

# THE CONNECTION

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## Get Involved Near Home

PAGE 3



From left, Teresa Rutledge, president of Lift Me Up! and Julie Casso, executive director of Lift Me Up! present information about the therapeutic riding nonprofit at an open house for community nonprofits.

### Police Kill Shoplifting Suspect

PAGE 3

### Rescuing the (Guinea) Pigs

PAGE 10

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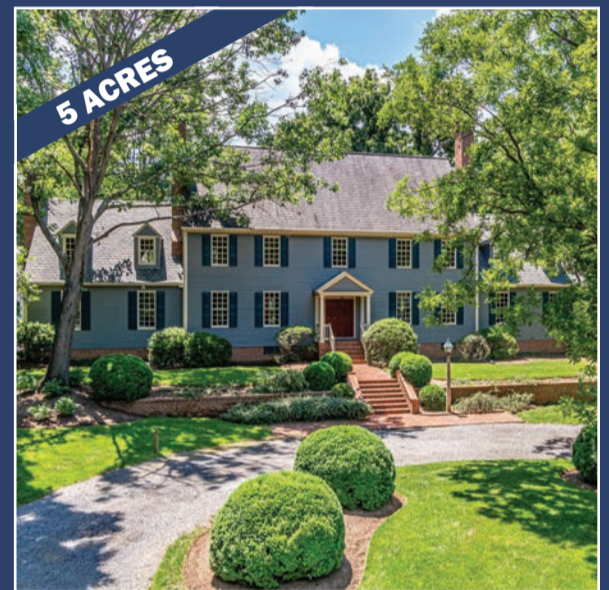
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# NEWS

## Fairfax Police Shoot and Kill Shoplifting Suspect

At approximately 6:30 p.m. Feb. 22., officers from the Tysons Urban Team special unit of Fairfax County Police Department responded to a theft at Nordstrom at 8075 Tysons Corner Center. Store security reported a man was concealing designer sunglasses. An officer observed the man exiting the store near a parking garage. As he exited the store, an anti-theft alarm was activated as he fled.

Timothy McCree Johnson, 37, of Washington D.C., ran through the parking garage, across the parking lot and into a wooded area while the officers gave him commands to get on the ground. Officers continued into the wood line giving verbal commands. While in the wooded area, two officers discharged their firearms striking Johnson in the chest one time. Officers immediately rendered aid until Fairfax County Fire and Rescue arrived. Johnson was taken to an area hospital where he was pronounced deceased.

The officers involved in the shooting have been identified as a 7-year veteran and an



Chief Kevin Davis provides an update after two officers from the FCPD Tysons Urban Team shot and killed a shoplifting suspect.

8-year veteran both assigned to the Tysons Urban Team. As per department policy, the officers have been placed on restricted duty

status, pending the outcome of the criminal and administrative investigation.

The criminal investigation into the use of

force is being conducted by the FCPD Major Crimes Bureau. The body worn camera footage will be released within 30 days in accordance with the department's guidelines. The results of the criminal investigation will be presented to the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney.

The FCPD Internal Affairs Bureau is conducting an administrative investigation in accordance with policy, along with an independent review by the Police Auditor Richard Schott.

The names of the officers will be released within 10 days and in accordance with the Department's policy.

The Fairfax County NAACP released a statement about the shooting, printed in full on page 8. "The family and the community have many questions about how suspicion of a non-violent act turns into a foot chase, the discharge of a firearm by police, and another senseless death," the NAACP statement said.

*This information released by FCPD is based on preliminary investigative findings.*

## Double Homicide in Herndon

### Investigation underway.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

Detectives from Fairfax County Police Department Major Crimes Bureau and Cyber and Forensics Bureau are actively investigating a deadly stabbing and shooting inside a Herndon home in the 13200 block of Stable Brook Way. The events occurred Friday morning, Feb. 24. No arrests have been made.

Chief Kevin Davis, FCPD, provided an 11 a.m. press conference at a staging area near where the incidents occurred. "We have two adults who have been killed. One was shot and killed, and the other was stabbed and killed," Davis said. He assured the community there was "no ongoing threat to public safety."

A total of four adults were inside the home at the time of the double homicides, including the deceased woman's husband and au pair, who were accounted for and in police custody. Davis said a little girl, later identified as a four-year-old, was also inside the home. She was safe, unharmed, and with the police.

Davis added they are trying to work out the details, the sequence of the violent acts to identify the person exactly responsible for the fatal shooting and the person exactly responsible for the fatal stabbing."

There were no signs of forced entry, and the police did not believe the incident was a break-in or a home invasion. Crime scene and homicide detectives would continue to work through the case. "Firearms are recovered," Davis said.

Police say they received a 911 call from occupants inside the single-family home.

"A woman said her friend was hurt. A man then got on the line and stated he shot an



Police Chief Kevin Davis gives an update on a double homicide near the Herndon home where it occurred.

unknown man who entered his home and stabbed a woman," reported police.

Patrol officers responded immediately and found four adults in the home when they arrived at the scene. Christine Banfield, 37, of Herndon, was in an upstairs bedroom suffering from stab wounds to the upper body. Joseph Ryan, 39, of Springfield, was found nearby suffering from a gunshot wound to the upper body.

Banfield, who was still alive, was transported to a local hospital, where she died of stab wounds. Ryan was declared deceased at the scene.

Police say detectives continue to conduct interviews and process evidence recovered from the scene to determine the relationship between the involved parties and the circumstances that led up to the two fatalities. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner will conduct the autopsies in the coming days to determine the cause and manner of death.

Police ask anyone with information regarding these incidents to call their Major Crimes Bureau at 703-246-7800, option 2. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by phone - 1-866-411-TIPS.

## Open House Held for Great Falls Nonprofits

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

The Great Falls Grange Foundation hosted its first-ever open house for all Great Falls nonprofits. Julie Maher, director of the Great Falls Grange Foundation, who came up with the idea, said, "It's an opportunity for the public to come in to get information and talk to the leaders of the organizations and clubs." The five-hour event took place at the Grange on Georgetown Pike on Feb. 15.

Teresa Rutledge is the president of Lift Me Up!. She and Julie Casso, executive director, discussed the organization's therapeutic riding program, which started for people with disabilities. The volunteer organization added a new service, weekly sessions for the first responder program. The Arlington Police Department created it, and before participating in the lessons with the horses, they "chill for a while." Herd mentality of horses was recently presented in a session. Community members visit the barn to volunteer because they feel it enhances their mental health. Lift Me Up! is a community center that makes one feel good, a place for people. <https://liftmeup.org/>

Julie Ben-Achour is president of the Great Falls Trail Blazers. She said that the organization's goal when it was formed in 1999 was to allow people to walk from one neighborhood to another, perhaps to exercise their dogs. It has become a multi-use trail system connecting the community shared by pedestrians, horses and bicyclists, with a current membership of 759 members. "There is a map available on



MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION  
**Julie Maher, executive director of the Great Falls Grange Foundation**

our web page. We are constantly working on trails and working with the county to have a trail along Georgetown Pike," Ben-Achour said. <http://www.greatfallstrailblazers.org/>

Jeffrey Kretsch is the treasurer of The Analemma Society, a 2011-founded non-profit community organization. Mary Blessing is a board director and volunteer. They also had a table set up in the Grange and welcomed people to learn more about the public resource in Great Falls. They could volunteer, attend the free, no-registration Friday evening opportunities to view the heavens through telescopes, or sign up and attend Fairfax County Partakes programs such as the Night Sky Tour at the Roll-Top Observatory on March 13, which costs \$8 and Register Online. Students could also work on Scout merit badges.

