

# THE CONNECTION

CENTREVIEW ❖ Chantilly ❖ Great Falls ❖ Herndon ❖ McLean ❖ Oak Hill ❖ Oakton ❖ Reston ❖ Vienna

## Trunk or Treat!

PAGE 8

Posing in costume are (from left) Nicolas Harris, 5; Ben Roth, 5; Miriam Roth, 3; Benjamin Wollek, 5; and Margaux Wollek, 5.



### Cornerstones of Community

PAGE 3

### Volunteers Make The County Work

PAGE 4

### CANDIDATE CONNECTION General Assembly

PAGES 10, 11, 12, 13, 14

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NOVEMBER 1-7, 2023

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Delegate Irene Shin; Senator Jennifer Boysko; Fairfax School Board Member Karen Keys-Gamarra; Herndon Mayor Sheila Olem.



Senator Janet Howell; Kerrie Wilson, Cornerstones CEO; Supervisor John Foust; Delegate Ken Plum; Roberta Gosling, Chair, Cornerstones Board of Directors.

# ‘Cornerstones of Community’ Honored

## Cornerstones Honored Three Retiring Elected Officials on October 26th

“Cornerstones of Our Community” were the focus at the Hyatt Regency Reston Oct. 26, celebrating Cornerstones’ work, impact and future projects. The event also honored special individuals for their extraordinary service to the community.

Individuals honored were Senator Janet Howell, Delegate Ken Plum, and Supervisor John Foust, all retiring this year. Each of them has devoted their time in public service to address affordable housing, food sufficiency and thriving children, youth and families in the community, dovetailing with Cornerstones’ mission to promote self-sufficiency by providing support and advocacy for those in need of food, shelter, affordable housing, quality childcare and other human services.

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly spoke about the unsung work taking place in the community to provide affordable housing and other services to those in need. He recognized the work of Howell, Plum and Foust as well as Cornerstones in pushing forward.

Between the three retiring public servants, they have dedicated more than 100 years of public service to the community, noted Kerrie Wilson, Chief Executive Officer of Cornerstones. “We are really appreciative of the collaboration that we’ve been able to see with our public servants, with our volunteers, with our religious organizations. To me personally, it is incredibly meaningful that we can come together and solve really important problems in our community. All of you in this room have made that possible.”

“Ken, Janet, John, you have taught us if there’s one thing that we should do — that there’s a path for everyone who wants to learn and advance and an imperative that every child should succeed. And thank you so much for your service, we will miss you,” said Wilson.

Over the last couple of years, Cornerstones has seen hundreds of families and people rehoused, moved from the streets into affordable housing. The nonprofit has also provided hundreds of thousands of pounds of food and toiletries over the last couple of years. Wilson expressed pride in



Amanda Andere, Funders Together to End Homelessness; Rudy DeKrooj, MainStreet Bank; Kurt Rose, Aspen Jewelers; Bebe Nguyen, Reston Community Center; Mark Ingrao, Dulles Chamber of Commerce; Deb Allen, Cornerstones Board Member; Tracey White, HCA Virginia; Tara Kohler, CORE Foundation; Juliana Carter, Tailored Living and Premiere Garage; Larry Schwartz, - Cornerstones Board Member; Andy Lacher, Cornerstones Board Member; and Charles Kapur, Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce.

the Laurel Learning Center, which provides childcare, pre-school, summer programs and before and after school care through 6th grade to families who qualify.

Wilson also shared information about af-

fordable housing partnerships and strategic initiatives underway: Fair Ridge at West Ox and Residences at Government Center, both

SEE CORNERSTONES, PAGE 15

# Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week, Nov. 11-18

## Both hunger and homelessness are on the rise.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

The National Coalition for the Homeless and the National Student Campaign Against Hunger designate the week before Thanksgiving as National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. And while you might think that’s not really needed here in one of the nation’s wealthiest counties, you would be wrong.

At Oct. 10’s Fairfax County Board of Supervisors meeting, John W. Foust (Dranesville) along with Chairman Jeff McKay, [WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

Supervisor Dalia Palchik (Providence), and Supervisor Walter Alcorn (Hunter Mill) reminded county residents of the upcoming Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week.

“As we approach Thanksgiving and other winter holidays, many families around Fairfax County and across the country will gather and celebrate with their loved ones. Unfortunately, there are those who will not be able to share the pleasures of this joyful season due to the realities of food insecurity and homelessness,” Foust said. He added that despite significant efforts by the county and numerous nonprofits and faith-based

organizations, many county residents do not have adequate food resources.

Foust cited numbers by Feeding America, the largest hunger relief organization in the United States, which has produced estimates for Fairfax County. Their map, the Meal Gap Report, estimated that in 2021, over 60,000 people in the Fairfax County faced food insecurity.

Similarly, according to Foust, Fairfax County has not avoided the humanitarian challenges caused by homelessness every year. The Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness partners with several nonprofits to conduct a Point-in-Time Count of those experiencing homelessness throughout the county.

The January 2023 count reported a 10 percent increase in the overall number of people experiencing homelessness compared to the past year. “An extremely distressing finding of that was the count showed that the number of people and families with children experiencing homelessness increased by 33 percent,” Foust said.

Helping community members in greatest need of food and housing assistance necessitates a comprehensive and compassionate approach involving collaboration between government agencies, nonprofit and faith-based organizations, and individual community members.

SEE HUNGER & HOMELESSNESS, PAGE 15  
THE CONNECTION ♦ NOVEMBER 1-7, 2023 ♦ 3

# VOLUNTEERING



PHOTO BY MIKE MIXON

Clean-up Day Supervisor Anthony Leon (3rd from right) and nine of the 13 volunteers who supported the Towers Park clean-up. A wonderful community-minded group of thirteen volunteers—parents, children, adults, and students earning service hours, joined Clean-up Day under the direction of Anthony Leon, supervisor. They collected litter, filling over 25 bags in total from Towers Park. The bags in the photo represent less than half of those retrieved on this clean-up day. Towers Park is located at 9350 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax.

## VolunteerFest 2023

Much good in a single day.

COMPILED BY MERCIA HOBSON

The 2023 VolunteerFest, the signature event of Volunteer Fairfax, took place on Saturday, Oct. 21, and drew an impressive turnout of more than 400 dedicated volunteers completing 26 projects with community support. The event showcased a diverse range of projects aimed at assisting various local nonprofit partners. The volunteers contributed their time and efforts, from grounds beautification and litter collection to food collection, packing, distribution, card making, and care projects.

Volunteers participated in-person and extended

support from their homes. Their efforts were directed toward fulfilling the donation requirements of various nonprofit partners. One such initiative involved making homemade dog treats for the Homeward Trails Adoption Center in Fairfax Station.

VolunteerFest seeks to introduce volunteers to local nonprofits and their work and to unite as a community to support the work of local organizations and government agencies working to make a difference each day. Volunteer Fairfax extends a special thank you to AT&T, its presenting supporter, and M&T Bank, the silver supporter, for their generous contributions to VolunteerFest. See additional photos in Volunteer Fairfax's Facebook album at <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=728332105995299&set=a.728340042661172>.



PHOTO BY TINA LUEBKE, VOLUNTEER FAIRFAX

Ellen Perkin from Homeward Trails Adoption Center collects homemade dog treats as volunteers like Quinn drop them off.



PHOTO BY JENNIFER WILLIAMSON, CEO VOLUNTEER FAIRFAX

Kurt Moser, president of the Four Mile Run Conservancy, helps volunteers get into kayaks for a river clean-up project as part of VolunteerFest on Saturday, Oct. 21, 2023.



PHOTO BY HOLLIE GORDON, COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT FOR VOLUNTEER FAIRFAX

Volunteers (from left) Addie and her mom, Cathy Pollack, pack food packs at United Methodist Church for the U.S. Hunger project.



PHOTO BY HOLLIE GORDON, COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT FOR VOLUNTEER FAIRFAX

Volunteers (from left) Bob Jacobs and Tony Almond serve lentil and rice soup to volunteers after the food packing project at United Methodist Church on Saturday



