

## Volgenau Conservatory Opens at Meadowlark Gardens

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Meadowlark Gardens Botanical Park celebrates opening of new Volgenau Conservatory.

## Vienna, Herndon Mayors, Del. Watts Honored

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PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

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

#### HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR CANCELLED

The Halloween Spooktacular that is usually presented by Celebrate Great Falls at The Village Green is cancelled this year due to Covid-19. After much discussion, the organizers determined that there was just no way to offer the Spooktacular events in a safe and compliant manner.

#### FRIDAY/OCT. 30

Boy Scout Troop 55 will host The Halloween Haunted Trail on Friday, Oct. 30 from 6-8 p.m. on the Great Falls Village Field (behind the Post Office) by reservation only. All participants will be asked to wear masks that cover both mouth and nose, to arrive no earlier than 10 minutes before your appointed time and depart shortly thereafter. Groups of no more than 10 people will enter the trail every 5 minutes to facilitate social distancing. Everyone entering the Haunted Trail must have a reservation (including any parents and younger siblings who choose to participate). This activity is ideal for ages 5-10 yrs old but all ages are welcome! It will be a similar "level of scary" as the Haunted House under the green and white striped tent in years past. The event is free but donations are welcome to help offset expenses. Email to Erin Lobato at [erinlobato@celebrategreatfalls.org](mailto:erinlobato@celebrategreatfalls.org)

#### SATURDAY/OCT. 31

Virtual 5K/1K Walk-Run-Roll. 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Join in the Unity Halloween Virtual 5K/1K Run, Walk, and Roll. Sign up, dress up for Halloween (optional), and move your body! Then post your pictures on the Facebook Event page for all to see #Unity5K1K #UnityWalkRunRoll #UnityVirtualHalloween. Cost is \$25. Visit the website: <https://virtual5k-1k-walk-run-roll-halloween.eventbrite.com/?aff=cxnews>

#### PUMPKIN DECORATING

**COMPETITION FOR CHARITY**  
Over 20 businesses in Northern Virginia and D.C. are participating in VK Pediatric Dentistry's annual pumpkin decorating contest for charity and they want your votes. Local kid-friendly businesses (everything from Toy Stores to Pediatricians) in NOVA and D.C. were invited to submit a small donation and decorate a pumpkin, with the winner getting to choose which charity to donate the proceeds to. Over 20 businesses have entered and over \$400 has already been raised for a good cause! Voting takes place in person and online from Oct. 26 to 30 and the voting is open to the public. You don't need to be a patient of Dr. Peter's to vote for your favorite pumpkin. Check out the pumpkins and vote for your favorite here: [www.smilewithvk.com/pumpkin](http://www.smilewithvk.com/pumpkin)

#### MONDAY/NOV. 2

Sibshop Workshop. 10-11 a.m. and 1-2 p.m. Virtual workshop. An exciting workshop for brothers and sisters of children with special needs. The Sibshop workshops are for children in grades 2-6 who have siblings with special needs and who are enrolled in Fairfax County Public Schools. Registration is free, however, donations are accepted to support the cost of future Sibshops: <https://fcpsfoundation.z2systems.com/np/clients/fcpsfoundation/donation.jsp?campaign=43&test=true>

# NEWS

## Volgenau Conservatory Opens

**Meadowlark Botanical Gardens celebrates new feature, honors past director.**

BY SUSAN LAUME  
THE CONNECTION

**M**eadowlark Botanical Gardens held two celebrations on the evening of Oct. 20: a ribbon cutting opening the Volgenau Conservatory; and a dedication of the dogwood tree planted in memory to the life of David Hobson, a respected career regional parks director.

The conservatory, fully funded by a donation from the Volgenau family, is beautifully situated on a knoll overlooking the park grounds. The climate controlled 1,200 square foot glass building, equipped with heaters and automated ventilation windows will be open for public entry with a focus on Mediterranean plants; plants that thrive in a warmer climate. Public school students are expected to visit frequently to learn about horticulture, geography, and the importance of plants in our environment. In the next couple of months, before taking up that education role, the conservatory will serve as the concession center for visitors during the park's "Winter Walk of Lights" event.