"The purpose of The Analemma Society is to teach the public science through astronomy," said Kretsch. Weather permitting, the society operates the observatory at Turner Farm Park, 925 Springvale Road, The Turner Farm | Park Authority -

SEE NONPROFITS, PAGE 15



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## NEWS

### Fairfax City Gives Grants to Nonprofits

Fairfax City has awarded \$200,000 in one-time grants to seven, non-profit organizations that provide safety-net services to City residents. Individual grants of up to \$50,000 were given to help the following critical organizations mitigate some of the financial burdens imposed on them by the COVID-19 pandemic:

- ❖ Britepaths provided emergency food and financial assistance to 758 Fairfax City households during the pandemic.
- ❖ FACETS helps vulnerable people find emergency shelter and permanent, supportive housing. It also meets people's food and medical needs and provides educational and life skills, plus career counseling.
- ❖ Fairfax Presbyterian Church provides food-assistance services to community members.
- ❖ Food for Others is one of the largest food pantries in Northern Virginia, serving 3,000 families and 3,500 students weekly.
- ❖ The Lamb Center serves individuals experiencing homelessness at its daytime, drop-in facility.
- ❖ Main Street Child Development provides preschool education (including meals) to children. It also offers nutrition, literacy development and other classes to parents and caregivers.
- ❖ A Place to Stand provides stable housing, adequate nutrition, education, employment assistance and healthcare to local people in need.

### McLean Project for the Arts Youth Art Shows Open March 1

March is Youth Art Month. McLean Project for the Arts (MPA) invites you to celebrate by attending its annual Youth Art Shows, featuring work by FCPS Langley and McLean Pyramid students from elementary through high school.

- March 1-11, 2023 – McLean Pyramid Show  
Opening Exhibition Reception March 9, 4:30-6 p.m., McLean Pyramid Opening Exhibition Reception presented by Lizzy Conroy and Karen Briscoe, HBC Group
- March 16-25, 2023 – Langley Pyramid Show  
Opening Exhibition Reception March 16, 4:30-6 p.m.  
Gallery Hours Tuesdays through Fridays, 1-4pm; Saturdays 10 a.m.-3 p.m.  
Extended Gallery Hours March 10 and March 24, from 1-7 p.m.  
McLean Project for the Arts, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean, VA 22101  
For up-to-date information visit [www.mpaart.org](http://www.mpaart.org) or call 703-790-1953

### Tyson's Library Quarterly Book & Media Sale

- March 2 - March 5, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Sunday, March 5, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.: Bag sale. \$10 for a full grocery sack or half price if less
- Tyson's Pimmit Regional Library 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22043
- Proceeds benefit the Tyson's-Pimmit Regional Library and related activities
- Donations of books and media appreciated
- Volunteers welcome and needed
- [tysonslibraryfriends@gmail.com](mailto:tysonslibraryfriends@gmail.com)
- 703-338-3307 for additional information

#### BULLETIN BOARD

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.

#### FRIDAY/MARCH 3

Friday, March 3, at 5 p.m. is the filing deadline for the McLean Community Center's (MCC) 2023 Governing Board elections. Residents of Dranesville Small Tax District 1A who are interested in running for a seat on the board can still enter the race. The all-volunteer Board sets the goals and aligns

strategies for MCC programs and facilities, which include the Robert Ames Alden Theatre and the Old Firehouse Center. All residents of the center's tax district are eligible to run for a seat on the 11-member board. Candidates are required to obtain the signatures of 10

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 7

# Dr. Whyte's

## New Book

### Released February 14, 2023

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- An exercise guide to help you move your body without needing to purchase fancy equipment
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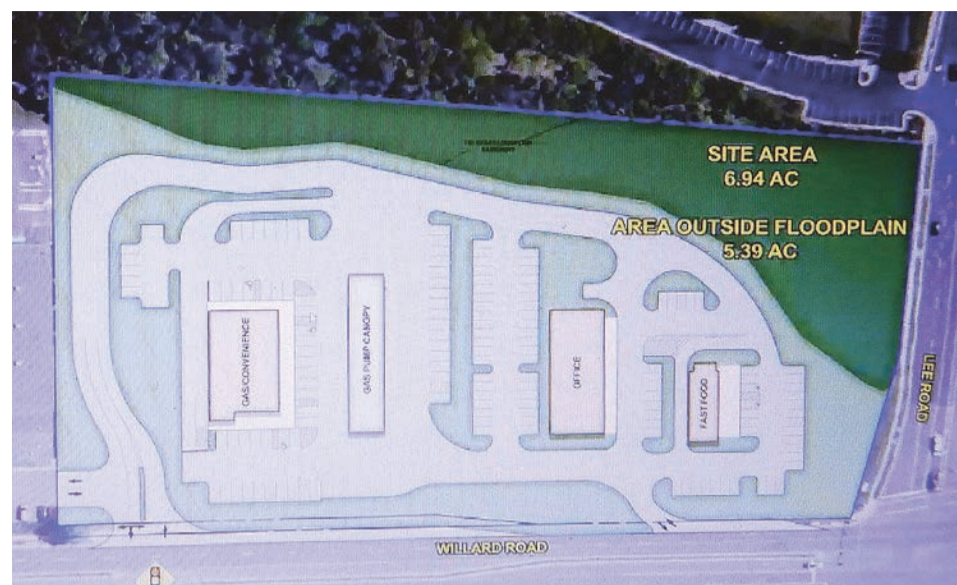


SITE-SPECIFIC PLAN AMENDMENT CPN22-SU-006

WHARTON LANE



The location of the Wharton Lane Site-Specific Plan Amendment proposal.



A gas station, medical office and fast-food restaurant are proposed for 14600 Willard Road in Chantilly through the Site-Specific Plan Amendment process.

# Opportunity for Residents to Get Involved

## Some 'Site-Specific Plan Amendment' proposals in Sully District.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

Across Fairfax County, various people – especially developers – have made formal requests to change the Comprehensive Plan's land-use recommendations for specific parcels. They did so via the county's Site-Specific Plan Amendment process.

The Comprehensive Plan guides the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors in their land-use decisions. And each Site-Specific Plan Amendment proposal submitted contained a concept plan for the particular site, plus the property owner's consent.

Each nomination was evaluated and whittled down to several finalists for each magisterial district. Then via virtual meetings on Jan. 25 and Jan. 30, the county's Department of Planning and Development presented the 10 surviving SSPAs for the Sully District.

Five proposals in Sully's southern portion were discussed during the first meeting, with five in the northern portion (north of Route 50) covered in the second one. In addition, members of the West Fairfax County Citizens Assn. and Sully District Council Joint Land-Use Committee received their own presentation for all 10 during its Feb. 20 meeting and weighed in on them.

Since each proposal was discussed at length, The Connection will cover a few in this issue of the paper, followed by more in future issues.

On Jan. 25, moderator Michael Burton said, "This is the initial screening process and an opportunity for residents to get involved, learn about and comment on each amendment."

He said the county received some 75 nominations in October. Then in December, the Supervisors "pulled out some of them. Staff will [eventually] screen each nomination and see if it meets the county's goals and objectives." If a proposal isn't accepted this



Site-Specific Plan Amendment proposal would accommodate a federal agency that wants to expand its footprint in the Westfields Corporate Center, according to the proposal.

time, it could be resubmitted at a later date.

❖ **Wharton Lane** – This Centreville parcel is about 5 acres of mostly wooded, vacant land zoned residential. The nominator, Eastwood Properties, wants it rezoned from 1-2 homes/acre to 2-3 homes/acre.

Currently, a higher density would require consolidation with properties under the redevelopment option for Centreville Farms Land Unit F, but Eastwood wants this requirement eliminated. The property is part of the Centreville Historic Overlay District and the proposal has the potential to connect Wharton Lane and Summit Drive.

