent input was evident in IEPs. "Results from the IEP sample review show minimal documentation of parent input on IEP documents. Nearly 38 percent of the IEPs in our sample did not include any written evidence of parent input within the IEP itself," cited the review (1f.4). AIR reviewed a randomly selected, representative sample of 300 IEPs.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, "Each public school child who receives special education and related services must have an Individualized Education Program (IEP). Each IEP must be designed for one student and must be a truly individualized document. The IEP creates an opportunity for teachers, parents, school administrators, related services personnel, and students (when appropriate) to work together to improve educational results for children with disabilities. The IEP is the cornerstone of a quality education for each child with a disability."

According to Campbell, parents should be equal partners in the IEP process. "When you have a statistic showing so little parent input, it encapsulates the concerns that families have noted. Their input is not included. That is one of the incredibly validating findings of this report," Campbell said.

Boyd, the assistant superintendent of Special Services, said the division knows "there is work to be done to improve outcomes for students with disabilities." Boyd named areas such as "multi-tiered systems of support, inclusive practices, transitions, communication with stakeholders, and exploring ways to address special education teacher workload."

Among other findings related to students with disabilities, as reported by AIR, FCPS does not meet Virginia state targets for the percentage of time students with disabilities are included in the general education setting (1.e.1.). Access to evidence-based practices for students with disabilities varies. Special education students in some racial-ethnic groups are at a higher risk of being suspended or expelled for greater than ten days than their special education peers in all other racial groups (1a.3.).

The final review of AIR included 54 findings and 19 recommendations for changes to the division's policies, processes, and practices. AIR will engage in three months of pro bono strategic planning with the division's Department of Special Services to support them in the next steps. "We look forward to working collaboratively with stakeholders to develop a comprehensive special education enhancement plan," said Boyd.

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-Werner Heisenberg

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Obituary

Dale D. Adams, of Herndon Virginia was devoted to his family, his church and his community. He passed away peacefully October 1, 2022. He graduated from Hanover College and worked for the Federal Government. Dale is survived by his wife, Martha Jo; his sisters, Alta and Stella; his children Reid (Michelle), Kim (Bill), and Traci (Lee) and daughter-in-law Kathryn. Dale was preceded in death by his son Chris. Family will receive friends on Thursday, October 13, from 4 to 7 pm at Adams-Green Funeral Home. A funeral service will be held on Saturday, October 15 at 10:30 am at Trinity Presbyterian Church. Interment Chestnut Grove Cemetery. On line condolences may be made at <https://adamsgreen.com/>.

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The McLean Pet Fest takes place Sunday, Oct. 16, 2022 at McLean Central Park.

SEPT. 24-OCT. 30

Fall Festival. At Reston Farm Garden Market, 10800 Baron Cameron Ave., Reston. The festival will run Friday, Saturday and Sundays 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.

OCT. 6-27

Sights and Sounds of Early Herndon. 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.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 12

Fall Harvest Festival. 8 a.m. to noon. At Oak Marr Farmers Market, Oak 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.fairfax-county.gov/parks/farmersmarkets

THURSDAY/OCT. 13

Oakton Vs. Madison Fundraiser. At Oakton High School. Dig Pink is a volleyball event for athletes, coaches, parents, and communities to unite in a collective effort to raise awareness and fundraise to support metastatic breast cancer research through the Side-Out Foundation. Link to the story about the Side-Out Foundation: <https://side-out.org/about-us/>

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.fairfax-county.gov/parks/farmersmarkets

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.fairfax-county.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 phenom 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,” “Hair-spray” 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

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. Hosted by the Northern Virginia Model Railroaders. See www.nvmr.org.

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Alexandria Gazette Packet
Publishing Since 1784

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CENTRE VIEW

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.

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Time is Telling



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

After nearly three months of 24-7 focus on my brother's struggle to survive the effects of sepsis (and septic shock), the immediate, imminent danger seems to have passed. Passed into a daily grind of occupational, physical and speech therapies, all of which are monitored six to eight hours a day by a care giver who lends her assistance as well to assisting my brother with his activities of daily living. All of which are improving due to his commitment to get better. No doubt my brother has come a long way since his admission to SICU in mid-July and has progressed further and faster than those original doctors anticipated. Nonetheless, the path ahead is fraught with obstacles (not literally, although there are three sets of stairs inside his house and even two smaller ones outside just to get in).

