

THE CONNECTION

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

The Westfield defense all have their eyes on a Mount Vernon runner.



WFCM Opens Food
Pantry in Centreville

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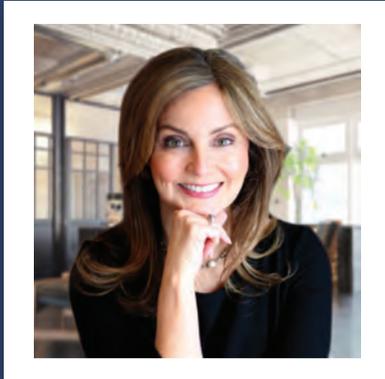
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SEPTEMBER 6-12, 2023

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Dianne Van Volkenburg donates a portion of each sale to the Embry Rucker Community Shelter



Providing Access to Fresh, Healthy Food

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

WFCM's second, client-choice pantry opens in Centreville.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County is a great place to live – for those earning enough money to keep a roof over their heads, pay their bills and feed their families. But people struggling to make ends meet often turn to Western Fairfax Christian Ministries (WFCM) for help.

Serving some 4,500 residents in areas including Centreville, Chantilly, Oak Hill and Herndon, this nonprofit's food pantry in Chantilly has long been a critical lifeline for them. However, realizing that many Centreville clients had a tough time getting to and from that pantry, WFCM recently opened a second one in the Centreville Square Shopping Center.

Although this new pantry is only about 6 miles from the Chantilly location, getting there from Centreville involves traveling along I-66 and Routes 28 and 29 – making it a challenge to reach for those without a car. And it certainly isn't walkable. So a pantry in Centreville is a welcome relief for its users.

"The proximity to many neighborhoods in Centreville makes it convenient for clients to walk and avoid paying for transportation to pick up groceries," explained WFCM Executive Director Harmonie Taddeo. "Though this second location is smaller than the Chantilly pantry, it's stocked with all the essentials, including toiletries, and client feedback will help us ensure that the most-desired items are available."

At 5948 Centreville Crest Lane, the new food pantry is open Tuesday-Wednesday, from 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. and 4:30-7 p.m.; Thursday, 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m.; and by appointment (call 703-988-9656 and specify the Centreville pantry). It can serve up to 250 client households – more than 700 individuals – each month.

The two full-time employees speak both English and Spanish; and at each scheduled



Cutting the ribbon for WFCM's new food pantry in Centreville.



Kristine Hurt, WFCM's Chantilly pantry manager, shows some of the Centreville pantry's offerings to (from left) Richard Formica and Phil Mohr of Centreville United Methodist Church.



Checking out the pantry's refrigerated area are (from left) Bob Walter and Steve Greenhalgh of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

appointment, recipients will be provided with two weeks' worth of food. During the recent, grand-opening celebration, Taddeo discussed the ever-rising food demand WFCM has seen and acknowledged all those who made this second location possible.

"We have experienced 14-16-percent increases, year-over-year, in the number of clients using our Chantilly Client Choice Food Pantry," she said. "We know that the reduction in SNAP [federal Supplemental

Nutrition Assistance Program] benefits, increased costs of groceries due to inflation, and continued underemployment are causing families to seek our services."

"We're grateful that we're able to meet these growing needs through partnerships with local county government, businesses, congregations and individuals," continued Taddeo. "And thanks to several key supporters, and everyone who donated during our Spring Fundraiser campaign and throughout

the fiscal year, we're able to take this giant step of opening a food pantry in Centreville to serve more families in western Fairfax County."

She stressed that having access to healthy food leads to food security – which is key to individuals achieving in other areas of their lives, such as school and work. And, she added, "Operating two, client-choice food

SEE WFCM FOOD PANTRY, PAGE 11

'He's Still Here; My Uncle Will Be Gone Forever'

Green sentenced to prison for killing Chantilly man.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Four years have passed since Steven Green brutally assaulted a woman and killed her boyfriend in the parking lot of a Chantilly restaurant. After the tragedy, he was arrested and charged with murder, malicious wounding and use of a firearm in the commission of a felony.

However, he's been free on bond since
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then – with the pandemic delaying his trial until this year. But judgment day finally came for Green last Friday, Sept. 1, in Fairfax County Circuit Court, when he was sentenced to two-and-a-half years in prison.

"A message has to be sent to the community: If you take a life, there should be consequences," Chief Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney Eric Clingan told



Steven Green

Cordero, who was standing outside a restaurant there.

Green used his leaf blowers to send debris

towards Osorio Cordero and, after they exchanged words, he hit her in the face with one of those leaf blowers. During his criminal trial in March, she testified that Green told her, "All Hispanics are trash," but he denied saying it.

After the attack, her boyfriend – Miguel Angel Leiva Hernandez, 30, of Chantilly – and another man came outside. When Leiva Hernandez saw Osorio Cordero bleeding profusely, he and Green began a physical struggle. There were no outdoor surveillance cameras to capture exactly what happened between the two men – and in what order.

SEE GREEN SENTENCED, PAGE 12

Michelin-Starred Chef Perfects Vegan Ice Cream

Store's ribbon cutting is on Saturday.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

When it comes to eating ice cream, the top priority for most individuals is undoubtedly the combination of great taste and the right texture — hard to do with vegan ice cream.

Olivia Green of Arlington, a Michelin-starred pastry chef, perfected this with a plant-based ice cream that is dairy-free, gluten-free, and vegan. Not only that, Green made no sacrifices as chef and owner of Crème de la Crop to achieve what she described on her LinkedIn page as the “creamy, dreamy texture of real-deal ice cream.”

Green aimed to create gourmet desserts for everyone, especially those with dietary restrictions. “As a lactose-intolerant pastry chef, I thought this was the perfect problem for me to solve,” she said.

Green recently opened her first storefront ice cream parlor in the Town of Herndon, using her skills in food manufacturing, food and beverage operations, food allergies, veganism, and entrepreneurship. The store focuses on small-batch, made-from-scratch ice cream,

ice cream sandwiches, and other frozen treats.