Representing Eastwood, land-use attorney Lynne Strobel said, "Across Wharton Lane, the property is zoned R-8 [eight homes/acre]. We're asking for development similar to the adjacent parcels. The Comprehensive Plan recommends consolidation to 3 homes/acre, but redevelopment has precluded that. "We're requesting 2-3 homes/acre with-

out consolidation, to allow for compatible and complementary uses, plus preservation of Civil War artifacts [onsite]." Eastwood President Dick Labbe said an archaeological study would be done and that he planned to meet with nearby homeowners' associations.

During comments, Linda Hagopian – on the Englewood Mews HOA board – said, "With the widening of I-66 and the increased noise, people already blow through the four-way stop at Pickwick Road and Wharton, going 40 mph in a 25-mph zone. So you'll find some pushback from the neighboring community. This idea was denied once before, and I'm not real fond of it, myself."

Agreeing that "traffic is already a problem there," Alexander Dowsett said he opposes the plan and wonders "what will they do to replant trees and minimize environmental damage? We're going to lose a lot of trees."

Strobel said those things would be addressed later via an additional public pro-

cess for the rezoning. She also noted Eastwood is "just asking for slightly higher density" and, should the rezoning be approved, "We'd consider open-space proffers then."

Perry Rhodes, on nearby Walney Glen's Board of Directors, said, "Our main concerns are the blasting and construction traffic. Our homes were already damaged from the construction of I-66. And it's within a historical district."

The Joint Land-Use Committee had no objections to this amendment but requested a 10-foot buffer along the property's southeast boundary.

❖ **14600 Willard Road** – This vacant, 6-acre site is northwest of the Willard/Lee roads intersection in Chantilly. Cub Run runs along the parcel's northern portion. It's now planned for industrial/flex uses but Thomas Somerville Co. proposes adding office, medical office, gas station and associated commercial uses, plus a drive-through or fast-casual restaurant there. Also proposed is a new traffic signal just west of the intersection for site access.

Representing Somerville, land-use planner Veronica Merrill said this land is in a commercially developed area and is near Westfield High and the county's Criminal Justice Academy. "We aim to provide services for the residents in the area," she said. "We propose a small-scale, commercial-retail site. We believe it's the highest and best use for this parcel. It'll provide county tax revenue and not burden the schools and public safety."

Furthermore, said Merrill, "Our traffic consultant said its traffic impact could be mitigated because people will also be able to walk and bike there. For example, Criminal Justice Academy students could walk across the street and get a bite to eat." And Somerville President Doug Riley noted that his company has owned this property since 1976 and would like to develop it now.



# Plan Amendment

FROM PAGE 6

Meanwhile, a resident requested a “unique restaurant – not another McDonald’s” be built there. And the Joint Land-Use Committee called this parcel a “perfect location for commercial retail.”

❖ **Dulles Suburban Center Land Unit J** – This site is some 64 acres at Stonecroft Boulevard and Conference Center Drive in the Westfields Corporate Center. It’s currently approved for office, conference center/hotel, industrial/flex and industrial use. The nominator proposes constructing an additional office building and parking structure there. Representing that entity, land-use attorney Scott Adams presented the details.

“It’s an important opportunity for an existing employer,” he said. “A federal agency with a secure campus wants to expand its footprint in the community. The expansion will be in the site’s interior and is

compatible with the surrounding area. And the site is already planned for full buildout under the current Comprehensive Plan.”

Adams said the parcel’s existing access points will be maintained, and the expansion will enable this agency to add employees and increase jobs here. “It’ll be a benefit to this area of the county,” he said. “And it’ll have high-quality architecture and landscaping because it has to conform to the Westfields Corporate Center standards.”

Jay Johnston said he was “worried about the amount of traffic at that intersection and how this could affect it.” But Burton said that, when considering this proposal, county transportation staff will assume the site’s traffic impact at maximum buildout. And the Joint Land-Use Committee supported this amendment and had no objections.

The other seven nominations will be covered in upcoming editions of The Connection.

## BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5

tax district residents in order to have their names placed on the election ballot. Nominating petition forms are available at the center, which is located at 1234 Ingleside Ave.

Three adult positions and two youth positions are open this year. Adult board members serve three-year terms. Youth

members serve one-year terms.

Adult candidates must be at least 18 years old as of McLean Day on Saturday, May 20. Youth candidates must be 15 to 17 years old as of McLean Day. For more information on the MCC Governing Board Elections, call the Center at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, send an e-mail to elections@mcleancenter.org or visit the Center’s website,

mcleancenter.org.

### FOSTER PARENTS NEEDED

Interested in becoming a foster parent? There is always a need for caring foster parents looking to open their homes to foster youth. Get in touch to learn more. Visit fcsvanow@gmail.com or www.FCSVA.org. Or call 703-817-9890.

# CALL FOR CANDIDATES

**McLEAN COMMUNITY CENTER  
2023 GOVERNING BOARD ELECTION**



## Want to be a community leader?

Run for a seat on our all-volunteer governing board!

We’re looking for residents of Small District 1A—Dranesville, who wish to serve their community by playing a lead role in helping to carry out MCC’s mission.

Candidate Petition Packets may be picked up at MCC.  
Return completed packet by: **Friday, March 3, 5 p.m.**

1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean VA 22101 // [mcleancenter.org](http://mcleancenter.org)  
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# Unnecessary Killing of Unarmed Black Man Fleeing Police at Tysons

By FAIRFAX COUNTY NAACP

The Fairfax County NAACP is shocked and deeply addened by the unnecessary brutal slaying of a Black citizen, Timothy Johnson, 37, by the Fairfax County Police Department. The alarming rise in “officer-involved shootings” throughout Fairfax County — six in 2022 compared to one the prior year <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/chief/generalorders/policies/officerinvolvedshooting> — is deeply troubling.

The branch of the NAACP demands an independent investigation into the death of Johnson, immediate release of body-worn camera footage, the identity of the officers involved (and their complaint history) and a review of the rise in officer-involved shootings. The branch also insists that a foot pursuit policy be developed and enacted immediately.

On Feb. 22, 2023, an unarmed Black man, Timothy Johnson, was shot and killed by two Fairfax County police officers after allegedly stealing some sunglasses from a Tysons Corner department store. Johnson was chased through a parking garage, a parking lot, and into a wooded area where he was killed by a bullet wound to the chest. The family and the community have many questions about how suspicion of a non-violent act turns into a foot chase, the discharge of a firearm by police, and another senseless death.

The Fairfax County Police Department’s own Use of Force Policy

makes clear that a fleeing suspect who is not a danger to the police or general public is not cause for discharge of their firearm. Under FCPD’s Use of Force policy, officers are not permitted to use deadly force on a fleeing offender without (1) “probable cause to believe the individual committed a felony involving violence,” (2) exhausting “all other means to effect an arrest,” and (3) the alleged offender’s escape “poses a significant threat of serious injury or death to the officer or others.” Suspicion of stealing a few pairs of sunglasses without the use or possession of a weapon do not satisfy any — much less all — of these requirements. Whether or not Johnson was guilty of a crime, he had the right to due process, and for the sanctity of his life to be respected by police officers to the maximum extent possible.

“The tragic killing of Mr. Johnson reminds us once again how unjust America’s policing truly is. The facts as we know them signal that the officers’ actions were entirely out of step with FCPD’s Use of Force policy,” said Michelle Leete, Fairfax County NAACP President

Fairfax County NAACP is disappointed that the FCPD has failed to date to produce substantive information about this fatal shooting, nor has it produced any information about the disciplinary records of the veteran police officers involved in this incident. The FCPD may release body-worn camera footage, and any other footage from cameras capturing the events, before 30 days after an event. To

date, the FCPD has refused to release any camera footage thus raising suspicions that this evidence will be used selectively to support the officers involved in the shooting. Also unclear is the protocol for how officer-involved shootings are handled, specifically how much time elapses after shootings before officers are first questioned and the involvement of police unions during the investigations and adjudications of an officer-involved shooting.

