

## After 30 Years, Cafe Oggi Turns Out the Lights

FAREWELL, PAGE 8

Roger and Maggie Abbott toast their last night at Café Oggi with a glass of bubbly.

### 2022: Not Business As Usual in FCPS

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### No One Hurt in McLean House Fire

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PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION

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**NEWS**

# MCA: Build Pedestrian Bicyclist Friendly Projects

**\$100 million available countywide over six years.**

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

**O**n Jan. 5, 2022, the McLean Citizens Association (MCA) board adopted a resolution recommending 14 McLean pedestrian bicyclist friendly sidewalk and trail projects in accord with Fairfax County's draft plan, "Active Transportation Project Prioritization Methodology."

"I want to thank everybody for the quick turnaround time, especially during the holidays," said Rob Jackson, president of MCA. "We had a limited window, and we made it."

Three months earlier, during the Oct. 5, 2021, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Meeting, the board approved making a one-time investment in pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure. The goal through FY 2027 would be at least \$100 million in new funding identified during FY 2022, citing federal relief dollars. The funds would be used for projects not currently budgeted on the county's priority list through FY 2025 and in addition to any previous transportation funding.

According to the Dec. 6 documents of the Board of Supervisors Transportation Committee, officials recognized that the projects should include repair and maintenance in addition to new construction, as these are less expensive and easier and faster to implement. Officials provided a four-step process for groups to analyze potential projects using specific criteria.

The MCA board chose projects aligning them with the criteria- students, pedestrians, and others in the community use the sidewalks and trails; they were in poor condition, needed for public safety, and served a public need. Some projects connected to other trails and sidewalks, providing a missing link. Because funds were limited, they decided to have some sidewalks and trail sections repaired rather than replaced. Expenses would be lower and the projects more readily implementable.

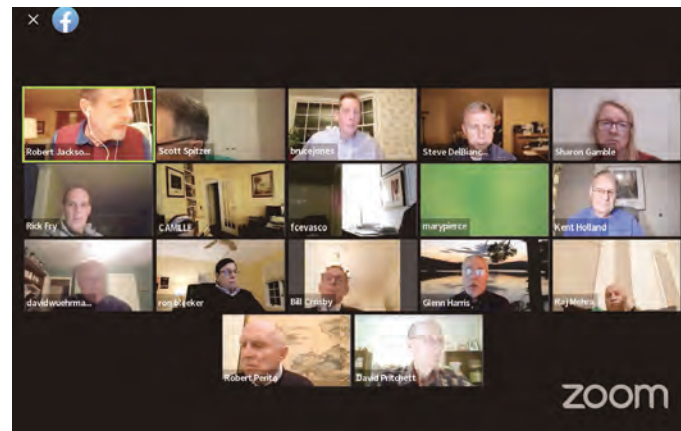
The MCA board recommended the following seven high priority and seven meritorious sidewalk and trail projects for funding in FY 2022 through FY 2027 at their Jan. 5 meeting:

Conduct a study of a potential pedestrian/bicycle bridge across Dolley Madison Boulevard near McLean Central Park and install improvements such as pedestrian flashing lights at the Dolley Madison Boulevard crosswalk, either at Ingleside Avenue or Elm Street. (A fatal bicyclist collision with a vehicle occurred there recently.)

Conduct an engineering study and then improve the walkway along the north side of Haycock Road between the bridge over I-66 and Great Falls Street. Make the walkway consistently 5 feet wide, substantially reduce its slope between Turner Avenue and the I-66 bridge and install a painted crosswalk across Turner Avenue at its intersection with Haycock Road.

Widen by approximately one foot the concrete sidewalk on Haycock Road's north side on the bridge over I-66, repair its northern sidewalk between the south side of the I-66 bridge and the eastern access road to the West Falls Church Metro station.

Repair portions of concrete sidewalk along the west side of Westmoreland Street between Gordon and



The McLean Citizens Association holds its virtual Board of Directors Meeting on Jan. 5, 2022.

Haycock roads.

Repair portions of the asphalt trail along the east side of Balls Hill Road between Thrasher Drive and Heather Hill Lane and beside the frontage of Cooper Middle School.

Repair sections of the asphalt trail along the north side of Haycock Road between Westmorland Street and Great Falls Street.

Extend a sidewalk one block on Redd Road's north side from the northwest corner of its intersection with Idylwood to Reddfield Drive.

MCA identified and supported seven meritorious sidewalk and trail projects:

Repair cracked and uneven portions of the asphalt trail on Dolley Madison Boulevard's north side west of Old Dominion Drive to Lewinsville Road.

Construct a sidewalk on Birch Road's north side from Birch Grove Court to Kirby Road.

Construct a sidewalk along Linway Terrace east of Old Dominion Drive and Birch Road to an existing walkway.

Conduct a study regarding trail construction on Lewinsville Road's north side between Swinks Mill Road and Bridle Path Lane respecting the presence of mature trees in a right-of-way.

Conduct a study for trail development along Old Dominion Drive's south side, which would connect to the planned pedestrian/bicyclist trail along I-495.

Maintain/upgrade Georgetown Pike's (Rt. 193) asphalt trail along its south side just east of Dead Run Creek for about 50 yards.

