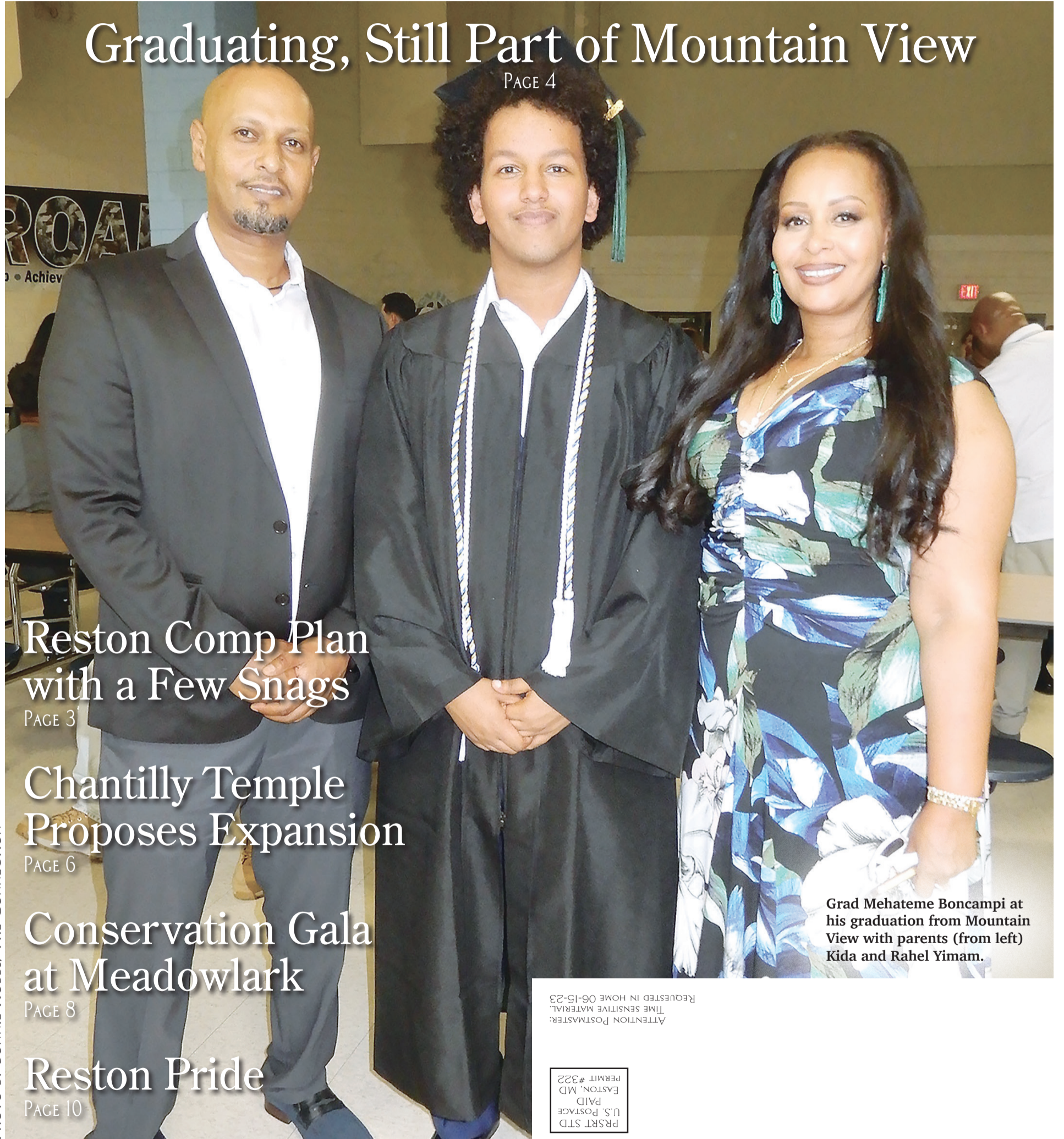


THE CONNECTION

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

Graduating, Still Part of Mountain View

PAGE 4



Grad Mehateme Boncampi at his graduation from Mountain View with parents (from left) Kida and Rahel Yimam.

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ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 13 ❖ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 14

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Reston Comp Plan
with a Few Snags

PAGE 3

Chantilly Temple
Proposes Expansion

PAGE 6

Conservation Gala
at Meadowlark

PAGE 8

Reston Pride

PAGE 10

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NEWS

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION



Hunter Mill District Planning Commissioner John Carter



John Farrell, president of Reston Association



Michelle Kimmel is secretary of the Reston Planning and Zoning Committee and served on the Reston Comprehensive Plan Interim Task Force.



Jennifer Jushchuk, vice president of Reston Association Board of Directors



William (Bill) Penniman, Reston Community Center Board of Governors

Last Minute Concerns Erupt Over Reston Comprehensive Plan

Planning commissioner hosts event one week before public hearing.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The purpose of the June 6 community meeting on the proposed Reston Comprehensive Plan Amendment 2020 (PA 2020-III-UP1 Hunter Mill (plan) at Lake Anne in Reston was to “get everybody up to the same speed,” according to the host, Hunter Mill District Planning Commissioner John Carter. “These plans often take a long time to create. Everybody gets kind of tired of them at the end, but this is the time to be excited about (them). That’s the reflection of what your community is going to be like. My experience has been (that) there is never a perfect comp plan,” Carter said.

According to Carter, people often try to add a sentence here or there. The time for that was over. However, if there is something wrong, Carter said, “Yes, let’s correct it.”

Individuals who served in the plan’s chapter development and those in Reston leadership roles urgently flagged specific issues they opined needed to be addressed now rather than join the long queue of the Countywide site-specific plan amendment process.

“Fix it,” said John Farrell referencing multiple concerns, among them language saying the Lake House could become office space. Farrell is president of the Reston Association.

“This plan is lacking and actually sends us backward,” said Michelle Kimmel, who served on the plan’s Interim Task Force and Save Our Sunrise, dedicated to raising awareness about development and issues along Sunrise Valley Drive in Reston.

“The way this plan is written, it incentivizes Inova (Emergency Room Reston/Herndon) to leave Reston,” she said. The free-standing emergency room is a department of the nonprofit healthcare provider Inova, at 11901 Baron Cameron Avenue. Kimmel said the loss of that facility could mean the loss of medical providers and equitable healthcare. The Community Health section

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of the comprehensive plan amendment “ensure(s) accessible and equitable health care access for all residents.” The equity section states, “Potential impacts and benefits to the different communities in Reston should be considered when reviewing/approving zoning applications.”

William (Bill) Penniman of the Reston Community Center Board of Directors and who also served on the plan’s interim task force, said sections of the plan are “diminished,” referencing the stronger environmental protection recommendations the task force put forth, but staff used language from the last plan. The county needs to revisit this, he said.

Jennifer Jushchuk, vice president of Reston Association Board of Directors, called attention to the property that Comstock owns on the south side of the metro. “There’s not a ton of language on what that access looks like, but I will call it the heart of access from the south side of Reston to that Metro Station. I would say that we should be pretty specific about what we’re looking for.”

Their voices added to a litany of others with concerns or comments, among them John Mooney of Reston Association, Lynne Mulston of Reston Citizens Association, and Tammi Petrine, Reston 20/20.

The urgency, so late in the game, was because the tentative schedule leading to approval of the Reston Comprehensive Plan looms. The Planning Commission Public Hearing is June 14, Planning Commission Action is June 28, and the Public Hearing and Final Approval by the Board of Supervisors is July 25.

Carter kicked off the meeting by presenting the 27-page ‘Reston Comprehensive Plan: Extending the Legacy of New Town Planning in America’ to a group of about 45 people. The explanatory document, which is not the 140-page Proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment PA 2020-III-UP1 May 24,



Comstock is continuing to develop the land to the south of Wiehle Metro Reston Station.

Why the urgency? The Planning Commission Public Hearing is June 14, Planning Commission Action is June 28, and the Public Hearing and Final Approval by the Board of Supervisors is July 25.

2023, is rich in photographs and features an introduction explaining the plan’s vision, principles and history, followed by the plan’s nine elements or chapters: Land Use and Design; Transportation, Environmental Stewardship; Parks, Recreation and Open Space; Public Facilities; Affordable Housing; Heritage Resources; Public Art; and a New

Town Planning chapter with an introduction, Equity, Community Health, and Economic Development sections.

The Lake House, an Office?

