

CONNECTION

Reston ♦ Oak Hill Herndon ♦ Chantilly ♦ CENTRE VIEW



Daniela Choi, 4, and brother Leo, 2, with cotton candy and flowers at Centreville Day.

Comstock Reflects on Reston, Herndon Development
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3-Way Race for Herndon Mayor
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PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS / THE CONNECTION

Your hometown home & auto team



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CALENDAR

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Let us know about an upcoming event

connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar

ROUNDUPS

Lil Hands Glove Drive

Last winter, a Sully Police crossing guard noticed many children walking to school without gloves. So with his own money, he bought and gave them gloves. This year, Sully District police are hosting a Lil Hands Glove Drive so he may continue giving gloves to students in need. Police will then deliver them to local schools.

Please drop off or mail new gloves (for ages 5-12) to the Sully District Station, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. A large, labeled, black collection bin will be available in the lobby at all times. The drive ends Oct. 31. For more information, email Megan.Hawkins@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Black Chamber Golf Tourney

The Northern Virginia Black Chamber of Commerce will hold its Business on the Green golf tournament on Monday, Oct. 31. The site is the Chantilly National Golf Club, 14901 Braddock Road in Centreville. For more information and to register, go to nvbccgolftourney.com.

Car Crash Kills Chantilly Man, 62

Fairfax County police say Arjen Weiss, 62, of Chantilly, died last week following a car crash at the intersection of Route 50 and Route 28. Officers from the Fair Oaks District station responded there last Wednesday, Oct. 13, at 11:24 a.m. after receiving a report of a single-vehicle crash.

Fire and Rescue personnel transported Weiss to Reston Hospital, where he was pronounced deceased. Police say he was driving a 2008 Mercedes E350 west on Route

50 on the ramp to northbound Route 28. According to detectives, His vehicle left the road for an unknown reason and struck a light pole. Police believe alcohol and speed were not factors in the crash.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to contact the Crash Reconstruction Unit at 703-280-0543. Tips may also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by calling 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477).

— BONNIE HOBBS

Food Desperately Needed

Herndon-Reston Rotary will hold a food drive for LINK against Hunger

On Saturday, Oct. 22, 10-12, at ArtSpace Herndon. Drive up, Rotary volunteers will unload your car and take the items to the food pantry and shelter. In addition, hygiene products are needed for the domestic violence shelter of FAITH.

Needed Items:

- Diapers in all sizes, especially size 6
- Shelf Stable Food (canned

soups, rice, legumes, pasta, pasta sauce, canned fruits and vegetables (except green beans)

Shelf stable veggies and fruits such as apples, onions, potatoes, etc

Sanitary napkins, disposable razors, shampoo, deodorant, soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes, toilet paper, cleaning products.

Cash and gifts cards (Gi-ant, Target) always gratefully accepted.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

FREE HALLOWEEN WEEKEND LYFT RIDES

Free safe rides will be offered to would-be drunk drivers throughout the Washington-metropolitan area during this Halloween weekend. Offered by the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) the, 2022 Halloween SoberRide program will be in operation from 4 p.m. on Saturday, October 29th and operate until 4 a.m. on Sunday, October 30th as a way to keep local roads safe from

impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk period. During this 12-hour period, area residents age 21 and older celebrating with alcohol may download the Lyft app to their phones, then enter the SoberRide code in the app's "Payment" tab (under the "Add Lyft Pass" option) to receive their no-cost (up to \$15) safe transportation home.

WRAP's 2022 Halloween SoberRide promo code will be posted at 3 p.m. on Saturday, October 29 on www.SoberRide.com.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Public Notice

Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

In accord with state and federal law, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has imposed new or changed existing weight restrictions and installed new signage indicating the updated weight restrictions on the following bridges and culverts (structures) in Virginia within the last 30 days.