Repair portions of the asphalt trail along Douglass Drive from the southwest corner of Georgetown Pike to its junction with Father John Court.

During the Board of Supervisors meeting on Oct. 5, McLean's representative, Supervisor John W. Foust (D-Dranesville), discussed the complex and costly challenges the board faced to make communities safer and more accessible for pedestrians and cyclists. The county's many projects were not adequately funded; some projects were delayed, while others were never listed. In an interview on Jan/ 7, Foust clarified the situation.

"We have many bicycle and sidewalk projects funded, but we have many, many more that are not," Foust said. He added that the \$100 million would only "scratch the surface needed across Fairfax County." "We need to find more money, other sources...[so] that we can get specific, desperately needed things dealt with."

# FCPS Faces Staff Shortages With the Rise of Omicron

Superintendent pledges to keep students in the classroom, but it will “not be business as usual.”

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Public Schools is immediately switching to a new operational plan as the area is being slammed by the size and speed of the Omicron wave.

“We will follow this operational plan for the next two-to-three weeks,” said Superintendent Scott S. Brabrand, on Friday, Jan. 6. “During this time, we must adjust our expectations about instruction and give our staff the space needed to make adjustments and on-the-spot decisions needed to combat this Covid spike.”

FCPS plans to deploy its central office and management staff to school operations.

“It will not be business as usual,” Brabrand said. “These shortages will impact us in every way, from classroom instruction to operations.” Brabrand outlined the plan and asked for patience. “There will be some things that simply cannot happen as we move central office staff to supporting school operations,” Brabrand said.

Brabrand outlined the division’s five-point plan beginning with classroom coverage.

He reminded teachers to upload materials to Schoology and said that FCPS may not always be able to provide StreamIN/CheckIN, the plan for for students who are paused, quarantined, or isolated due to Covid. FCPS will seek a substitute teacher from the sub pool, another teacher or staff member, and Central Office volunteer subs who have instructional experience when a classroom teacher is absent. FCPS could combine two classes with one teacher and group multiple classes together, to provide supervision.

The shortage of school bus drivers is causing delays in bus routes, double-back runs, and students arriving at school after the bell.

“Schools will adjust instruction to ensure that no child is missing important classroom time,” Brabrand said. Check the Bus Delay App <https://bus-delay.fcps.edu/>.

Food Services continues to provide breakfast and lunch, but bag lunches may be offered instead of the regular meals given more significant staff shortages

Brabrand asked families to help beginning with their health and safety:

- ❖ Keep sick children home;
- ❖ Get students vaccinated;
- ❖ Enroll students in optional screening testing



FCPS is resolved to keep schools open.



FCPS is urging families to get their children vaccinated as the best protection against Covid-19.

❖ Use FCPS’ diagnostic testing if a student has symptoms.

❖ Help students use layered prevention strategies: proper masks, wash hands, and use hand sanitizer, and be sure students bring home their laptops and chargers every night.

❖ Finally, he urged parents to apply to be substitute teachers.

“Please know that while things will not be perfect, we are all doing our best. We are all in this together as a community, and it will take all of us to keep our schools open,” Brabrand said, Read Dr. Brabrand’s January 6 Letter to Families

<https://www.fcps.edu/blog/message-families-navigating-january-2022-covid-surge>

The Fairfax County Health Department explained a more specific approach to vaccination for the coronavirus for children and teens.



“There are now expanded vaccination opportunities for teens and children effective this week. Following recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Virginia Department of Health, the Fairfax County Health Department immediately adopts the following recommendations:

❖ individuals ages 12–17 years should get a Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine booster dose five months after finishing their two-dose primary series;

❖ individuals ages 18 years and older should get any COVID-19 Vaccine booster dose five months, rather than six months, after finishing their two-dose primary series of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine; and

❖ 5–11-year-old vaccine recipients who are moderately or severely immunocompromised are eligible to receive a third dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine 28 days after the second dose.



Students return to in person learning in Fairfax County Public Schools.

## Return to School 2022

After a week of weather closures, FCPS opens with Covid-19 surging.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

Regardless of where one lives in Fairfax County or the surrounding jurisdictions, the highly infectious Covid-19 variant omicron is setting records.

Fairfax County Public Schools, the nation’s eleventh largest school district, remains committed to in-person learning. But schools were closed the week of Jan. 3-7 because of weather.

What do you think? Send your thoughts to [mhobson@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mhobson@connectionnewspapers.com). You can submit your comments as a letter to the editor at <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter/>

Dawn Stuvland Crosson is a teacher in Herndon and resides in Reston. “As a teacher and a parent, I am very happy to be back in person. The idea of going virtual again is a terrible one. I’m glad the superintendent is clear that we’re in it for the long haul. Omicron is not a threat to children; no healthy child has died from Omicron -- and most have probably already had it. In contrast, virtual school was terrible for our kids. I still see such tragic repercussions from last year in my classroom, and with my own children. If parents are uncomfortable with sending their kids because of media hype surrounding a new variant of a virus that is harmless to children, they can keep them home, but life should go on as normal. Kids need to be in school.”