Farrell said that in the current text of the plan, The Lake House is possibly being redeveloped as an office. “Reston Association has no intention of redeveloping The Lake House for office ... It would be inappropriate to have that option in the comprehensive plan. It would disrupt people who spent the money to buy it and reserve it in its current state,” Farrell said.

RA Doesn’t Share in Monetary Proffers from Developers

Farrell added a second concern related to a provision in the county zoning ordinance, Article 6-110 Open Space, paragraph 2, of the Planned Development District Regulations, a requirement to provide recreational facilities in all PDH Districts in conjunction with approval of a final development plan. The provision of such facilities is subject to the provisions of Sect. 16-404, and such requirements are based on a minimum expenditure of \$1,900 per dwelling unit for such facilities.

They can build the recreation facilities themselves or instead give a cash contribution to the Fairfax County Park Authority, according to Farrell. He said that when the developers try to give funds to RA, that is not permitted.

“But the zoning ordinance specifically said that those improvements can be on adjacent property. RA has adjacent property,” Farrell said. “So I don’t understand the county attorney’s position. It does not appear to be grounded in the zoning ordinance or in law. It appears we have the county attorney making policy. It’s not their job ... Fix it.”

Carter responded, “At least we have a heads-up on the plan.”

Following Carter’s presentation on the Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces chap-

CLASS OF 2023

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



From left are Maria Pineda and daughter Brenda.



Grad Mehateme Boncampi with parents (from left) Kida and Rahel Yimam.



Grad Nicholas Rodriguez with parents (from left) Oscar Cuzmar and Haydee Rodriguez.

'You Deserve Success' Class of 2023 graduates from Mountain View High.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

For most students, graduations mark the closing of one chapter in their lives and the beginning of another. But students at Mountain View High start their new lives the moment they enter the doors.

They often come from other countries, not speaking a word of English, or from untenable situations at other schools. But once at Mountain View, they begin again and receive the support and encouragement they need to thrive. So their graduation ceremony last Tuesday, June 6, at Centreville High, was especially meaningful to all involved.

"You share the common bond of being part of the Mountain View family and knowing that the school's motto of 'Family, Love and Respect' is living and breathing inside you," said Assistant Principal Kim Witeck. "You're resilient and strong, but were also supported by your families, guardians, fellow students, teachers, counselors and administrators."

Principal Catherine Stone acknowledged, as well, the Mountain View Foundation for its scholarship money which "directly impacts the ability of our graduates to access post-secondary education." She then told the students that graduation culminates their many years of school and they should choose a moment to always remember from their ceremony.

"You've worked hard to get here today, and your journey wasn't always the easiest," she said. "You may not have always believed graduation was in your future. You've each faced challenges during your time in school. But once you got to Mountain View, you learned some

lessons that have helped you on your journey." These are:

- * Set goals and follow them through to completion because "goals help us get to where we want to be."

- * Use a challenge as a learning experience and move forward.

- * Take a break. "When things aren't going how you hoped, pause, take a deep breath and, when you're ready, get right back to it."

- * "Family will always be there for you, and it isn't just blood relatives. It's the community you build for yourself, like the family you found at Mountain View."

- * Treat everyone with love and respect – "you get what you give."

"Never forget that you can achieve great things when you work hard, are resilient despite the challenges, and believe in yourself," continued Stone. "Remember today and how it feels to accomplish a goal you've worked hard for. You've each earned your diplomas, so celebrate your success – but don't forget to thank all the people who helped you along the way.

"You're important and valued, and you deserve success. Stay in touch; we want to know how you're doing and continue to help with your journey – that's what families do. Congratulations, Class of 2023; your Mountain View family is proud of you."

Next came the two student speakers. Brenda Pineda said she was dropping out of her previous school because she was rejected and bullied for not speaking English. "I asked the teachers for help, but they ignored me," she said. "Then I came to Mountain View, where the teachers care about you and will become your friends."

"They gave me help when I needed it and changed my per-



Noelia Cicinato and dad Edgar.

spective on school," said Pineda. "They gave me a place where I felt worthwhile and successful. And now, I plan to go to college and become an event planner." She said her mother and grandfather were also good role models for her.

"My mom never gave up; she always worked hard," said Pineda. "And my grandpa was always proud of me and encouraged me to work hard to succeed in school." She also thanked her stepdad for coming into their lives and making things easier for them, plus his brother who urged her to read books in English.

"And thank you to my son Jayson – I'm graduating because of you," added Pineda. "I want you to know that nothing is impossible if you work hard and follow your dreams." She then thanked her classmates and friends who

studied with her, several individual teachers and counselors, Stone, and former Mountain View Principal Joe Thompson "for believing in me."

Speaking next was Mehateme Boncampi. "Four years ago, my mother brought me and my two younger siblings to the U.S. for a better life," he said. "She made countless sacrifices for me and gave me unconditional love. I come from Ethiopia, which was once a powerful empire. I saw its poverty and appreciated my privileges and family."

Believing that "language allows us to understand and learn about other cultures," he wants to work in computational linguistics and promote Amharic – a language of Ethiopia – and give back to his birth country. He said his two siblings taught him patience,

and his late grandmother's love and wisdom "continue to inspire me. She's shaped my values and desire to make a positive impact on the world."

Boncampi also thanked many individual Mountain View teachers and staff members who've "played a role in my personal growth. And to my peers, I wish you good luck and hope you'll find your way in the world and always be true to yourself."

Special awards were then presented to three deserving students chosen by the teachers:

- ❖ The Citizenship Award is given to a student who's helped build a positive school community. ESOL teacher Leslie Chekin gave it to Maikol Ramos.



Citizenship Award: Teacher Leslie Chekin with Maikol Ramos.



Faculty Award: Science teacher Susan Culik and Lauren Connors.



Fani Yoana Benitez Gonzalez gets her diploma from Principal Stone.



Jorge Chun Chojolan receives his diploma from Principal Catherine Stone.

FROM PAGE 4

❖ The Personal Achievement Award goes to a student who succeeded academically and personally, despite having adult responsibilities, such as a job or a child. Head Librarian Becca Ferrick presented it to Boncampi.

❖ The Faculty Award is given to the student achieving the greatest academic and personal success, despite significant obstacles. Receiving it from science teacher Susan Culik was Lauren Connors. “Her teachers called her ‘creative, unique and intelligent,’” said Culik. “She’s been able to shine at Mountain

View, and she should be proud of how far she’s come in a short time.

“Her teachers also said Lauren uses her voice to promote those marginalized, rather than herself. She’s a kind, sensitive person, always willing to help her classmates. I had her in my environmental science class, and she always made me laugh. Lauren, your Mountain View family values you as both a student and a person.”

Then Stone recognized each student who’d received a scholarship, diplomas were awarded, and the grads, families and school staff filed into the cafeteria to celebrate together.



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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 Struc Id	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Posted Date
SCOTT	16692	622	SINKS RD	COX BRANCH	5/30/2023
CARROLL	4780	881	CROSS CREEK RD/RTE 881	LITTLE REED ISLAND CR #2	5/30/2023
SCOTT	16725	632	POSSUM CREEK RD	BRANCH	5/8/2023
SCOTT	16929	859	ROBERTS CREEK RD	BRANCH	5/8/2023
SCOTT	16698	623	SPEERS VALLEY RD	N FORK CLINCH RIVER	5/3/2023
ALBEMARLE	746	680	BROWNS GAP TURNPIKE	LICKINGHOLE CREEK	5/2/2023
CARROLL	4683	679	WARDS GAP RD/RTE 679	JOHNSONS CREEK	5/2/2023
CAROLINE	24142	207	WBL BOW. GREEN BYP	RTE. 301 (2)	5/1/2023

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

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

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

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

Temple Expansion Proposed in Chantilly

Rajdhani Mandir wants to enlarge its temple in Chantilly.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

The Rajdhani Mandir Temple in Chantilly's Pleasant Valley community wants to build an expansion, and it recently presented details of its plan to the joint land-use committee of the West Fairfax County Citizens Assn. (WFCCA) and the Sully District Council.

To make the project a reality, this temple at 4525 Pleasant Valley Road must amend its existing special permit. In addition, it's seeking a new permit so it may build a community center on property across the street and on the south side of Herndon Road. This parcel of land is zoned residential-conservation, and the surrounding area is developed with residential neighborhoods, plus several houses of worship.