Jurisdiction	Fed. Stat. Id.	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Effective Date
GILES	8517	643	GRAY SULPHUR SPG/ 643	SULPHUR BRANCH	9/27/2022
POWHATAN	10136	684	BELL RD	STEGERS CREEK	9/26/2022
GILES	13259	626	CASTLE ROCK DR	DOE CREEK	9/26/2022
GILES	2918	623	RIVER RD/ 623	NEW RIVER/NS RWY	9/26/2022
GILES	10171	635	BIGSTONEY CR RD/ 635	WHITE ROCK BRANCH	9/22/2022
GILES	12345	623	CASCADE DR/ 623	LITTLE STONEY CREEK	9/22/2022
MONTGOMERY	13414	616	DOBBINS HOLLOW RD/ 616	BRUSH CREEK	9/22/2022
FALLS CHURCH	13413	0	SHERROW AVENUE	TRIPPS RUN	9/21/2022
SCOTT	13290	617	SHELLEYS RD	BRANCH	9/20/2022
ROANOKE	13269	864	OLD CATAWBA RD/864	MASON CREEK	9/19/2022
FALLS CHURCH	13283	0	S. OAK STREET	TRIPPS RUN	9/16/2022
ROANOKE	2782	637	BOTTOM CREEK LANE	LAUREL CREEK	9/16/2022
FRANKLIN	3455	757	SKILLET RD/ 757	STORY CREEK	9/15/2022
ROANOKE	13396	777	FTLEWIS CHURCH RD/ 777	STYPES BRANCH	9/15/2022
ROANOKE	13392	1662	MCVITTY RD/ 1662	MUDLICK CREEK	9/15/2022
BOTETOURT	13410	615	CRAIG CREEK RD/ 615	DUTCHMAN BRANCH	9/14/2022
CARROLL	14974	747	PINE GROVE RD/ 747	BRANCH SHORTS CREEK	9/14/2022
FRANKLIN	5503	623	FAIRYSTONE PK RD/ 623	RYANS BRANCH	9/14/2022
FRANKLIN	5556	825	HILLOCK RD/ 825	RENNET BAG CREEK	9/14/2022
ROANOKE	10147	696	APPLE GROVE LANE/ 696	BACK CREEK	9/14/2022
BOTETOURT	10152	616	BLUE RDGE SPGS/ 616	BRANCH OF GLADE CREEK	9/13/2022
FRANKLIN	13278	919	GRASSY HILL RD/ 919	LITTLE CREEK	9/13/2022
FRANKLIN	13337	688	POTEET RD/ 688	GILLS CREEK	9/13/2022
BEDFORD	13317	695	GOOSE CK VLY R/ 695	N. FORK GOOSE CREEK	9/12/2022
BEDFORD	13336	639	HURRICANE DR/ 639	NORTH OTTER CREEK	9/12/2022
BEDFORD	13303	680	MURRELLS GAP RD	SHEEP CREEK	9/12/2022
BEDFORD	3387	680	PATTERSN MILL RD/ 680	LITTLE OTTER CREEK	9/12/2022
ROANOKE	12355	666	BANDY CREEK RD/ 666	BACK CREEK	9/12/2022
BOTETOURT	12304	606	GROVE HILL RD/ 606	CATAWBA CREEK	9/9/2022
FRANKLIN	18127	697	BRICK CHURCH RD/ 697	LITTLE CREEK	9/9/2022
BOTETOURT	18065	737	HOGAN HOLLOW RD/ 737	CATAWBA CREEK	9/6/2022
DINWIDDIE	14789	709	SHIPPINGS RD	BUCKSKIN CREEK	9/2/2022
BOTETOURT	14773	1324	PATTONSBURGLA/ 1324	PURGATORY CREEK	9/1/2022
BOTETOURT	14801	764	SPEC MINE RD	BRANCH OF BACK CREEK	9/1/2022

The list above is not a comprehensive list of all structures with weight restrictions in the Commonwealth, but shows only structures that have new or changed weight restrictions within the last 30 days. The list contains only basic structure identification and location information and the date the new or changed weight restriction and signage became effective.

For a full listing of all bridge and culvert weight restrictions with detailed information about specific structures, including location data and actual weight limits, visit <https://www.virginiadot.org> and navigate to Info Center/Trucking Resources. This page references a posted structures report and a GIS map tool that contain detailed information about restricted structures in Virginia. To receive email notifications regarding new or updated weight restrictions for structures statewide, complete the sign-up form on the web page.

Notices regarding bridges and culverts with new or updated weight restrictions are published monthly by VDOT. For additional information or questions, please contact haulingpermits@vdot.virginia.gov.

The Virginia Department of Transportation is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any of its programs or activities on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on VDOT's Title VI Program or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Program Specialist at 804-786-2730.

Comstock Expands Portfolio and Construction Along Metro Silver Line

Comstock's Herndon Redevelopment pauses for up to two years.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Timothy J. Steffan, chief operating officer of Comstock Companies, recently addressed the company's development at Reston Station and the Herndon Historic District. Steffan's bio details experience managing various asset types and large-scale portfolios, including retail, office, multifamily, mixed-use, and hotel properties, identifying opportunities to generate new revenue streams.

Comstock is developing the approximately 80-acre Reston Station, a development that provides access to the Wiehle-Reston East Metro Station, the current terminus of the Silver Line. Opened in 2014, it is one of the mid-Atlantic region's largest mixed-use, transit-oriented, urban employment centers. It is being developed through a public-private partnership between Fairfax County and Comstock Partners LC.

On Aug. 30, 2022, Comstock announced the acquisition of approximately eight areas of the Midline development at Reston Station. On Sept. 6, 2022, Comstock announced an additional acquisition, the redevelopment of 1891 Metro Center Drive, formerly owned by federal government contractor Maximus, Inc. The Metro Center Drive acquisition expanded Comstock's Reston Station development further, adding the 2.67-acre property with frontage on the Dulles Toll Road (Virginia Route 267).

Steffan said Comstock would temporarily use the former Maximus building as swing space for its existing tenancy. Steffan said Comstock would demolish the building at some point but could not say when that was to happen. "That building has seen the end of its useful life," he said.

"Quite frankly, all the uses are being examined, including means to improve vehicular-pedestrian traffic and experiences around the neighborhood while the buses are involved from Metro," Steffan said. He noted that Comstock is considering some big-box retail stores and is looking into creating an additional piece of the Reston neighborhood that allows for a better flow of commercial, private vehicle, and bus traffic.

Asked about affordable housing units, Steffan said. "All of their products have affordable housing. Absolutely. We believe in the product very, very much."