Erin Lobato of Great Falls is a parent of a Langley 10th grader and recent 2021 grad. “Quite frankly, given the shocking drop in academic achievement from 2019 to 2020, the incredibly low risk of Omicron to healthy people - especially children - and FCPS’s tendency to focus on style over substance, I’m more worried about their ability to provide our children with a solid education this year.”

Julia Malakoff, Herndon, children in Oakton High School: “Two of my four kids are currently in the Fairfax County School system. (Oakton High School) They both experienced extreme depression, isolation and difficulties learning online last year. My junior, whose grades were barely passing last year, is now making straight As as an in person student. And my freshman has come out of his depression now that he can socialize, have personal attention and be on the track team.

“We are 100 percent for in person learning no matter what.” One parent said that she was keeping her child home out of concerns about an environment safe from Covid infection, but did not want to use her name because of possible backlash.

# Fox in the Chicken Coop

BY DEL. KENNETH R. "KEN"  
PLUM



The General Assembly convenes at noon today, Jan. 12, for its annual legislative session. There has been much speculation since the November election as to the direction the Commonwealth might be heading with the change in partisan control of the three statewide offices and the House of Delegates. The newly-elected Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General were known quantities in state politics having served in the House of Delegates. The newly-elected governor who will take the oath of office at noon on Saturday, Jan. 15, does not have any elective office experience. After having run a campaign of having to thread a needle among the various factions of his party, it has remained somewhat a mystery as to the direction he might pursue. That was especially true until he had to start taking action to organize his new government.

The new governor set off a firestorm of opposition last week when he announced his pick to be the next Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources. Making up for any lack of experience

that he may have in the environmental area, Governor-elect Youngkin announced that he would name former Trump Administration head of the Environmental Protection Agency Andrew Wheeler as Virginia's chief protector of its rich natural heritage. The reaction from those who have worked in natural resource protection in Virginia was immediate.

The Virginia League of Conservation Voters issued a press release stating that Wheeler had "presided over an unprecedented rollback of environmental safeguards intended to protect clean air and water across our country — damage that the agency is still working to repair." The leader of the organization went further and described the Wheeler nomination as "hands down the most extreme nomination for an environmental post in Virginia's history and the absolute worst pick the governor-elect could make."

I share the concerns expressed by the League of Conservation Voters with one exception. I believe the nomination of Becky Norton Dunlop to be the Secretary of Natural Resources in Virginia in 1993 by Governor George Allen to be

the worst nomination to ever have been made to a Virginia cabinet post. Dunlop gained her experience in dismantling environmental protection agencies in President Ronald Reagan's administration, and she wreaked havoc on the environmental protection agencies in the state. It was as many at the time expressed "like having a fox in the chicken coop."

Emerging evidence indicates that Wheeler will compete with or even exceed the damage done to environmental protection by Dunlop. In July 2019 the Union of Concerned Scientists issued a list in its blog of "10 Ways Andrew Wheeler Has Decimated EPA Protections in Just One Year." (<https://blog.ucsusa.org/elliott-negin/andrew-wheeler-decimated-epa/>) Among the concerns was Wheeler's gutting of the Obama-era coal ash rule after Wheeler had worked as a coal industry lobbyist. He rolled back Clean Water Act protections even as concerns have been raised about the quality of water in this country.

Environmentalists and activists are hard at work bringing the Wheeler record to the attention of the members of the General Assembly who must confirm his nomination. I oppose the nomination, but the history in Virginia is that the governor gets to pick the people in his administration even if it may mean another fox in the chicken coop.



## 2 Alarm House Fire in McLean

At 10:43 pm Saturday, Jan. 8., crews from Fairfax County Fire and Rescue and Arlington Fire and Rescue were dispatched to a house fire in the 1500 block of Dominion Hill Ct, McLean. Units arrived to find a home fully involved in fire, and requested a 2nd alarm. Fire out. All occupants were safe, and there were no reported injuries.



SCREENSHOTS

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# Veri Peri 2022 Color of the Year

Described blue with red-violet undertones, the hue is expected to be on trend this year.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

Those home accessories or planning a whole-house remodeling project or simply looking to purchase home accessories will have a new color option. Described as a shade of blue with violet-red undertones, Very Peri is Pantone's 2022 Color of the year. The hue, which is expected to be on trend in products that range from home furnishings to runway fashion, is getting mixed reviews from local designers.

"Very Peri isn't a color that I would choose often, or recommend to clients frequently, but I can see why some people would love it," said McLean designer Ashley Hollings,

"I may be in the minority, but I think it's a beautiful color," said North Potomac designer Dana Wiseman of Wiseman Designs. "However, I don't think I'd recommend it to a client. It's a bit too dark for an interior."

"As a purple with a blue edge, Veri Peri is cold and bold," said Annie Elliott of Bossy Color and Annie Elliott Design "It's a strong, impressive color, but it isn't welcoming and that's the number one word my clients use when describing their ideal home."

There are those aren't afraid to embrace it, says Cathy McNamara of Dream Interiors in Alexandria. "I'm seeing an uptick in the number of homeowners and designers who are taking risks. Veri Peri is definitely risky," she said. "This was once a color that was only used as an accent, but more and more of my clients are choosing bold colors for whole rooms."