"Rajdhani Mandir is one of the oldest Hindu temples in Northern Virginia," said Dr. Rajeev Khanna, president of the temple's executive board. "But we need to expand our area to better serve our community. We used to serve a population of 10,000-15,000, but there's been a huge population increase."

The temple serves members in Fairfax, western Loudoun and Prince William counties. And, explained Khanna, "Unlike other places of worship that serve just one [denomination], we have 21 different Hindu ethnicities attending. However, we don't



Artist's rendering of the current Rajdhani Mandir Temple (on the left) with its proposed expansion (on the right).



Artist's rendition of the temple's proposed 13,600-square-foot community center.

have a proper kitchen, classroom or place to get together, so we bought some land around the temple."

Hamid Matin, the project's civil engineer, said the existing temple is 8,323 square feet on 5-1/2 acres. The entrance is via a left turn from Pleasant Valley Road, and the exit

is via a right turn onto Pleasant Valley. The additional land is some 9.7 acres, and the proposal calls for adding a right-turn lane into the new site from Pleasant Valley.

The project would be done in three phases, with work being performed as funds for each phase are raised. It would start

with improvements to the existing temple, including an increase in seating. The current occupancy is 250 people, but the enlargement would enable it to accommodate as many as 700 members.

And although Rajdhani Mandir has sufficient parking to serve the additional seats, its stormwater capacity would be increased by construction of an underground stormwater-management facility. Here's what's planned:

- ❖ Phase I: Remodeling/renovation of the existing temple building, expansion on two sides of the existing prayer hall, and the addition of an administration wing and classrooms on the north side of the existing building. The work would provide an extra 10,556 square feet and bring the temple building to a total of 18,879 square feet.

- ❖ Phase II: The addition of a small auditorium, new kitchen facility and partial lobby area on the east side (back) of the existing temple building. It would add some 11,329 square feet for a total building area of 30,208 square feet.

- ❖ Phase III: This phase would add a senior center, auxiliary facilities and lobby area on the southeast side of the existing temple building. It would add 3,000 square feet for a total building area of 33,208 square feet. The work would also include improvements to the exterior, outdoor-activity areas.

A future fourth phase, said Matin, would be construction of a 13,600-square-foot community center on the nearly 10 acres of new land the temple new owns across the street. It would have 132 parking spaces and serve a maximum of 300 people.

SEE RAJDHANI MANDIR TEMPLE, PAGE 7

NoVa Air Quality Index Reaches 'Hazardous' Levels

Just because you don't smell smoke doesn't mean the air is ok; tiny particles of pollution can work their way deep into lungs.

BY ANNIKA DUNEJA
CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

Northern Virginia hazardous levels of air pollution last week as a result of wildfires occurring in Eastern Canada. An air pollution event like this one is very rare, with Virginia Department of Health Quality meteorologist Daniel Salkovitz saying he had not seen air quality levels this bad in nearly 20 years.

According to Director of the Air and Radiation Division of EPA Region 3 Cristina Fernandez, over 2,000 wildfires are burning throughout Eastern Canada, with some of the most severe ones in the Quebec region. Though Canada does have a regular wildfire season, the fires at this time of the year are more out of control than others, she said.

Salkovitz said the current weather pattern caused winds to blow from north to south, moving the smoke from the fires down along the east coast of the United States.

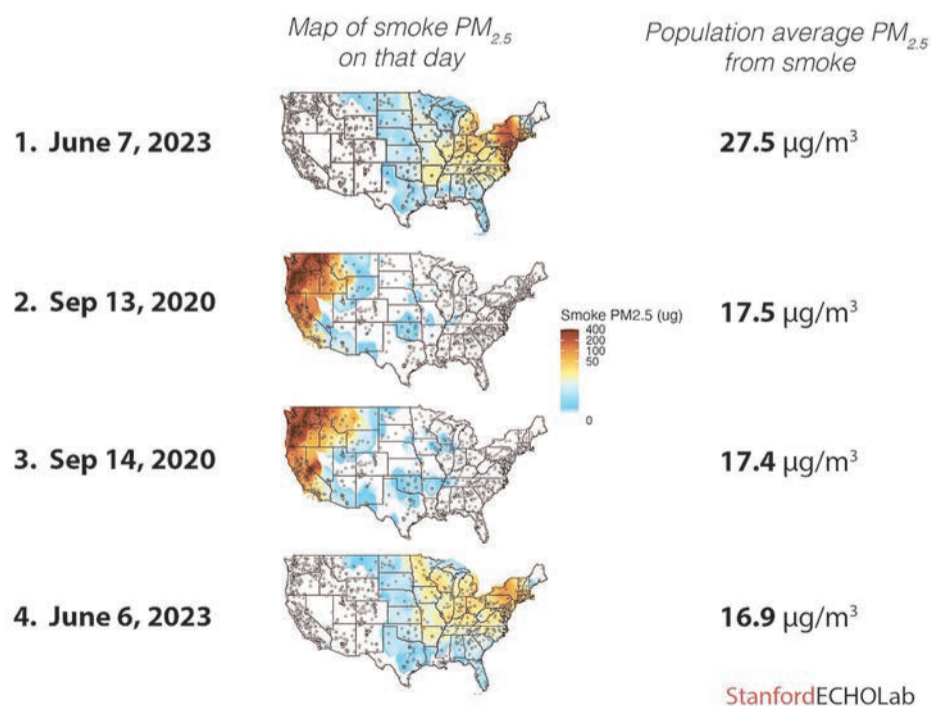
The smoke caused a haze over the sky along much of the East Coast, including northern Virginia. However, the main cause for concern is that the smoke contains PM2.5, or particulate matter the size of 2.5 microns. Jenna Krall, an assistant professor at George Mason University's Department of Global and Community Health, said the particle size is what makes it particularly dangerous for people to inhale.

"They can travel deeper into the body," she said. "You think about larger particles, which are going to be the ones that make

SEE HAZARDOUS AIR, PAGE 7

Top 4 worst wildfire smoke days in recent US history

Jan 1 2006 - Jun 7 2023



StanfordECHOLab

MARSHALL BURKE @MARSHALLBBURKE VIA TWITTER

June 7th was the worst wildfire smoke day on record in the US since 2006, by far. June 6th was the 4th worst. Just a massive, awful event, with highly populated areas getting hit with unprecedented levels of pollution. Great data work by @StanfordECHOLab @minghao_qiu Jessica Li.

Rajdhani Mandir Temple

FROM PAGE 6

After all three phases are completed, the normal weekend attendance at the temple is expected to be 330 people. However, rituals are staggered, so the usual maximum is anticipated to be 150 at any time, with people spending an average of 15-20 minutes per visit. On the nine major holidays, some 700 people may attend – but not at the same time.

Matin noted that there'd be no change

to the temple's hours of operation – Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 4:30-9 p.m.; and Saturday-Sunday, 8 a.m.-9 p.m.

“We don't expect extra people to show up – the people are already there,” added Khanna. “And we're not adding more activities, but we need more classrooms to provide more room for them. I don't see phase one starting for another year; and after we do it, we'll still have to raise money for the rest.”

WFCCA's Steve Chulick worried about people crossing the street from the temple to

the community center, but Matin told him, “We're proposing a crosswalk for pedestrians. But people wouldn't be walking back and forth because the community center would be used, for example, for weddings and receptions, independent of the temple.”

Speaking for the joint land-use committee as a whole, Sully District Council President Jeff Parnes then told the Rajdhani Mandir representatives, “We have no objections, and we look forward to hearing more as this [proposal] develops.”

Hazardous Air

FROM PAGE 6

you sneeze or you cough up, but these particles will bypass those natural defenses and travel deep into the lungs.”

Inhaling the particles is particularly harmful for people with cardiovascular issues and asthma, but at the levels seen in Northern Virginia on Wednesday and Thursday, they can be harmful for anyone. Professor Krall said that the specific particles in the air may be even more dangerous because of the fact that they were produced by fires and may contain unknown chemicals.

The EPA measures air quality using an Air Quality index, which has ranges that represent how unhealthy the air is. Beginning on Monday, Fairfax County's air quality index numbers began to increase, peaking at 314 on Thursday morning, which is classified as hazardous levels of air pollution.

In response, the Fairfax County Health Department released an air quality alert, recommending that people limit their time outdoors, specifically avoiding strenuous exercise outdoors and wearing N95 masks if one must be outside. For the most part however, they recommended people stay inside and keep windows closed. Fairfax County Public Schools also canceled outdoor after school activities and recess on Wednesday and Thursday, June 7 and 8.