Steffan discussed the proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment for Reston and its newly added community health and equity sections. He said as the company moves through design, they are "thoughtful on the

COMSTOCK HERNDON TIMELINE

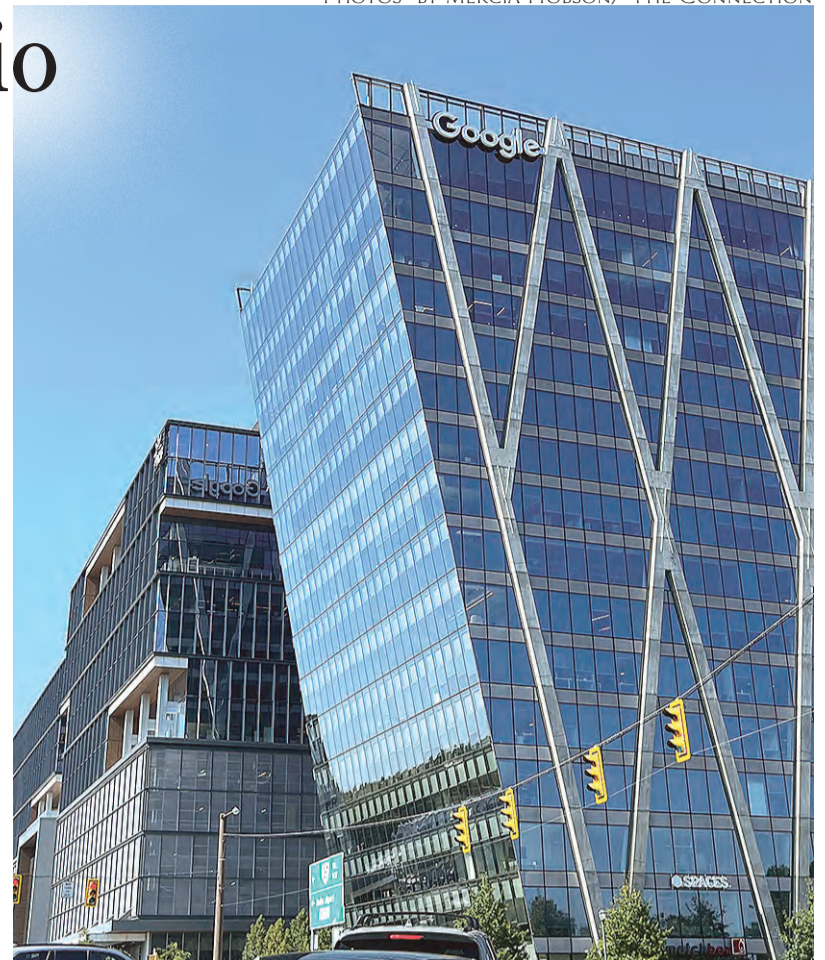
October 24, 2017 – Town Council adopted the comprehensive agreement between the Town of Herndon and Comstock Herndon Venture, LC.

November 17, 2020 – Town Council unanimously approved a resolution that amended the comprehensive agreement with Comstock.

December 15, 2020 – The town transferred the development site to Comstock.

April 2022 – Comstock exercised its right in the amended comprehensive agreement to pause construction commencement for up to 24 months due to market conditions or other matters, including delays as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic

(Source: <https://www.herndon-va.gov/departments/communications-economic-development/economic-development/herndon-downtown-redevelopment-project-2869>)



Google at Reston Station



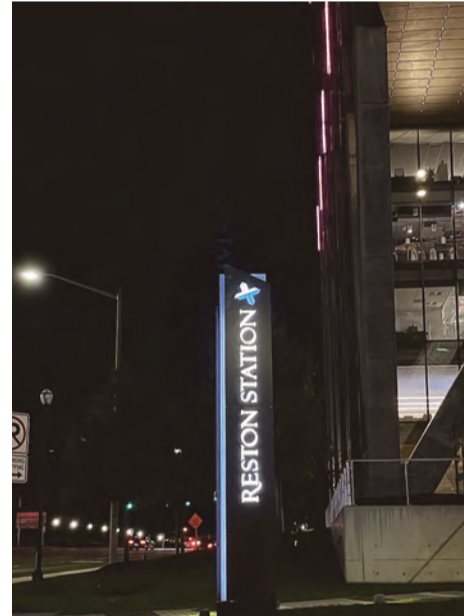
Timothy J. (Tim) Steffan, the chief operating officer of Comstock Companies

type of residential assets" being designed.

He noted the type and availability of retail have altered during the pandemic. Amazon functions as a large-scale retailer that provides product delivery to porches. Retail can be about service, entertainment, and food. It can be groceries, lots of things.

"If we can create an environment that's fully accessible, that is highly multimodal, that addresses the health and wellness needs of the community by way of bike paths, pedestrian experiences, activated areas with events, digitization, landscaping, and recreation, and you can proliferate it, those needs of service, entertainment, and food are met," Steffan said. "You have created something special that not only attracts new people to the area but serves the existing community in a manner that improves their everyday lives, whether walking to and from, (or) driving to and from, health, wellness, food, and entertainment."

Comstock is careful and very specific about the design of its acquired parcels. Steffan said that the customer, stakeholder, traveler, and tenant experiences are expected to be as exceptional as possible. The company knows if there is a parcel available that is continuous to a property they own,



Comstock is developing Reston Station through a public-private partnership. Reston Station is adjacent to the current terminus station of Metro's Silver Line of Phase I extension to Dulles International Airport.

it is probably something they want to control. "The only way you can control that is to control all the physical elements your stakeholder touches," Steffan said.

According to Steffan, Comstock ownership and investors are very much vested in creating and installing art as objects and how they design the hardscape in the common areas. "We look at our common areas as large palettes of art in and of themselves. "Nothing is exciting about a fountain and bunch of limestone and cobblestone," he said. Comstock has to make something different and activate it. They must use other materials to create a palette that makes something completely different.

"That of itself allows and creates a desire for people to come by. That's what they strive to get in everything we're designing ... which is why we use a different architect for every building we use because we want each building to have its own personality."

HISTORIC HERNDON District is to be developed through a public-private partnership between Comstock and the Town of Herndon

When will Comstock have cranes up and shovels in the ground for its downtown Herndon Redevelopment project given Comstock delayed the construction date?

"The market is so unpredictably predictable now," Steffan said. "It's supply chain issues. It's delivery issues. It's a cost of material issues."