Those who find the color appealing, but want to use it with caution. Veri Peri can add a burst of vibrancy to a neutral interior.

"As a solid color, it would look great on lamps or a quilt in a crisp white bedroom," said Elliott. "It would be a dramatic accent color in an extremely contemporary home, and the only accent color, possibly. It would be effective as a splash of color on pillows, vases, and art."

Though considered by designers to be a vivid hue, Veri Peri can be paired with colors to increase or subdue its vibrancy. "You can pair it with neutral colors like beige or white to balance the shade and provide a calming, comforting effect," said interior designer



PHOTO BY ANNIE ELLIOTT

Very Peri, color of the year for 2022, is expected to be prevalent in home furnishings such as the sofa in this room which was designed by Annie Elliott of Annie Elliott Design.



PHOTO BY ANNIE ELLIOTT

Annie Elliott of Bossy Color and Annie Elliott Design says Very Peri, color of the year for 2022, can be integrated into a splash of color on pillows, vases, and art.

**"I think Pantone picks wild colors on purpose to spark some conversation. If they picked a boring beige no one would talk about it."**

— Ashley Hollings, interior designer

Michelle Zimmerman of Potomac.

"If you want to make more of a statement, pair it with oranges or yellows, which makes the purple hue pop and appear more vivid," continued Zimmerman. "They're complementary and will create a bold statement."

"To tone down the boldness of Veri Peri, I

would pair it with adjacent colors such as red, burgundy, and navy blue," added Elliott. "The cleverest thing about Veri Peri from an interior design perspective is that it will look great with cool gray."

For the past 23 years, experts from the Pantone Color Institute forecasts global color trends and select a Color of the Year.

"I think Pantone picks wild colors on purpose to spark some conversation," said Hollings. "I mean if they picked a boring beige no one would talk about it."

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nection Newspapers in the metropolitan region.

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

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

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# The Show Must Go On

CES goes hybrid in 2022 return.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



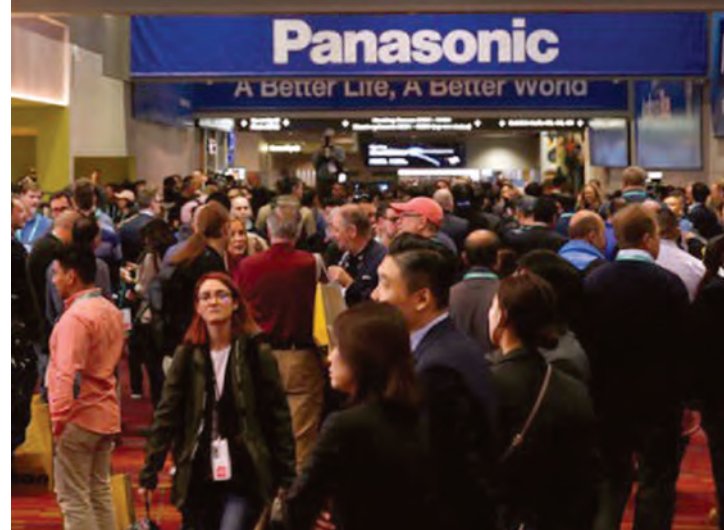
A virtual gaming display at CES 2022.



Doosan Mobility Innovation won two CES 2022 awards for its hydrogen fuel cell-powered drone systems.



Samsung's 55" Odyssey Ark gaming monitor was unveiled during CES 2022.



Hosted by the Arlington-based Consumer Technology Association, CES 2022 returned to Las Vegas Jan. 5-8 in the world's largest consumer technology trade show.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
THE CONNECTION

The crowds may have been smaller but the technology no less impressive as the Arlington-based Consumer Technology Association returned to Las Vegas for CES 2022.

Organizers reported an attendance of more than 40,000 with 2,300 exhibitors as the world's largest and most influential consumer technology trade show returned to an in-person event following a pandemic-induced virtual event in 2021.

The pre-pandemic 2020 show counted 171,268 attendees and 4419 exhibiting companies, including Northern Virginia entrepreneur Skip West, founder of Fairfax Station-based MAXSA Innovations and adjunct professor at George Mason University.

"This was a no-win situation for us," said West, who has attended and exhibited at CES every year since 1985. "It was not obvious as to what to do and I really wanted to be there this year."

West joined exhibitors like Amazon, Microsoft and Google in bowing out at the last minute due to rising concerns over the ongoing pandemic.

"I wasn't worried about getting COVID myself since I have been vaccinated and boosted," West said. "I was worried about bringing it back home. I have my 98-year-old father-in-law living with me. If I had brought something back it would have been a disaster for my family so the risk was just not worth it."

West added that he was not concerned about interacting with the crowds during the show itself due to the many safety protocols in place. Attendees had to show proof of vaccination before receiving a badge, and each person got two self-test kits when they registered.

After attending CES 2020 in person, West participated in last year's virtual event.

"We had a reasonably positive experience during the virtual 2021 event," West said. "We ended up picking up Lowes.com so for us it was worth it but I think generally people were not happy and wanted to return in person."

Prior to the start of the event, CES trimmed the show to three days, down from the usual four, as part of its enhanced health protocols.