Green shares the commercial kitchen space at 273 Sunset Park Drive with Chelsea Tan Hweii Chiee, owner of Chiboo Bakery. Chiee sells gluten-free, almond-flour-based gourmet French macarons in classic, fruity, floral, tea, and seasonal flavors. Chiboo Bakery is a professional, women-owned bakery, similar to Crème de la Crop.

The shop is an 11-minute (0.6-mile) walk from the Herndon Station on the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Silver Line and right off the Fairfax County Parkway.

Green was scooping Grasshopper and Banana Nut Brûlée ice cream, filling pre-orders, and serving scoops with waffle dunkers and sammies on Saturday, Sept. 2. Green worked between customers to prepare for Crème de la Crop's grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony on Saturday, Sept. 9 at noon, alongside Chiboo Bakery.

“Chelsea and I are very excited to have everyone come and celebrate both of our businesses at our ribbon cutting. ... Everyone is invited,” Green said, referring to the mayor of the Town of Herndon, council members, and town staff, including Dennis Holste, the Town of Herndon's economic development manager, members of the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce and everyone else.



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/ THE CONNECTION
Olivia Green welcomes customers into her new ice cream parlor in the Town of Herndon.

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The Dr. Larry Bussey Family & Community Library, located within the Family Resource Center.



Dr. Lawrence "Larry" Bussey.



Karen Keyes-Gamara, member-at-large.



Karen Corbett Sanders, Mount Vernon.



Megan McLaughlin, Braddock.

FCPS Library Renamed For Student and Family Advocate

Sought success for all students.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Few people can match Dr. Lawrence "Larry" Bussey's thirty-year activism in Fairfax County Public Schools, putting minority student achievement and parent and family engagement first. According to school board member-at-large Karen Keyes-Gamara, Dr. Bussey personified the biblical phrase, "I am my brother's keeper."

"He was willing to carry the weight of others to improve the next generation, and for that, we are so very grateful," Keyes-Gamara said. On Thursday evening, Aug. 31, Keyes-Gamara read a naming proclamation at the board's first regular meeting for the 2023-2024 school year. The date was a little more than a month after the first anniversary of Larry Bussey's death on July 22, 2022.

The proclamation directed Superintendent Michelle Reid to "rename the Family Resource Center library the "Dr. Larry Bussey Family & Community Library." The renaming would be a lasting tribute to Dr. Bussey's dedication to educating and equipping families to advocate for their children's educational rights and needs.

Dr. Bussey was a "strong voice" in developing the One Fairfax policy, Keyes-Gamara

said. He was the "data man," not the type "to simply shake things up."

"He would take you to the numbers he had meticulously analyzed to help us understand where improvements could be made. His MSAOC reports always helped us know that we could do better. It was in the numbers," Keyes-Gamara said.

Bussey was a founding member of the first FCPS Minority Student Achievement Joint Committee. The ad hoc committee, formed in 1992, developed an action plan and made recommendations that included re-examining the curriculum, changing administrative structures, and improving parent outreach. Bussey was a committee member for thirty years, first as co-chair during the 1995-1996 school year and then as a community representative or staff liaison under six superintendents until he died.

In her remarks at the proclamation, Keyes-Gamara recalled that when she was considering running for school board six years ago, people she trusted told her, "If you want to understand FCPS and you want to make a difference, talk to Dr. Bussey."

"He has been and was a guiding light. ... He was always concerned about every student having an opportunity to achieve excellence," Keyes-Gamara said. Before coming to FCPS, Bussey worked on policy decisions for the Department of Education to effect real change. Bussey's advocacy stemmed

SEE FCPS LIBRARY, PAGE 15

IAD Master Plan Public Open House Workshop

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

Time: 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Location: Washington Dulles Airport Marriott
45020 Aviation Drive
Dulles, VA 20166

The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority is preparing a Master Plan for the Washington Dulles International Airport. The Airport Master Plan is a comprehensive study that describes short-, medium- and long-term improvements proposed for the airport. It is designed to establish a roadmap for incremental development to meet future aviation demand and other airport needs for the next 25 years.

The Master Planning process is designed as an inclusive process that encourages citizen participation. A public open house workshop will be held to provide information on the preliminary development alternatives for the Airport. Representatives from the Airports Authority and the Consultant team will be available to answer questions and receive comments on the ongoing Master Planning analyses and tasks completed to date.



For additional information, please scan the QR code or visit us at the website below:

<https://www.flydulles.com/about-airport/master-plan/dulles-international-airport-master-plan>
The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority Master Plan team can also be contacted at:

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Budgets Set Policy Directions

"I predict [the conference committee compromise] will be accepted as the best compromise that can be reached at this time."

BY DEL. KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM

If you are reading this column after 9 a.m. on Wednesday you may know that I am already in Richmond preparing to attend a Democratic Caucus meeting before the Special Session of the General Assembly that will convene at 10 a.m. Wednesday morning. Special sessions are just that: they are called by the Governor in this instance for the single purpose of receiving and acting on a budget bill from a Conference Committee that has been meeting off and on since the regular session adjourned in April. They met to resolve differences that would be acceptable to both houses of the legislature and the Governor to amend the bud-

get already in place for the next fiscal year. As I have discussed several times in past columns, the challenges facing the legislature this year were different from those of the past. The General Assembly in 2022 passed a budget much as outgoing Governor Ralph Northam had proposed. It contained additional revenues much of which were coming to the state from federal COVID relief funds and an economy that remained healthier than had been projected by economists. Revisions of biennial budgets are routine in that projecting the economy over an 18-month period is not an exact science and can be influenced by factors beyond the control of a single state. Most political debates over budget revisions often accompany the amendments that are needed to match economic



Plum

fluctuations. The political debate that went on during the campaign for governor had the winning candidate trying to convince voters that Virginia's economy was in the tank while others tried to point out the realities that Virginia could finally respond to unmet needs.

The reality was that at the midpoint of the biennium Virginia was swimming in cash. Economic projections had been too conservative and had underestimated growth in Virginia's economy. That revenue growth from the healthy economy and additional monies from federal sources had created an unappropriated balance of cash. The House and Senate had not been able to come to an agreement on its use. The compromise that will be voted on at this Special Session will in simplest form give taxpayers

rebates for the year rather than a tax cut that may not be able to be sustained in future years. Most call that a victory for the House, and a recognition that the Governor seemed more interested in a tax cut to help his personal political fortunes rather than being for the best long-time interests of taxpayers.