FCPD Chief Kevin Davis was quick to point out Johnson’s alleged “violent history” and past offenses. Regardless of Johnson’s history, the facts revealed to date show that he was unarmed and suspected to be in possession of stolen sunglasses when fatally shot by officers. This attempt to immediately smear the victim is ironic considering Chief Davis himself has a violent history, with two citizens having won civil lawsuits against Davis in use-of-force cases. When Fairfax County NAACP vociferously opposed the selection of Kevin Davis as Chief of Police, the branch cited his violent history and his unsuccessful tenure as Chief of Police in Baltimore, Maryland. Yet the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, over opposition from many different groups and individuals in the community, still selected him. They are as responsible as Chief Davis is for the public safety crisis we are currently facing.

The University of Texas at San Antonio published a study about the use of force in Fairfax County. They analyzed 1,360 use-of-force

cases between 2016 and 2018. The report included many recommendations including the adoption of a Foot Pursuit Policy. FCPD still has no such policy. The troubling increase in officer-involved shootings during this last year needs to be thoroughly analyzed. From 2013 through 2021, there were zero or one officer-involved shootings most years — with two OIS during 2014 and 2020, and three officer-involved shootings in 2012. During 2022, there were six officer-involved shootings, with two fatalities, and now Johnson is dead at the beginning of 2023. The Fairfax County NAACP and the community want to know what has been done to analyze and address the fact that 2022 saw more than three times the average number of officer-involved shootings from 2013 to 2021?

The Fairfax County NAACP demands an independent, transparent and comprehensive investigation into the death of Johnson. They also demand an immediate release of the unedited camera footage, the identities of the officers involved, the officers’ complaint history, and the medical examiner’s report. The branch further demands a review of the officer-involved shootings in 2022 and that a Foot Pursuit Policy be developed and enacted immediately.

The Johnson Family has set-up a Go Fund Me to assist with the funeral costs and provide some financial support to the two children Mr. Johnson leaves behind. <https://www.gofundme.com/f/timothy-johnson-burialexpenses>

## Time Sure Flies

By DEL. KENNETH R. “KEN” PLUM

Most everyone experiences times in their lives when time seems to have flown by. That certainly has happened to me over the past several months as I end my career in the Virginia House of Delegates. I believe that most have learned already that I will not be a candidate for re-election this year.

From my early years as a child I wanted to work on public policy as an elected official. My entry into politics was a long shot as I did not grow up in Northern Virginia, and I had limited access to resources to fund a campaign. Fair-

fax County in 1973 was gerrymandered into two five-member districts in order to limit its influence in a General Assembly dominated by down-state country boys. I failed in my first two attempts before I was elected in a stretch that lasted from 1982 to the present.

I never thought much about the number of years I have served until I came to the realization that I had slowed down enough that I should pass the responsibility to someone else. When I totaled up the years I had served I was surprised by the



Plum

realization that in the history of the House of Delegates that stretches back to 1619 that I was the second longest serving member of the House. Only Delegate Lacey Putney who retired in 2013 exceeded me with 51 years in office.

The Clerk of the House of Delegates maintains an amazing history of the House (<https://history.house.virginia.gov/>). From it I was able to determine that I had served with 488 other delegates during my tenure.

I will serve out my full term that

lasts until a replacement is elected to take office in January 2024. In the meantime I will continue to represent my constituents as well as I can.

Next week I will provide a summary of what happened in the 2023 General Assembly session. The simple answer is not much which is good because many bills introduced would have set Virginia back. Differences over the budget continue to remain unresolved. A special session will be needed to work out those differences.

I expect to continue my weekly digital newsletter. If you are not yet a subscriber, sign up at [www.kenplum.com](http://www.kenplum.com).



# President Carter: Thank You to a Remarkable Man

BY BARBARA IANNIELLO

It is time to raise our hats to Jimmy Carter. He was not a perfect president. He was not infallible. Without question, he is a principled moral man, who as the nation's chief executive, consistently took action which he thought was in the best interests of the country.

It was the summer of 2013 when my son decided to write his college senior thesis on President Carter and his role in enacting Comprehensive Energy Legislation. We ventured to the Carter Library. I assumed I would sightsee in Atlanta while he toiled away in the library. Instead, upon reconsideration, I

joined him for the first day of our three-day trip to see how this research expedition might unfold. I never left.

We came across a treasure trove of documents. With a team approach, I became my son's research assistant as we embarked on this journey. What a gift, to have access to original official White House documents and to be more than a mere bystander to history. We focused on Carter's leadership in the introduction and enactment of Comprehensive Energy Legislation. In the research process, however, we also expanded our knowledge of the inner workings of the White House while working with Congress and the extensive breadth of legislation that

was completed during the Carter Administration. This included legislation focused on the creation of the Department of Energy, Public Works Jobs, Youth Employment, Clean Air Amendments, Emergency Natural Gas Act, the enactment of the Panama Canal Treaty and much, much more.

The Energy Act was passed during an energy crisis in our country. Having run his presidential campaign against Washington, Carter had a very difficult initial transition after assuming office. Many of his staff were outsiders. Despite relationship challenges, the documents showed the Administration's methodical approach and success in guiding and assisting the passage of historic energy

legislation. Through key parts of the development of a comprehensive energy policy and legislation, President Carter received input from the public to help develop an effective plan. He educated the public about the issues surrounding energy use, how Americans can be less dependent on foreign oil and how Americans can conserve energy. He planted many seeds that have remained important in our country's current energy strategy.

President Carter's one term deserves a re-evaluation of his many important achievements. Since leaving the White House in 1980, President Carter has been a remarkable example of our best ambassador. He left an indelible mark

throughout the world through his tireless and selfless acts promoting peace, supporting Habitat for Humanity and other worthy causes.

President Carter taught us how to be better energy consumers, and how to be better citizens of our communities, this country and of the world.

Thank you, Mr. President, for making the world a better place and reminding us about humanity and the human condition. You set a high bar for all of us. His wife, Rosalynn, has been a steadfast partner and team member at every stage. Thank you for sharing him with us.

Barbara Ianniello,  
Great Falls

## Vienna Restaurant Week

Vienna Restaurant Week kicks off Friday, March 3 through Sunday, March 12, 2023, its second year.

The Spring program will feature 50 eateries throughout the Town of Vienna. This is the largest number of participants to date for this Vienna restaurant dining

campaign. During the week-long event, participating restaurants will offer three-course prix fixe menus of \$25 for lunch/brunch and \$35-40 for dinner per person. In addition to the curated menus, specialty restaurants, and eateries will offer discounted a la carte dining providing food lovers the opportunity

to further explore Vienna's culinary scene.

Vienna Restaurant Week is sponsored by the Town of Vienna Economic Development Division. The goal of the dining program is to expose visitors and area residents to the Town of Vienna, increase the number of guests each eatery welcomes during this

week, and increase brand recognition for participating restaurants and the Vienna community.

Diners are encouraged to follow at @ExploreViennaVA on Instagram and Facebook and tag #ViennaRestaurantWeek. Visit [exploreviennava.com/restaurantweek](https://www.exploreviennava.com/restaurantweek)



Cabins at Natural Tunnel State Park.



Tent camping at Fairy Stone State Park.

## Virginia State Park Campgrounds Open on March 3

Virginia State Parks campgrounds will open on March 3, 2023. Full-service campgrounds with bathhouses are open from the first Friday in March through the first Monday in December, with the exception of Douthat, Hungry Mother, Pocahontas and Shenandoah River state parks, which have full-service campgrounds open year-round. Due to a campground

renovation project, camping at Claytor Lake State Park will not open until April 1.

Spring is right around the corner and whether you are looking for a week long retreat or a restful weekend getaway, Virginia State Parks camping options are plentiful and vary from cabins and bunkhouses to yurts and primitive camping. Each park offers different scenic camping options, so be sure to do your research before booking

your stay.