"Projects designed four years ago, five years ago, or six years ago have changed dramatically based on costs. Comstock has been talking to all of its project partners and trying to figure out how to get our [Herndon] project off the ground," Steffan said. With every single month that you delay a project, that you wait, the parameters change. And it is not solely cost now."

Steffan says that rental prices had been going in the right direction, but they may have reached the top of their growth. Even though it is helpful, the rise in rent is either equal to or outpaced by the increase in construction material costs. According to Steffan, the increase in material costs is caused by a lack of materials because tradespeople have not returned to work where those materials are made and because of higher fuel prices.

Construction was delayed for a year for the JW Marriott hotel, planned at Comstock's Reston Station and is anticipated to deliver in 2024.



Candidate Sheila Olem serves most recently as mayor since January 1, 2021.



Candidate Sean Regan serves most recently as a councilmember since January 1, 2021.



Candidate Jasbinder Singh serves most recently as a councilmember since January 1, 2021.



Moderator Brian Tumulty



John Boylan, president and CEO of the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce

Candidates for Town of Herndon Mayor Face Off

Critical time for the town.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Sheila Olem, Sean Regan, and Jasbinder Singh, the three candidates running for the two-year term as mayor of the Town of Herndon, took part in a live televised debate on Thursday, Sept. 8, available at Video On Demand at HCTV. Given that the mayor's powers are mainly ceremonial under Virginia Code and the Town Charter, the election takes place while three significant town Land Use and Development Projects have not broken ground.

In addition, constituents are raising concerns about town taxes, traffic, and pedestrian safety, and the council is divided, as the mayor begins public meetings by reminding councilmembers not to interrupt and to speak with respect.

Developer Comstock Herndon Venture LC exercised its right April 2022 "in the amended comprehensive agreement to pause construction commencement for up to 24 months, due to market conditions or other matters, including delays as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic," according to the town's website. Located in the heart of the historic business district, part of the land is currently fenced off.

Two transit-oriented economic developments planned near Herndon Station, part of Phase 2 of the Silver Line Dulles Corridor Metrorail six station projects, are 555 Herndon Parkway and Woodland Park East. They are not out of the ground. At the other yet-to-open Metrorail stations heading west, retail, office, and public space projects are completed, and others are underway.

Brian Tumulty, the moderator, took questions from the audience and the media.

Key Takeaways From the Hour-long Event hosted by the Herndon Chamber of Commerce, part of Dulles Regional Chamber. (Edited for clarity and space.)

Sheila Olem described living in the town for 30 years, its community events, serving on the Hunter Mill and Dulles Toll Road task forces and other groups, and getting to know many individuals involved in decisions in the community.

"As mayor, I know that part of my job is to



Audience at the live broadcast mayoral debate

go out and work with other entities, that we need to interface, those that staff doesn't necessarily have the opportunity, like the Board of Supervisors or the other elected officials or members on the various boards and committees that town councilmembers serve on. By doing our homework and representing the town and the needs, we have brought lots of dollars back to Herndon."

Sean Regan described how he enjoyed serving on the Planning Commission.

"It is the attitude that I will continue as mayor. Working with other people, collaborating, compromising where you have to, refusing to compromise where you can, and trying to create sound policies, reasonable budgets, and good processes for the town. Of the three candidates, I'm in the best position to provide that leadership as mayor. If you think somebody else has it, by all means, go vote for them. If not, I would love to have your support. And I look forward to serving you," he said.

Jasbinder Singh said he wanted to propose initiatives to make the town government and documents more transparent and public.

"In heart and practice, I am a public interest person. ... I care about you. What makes me different is my education in civil engineering, public policy, economics, and federal-level experiences. I worked with law firms all over the country and on large environmental cases. I can guide; I can have interactions. I can deal with state and local officials. I will not give up at all if developers want something free.

cause they didn't have the outdoor property to expand. We are no longer giving away ten parking spaces."

Q: Address pedestrian safety; especially on Elden Street, would you consider a working group?

Regan said he raised his voice maybe three times while serving on the Planning Commission but only during discussions on pedestrian access.

"A residential developer or a property owner didn't want a bike path or a sidewalk complaining about a path to get continuous pedestrian and bicycle access to our town. It's important to me. Elden Street is a challenge. We have many things on the roadside (or on the sidewalks), whether a stop sign, trash can, planter, power pole, or light pole. Individually they have value, but when you put them all out there, you can't fit walking side-by-side."

Q: Would you consider grants or budgeting to complete a pedestrian tunnel under or a bridge over Elden Street?

Singh: "In the downtown, there is an issue. There is a tremendous amount of delay at that point. It would be worthwhile to look at how to solve this problem. How much money would it take? It doesn't matter. I think it will make life much easier for everybody. So, I will propose to take a look at it."

Q: Herndon Downtown Center (Herndon Downtown Redevelopment Project) has been postponed.

Olem: "They (Comstock) pulled the trigger on the agreement that we had worked out with them. There has been a series of unfortunate events that have taken place (delays because of citizen appeals, the pandemic, supply chain, and labor issues). We're moving forward. I know that Comstock is paying for the temporary space for parking. They are paying their taxes. I signed off on the releases in the agreement for the public emergency access on their property. It is moving forward. Our staff meets with them twice a month to get updates on where we are."

Although various topics were covered during the event, others were omitted such as why there is so little affordable housing being built in the town; risk management; the demise of some town co-sponsored or sponsored events; vacant town police and staff positions, and others.