The Conference Committee report cannot, by the rules of the legislature, be amended. It must be voted up or down. I predict it will be accepted as the best compromise that can be reached at this time. Whether it sets a precedent that will be followed in the future will be determined by the outcome of the elections held this November for members of the General Assembly. This budget and future ones are not simply about planning for how the monies of the Commonwealth will be spent but are about our expectations for our government in the future. What do we want to be as a state?

Affordable Housing-Talk Not Action in Fairfax, Reston

The shortage of affordable housing in Fairfax County and Reston rarely gets the analytical attention that the Connection's edition of August 16-22 delivered in Mercia Hobson's "3rd Wealthiest County in U.S. Fails to Provide Affordable Housing." The article is based on



John Lovaas
INDEPENDENT
PROGRESSIVE

conversations with several knowledgeable staff members of one excellent Reston's charitable organization, Cornerstones, people serving the homeless and those in danger of becoming homeless. The Cornerstones' staffers work to assist families with rent and utility subsidies, food assistance, help in job searches and assistance working their way through the bureaucratic Fairfax County machinery for the services and too-frequently unavailable affordable units. Including insights from the other housing-focused Reston non-profit, Reston Strong, might have made the article's analysis even more compelling, given the latter's exclusive focus on the lowest income homeless. In any case, the critical services identified describe the immense challenge hundreds in Reston face to keep a roof over their families' heads.

Recently, the planned development of 400 affordable units near the Hunter Mill Supervisor's office was cancelled when the developer suddenly pulled out. To date, Fairfax County has no more affordable units in sight here, not even for the middle income beneficiaries of the cancelled project, not to mention genuinely lower income families. Nothing. Back in 1919-20, during his first campaign for the Supervisor job, Walter Alcorn offered an innovative approach to increase the actual stock of affordable housing in Reston. Furthermore, his concept if adopted could have served needs of the genuinely lower income homeless. Reston had, and has, great excess commercial office space which he posited might be re-purposed into very low-cost apartment units, just the kind that could serve those now in tents, the filled-to-capacity Embury Rucker Homeless shelter and costly hotel space sporadically rented by

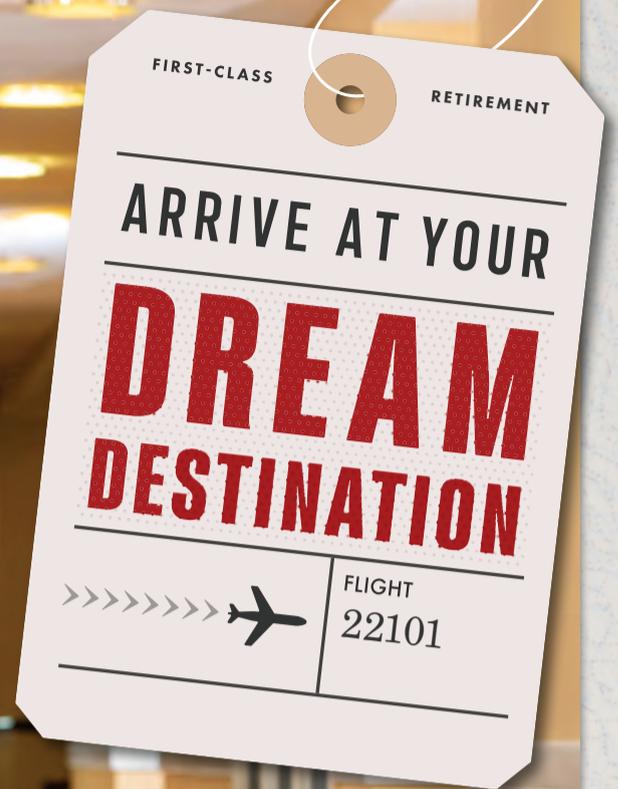
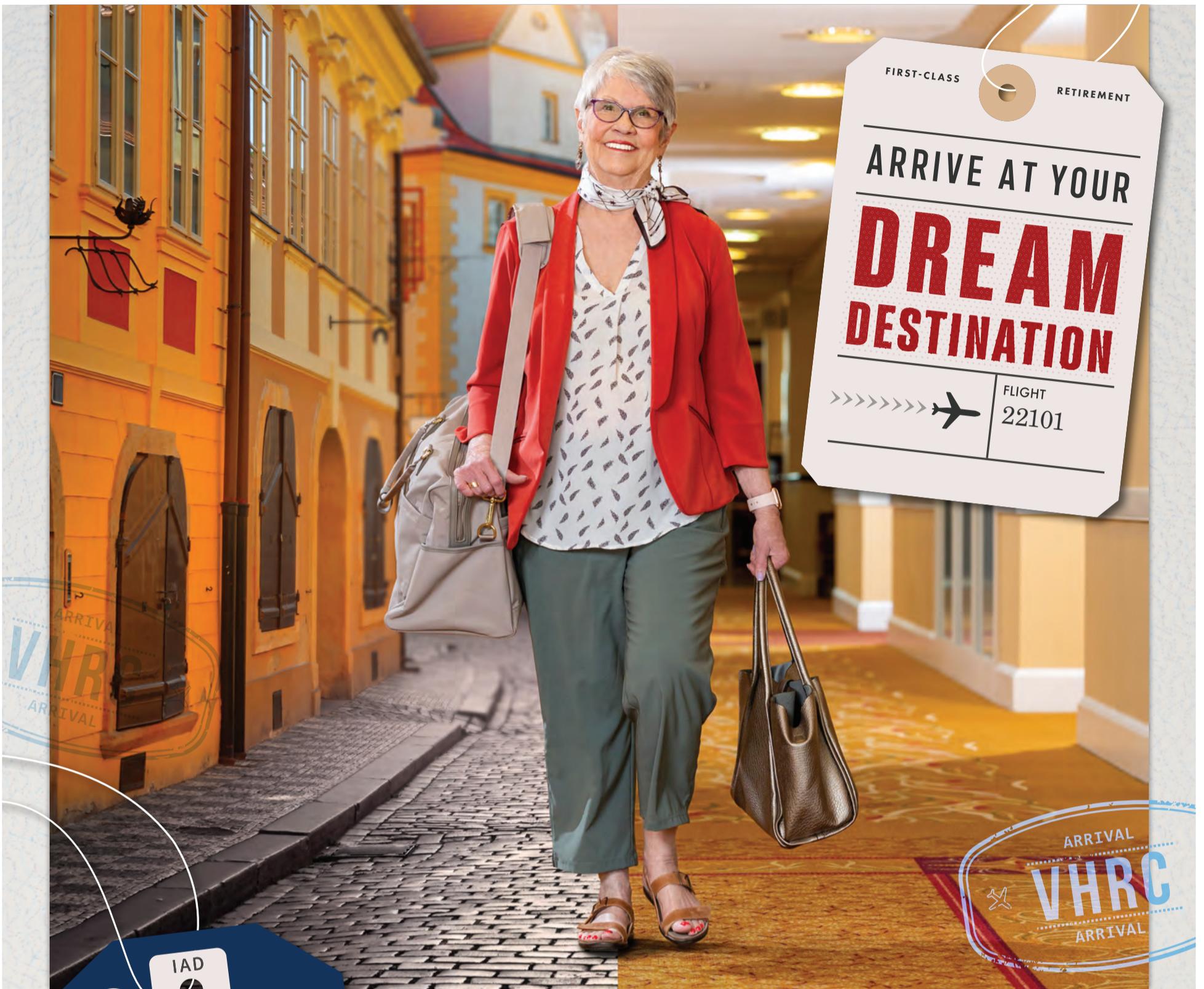
the county for emergencies. Long vacant commercial space is still abundant in Reston certainly. Unfortunately, we've heard little more from Alcorn about this promising concept for the last three years. What happened? A possible variation to Fairfax County's tackling the acquisition and repurposing a long-vacant (abandoned?) office buildings or, e.g., a hotel, would be for the County to play a facilitating role supporting a charitable organization's acquisition and management of the repurposing. This model