PHOTO BY HOLLIE GORDON, COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT FOR VOLUNTEER FAIRFAX

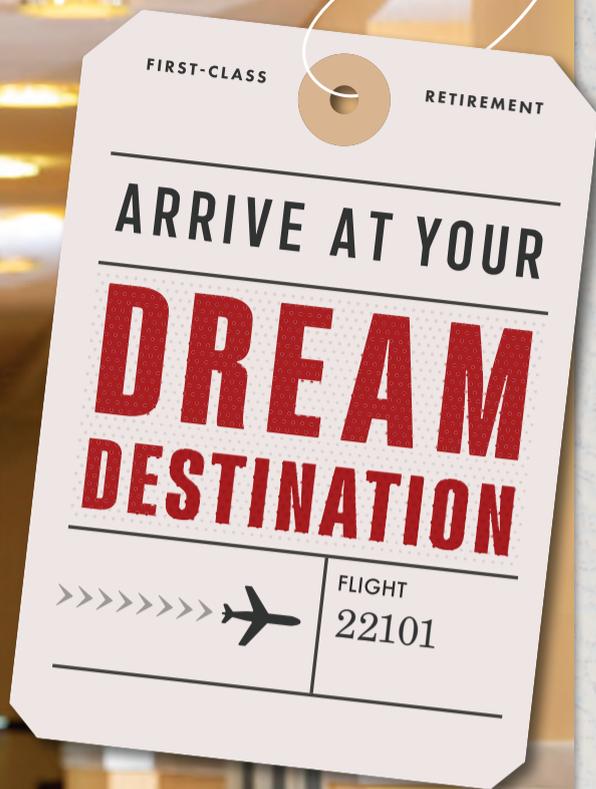
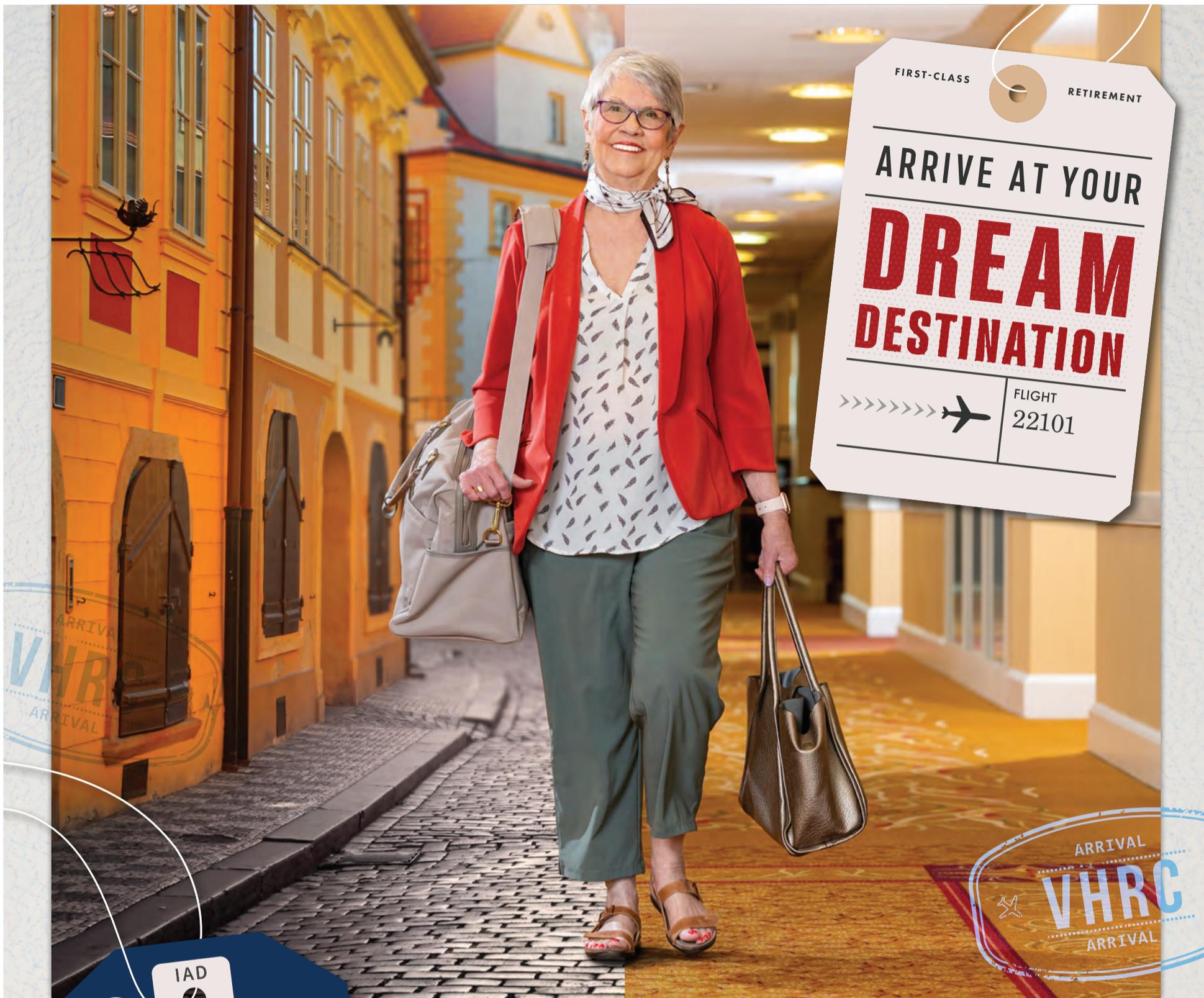
Volunteers at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park remove invasive plants to protect native species. John Callow, natural resource manager at the park, led the volunteers.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Jennifer Williamson, CEO of Volunteer Fairfax, and Deborah March, educator at John R. Lewis High School, support an art initiative community project at the school on Saturday as part of VolunteerFest

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# LOOK Dine-In Cinemas Opens in Reston

A different cinema experience.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

Come for any or all: what's on the big screen, the restaurant food and drinks, or to chill for a bit and enjoy the view from the balcony overlooking Market Street. On Nov. 2, LOOK Dine-in Cinema opens in the fully renovated location of the previous theater at 11940 Market Street, Reston Town Center. LOOK functions and appears unlike any other movie theater in the area. The Connection engaged in a pre-opening tour and one-on-one discussion with LOOK's chief marketing officer, James Meredith. Content may be lightly edited for clarity and space.

**Q: So, what exactly is this? More than just movies?**

James Meredith: The theater is really for the community to come together. So, it's movies of all genres, sports, concerts, and events, corporate team building with PowerPoint presentations on the big screen, and even satellite projection across the country.

Paw Patrol, a family film, is playing this weekend. Disney's Wish is coming up, and Trolls will be really big. But we also show a lot of art independent films, such as Killers of the Flower Moon, by Martin Scorsese, that everyone has been raving about. But then we also geared towards your 20- and 30-somethings, think Five Nights at Freddy's that generated \$78 million in revenue over the weekend.

The best way to consider the content is that there is something for everyone, including concerts. Taylor Swift's concert, for example, is currently very popular. Depending on the community, we'll be showing a variety of gaming and sporting events, ranging from MMA (mixed martial arts) and UFC (United Fighting Championship) fighting and boxing to soccer and football on the big screen

**Q: Patrons have the option of dining here, correct? Like a restaurant?**

Meredith: I think the big focus is dining. What we found when we did our research before we started the company was that people coming out of the pandemic could get everything in one place.

You can come here to watch a



LOOK's chief marketing officer, James Meredith, stands on the outdoor patio.



The bar area.

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION



Family fun at LOOK Dine-In Cinemas.



The big screen.

great movie, but you can also have dinner or lunch. We have a full bar with craft cocktails, beer, and wine. People love the idea of sitting in one of our reclining seats and then ordering directly from their phones. Our ninja waiters, dressed in black, sneak right in and deliver your food to you. If you're halfway through the movie and decide you'd like another glass of wine, you can order it right from your phone, and we'll bring it to you.

**Q: Assume a four-person family arrives. What is the average cost of a meal, a drink, and a ticket?**

Meredith: It will be similar to, say, a restaurant. If you decide to order one of our ahi tuna bowls or salads, the price will be the same as it would be at any other restaurant. Popcorn and drinks are cheaper.

**Q: Another point to mention is the technology here, correct?**

Meredith: Many auditoriums have recliner seats and even USB ports where you can plug your phone in to charge it while you watch the

movie. But, in terms of technology, it's the presentations; you can get completely immersed in the picture on large screens. It's the best way to watch a big action-packed movie like Napoleon, Captain Marvel, or something similar; it's designed to draw you into the story.

**Q: What should local corporations, those wanting a private rental venue, such as film artists debuting their productions?**

Meredith: All they have to do is bring us their laptop for their PowerPoint, and we'll put it up on the screen for them. If they're doing AV spotlights, that's not an issue, either. we can handle it.

**Q: What other factors distinguish LOOK from other cinemas?**

Meredith: We've discovered that it's not uncommon for people to have a drink or eat something even if they don't see a movie. People will come down for a drink. Reston LOOK has an upper-level patio with a view of Market Street. When the weather turns cold, we'll install heaters.



Chris, the mixologist, serves a smokey one.

# Parking-Spot Dispute Leads to Shooting

Fairfax County police are investigating a non-fatal shooting that happened in Centreville last Thursday, Oct. 26, in The Meadows community. The incident left two men hospitalized for treatment of gunshot wounds. Preliminarily, detectives determined both men were in the parking lot arguing over a parking spot, prior to the shooting. Two firearms were found at the scene.

Officers from the Sully District Station responded just before 11 p.m. to the 14000 block of Golden Oak Road. They say a caller reported that her boyfriend had been shot near the entrance of their home. A second caller reported that another man was also shot and was lying outside.

When officers arrived, they found one man in his kitchen and another lying in his foyer, several townhouses down. Police provided aid for their wounds until fire and rescue personnel arrived and transported them to the hospital.

At this time, no charges have been placed, while the investigation continues. Anyone with information regarding this shooting is asked to call the Major Crimes Bureau at 703-246-7800, option 5. Tips may also be submitted anonymously via Crime Solvers by phoning 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477) or going to <http://www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org/>.

— BONNIE HOBBS

## Learn about Fairfax County's Public Safety

Fairfax County's Deputy County Executive of Safety and Security, Tom Arnold, will provide a detailed discussion on the missions and responsibilities of the county's public-safety agencies and their community connectivity. He'll do so via a webinar presented by the county's Communities of Trust, this Wednesday, Nov. 1, from 7-8:30 p.m. Register in advance at <http://bit.ly/ffxcopublicsafety23>.

## Women Can Join Self-Defense Classes

Registration is now open for the Fairfax County Police Department's November self-defense classes for women. They'll be held Nov. 7, 9, 14 and 16, from 6:30-9:30 p.m., at the county Criminal Justice Academy in Chantilly, and participants must attend all four nights.

Women will learn essential crime-prevention and personal-safety information followed by hands-on, self-defense practice. Classes are free, but registration is required at <https://bit.ly/3S3vjMc>. If the classes are full, keep checking the link, in case someone cancels. Participants ages 13-17 must be accompanied by a registered parent/guardian.

## Car Seat Inspections, Nov. 9

Parents may get their children's car seats inspected on Thursday, Nov. 9, from 5-8:30 p.m., outside the Sully District Police Station. It's at 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. Inspections are done on a first-come, first-served basis. Participants should install the child safety seat themselves, so the inspection can be performed. The seat will be properly re-installed, if necessary, and parents will be taught how to install the seat properly, in the future. Everyone is eligible. Another car-seat inspection is scheduled for Dec. 14, at the same place and time.

## Two Wild Animals in Centreville Have Rabies

The Fairfax County Health Department has identified a rabid raccoon and a rabid skunk in residential areas near Pleasant Valley Road, north of Route 29, in Centreville. Residents in the Centreville/Bull Run area are advised to steer clear of wild animals and report any animal attacks to the Health Department's Rabies Program at 703-246-2433, TTY 711. Anyone who may have come into contact with any wild animals between Sept. 19 and Oct. 14 are also encouraged to call this number.

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# HALLOWEEN

## Costumes, Cruisers and Candy at Trunk-or-Treat

Fairfax County police held their fourth annual Halloween Trunk or Treat at the county Government Center

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



From left, parents Homam and Yasmeen Sanjakdar with Jude, 3, and Keira, 10 months.



Posing in costume are (from left) Nicolas Harris, 5; Ben Roth, 5; Miriam Roth, 3; Benjamin Wollek, 5; and Margaux Wollek, 5.



Cristian Orellana, 6, as Spider-Man.



Handing out candy are Fairfax County 911 (DPSC) dispatchers (from left) Kirsten Chandler, Michelle Anderson and Austyn Ries.



Baby sharks Logan Nolan and son Jackson, 1-1/2.



Savannah Harris, 7, in her skeleton costume.



The Barbie-themed display of these Franconia police officers was a big hit.



Reston Police MPO Dean Rocco and Sgt. Michelle Pastora with their spooky trunk.