The Volgenau family and its foundation are well recognized for charitable giving and community support. George Mason University named its Volgenau School of Engineering in 2005 after a \$10 million gift to the school's Department of Bioengineering from Ernst and Sara Volgenau. The "Nature Conservancy", an internationally recognized conservation group, in August 2020 named its coast reserve on Virginia's barrier islands in honor of the Volgenau family's multiple gifts.

Jennifer Volgenau Wiley, who lives in Vienna near Meadowlark Gardens, one of the several family members who attended the ceremony, spoke of her delight with the project. "I can see it next door, and it's showing the next generation to see and appreciate nature." The project combined two of the Foundation's areas of targeted giving, which Wiley described as devoted to "60 percent conservation and land; 30 percent education; and 10 percent classical music."

The dogwood tree dedication, directed by resolution of the NOVA Parks Board of Directors, honored the career and work of long time manager and past executive director of the organization, David Hobson. He started working for the regional park authority in 1968, and became involved in capital acquisition, the main function of the organization, in 1976; in 1996 rising to executive director and overseeing the 19 regional park system. He was lauded during the dedication for his skill in securing grant funding.



Ceremonial ribbon cutting for conservatory attended by Andi Pearl, Exec Director, Volgenau Foundation; Jennifer Volgenau Wiley; Lisa Volgenau; Paul Gilbert, Exec Director NOVA Parks; Michael Nardolilli, Board Chairman NOVA Parks; Mark Chandler, NOVA Parks Board of Directors.



Volgenau Foundation represented at the ceremony by Executive Director Andi Pearl and Ernst and Sara Volgenau daughters, Lisa Volgenau, Lauren Volgenau Knapp, and Jennifer Volgenau Wiley.



New conservatory will house Mediterranean plants in a climate controlled environment for aesthetic and educational purposes.

The authority received over \$80 million in grant money during his tenure and amassed land holdings over 10,000 acres. He was best known for his work in acquiring and developing the Washington & Old Dominion Railroad Regional Park, a 45 mile rail to trail project, stretching from Alexandria to Purcellville, now enjoyed by millions of users annually. Hobson, who retired in 1999 after a 31 year career, died in August 2020. The tree, an American Dogwood, is significant as the official state flower of Virginia.

Meadowlark Botanical Gardens boasts 95 acres of ornamental display and native plants as part of the NOVA Parks system. The property includes lakes, woods and walking

trails, with a restored 18th century log cabin. Another gem is their formal Korean Bell Garden and bell tower. The only one of its kind in the Western Hemisphere. Installed in 2011, the pavilion was built in the traditional way of Korean craftsmen without use of nails or screws. All pieces fit together precisely in a technique that has been shown to withstand the destructive force of earthquakes in Asia. The tower contains the "Bell of Peace and Harmony" which stands nearing seven feet tall and weighs 6,000 pounds; engraved with traditional symbols, it mirrors designs used in the Silla Dynasty, 57 BCE-935 AD. The bell garden provides a cultural link for the area's Korean Americans,



Smoky the screech owl on-hand to illustrate the Park's nature education mission.

### Winter Walk of Lights Begins Nov. 11

The park is known for its annual "Winter Walk of Lights", a spectacular holiday light show which draws 80,000 visitors during the Fall and Winter event. Described as "magical and dazzling" in the past, this year it may be better described as "enchanting and safe." The event provides masks required, six foot distancing outdoor experience along a half mile plus, one-way trail, with increased sanitary practices observed by park staff to keep common areas clean. Timed tickets for the light show, which runs nightly from Nov. 11 through January 3, 2021, 5:30 - 10 pm, may be obtained through the park authority web site: <https://www.novaparks.com/events/winter-walk-of-lights>.

and owing to a partnership with the Republic of Korea, includes plant species typical in a Korean garden, for a natural plant ascetic which tends to a wilder aspect than other oriental gardens.

## Mark and John and Amendment One

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



COMMENTARY

When the then underdog Mark Warner, whose only experience in political life had been to chair the Democratic Party of Virginia and manage the successful campaign of Doug Wilder for governor, had the courage in 1996 to take on senior senator John Warner in his re-election bid, Mark Warner's bumper sticker read, "Mark, not John." While the phrase may have helped voters differentiate the two candidates who are not related, it was not enough to cause voters to change their senator. Republican Senator John Warner went on to serve a total of 30 years in the United States Senate, the second longest of any Virginian. Mark Warner went on to be elected governor of Virginia in 2001 and ran in 2008 to succeed Senator John Warner when he retired.