OPINION

The Fairness of Virginia's Income Tax

BY DEL. KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM

The Virginia Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) of which I am a member and former chairman conducts program evaluation, policy analysis, and oversight of state agencies on behalf of the Virginia General Assembly. The staff is non-partisan and carries on its work in a most ethical and professional manner. In addition to providing information to legislators on subjects directed by the Commission to be studied, the staff of nearly thirty economists, researchers, and social scientists provide policy options for legislators to consider in making policy and passing laws. The Commission staff are the experts who provide legislators with unbiased information on which they can base reasoned decisions.

The Commission is often asked to look at the most controversial, politically charged, and complex issues before the legislature. A recent example is the matter of tax policy. Who should pay for the cost of government and in what proportion? What would fair tax policy look like? JLARC staff does not answer these questions but instead provides legislators with an objective look at current policy and with a serious range of options from which the legislators can choose. In the case of the most recent study, the topic was how to make Virginia's individual income tax more progressive.

In simple terms, individual income taxes can be made fairer by reducing taxes of lower income filers, reducing taxes on lower-middle and middle income filers, and/or increasing tax rates for higher income filers. The interest in ensuring the progressivity of the tax system is reflected in the differ-

ences of income among tax filers. The average income of the 20 percent of lowest incomes is about \$5,400 while the top 20 percent averages \$287,000. Brackets are needed to ensure that some level of fairness exists among different levels of income.

An important step Virginia took last year to make the state income tax more progressive was the adoption of an Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) that I and others had been advocating for over many years. The federal tax structure and most states have an EITC that most experts agree is the most effective way to take care of the unfairness of an income tax on low-income taxpayers. An increase in the level of refundability of the Virginia EITC would be helpful to low-income taxpayers.

Alaska, Florida, Nevada, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, and Wyoming do not levy state income taxes, while New Hampshire doesn't tax earned wages. It is important to remember that states with no income tax often make up the lost revenue with other taxes or reduced services. They may have state property taxes or high sales tax rates. Some of these states have greatly underfunded schools or other state services.

The Governor has indicated an interest in getting rid of the income tax in Virginia, but it is important to realize when these seemingly politically popular proposals are made that "there is no free lunch." Good schools, safe neighborhoods, and good roads come at a price. The JLARC options demonstrate that there are opportunities to make our tax system fairer without giving up the features of our state in which we have pride. We have the facts; now we need to make good decisions.

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
reston@connectionnewspapers.com

Mary Kimm
Editor and Publisher
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

Mercia Hobson
Staff Reporter
mhobson@connectionnewspapers.com

Bonnie Hobbs
Community Reporter, 703-778-9415
bhobbs@connectionnewspapers.com

Ken Moore
Contributing Writer
kmoore@connectionnewspapers.com

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
sales@connectionnewspapers.com
703-778-9431

Debbie Funk
Display Advertising/National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin
Marketing Assistant
703-778-9431
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Classified & Employment
Advertising
703-778-9431

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

Publisher
Jerry Vernon
703-549-0004
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

In Memoriam
Managing Editor
Kemal Kurspahic

Art/Design:
Laurence Foong
Production Manager:
Geovani Flores

CIRCULATION
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com



Starry Nights

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Centreville's American Legion Post 1995: From left are Vice Cmdr. Chris Torelli, Post Cmdr. Jim Robison, Chaplain Al Schenck and District Cmdr. Steve Hunter.



Centreville & Chantilly Rotary Club members (from left) Sarah John, Donna Smith and Diane Hill.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



Daniela Choi, 4, and brother Leo, 2, with cotton candy and flowers at Centreville Day.

Meet Centreville's Citizen, Business of the Year

Peterson, Keener feted at annual festival.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Each Centreville Day, the Centreville Day Planning Committee honors a citizen and businessperson of the year for their contributions to the community. And during this year's festival, the 30th annual, it recognized Celeste Peterson as Citizen of the Year and Charles Keener as Business Citizen of the Year.

Supervisor Kathy Smith (D-Sully) presented both awards during the opening ceremony. She first noted how, some 20 years ago, Peterson developed STEM activities for afterschool programs for middle-school girls. "As a regular volunteer in middle schools throughout Fairfax County, Celeste became a vibrant role model for girls interested in math and science careers," said Smith.

"She then created the Erin Peterson Fund, honoring her daughter Erin, who was among the victims of the Virginia Tech tragedy in 2007," continued Smith. "To date, more than \$260,000 in scholarships and grants have been awarded to area students.

"Celeste also mentors students at Westfield High and Stone Middle School and provides coats for children through her Koats for Kids program at Centreville Elementary. Responding to the pandemic, the Erin Peterson Fund created the Fuel Station food pantry at Westfield High. Celeste also provided snacks for the residents of Forest Glen Senior Apartments.

"She's being recognized today for her long-time contributions to our community. It's a small recognition, compared to her monumental efforts to support our families and neighbors throughout Northern Virginia." Receiving her award, Peterson said, "My daughter wanted to help people, so she left a clear compass for my husband and I to do when she was gone. She wanted to work for a nonprofit. And my dealing with kids, every day, plants seeds so they have more options in their lives. I'm honored and humbled, and I thank you."

Smith next explained Keener's selection. Since 1973, she said, the Keener family – headed by the late Dale Keener – and Keener Insurance Agency have been an integral part of the Centreville community.

"When the need was identified, the Keener family offered space in their office building to house a fledgling, local food bank that has since become the extraordinary Western Fairfax Christian Ministries [WFCM]," said Smith. "In fact, the family home is one of the last-surviving, original homes on Stone Road.