would take advantage of the charity's strengths and minimize the direct role of the County bureaucracy. While I recognize that pursuit of such an innovative approach by Fairfax County isn't easy, the needs of the homeless are serious and existing approaches have been failing for too long already! Furthermore, as Mercia Hobson's on-target article suggests, wealthy Fairfax County certainly has the resources to address the problem. Now what's needed is the will to get it done?

The article did not directly address the shocking lack of affordable dwelling units to occupy, es-

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SPORTS

Westfield v. Mount Vernon

Westfield scores on its first possession and finishes 42-0.

BY WILL PALENSCAR
THE CONNECTION

The Westfield Bulldogs faced the Mount Vernon Majors on Thursday Aug. 31, 2023 in Chantilly for a non conference matchup.

On Westfield's first possession Landon Murphy would put the Bulldogs on the board with 7:31 in the first quarter with a 34 yard touchdown reception on 4th down. Murphy would score with 4:33 still to play in the opening quarter for his second touchdown of the game on an 8 yard touchdown, after Everett Sawyer's blocked punt.

Kennedy Duda scored on an 8 yard touchdown with 8:04 to play in the second quarter giving Westfield a 20-0 lead after a missed extra point. Later in the quarter Everett Sawyer scored on a 9 yard touchdown reception with 4:30 remaining before halftime.

Kennedy Duda scored his second touch-

down rushing from 13 yards out. Landon Murphy then caught a pass in the end zone for a successful 2 point conversion with 4:52 to play in the third quarter. Westfield now fully in control 35-0. BJ Johnson then scored

on a short run for Westfield that put Westfield up 42-0.

Westfield (2-0) will play at Lake Braddock on Friday. Mt Vernon (0-2) will host Friendship Collegiate Academy.



Matthew Jenks signals to the Westfield sidelines.



Connor Morin #5 waits for the Westfield snap before running a route.



Landon Murphy #18 sprints for his first of two touchdown receptions.



Mount Vernon QB Keivon Bellfield #3 hands the ball to wide receiver Matthew Moret #18



Landon Murphy scores his second touchdown of the game receiving for Westfield.



Everett Sawyer blocks the punt of Mount Vernon punter Christopher Marin-Benavides.



Keivon Bellfield drops back to pass for the Majors



Ashon Brice #12 looks to referee to see if he is lined up on the sidelines.



Keivon Bellfield prepares to hand the ball to #11 Avery Rhymes



Kennedy Duda #21 scores the first of his two rushing touchdowns.



Westfield photographers Fred Ingham and John Caccivio pose for a photograph on the Westfield sidelines.



Everett Sawyer #87 scores on this touchdown reception



The Westfield defense all have their eyes on a Mount Vernon runner.



Kennedy Duda scores his second rushing touchdown.



BJ Johnson #32 hands the ball to a referee after scoring on a touchdown run for Westfield.

LEARNING

PHOTOS COURTESY OF BASIS INDEPENDENT McLEAN



Assy Diallo, student of Le Benteiner Groupe Scolaire de Khombole, a town in Thiès Region, Senegal, West Africa, and Chelsea Hu, 17, of Vienna, Va., president of the BASIS Independent French Honor Society.



Senegalese student Sophia Ba (center, in white dress with pink flowers) begins the presentation to guests from BASIS Independent McLean as her fellow students (right) Rokhaya Diouf and Astou Mbou listen..



From left, Madame Ngom, head mistress, joins Abdoulaye Diouf, head of school at École 6, Elisabeth Sèye, French teacher at BASIS Independent McLean, and Mamadou Sellou Diallo of Le Benteiner Groupe Scolaire de Khombole for the check presentation.



BASIS Independent McLean students in grey t-shirts stand outside the new schoolhouse they and fellow students raised funds to build in Senegal, West Africa. They are joined by many, including in the top row under the left window, Pape Diop, Chelsea Hu, Susan Janec, John Steyn, Richard Park, Grant Johnson, Dean Fetter, Matteo Theobald, Claudia Fetter, Andrew Huang, Christopher Stubbs, and (in the front row) Elisabeth Sèye, Jamie Garcia, Joy Chen, Mamadou Sellou Diallo, Bradley Garcia, Will Dalton, Holly Dalton, and Avi Fairchild.