Too often overlooked in times of political rancor is the admiration and respect that develops among persons of different political parties even though they may differ on policy issues. Such was the case with the two senators Warner. As governor, Mark Warner regularly con-

sulted with then Senator John Warner to the advantage of the Virginia economy particularly as it related to the military presence in Virginia. When Democrat Mark Warner had a strong challenge to his Senate seat in 2014, retired Republican Senator John Warner endorsed him for re-election over his challenger who had been chairman of the Republican National Committee.

The two men have tremendous political experience between them and a moderate, pragmatic approach to resolving issues. It is no surprise that both have endorsed passage of Amendment #1 on the ballot this year to end political gerrymandering. Former Senator John Warner said, "the passage of Amendment 1 is essential to achieving this goal and to further strengthen our state's political institutions. This referendum was drafted by a bipartisan group of volunteers from all walks of life and every corner of Virginia in order to give average citizens a stronger voice in the important process of redistricting."

Senator Mark Warner told the Richmond Times Dispatch that he has already voted for

the amendment. He said, "I believe in non-partisan redistricting, and it's an improvement over our current broken redistricting system. Voters should choose their elected leaders, not the other way around." Virginia's other United States Senator, Tim Kaine, who also served as Lieutenant Governor and Governor of Virginia supports Amendment #1 as does Congressman Don Beyer who was also Lieutenant Governor.

While there is opposition to the amendment by those who see a loss of partisan political power if the amendment passes, there is broad support among others including Common Cause, the Brennan Center for Justice, Princeton Gerrymandering Project, Campaign Legal Center, AARP Virginia, ACLU, Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce, League of Women Voters, Virginia League of Conservation Voters, and political scientists in Virginia's colleges and universities. The editorial boards of the Washington Post and the Richmond Times Dispatch and all major newspapers in Virginia have endorsed it.

While there have been suggestions that a better amendment could be written, no one in the nearly four decades that I have worked on this issue has come forward with specific language that has the broad support of this one. I urge your vote for its passage. Send questions or comments to me at kenplum@aol.com.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## The Friends of Riverbend Park Strongly Support Park Bonds

To the Editor:

The Friends of Riverbend Park, Inc. (FORB) is an independent non-stock, non-profit corporation, established in the Commonwealth of Virginia on Aug. 5, 1999, with the purpose of protecting, enhancing, and preserving the physical, cultural and natural heritage of Riverbend Park by educating the public to the value of environmental protection generally and of the park's wildlife habitat specifically; providing volunteer services to the park; channeling donations of money, property, and materials to the park; providing citizen input to plans that may be proposed for the park; and performing any other activities or services necessary or convenient to carry out such purposes, to the extent permitted by Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

It is our strong conviction that the parks and parks facilities system in Fairfax County should be robustly supported by its citizens and voters in the upcoming 2020 General & Special Elections to be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020. Specifically, the ballot contains a vote for or against approval of a Parks and Parks Facilities Bonds issue in the amount of \$112,000,000 to acquire

or improve the county's parks and parks facilities. Even more specifically, the detailed list of projects included in the Fairfax County Park Authority's priorities for this bond issue is a design study for a new Interpretive Center at Riverbend Park to replace the existing Visitor Center which is located on the Potomac River flood plain and subject to frequent flooding. It is simply a matter of time before the existing Visitor Center will be seriously compromised or swept away by the Potomac's flood waters. FORB believes that plans to replace that structure with a new Interpretive Center in accordance with Riverbend Park's Master Plan must begin as soon as possible, and we urge all voters to approve the Parks and Parks Facilities on the November 3rd ballot.

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**Frank Zeng**  
**John Callow**, Riverbend Park Manager, ex officio

## Don't Waste Your Vote

To the Editor:

Maybe Joe Biden was not your preferred Democratic candidate and you would rather have supported Warren, Klobuchar, Sanders or Buttigieg. Or maybe you are a Republican who is dissatisfied with Trump's presidency and wish other Republicans would have run in the primary so that you could have had other Republican choices.