But the technology of the future was on full display.

"Innovation came to life this week at CES 2022 with technologies that will reshape

industries and provide solutions to pressing worldwide issues from healthcare to agriculture, sustainability and beyond," said Gary Shapiro, president and CEO of CTA, the owner and producer of CES, in his closing remarks. "The CES show floor buzzed with the joy of human interaction and a five-sense innovation experience with products that will redefine our future and change our world for the better."

Prevalent throughout the show was artificial intelligence, making products and technologies smarter and customizable. Companies included John Deere, featuring the first fully autonomous tractor, and Beyond Honeycomb, with an AI-enabled robot to prep and cook customizable meals.



John Deere unveiled a fully autonomous tractor during CES 2022.



Arlington-based CTA president and CEO Gary Shapiro, right, and CTA executive vice president Karen Chupka open the 2022 CES technology trade show Jan. 5 in Las Vegas.



BMW debuted a color-changing electric concept car called BMW iX Flow utilizing E Ink technology. The vehicle can change its exterior color from black to white and shades of grey almost instantaneously.



Northern Virginia entrepreneur Skip West, shown at CES in 2020, did not attend the 2022 event for the first time since 1985.



LG Electronics, maker of a transparent OLED concept display, was one of several major exhibitors to pull out of CES 2022 at the last minute due to coronavirus concerns.

## Here's What's Happening at MCC!

### Presented by The Alden

**JAN. 14** MCC 2022 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration  
The Daryl Davis Band  
Friday, Jan. 14, 7 p.m.  
\$30/\$20 MCC district residents

### Presented by The Alden

**JAN. 16** Author Daryl Davis  
Sunday, Jan. 16, 2 p.m.  
\$10/\$5 MCC district residents

### Closing Notice

**JAN. 17** Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
Monday, Jan. 17

### The Old Firehouse

**JAN. 21** Teacher Workday Trips  
The Zone  
Friday, Jan. 21, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.  
\$65/\$55 MCC district residents

### Presented by The Alden

**JAN. 23** D'DAT Native American Fusion  
Sunday, Jan. 23, 4 p.m.  
\$15/\$10 MCC district residents

### The Old Firehouse

**JAN. 24** Teacher Workday Trips  
Skiing/Snowboarding  
Monday, Jan. 24, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.  
\$140/\$120 MCC district residents

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# Ring in the New Year, Ring Out Café Oggi

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
THE CONNECTION

The front door of Café Oggi on Old Dominion Drive is locked, the chairs stacked against the wall with plates scattered across the kitchen counter. After 30 years on Old Dominion Drive in McLean, Oggi has closed its doors.

Renato Scozia says when he opened Café Oggi 30 years ago there were very few restaurants in McLean “and none like ours, a neighborhood restaurant with fine dining.” He says, “I knew you had to start with a concept or you’re like a ship in the ocean trying to find a port.” Oggi means “today” in Italian. “I wanted to do what restaurants were doing today in Italy.” Although Scozia remembers the first customer walked in and said, “You must be Mr. Oggi.”

Scozia says that his customers in McLean expect a certain level of quality and service. “They are willing to spend more money but they want more for the dollars they spend, better service, higher quality food.” He says his customers over time have been willing to try new things. “It used to be they didn’t know risotto with porcini mushrooms.”

He says he tried ostrich at one point to see how the customers would react but it didn’t sell very well.

“We’ve introduced limoncello cream and agnotti served with different ingredients.” He says Café Oggi made all of their own pasta. “A nice dish of pasta is my favorite thing, like the way we do our ragu. It’s an acquired taste.”

But Scozia says times have changed for small restaurants. “We don’t make large profits. People don’t understand that. We count pennies, watch everything we do.” At the same time they had to guarantee a certain quality.

This made Covid an even bigger challenge for Café Oggi. “We reopened after four months and did curbside but not much because our food is good when it is served fresh. It needs to be plated. Our customers expect a certain quality. We didn’t want people to say ‘what happened to the food we remember?’” The business dropped to 20-25 percent of the usual.

Scozia will miss his customers. “Many of them have been coming since day one.” He says, “I had a lot of important people over the years. When they mentioned our restaurant at General Colin Powell’s service recently, all of a sudden everybody wanted to be here. They wanted to know, what was his favorite meal? Of course I kept all details of customers confidential.” And he adds, “I treated everyone like a dignitary here.”

He says he has told them he will try to stay in touch.

Scozia said he had been thinking about retirement for a while but Covid helped make his decision. “At my age I wasn’t ready to make a new five-year lease commitment. He says it’s sad but he has to accept the reality of retirement. “I’m looking forward to reading a book and watching a movie.”



Long-time Café Oggi chef Orlando Quiroga prepares his last carpaccio on New Year’s Eve.

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION



Renato Scozia bids farewell to Café Oggi in McLean after 30 years.



Phil and Joan Currie have been frequenting Café Oggi monthly for decades and now sadly bid it farewell.



Merle and Fred Schneider and Jackie Quigley remember occasions for the last 25 years at Café Oggi.

He says, “It can absorb you 24 hours. There are a lot of details.” He adds, “Every morning you wake up and something happens with no rhyme or reason. It gets in your blood.”