“One of the things we'll be doing in the Public Health Department is continuing to monitor the health impacts based on the current visits to our surrounding hospitals and emergency departments for conditions that could be attributed to this poor air quality index,” Parham Jaber, the deputy director for medical services in the FCHD, said.

On a county level and on a regional level, this amount of air pollution was not expect-

ed, as the wind and fire patterns are difficult to predict. For the levels to decrease, the wind patterns changed away from north to south, which according to Salkovitz, was expected closer to last weekend.

As of Thursday night, June 9, air pollution levels in the Northern Virginia area have decreased from a status of hazardous to unhealthy as wind patterns have begun to change. Fairfax County will continue to monitor the situation and release updated guidelines based on the air quality index. The EPA has a website and app called AirNow.gov that shows continuously updated air quality data throughout the day.

“I think this is one of those cases where listening and taking in the information from your local public health and elected officials is important because every community may be facing a different impact as a result of these poor air quality levels,” Jaber said.

Sully District Governmental Center's 20th Anniversary

The Sully District Governmental Center will host an open house to celebrate its 20th anniversary on Saturday, June 24, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The building is at 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly, but attendees are encouraged to park at the nearby Sully Station Shopping Center at 5053 Westfields Blvd. in Centreville.

The fun will include police and fire displays, a deejay, children's games, therapy dogs and food trucks. It's sponsored by the Sully District Police Station and the Sully District Board of Supervisors Office, which are both housed in the building.

Admission is free, but attendees are asked to bring a canned good for Western Fairfax Christian Ministries' (WFCM) food pantry, which serves families in Centreville and Chantilly.

Juneteenth Event, This Saturday, Bull Run Regional Park

NOVA Parks and the Fairfax County NAACP will host their Second Annual Juneteenth celebration to recognize the largest, private emancipation of the enslaved, commemorate the cemetery where many of the freed are interred, and visit the site where Blacks and whites worshipped as early as 1775.

The event is set for Saturday, June 17, at 10:30 a.m., at Bull Run Regional Park, 7700 Bull Run Drive in Centreville. The ceremony will begin at shelter 10 next to Atlantis Waterpark. Park in the Atlantis Waterpark parking lot near the road.

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Attorney and awardee Nancy Hyde



NVCT Executive Director Alan Rowsome, Betsy Martin and Delegate Vivian Watts

PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH

Prioritizing Preservation

Northern Virginia Conservation Trust gala at Meadowlark.

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

The few celebrants who ventured onto the Meadowlark Botanical Gardens outdoor deck gazed at the hazy sky and gauzy sun in the early evening of June 8, a Code Purple day, according to the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG). Code Purple is a measure of air quality conditions and represents “very unhealthy levels for everyone, for fine particle pollution due to ongoing smoke from fires in Canada,” said COG’s alert.

Inside the atrium, the spirit was far from gray, as a crowd of 225 celebrated the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust’s work to “save nearby nature” through conservation easements, land purchases, proffers and other methods. NVCT has conserved over 9,000 acres in the region, Alan Rowsome, Executive Director, told the gathering and adds six to eight properties each year.

Urging attendees to “enjoy biophilia in the comfort of air conditioning,” Board member Shruti Kuppa, explained that a donor had offered a \$30,000 matching challenge to support three or four new nature preserves. A silent auction offered weekend getaways, art, custom clothing, fishing trips, golf excursions and more. Donors met the matching goal.

NVCT awarded the annual Richard Bliss Award to Nancy Hyde, a long-time board member who devoted 18 years to the organization and shepherded NVCT through its accreditation process. The Peggy Stevens award went to Joe and Laura Braceland, owners of Oak Hill in Annandale. Richard Fitzhugh built the house around 1790 in a late Georgian style and 1940s owners renovated it in the Colonial Revival style. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeff McKay said that the Code Purple alert is “a fitting reminder that the climate crisis takes all hands on deck.” He commended NVCT’s work to preserve River Farm, headquarters of the American Horticultural Society, in Mount Vernon district.

Del. Vivian Watts cited her work on the House of Delegates’ Finance Committee to preserve the land conservation tax credit.



Meadowlark, as a botanical garden, showcases many plants indoors and outdoors

Del. Marcus Simon said that in the verdant Meadowlark park the air seemed clearer than in the Tysons Corner area where there are few trees, emphasizing the positive effects of “trees and green space on the air that we breathe.”

Former House of Delegates Speaker Eileen Filler-Corn applauded the Northern Virginians’ many outdoor options and touted the 2020 Clean Economy Act, enacted by the General Assembly and former Governor Ralph Northam, a bill that “created a path to carbon neutrality.”

Mount Vernonite Christopher Morgan attended because, he said, “We need to ensure that everyone in the next generation has access to clean air, clean water and open park space.” Morgan is an independent candidate for the Mount Vernon Board of Supervisors seat.

Vienna resident Janet Peace was there because she wants to address climate change.

Mount Vernon residents Paul Siegel and Betsy Martin gave awards to three NVCT staffers – Alyssa Hemler, Rentz Hilyer and Amelia Wilt. Siegel and Martin, founders of the Friends of Little Hunting Creek, previously received a NVCT award for a conservation easement to protect property in a natural state along the creek.

Although the event’s theme was “An Evening in the Garden,” given the Code Purple air, it turned out to be mostly an evening inside the glassy atrium amid many indoor plants. Guitarist Will Morales lifted spirits with tunes like the Carter Family’s “Wildwood Flower,” one line of which is “with roses so red and the lilies so fair.”

The Northern Virginia Conservation Trust was founded in 1994 to “add to and sustain abundant, thriving natural places in our Virginia communities” and to conserve “land that has natural, historical and cultural value,” states the website. The trust works in multiple jurisdictions, including the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church and Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, Fauquier, Stafford and Prince William Counties.

The Virginia United Land Trusts, which has 18 regional land trusts and eight that work statewide, reports that 80 percent of Virginia’s land is privately owned.

Visit www.nvct.org and <https://vaunitedlandtrusts.org/>.

OPINION

Behind the Dust Screen

DELEGATE KENNETH R. “KEN” PLUM

A scene common to the many western movies that I saw for a quarter in the movie theatre in the town of Shenandoah was that of a buckboard wagon with a passenger or two on board being pulled by a couple of sturdy horses kicking up the dust as they crossed the prairie to flee from someone or to rescue someone. For whatever reason the horses would sometime break free from the wagon tongue and would run free from the weight of pulling the wagon. At the speed it was traveling the wagon would rumble down the hill and over an incline before crashing. It was not violent in those days but rather entertaining to see the horses go in one direction and the buckboard wagon go in another.

In recent months I have felt that I am seeing that movie scene all over again as I follow what is happening in Virginia government in the current administration. A case in point happened just over a week ago as the Virginia Air Board that had been stacked with Youngkin appointees voted to approve one of the governor’s promises to withdraw Virginia from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). On that day I could hardly see the houses on the end of my short street for what appeared to be fog only later to learn it was smoke from Canada. Roads were closed throughout the Northeast and events were canceled because the smoke from the burning forests in Canada was creating a record-breaking smog. Cleaning up the air requires a regional solution for the boundaries

of our nations and states do not create a barrier that shields us from pollution. It was like the scientists and experts were going in one direction, and the politicians and industrial interests had suddenly become disengaged with a political agenda that will leave much of society in the ditch as they go off with their special interests.

I got the same feeling when Governor Youngkin had a hundred members of the Virginia National Guard pack up their belongings and leave their families and jobs to head off to Texas to help the governor there satisfy his need to publicize the immigration problem that has existed there for decades under the leadership of both political parties. Other Republican governors did the same thing with no clear purpose other than to create publicity around an issue that requires bipartisanship and not a dusty run across the country leaving many families and individuals with their lives in a ditch.

Governor Youngkin came into office driving his buckboard wagon on education proclaiming the schools as being a failure irrespective of the fact that the schools had been mostly closed or virtual because of the pandemic. It was painful to watch his buckboard try to get moving with new standards and regulations for in this period of graduations we are reminded of the exceptional job our schools are doing. In the meantime the governor’s buckboard has run aground for lack of good information and alternatives for our already exceptional schools.

Be aware when a team of horses pulling a buckboard wagon stirs up the dust as it passes by. It may just be a dust screen!