But the fact of the matter is that the only two candidates who have a mathematical chance of winning this election are Biden and

Trump. Don't waste your vote on a Green Party candidate. Don't waste your vote by writing in a third name in order to "make a statement." Don't stay at home and refuse to vote because you are not 100 percent satisfied with the two choices.

If you want things to change you have to specifically vote for Joe Biden, even if you have to hold your nose while doing it. If you sit out of the election or vote for a write-in candidate, you are voting for four more years of mayhem.

**Barbara Glakas**  
Herndon

### Let Us Know Your View

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Published by  
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# Vienna, Herndon Mayors, Del. Watts Honored

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors recognized three local honorees. “Certainly, we did not want to wait any longer to recognize the tremendous work that they’ve done on behalf of our community and to publicly thank them,” said Board Chairman Jeffrey McKay.

Dean Lynch, Executive Director, Virginia Association of Counties (VACo), presented the Virginia Association of Counties Achievement Award to Vivian Watts, member of the Virginia House of Delegates (D-39). He said Watts helped to get equal taxing authority to Virginia counties. After receiving the award, Watts said, “I had to try to bring members to understand that the situation of 70 percent of the state’s population, after a century almost, to be tied to what is essentially a colonial base of taxation of just real estate... Thank God it’s at least there for us to know that with a breadth of economy that we have got to have a breadth of revenue sources so that when any one portion is hit hard, we still have that breadth. Supervisor John Foust, (D-Dranesville District), said,



**Del. Vivian Watts (D-39)**



**Laurie DiRocco, former mayor Town of Vienna**



**Mayor Lisa Merkel, Town of Herndon**

“You’ve been an amazing advocate for local government.”

Next, the Board recognized Laurie DiRocco for her 17 years of service to Vienna, as Mayor, Town Councilmember and member of the Planning Commission. According to McKay, Di Rocco did things that were “pretty revolutionary” for Vienna. “I think my favorite one is organizing Friday morning walks... a good reminder of the importance of that small town, community feel,” he said. Supervisor Walter Alcorn (D-Hunter Mill) described DiRocco as an advocate. “The Patrick Henry Library project...the new police station... your advocacy during COVID for all the small businesses in the town, and working with the County on the RISE program,” he said.

The Board’s next resolution recognized Lisa Merkel, Mayor of Herndon. According to McKay, Merkel was elected Vice Mayor of the Town of Herndon in 2010 and in 2012 became the first woman elected mayor. He said the town thrived under Merkel’s leadership. “The Downtown Redevelopment Master planning, the Herndon (Metrorail) Station... the new fire station... attracting over 100 new businesses to the Town of Herndon... The success that Herndon is having...translates into success for the County.” Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) described Merkel as passionate, approachable and an amazing ambassador. He said, “Your legacy is going to be very, very impressive.”

— MERCIA HOBSON

## Clarity Revisited

Vienna restaurant success has rocked the local restaurant scene.

BY ALEXANDRA GREELEY  
THE CONNECTION

Three cheers that so many local restaurants have reopened. That may mean in many cases sitting outdoors because of limited indoor seating. But at a recent lunch hour at Vienna’s distinctive Clarity restaurant, the awning-covered front terrace and parts of the parking lot had tables filled with the eager-to-eat clientele.

And no wonder. Owner and executive chef Jon Krinn has dazzling credentials: he worked with outstanding chefs in Paris and New York City, and returning to the DC area, he started the top-notch 2941 Restaurant in Falls Church. With its very sophisticated cuisine, the restaurant has earned its place as one of the top 100 local restaurants.

But several years ago, Krinn started this new venture in Vienna, and since then, its success has rocked the local restaurant scene. No wonder the seating areas fill up rapidly because the Clarity lunch and dinner menus change daily offerings—except the winning grass-fed Midwestern cheeseburger—yum. Consistent, though, are the hot rolls passed with extra virgin, very green olive oil.