Visit the camping web page for more details about reservations, cancellations and severe weather procedures. If you are traveling with horses, be sure to visit the equestrian camping page for all the policies dealing with horses while camping. <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/camping>

Reservations can be made online <https://reservevaparks.com/web/> or by calling

1-800-933-PARK (7275) and choosing option 5. You can make lodging reservations up to 11 months in advance or, for camping, up to 2 p.m. on the day of arrival

All parks with campgrounds now offer site-specific reservations for campsites. This new reservation system allows a camper to view an interactive map and choose an available site to reserve.



# Barker Receives 'In a Heartbeat' Award

Recognized by Youth For Tomorrow Foundation.

BY SUSAN LAUME  
THE CONNECTION

**Y**outh For Tomorrow honored Sen. George Barker with its annual "In a Heartbeat" award, presented during its annual "Heart 2 Heart Gala" held on Saturday, Feb. 11.

The non-profit organization founded by Coach Joe Gibbs provides children and families in crisis with an opportunity to focus their lives on positive change. With several offices in northern Virginia, the 30 year old foundation also operates a residential educational campus for teens in Bristow, Va. The group supports programs in local schools and private homes, serving the community as an alternative to overstretched child and family care systems.

Each year Youth For Tomorrow recognizes an individual or organization "who has made a positive impact on the lives of children and families in need and who exemplifies the core mission of YFT." In presenting the award, chief executive officer, Dr Gary Jones, noted, "As a key member and Chair for several committees such as Commerce and Labor, as well as Education and Health, Senator Barker has kept in the forefront of key initiatives affecting the lives of those he represents in a positive way. His incredible record of legislation passed includes Health

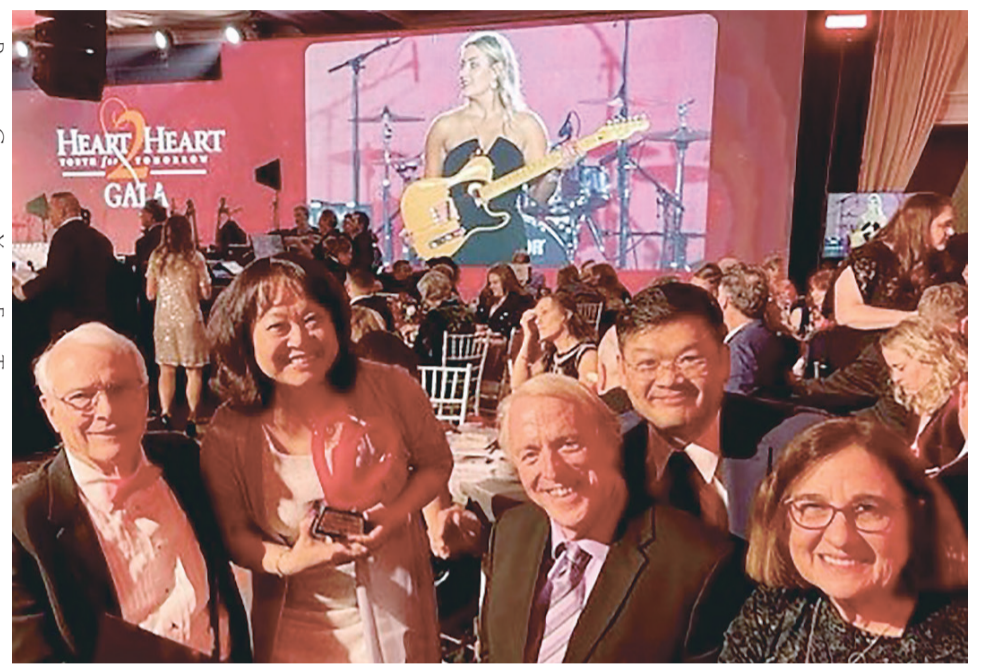


Dr Gary Jones presents Youth For Tomorrow 2023 Heartbeat award to Sen. George Barker who represents part of City of Alexandria, Fairfax and Prince William counties.

Workforce Development Authority, Children's Services Act, resources for prenatal and postnatal depression, prescription monitoring program, and most recently VA Opioid Abatement Authority, and protections under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act."

Accepting the award, Senator Barker commented, "In your life you are called to do things – all of us are called – and there are many opportunities we all have to help, particularly what we can do to help children."

The gala, attended by over 900 guests, included entertainment by country music star, Trace Adkins, and a fundraising auction. Donations support care which includes treatment group homes for boys and girls, services to pregnant teens; help for young



Gala attendees including, CEO Dr Gary Jones, Clifton residents Vattei and Sean Hiep, and George and Jane Barker, had an opportunity to bid on a guitar used and donated by country music star Trace Adkins, who performed at the event.



Accepting the "In a Heartbeat" award, Sen. George Barker (right) praised Coach Joe Gibbs and the organization he founded: "The reputation that Youth For Tomorrow has created and maintains through the services it provides to our community are exceptional and not to be outdone."

vices; and therapeutic mentoring.

victims of trafficking; crisis intervention counseling services; outpatient and therapeutic day treatment; intensive in-home ser-

For more on the Youth For Tomorrow mission and services, including education, counseling, and foster care, see <https://youthfortomorrow.org>

## Rescuers Save Abandoned Pets Public shelters accept owner surrenders to assure animal safety.

BY SUSAN LAUME  
THE CONNECTION

**O**ne often spots interesting creatures in the park during nature walks. But Richard Hulse of Fairfax Station and his dogs Colt and Wes had never before seen a guinea pig during their daily walks in Laurel Hill Park. Hulse did see one there last week eating in a dish. At first he thought it might be a baby skunk. Circling back near the end of his walk, he spotted four animals in the spot and recognized them as guinea pigs. He feared someone had abandoned the animals there.

After returning home, Hulse grabbed a box to return to the park to rescue the animals, taking one of his dogs, Wes, an Australian Shepherd. His plan was soon complicated by the discovery that it was not just four animals, but a crew of many. So enlisting another regular park volunteer, Mike Applegate, the trio took on the rescue together, with dog Wes tied and providing a third-side barrier to steer the guinea pigs toward the box and safety.



Fourteen young guinea pigs found abandoned in the park will soon be available for adoption.

What was it like herding guinea pigs? Hulse describes a chaotic scene with groups of three to five pigs running past them near enough to grab just one each time as they sought cover going from tree to tree. Native Blackberry thorns made their rescue job painful. It took about an hour to rescue all of them, with Wes playing a vital role in helping to contain the running groups to a smaller area. Fortunately the guinea pigs did not

move off into an even denser area where immediate rescue would have been impossible.

If not for their rescuers, could the plant-eating guinea pigs have survived happily in the grassy meadow where they were found? Hulse says, "Not a chance. They would not have lasted the night." The thorns would not have been a barrier to native carnivorous small mammals, such as fox, raccoons, and skunks, and birds of

prey, including hawks and owls. Nor would the guinea pigs have been prepared for the colder temperatures and lack of shelter after being dropped there. Fortunately, Hulse and Applegate are certain they corralled them before temperatures dropped.

Taken into the Fairfax County Animal Shelter, the 14 hapless adventurers are safe again. When the shelter shared their discovery on social media, hundreds of comments criticized those responsible for cruelly releasing the pigs to certain danger, and offered homes or recommended adoption by others. After a brief holding period, the pigs are scheduled to be listed for adoption this week (see [https://www.petango.com/shelter\\_pets?shelterId=4352&speciesId=1003](https://www.petango.com/shelter_pets?shelterId=4352&speciesId=1003)).

Are Guinea Pigs popular? After dogs and cats, guinea pigs are the most popular pet in many parts of the United States. They come in several short and long haired breeds, and in multiple colors. Only one-and-one-half to two-and-a-half pounds and eight-to-ten inches long, they typically live four

to five years. Their small size and gentle, personable natures make them desirable pets.