Just a day before it was late afternoon on New Year’s Eve. Café Oggi was filling up with diners who had come to celebrate their last dinner before Café Oggi closes its doors for the last time after 30 years.

Phil and Joan Currie sit at their corner table. She has ordered the beef carpaccio followed by mahi mahi while Phil is waiting for the agnolotti followed by Dover sole. “They bring the whole fish and bone it at table side,” Joan explains. The Curries have been coming to Café Oggi at least once a month for 25 years and agree they will be sad. “We don’t know where we’ll go.”

**After 30 years on Old Dominion Drive in McLean, Café Oggi has closed its doors.**

At a table nearby Roger and Maggie Abbott are toasting the New Year with a glass of champagne. “You can’t celebrate the New Year without a glass of bubbly,” Roger says. He has been coming here for years with his grandmother since the 90s when he was a child, and the whole family came together. “My mother worked at the Italian Embassy. That was the connection.” While Maggie ordered the cannelloni, Roger ordered the osso buco. “It is delicious but a pretty heavy meal so we ordered the sorbetto di limone for dessert. “They serve it in a parfait glass with limoncello. It’s nice and light.”

At a round table in the middle of the room Merle and Fred Schneider are celebrating with Fred’s sister, Jackie Quigley. “Yes ma’am, we are regulars.” Fred remembers their tradition goes back 25 years to when he used to accompany his mother to three martini lunches. “She would drink and then give me the keys. I was her designated driver.”

They are still deciding what to order for the last dinner. “In truth we could eat anything on the menu. It is that good,” Merle says. They discuss beginning with the calamari. “It is to die for.”

Quigley agrees, “It’s really nice.” Then maybe the fresh pasta with lobster or the osso buco. Merle says, “This place has been our mainstay. We come here for birthdays, holidays. We told Renato we don’t know what we will do. He just looked at us. He didn’t know what to say.”



The Daryl Davis Band will perform at the McLean Community Center on Jan. 14 and 16, 2022.

**NOW THRU FEB. 19**

**New Art Exhibits.** At McLean Project for the Arts, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Give and Take: Building Form (Emerson Gallery) will feature abstract wood sculpture by Emilie Benes Brzezinski, Rachel Rotenberg, Foon Sham, and Norma Schwartz, while the Atrium Gallery will feature Intersectional Painting: Works by Sheila Crider. Both exhibitions run through Feb. 19, 2022. Visit [www.mpaart.org/](http://www.mpaart.org/) or call 703-790-1953 for gallery hours.

**NOW THRU JAN. 30**

**Paint & Pen.** 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. At Jo Ann Gallery Reston Community Center, Lake Anne, 1609 Washington Plaza N, Reston. Two Artists, One Show with paintings by Angie Magruder and drawings by Bob Biedrzycki. Visit the website: [www.restoncommunitycenter.com](http://www.restoncommunitycenter.com)

**WEDNESDAY/JAN. 12**

**Color Theory.** 7-8:30 p.m. At Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Learn about color theory, what color combinations work well together, and how to use the color wheel. We will then create art using what was learned. Materials are supplied. Adults.

**THURSDAY/JAN. 13**

**Kite Festival Virtual Workshop.** 6 p.m. At McLean Community Center, McLean. Makar Sankranti / Uttarayan is the Hindu festival dedicated to the Surya, the Sun God. In Gujarat, the festival is also known as the kite festival, as people of all backgrounds take to rooftops and fill the sky with colorful kites or patang. Kites for Uttarayan are made of special lightweight paper and bamboo and

a single bow. The string is often coated with glass powder to make it easier to cut down other kites during the frequent kite fights that take place.

**FRIDAY/JAN. 14**

**The Daryl Davis Band.** 7 p.m. At The Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Daryl Davis is a boogie-woogie pianist who has played with the likes of B. B. King, Chuck Berry and Jerry Lee Lewis. He and his band kick off Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. weekend with an evening of R&B and blues. Tickets to Friday's concert are \$30/\$20 for MCC district residents. Visit [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org).

**SATURDAY/JAN. 15**

**A MLK Event.** 2-4 p.m. Virtual. At 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax will sponsor a virtual teach-in to counter the baseless claims of anti-critical race theory politics and reinforce the importance of teaching inclusive history. Free. Visit the website: [www.uucf.org](http://www.uucf.org)

**SUNDAY/JAN. 16**

**Baratunde Thurston Live.** 2 p.m. At RCC Hunters Woods – The Center-Stage, Reston. Baratunde Thurston holds space for hard and complex conversations with his blend of humor, wisdom and compassion. He is an Emmy-nominated TV host who has worked for The Onion, produced for The Daily Show, advised the Obama White House and written The New York Times bestseller How To Be Black. Visit [www.restoncommunitycenter.com](http://www.restoncommunitycenter.com) or call 703-476-4500.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

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**Public Notice**

**Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts**

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

Jurisdiction	Fed Struct Id	Route #	Route Name	Drawing	Posted Date
MONTGOMERY	12333	726	GOLD RUSH ROAD/726 ROUTE	BRUSH CREEK	12/16/2021

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

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

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

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



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**BULLETIN**

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.