Yet menu changes may delete some favorites, such as the Fishermen’s Stew, but the recent menu featured



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

### Clarity kitchen area

this appetizer: the Seven Hills Short Ribs & Fall Vegetable Soup. Filled with bits of meat and vegetables in a rich broth, the soup can kick off a full meal, or perhaps satisfy a light appetite. Either way, its layers of textures and flavors merit an order.... Unless, of course, patrons are looking for chef’s foie gras salad or his calamari salad, which apparently is a favorite for a regular patron here.

Main-course dishes ranged from roasted swordfish and pan-seared Canadian salmon to spice rubbed venison leg or braised prime rib cap with purple to broccoli. A pasta entrée also appeared served with lamb Bolognese and lentils. Some items may remain on the menu, but if not, just sample what seems appealing. But the beloved cheeseburger, a menu constant that according to the website has been served here since Clarity’s earliest days, is a real winner.

SEE CLARITY, PAGE 7

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An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.  
**-Werner Heisenberg**

# CALENDAR

## NOW THRU NOV. 5

**Haunted Wine Tours.** 6:30 p.m.; 7:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. At The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. The Haunted Wine Tours are back for the fifth year in a row, in a new condensed version, so you can enjoy real ghost stories and award-winning wine all while staying safe. Due to the restrictive environment surrounding COVID, there are far less tickets available this year. Therefore priority access to tickets go to wine club members.

## NOW THRU DEC. 7

**MCC Fantastic Fall Scavenger Hunt.** Join your friends, family and community for McLean Community Center's Fantastic Fall Scavenger Hunt. This exciting fall virtual event allows for you and your team to compete against others and win prizes. This is the perfect event to stay local and have fun with your friends and family. The Fantastic Fall Scavenger Hunt is a game played on a smart phone in which teams complete 75 missions (or challenges) both indoors and outdoors. Missions include answering questions, taking specific photos or videos, finding a specific item, geocaching or completing specific tasks as given in a list provided by the Game Master. The scavenger hunt will take place in and around McLean and from your own home. Participants work in small teams of 4-10 players. Team captains must be 16 years old or older. Visit the website [www.McLeancenter.org](http://www.McLeancenter.org).

## NIGHTMARE ALLEY

The Workhouse Arts Center announces that "Nightmare Alley" Haunted Drive-Thru is coming to Lorton for this year's Halloween season. "Nightmare Alley" is the first immersive drive-thru Halloween experience in the region. Zombies, swamp creatures, creepy clowns, and scary dolls are among 13 different scary scenes taking up residence on the Workhouse campus. These new campus inhabitants will scare and entertain visitors experiencing the attraction from the safety of their cars. There will be 13 nights of fright, now through Saturday, Oct. 31. Fridays and Saturdays from 7-11 p.m. each weekend in October, and Sundays in the middle of the month (October 25) from 7-10 p.m. Visit <https://www.workhousearts.org/nightmare-alley/>

## OCT. 26-31

**Everything Christmas Sale.** 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. and 9-2 on Sat. At First Baptist Church of Herndon, 681 Elden Street, Herndon. Get a head start on decorating and choosing unique gifts and help your community at The Closet's Everything Christmas Sale. You'll find a tremendous selection of holiday items and bargain prices. Many are one-of-a-kind items. Proceeds returned to the community in grants and scholarships. For more information about The Closet, see the website, <http://www.theclosetofgreaterherndon.org/>

## WEDNESDAY/OCT. 28

**Gallery Walks -- Live Stream** (30 minutes). Presented by the Virginia Museum of History and Culture. Join the VMHC Education Team for the free virtual exhibition highlight tours! The topics covered during these 30-minute tours will change regularly, so mark your calendars



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The blacksmith is scheduled to be at work from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 1

## Hear the Clang, Clang, Clang of the Blacksmith at Colvin Run

Spend a Sunday afternoon exploring the grounds of historic Colvin Run Mill and enjoy a free demonstration of the ancient art of blacksmithing.

Watch as the blacksmith fires up his forge and works with hammer and tongs to make iron tools and utensils. This free demonstration is appropriate for all ages, and no reservations are required.

The blacksmith is scheduled to be at work from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 1, 2020. However, this activity is weather dependent, so call to confirm that a demo will be taking place.