Fairfax County Animal Protection Police (from left) Samantha Duvall, Tony Landa and Dana Grimm chose a haunted-circus theme.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



From left are Neighborhood Patrol members Lt. Scott Reynolds, PFC Avery Brunk and PFC Tom Rubinstein, with PFC Mike Williams and MPO Scott Richards, all of the Sully District Station.



Vicky Carroll of K-9 Caring Angels therapy dogs passes out candy.

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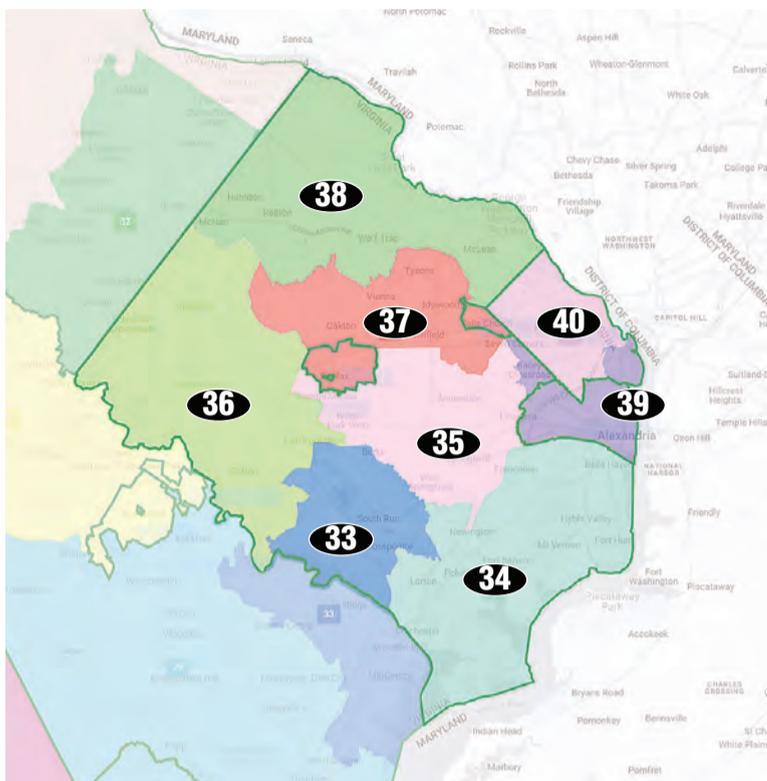
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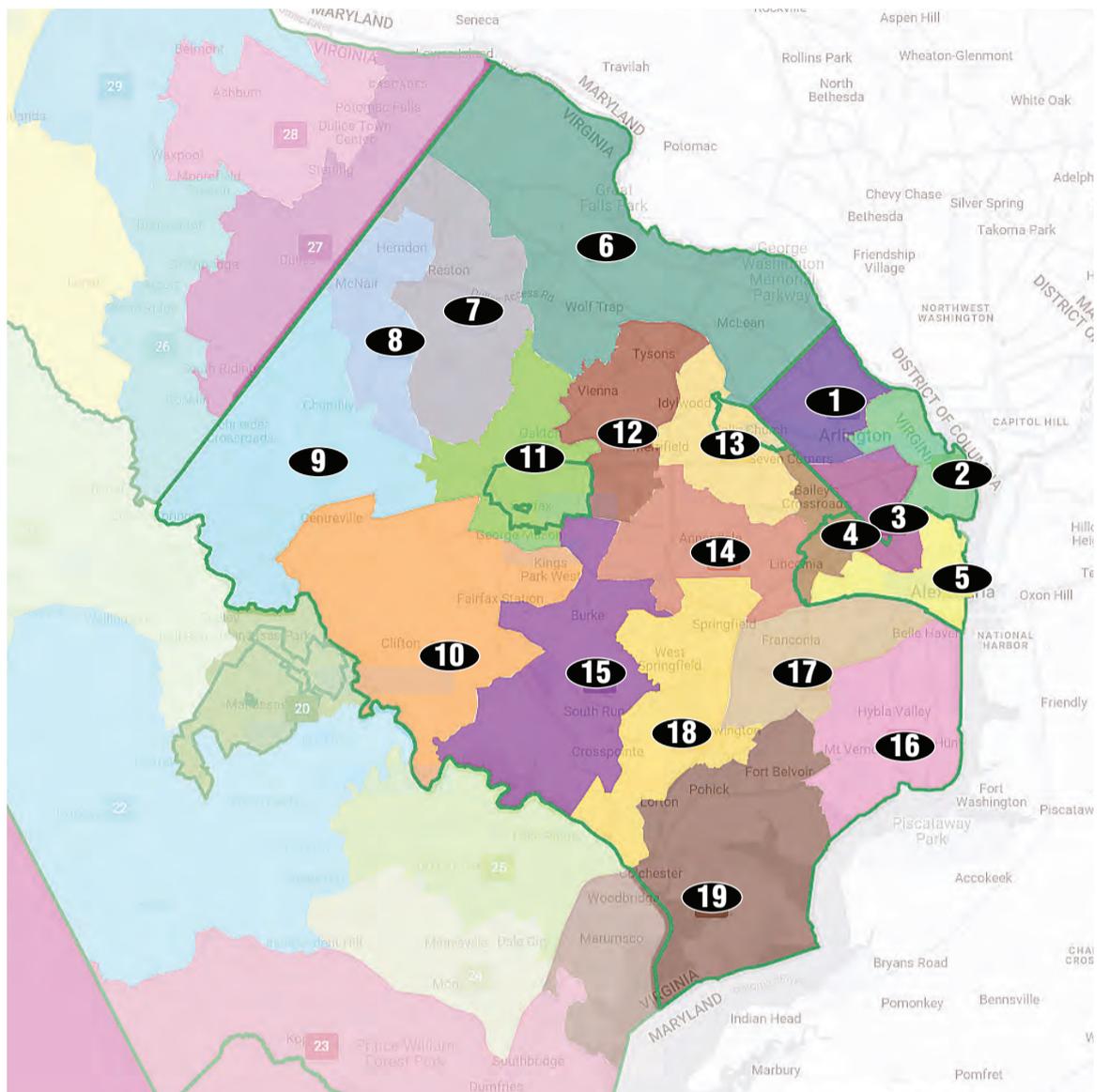
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# CANDIDATE CONNECTION



Virginia Senate District



Virginia House of Delegates Districts

## Go Vote

Turnout could alter state political control.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

A slight shift in the vote in Fairfax County's midterm elections on Nov. 7 could determine which party controls Virginia and what legislation is passed. The potential ramifications could be far-reaching, positioning the 2024 election on abortion and Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin's (R) national prospects.

The Virginia Democratic Party lost its 2019 election trifecta in the gubernatorial and state legislative elections in 2021. A state government trifecta occurs when one political party holds majorities in the governor's office and the state legislature's two chambers, the House and the Senate. Following the November 2021 election, the Republican Party controls the office of the governor, as well as the House of Delegates.

If Virginia Republicans win both chambers of the General Assembly on Nov. 8, 2023, by retaining or increasing their slim majority in the state House and gaining the Senate, it will be a Republican trifecta. The trifecta would allow Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R) to push through his conservative agenda, including his 15-week abortion ban, which the Democratic-controlled Senate rejected. Despite a Republican-controlled Virginia House of Delegates since January 2022, a Democratic-controlled Virginia Senate has limited

the governor's ability to pass much of his agenda.

What could make this November's midterm elections a wild card is that all 100 seats in the GOP-controlled Virginia House of Delegates and the 40 Senate seats are up for grabs under new, untested district maps that were purposefully drawn without regard for where legislators lived. The final maps paired or even tripled incumbents in the same districts. Legislators retired, and seats became available, making predictions more difficult and setting the stage many for first time legislators.

Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R) was the first Republican in Virginia's gubernatorial election to win a statewide election since 2009. Youngkin won by the narrowest margin in a Virginia gubernatorial election since 1989, with 50.6 percent of the vote to Democratic candidate Terry McAuliffe's 48.6 percent. It was also the first time that a Virginia statewide candidate did not win in one of the Northern Virginia counties of Loudoun, Prince William, or Fairfax, or one of their independent cities.

The Fairfax County School Board will have record turnover, and is not immune from the culture battleground seen around the country. There is an unexpected twist in the plot for the Franconia school board seat.

Don't miss this week's Candidate Connection

featuring candidates for General Assembly. Here are links to previous week's Candidate Connection:

**Candidate Connection**  
**Candidates for Sheriff, Fairfax County, City of Fairfax**

<http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2023/oct/11/candidate-connection/>

**Clerk of Court for Fairfax County**

<http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2023/oct/11/clerk-of-court/>

**Election - Chairman-Board of Supervisors**

<http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2023/oct/18/candidate-connection/>

**District Members, Board of Supervisors Dranesville, Hunter Mill, Providence & Sully Districts**

<http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2023/oct/25/north-district-members-board-of-supervisors/>

**District Members, Board of Supervisors Braddock, Franconia, Mount Vernon, Providence & Springfield Districts**

<http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2023/oct/25/south-district-members-board-of-supervisors/>

**Member School Board by District Dranesville, Hunter Mill, Mason, Providence & Sully districts**

<http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2023/oct/25/member-school-board-by-district/>

**Member School Board by District Braddock, Franconia, Mount Vernon, Providence & Springfield Districts**

<http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2023/oct/25/member-school-board-by-district-south/>

**Candidate Connection: School Board At Large**  
**Three open seats, zero incumbents, nine challengers**

<http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2023/oct/11/candidate-connection-school-board-at-large/>

**Vienna Town Council**

<http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2023/oct/25/vienna-town-council/>

**Soil & Water Conservation District Board**  
<https://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2023/sep/27/race-for-soil-water-conservation-district-board/>

# CANDIDATE CONNECTION: SENATE CANDIDATES

## Senate District 36

### Julie Anna Perry (R)

Julie Anna Perry (R), candidate for Virginia Senate District 36, Did not respond. JulieforSenate.com



### Stella G. Pekarsky (D)

Stella G. Pekarsky (D), candidate for Virginia Senate District 36, grew up in a working-class immigrant family. Her parents' emphasis on education ignited her passion for ensuring every child receives a high-quality public education. She holds a BA in American Government and Politics, a minor in International Relations, and a Master of Education in Multicultural/Multilingual Education from George Mason University.



Stella began her professional career as a public school ESOL teacher and taught in the Sully district, which she currently represents on the Fairfax County School Board and has served as Chairman. Stella and her husband own a local air charter company. They have six children. She has been a long-time engaged community member, serving on PTAs, the Fairfax County Library Board of Trustees, HOAs, and other organizations.