Learning Outside the Classroom

Students raise funds to build schoolhouse in Africa.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Three years ago, students in Khombole, a town in the Thiès Region of Senegal, attended school in a temporary structure made of mismatched pieces of corrugated metal sheeting. Mamadou Sellou Diallo, teacher, founder, and principal of Senegal's Le Benteiner Groupe Scolaire, described it as "a tiny, run-down shack." The structure was unable to withstand the rainy season. The Republic of Senegal is a country in West Africa on the Atlantic Ocean coastline.

Five thousand miles away, in McLean, Va., Elisabeth Sèye, a French teacher at BASIS Independent McLean, and members of the school's Société Honoraire de Français began raising funds to build a new schoolhouse for the Khombole students. It would be built in stages as the donated funds allowed. The project became, as Will Dalton, 15, of McLean, said on Sept. 1, "Not just a small service project but something that would go on to change lives."

Sèye has been a French teacher for over 20 years. She believes that getting her students out of the classroom and into the world is the best way to inspire them. Seye



The inside of the new schoolhouse

established a partnership between the two schools in 2016, pairing her McLean students learning French with the Senegal students from the French-speaking country for a cultural and language-building opportunity. She had her students participate in service projects to help fund the new building. This summer, Sèye, and a group of 22 BASIS students and parents traveled to Khombole to formally dedicate the schoolhouse they raised funds for. They also brought laptops, a projector, clothing, school supplies, and a \$1,000 check to cover expenses for additional items.

The trip not only provided Sèye's students with the opportunity to practice their French in Senegal where it is the official language, but also provided a sense of ownership and

connection to an underserved community.

Stepping back and watching her students complete the projects and become global citizens before her eyes has been extremely rewarding for Seye. "I enjoy bringing the Francophone world into the classroom, but I enjoy bringing my classroom there even more," Seye said.

For Chelsea Hu, 17, of Vienna and president of the BASIS Independent McLean French Honor Society, her ten days in Senegal provided a lifetime of lessons in community, culture, and compassion.

"Visiting Groupe Scolaire de Benteiner (Khombole 6), the school for which we raised funds, not only demonstrated the power of collective goodwill but also introduced me to Senegalese students who broadened my

worldview," said Chelsea. "The journey left an indelible imprint on my soul of the richness of Senegalese culture, community, and traditions, profoundly shaping my understanding of what it means to be a global citizen and member of a global family."

Andrew Huang, 15 of McLean, described the experience as "eye-opening," and the teachers and students at the Khombole school as "some of the most resilient people anywhere in the world." Andrew found their determination to achieve a quality and equitable education in the face of adversity inspiring.

According to Mamadou Sellou Diallo, teacher, founder, and principal of Le Benteiner Groupe Scolaire in Senegal, the BASIS Independent Mclean French Honor Society formed solid relationships with her students, which have included corresponding, collaborating on ideas, and various service projects, including the new and beautiful brick-and-mortar schoolhouse for the children of her community.

"They have demonstrated that we are true life partners and that community extends beyond borders. "We consider ourselves extremely fortunate," Diallo said.

Dean Fetter, 13, of Arlington, went to Khombole and saw the new schoolhouse for himself, complete with tiled floors and desks for everyone. "We could see the hope and ambition radiating from the kids' faces — not only to be able to help themselves but, in turn, their community. The trip opened my eyes and showed me how much developing countries really need support. I am looking forward to future projects with them," Dean said.

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NEWS

WFCM Food Pantry In Centreville

FROM PAGE 3

pantries will make food more accessible for food-insecure families, on a sustainable and stable basis.”

Yet, said Taddeo, “As we strive to mitigate food insecurity, we can only continue to expand our programs and services to reach more families through the power of collective impact. That is, working together with local partners to meet the needs of community members who qualify for WFCM’s services. And we’re thankful for all those who’ve chosen to join with us to make sure our neighbors have access to fresh, healthy food.”

Calling it a “true community effort,” she said opening the Centreville food pantry wouldn’t have been possible without the support of the organization’s donors, partners and friends. They included:

Centreville Presbyterian, Centreville United Methodist and Christ Central Presbyterian churches, the Moxley Family Foundation, Elden and Allyn Sodowsky, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and Wegmans Food Markets. Taddeo also expressed gratitude to the Capital Area Food Bank and Fairfax County Government for providing Capacity and Food Access Program grants.

During the ceremony, Taddeo also thanked the elected representatives attending, including Del. Karrie Delaney (D-67), Sully District School Board Rep-

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



From left are Kathy Smith, Karrie Delaney and Stella Pekarsky.



The Rev. Lynn Miller speaks while Harmonie Taddeo (at right) listens.

representative Stella Pekarsky, Supervisor Kathy Smith (D-Sully) and Jaclyn Marmol from U.S. Sen. Mark Warner’s office. Taddeo told them, “Your support and

SEE WFCM FOOD PANTRY, PAGE 12

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Pamela Montesinos, WFCM director of Client Operations and Programs, places some canned goods on a shelf in the Centreville pantry.



Some of those who partnered with WFCM to make possible the opening of its Centreville pantry pose for a photo.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

WFCM Food Pantry In Centreville

FROM PAGE 11

partnership ensure the communities you serve receive basic-needs services in a dignified manner that provides choice and long-term support.”

Next at the podium, Smith said establishing a second food pantry “shows WFCM’s commitment to addressing food insecurity in the community. Food pantries play a crucial role in providing food items to individuals and families experiencing financial difficulties. Having this pantry in Centreville is making it more convenient for residents here to access the resources they need, and many can walk to it.”

She thanked her fellow supervisors, plus county staff, for providing the funding used by WFCM to purchase new handcars for this pantry. “These will assist our residents and

families in bringing food items back to their home,” said Smith. “Opening this food pantry will allow WFCM to expand their reach and help more people, and I thank them for everything they do to make our community a better place.”