My challenges are all too familiar to you regular readers: 13 years-plus living with non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV. Originally characterized as “terminal,” changed approximately three years ago to simply “incurable” after my diagnosis changed to papillary thyroid cancer, supposedly the “friendly cancer” because of its curability. For my situation, not so much, however. I'll spare you the details, most of which I've relayed in previous columns anyway. Not that I ever expected a health guarantee but given my parent's long lives (both lived into their mid to late 80s), I kind of figured that I'd live into my 80s as well. That being presumed; it turns out the facts are somewhat different. Initially, in Feb. '09, I was “prognosed” for “13 months to two years.” After my re-diagnosis three years ago, I was given a new lease on life, sort of, until a procedure to rid the thyroid cancer from my body was unsuccessful and so I received an amended timeline/prognosis: the prescription medication that I have been taking daily since Sept. '19 is effective for three years-ish. I'm now into the “ish” time.

But this is my obstacle, as it has been going on nearly 14 years. Nothing new, but it sure gets old, slowly. A cancer diagnosis upsets every thought/plan you had concerning your “road to find out,” to quote Cat Stevens, concerning your future (heck, your present, too). And not that I didn't share this feeling with my brother, quite the opposite in fact. Other than my wife, Dina, he was my go-to resource. But now, given his own health challenges and his own cancer diagnosis to boot, we've sort of become equal partners. Not in crime, but in the methodology of surviving. Now, we're on the same team, if you get my meaning: both having been diagnosed with cancer. And it's this shared burden that binds us together more than we ever imagined. (When you've had two healthy parents who lived well into their 80s, you don't anticipate having your own health problems at younger ages than ever afflicted them. It's a presumption, sure, but doctors will often learn a great deal about your prospects by asking about your immediate family history: mother, father, siblings.)

Even though my brother is five years older than me, I never imagined him dying before me. As an older, big brother, I looked up to him. He took care of me. He couldn't possibly die before I do. This feeling became even more prevalent after I was diagnosed with lung cancer. Now I had a perfectly good explanation/understanding of why I was going to predecease him. Not that I was happy about it. Hardly. It just seemed the normal order of things, in my chronological life, anyway. Yet, after his recent health struggles and near-death experience (sepsis is very often a killer and extremely difficult to overcome), I'm forced to consider that my brother might die before my time, despite my issues. And this awareness/revelation has weakened me. Seeing him fight for his life every day in SICU as I did for nearly six weeks was a life-changing experience, especially as a younger brother who looked up to and was somewhat dependent on that older brother.

Now that he's home recuperating and rehabilitating as vigorously as he can, he is – to me, anyway, establishing his bona fides. He is not letting his recent health struggles/challenges negatively affect him at all. He has accepted his deficits and is working every day to overcome them. And even though he can't walk without the assistance of a walker, his goal is to do so. Though he may not be able “to leap tall buildings in a single bound” (or even walk up a few steps) he is my superman and I'm proud to share all our burdens together. And due to his tireless efforts to get better, once again, I don't feel as if he's going to predecease me; and in an odd way, that's extremely comforting to me.

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

HOMECOMING

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/ THE CONNECTION



The HHS Homecoming parade extends down Elden Street.



The HHS football team won its Homecoming game 21-13.

2022 Herndon Homecoming Parade Rolls Through Town

HHS wins homecoming game.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The Herndon High School varsity football team completed a four-game winning streak on Saturday, Oct. 8, with their 2022 Homecoming game. The Fighting Hornets defeated Yorktown of Arlington at home in a conference game. The squad throttled their visiting opponent with a score of 21-13. The Hornets currently hold a 4-2 record.

Earlier that morning, the Fighting Hornets football team joined participants in the family-friendly 2022 Homecoming Parade, presented by the town's Parks & Recreation Department. Wearing their black and red jerseys, the team could not conceal their Hornet Pride, waving and calling out to spectators along the parade route. They made their way down Elden Street from Locust Street to Lynn Street, where the nearly one-hour parade concluded in the historic downtown district. Hundreds of fans cheered the Fighting Hornets, including many alums who were happy to be back.

Homecoming is a big deal in the small town. With the high school band, the flag



The Lacy family is happy to be back watching the parade.

corps, cheerleaders, and class floats, it was a day of celebration. Elected officials waved to the crowds from the backs of slow-moving convertible cars. Members of many clubs and organizations participated in the



The Herndon High School Marching Band banner



The Herndon High School Marching Band



The 2022 Herndon High School football team

celebration by marching in costume for this year's theme, Under the Water.

Along the extended route, parents with small children lined the curbs. The young ones raked in the candy tossed at them by

the parade participants. Others gathered for large porch parties along the route and indulged in their favorite morning drinks and treats, creating a picture-perfect morning celebrating the hometown tradition.

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