**Response:** Stella's priorities include fighting for an economy that works for all, investing in public education and teacher pay, gun violence prevention, and fighting against restrictions on abortion access and voting rights. Her local service and community ties and relationships in Richmond will allow her to "hit the ground running" on day one to deliver for the 36th.

Stella most enjoys solving seemingly small issues that have a huge impact on the lives of individuals. Recently, a constituent's children were disenrolled from their school two weeks into the new year when their waiver expired due to new home construction delays. Stella worked with administrators to center the needs of the students, for whom a move would have negative impacts, and was able to keep the kids in their new school while their home construction concluded. For Stella, there is no problem too small, and she will work tirelessly on behalf of her constituents. <https://stellapekarsky.com/>

## Senate District 37

### Kenneth D. "Ken" Reid (R)

Kenneth D. "Ken" Reid (R), candidate for Virginia Senate District 37. Resident of Tysons; 10 years serving in a local elected office in Loudoun County; newsletter business owner (1991–2021) and technical writer; commissioner, Fairfax County Landlord-Tenant Commission; former member, Northern Virginia Regional Commission, Northern Virginia Transportation Commission and liaison to various town and county boards and commissions; B.A. Rutgers; M.A. [www.connectionnewspapers.com](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com)



University of Missouri School of Journalism; Orthodox Jew; father of twins, James and Lara, who graduated Flint Hill School.

**Response:** While door-knocking in Fairfax City, a number of residents told me they felt it was unfair that they needed three people in a car to use the 66 and 495 express lanes; it had previously been two people in a car. They said the roads are still congested because people don't want to pay the exorbitant tolls. Signage is also confusing.

So, I set out a campaign to provide rebates to single-occupant drivers who use the express lanes and restore HOV-2. In my view, there is sufficient capacity on the express lanes to ensure a 55-mph or 60-mph ride for paying users, even with additional traffic. We have to equalize tolls on I-66 inside the Beltway with rates for 66 outside the Beltway. and use the money for additional widening, not trail and transit projects that are not alleviating congestion that much. The lack of reliability of Metro and buses and continued congestion in this area adds to the stress factor, and I believe it's the government's job to help.

Highlights of some of the legislation I propose: Revise the state composite index, which disadvantages Northern Virginia counties and cities for state school funding. Research the feasibility of Medicaid paying for obesity drugs and weight reduction surgery (gastric bypass) to cut down on obesity-related ailments like diabetes and heart disease and improve citizens' longevity and quality of life, especially the poor. Expand community health centers to give people in underserved areas access to specialists. A number of providers do not accept Medicaid, leading patients to use emergency rooms which are costly. Examine the feasibility of establishing job training and mentoring partnerships for minors at risk of committing crimes and matching them with businesses in need of workers to remove them from bad neighborhoods and family situations. We mustn't make it easier to commit crimes than to get a job and be productive in society. [KenReid.org](http://KenReid.org)

### Saddam Azlan Salim (D)

Saddam Azlan Salim (D), candidate for Virginia Senate District 37, is running to ensure we protect Virginia's future by investing in public education, ensuring access to reproductive healthcare, and expanding gun violence prevention measures. Saddam's story illustrates why he's running: His family was forced to leave Bangladesh due to catastrophes caused by climate change, so he knows firsthand why we must address the climate crisis and protect our environmental resources. His family experienced homelessness when they first arrived here, but Fairfax County's affordable housing program helped them thrive. He also learned English and thrived in our public education system, earning a bachelor's and master's degree from George Mason University. Finally, his mother's life was saved by access to reproductive care, so he understands why we must ensure access for all.

Salim is proof that investing in the pro-



grams we believe in — public education, healthcare, and housing — ensures a brighter future. He will also bring his financial consulting skills to the Senate to help make the most of our budget. Salim serves on the board of the Democratic Business Council and is co-chair of South Asians for America. <https://www.salimforsenate.com/>

## Senate District 38

### Matthew J. "Matt" Lang (R)

Candidate for VA State Senate District 38

Matthew J. "Matt" Lang (R) Did not reply. [LangforVA.com](http://LangforVA.com)



### Jennifer B. Boysko (D)

Senator Jennifer B. Boysko (D), candidate for reelection in Virginia Senate 38 District, focuses her efforts on creating an economy that works for all by improving schools and workforce training programs, fighting for access to affordable healthcare including abortion, gun violence prevention, equal pay and paid family and medical leave, supporting businesses to create new jobs, advocating for our diverse population and for residents who often don't have a seat at the table. She is a member of the following Senate committees: Transportation, Rehabilitation, and Social Services; Elections and Privileges; General Laws and Technology; and Judiciary. She chairs the Broadband Advisory Council, vice chairs the Commission on Civics Education, and represents the Northern VA Transportation Authority on over a dozen boards and commissions. Boysko graduated from Hollins University, and she and her husband, Glenn, have raised two daughters in the Town of Herndon since 1996.

**Response:** Knocking on doors before elections often involves hearing personal stories and requests for help. My staff advocates for constituents by contacting state agencies, utility companies, and local family services offices for help with bills, shelter, food, benefits, medical care, and more.

Many constituents can get crisis support, but legislative solutions can prevent these crises. I spoke with a mother who struggled financially after having a daughter with serious health issues and constituents caring for their parents.

One of my young constituents lost his job to care for his dying mother. Paid family and medical leave work in other states and worldwide. Small contributions pooled in a statewide fund would replace wages and salaries (80 percent, capped by the average state wage) for up to 12 weeks to care for new babies, oneself, and family members with serious medical illnesses.

Hardworking Virginians shouldn't have to choose between financial security and family. My paid family and medical leave bill passed this year with a Senate majority of Democrats, but House Republicans killed the bill. Employers with paid family and



medical leave benefits have more productive and loyal workers. This fiscally responsible and compassionate solution addresses the need to provide financially and be there for loved ones in need.

<https://jenniferboysko.com/>

## Senate District 39

### Sophia C. Moshasha (R)

Sophia C. Moshasha (R), candidate for Virginia Senate District 39 is a lifelong Virginian and advocate for community prosperity. At 34 years old, Sophia brings deep-rooted connections and a comprehensive understanding of Virginia's development. With expertise from her tenure in the Air Force's Small Business Innovation Program and dedication to advancing emerging technologies, she is committed to fostering small business growth, enhancing educational resources, and workforce development to ensure everyone has an opportunity for success.

**Response:** A local business owner approached me at a farmers market with a strong concern about the rising toll costs on the I-66 and I-495, affecting her ability to operate her delivery service. She emphasized how the tolls squeezed her margins and ultimately hurt her employees. She presented compelling information on how the high tolls were inflating the cost of living for families in Northern Virginia.

Her passionate plea stuck with me, prompting me to further investigate the tolling policies and their impacts. This business owner's story highlighted the need for immediate action to alleviate the burden on commuters.

In response to constituents' concerns about the high costs of commuting, I plan to sponsor legislation that focuses on refunding a significant portion of local tolls paid by Virginia-based commuters. Additionally, I intend to push for the restoration of HOV-2 lanes during specific hours on I-66 and I-495 to promote car-pooling, along with equalizing tolls on I-66 inside and outside the Beltway.

To gain bipartisan support, I will emphasize the direct positive impact on the lives of our constituents, stressing the potential economic benefits and reduced financial strain on local businesses. Collaborative discussions with opposing elected officials will highlight the bipartisan nature of this issue and the shared responsibility to support the community's well-being. [Sophia4VA.com](http://Sophia4VA.com)

### Adam P. Ebbin (D)

Adam P. Ebbin (D), 59, candidate for reelection in Virginia Senate District 39, took office in 2012 after serving for eight years in the House of Delegates. Adam has resided in Alexandria since 1989 and is a 1985 graduate of American University in Washington, D.C. He was a Fellow with the Flemming Foundation for Legislative Lead-



SEE SENATE CANDIDATES, PAGE 12

THE CONNECTION ❖ NOVEMBER 1-7, 2023 ❖ 11

# CANDIDATE CONNECTION: HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Candidates were asked to provide a short bio and share a story of their interaction with a voter that led them to a commitment to take action, with a tight word limit. Candidate responses are printed in the order they appear on the ballot.

More than 57,000 voters have already voted, and more than 650,000 active voters have not voted. Early voting continues through Saturday, Nov. 4. Election Day is Nov. 7, voters must vote at their assigned polling place, and all polling places will be open from 6 a.m. - 7 p.m.

For information on how and where to vote, including voting early, see <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/>

## House District 6

### Kristin L. Hoffman (R)

Kristin L. Hoffman (R) I moved to Vienna nearly 30 years ago with my husband. We raised our two Fairfax County Public School-educated sons here. I earned a BA in Economics from the University of Pennsylvania and an MBA in Marketing and Entrepreneurial Management from The Wharton School of Business. I worked in technology as a program and product manager. I think creatively, holistically, and thoughtfully to make things happen. I serve on a nonprofit board that provides equine-assisted therapy and adaptive therapeutic riding to veterans and people with visible and/or hidden disabilities.



When elected, I will have a respectful and thoughtful voice. We need healthy, well-informed debate to truly discern the issues and develop effective and meaningful solutions. Leaders must be able to analyze the data, understand the underlying facts, and, when it comes to implementing effective legislation, think holistically. We need more people with diverse professional backgrounds to ask the right questions. I will be your full-

time delegate, not only for the two months when the legislature is in session.

**Response:** I met an older gentleman who shared the following frustration. He and his wife have lived in their house in McLean for over 40 years. They want to age gracefully in their home and live out their lives there. Like many homes in Northern Virginia, their home has three (3) levels. Unfortunately, his wife took a tumble down the stairs and was injured. For safety reasons, they decided to install an elevator instead of moving.

His frustration is that the installation has taken over six months and cost tens of thousands of dollars. Every process step must go through reviews, permits must be obtained, and inspections must be conducted. The homeowner and contractor must wait for approvals before the next step can be started. The county's justification was that a home elevator tragically killed a child in the 1990s. Nobody ever wants to see a child or anyone else hurt by an elevator. Hence, Fairfax County has a diligent and cautious design and installation process.

However, the current time-consuming process puts older folks and people with mobility issues at risk of falling down the stairs. The current regulations trade one tragedy for another. This is the type of issue that the government should look at holistically, not in silos. As a legislator, I will ensure that these types of regulations make sense and are monitored to confirm that goals are being met. In this case, why is the process so slow? Do we need an expedited procedure? Does the county need more resources? Should the state put timeframe requirements in place for municipalities to follow? [Kristin4Delegate.org](https://www.kristin4delegate.org)

### Richard C. "Rip" Sullivan Jr. (D)

Del. Richard C. "Rip" Sullivan Jr. (D) and his wife Beth are Langley High School sweethearts. Having lived in McLean for nearly 50 years, McLean, Great Falls, Vienna, and the other



parts of the new 6th District have long been home to them. Beth and Rip have four adult children, all graduating from Fairfax County public schools and four grandchildren.