Also speaking was the Rev. Lynn Miller of King of Kings Lutheran Church in Chantilly. She’s a member of WFCM’s Board of Directors and served as its president during FY 2023. “This second site is truly an answer to lots of prayers, and we’re grateful to God for how this leap of faith has been blessed by all of you,” she said. “We believe God gave Harmonie and the WFCM staff the vision for this new way of helping in this area. And as a Board of Directors, it’s been our honor and joy to see the development of this new space and the deepening of the relationships we have with all of you who partner with us. We

trust that God will continue to provide as, together, we provide and care for our neighbors in need.”

Taddeo then shared a Google review a client named Eileen posted after using WFCM’s Chantilly pantry. “This is the only food pantry I’ve ever been to where they offer fresh fruits and vegetables, along with dairy (eggs, milk, cheese, butter), meat and other things not necessarily found at traditional food banks,” she wrote. “Most of their donated items are from places like Wegmans and Whole Foods.

“[I’m not] complaining, because I’m grateful to all food banks. When you’re hungry and can’t afford food, you’ll take what you can get. However, this place gives you options; you’re allowed to ‘shop’ and pick out your own items, as opposed to having them packed for you. This prevents food from be-

ing wasted.”

Taddeo said refrigerators and freezers stocked with fresh food from local grocery stores make WFCM’s choice model possible. And she thanked Capital Area Food Bank and Fairfax County Neighborhood and Community Services for their grants to purchase these appliances, plus Wegmans and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints “for wonderful and plentiful food donations to stock our refrigerators and shelves.”

Then came the ribbon cutting, tours of the new pantry and special cookies supplied by Wegmans. First, though, Tammy Meyer with the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce added a few words. “On behalf of the Chamber, we’re excited for our Chamber member, WFCM,” she said. “And we welcome them to this new location to expand their reach in the Centreville community.”

Green Sentenced to Prison for Murder

FROM PAGE 3

But at some point, Green shot Leiva Hernandez once in the chest, killing him. Police responding to the scene found the victim’s body in the parking lot. He was then taken to the hospital and pronounced dead.

Officers recovered a firearm at the scene and charged Green with the three offenses – murder, malicious wounding and using a firearm to commit a felony. But COVID-19 shut down his Circuit Court proceedings until early March of this year. During his trial, he admitted to killing the Chantilly man but said he did so in self-defense.

Green claimed he shot Leiva Hernandez after they fought because he saw a gun on the victim’s person and was frightened for his life. But the prosecution contended Green shot the victim before the fight, as soon as he saw Leiva Hernandez’s gun – which turned out to be a BB gun.

Green’s weapon, however, was real, and it discharged a fatal bullet. Green’s trial ended in a hung jury. But instead of opting for a new one, he instead pleaded guilty on April 28, to the lesser charge of manslaughter, as well as to malicious wounding. He returned to court last Friday for sentencing before

Circuit Court Judge David Oblon.

At the outset, Clingan called Osorio Cordero to the stand to describe how her assault and her boyfriend’s death have affected her. Speaking via a Spanish-language interpreter, she said the past four years have been difficult for her and she’s had many problems.

“I used to do activities with Miguel and with my kids,” said Osorio Cordero. “Now I don’t go out much; I’m not happy anymore. My work is in American kitchens, but I’ve lost jobs because I don’t want to go out. I’ve been lonely and I feel Miguel’s loss. But I look for peace and I ask God to continue to give me strength. I’m under the care of a doctor. I’m not the same as before – everything has changed.”

Clingan also gave Oblon a victim-impact statement written by Leiva Hernandez’s brother, and he read it silently.

Public Defender Brian Goodman said Green also wrote a statement, saying he constantly remembers that night, and the weight of his actions then is “crushing” him. “He cried at his trial, describing how he felt because of what he did,” added Goodman. “And he’s accepted responsibility for his actions.”

“This court heard a two-week-plus trial with a very attentive jury which deliberated

an extended amount of time [a week],” said Clingan. “It ended in a mistrial [when the jury deadlocked], and we recognized retrying this case would be difficult. Mr. Green then accepted responsibility for the act that caused the loss of a life – albeit it doesn’t bring back a person.”

While noting that Green had no criminal history until then, Clingan said, “That’s often the case in murders. It happened, it shouldn’t have happened, and things could have been done differently that night. Wrong choices were made, and we believe a two years six months sentence is appropriate.”

Goodman asked Oblon to accept the plea agreement, with a suspended period of incarceration, plus probation. “The trial was difficult on both the defendant’s and victims’ families,” he said. “Green didn’t set out that night to hurt people – although that’s what he did.

“This happened over four years ago. Since then, he’s been out on bond, on pre-trial supervision, and he’s had no new charges. He’s been living quietly and supporting his family. He’s also been haunted by what he did – and that’s now stitched into every fiber of his being and will be with him until the day he dies. Incarceration now, after the past four

years, is just punishment for punishment’s sake. We ask for a suspended sentence and probation.”

Then Green stood and apologized to both victims and their families. “Not a day goes by that I don’t regret what I did,” he said. “And I’m grateful for the support of my family.”

Before pronouncing sentence, the judge noted that Green took over his father’s cleaning business and has worked in it daily. He also acknowledged that, with the defendant behind bars, it’ll fall to his family to keep it going.

However, said Oblon, “In May 2019, Mr. Green assaulted Mayra Osorio Cordero with a leaf blower, leaving her with a deep gash on her head and bleeding. He then shot and killed her boyfriend. The court has read many letters in Mr. Green’s support; but the crimes he committed are extremely serious. The shooting death was the result of a deliberate action he took.

“Nothing the victim did that night justified his death, nor did anything Ms. Osorio Cordero did warrant [Green’s] malicious assault on her. Incarceration will serve as a

SEE GREEN SENTENCED, PAGE 14
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

ENTERTAINMENT

THURSDAYS THRU OCT. 19

Weekly Farmers Markets. Thursdays 12 p.m. to 7 p.m. At The PARC at Tysons, 8508 Leesburg Pike, Tysons. Celebrate Fairfax, a nonprofit organization dedicated to building community in Fairfax County, is excited to announce the launch of a weekly farmers market at The PARC at Tyson. The market is run by Potomac Farm Market, which has over 20 years of experience connecting communities to local farmers and artisanal food producers. Each week, residents can expect to find seasonal fruits and vegetables, fresh cut flowers, and other locally sourced specialties.