In South America, where they originated, they have been domesticated for more than 5000 years. Especially in Peru, they also are a popular food item. Travelers along Peruvian highways often encounter guinea pig barbecue stands.

Hulse, who formerly kept pet rabbits, held the guinea pigs overnight waiting for the shelter to open. How did it feel to be a guinea pig cowboy? Hulse commented, "Those 28 eyes looking up at me, they grew on me that one day, but I'll stick with dogs."

Before you rush to adopt one, consider that they need time out of cage every day, with interaction, regular grooming, and thorough cage cleaning every week.

After purchasing or adopting this, or any pet, that turns out not to be the right fit for your family, Fairfax County residents can contact the animal shelter for help at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/animalshelter/surrenderingyourpet](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/animalshelter/surrenderingyourpet). There is no charge to surrender your pet.



OPINION

# Plum's Departure Injects Energy into Elections

JOHN LOVAAS INDEPENDENT PROGRESSIVE

Delegate Ken Plum's announcement that he would not run for re-election to a 23rd term as our Delegate was a bombshell. Given his years, it shouldn't have been, and wasn't in fact a surprise to some Democratic Party insiders. Reston is fortunate to have had this extraordinary person represent us. He has a special place in history, as our number one progressive and a tireless worker for human rights, greater equity and making Virginia a better place for us all. He'll be hard to replace, but the ring is filling with hats of four who are gonna try. First out was Paul Berry, an ambitious Party regular with an impressive steel A-frame sign on the street just hours after the announcement. Other than an unsuccessful run for the RA Board, this is his elective debut. However, he boasts a long list of Party positions and commissions appointed to in recent years, and several endorsements by local Dems.

In her first outing, Shyamali Hauth, a small business operator and Air Force vet, came in fourth in the Hunter Mill Supervisor race three years ago. Winning Supervisor Alcorn promptly hired her, possibly ensuring she wouldn't turn up as an opponent later. See her website for detailed statements of her positions.

John Farrell, Principal and Land Use lawyer at McCandlish-Lillard law firm, is an At-Large Director on

the RA Board. It's his first run for elective office aside from two unsuccessful runs for RA. He's a Party leader in fighting voter suppression at the polls and a strong, outspoken voice for progressive causes.

Last, but not least is Mary Barthleson, at 29, making a second run for Delegate. She lost to Mr. Plum in the Dem primary two years ago. She's an advanced systems expert and a community activist working to help our poorest residents, those living in tents, and mentoring new arrival refugees. Two of her top priorities are housing for lowest-income residents and expanding mental health services. She has few titles, but is making a difference where it's needed in our community.

Supervisor Walter Alcorn is lucky to be unopposed in his re-election bid so far. A major, and only, project to produce affordable housing collapsed with no prospect for replacing the lost 400 units of average middle income housing right next to his office. Let's hope that he can save the occupied modest affordable units that were going to be torn down to make room.

Meanwhile, the reformist HOA Board at Lake Anne is restoring financial stability and maintenance, without help from the County. The Supervisor is sponsoring another study, this time "economic visioning." My fingers remained crossed.

More next time!

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# RESTAURANT WEEK



Brats, beer, grilled cheese and pretzels at Audacious Aleworks



Scallops at Hamrock's



A Curry Mantra chicken dish

# Cuisines from Around the World

Fairfax City Restaurant Week is March 6-12.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

Grab your appetite and head to Fairfax City. To showcase the caliber and variety of its culinary cuisine, the City is holding its winter 2023 Restaurant Week, March 6-12. Diners will be able to experience a taste of the globe as they enjoy a wide range of delicious and imaginative cuisine.

During this hugely popular event, more than two dozen restaurants will be offering special, fixed-priced menus. These three-course meals will cost \$25 for lunch and \$40 for dinner. Food-and-drink places that don't serve whole meals will feature \$10 specials.

"Fairfax City Restaurant Week shows the region why the City is the new, regional-dining destination and home to so many diverse and locally owned businesses," said Fairfax Economic Development Director Chris Bruno. And besides that, he added, it accomplishes many of Fairfax City's goals.

"This event supports our local businesses with important exposure opportunities and connects them to new visitors," explained Bruno. "At the same time, it generates an infusion of interest in the City, which allows our EDA [Economic Development Authority] to continue supporting Fairfax's restaurant industry."

Customers may feast on everything from classic American to Indian, Italian, Latin American, Irish, Mexican and Korean cuisine and more. For details of what each restaurant will serve, go to <https://www.fairfax-cityrestaurantweek.com/>.

Participating restaurants are: Audacious Aleworks, Big Buns, Baku Delicious, Bellissimo, Ben Gong's Tea, Bollywood Bistro, Capital Ale House, Coyote Grille, Curry Mantra, Dolce Vita, Draper's, Earp's Ordinary, El Pollo Rico, Hamrock's, Jas & Fam Caribbean Flavor, Kim's Kitchen & Bar, Marumen (ramen), Meokja Meokja, Merka-do Mexican Grill & Bar, One Bar & Grill, Orner Beer Co., P.J. Skidoos, Patriots Pub & Grill, Roots Natural Kitchen, Slice of Matchbox, The Auld Shebeen, The Wine House, and Vivi Bubble Tea.

"I look forward to a week where some-  
12 ♦ THE CONNECTION ♦ MARCH 1-7, 2023



Kim's Kitchen summer rolls



A ribeye being grilled at Meokja Meokja



One Bar & Grill's branzino.



Draper's steak, broccolini and fries.

one else is doing the cooking," said Fairfax Mayor Catherine Read. "We have so many unique restaurants in Fairfax City with a variety of cuisines from around the world. It's a great opportunity to visit new places and revisit longstanding favorites. Grab the family and invite the neighbors to share a meal where no one has to do the dishes."

Below are examples of just some of the many entrees (not the whole meal, including appetizers and desserts) that a sampling of the restaurants will be serving:

## Bellissimo

Fish of the Day; Crabmeat Ravioli - spin-

ach pasta stuffed with crabmeat in lobster cream sauce garnished with black tiger shrimp; Chicken Marsala - sauteed with portobello mushrooms in marsala demiglace; Veal Sinatra - with mushrooms, shallots, prosciutto ham, spinach, fontina cheese in white-wine demiglace; Chicken Fiorentina - in bechamel sauce with spinach and fontina cheese; Gnocchi Marinara - potato dumplings tossed in a light, herb marinara sauce; Agnolotti Amore - homemade egg pasta stuffed with goat cheese and spinach in a goat-cheese cream sauce; Fettuccine Veal Ragu Pasta - topped with goat cheese; and Braised Lamb Shank - served over papardelle pasta.

## Capital Ale House

Roasted Salmon and Shiitake Mushrooms - with shiitake rice pilaf and wilted baby spinach; Jägerschnitzel - crispy, breaded pork-loin cutlets, sauerkraut, German mashed potatoes and mushroom gravy; Sirloin - 8-ounce grilled, seasoned sirloin with choice of garlic blue cheese butter or peppercorn-tarragon butter (with vegetables and potatoes); Chicken, Shrimp & Andouille Pasta - with creamy Creole alfredo, fresh baby spinach and cavatappi pasta; or a 22-ounce strip steak to share, with two sides.