Rip graduated magna cum laude from Amherst College and received his law degree from the University of Virginia. He is a partner in the law firm Bean Kinney & Korman, P.C. He has served in the House of Delegates since 2014. Among his accomplishments in the General Assembly, Rip wrote and carried Virginia's lifesaving "Red Flag Law," which removes firearms from someone deemed by a judge to be a risk to themselves or others. He also authored the historic Virginia Clean Economy Act, which made Virginia a leader in the transition to clean energy. Upon returning to Richmond, Rip will continue to be an advocate for all Virginians and work to pass legislation to protect our health and safety, including abortion access, which is a top priority.

**Response:** In 2019, Rip's constituents Jay Timmons and Rick Olson approached him about their gut-wrenching experience trying to expand their family through a surrogate. A judge in Wisconsin took their parental rights away when their son, Jacob, was born. The fathers shared the story of their legal battle to preserve their parental rights in hopes of preventing a similar struggle from happening to other Virginia families. Rip introduced legislation to protect the parental rights of same-sex couples and single parents who use a surrogate. In February 2019, the General Assembly passed "Jacob's Law" with bipartisan support. <https://ripsullivan.com/>

## House District 7

### Luellen Hoffman Maskeny (R)

Luellen Hoffman Maskeny (R) -My background is in business and education, having graduated from GMU in 2006, when I was



an adjunct professor at GMU. I am a cancer survivor and fighter, and will fight for you. I am a widow who raised two sons as a single parent, so I know the challenges many face today. I was born in Virginia and love our state, so please vote for me on Nov. 7th to see the following: #1: Accountability; #2: Trust; #3: Value; and #4: Results.

**Response:** Most people don't want to get involved in politics, and I can see why, but I was motivated to step up and bring the best of Virginia to our senior citizens, students, families, and small businesses because I care about our future.

My challenge is to ask voters to look at the "individual candidate" and ask what they can do to make things better for all of us. Will this person serve the people who put them in office?

Former Virginia Governor L. Douglas Wilder was right when he said, "Politicians today are running for elections for the sake of being elected, not to advocate for citizens' welfare."

**Response:** I recently met 600 local high school students whose main concern was school security. My plan to keep students safe from active shooters, bullying, and other issues they face is rock solid. School choice, parental involvement, and a new college scholarship program for students with a GPA of B or better to get a free ride in the Virginia state college system as long as they keep their GPA up. [Maskeny4VA.com](https://www.maskeny4va.com)

### Karen A. Keys-Gamarra (D)

Karen A. Keys-Gamarra (D) is the mother of three Fairfax County Public School graduates, a twice-elected at-large member of the Fairfax County School Board, a former planning commissioner, an attorney who practices family law and focuses on representing children, and a child advocate with extensive involvement in our community. Keys-Gamarra graduated from Tulane University and the Washington University School of Law. Retiring Delegate Ken Plum endorsed her to succeed him in the General Assembly.



I have the privilege of living in a welcoming family that has taught me to enjoy and respect diverse cultures. I am an African American raised by a social worker and a military veteran. After my parents began to age, we became a multi-generational household, and I became a caregiver. My children have enjoyed the rich backgrounds of their family members. Given the representation of cultures from South America, Africa, parts of Europe, and the United States, we always share flavor-filled, well-seasoned food and good company.

**Response:** Two constituent contacts stand out in my mind. The first is a teacher who expressed her passion for education and kids. She teared up while speaking about the safety drills she taught in preparation for an active shooter. "I'm afraid; our students are afraid. Why isn't there a ban on assault weapons?"

A student raised a similar concern during their government day discussion. "How will you protect us more?" As I tried to explain that high-powered military-grade weapons had no place on our streets and that the 2nd Amendment had been misinterpreted, another student said that the 2nd Amendment prohibits all gun regulation and I should focus on mental health.

These exchanges make it clear that we are truly in a crisis and that our kids are caught in the middle. I strongly support our constitution, but I believe the writers of the Second Amendment did not anticipate the weapons or circumstances of today. Moreover, such drills cause fear, impacting mental health and unfairly burdening our kids. Our students shouldn't have to fear a mass shooting, and these conversations made me more determined to create safer communities free of gun violence. We must do better. <https://www.karenkeysgamarra.com/>

## SENATE CANDIDATES

### Adam P. Ebbin (D)

FROM PAGE 11

ership in 2006 and at the University of Virginia's Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership in 2000. In 2012, Adam was also a Fellow at Harvard University's Kennedy School program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government.

**Response:** Many persuasive and impactful constituents have shared their experiences with me over the years, including Virginians whose lives have been tragically impacted by gun violence. Those experiences led to my co-founding the Virginia Gun Violence Prevention Caucus and my championing and successfully passing legislation that banned firearms from state buildings.

Another instance where I worked closely with constituents was when an intrepid group of middle-school students organized to improve the physical condi-

tions of their schools. They were impacted by mold in their classrooms. G.W. Middle School students conducted research, asked questions, petitioned local school leaders, and reached out to me. Hearing from these young, organized student advocates was a breath of fresh air. As I told The Washington Post at the time, "Students deserve to be learning in a healthy environment, and staff and teachers who are in the same building year after year deserve to be teaching in a safe environment. These kids are making sure that this issue is dealt with adequately." In 2020, with the support and compelling testimony of these local Alexandria public school students, we passed legislation requiring school boards to develop mold testing and remediation plans and to quickly notify parents of the presence of mold in their children's schools. <https://www.adamebbin.com/>

# HOUSE OF DELEGATES

FROM PAGE 12

## Max B. Fisher (R)

Max B. Fisher (R), 40 years old- I first moved to Northern Virginia in 2002 and have been a homeowner in Herndon since 2015. I am committed to serving the people of District 8. I believe that by working together, we can positively impact the issues that matter most to our constituents. Being open and transparent is vital to democracy.



With a track record of finding common ground, I am committed to reducing tax burdens, improving transportation, and supporting legislation vital to the community. In the coming term, I intend to sponsor or co-sponsor legislation to reduce tax burdens, alleviating the financial strain on residents. Additionally, I will work towards measures that help reduce the cost of living, ensuring a better quality of life for all. To persuade opposing elected officials, I will emphasize the common-sense nature of these proposals and highlight the direct benefits they will bring to our community.

**Response:** During a community forum in Herndon, I conversed with Mayor Sheila Olem about the pressing issue of public transportation. We might not agree on many things, but she recognized that my passion and urgency. I emphasized the need to improve ridership to and from the airport, particularly regarding the reliability of time schedules. With my day job as a frequent user of that route, I could communicate that message, and we found some common ground. We continue to work on this improvement together to this day.

Recognizing the significance of this issue, I prioritized verifying the facts and gathering supporting data. I collaborated with Mayor Olem and other community leaders to identify potential solutions. Through ongoing discussions and analysis, we developed a comprehensive plan to enhance the efficiency and convenience of public transportation services, specifically addressing the time schedule challenges. We are working with the Board of Supervisors to implement some improvements. MaxFisherforVirginia.com

## Irene Shin (D)

Irene Shin (D) Delegate Irene Shin, age 36, is a longtime community organizer and advocate. She is currently the executive director of a nonprofit that works to increase civic engagement across Virginia. Irene is committed to fighting for legislation that lifts up all communities and meets the needs of the people.



**Response:** I have and will continue to keep an “open door” policy, as I am committed to representing the needs and values of our community. I am very proud of the fact that every bill I’ve passed during my time as a delegate has been on a bipartisan basis. Oftentimes, some of the most important issues are the ones we can all agree on. One of the bills I’ve successfully introduced actually came as a result of advocating for a constituent who contacted me after she discovered her adult daughter with developmental disabilities did not qualify for health coverage through her state employee insurance. After we tried to appeal to the state for their case to no avail, I introduced HB2038, which extends state employee health insurance coverage to any state employee’s adult child with disabilities. The bill passed this year with unanimous support from both chambers. <https://www.ireneforva.com/>

## House District 9

### Nhan C. Huynh (R)

Nhan C. Huynh (R) Did not reply.  
[HuynhforVirginia.com](http://HuynhforVirginia.com)



### Karrie K. Delaney (D)

Karrie K. Delaney (D) was first elected to the House of Delegates in 2017. Before serving, Karrie was dedicated to helping others while working with foster kids and victims of sexual violence. Now, she has emerged as a leader in her caucus, being appointed as a Democratic Whip. Karrie has also been one of Richmond’s most effective legislators, passing all seven bills she introduced in 2021.



**Response:** In 2019, I met with a constituent in a coffee shop who told me about an incident of abuse that was never reported, but a member of the clergy was aware of the incident. That constituent then asked me if there was any way that clergy could be made mandatory reporters for abuse, just like other trusted professions such as teachers, nurses, and social workers.

Even though my party was in the minority, I believed this was a common-ground issue we could solve together. So, I reached out to my Republican colleagues and stakeholders in this issue to discuss the problem and identify a solution. After months of serious discussions, debate, and committee hearings that saw testimony from people across the Commonwealth regardless of political affiliation, we came to a final product: a bill requiring religious clergy to report suspected child abuse or neglect.

Eventually, my bill came before the full General Assembly, which received unanimous approval and was signed by the Governor. Like in many other instances during my legislative service, this was one where I was able to rally my colleagues to put politics aside in order to create a solution to a real problem facing our constituents.

As I continue to talk to neighbors this campaign season, it’s become obvious that this approach to Richmond is still incredibly desired, and I’m ready to continue putting people over politics to get things done. <https://www.karriedelaney.com/>

## House District 10

### James A. Thomas Jr. (R)

James A. Thomas Jr. (R) With over 17 years of federal government service in both the legislative and executive branches, I have gained vast experience and knowledge of problem-solving in the legislative process and how to work with public officials to achieve success with important pieces of legislation.



I was the first one in my family to attend college, and I earned a Bachelor of Science in Political Science from the University of Dayton. After the attacks on Sept. 11 and while in college, I enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, serving combat deployments to Iraq. I spent the next decade and a half focused on national security policy, working on Capitol Hill and in the Pentagon. I understand the importance of working across the aisle to find common ground to shape, create, and implement legislative priorities and to be successful in addressing the challenges we face.

SEE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, PAGE 14



## SPECIAL BOARD MEETING: PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING

This meeting will be held virtually. Please use the information below to join via Zoom.