Colvin Run Mill is located at 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls, Virginia. For more information, call 703-759-2771; or visit Colvin run Mill.

for the 2nd and 4th Wednesday each month. Each gallery walk will be streamed live on the museum's YouTube and VMHC Education Facebook page. Visit [www.virginia-history.org/events](http://www.virginia-history.org/events).

## WEDNESDAY/OCT. 28

**The Unruly Theatre Project's Virtual Improv Show.** 7 p.m. Virtual show. Free; registration is required. Join (the) Unruly Theatre Project's virtual fall improv show from the comfort of your couch! Register here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/UTPFallShows>. A Zoom link and password for the show will only be emailed to those who register for it. Sponsored by The Alden

## THURSDAY/OCT. 29

**Introduction to Astronomy Webinar.** 7:30-8:30 p.m. Webinar at Riverbend Park, Great Falls. Now that the days are getting shorter and the nights are getting longer, it's a great time to learn some astronomy basics to better enjoy those extra hours of dark skies. Learn some fundamentals of astronomy and the universe around us. The webinar will cover basic types of astronomical objects from small to large, the motions of the planets and stars, and interesting phenomena in the night sky.

This virtual program will be hosted in an online Zoom meeting by staff and volunteers of the Analemma Society. The cost is \$6 per person. Call Riverbend Park at 703-759-9018.

## FRIDAY/OCT. 30

**Spooky Virtual Family Bingo.** 7 p.m. Virtual. Join OFC on a Zoom call and enjoy an evening of fun and

prizes. Families are encouraged to dress in Halloween costumes for the video call. Prizes will be awarded to the winner(s) of each round of bingo and the family with the best costume(s) as voted by OFC staff will win a prize. Cost \$5 per device; registration is required. To register or for more information, call MCC at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, or visit: [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org).

## OCT. 30-31

**Kiddie Trick or Treat Drive-Thru Halloween Event.** The first-ever Kiddie Trick or Treat Drive-Thru event will be held October 30 and 31 from 3-6 p.m. at Workhouse Arts Center. This event will allow children to enjoy the holiday in a safe and socially distant way. Put on your favorite family-friendly costume and drive through 10 different Halloween scenes to experience trick or treating like never before. Visit <http://workhousearts.org/>

## OCT. 30-31

**Haunted Mini Golf.** 5-7:30 p.m. At Oak Marr RECenter, 3200 Jermantown Road, Oakton. Oak Marr RECenter is welcoming all werewolves, vampires and goblins for a howling good evening of mini golf on Halloween weekend. Wear your favorite costume to play a round of "Haunted Mini Golf." Challenge yourself on the mini-golf course, trick or treat, and win various goodies at every hole. It's fun for family members of all ages! Sign up for a time slot through the Park Authority's on-line ticketing system. The last ticket will be sold at 7 p.m. on each event day. The cost is \$9 per person. Call 703-281-6501.

## VIENNA POLICE HIGHLIGHTS

The following summary contains various incidents of general interest handled by the Town of Vienna Police Department from Oct. 16 – Oct. 22, 2020.

### INCIDENTS

Animal Case – Quarantine -- Vienna Dog Park, 700 Courthouse Road, SW, Oct. 9, 3 p.m.

On Oct. 14, a citizen reported that her husband was at the dog park when their dog got into a fight with another dog. When her husband tried to break up the fight, he was bitten by the other dog. The other dog resides in Fairfax County and the case was referred to the County Animal

Control Officer to follow up.

Grand Larceny -- Michaels, 311 Maple Avenue, East, Oct. 14 between 4. and 8:30 p.m.

An employee reported that someone entered the employee lounge and stole her credit card, debit card, and driver's license. Unauthorized charges were made to her debit card.

Vehicle Tampering -- 400 Block Lawyers Road, NNW, Between Oct. 14 at 5 p.m. and Oct. 15 at 8 a.m. A resident reported that someone entered her unlocked vehicle and rummaged through it.

Petit Larceny -- 600 Block Plum Street, SW, Between Oct. 14 at 6 p.m. and Oct. 15 at 6 p.m. A resident reported that a political sign was stolen from h,

Grand Larceny -- T-Mobile, 216 Maple Avenue, West, Oct. 15, 1:34 p.m. An employee reported that a man came into the store, stole three cell phones, then ran from the store west-bound on Maple Avenue.