WEDNESDAYS THROUGH SATURDAYS

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

SEPT 4-10

Fairfax City Restaurant Week. At restaurants in Fairfax City. Some 30 participating restaurants will offer prix fixe menu experiences at set prices of \$25 for brunch/lunch and \$40 for dinners. Additionally, specialty restaurants offer a Two for \$10 Deal, providing food lovers the opportunity to further explore the rich variety and eclectic flavors of Fairfax food and drink purveyors. Fairfax City Restaurant Week allows diners to experience flavors from Azerbaijan to Vietnam. The ever-popular program will feature more than 30 participants, including Audacious Ale Works, Baku Delicious, Bellissimo, Bollywood Bistro, Cameron's Chocolates, Capital Ale House, Coyote Grill and Cantina, Curry Mantra, Draper's Steak and Seafood, Dolce Vita, El Pollo Rico, Hamrock's, Jas & Fam Caribbean Flavor, Kims Pho Kitchen + Bar, Marco's Pizza, Marumen, Meokja Meokja, Merkado Mexican Grill and Bar, Ned's New England Deck, Old Dominion Pizza Company, ONE Bar and Grill, Ornerly Beer Company, Patriots Pub and Grill, PJ Skidoos, Red Hot and Blue, Roots Natural Kitchen, The Auld Shebeen, The Wine House, and Vivi Bubble Tea. Visit fairfaxcityrestaurantweek.com.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 6

"How to Sort Fact From Fiction Online" Talk by AARP's Larry Lipman, 10 a.m. 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale. Free, refreshments. Sponsored by NARFE 1159. Also available by ZOOM; contact doujones500verizon.net by Sept. 4

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 6

Interfaith Forum for Survivor Support. Reston Community Center, Hunter Woods Room, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. A safe space for sharing how child sexual abuse can affect survivors and learning how you can support them. Questions? Email Angie at



The Burke Centre Festival will take place Sept. 9-10 in at 6060 Burke Centre Parkway in Burke.

2020victimssurvivors@gmail.com. Join if you... Are a survivor. Are a supporter of a survivor. Want to learn how to support survivors.

SEPT. 7-10

Tysons Library Quarterly Book & Media Sale. At Tysons Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church.

Thursday, 7 September, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Friday, 8 September, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday, 9 September, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday, 10 September, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.: Bag sale. \$10 for a full grocery sack or half price if less

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THURSDAY/SEPT. 7

American Red Cross Blood Drive. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. It is urgent for donors of all ethnicities to support patients in need! Join us and support the community with your lifesaving blood donation. All donors will receive t-shirts and e certificates to Sports Cuts. For an appointment, visit www.redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor word: HEARTOF-GOLD or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

FRIDAY/SEPT. 8

Snack & Paint Night. 7-9 p.m. At the Old Firehouse Center, McLean. \$15/\$10 MCC district residents. Preregistration is recommended. Whether you are a beginner or an expert, love snacks or just want to get your hands dirty with some paint, come on down to the Old Firehouse Center for Snack & Paint Night. Led by a professional art teacher, families will create their own masterpieces while having tons of fun. All materials and snacks are included in the fee.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 9

Robinson Secondary Tag Day. Tag Day is the biggest fundraiser of the year where all high school band and orchestra students canvass the



The 9-11 Remembrance Ceremony takes place on Monday, Sept. 11, 2023 at the Great Falls Freedom Memorial in Great Falls.

entire attendance area to knock on doors and ask for donations. Residents should consider removing their "no soliciting" signs for the morning -- students are instructed to not knock on the door if there is a "no soliciting" sign -- and keep an eye out for members of the orchestra in their Robinson Orchestra polo shirts and all members of the Robinson Marching Rams in their full uniforms.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 9

Dog Daze Returns. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. At The Water Mine, 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. Join Fairfax County Park Authority for a howling good time at the annual Dog Daze event at The Water Mine. Experience the joy of watching dogs swim and have an all-around good time. The popular event once again features a canine resource fair, so you can visit pet-related vendors and learn more about fun opportunities for dogs around the county.

For the safety of the dogs and owners, please observe the following rules: All dogs must be current on vaccinations.

All dog handlers must be 18 years or older and supervise dogs at all times.

No female dogs in heat or puppies younger than 3 months old. Aggressive or unruly dogs are not permitted. Owners are responsible for cleaning up after their dogs. Dogs swim at owners' risk. Humans are not permitted in the pool. Entry costs \$10 per dog. All proceeds go to benefit parks through the Fairfax County Park Foundation.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 9

Community Dental Day. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Virginia Smiles, 2553 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna. Vienna Smiles, a leading dental care provider in Vienna, is proud to announce its upcoming event - "Community Dental Day" an initiative aimed at promoting oral health and providing much-needed dental care to the local community. Community Dental Day event will provide an array of complimentary dental services, including cleanings, examinations, X-rays, and consultations. The experienced team of dental professionals will be on hand to address various oral health concerns and offer personalized guidance on maintaining a healthy smile. This event is open adults, and no appointments are necessary. Visit <https://www.viennasmilesva.com> or call 703-938-0212.

viennasmilesva.com or call 703-938-0212.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 9

Memorial Benefit Concert. 2 p.m. At Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria. Benefitting United Community and in memory of Phil Bolin, come to a Memorial Benefit Concert/Recital. Join in this enchanting performance honoring the memory of Phil Bolin featuring mezzo-soprano, Caroline Nielson, and pianist, Eddie Rothmel. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students. All ticket purchases are non-refundable and will be donated to support United Community. Visit unitedcommunity.org/concerts.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 10

Grand Piano Celebration 2023. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, Fairfax. Join in the spectacular opening of the 2023 Fall Concert season with A Grand Piano Celebration. This concert honors Mason's All-Steinway School. Outstanding student and faculty artists of the Reva and Sid Dewberry Family School of Music at George Mason University will be on stage to display their marvelous talents.