SEE CUISINES, PAGE 15  
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

PHOTOS COURTESY OF HEATHER MENIS



# CALENDAR

## NOW THRU APRIL 30

Score: Mixed Media Art. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Score explores 20 years of the work of Virginia-based mixed media artist, Joan Dreyer. While developing her MFA thesis at Tyler School of Art in Philadelphia, PA, Joan began taking tools, techniques and imagery that have been historically considered "women's work" and transforming them into innovative, contemporary art that is responsive to the tone and tensions of our times. Created by combining fiber techniques with unexpected materials like X-rays, her work is a subtle art that asks questions about life, loss, symbolism, and the impact of war instead of providing one size fits all answers. The artist's work provides a space for the contemplation of life stages that we all encounter. The result is a body of work that allows for meaningful but also multiple interpretations by the viewer. Visit the website: <https://www.workhousearts.org/score-mixed-media>

## FEB. 3 TO MARCH 10

Mindfulness with Shilpi. 12-1 p.m. At Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Easily drop down and settle into a deep state of relaxation without resistance. Begin the upward spiral of your own healing journey by coming into resonance and connecting with that innermost sanctuary within, that has the keys to issues you may be dealing with. Get in touch with your internal GPS that can help you navigate your life without getting distracted or deviated from your Path. Sponsored by the Friends of Burke Centre Library. Adults. Website: <https://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/10035131>

## WEDNESDAY/MARCH 1

Mary Ann Redmond with Deren Blesman and Dan Leonard. 6:30-8:30 p.m. At the Old Brogue, 760 Walker Road, Great Falls. \$15 cover. Call 703-759-3309.

## MARCH 2-5

Tyson's Library Quarterly Book & Media Sale. Tyson's Pimmit Regional Library 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Large selection of books and media for all ages and interests. Thursday, 2 March, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Friday, 3 March, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Saturday, 4 March, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sunday, 5 March, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.: Bag sale. \$10 for a full grocery sack or half price if less. Call 703-338-3307.

## MARCH 2-19

"How the Light Gets In." Presented by 1st Stage of Tysons, 1524 Spring Hill Road Tysons. Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.,



"Stop, Kiss" will be presented March 3-12, 2023 at the Reston Community Center in Reston.

and Sundays at 2 p.m. From the co-writer of the breakout hit Duck Harbor comes an uplifting story of connection and healing. Set against the backdrop of a peaceful Japanese garden, this beautifully touching story centers around four very different people who build a community of love and hope. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.1ststage.org](http://www.1ststage.org) or by calling the 1st Stage box office at 703-854-1856.

## FRIDAY/MARCH 3

Visiting Filmmakers Series. 4:30-7:30 p.m. At GMU's Johnson Center Cinema, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Join in a free screening of Rise (2022), followed by a discussion with director (and professional film actor) Akin Omotoso. Visit the website: <https://vfs.gmu.edu/events/14183>

## MARCH 3-4

GAMEmason 2023. Friday, March 3 from 12 p.m. to 10 p.m.; Saturday, March 4 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. At George Mason University. A two-day gaming convention featuring ESports tournaments, arcade and tabletop gaming, industry panels, keynote speakers. For GAMEmason 2023 tickets and schedule information, visit: [si.gmu.edu/gamemason](http://si.gmu.edu/gamemason).

## MARCH 3-5

"A Raisin in the Sun." At Theater at Seneca Ridge Middle School. Sterling Playmakers' first show of 2023 is the American masterwork, A Raisin in the Sun, by Lorraine Hansberry, in honor of Black History Month (February) and International Women's Month (March).

## MARCH 3-12

Vienna Restaurant Week. At restaurants in Vienna. Celebrating its second year, the event will showcase the culinary breadth of the town's dining community. The Spring pro-

gram will feature 50 participants from restaurants to fast-casual eateries throughout the Town of Vienna. During the week-long event, participating restaurants will offer three-course prix fixe menus of \$25 for lunch/brunch and \$35-40 for dinner per person. In addition to the curated menus, specialty restaurants, and eateries will offer discounted a la carte dining providing food lovers the opportunity to further explore Vienna's culinary scene. Diners are encouraged to follow at @ExploreViennaVA on Instagram and Facebook and tag #ViennaRestaurantWeek. For more information, visit [exploreviennava.com/restaurantweek](http://exploreviennava.com/restaurantweek).

## MARCH 3-12

"Stop, Kiss." Presented by Reston Community Players. At Reston Community Center, Reston. Friday and Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 2 p.m. A powerful play honoring the struggles of the LGBTQ+ Community by Diana Son.

## SATURDAY/MARCH 4

Appraisal Roadshow. 10:45 a.m. to 12 p.m. At Reston Association Headquarters, Reston. The Appraisal Roadshow delivers a treasure hunt experience in a fun, educational and rewarding forum. Bring one personal item such as jewelry, coins, a timepiece, porcelain, artwork or other heirlooms, and the appraisal experts will educate you and the other participants with interesting facts and information on what it is, what it's worth and what you can do with your treasure.

## SATURDAY/MARCH 4

Dr. Ana Samuel Lecture. 7 p.m. At Oakcrest School in Vienna. Oakcrest School is pleased to welcome Dr. Ana Samuel, Academic Director of the pro-marriage organization, CanaVox to speak to parents, faculty, and the extended Oakcrest community. Dr. Samuel will discuss



Mad River Theater Works' "Freedom Flight" will be presented on Saturday, March 4, 2023 at the Alden Theater in McLean.

"Talking to Our Kids About Identity," equipping parents with the tools they need to help strengthen their family life. To register for the Ana Samuel event, visit [oakcrest.org/parent-support-speakers](http://oakcrest.org/parent-support-speakers).

## SATURDAY/MARCH 4

Mad River Theater Works' "Freedom Flight." 4 p.m. At The Alden Theater, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The Alden continues its celebration of Black History when it presents Mad River Theater Works' "Freedom Flight," a performance that brings the history of the Underground Railroad to life. Featuring original songs and an array of interesting characters, the single performance will be held at 4 p.m. Tickets are \$25, \$20 for seniors and students and \$15 for MCC district residents. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit [aldentheatre.org](http://aldentheatre.org) or call 703-790-0123, TTY: 711.

## SUNDAY/MARCH 5

Book Signing: Loron Prisons. 2 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Two of the founding volunteers of the Lucy Burns Museum, Alice Reagan and Kenena Spalding present their new book, Lorton Prisons (Arcadia, 2023), a comprehensive look at the history of the Lorton Correctional Complex. As part of the Images of America series, this publication celebrates local history through compelling archival photographs. Join us to celebrate the authors' achievements as they share their research and sign copies of the book, available to purchase (\$23.99) on site. Following the signing, guests are welcome to accompany the authors in the museum to continue the conversation. Guests are asked to register for free tickets to attend this program.

## MARCH 6-12

Fairfax City Restaurant Week. At Restaurants in Fairfax City. The event celebrates Fairfax eateries by placing them center stage all week long. Restaurants offer prix fixe menu experiences (\$25 brunch/

lunch and \$40 dinner, per person/couple/family options available at select locations). Additionally, specialty restaurants offer a Two for \$10 Deal, providing food lovers the opportunity to further explore Fairfax City's regionally lauded diverse culinary scene. For more information, visit [fairfaxcityrestaurantweek.com](http://fairfaxcityrestaurantweek.com).

## WEDNESDAY/MARCH 8

Education Recruitment Day. 9 to 11:30 a.m. At Dewberry Hall, Johnson Center, Fairfax Campus, 4477 Aquia Creek Ln., Fairfax. Employers will be on campus looking to hire undergraduate, graduate students and alumni for positions in the education field. Open to the public. You do not need to be a Mason student or alum to attend Education Recruitment Day.

## SATURDAY/MARCH 11

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra. 8 p.m. At GMU's Harris Theatre, Fairfax. Grammy-winner Jason Vieaux, "among the elite of today's classical guitarists" (Gramophone), is described by NPR as "perhaps the most precise and soulful classical guitarist of his generation". He is joined by Aaron Clay, FSO principal bassist and member of "The President's Own" United States Marine Band for the U.S. Premiere of a new work by composer Sylvie Bodorová.