Youth Awards from Great Falls Garden Club

The Great Falls Garden Club awarded two \$150 grants as a result of its 2023 Youth competition to establish a Native Habitat Garden. The second grant is made possible by the generosity of the Friends of the Great Falls Library. The two winners are Halia Ochieng, a sixth grader and Adalena Rogers, a sophomore. Both are residents of Great Falls.

The winners were chosen because of their demonstrated understanding of the importance of native plants, and understanding of the clear connection of those native plants to the wildlife and natural resources that habitat gardening supports.

Both winners were presented their awards and checks at a small gathering at the Great Falls Library on Sunday, May 7.

Botanist, Dr. Meghan McGinty, a Great Falls Garden Club member, will be the Garden Club’s point person to mentor the recipients as they prepare, plant, and maintain their gardens. At the end of the summer, both Halia and Adalena will submit a journal of pictures and observations regarding their projects.

HERNDON FESTIVAL

Herndon Festival Returns After Four Years

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Final attendance expected to break 30,000.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The Herndon Festival 2023 lived up to its hashtag, “Best 4 Days of Summer.” From June 1 to 4, festival-goers flocked to the grounds of the Northwest Federal Credit Union campus located on Spring Street in the Town of Herndon.

Reid Okoniewski, the Town of Herndon Parks and Recreation’s marketing and communications specialist, said that patron attendance is expected to surpass the 30,000 recorded at Carnival in 2022. Saturday evening saw a bustling crowd at the carnival rides, arts and crafts show, business expo, and Parkway Stage performance area.

Since its inception, the Herndon Festival has been designed to celebrate the community and unite local businesses and volunteer organizations. The Festival offers a platform for volunteer groups to showcase themselves to potential supporters and the wider community while also generating funds for their crucial causes. According to Okoniewski, groups included the Rotary Club of Herndon-Reston, Girl Scouts, Grace Hill Church, Job’s Daughters, Herndon High School Robotics, and numerous individuals.

Volunteers contributed at least 500 hours to the weekend event.

The Parks and Recreation Department faced a challenge in reintroducing certain aspects of the festival since it had been absent since 2019. Okoniewski said that one of the challenges faced during the four-year period was the identification of vendors and the re-establishment of relationships with the arts and crafts community, businesses, and food vendors, due to an overall transition of staff.

The entirety of the festival’s revenue is directed toward the Town of Herndon General Fund. “The Festival is budgeted to break even,” said Okoniewski.

Sponsors include Northwest Federal Credit Union, Fairfax Connector, County of Fairfax, Driscoll’s, MLS, Flagship Carwash, Virginia Paving, Virginia Eagle Distributing, Bid Light, DB Vienna Lager, Virginia Pediatric Groups, Ltd., Wegmans, Courtyard Marriott, Springhill Suites, and Celebrate Fairfax.



Ashlyn Onbroceo, 6, of Herndon, beams with pride as she holds the teddy bear that her father, Luis, won for her at the Herndon Festival 2023. Mom, Sofia, is just off camera.



From left, Chloe Whyte, 14, of Reston, Kaylie Serafin, 11, of Herndon, Kass Harmon, 13, of Herndon, Carly Hicks, 14, of Reston, and Valerie Serafin, 14, of Herndon, are ready for the carnival rides. “I’m looking for some screaming rides,” Carly says. “Because I like to scream.”



Mayor Sheila Olem of the Town of Herndon (right) and her friend B. E. Denton enjoy a ride on the Ferris wheel. Last year’s Herndon Carnival was the first time in Denton’s life that she rode a Ferris wheel, as her grandmother forbade it. So, she had to attend Festival 2023 again this year. This is Olem’s favorite ride.



A future equestrian trains at Herndon Festival 2023.



(From left) Officers M.F. Murn and Darrell Holey both work at Herndon High School and Herndon Middle School.



Carnival food is simply irresistible and cannot be reproduced.



As patrons pack Herndon Festival on Friday evening, the lights of the Thunder Struck ride gleam against the evening sky.

RESTON PRIDE



This year's event was Carmen Garcia's first pride festival ever, though it also held special significance to her partner, Kai Harp. "This is my first pride actually with a significant other, like someone I really care about deeply, and so it's just something that we create together," Harp said.



Couple Lynn Canzano and Shirl Smith, who attended Reston Pride, have been together for 23 years. "I've been an out lesbian for 52 years, and it's always great to see the wonderful people who are here and that there's a lot more support now for gays and lesbians," Smith said.

6th Annual Reston Pride Festival

Members and allies of the local LGBTQ community gathered on June 3 to celebrate pride month.

BY ANNIKA DUNEJA
THE CONNECTION

The 6th annual Reston Pride Festival was held at the Lake Anne Plaza on June 3.

At the festival, there was live music along with booths set up by local restaurants, LGBTQ+ support organizations, small businesses and religious organizations for people to visit.

"I think it's really important for us to be able to feel like our authentic selves in such a safe place, and just really be around community, be around other humans who also like to feel the same way," Kai Harp, a festival goer said. "It's really invigorating and encouraging. It makes you feel alive and feel connected."

PHOTOS BY ANNIKA DUNEJA



One of the booths was run by the NOVA Prism center, a pop up library for banned books and books with LGBTQ content meant to educate people and provide members of the LGBTQ community with representation. "There's a magic that happens when we are running pop ups where people come together and they may never have met before, but they find that connection in that community," NOVA Prism Center CEO Leon van der Goetz said. "And



Though M D. attended the festival alone, they still enjoyed meeting people and dancing to live music. "It's honestly kind of nice to see that everyone here is so comfortable with being so open with themselves and around other people," they said. "It's just really nice seeing other people being happy, essentially."



Festival goers danced with each other or by themselves to live music at the event.



Various vendors and organizations set up booths or tables around Lake Anne and Lake Anne Plaza for the Pride Festival.

Final Visioning Presentation for Lake Anne

Streetsense and county staff conduct community meeting; Phase 2 in the works.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Streetsense completed the fifth and final segment of Phase 1 for its Lake Anne study, represented by facilitators Angela McGarvey, managing director of creative strategy at Streetsense and Bruce Leonard, managing principal. On June 8, Streetsense held its second vision presentation at the Reston Community Center Lake Anne. The facilitators shared that Lake Anne Reston’s appeal and plan could be a hybrid of two of its three concepts regarding historic, waterfront, and destination — Lake Anne, Reston is a historic destination.

McGarvey and Leonard explained to the roughly 40-person audience how Streetsense tapped into the idea of Lake Anne being more than a local draw. “How do we shine a light on that and communicate that to the marketplace and say this is a place that is like nowhere else on earth?” inquired McGarvey. “You must come; you must experience it; you must visit it; you must see the best view in the world. It’s supremely special, and it’s supremely one of acclaim,” McGarvey said.

Streetsense considered the months of “great ideas” from community members and explored how to best position Lake Anne Reston in “a category of one.” The challenge, Streetsense said, was that Reston’s Lake Anne offered three competing appeals, its waterfront, historical significance, and a stand-alone destination. But which could elevate Lake Anne’s distinct natural setting, close-knit atmosphere, and confidently quirky character? What about an appeal overpowering small Lake Anne?

“It’s not just about the architecture. It’s about the incredible sculpture, the fountain, and, I think, a focus on art in terms of merchandising, but from the Van Gogh Bridge to the Pyramid ... and beyond,” McGarvey explained. “This artfulness... is inherent to this community and to what we want to communicate to the marketplace moving forward... This idea of (being) outside the mainstream is really here: an iconic mixed-use place that marches to a different beat... you can’t get anywhere else.” McGarvey tapped into diversity at the core and ethos of Lake Anne, something “really, really powerful now more than ever... This is a place where you can have an experience that is exactly like nothing else. ... So what do we really aspire to be for our audience, Reston’s cultural and historical epicenter at a watershed moment, reframed, reinvigorated, and refocused.”

The facilitators discussed aspirational examples from the region’s larger landscape, where they could learn certain things but not compete head-to-head: Washington

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Facilitator Angela McGarvey, managing director of creative strategy at Streetsense and Facilitator Bruce Leonard, managing principal at Streetsense

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/ THE CONNECTION



Elizabeth Hagg, community revitalization section director at Fairfax County Government



Melissa Romano, co-owner and co-founder of Lake Anne Brew House



Mac Cummins, CEO of the Reston Association



John Lovaas asks a question.

Harbor, Georgetown, Old Town Alexandria, and the Village at Shirlington. Based on the conversations from the May 18 Vision Presentation, McGarvey said they had an idea that “was a bit more ambitious, a bit more regionally oriented, a bit more externally focused.” Leonard brought to greater light Lake Anne’s degree of being a destination, “That sweet spot of attracting people from a broader area but not overpowering it.”