**SATURDAY/JAN. 15**  
**Martin Luther King Weekend Event.**  
2-4 p.m. Teaching Truth: Putting Students First. Countering the baseless claims of anti-CRT politics. To reinforce the importance of teaching inclusive history, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax (UUCF) will sponsor a virtual teach-in. Organized by UUCF's Racial Justice Steering Committee and groups and individuals committed to truth, equity and justice, the teach-in commemorates Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday. It also coincides with Virginia Governor-elect Glenn Youngkin's first day in office, a date he has vowed to "ban CRT" in the Commonwealth. Since CRT is not taught in Virginia schools, the event organizers aim to counter disinformation about CRT and lift up how quality education needs to include "teaching truth." Teaching Truth: Putting Students First, visit [www.uucf.org/teaching-truth](http://www.uucf.org/teaching-truth).

**JAN. 26-27**  
**Preschool Open House.** At FB Meekins Cooperative Preschool, 900 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. 1:30-3 p.m. (Last Tour at 2:45 p.m.) Learn about the Yellows (2s), Greens (older 2s/3s), Blues (older 3s/4s), Reds (pre-K), and Kindergarten programs. Take a tour and meet the teachers and current families. Have any application questions answered. Visit the website: [www.fbmeekins.org](http://www.fbmeekins.org).

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**FAIRFAX COUNTY CORONAVIRUS INFO CENTER**  
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Coronavirus (COVID-19) Call Center – The community may call 703-267-3511 with questions. The call center is open from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. weekdays and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekends.  
Residents may also text FFXCOVID to 888777 to receive updates from Fairfax County about COVID-19.  
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**Run With the Doctor.** Every other Saturday at 7 a.m. 8230 Boone Blvd., Tysons Corner. The Center for Orthopedics and Sports Medicine offers its services in a convenient format to runners at this running event. Free. [facebook.com/run-withthedoctor](http://facebook.com/run-withthedoctor).

## Tax on Plastic Bags

The new five-cent tax on disposable plastic bags went into effect at certain retailers across Fairfax County on Jan. 1, 2022. Here are five things you need to know about this new tax.

### 1. ONLY THREE TYPES OF RETAILERS ARE AFFECTED

The tax is only on disposable plastic bags from grocery stores, convenience stores and drug stores. Some bigger box stores, like Walmart, are also included.

### 2. THE TAX IS COMPLETELY AVOIDABLE

If you bring your own reusable shopping bag and use it at the register, you can avoid paying this tax.

### 3. THE PURPOSE OF THE TAX IS TO CURB PLASTIC POLLUTION

Unlike some other taxes, this tax does not exist for the purpose of collecting revenue. The entire goal of the tax is to help encour-

age change behavior and to reduce the use of disposable plastic bags.

### 4. ANY REVENUE COLLECTED WILL BE USED FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES

The Virginia Department of Taxation will administer and collect the tax. Any revenue collected will be provided to Fairfax County periodically and will be used to help stand up environmental programs and services to curb litter and pollution, and to provide reusable bags to those eligible for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) benefits.

### 5. ARLINGTON AND ALEXANDRIA ALSO HAVE A PLASTIC BAG TAX

The region is moving collectively to address plastic pollution. Both Arlington and Alexandria have implemented a five-cent tax on disposable plastic bags as of Jan. 1, 2022.

## Take the FCPS Superintendent Search Survey

Superintendent Scott Brabrand has stated his plan to leave at the end of this school year, and a plan to find a new FCPS superintendent is underway. The Fairfax County School Board says it is committed to hiring the best possible candidate for FCPS' next superintendent.

With that in mind, the Board has contracted a search firm to conduct a national search for the new superintendent. Community voices are an important part of this effort.

The school board asks the community to weigh in by participating in the Superintendent Search Survey. The survey allows FCPS parents/guardians, staff, high school students, and community members to share their thoughts on the leadership characteristics and qualities of the next superintendent.

Information gathered through the survey, focus groups, and upcoming town halls will help inform the selection of FCPS' new superintendent.

Parents should check email for a survey link from K12 Insight (survey administrator), which was sent on Jan. 4.

High school students received their survey invitation on Jan. 5, via their FCPSSchools.net email accounts.

If you are a FCPS community member and would like to take the survey, click here [https://www.fcps.edu/school-board/superintendent-search?utm\\_campaign+=&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://www.fcps.edu/school-board/superintendent-search?utm_campaign+=&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

Then scroll down the webpage for the link to the Superintendent Search Survey for Community Members.

The survey deadline is Tuesday, Jan. 18.

## CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 9

### SUNDAY/JAN. 16

**MLK, Especially for Youth.** 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. At RCC Hunters Woods, Reston. For children 6 – 12 Years Old. Free. Children will rotate through a series of activities, including an age-appropriate video and arts and crafts. All activities will be based on the history of Dr. King and the Civil Rights Movement. A self-contained lunch will be provided. Registration Required. Reg. #704750-2A. Children must be registered in advance and no onsite registration will be available on the day of the event. Visit [www.restoncommunitycenter.com](http://www.restoncommunitycenter.com) or call 703-476-4500.