"[Dale's son] Charles Keener, now runs the business and continues the legacy of community service as a steadfast supporter of WFCM and a leader in the Rotary Club of Centreville & Chantilly. He's also contributed many years to WFCM's annual, [fundraising] golf tournament. The altruistic efforts of this



Celeste Peterson: Citizen of the Year



Charles Keener: Business Citizen of the Year



From left are Del. David Bulova (D-37th), Ted McCord and Sully Supervisor Kathy Smith.

family business, Keener Insurance, for nearly 50 years, are appreciated with this modest recognition of their outstanding work to support families and colleagues throughout Northern Virginia."

A 1992 graduate of Centreville High – the school's first, four-year graduating class – Keener was pleased to accept the award. Afterward, he said, "I'm humbled by this recognition – it's really my father's work they're honoring. I'm just happy to help WFCM whenever I can. I'm honored and blessed to continue my father's legacy."

* Also feted at Centreville Day was Ted McCord, who recently retired from his position as a professor in GMU's history department. He also moved out of Mount Gilead,

his home for the past 27 years in Historic Centreville Park, where Centreville Day is celebrated.

A former tavern, Mount Gilead was built in 1785, and McCord was its resident caretaker. "But he was also much more," said Smith. "He investigated its history, hosted descendants of its residents and even helped conduct an archaeological investigation on the premises.

"Most importantly, Ted has been essential to keeping Mount Gilead a living part of Centreville by graciously opening his home on Centreville Day, and on many other occasions, for groups interested in a tour. And today, we recognize his lifetime of contributions to local history."

Music, Games, a Parade and Festival Fun

Centreville Day was Saturday, Oct. 15.



Boy Scout Troop 30 was the day's official Color Guard.



Girl Scouts marching in the parade.



Cub Scout Pack 2525 waving American flags.



Centreville Dance Theatre students.



Daisy Scouts on parade.



The Liz Deal Trio performing onstage.

REUNION



Sean Hartford is congratulated by Jim Fitzgerald after winning a playoff in golf tournament



In Memory: Chantilly Class of 1987 had a table in memory of lost classmates: Mark Blazek, Duane Bowen, Chris Brown, Jeremy Caudill, Ashley Cole, Allan Crawford, Sean Daly, Dawn Dunlap, Kelly Mattaloni, Lorrie Nelson, Dan Stanton

Enjoying 35th High School Reunion

BY WILL PILANSCAR

The Chantilly Class of 1987 held their 35th high school reunion on September 9th at Rockwood Restaurant and Bar and September 10th at the Stonewall Golf Club both located in Gainesville, VA. Approximately 585 graduated from the Class of 1987. Two nights of dancing to 80s music, reminiscing about old times and great food, and a golf tournament on Saturday in which 32 people competed. The Class of 1987 would like to thank the effort the reunion committee put out for a wonderful 35th reunion. A table was set aside in memory of 11 classmates with their names and pictures.

PHOTOS BY WILL PALENSCAR



Chantilly Class of 1987 at Stonewall Golf Club



The Reunion Committee - Tracy Slover, Amy Wheatley Hardt, Natalie Poe, Bob King, Karen Wirz, Sara Dierdorf, Cindy Mathis Raba, Kelly Heyl Schmall, Jill Messier Zajdel, Amy Fendley Fitzpatrick, Stephanie King German



Class of 1987 at Rockwood in Gainesville, VA

FOOTBALL



Westfield QB Matthew Jenks secures the football and puts the Bulldogs in front 7-0 with a short touchdown run



Rob Keys #9 and his Westfield teammates celebrate his pick 6 touchdown in the endzone.



The Westfield High School Dance Team performs at halftime of their homecoming game with Oakton

Westfield Bulldogs over Oakton Cougars 48-14

By WILL PALENCAR
THE CONNECTION

The Westfield Bulldogs defeated the Oakton Cougars 48-14, in Chantilly on Friday night in Chantilly. The Bulldogs opened by scoring two first quarter touchdowns. The first came with 9:24 in the quarter when QB Matthew Jenks ran in for a short run. Leading 7-0, Rob Keys would intercept Oakton QB Liden Krush for a pick-6 and after a successful extra point Westfield was up 14-0.

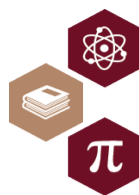
Oakton would manage to get on the scoreboard with less than a half a minute to play in the open-

ing quarter when Liden Krush would find Noah Toole for a 15 yard touchdown reception. However, the Bulldogs would not allow the Cougars to get any closer than 14-7 on their homecoming night. With a balanced attack on both defense and offense. Jahmari Nelson and Kennedy Duda would run for scores while Connor Morin and Landon Murphy scored on touchdown receptions.

With the 48-14 win Westfield improves to (6-1)(2-0) and Oakton falls to (2-5)(0-2). Oakton will face Chantilly on Friday at home, while Westfield will travel to Vienna to take on Madison.

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NOW THRU 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.

OCT. 21-23
Great Falls Studios Art Tour. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Great Falls Studios represents independent artists in Great Falls; including the 14 artists who rent studio space at The Arts of Great Falls two shared art studios: (1) The Artists' Atelier with 9 artists and (2) The Artists' Loft with 5 artists. This year marks the 19th Annual Great Falls Studios Art Tour from Friday October 21-Sunday October 23, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. each day. Visit <https://greatfall-sart.org/>

OCT. 21 - NOV. 13
"Frankenstein." At NextStop Theatre Company, 269 Sunset Park Dr., Herndon. By Nick Dear, adapted from the novel by Mary Shelley. Celebrate Halloween season with this thrilling stage adaptation of Mary Shelley's science fiction masterpiece. Enter the dark world of Victor Frankenstein, as he attempts to decipher the secret of life by creating a childlike, but grotesque shadow of a human. Recommended for mature audiences. Visit www.nextstoptheatre.org

OCT. 21-NOV 5
"Doubt: A Parable." 8 p.m. on Oct. 21, 22, 28, 29; Nov 4, 5; and 2 p.m.: Sundays: Oct 30, Nov 6. At Vienna Community Center: 120 Cherry S. SE, Vienna. "Doubt: A Parable," a play by John Patrick Shanley, analyzes an instance of doubt and



The Vienna Theatre Company will present "Doubt: A Parable" Oct. 21-Nov. 5 in Vienna.