**Monday, Nov. 6, 2023, 6:00 p.m.**

Join Zoom Meeting:  
<http://bit.ly/3tGfwZz>

**Meeting ID: 826 7870 5604**  
**Passcode: 705683**

Reston Association members are encouraged to provide comments on the association’s 2024 Capital and Operating budgets at this public hearing. View budget materials at [Reston.org](http://Reston.org).

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# CANDIDATE CONNECTION: HOUSE OF DELEGATES

FROM PAGE 13

As a husband, father, and veteran, it is so important that we can work together to address the challenges our community faces and leave it better than we received it for the next generation.

**Response:** Since 2009, more individuals and families have moved out of Fairfax County than into it. The single largest contributing factor to this is the high cost of living in our area. Going door-to-door, I've met so many individuals who are frustrated with the increases in taxes and general affordability in our communities. Especially for those individuals on a fixed income, living in our area is just too difficult. The chief complaint is the car tax.

I believe it is time to eliminate this burdensome tax once and for all. We must first start by understanding where our money is being spent at both the state and local levels. To do this, we need to conduct a bi-annual audit to see where the money is going and how efficient departments and agencies are at collecting the revenue. From there, you can begin to make sound fiscal policy, make reforms to the tax code and structure, and ultimately remove the dreaded car tax.

With better transparency and accountability, we can begin to make informed policy decisions, create a diverse and dynamic economy, and begin to lower the cost of living for everyone while still allowing for sound strategic investments." [ThomasforVirginia.com](http://ThomasforVirginia.com)

## Dan I. Helmer (D)

Del. Dan I. Helmer (D) is a West Point graduate, an Iraq and Afghanistan veteran, a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Reserve, a Rhodes Scholar, and a small business leader. He lives in Fairfax with his wife Karen, a public school teacher, and their sons Aaron and Harris, who attend Fairfax County Public Schools. The son of an immigrant and the



grandson of refugees who survived the Holocaust, Dan believes that patriotism means taking on the hard challenges of our time and putting country and community ahead of partisan politics. Dan is proud to serve the families of southwest Fairfax County in the House of Delegates.

**Response:** A year and a half ago, a constituent wrote to my office to share her personal story as we faced the fall of Roe and impending abortion bans. Lila (we are using a pseudonym to protect her privacy) shared the heartbreaking experience she and her family had suffered. After two years of trying, she and her husband were finally pregnant. At 12 weeks, they learned the fetus was not developing normally and would have to have many surgeries after birth. After much consideration, they decided to continue the pregnancy and endure the extensive neonatal care that would follow. By the 16th week, the abnormalities were tripling, and the doctors informed them that the fetus, if it survived to birth, would only live a few hours. They made the agonizing decision to end the pregnancy. Without access to abortion, Lila explained, her experience would have been all the more traumatic. If she hadn't been able to secure a legal end to the unviable pregnancy, she would have had to carry a doomed pregnancy to term and would certainly have suffered greater mental anguish.

For Lila and all the other women in Virginia and in all the states across the South who come here to get the reproductive health care they can no longer get in the states that have outlawed abortion, Virginia is the last safe haven in the South. My wife was told after the birth of our second child that another pregnancy would likely kill her. Lila's and my wife's stories have motivated me to work even harder to codify the right to abortion in Virginia's Constitution. Stories like this remind us of the urgency for safe and accessible healthcare for every person and that the ability to make medical decisions should lie with the patient and their doctor, not politicians. <https://danhelmer.com/>

## House District 11

### Almira Mohammed (R)

Almira Mohammed (R) I am a 31-year-old woman of color; I'm a first time candidate that has no ties working a government position or for big corporations. I'm relatively unbiased and am here to better House District 11.



**Response:** The car tax is the one issue I've been hearing about often. I've heard it so often that I felt I should use my candidacy to become an advocate for the current car tax to change. I hear it from Lyft and Uber drivers. I hear it from almost everyone I've come across at Republican committee meetings, and when I go campaign door knocking, I've heard it at the Fairfax City Fourth of July parade.

Interestingly, it stood out when I received a mention of the car tax in an email. The writer shared details about the issue, giving me a glimpse of what I can do as a delegate. I reached out to a member of the Board of Supervisors to find out why it's not being addressed, and while I received a response, it ultimately came to a dead end. I ended up contacting the governor's office to share my concerns. I haven't heard back from them.

I'm for repealing this car tax. We're in tough economic times, and the least we can do is address this tax. When you look at the details, it doesn't make sense. It even says on the Fairfax County government website that usually older vehicles have a lower value and that these values were elevated during COVID.

While the Board of Supervisors approved some assessment ratios and vehicle values declined, they're still high. I'm not 100 percent sure what kind of assessment the board made, but I know that when I talk to people in the district, this car tax is brutal.

If elected, I will fight for it to change. I have no interest in convincing my opponent to lower the car tax; it's the basis of my platform. If something were to be done, it would have already been addressed. I doubt he hasn't heard about it. [AlmiraforVirginia.com](http://AlmiraforVirginia.com)

### David L. Bulova (D)

David L. Bulova (D) Married, 54, and a father of three children. Bachelor of Arts from William & Mary and a Master of Public Administration from Virginia Tech.



Currently, I am the representative for the 37th House District, and professionally, I am an environmental planner specializing in stormwater and Chesapeake Bay restoration. Examples of my community involvement include the Brain Injury Services, National Night Out Against Crime, and youth sports coach. I enjoy collaboration and problem-solving. In 2019, I was honored with the "Bridge Builder Award."

**Response:** Most of my bills result from conversations with constituents and local organizations. This has included legislation to help older adults age in place, combat human trafficking, protect families from identity theft, reduce overdose deaths, and

slow the spread of invasive plants. During a meeting at Main Street Bagel, a constituent mentioned that over 100 Infants die unexpectedly each year in a sleep environment. This was verified in a report by the State Child Fatality Review Team. Tragically, the review team found that 95 percent of these deaths were preventable through parent education. As a father of three, I can't even imagine the pain of losing a child. It also struck me that when my wife and I were new parents, we knew little about safe sleep practices. The conversation led to the introduction of House Bill 1515, which requires information on safe sleep to be provided to new parents when they leave the hospital. We garnered the support of the Medical Society of Virginia, the American Academy of Pediatrics, INOVA Health Systems, and several other organizations. The bill ultimately passed the General Assembly unanimously. <http://www.davidbulova.com/>

## House District 12

Holly Seibold (D) is running unopposed.

## House District 13

### Dave A. Crance Jr. (Libertarian)

Dave A. Crance Jr. (Libertarian) Dave, his wife Suman, and their youngest children live just outside the City of Falls Church. After high school, he joined the Army as a paratrooper, serving combat tours in both Central America and the Middle East. While attending community college, he worked as a bartender. Here, he found his true passion in life and never looked back — hospitality, where he could enjoy serving and meeting new people every day. Today, as a regional manager, he handles a portfolio of multiple hotel brands stretching from Maryland to Florida.



Dave gives back to the community through multiple organizations, including the Falls Church Chamber of Commerce, most recently serving as membership chair in 2022. He received the James S. Elkin Award for Humanitarianism in 2017. Dave has coached for the Little League, receiving multiple Coach of the Year awards. He is also the chaplain of the Falls Church VFW and works with our local school districts to coordinate the post's youth activities, scholarships, and educator of the year awards. He is a member of the Greater Falls Church Veterans Council and a member of the American Legion.

**Response:** While campaigning, a person contacted me and asked if I would drop by. I replied, "Sure," but on the day I was canvassing that part of my district, I realized his address was just south of the district line. Even though I knew he couldn't vote for me, I gave my word and called to let him know, but I'd still be happy to drop by if he wanted. He asked if that was okay, so I went to see him that afternoon.

I originally expected a senior citizen from the call, but I discovered he was middle-aged,

## Fairfax County School Board at Large

### Linda Pellegrino

Candidate for Fairfax County School Board at Large

FCPS is facing three important issues:

School safety, academic excellence and accountability.

School safety is my number one issue. Currently only high schools have safety officers. There is a need to install sensors in the bathrooms to detect vapors of electronic cigarettes, which in some cases has had student use of marijuana-laced with fentanyl.

Academic excellence should be FCPS's most important priority. It is important to make teacher salaries compensatory with the performance of the students. SAT results have dropped since 2021. We need a return to academic excellence.

My solution is to emphasize academics in science, math and the arts, and an emphasis on phonics in early childhood



development in elementary schools, to be included with parental involvement in reading comprehension, vocabulary and grammar. The high schools should offer college academics as well as a career track for careers in plumbing, auto mechanics and other

practical jobs to help students find full employment.

I support all text books and other materials in the government school system that are for the purposes of education in the sciences and arts. However, the sexually explicit material in FCPS is inappropriate.

*Responses for other candidates for school board at large ran earlier in October. See <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2023/oct/11/candidate-connection-school-board-at-large/>*

# HOUSE OF DELEGATES

FROM PAGE 14

and what I learned from him was Apert syndrome. He was very excited that I came by and wanted to show me his apartment. He was extremely proud, as he should be, of having been able to overcome his disability with help to stand on his own. But what he wanted to discuss really hit me hard.

He was frustrated that once he found a full-time job, he had to move back to part-time due to the risk of losing his benefits. "I just want to be able to work and not depend on others; maybe if you win, you can help with that." I have never been hit so hard by a story as I have been with his. Right now, I'm busy with the campaign, but I have already begun studying the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services program and Supplemental Security Income offerings. It is an area I'm finding a gap in, and if elected, I intend to see how we can do better. <https://www.dave4va.com/>

## Marcus B. Simon (D)

Marcus B. Simon (D), age 53. Early in his public service career, he served as an officer in the U.S. Army JAG Corps and is a co-founder of the Law Firm of Leggett, Simon, Freemyers & Lyon and EKKO Title, a real estate title company. Marcus attended New York University as an undergrad and then attended The American University School of Law. First elected to the House in 2013, Marcus serves on the House Committees on Courts of Justice, Finance, and Communications, Technology & Innovation. He also serves as the Deputy Floor Leader of the House Democratic Caucus. He's proud of his work to expand voting rights, enact common-sense gun violence prevention initiatives, address the student loan debt crisis, and prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

Constituent service is one of the most important jobs a legislator has. Knocking on doors as a candidate, you have a lot of pleasant exchanges, but when knocking as an incumbent, you really get a chance to



solve people's problems. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, one source of great frustration has been dealing with the Virginia Employment Commission. Many people who'd never needed unemployment benefits or government assistance before found themselves tangled up in a system that was tragically overwhelmed.