Considerations for Phase 2

Looking ahead to the next phase and potential solutions, Leonard said that everyone agreed that signage needed to be enhanced. “It’s confusing for a lot of people, especially new people coming here. The co-founder and co-owner of Lake Anne Brew House, Melissa Romano, agreed, saying, “I cannot tell you how many times, as a business owner here, somebody has stumbled into my business and said, ‘Oh my God, I’ve been coming to the farmers market for years, and I never knew Lake Anne was here.’”

According to Leonard, parking was a focal study point that could evolve.

What would be the location of the cultural anchor? Some people preferred it at the entrance; others preferred it closer to the merchant businesses to draw customers into the plaza and make them feel more integrated.

The idea of a permanent farmers market structure and its location received mixed reviews. “Some people are adamant that the

farmers market stays in the parking lot. Others were more open to (saying), “Hey, that would be cool; you know, to have a different structure, (thereby) freeing up more parking for residents and customers,” Leonard said.

John Lovaas, Reston Farmers Market manager, questioned the term “structure.”

“When you mentioned structure for the farmers market, the only thing we’ve ever really sort of talked about is just a cover... more of a year-round building, right?”

“At this point, everything is on the table,” Leonard replied.

Other issues raised by community members included the need for a secondary entrance to the plaza, increased visibility from Baron Cameron Avenue, and a safer way for seniors living at the new Lake Anne House to cross over to the plaza, possibly via a tunnel or bridge, as one community member suggested. “I’ve seen two or three times (seniors) almost getting killed walking across the street. Very dangerous,” he said.

Eve Thompson, a former at-large member of the Reston Association Board of Directors who lives at Lake Anne, mentioned green technologies. “Green roofs, electric vehicles, charging stations—all of those things,” she said.

Questions arose regarding the Crescent Redevelopment located adjacent to Lake Anne in Reston and replacing its affordable

units on a one-for-one basis. Elizabeth Hagg, Fairfax County’s section director of development, planning, and development, said the development would be mixed-income, with the same number of affordable units, one-to-one replacements, and additional market-rate units of 1,000 or so.

A mention of 140 affordable units was made at the meeting. According to research provided by a spokesperson for the Office of Supervisor Alcorn on Monday, June 12, “Crescent Redevelopment (Hunter Mill District): \$1,299,000 is available to facilitate the redevelopment of the county-owned Crescent Apartments site and the properties within the Lake Anne Village Center. The Crescent Apartments, a 181-unit apartment complex acquired by the County in FY 2006, is located adjacent to Lake Anne in Reston, near the new Metro Silver Line and the Reston Town Center. The property is managed by the FCRHA on behalf of the Board of Supervisors. A physical needs assessment study was completed to identify improvements that are needed to ensure the property’s continued sustainability in its current form.”

Leonard announced they’d plan for the interim phase, Phase 2, and have the schedule on the website as soon as possible. Visit <https://www.fcrevite.org/lake-anne/economic-visioning-study> for information, Video Recording | Final Vision Presentation.

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Reston Comprehensive Plan

FROM PAGE 3

ter, Farrell said, "You and I have met regarding this chapter and its deficiencies, which are multiple. The most important one being that for the dominant, overwhelming role that Reston Association plays in providing parks and recreation to the community here, it is either denigrated, dismissed, or ignored."

Farrell qualified RA's sizeable holdings, saying the association owns 1,350 acres of open space, 55 miles of trails, 15 pools, and 54 tennis courts. But the way the plan's current language is written, it "suggests that the Park Authority has to approve whatever RA wants to do with its property in response to our community."

"That is thoroughly inappropriate. That language needs to be changed so that the people of Reston who elected us ... to advance their interests are clearly recognized."

Removing Two Reston Streets

Carter said during his presentation that the plan removes two streets in Reston. One is the conceptual "Road from Nowhere" (misidentified as "The Street to Nowhere") that cuts through Hidden Creek Country Club. "That is gone." The second is the proposed road connecting American Dream Way to North Shore Drive, which is causing "great discussion."

According to the minutes of the Reston Association Board of Directors Meeting, June 30, 2022, by RCA Reston, on the 'Reston Comprehensive Plan Task Force Updates,' "Vice President Maupin indicated that the only issue in the Transportation chapter is the proposed road connecting American Dream Way to North Shore Drive. County staff wants to have this connection, while Fairfax County Supervisor Walter Alcorn opposes this connector road. This will need to be resolved in the RCP (Reston Comprehensive Plan)."

Carter said, "There is another of these SSPAs, a site-specific plan amendment, coming. If we can't

resolve it here (in the Reston Comprehensive Plan Amendment), that (an SSPA) will resolve it," he said.

Possible Loss of Nonprofit Inova Emergency Room in Reston

Chapter leader Kimmel, to whom Carter offered the microphone, said, "I just want to make sure everyone is aware the original plan for Reston had set aside land in Reston Town Center north for a voluntary, inclusive medical center or hospital." Kimmel explained that the word "voluntary" is important because that term means that if you went there, needed health care, and couldn't afford it, you would still be treated.

Kimmel described Reston Hospital Center as a major "profit entity," HCA Health Center owns it, is publicly traded, and is one of the largest healthcare providers in the country. According to Kimmel, currently, Reston benefits because it has access to two providers: Reston Hospital Center HCA and Inova's stand-alone emergency services, part of the Inova system. Many of Reston's primary care physicians are incorporated there. The way the plan is written now incentivizes Inova to leave Reston, according to Kimmel.

The Board of Supervisors approved a land swap in 2015 that gave Fairfax County the freedom to develop every area on its own. INOVA has blocks 2, 4, and 6, where the free-standing ER Center is located, and the Cameron Glen Health and Rehab Center building was demolished in early 2023. Each individual block will go through its own zoning and development approval process. Kimmel said that the plan is written in such a way that Inova is granted all housing density on its land. It takes the land currently used for healthcare services, "Now, all of a sudden [it] increases the value (of the land) immensely because now this is going to be demolished and turned into high-density housing," said Kimmel.

SEE RESTON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, PAGE 15

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ENTERTAINMENT

SATURDAY/JULY 1

Fireworks. 6-10 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. The Fireworks will illuminate the surrounding landscape in an expertly choreographed display of dazzling pyrotechnic light and thunder. Launched from the historic, 55-acre campus, the region's largest pre-Independence Day Fireworks show celebrates the history of this amazing nation and honors the courage and sacrifice that have made America a beacon of hope and freedom around the world. Admission: \$40.

SUNDAY/JULY 2

Independence Day Fireworks. At Yeonas Park, Town of Vienna. Festivities including live music, children's entertainment, games and other family fun begin at 4 p.m., and a 20-minute fireworks display will begin at 9:30 p.m. Those who plan to attend the celebration are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or picnic blankets. The Vienna Little League concession stand will be open offering food and beverages for sale, or residents may bring their own snacks. No alcohol, glass containers, sparklers/fireworks or dogs are permitted. Lawn chairs are not permitted on the baseball fields but may be used anywhere else in the park. Visit www.viennava.gov/fireworks.

NOW THRU JUNE 25

Falls Church Arts All Member Show L-Z. At the Falls Church Arts gallery, 700-B West Broad St. (Route 7), Falls Church. Eighty-eight artists with last names from L-Z will be featured in the second part of the All Member Show at the Falls Church Arts Gallery. An opening reception will be held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday, May 27. The reception is open to the public. The show features the work of emerging and established member artists from Falls Church Arts and encompasses an extensive range of media from the more traditional watercolor, acrylic, mixed media, pastel, fused glass, oil, photography, and sculpture to a wide variety of mixed media and printing techniques. Visit the website www.fallschurcharts.org.

RESTON COMMUNITY CENTER 2023

SUMMER ENTERTAINMENT LINEUP

Saturdays, June 17 – August 5
10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

At Reston Town Square Park, Reston. Bring the kids for magic, comedy, puppets, music and lots of laughs. Family Fun begins on June 17 with Guava Jelly. Other shows include Rocknoceros, Lohr Family Antics, The Uncle Devin Show and Turley the Magician. See the full schedule here: Family Fun Entertainment Series. Family Fun Entertainment is presented by RCC and Reston Town Center Association in cooperation with MSE Productions, Inc. Reston Town Center garages offer free parking on Saturdays.