The Peking Acrobats will appear at The Alden Theater in McLean on Sunday, Oct. 23.

suspicion in a Catholic school in the Bronx in the 1960s. The play tells the story of principal Sister Aloysius's suspicions about an inappropriate relationship between a priest and a young male student. Visit the website: www.viennatheatrecompany.org

SATURDAY/OCT 22

Food Drive for LINK Against Hunger. 10 a.m. to noon. At ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. Sponsored by the Herndon-Reston Rotary. Drive up and they will unload your car and take the items to the food pantry and shelter. Needed Items: Diapers in all sizes, especially size 6; Shelf Stable Food (canned soups, rice, legumes, pasta, pasta sauce, canned fruits and vegetables (except green beans); Shelf stable veggies and fruits such as apples, onions, potatoes, etc.; Sanitary napkins, disposable razors, shampoo, deodorant, soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes, toilet paper, cleaning products. Cash and gifts cards (Giant, Target) always accepted.

SATURDAY/OCT. 22

Harvest Time. 12-3 p.m. At Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Spend a day in the 1800s and explore how local crops were turned into food. Once the farmers harvested their crops, they sold their grain to the miller. Run the sheller and help remove the corn from the cobs. Then, watch as the 20-foot water wheel powers the historic Colvin Run Mill, grinding corn into grits and cornmeal. See the Colvin Run still and learn

how corn was also made into whiskey. Call 703-759-2771.

SUNDAY/OCT. 23

The Peking Acrobats. 2 p.m. At The Alden at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. For the last 32 years, The Peking Acrobats have redefined audience perceptions of Chinese acrobatics. They perform daring maneuvers atop a precarious pagoda of chairs and display their technical prowess at such arts as trick-cycling, precision tumbling, juggling, somersaulting and gymnastics. They push the limits of human ability, defying gravity with amazing displays of contortion, flexibility and control.

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

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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.

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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 and both made our survival possible. We now await 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.

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Twinkle Lourie. A Sad Tail.



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

May she rest in peace. Our 10-year-old, white domestic short haired cat was euthanized on Thurs., Sept 29. A month or so prior, after not eating for a few days, we took her to the emergency veterinarian near our home. (As you may or may not know, it's nearly impossible to get a time-sensitive appointment with a veterinarian. They're all either too busy or short-staffed and moreover, many are not even taking new clients. And this often applies to the emergency veterinarians as well.) And so, it was for Twinkle. Fortunately, we were existing clients. Otherwise, we would have been turned away, as the sign posted on their day informed, referring us to other emergency veterinary practices, all of which were hours away and who were totally unfamiliar to us and with our animals. Twinkle was admitted that first day and the evaluating process began. A few days and a few thousand dollars later, we received the very distressing news: cancer. Twinkle had a tumor near her heart. Her prognosis was not very encouraging.

Nevertheless, we took her home and for the next week or so and followed the pill regimen as directed. For a few days, there was marginal improvement, but soon thereafter, Twinkle reverted to her non-eating ways, even though she was on an appetite stimulant and was receiving steroids as well to treat her tumor. (Steroids have a side effect of increasing appetite.) If this combination didn't cause Twinkle to improve/eat, we were advised that Twinkle's survival was very much in doubt and perhaps we might be considering her quality of life at that point. We couldn't believe what we were hearing. It all happened so fast, and so unexpectedly. The three of us returned home and then began to organize and plan for Twinkle's next week – or less.

After another few days of Twinkle's continued decline at home despite following doctor's orders – and then another interim visit to the emergency vet. for a B-12 shot (to try again to boost her responses which ended up not helping), we decided that this situation/deterioration wasn't fair to Twinkle and so we made the difficult decision to end her suffering. I spent the last few hours of her life lying in bed with her reassuring and comforting her as best I could. Eventually, Dina came upstairs and suggested that it was probably time to go; that the waiting was too difficult, and that somehow, we needed to move forward, for all our benefits, especially Twinkle's.

We called ahead to the emergency veterinarian to let them know our decision and that we were on our way and that we lived five minutes away. Sure enough, they were ready for our arrival and quickly escorted all of us into an examining room. The vet. was kind and caring and couldn't have been nicer as she explained the process to us. Dina and I both held Twinkle as the vet injected the two medicines that would gently put her to sleep and ultimately end her life. When it was over, the vet. asked if we'd like some time alone with Twinkle, which of course we said we would. After we got our bearings and the vet. returned, she took Twinkle away to "prepare" her. At that point, we went back out to the waiting room, sat down, and waited to take Twinkle home.

Within 15 minutes or so, the vet. came out carrying a cardboard box – with Twinkle inside. It had her name on it and some pretty artwork as well. We took her home and kept her in the house that first night. We didn't want to leave her alone outside or in the car. We wanted her to spend her last night in the house with us. During that night, we decided when and where to bury her.

Twinkle was buried the next day on our property, "Beliacres" next to her two older siblings, Biscuit and "Chino" who preceded her in death. They're all buried close to the house so we can visit them often, which we do. Their graves are marked with stones. I miss Twinkle terribly. She had bonded with me alone as white cats do, according to an article Dina had read; and soon we were inseparable; during the day in my home office and at night, in bed. She was my cat, just as "Chino" (her brother) had been.