Every constituent case took months to resolve and, in some cases, years. Each one involved a personal story of hardship, of concerns about not being able to pay bills, and of not being able to care for their families, coupled with the general fear associated with the pandemic. Managing the caseload was paramount to ensuring that constituents felt heard and that we were going to work with them until it was resolved.

Because of the scope of the VEC's systemic problems, we passed legislation to overhaul internal processes, to finally implement the new online system, and to reduce the claims backlog. While the system still needs tweaking, progress has been made and will continue to happen. No one wants to be dependent on a state agency for their livelihood, but it is our duty to help those who need it the most. <https://vahousedems.org/members/marcus-simon/>

## House District 14

### Curtis L. Wells Jr. (R)

Curtis L. Wells Jr. (R) Did not respond. [WellsWorksforVA.com](https://www.wellsworksforva.com)

### Vivian E. Watts (D)

Del. Vivian E. Watts (D) Ranking Delegate on Courts and Finance Committees, Member of the Transportation and Rules Committees, and the Behavioral Health Commission; Former Secretary of Transportation and Public Safety; non-profit director; Fairfax Citizen of the Year; the University of Michigan B.A. with honors; I grew up on a farm, married Dave, and we raised Cindy and Jeff.

I was a 15-year citizen activist before being elected. Trying to understand what it



## Cornerstones of Community

FROM PAGE 3

in Fairfax County; and Tuscarora Crossing and Arcola School Development, both in Loudoun County. The new FREE from Hunger Center in Loudoun (located in Sterling), will open next month. It is a 10,000 square foot food rescue and distribution hub, partnering with nonprofit, faith, schools and neighborhood-based pantry and feeding programs along the Northern Virginia Dulles corridor.

Cornerstones has served the community for over 50 years. They work together with the community to promote stability, empowerment, and hope through sup-

port, advocacy, and community-building for individuals and families in need. Cornerstones serves 16,000 people including 5,000 children each year along the Dulles Corridor.

Since 1970, Cornerstones has worked with a diverse network of faith-based organizations, corporate partners, donors, advocates, and volunteers who are deeply committed to strengthening families living and working along the Dulles Corridor. The caring and generous community enables Cornerstones to provide a comprehensive, holistic approach that helps people rebuild their self-sufficiency, resiliency, and hope for a better future.

## Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week

FROM PAGE 3

"We're fortunate to live in a county that cares. The more we are aware of the challenges of food insecurity and homelessness, the more likely we are to come together to address how we solve those challenges," Foust said.

The Board approved Foust's motion to have staff prepare a proclamation declaring the week of Nov. 11 to 18 Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week in Fairfax County, to be presented at the board's October 24 meeting. County employees and community members who work to address the issues of hunger and homelessness in Fairfax County were encouraged to attend the presentation.

### Families Overflow Local Shelter in Fairfax County

The Embury Rucker Community Shelter, a residential shelter with 70 beds in Reston, continues to see an increase in the number of families referred to Cornerstones for assistance. From January 2023 to September 2023, according to Maura Williams, vice president of Housing and Community Services at Cornerstones, there has been a 21 percent increase. "We currently have 24 families in overflow shelter situations, meaning we've had to locate them somewhere else outside of the Embury Rucker Shelter."

To give to Cornerstones, visit <https://www.cornerstonesva.org/ways-to-give/?form=Donation>

meant to serve, I'd be disturbed after poignant door-to-door conversations: "I totally empathize, but I know I can't just go make all the changes needed. Am I just a hypocritical politician?" I finally resolved that if I hadn't heard those concerns or the reality of that person's life, I wouldn't be armed to make a difference whenever and however I could: by introducing a bill, amending other bills or the budget, speaking out, and casting informed votes.

My expertise is in complicated fights for education funding, reduced class sizes, humane nursing home staffing, and modernizing taxes to reflect ability-to-pay in today's

economy. As a strong advocate, I draw on many sources regarding mental health, women's control of all aspects of pregnancy, and converting to green energy. As an informed legislator, I appreciate the complex challenges of economic advancement and criminal justice.

Most importantly, I know that "showing up" is essential to absorbing multicultural diversity, knowing current transportation needs, appreciating community strengths and challenges, and continuing to learn from all sources—not just from advocates and my personal research but from real-life experiences. <https://vivianwatts.com/>

# Legion Post 184 Recognizes Northpoint Giant Food

## 20 years of support.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

The Wayne M. Kidwell American Legion Post 184 Herndon-Reston recently acknowledged their enduring friendship with its neighboring community establishment, Giant Store # 0747, at Northpoint Shopping Center in Reston. On Friday, Oct. 20, post commander David Womack presented the store with a plaque recognizing their "sincere appreciation for over 20 years of support for American Legion Post 184's annual Memorial Day Poppy campaign."

According to Womack, Post 184 supports the American Legion Auxiliary's annual Poppy fundraiser on Memorial Day to raise funds directly benefiting Veterans in Need.

[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

The primary objective of this initiative is to generate financial resources that directly aid veterans facing various challenges.

"When I get a phone call about a veteran in need [such as housing payment assistance], we vet the vet to ensure it's not a scam. Then, we write a check and send it to the landlord," Womack said. He added that store #0747 had been the post's "capstone" for its Poppy Fundraiser, which yields an average annual revenue ranging from \$4,000 to \$5,000. "We wanted to pause and say thank you; we're grateful," Womack said.

Jonathan Arons of Giant said that it is the least they can do, offer space to collect those funds. "It's a testament to how generous our customers are. The people who live in this community are willing to support you each Memorial Day."

To donate to Post 184, visit <https://www.wm-kal184.org/donations>.



David Bui, Heather Wade, David Womack, American Legion Post 184 commander, and Jose Arevalo

PHOTOS BY WILL PALENSCAR



Westfield QB Matthew Jenks drops back to pass 2

# Chantilly FB Has Tough Visit to Westfield

BY WILL PALENSCAR

The Chantilly Chargers visited the Westfield Bulldogs on Oct. 23 in Chantilly. Westfield opened scoring with a Matthew Jenks 20 yard touchdown run with 6:10 to play in the opening quarter.

In the 2nd quarter Carson Howell would recover a fumble for a touchdown and Westfield was now ahead 14-0.

Chantilly would then score on an 83 yard touchdown reception to Garrett Carper with 7:40 to play in the 2nd quarter. After a failed point after the score was 14-6.

Westfield would again capitalize with 6:10 to play in the quarter when Kennedy Duda rushed in for the first of his four touchdowns. Westfield, now up 21-6, would then score on Duda's 4 yard touchdown run with

4:06 to play in the 2nd quarter. Westfield was now up 28-6. Landon Murphy would bring in a 37 yard touchdown reception with 1:46 to play in the 2nd quarter and Westfield was up 35-6.

Chantilly kicker Connor Wienke would kick a 25 yard field goal as time expired in the first half with Westfield up 35-9.

Kennedy Duda would score his third touchdown of the game with 9:12 to play in the 3rd quarter, Westfield now up 42-9. Duda would score his fourth rushing touchdown with 3:52 to play in the 3rd quarter.

In the 4th quarter Cal Oakley would pick up a fumble of the Chantilly offense and run into the end zone with 16 seconds to play, for the Bulldogs 56-12 victory.

Chantilly falls to (4-5)(1-3), Westfield improves to (7-2)(3-1). Chantilly will face Oakton, Westfield will play at South Lakes.



Everett Sawyer runs with ball after reception



The Chantilly offense huddles up for instructions from QB Sahir Mantri



Landon Murphy pulls in this 37 yard touchdown reception for Westfield



Kennedy Duda scores on a 7 yard touchdown run for Westfield



Avery Chow #11 runs with ball trying to avoid a Westfield defender

# Turkey Trot Set for Nov. 12

**5k route open to all abilities.** service and monetary contributions to local charities. Our focus is on assisting children, the aging, and people in crisis. We are supporting organizations such as Second Story, Insight Memory Care Center, PRS/CrisisLink and Firefighters and Friends to the Rescue.”

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
THE CONNECTION

**R**un, walk or trot in the Rotary Club of Tysons Corner's 5th annual 5k Turkey Trot, which returns to the area on Sunday, Nov. 12.

The Tysons Turkey Trot, held at 1775 Tysons Blvd., will cover a certified course and raises funds for local charities.

“The Rotary Club of Tysons strives to make a positive difference in the Tysons area through the Rotary motto ‘Service Above Self,’” said Rotarian Will Bailey. “For the past 40 years, we have been providing hands-on

Packet Pickup for the race will be held Saturday, Nov. 11 at Potomac River Running, 111 Maple Avenue W. Vienna, from noon-3 p.m. or at the race site beginning at 7 a.m. on race day. Cash prizes will be awarded for the top adult and children's finishers. Turkeys will also be raffled off. Free parking is available at the race site.

Registration is \$35 before Nov. 10, \$40 through race day. For more information, visit [www.TysonsTurkeyTrot.com](http://www.TysonsTurkeyTrot.com)

## Let Me Run 5K Nov. 4

Great Falls Elementary School PTA will hold an inaugural 5K for the new boys running club called “Let Me Run.” Great Falls Elementary is the only school in Fairfax County offering this program, which came at the request of parents last year, as there is a similar program for the girls called “Girls on the Run.” The head coach for both running clubs, Kelly Singer, added the Let Me Run program for this year's PTA programs and offerings.

The team reached full capacity (30 boys), unusual for a first-year program, especially one that's at 7:30 in the morning.

Let Me Run is a new national program and for the time being, each team is responsible

for planning their own event.

### Race Day Details:

When: Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023

Time: 9 a.m. start time (8:15 arrival time)

Where: Great Falls Elementary Track, race will take place around the Deerfield Pond neighborhood

Anyone can run! GFES PTA is hosting this race as an end of season milestone for the inaugural “Let Me Run” boys running club. The community is invited to join

Participation for the boys, and anyone else who would like to run is free

DJ, balloon arch for the finish line, snacks and coffee, water for all, along with a few fun activity stations.