Sunday Art in the Park with the Shenandoah Conservatory

Sundays, June 11 – August 27
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Reston Town Square Park
Wind down your weekend with classical, jazz and cabaret-style music provided by faculty and students from Shenandoah University's acclaimed music conservatory. The series starts June 11 with Ellington Caravan paying tribute to Duke Ellington. This series will run through August 27. Visit Sunday Art in the Park for the complete schedule. Reston Town Center garage parking is free on Sundays. Sunday Art in the Park is presented by RCC and Reston Town Center Association in cooperation with Shenandoah University.

NOW THRU JUNE 25

"The Last Match." At 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road Tysons. Played out under the bright lights of the U.S. Open Semifinals, The Last Match pits rising Russian star, Sergei Sergeyev against American great, Tim Porter in an epic showdown that follows two tennis titans through pivotal moments in their lives both on-and-off the court. Thursdays at 7:30

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Enjoy fireworks on Saturday, July 1, 2023 at Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton and Sunday, July 2, 2023 in Vienna.



The Sully Car Show will take place on Sunday, June 18, 2023 at Sully Historic Site in Chantilly.

p.m., Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 and 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$50 general admission, \$47 seniors (65+), \$15 students, educators, and military. The first 20 tickets sold for every performance will cost only \$20. Thursday evening tickets are \$35. Purchase online at www.1ststage.org or 703-854-1856.

THURSDAY/JUNE 15

Anthem HealthKeepers Plus VA Community Leaders Breakfast. 9:30-11 a.m. At Springfield Embassy Suites, 8100 Loisdale Road, Springfield. Anthem HealthKeepers Plus, Virginia's largest Medicaid provider, is hosting a breakfast gathering with other community leaders, nonprofit representatives, and local professionals. This event will allow those in attendance to network and discuss ways to help support residents, particularly those residents in need. The event is free. Visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/community-forum-with-anthem-healthkeepers-plus-in-person-tickets-637270582467>

JUNE 15-17

Forgotten Road Tour. 2-2:45 p.m. At Sully Historic Site, Chantilly. The tour at Sully Historic Site includes a walk into the original outbuildings and representative slave quarter cabin. Learn the history of the enslaved people who lived and worked at Sully more than 200 years ago. Sully is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, is on the National Register of Historic Places, and it

is part of the National Park Service Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. Tour is held weather-permitting.

SATURDAY/JUNE 17

Mosaic Harmony Concert. 5 p.m. Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Sharing and Celebrating Songs of Joy Concert.

SATURDAY/JUNE 17

Celebrate Juneteenth. 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Hosted by NOVA Parks and Fairfax NAACP at Bull Run Regional Park, 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville. Guest Speaker Bishop Brett Fuller, Washington Commanders Chaplain and founder of Grace Covenant Church. Join us for our Second Annual Juneteenth celebration! We'll recognize the largest private emancipation of the enslaved, commemorate the cemetery where many of the freed are interred, and visit the site where black and white people worshiped as early as 1775.

JUNE 17, JULY 15, & AUGUST 19

Summer Concert Series: Genres. 7-9 p.m. At Tysons Corner Center, The Plaza, McLean. Join the Summer Concert Series featuring performance artists Jarreau Williams on June 17 with an R&B night, Keeton on July 15 for a Pop throwback, and Delta Spur with Country & Classic Rock on August 19. Enjoy takeout and cocktails from our restaurants while dancing and singing along to your favorite tunes!

SATURDAY/JUNE 17

Juneteenth Event. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Frying Pan Farm Park Meeting House, Herndon. The Juneteenth Event offers families activities including a special guest storyteller, live music, history and food trucks offering African American cuisine. (All ages) free but registration required. Sessions start at 11 a.m., noon and 1 p.m.

SATURDAY/JUNE 17

Kids' Stuff Sale. 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. At St. Mary of Sorrows Catholic Church, 5222 Sideburn Rd., Fairfax. Huge selection of kids and maternity clothing, baby items, toys, books, and gear available for bargain prices. Proceeds support St. Mary's Family Ministry. Visit the website: <https://www.facebook.com/SMOS.KSS>

SATURDAY/JUNE 17

First Mosby Tour. The 42nd Annual Spring Civil War Mosby Bus Tour is titled "Mosby and the Gettysburg Campaign." The tour is sponsored by the Stuart - Mosby Historical Society. The Tour Leaders will be Kevin Pawlak and Rob Orrison – and this will be their "INAUGURAL TOUR!" The tour will include stops such as Ewell's Chapel, Middleburg, Aldie, Rowser's Ford, and many others. The bus will leave Truro Parish (10520 Main Street, Fairfax City) promptly at 8:30 a.m. The cost will be \$80 for members of the Stuart-Mosby Historical Society and \$90 for non-members. Lunch will be on your own. To sign up contact Rob Orrison at 703-431-2869 or email him at: orrison76@hotmail.com or send your check to Rob Orrison (make checks payable to Rob) at 16937 Monmouth Ct. Dumfries, VA 22026.

JUNE 17-18

Father's Day Weekend Model Train Show. 1-4 p.m. At Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. N Gauge (NTRAK) model trains will be running at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum on Father's Day Weekend. Admission: Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages

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Legals


DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY Public Notice

An enforcement action has been proposed for C&D Tree Service, Inc for violations of State Water Control Board statutes and regulations and applicable permit at the C&D Tree Service facility located in Great Falls, Virginia. The proposed Consent Order is available from the DEQ contact or at <https://www.deq.virginia.gov/permits/public-notices/enforcement-orders>. The DEQ contact will accept written comments from June 20, 2023 to July 20, 2023. DEQ contact: Katherine Mann; email - katherine.mann@deq.virginia.gov; or mail - DEQ Northern Regional Office, 13901 Crown Court, Woodbridge, VA 22193.

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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 13

5-12, \$3; ages 13 and older, \$5. \$6 for special events. Senior and military, active and retired, \$4. www.fairfax-station.org, www.facebook.com/FFXSRR, 703-425-9225.

SUNDAY/JUNE 18

Underground Railroad Quilt Codes. 1-2 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, Alexandria. According to legend, fabric quilts were stitched with coded patterns to assist escaped enslaved people moving along the historic Underground Railroad to find safety. While historians debate this legend, local quilter, Sharon Tindall supports this theory of quilt codes through her specialization in African American quilt patterns. View her handmade quilts, created with fabrics and patterns typically used in the mid-1800s and learn more about these storied quilts and what they mean to our American history. The cost is \$15.

SUNDAY/JUNE 18

Sully Car Show. 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. At Sully Historic Site, Chantilly. The annual car show at Sully Historic Site blends the future with the past. While enjoying more than 200 antique cars on display and learning about African American inventors and patent holders in the automotive industry, families can also enjoy tours of the first floor of the historic house and learn about the lives of the enslaved people who worked on the farm more than a century ago. Cost is \$12 for adults; \$10 for seniors; and \$8 for children.

TUESDAY/JUNE 20

Raising Honeybees and Supporting Plants. 11 a.m. At Five Hills Garden Club Meeting at Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park Street, N.E., Vienna. Rita Romano, a mental health practitioner, will share her experience as a backyard beekeeper. She will explain how she got started and cultivated her interest in beekeeping and the native plants that attract and sustain bees. The public is invited to join.

FREE SUMMER CONCERTS AT MCLEAN CENTRAL PARK

The Alden in McLean presents its annual Summer Sunday Concerts in the Park at McLean Central Park. This free outdoor concert series runs Sunday, June 11, through Sunday, July 30. Performances start at 3 p.m., and the June concerts are designed to be family friendly. McLean Central Park is located at 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd.

Schedule

Sunday, June 18, 3 p.m. – Uncle Devin & Friends Present: “Go-Go for Families, a D.C. Legacy!”
 Sunday, June 25, 3 p.m. – Gay Men’s Chorus of Washington: Potomac Fever
 Sunday, July 2, 3 p.m. – Capital Blend
 Sunday, July 9, 3 p.m. – Czarna Wolgastar: Inter-galactic Balkan Surf Jazz Trio
 Sunday, July 16, 3 p.m. – Six Pack Rodeo
 Sunday, July 23, 3 p.m. – Justin Trawick
 Sunday, July 30, 3 p.m. – Philip Bowen
 For more information, call 703-790-0123, TTY: 711 or visit The Alden website: aldentheatre.org.