The last three weeks have been difficult for me. I feel cheated by her premature death. The loss is palpable. Something (Twinkle) is most definitely missing from my life.

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

DEDICATION

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



Dolores Rooney (seated, on left) is surrounded by her grandchildren. Standing, from left, are Christine Rooney, Victoria Rooney, Jack Rooney, Megan Rooney, Emma Rooney, Connor Murphy and Seanan Rooney Aubouin; seated, on right is Katie Rooney.



From left, Peggy Bier and Dolores Rooney sit together on the bench, with Rooney's family gathered around them.

Bench and Accolades for Avid Gardener

Garden club dedicates park bench to Dolores Rooney.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Born Nov. 8, 1925, Dolores Rooney will be 97 in less than a month. But she looks way younger, is an avid, respected gardener and is still active in the local garden club she founded. And members of that club recently dedicated a bench in her honor in Chantilly's Ellanor C Lawrence Park.

"Dolores founded the Centreville Garden Club in 2007 and served as its first president for four years," said its current president, Theresa DeFluri. "She taught us floral design and gave classes on anything we wanted to know. We are so grateful for Dolores's dedication to horticulture and for her vision in creating the Centreville Garden Club."

Some three-dozen people – including friends, garden club members and 14 members of Rooney's family – gathered Sept. 19 for an early evening ceremony paying homage to her. It was a casual, lighthearted event, filled with laughter, reminiscences and joy – as well as a homemade buffet featuring a special cake, plus cupcakes decorated like sunflowers.

A few people addressed the crowd, and then Kathleen Whitman, a member since 2008, led a toast to Rooney. "She's such a wonderful spirit," said Whitman. "She really inspired me to slow down and enjoy the outdoors."

Centreville Garden Club continues to thrive and bring in new members. Its community service includes caring for the gardens at Centreville Regional Library and supporting Manor Care nursing home with floral arrangements during the holidays.

The Centreville club belongs to District III of the National Capital Area Garden Club (NCAGC), and Rooney served as the



Dolores Rooney on her bench after the dedication ceremony.

NCAGC's District III Director. (In fact, current NCAGC President Arlene Stewart attended the bench-dedication ceremony).

Rooney worked many years with both silk flowers and fresh arrangements in the floral department of Merrifield Garden Center. And she's a highly qualified and well-respected Floral Judge Emeritus, having judged numerous shows for the Chrysanthemum Society and the Rose Society.

She also judged floral competitions for the Rocky Run Garden Club, which still meets at Cabell's Mill in E.C. Lawrence Park. And Ellanor Lawrence, the park's namesake, was one of that club's charter members.

So it's only fitting, said DeFluri, that "We have the bench facing the mill where Dolores used to judge floral designs for the Rocky Run Garden Club. And the area around it will eventually be a garden."

The dark-green bench is in harmony with its leafy surroundings in the park. And it bears a plaque reading, "In honor of Dolores Rooney, 2007 founder of the Centreville

Garden Club; Floral Judge Emeritus."

Delighted with this recognition of her many accomplishments in the realm of gardening and for the Centreville club in particular, Rooney said, "I'm astounded; I just can't believe what you've all done. I really appreciate it."

"It's done my heart wonderfully to see people come from different places, work together and become friends [through this garden club]," she continued. "Friends are like flowers, and when you see [the individual] flowers in your garden, you remember who gave them to you. Thank you so much."

Donna Heid, a 10-year member and past president of the Centreville Garden Club, was happy to be among those attending the ceremony. "Dolores has always been so kind and generous, sharing her knowledge with us," said Heid. "And she invited us to her home in March for our Dig & Divide event, where we share plants with each other. I think this bench is wonderful and such a great tribute to her – we all love her dearly."

DeFluri worked at E.C. Lawrence Park for many years, so she knew about Rooney's expertise in gardening. Then in 2007, she learned that Rooney was starting a garden club. "Dolores first put up a sign in Ace Hardware, plus an interest notice in Centre View, to see if anyone wanted to join," said DeFluri. "I joined in 2007-08."

Noting that she has a Sheffield daisy from Rooney in her yard, DeFluri said, "She's been such a leader for the garden club and is still active and participating – which is so inspiring. Dolores had us for tea, this spring, and she still gardens in her yard. We had a plant sale in early May, in front of the Stone Road Giant [in Centreville], and she worked at it in the pouring rain."

Also pleased for Rooney was club member Trudy Harsh. "I think it's wonderful," she said. "It's also appropriate because a bench is a place to rest in nature and appreciate the outdoors, which she loves. Dolores is a very giving person, and her knowledge of gardening is overwhelming. She gives us information that makes it even more fun."

However, perhaps the person most overjoyed with Rooney's recognition was her longtime buddy, Peggy Bier, who works at the Merrifield Garden Center in Fair Oaks. "I think she deserves that and a whole lot more," said Bier. "Dolores and I have been friends and garden clubbers for 56 years, and she's one fantastic lady. We had our families together, gardened together and did all the flower shows together."

Rooney's a longtime resident of both Vienna and Centreville. Her husband is no longer alive, but some 14 members of her family came to the dedication. "It's really special that the Centreville Garden Club has chosen to honor her in this way," said granddaughter Megan Rooney, a 2004 Westfield High grad. "As our grandmother, she's always making beautiful flower arrangements. And she taught us about gardening and gives us baby plants from her plants. So it's really sweet that this bench will be here as a tribute to her."