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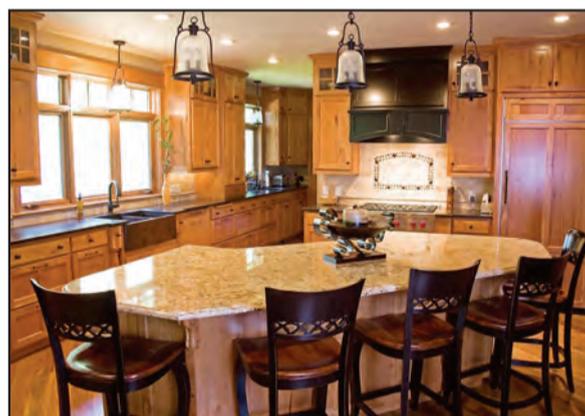
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**CALENDAR**

			1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31		

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# ENTERTAINMENT

## NOW THRU NOV. 10

**Into the Hothouse Exhibit.** At Gillespie Gallery of Art, GMU's Art and Design Building, 4515 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Mason Exhibitions presents Into the Hothouse, an immersive site-specific installation by Chicago-based artist Aimée Beaubien. The exhibit is a category-defying constellation of dozens of gathered, printed, and handmade works that explore botanical and environmental subject matter. Natural forms, technological interventions, and laborious craft techniques abound. The gallery is free and open to the public from Monday to Friday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## WEDNESDAYS THROUGH SATURDAYS

**Tours Aboard Tall Ship Providence and Sen. John Warner Maritime Heritage Center.** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Alexandria's Waterfront Park, 1A Prince Street, Alexandria. Guests of all ages are recruited into the Continental Navy aboard Tall Ship Providence with legendary Captain John Paul Jones. Recruits are assigned jobs on the ship, learn where they will work and live, how to load a cannon, etc... Tours conclude in the Naval History Theatre with a film about the ship. The Heritage center is a floating museum on the Alexandria waterfront. Visit <https://tallship-providence.org/>

## FUNDAY MONDAY

**"Funday Monday is open to children of all ages, however is best suited for the pre-school set!** Funday Monday runs from 10:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. and — unless otherwise noted — is held at Fairfax Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. There are plenty of free parking lots/garages in Old Town Fairfax. Stroller access is available at the side entrance Old Town Hall facing Route 236/Main Street. For more information visit [www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/cultural-arts](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/cultural-arts)."

## SCHEDULE

Nov 6 -- Miss Mollie's Musical Fun  
Nov. 13 -- No Program  
Nov. 20 -- My Gym  
Nov. 27 -- Drew Blue Shoes Magic  
Dec. 4 -- Music Together Sing and Groove  
Dec. 11 -- My Gym  
Dec. 18 -- TBD

## SATURDAYS THRU NOVEMBER

**Reston Museum.** See how Reston's founding principles were implemented by joining the upcoming walking tour. Tour will be held 10 a.m. every Saturday through November. Sign up at: <https://www.restonmuseum.org/event-details/guided-walking-tour-restons-founding-2023-09-09-10-00>

## NOW THRU NOV. 7

**Cox Farms Fall Festival 2023.** At Cox Farms, corner of Braddock Road and Pleasant Valley Road, Centreville. The Fall Festival is filled with family-friendly entertainment and attractions including slides, swings, animals, hayrides and more. From the world-famous hayride to our corny Cornundrum and giant slides, our Fall Festival has something for the whole family. The Fall Festival is open Sept. 16-17, and then Thursday through Monday Sept. 23-Nov. 6, plus Tuesday, Nov. 7. Hours Sept. 16 – 17; Thursdays through Mondays Sept. 23 – Oct. 30: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. | Nov. 2 – 7: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. (last entry one hour before closing). Market is open daily through Nov. 7.

The Fields of Fear Hours: Friday and Saturday nights Sept. 22 – Nov. 4 (plus Sunday, Oct. 8) 7:30-11 p.m. (last entry 10 p.m.) Featuring more than 20 acres of fear and spooky attractions.

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## SCHEDULE

November 3: Swingology - Jazz Bossa Nova, Manouche and Swing  
November 17: Graham Breedlove – Blues  
December 8: Marcolivia – Classical String Duo  
January 5: Baltimore Composers Forum – Modern  
January 19: Navy Band Wind Quintet – Classical  
February 2: Kadencia – Puerto Rican Orchestra (part of the Chocolate Lovers Festival!)  
February 16: Matt Trkula – Classical Guitar  
March 8: Mandoleers – Mandolin and Guitar Orchestra  
March 22: James & Victor – Jazz Duo/Steel Pan  
April 5: Francesca Hurst – Solo Piano  
April 19: Sylvan Waters Duo – Harp/Brass

## THURSDAY/NOV. 2

**Foreign Language Film, "Taare Zameen Par" ("Like Stars on Earth").** 1 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Ishaan, a student who has dyslexia, cannot seem to get anything right at his boarding school. Soon, a new unconventional art teacher helps him discover his hidden potential. A visual feast and Bollywood mega-hit.

## FRIDAY/NOV. 3

**Family Fun Bingo.** 7-9:30 p.m. At Old Firehouse in McLean. Join them for an evening of family fun! Enjoy free popcorn. Winners will take their pick of prizes!

## "ON GOLDEN POND"

**Nov. 3, 4 at 8 p.m.; 2 p.m. on Nov. 5.** At Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, Vienna. Presented by the Vienna Theatre Company and Vienna Department of Parks and Recreation. Directed by Terri Ritchey; Produced by Reece Smyth and Pete Storck. Visit [www.viennatheatercompany.org](http://www.viennatheatercompany.org).

## NOV. 3-4

**"You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown."** 7 p.m. At Oakcrest School Upper School, Ernst Theater, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. The musical follows the story of Charlie Brown and his friends, as seen in the comic strip, Peanuts, by cartoonist Charles Schulz. Through captivating dance and song, Charlie and his friends discover what it truly means to be a "good man". Visit <https://www.oakcrest.org/>

## NOV. 3 TO FEB. 4

**Eleanor Mahin Thorp: Metopic Ridge.** At Tephra ICA at Signature. Opening Reception & Artist Talk is Friday, Nov. 3, 6–8 p.m. Tephra Institute of Contemporary Art (Tephra ICA) presents Metopic Ridge, a solo exhibition by artist Eleanor Mahin Thorp. Thorp's paintings take us on an immersive site visit to examine the Blue Ridge Mountains exploring stability and change, the seen and the hidden within rocks. Through her discerning gaze rocks are more than geological entities; instead, they metamorphose into vessels of history and human connection. Drawing inspiration from the fascinating transformations depicted in Persian miniatures, Thorp traces the hidden figures and forms in the rocks. Her paintings reveal the duality of rocks' existence as both a firm witness to time and a medium for that which is intangible.

## SATURDAY/NOV. 4

**"When You Wish Upon a Star: A Jazz Tribute to 100 Years of Disney."** 7 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. "When You Wish..." an unforgettable evening celebrating 100 years of Disney through the lens of jazz as performed by house band of The National Jazz Museum in Harlem. Dreams really do come true! This production is not affiliated with, sponsored, or authorized by The Walt Disney Company.

## SATURDAY/NOV. 4

**Wine and Cheese Pairing Event.** 5-7 p.m. At Total Wine & More, 1451 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Fundraiser for AAUW McLean Branch. Enjoy fine wines paired with exotic cheeses to help raise funds for women's scholarships. Tickets \$40. Email: [Taylor6840@gmail.com](mailto:Taylor6840@gmail.com).

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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.

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## A "Madder" of Perspective



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

My wife, Dina and I have been married for almost 45 years. In that time, we have discovered, among other admissions; that we don't think alike, eat alike, drink alike and joke alike, as an extremely brief sample. In general, we have much less alike that would lead one to consider — on paper, anyway, the logic of our potential togetherness. Given that that ship has sailed, and we have survived this test of time, it's worth mentioning/summarizing that we don't always get along. And just recently I was reminded of that reality from a very unexpected source: a website of a company from whom I regularly purchase my vitamins, minerals, supplements, et cetera. Maybe being reminded of our ongoing dilemma from an unexpected and totally independent/non-partisan source might have an affect on me. (I won't say that it could actually impact our marriage because to say so would confirm how little I've learned during our marriage. Rome wasn't built in a day. And neither is the communication between a married couple so easily transformed. It takes work, lots of work, and unfortunately for Dina, this experience is brand new — to me.)

This electronic missive, which was this pill provider's second attempt to encourage me to re-order (which according to their records, I was past time to do so) was friendly enough and certainly reasonably intended. However, I didn't take it as such. I took it as bothersome. My knee-jerk reaction was to say — out loud: "Stop bugging me!" It was this verbal counter punch that reminded me of the nature of the relationship/marriage I share/experience with my wife, and the motivation for this column.

Typically, and this won't come as a news flash to those who know us, I am the more responsible party. To clarify — for the sake of this column and my life, I'm the one who's more aware/responsible for times, dates, bills due, people/procedures to follow to solve problems; in short, the mundane and boring; that's me. As a rest, our reality is that I'm the one doing the reminding about such and such. It's my nature. I'm happy to do it and for me, it's no problem. Dare I say, it's my job. Still, as much experience as I have in this capacity, I have on occasion said something to Dina about something I felt was time-sensitive - or felt that I was being helpful/necessary in what I was saying, that she didn't feel was nearly as important as I did. Moreover, she may have felt the intrusion into her comings and goings was more frequent than it needed to be. On this too-frequent occurrence, Dina would invariably say: "Stop bugging me." (Finally, the point of the column.) And I would invariably respond: "I'm not bugging you. You're being bugged by me." Which from perspective, means I'm acting within my hypothetical marital rights (and apparent wrongs) in saying this because it's not about me. It's more likely about us or her. I'm merely stating a fact whose utterance was meant to be helpful, not bothersome, and certainly not nagging.

Since I'm the one writing this column, I will admit that these types of conversations/interactions are my opinions and do not reflect Dina's opinion/reaction. In fact, often, they didn't always go so well. Most often they go badly. And despite my best intentions, as has been made abundantly clear to her numerous times, I was not being helpful at all. And after receiving this second email from the pill provider (they are not prescription medications, they are over the counter), a business from whom I've bought thousands of pills over 14-plus years, I sort of snapped; well for me, snapped: I talked back to the computer in an irritated tone. (Dina also hates when I use tone as another method of communication.) And what did I say, exactly, to the computer? "Stop bugging me." And then I laughed. So that's how Dina has felt all those times when she felt compelled to tell me to stop bugging her. From 1978 to 2023, finally now we're simpatico, sort of. I suppose turnaround is fair play — or at least possible (I think I'd hold off saying probable).

You see it is possible to teach an old dog — or in this case, an old husband, new tricks/new behaviors. I don't think I'll have similar agreement with this pill provider so I will refrain from subjecting myself to whatever ridicule or response I'm likely to receive — regardless of their tone, from the company when I ask them to spare me their marketing initiatives. As a businessman I can appreciate valuing and remaining connected with your active/existing clientele. As one of those active/existing clientele, I don't have to like it, especially if they're initiating more than I feel they should. Then it becomes a losing proposition. The exact opposite of what the company — and our marriage, is supposed to be.

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



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