LAKE ANNE’S PLAZA CONCERT SERIES

Lake Anne Live! brings Thursday evening

concerts to the plaza from June 15 through July 27. The free concerts will feature music and dance from local musicians and dance instructors. The plaza is located at 1609 Washington Plaza North. All concerts are free.

Schedule:

June 15 (6-9 p.m.): Salsa Instruction and Dance with David Norton
 June 22, (6-9 p.m.): Swing Instruction and Dance with Gottaswing; pet adoptions by Lucky Dog Animal Rescue
 June 29 (7-9 p.m.): Bruce Corsino concert
 July 6 (6-9 p.m.): Bachata Instruction and Dance with David Norton
 July 13 (7-9 p.m.): To be announced on Lake Anne Plaza’s social media pages
 July 20 (7-9 p.m.): Concert with the Reston Community Orchestra
 July 27 (6-9 p.m.): Salsa and Bachata Instruction and Dance with David Norton

FREE CONCERT SERIES AT BURKE LAKE PARK

Every Wednesday night from June 28th through August 23rd at 7 p.m., Supervisor Pat Herry (Springfield District) along with the Fairfax County Park Authority will be hosting the fifth annual Free Concerts in the Park series at Burke Lake Park. The series has expanded to nine shows with pop, rock and R&B music. Peterson’s Ice Cream, 2 Silos beer and food trucks will be on site at all concerts. Attendees are encouraged to bring blankets and/or a lawn chair.

Schedule

JUNE
 28 Randy Thompson Band
JULY
 5 The Nighthawks
 12 SoHo Down
 19 Speidel, Goodrich, Goggin & Lille
 26 The Skip Castro Band
AUGUST
 2 The English Channel
 9 The Road Ducks
 16 The Colin Thompson Band
 23 Riptide

SATURDAY CONCERTS AT WORKHOUSE ARTS CENTER

9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton • 7:30 p.m.

JUNE

17 Robin and Linda Williams (Folk)
 24 Christylez Bacon (Progressive Hip-Hop)

JULY

1 Workhouse Fireworks Festival (Ticketed event. For details visit www.workhousearts.org)
 Rain date is July 8th.

8 The Radio Sparks (Modern Rock) This will be a ticketed event if the July 1st Fireworks Festival is postponed to July 8th.

15 Project Locrea (World Music)
 22 Bachelor Boys Band (High Energy Cover Music)

29 Bobby Blackhat Band (Traditional/Contemporary Blues)

AUGUST

5 Workhouse Musical Event (Ticketed event. For details visit www.workhousearts.org)

12 Quin Tango (Classical Argentinian Tango Music)

19 Karl Stoll & The Danger Zone (Rock, Blues)

26 The United States Army Field Band Six-String Soldiers (Country)

Reston Comprehensive Plan

FROM PAGE 12

“We lose access to our major provider, and we also lose that vision... that everyone in Reston could get health care right now,” Kimmel said. At Reston Hospital, “if you cannot afford it, you will not get health care. You will be able to if you go to the ER; you will certainly be stabilized, but you’re not going to stick around for long. So this is a major issue,” she said.

According to Kimmel, in the plan, the ice-skating rink on Sunset Hills is incentivized. Language in the plan says it is “an important community facility,” and then it should stay there.

“We would like to see that same language used to describe the emergency room.”

The Planning Commission meeting will be televised on Channel 16 and streamed live online with closed captions in English and Spanish.

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Each local newspaper's mission aspires to provide greater community service, and we do know that our communities are better off if we continue to publish. Last year's financial support from readers and supporters like you bridged the shortfall before Federal PPP funding arrived, and both made our survival possible. We now await a decision for a grant from Rebuild Virginia in early February that we hope will help us in 2022 and beyond. But we need help to survive the first quarter, always a brutal time for cash flow in weekly newspapers. Thank you.

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The ongoing pandemic continues to crush many newspapers across the country, and our newspapers continue to be at risk. The Northern Virginia area's best read and most trusted source for community news includes the Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette and all Connection 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.

Connection Newspapers has been offering these local newspapers to residents for over 200 years. Countless residents have grown up with these papers covering significant moments in the lives of family and children, news, community events, school activities, and even pictures of your dogs and cats. Internet news and large national newspapers cannot provide the local connection or historical connection that local papers like Connection Newspapers and the Alexandria Gazette Packet provide. If your child, dog, mother, father, neighborhood, school has been featured, you understand the value of local community newspapers.

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In Sync with the In-Laws



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Granted, Dina and I were on our best behavior. However, we didn't exactly only speak when spoken to, but we did stay away from politics and religion/abortion and so far as expletive-“deleted” uttered, I had a few missteps but nothing anywhere George Carlin's “seven dirty words.” Generally speaking, the four of us meshed very well, amazingly even. No awkward moments, no pregnant pauses, no arguments/disagreements and “neither was there heard a discouraging word.” In that word our time together was fabulous.

We picked them up Saturday night at Reagan National Airport and drove them to their hotel in Old Town. The talk between us was cordial and friendly enough that we agreed to spend the next day together: at Arlington National Cemetery, particularly visiting the Kennedy gravesites and the changing of the guard at The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. And if we had time, we would stop by my favorite memorial (convenient to the cemetery as well): The Iwo Jima Memorial (officially known as The US Marine Corps War Memorial).

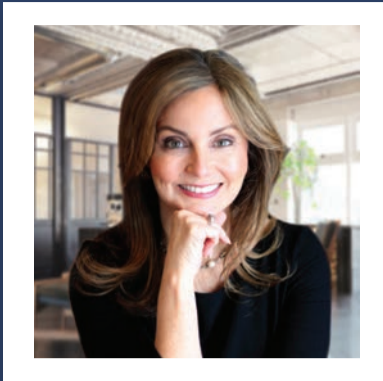
The weather was perfect on Sunday. We spent almost four hours on the grounds. They absolutely loved the experience, especially astonished by its size and scope. And since we took the tram/talking tour, we learned about many of the other notable people buried there: Thurgood Marshall, William Rehnquist, Omar Bradley, “Black” Jack Pershing, and the “presiding judge” at the Nuremberg Trials: Michael Musmanno, among so many more. Eventually we made our way back to the parking lot and due to time constraints, skipped Iwo Jima and headed back to their hotel. As we pulled into their hotel's circular drive, the discussion about dinner didn't really happen. It seemed natural that we go our separate ways. We made tentative plans for Monday and agreed to confirm in the morning.

The next day didn't happen as one of our in-laws had a bad sleep and didn't feel up to the rigors of touring/walking around Washington, DC. Tuesday was a different story however as our in-laws were rested and ready. We planned a driving/parking/walking tour of Washington, DC. First, we were able to find relatively convenient parking along the Potomac River near the Lincoln Memorial. We then made all the local Memorial rounds: The Lincoln Memorial, The Vietnam Veteran's Memorial, the M.I.A. statue, the nurse's statue, the Korean War Memorial and finished up at the World War II Memorial. Walking back to the car, we stopped by the Martin Luther King Memorial and then the Roosevelt Memorial. After we reached the car (no ticket) I suggested that we drive to Alexandria by way of Roslyn and see the Iwo Jima Memorial. We parked nearby and then walked right up the immense statue. In this instance, size did matter. Its awesomeness was not lost on our visitors. They continually shook their heads in amazement. Dinner again didn't happen as we had another big day planned for Wednesday: a tour of the US Capitol and the Library of Congress – with a walk-by of the Supreme Court.

Another beautiful day and another jaw-dropping reaction to Washington, DC. Whatever amazement was left over from the previous day gushed over into this Wednesday. To invoke Yoda's syntax: gob smacked they were. The tour and all were nearly four hours long – and with walking from nearby Metro stops, we were all a bit spent and again dinner was spent apart. It all seemed very natural and normal. We were all enjoying each-other's company. The next two days were spent apart as we left our visitors to explore on their own and see whatever drew them to Washington in the first place (it wasn't us).

Our last night together was dinner at a Greek Restaurant on King Street. We sat outside in their moonlit garden. The weather and all were perfect, yet again. Afterwards we walked the few hundred yards back to their hotel where before saying our final good-byes, they asked up their room. Upon entering their suite, we noticed two beautifully decorated gift bags sitting on the dining room table which they eagerly presented to us with effusive praise and gratitude for our participation in their Washington week. We thanked them and kissed each other good-bye. In the hallway walking to the elevator, Dina and I spoke nearly at the same time: “What a wonderful couple! They're the nicest people we've met in a long time.”

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



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