### SUNDAY/JAN. 16

**Pocket of Freedom.** 2-3:30 p.m. Virtual at the Cold War Museum, 7134 Lineweaver Road, Vint Hill. Your Cold War German village is entirely surrounded by hostile forces who are eager to make your daily life as tense and miserable as possible. Luckily, you've got some determined friends. Cost is \$20. Visit the website: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/steinstuecken-a-little-pocket-of-freedom-tickets-187396446817>

### SUNDAY/JAN. 16

**The Daryl Davis Band.** 2 p.m. At The Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Davis will return to The Alden to speak on his experiences confronting Ku Klux Klansman on their racist beliefs. Tickets to Sunday's event are \$10/\$5 for MCC district residents. Visit [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org).

### MONDAY/JAN. 17

**Reston MLK Celebration.** 11 a.m. At Reston Community Center, Hunters Woods, Reston. Heather McGhee, author, will deliver the Keynote Address. Attendees are invited to the community lunch following McGhee's speech. Tickets are \$5 for Reston residents and employees, and \$10 for all others. Tickets to the Community Lunch and Keynote Address are required. Tickets are available at the CenterStage Box Office or by calling 703-476-4500.

### THURSDAY/FEB. 17

**Mardi Gras Celebration.** 12-2 p.m. At the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street SE, Vienna. Cajun cuisine lunch, Mardi Gras mask making, trivia and entertainment. Dressing up is part of the celebration so be sure to wear purple, green and gold. To register, call 703-281-0538.

### JAN. 18-FEB. 1

**Mah Jongg Lessons.** 6:30-9:30 p.m. At Temple Rodef Shalom, 2100 Westmoreland Street, Falls Church. Mah Jongg beginner class, Jan. 18, 25 and Feb. 1 6:30-9:30 p.m. \$90. Send non-refundable check to WoTRS, Attention Iva Gresko, Temple Rodef Shalom, 2100 Westmorland St, Falls Church, VA 22023. Include email address, home address, and telephone numbers. Check is your registration. Enrollment limited. Masks required.

### THURSDAY/JAN. 20

**Performing Arts Documentary.** 1 p.m. At McLean Community Center, McLean. Learn a little about the performing arts through this one-hour (or so) documentary. Safety permitting, join Performing Arts Director Sarah Schallern Treff for a discussion after.

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## So Long Old Memory



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As of Wednesday, Dec. 8, the 2000 Honda Accord, which I inherited from my widowed mother 13 years ago, nearly to the day, was officially "totaled" by an insurance adjuster. After my mother died in 2008 leaving the Honda ownerless, I took possession. As I recall, on Dec. 24, 2008, I went to the Montgomery County administrative offices in Rockville and paid my dues (taxes, actually). And though I've had miscellaneous car repairs over the years - fortunately, nothing which was too drastic or expensive, I've not had to make one monthly car payment in almost 13 years. For a non-car person like me, not having a car payment for that many years trumps all negative considerations.

As written about in the "Oh Deer" column a few weeks back, the end of our association (the Honda and mine) was unexpected and for my money - literally, quite unnecessary. The Honda was our back-up/second car. Maybe it was driven 5,000 miles a year, almost exclusively local and most often, it sat in the driveway minding its own business. Now, I'll have to upgrade and consequently incur a new monthly car payment. A car payment I don't want and an extra expense I certainly don't need. Though I'll be receiving a settlement check from the insurance company, it won't cover the cost of a new car. In fact, it will barely cover the amount of down payment. And as any of you similarly impacted by a car accident where your car is "totaled" know, the math rarely ends up in your favor, especially if the "totaled" car was old and payment free.

But more to the point if this column. The Honda was one of the last remaining physical links to my parents, particularly my father, who died in early December 2006. He was the driver in the family and the Honda was the only car in the family so most images and feelings I have about my father and a car were from this 2000 Honda Accord, the last car he owned/drove. As such, when I sit in the driver's seat, I remember my father. And I also remember the front of one of his birthday cards which said: "When they made you, they broke the mold." Open card: "You should see what they did to the mold maker." We all laughed. I gave him that card on his 65th birthday dinner which we all celebrated at Jimmy's Harborside Restaurant (his favorite) on the wharf in Boston on or about Sept. 23, 1984 (his actual birthday). It was a memorable occasion to be sure, especially when my father opened the card and shook it to see if any money would fall out.

And though I still have lots of enduring memories of my father (I still wear his winter gloves as well as an old collard short-sleeve Polo shirt of his - which amazingly sort of fits), nothing conjures his memory and is so physically enveloping - literally, as the front seat of the car where when driving, he spent the last years of his life. And now that feeling/his presence is gone.

I imagine I'll get reconnected to his memory every month for the next 36 at least, when I make my new car payment. It won't quite be the same as sitting in the Honda payment free. Nevertheless, I'm sure I'll still feel a car connection to my father. After all, I'll be driving a car that he helped me buy.

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



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McLean, 22101  
\$1,310,000**



**SOLD!**

**1506 Hardwood Lane  
McLean, 22101  
\$1,582,000**



**SOLD!**

**1437 Brookhaven Drive  
McLean, 22101  
\$1,099,000**

**We're seeing multiple contracts with escalations! Call to chat with JD today!**