Arrest – Drunk In Public -- Park Street and Locust Street, SE, Oct. 16, 1:06 a.m. Officers responded to the area for a report of a noise complaint. They observed two men leave the area and two women walking away from them, southbound on Park Street. MPO Smith checked the welfare of the women. Upon his interaction with the women, he observed that one of them showed signs of impairment. The women stated they were walking to a friend's apartment at Park Terrace. The officer advised them to go directly to the apartment. However, a short time later, the woman was observed acting disorderly in a parking lot on Locust Street. MPO Smith arrested the 21-year-old woman from Gardenia Lane in Manassas, Va. The woman began to resist arrest and assaulted the officer. MPO Smith transported the woman to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center where she was charged with Drunk In Public, Obstructing Justice with Force, and Disorderly Conduct.

Suspicious Event -- 200 Block Locust Street, SE, Oct. 16, 4:44 p.m. A resident reported that she was assaulted by her roommate. Upon the officer's interaction with the resident, he detected signs of impairment and the woman changed her statements regarding the assault. Both roommates were advised to stay away from each other.

Police Service -- 600 Block Meadow Lane, SW, Oct. 16, 9:22 p.m. At the request of Fairfax County Police, officers responded to a resident to check on the welfare of a suicidal juvenile.

The juvenile reported that she contacted a school counselor regarding her friend who attempted suicide the previous night. The friend resides in Fairfax County and their department was notified to check on his welfare.

Arrest – Driving While Intoxicated -- 200 Block Cedar Lane, SE, Oct. 16, 10:47 p.m. Officers responded to the area for a woman drinking alcohol in a vehicle, and she had a child in the vehicle with her. Upon the officer's interaction with the woman, they detected signs of impairment. A relative was called to take custody of the child. PFC Gucwa arrested the 30-year-old woman from Wesleyan Street in Vienna. She was transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center and charged with Driving While Intoxicated While

Transporting a Child – Second Offense within Five Years.

Destruction of Property -- 200 Block Lawyers Road, NW, Oct. 17 between 12:01 a.m. and 9 a.m.

A resident reported that someone threw an egg at her vehicle.

Vandalism -- 300 Block Cabin Road, SE, Oct. 17, 1:20 a.m. A resident reported that someone damaged her house with a paintball.

Shoplifting -- Giant Food, 359 Maple Avenue, East, Oct. 17, 2:03 p.m. An employee reported that two men left the store with two shopping carts of beer without paying. The men fled the area eastbound on Maple Avenue in a pickup truck. The tag on the truck returned to another vehicle that had been reported as stolen.

Found Property -- 100 Block Park Street, SE, Oct. 17 5:51 p.m. A citizen turned in a found wallet.

Arrest – Drunk In Public -- Echols Street and Niblick Drive, SE, Oct. 17, 6:43 p.m. A man called the police reporting that he had been kidnapped in Montgomery County, Md, and driven to Vienna. Upon the officer's interaction with the man, they detected signs of impairment. Officers also determined that the man had not been the victim of a crime and placed him under arrest.

PFC Gucwa transported the 32-year-old man from Taft Court in Rockville, Md. to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center where he was charged with Drunk in Public.

Domestic Dispute -- Council Drive, NE, Oct. 17 between 7 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. A resident reported that she had a domestic dispute with her husband. She stated that her husband

became angry and began destroying property throughout the home, then gathered his belongings and left the home. (Reference Incident #20-8010)

Trespassing -- Deep Blue Spa, 307 Maple Avenue, West, Suite L, Oct. 18, 12:35 p.m.

Officers responded to a report of a dispute between the business owner and an employee. The employee was trespassed from the business on Oct. 17. On Oct. 18, she returned to the business and a physical altercation started between the two when the owner assaulted the employee and damaged her cell phone. The owner was advised of the process to obtain a warrant for trespassing and the employee was advised of the process to obtain warrants for assault and destruction of property should they wish to pursue charges against each other.

## Clarity Revisited

FROM PAGE 5

This burger, cooked to your liking, comes on a brioche roll and is topped with melted cheddar cheese and a slice of caramelized pork belly. Your side choices could be a green salad or house fries. And if you are a fan of hamburgers, this is your go-to offering.