## SATURDAY/MARCH 11

Christ Church Children's Consignment Sale. 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Christ Church, 7600 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. A community-focused event, that serves families with kids from babies to teens. Clothes, shoes, toys, games, books, baby equipment and much more! Thousands of items from 225+ families. 40-90% off retail. Quality items. Organized in categories. Awesome deals. Affordable for all. Cash, check and credit cards (with photo ID) accepted. One-half price sale from noon-2 p.m. Proceeds benefit ministries and missions of Christ Church. Free Admission. Website: <https://www.christchurchsale.com>



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A Caribbean chicken dish at Jas and Fam



Sizzling fajitas at Merkado.

# Cuisines from Around the World

FROM PAGE 12

## Curry Mantra

Butter Chicken – with a spiced tomato and butter sauce; Chicken Korma - cooked with spices, onion paste, yogurt and nuts; Lamb Vindaloo – with red chilies, vinegar, garlic and spices; Lamb Shahi Korma - cooked with spices, onions, yogurt, cream and nuts; Palak Paneer - made with fresh spinach, onions, spices, paneer cheese and herbs.; and Aloo Gobi – a vegetarian dish made with potatoes, cauliflower, spices and herbs.

## Kim's Kitchen & Bar

Filet Mignon Pho - hearty beef broth simmered 15 hours, plus filet mignon and rice noodles; Imperial Beef Noodle Soup - lemongrass, ginger, beef broth, homemade chili oil and thick rice noodles; Bun Cha Hanoi - grilled pork patties steeped in nuoc cham (a Vietnamese sauce), rice vermicelli, fresh vegetables and herbs; Vermicelli Salad Bowl - rice vermicelli, fresh herbs, bean sprouts, spring onions, Vietnamese pickles, peanuts and choice of protein; Banh Mi – Vietnamese sandwich with grilled chicken, pork, beef or tofu; Honey Garlic Pork Chop – grilled Saigon style with jasmine rice.

## Merkado

Tacos – Carne Asada, Al Pastor (spiced, marinated pork) or Lime-Chili Roasted Chicken; and Carne Asada – marinated, premium skirt steak with Mexican green onions, Pico de Gallo, rice and charro beans (pinto beans stewed with onion, garlic and bacon).

PHOTOS COURTESY OF HEATHER MENIS



Cannoli for dessert at Dolce Vita

## One Bar & Grill

Butcher's choice cut – open-fire-broiled hanger steak, herb mushrooms, maple-glazed carrots, roasted potato and demi-glace; Garlic Tuscan Chicken – creamy and herb-brined, with exotic-mushroom risotto; Cold Water Salmon – pan-seared filet with Jasmine rice pilaf and vegetables; and Lobster Ravioli – with champagne rose cream and Reggiano parmesan cheese.

## The Auld Shebeen

Burdocks Fish and Chips - battered, deep fried, cod filets with fries and coleslaw; Corned Beef and Cabbage – with mashed potatoes, carrots, parsley cream sauce and traditional Irish mustards; St. James Gate Guinness Beef Stew - served over mashed potatoes; Shepherd's Pie - Prime ground beef and vegetables in rich brown gravy over mashed potatoes; and Cottage Pie - breast of chicken with onions, carrots and mushrooms in a creamy herb sauce, topped with mashed potatoes and Parmesan cheese.

# Nonprofits Open House

FROM PAGE 3

Fairfax County, on Friday nights. <https://www.analemma.org/>

Members of the Great Falls Citizens Association (GFCA), Sandy Walker, membership chair; Elizabeth Huebner, secretary; Christ Rich, vice president; Winne Frost, co-chair of environment and parks; and Phil Pifer, board of directors, spoke about the association's volunteer opportunities, one of which was through the Fairfax County Invasive Management Program (IMA). "They have a calendar that goes up on their website, so we get a lot of students who volunteer through

the IMA calendar. They can get community service hours. Sometimes we bring in candy and snacks," Rich said. Other volunteer opportunities are available through GFCA that do not require a significant time commitment. "Have a passion for a particular area or initiative? Want to write or design? Learn about websites. Get involved in the political process? Meet new friends who share your interests? Want to give back to your community? Devote as much time as you like, or as little as you have," states the civic organization's website. Reach out to [volunteer@gfca.org](mailto:volunteer@gfca.org) to become a volunteer. <https://gfca.org/>

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

The pandemic has been a bear, financially and otherwise. Revenue plummeted at the beginning in 2020. Some beloved advertisers have stayed the course supporting us 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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## "Burton" For Certain



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

"Burton" is the name we gave the new golden retriever puppy that my wife, Dina surprised me with, on Sat. Oct 8, 2022. And 'certain' is the fact that had I not had a puppy to monitor – and take out, constantly, I likely would have wallowed to an unfamiliar depth after my brother died on Dec. 3. If puppies need anything, especially when they're not yet house-broken, it is constant supervision. If you allow them an inch, they will create a mile of misbehaving damage. And remember, dogs, puppies, particularly golden retrievers because they're smart, need guidance and lots of positive reinforcement – and most of all: consistency. Had Burton arrived during the 10 weeks or so when I was visiting my brother daily in the hospital and/or rehab center, he wouldn't have received the hands-on (literally) training he has from me and my wife, Dina. But because of the timing of his arrival, a few weeks after my brother was discharged from the rehab center, he did. It gave the three of us (Burton, Dina, and me) ample opportunity to live and learn – and love together. And the love you give a dog is returned 100-fold.

Having established the context of Burton's arrival; the addition and minute-by-minute awareness of a puppy in the house, and that same puppy outside the house without a fenced-in yard focusing your attention and energy 100% of the time, leaves very little time for non-puppy considerations. And so, unintentionally, but most fortuitously, having Burton in my life has enabled me to reduce/manage (not minimize though) the emotional loss that my brother's passing has caused me to carry. Looking into Burton's dog eyes and then having him shake on command – with both paws, doesn't exactly make me forget the tremendous loss I've suffered (It's not just me. It's worse for Vanessa, Richard's wife/now widow.) But Burton does force me to get up and at'em and out of the house every morning. Otherwise, I might simply remain in bed flipping the cable searching for something, anything, that might motivate me to want to live long and hopefully prosper. Richard may not exactly have been the reason for my living, but he sure was the reason for a lot of other things I need in my life. Moreover, he sort of represented a kind of order/predictability in my life that has now disappeared. I didn't exactly take it for granted that I would outlive him, but I figured once I was diagnosed with a terminal form of lung cancer in Feb. 2009 (non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV), all bets were off, especially for anyone who took the over. And yet, here I am.

Though Burton's addition to the family (Richard referred to Burton as his nephew; they met once on Oct. 28, Richard's 73rd birthday) wasn't intended for emotional support (he was secretly purchased by Dina in mid-June 2022, way before my brother's July 16th admission to the hospital), he has been all that and more, especially from Dec. 3rd on, the day of my brother's death. It's no accident that golden retrievers are often selected and trained for this very situation: emotional support. You often see them advertised on television as "support" dogs; as an example, for veterans suffering from P.T.S.D., "battle buddies" as one veteran describes his companion. And you'll see programs where the goldens are visiting patients in hospitals and residents in nursing homes, and they're even used by ski patrol for avalanche rescue. There's nothing quite like a cold nose and a friendly paw to lift you up when you're down. And I sure was. Now being the sole survivor in my immediate family is a role, oddly enough, that I never envisioned for myself.

I wouldn't say Burton has saved my life, or made everything OKAY, but I would say, he did just about everything else. He gave me renewed purpose and responsibility for another life when I was at one of the lowest points in mine.

It's impossible not to smile when greeted by your dog. Their exuberance and excitement at seeing you, after any kind of separation, along with the affection they exhibit almost makes everything all right. Well, for a few minutes it does. Still, my life will never be the same without my brother in it. He was my 'battle buddy.' I imagine now he's looking out for me from a different, more permanent place. I guess there's some solace in that. And let's not forget the healing power of dog saliva.

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





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