Come the end of the meal, do not pass on dessert or desserts. Recently, three chocolate treats showed up: flour-

less chocolate ganache cake with a dark chocolate ganache sauce; an Australian white chocolate mud cake with hazelnut mousse and vanilla ice cream; and a brown ale chocolate cream pot de crème. If you are a chocoholic, the chocolate ganache cake will blow you away.

Come often, ask about special events, and enjoy the food, wine, and socializing with friends.

Clarity, 442 Maple Ave., E, Vienna. 703-539-8400. Hours may vary.

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## Missive or Dismissive



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

For the last few months, I have been receiving unsolicited emails from Tommy Chug; he being the other half of the 70's era comedy duo, "Cheech and Chong" with whom I spent countless hours in college laughing at their recorded routines, but beyond that I don't remember much. There were a few follow up movies - which I never saw, and more recently, I have found somewhat belatedly a early 2000s cop show starring Cheech Marin alongside Don Johnson: "Nash Bridges." Nothing at all from Tommy Chong until these emails began arriving.

The email is a solicitation followed by content about his life these last years, and the discovery he made after he had served a nine-month prison sentence for selling decorative bong (there's a bit more to that story, but it's not particularly pertinent to this column). After being diagnosed with prostate cancer, Tommy sought help trying to mitigate the effects of his chemotherapy treatment and perhaps even improve his quality of life. (he's 81 now, by the way.) In so pursuing, he met a doctor from Utah while on a plane, and the rest is Tommy's email.

The content is not exactly personalized but it does resonate. It resonates because it sounds reasonable and plausible and the remedy not too impactful to major organs, specifically liver and kidney, for which I'm very keen and concerned, given my nearly 13-year chemotherapy-plus treatment for cancer. However, the email has struck a nerve. It did so because as a cancer patient, it's easy to believe (hope certainly), there's a magic (often non-Western) cure to whatever ails you, especially when cancer is the culprit. I wouldn't necessarily characterize my feelings/emotions as susceptible but it's hard not to lean that way when you've been given a "terminal" diagnosis by your Western/conventional doctors. To say you have nothing to lose is a bit of a simplification. Still, hearing the words I heard on Feb. 27, 2009 (you bet I remember the date) at the initial Team Lourie meeting with my oncologist, does cause your antennae to go up and out and all-around seeking an answer to what might very well be, the unanswerable.

When an oncologist tells you you're likely to die within "13 months to two years," all bets are off and caution no longer becomes an impediment. Standing pat and adhering exclusively to what your doctors are telling you seems like giving up sort of. For me, I didn't give up. I started trying alternatives, many of which I am continuing a decade-plus later. Now whether these non-conventional/non-Western methods have proven beneficial I certainly can't confirm, but if living is any indicator, they likely did no harm (the crux of the Hippocratic oath). So yes, on the face of Tommy's email about improving one's quality of life, I am open to some other possibilities to prescription medication.

In fact, to this day, I still consume about 60 pills a day and always wash it and most other things down with alkaline water. Moreover, I try to limit my sugar, which is impossible and I remain open to new ideas. Over the years, I have ingested spoonfuls of pureed canned asparagus, drank water with baking soda, drank water with apple cider vinegar, blended fruit and vegetable smoothies (how else does one tolerate kale?) and tried to be mindful of a maintaining an alkaline diet. The goal has been to enhance my immune system while eliminating toxins in order to enable my body to heal itself. Again, it's difficult to know what alternatives have worked and what hasn't. Whether it has been real or a type of placebo effect where I thought it was beneficial, I am not prepared to say. However, I am living proof of something.

As concerns what Tommy is selling, the problem is, as it was with all my previous choices, there are no guarantees. Unfortunately, that was a problem at the beginning, and I fear it will be a problem at the end.

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



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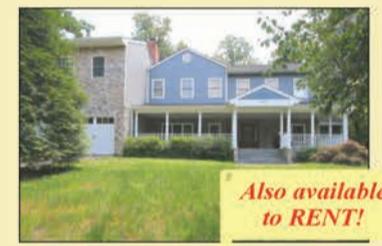
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