FUNDAY MONDAY

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

SCHEDULE

Sept. 11 -- Music Together Sing and Groove
Sept. 18 -- My Gym
Sept. 25 -- Music w/Marsha (Of the Positrons)
Oct. 2 -- Irish Dance w/McGrath Morgan
Oct. 9 -- No Program
Oct. 16 -- Music together Sing and Groove
Oct. 23 -- My Gym
Oct. 30 -- Kids Nature Puppet Show "Creepy Creatures"
Nov 6 -- Miss Mollie's Musical Fun
Nov. 13 -- No Program
Nov. 20 -- My Gym
Nov. 27 -- Drew Blue Shoes Magic
Dec. 4 -- Music Together Sing and Groove
Dec. 11 -- My Gym
Dec. 18 -- TBD

9-11 REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

Great Falls Freedom Memorial. On Monday, Sept. 11, at 7 p.m., the annual 9-11 Remembrance Ceremony will be held at the Great Falls Freedom Memorial to honor the six residents of Great Falls and all others who lost their lives and suffered in the attacks and their aftermath. The event will feature patriotic songs, a Boy Scout color guard, a keynote speech by Great Falls native Vitale Christy, and a candlelight vigil. The Freedom Memorial is located behind the Great Falls Library at 9830 Georgetown Pike. Updates to the schedule will be posted at www.gffreedom.org.

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Employment

Quality Assurance Engineer (REQ # R255) sought by Transaction Network Services, Inc. in Reston, VA. Develop & execute test strategies for proprietary product development. Req's BS in Engg, Comp Sci, or related + 5 yrs exp. May work remotely. Salary Range: \$139K-\$149K. Mail CV/CL to Transaction Network Services, Inc Shelley Carver, 10740 Parkridge Boulevard, Suite 100, Reston, VA 20191. Must reference title/Req #.

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Green Sentenced for Murder

FROM PAGE 12

deterrence to others in the community [warning them not to commit similar crimes] and as serious punishment for a wrong act. In this case, the plea-agreement cap seems very low, but the court will accept it."

For the manslaughter charge, Obolon sentenced Green to 10 years in prison, suspending seven years, six months. For malicious wounding, he gave Green five years, suspending all but two years, six months. The judge then ran the sentences concurrently, leaving Green with a total of two years, six months to serve. Obolon also placed him on three years' supervised probation, upon his release, and Clingan dropped the use of a firearm charge.

Afterward, outside the courtroom, Clingan told the victims' families, "We did everything we could - and, ultimately, he'll pay a price for what he did. We got a reasonable result. I wish you and your families as best a recovery from this tragedy as possible."

Then Leiva Hernandez's niece, Mayra Bonilla, agreed to share some of her thoughts with the Connection. "He was my uncle, but we grew up very close in El Salvador," she said. "My brothers and I were all close to him. He was a happy person who liked to hunt and fish, and he was a good uncle and brother."

At the time of the incidents, Bonilla was working for a catering company in Chantilly. "Around 1:40 a.m., I saw police rushing somewhere," she said. "And my co-workers arriving at 4 a.m. told me someone had died. I never thought it was my uncle. My phone was ringing, but I couldn't answer it because I was busy working."

"Around 10 a.m., my family members told me. I was really sad, and we were all angry; and we saw Mayra's injuries. Now my mom and brothers are wary when they go out, afraid something could happen. I stay at home now, too. You're not safe outside."

"We expected [Green] to serve more time," continued Bonilla. "We're not really happy about that, but what can we do? We just have to accept what the judge decided and hope we can find peace."

When Green's sentencing was finished and bailiffs handcuffed him to lead him out of the courtroom to jail, one of his family members burst into tears and cried loudly. Nonetheless, said Bonilla, the punishment Green received "wasn't enough justice. At least his family still has hope that he'll be out one day, and they'll be able to share special moments with him, but we cannot do the same. He's still here, but my uncle will be gone forever."

FCPS Library Renamed

FROM PAGE 5

from “an incredibly kind heart.”

School board member Karen Corbett Sanders, who seconded the motion, wanted to be part of the proclamation, she said, because of the location the board was about to rename. “It is appropriate because Dr. Bussey was the most family-centered person” she knew. “And he knew that the key to a student’s success was centering the families around that student and ensuring the

parents and families add the resources necessary to ensure their family’s success and their student’s success.”

School Board member Megan McLaughlin, a data enthusiast herself, said that while Bussey was incredibly kind and joyful, he was also “a very serious and substantive advocate.”

“I couldn’t be more happy and more honored to get to vote tonight, where we can honor him and his tremendous legacy,” McLaughlin said.

nal ‘pony’ service or picked up at the Family Resource Center. The library is open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 2334 Gallows Road, Room 105 (Door 1), Dunn Loring, VA 22027.

Using the Library

The Dr. Larry Bussey Family & Community Library is within the division’s Family Resource Center. The brick-and-mortar facility offers free webinars, confidential consultations, and resources.

The Dr. Larry Bussey Family & Community Library

The library includes over 10,000 materials and resources to help adults support the success of all students, including those with learning challenges, special needs, and disabilities.

Patrons can visit in person, search the library online, and access over 400 E-books using a personal computer, tablet, or smartphone. Check out up to six books, and keep books for as long as three weeks.

Family Resource Center

The center can provide prepackaged materials on many curated topics ready for use on topics such as ADHD, anxiety, bullying, executive functioning with children and teens, military-connected students, motivation, and more.

Call 703-204-3941 or email fre@fcps.edu to reserve a pack. Packs can be sent for pickup to your child’s school via the division’s inter-

Resources: Hired Tutoring and No-Cost Tutoring

The center also offers the 2023-2024 School Year and In-Person Tutor List, updated monthly. FCPS says online, it contains the names of current FCPS employees who hold a valid and current teaching license in Virginia and want to tutor after their contracted school day. Families who wish to hire one of these instructors should make arrangements directly with the tutor. FCPS is not responsible for these arrangements.

Additionally, “Students also have unlimited access to 24/7, on-demand, online tutoring support services through Tutor.com at no cost to families. Students can connect online any time, any place, and in most K-12 subjects for however long they need. Tutoring may be on-demand and/or scheduled at a time convenient for the student and/or family. For the purposes of safety and security, every tutoring session is recorded, and transcripts are available (up to 6 months) for students, parents and FCPS staff to review if needed.”

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Centre View

Thank you to the hundreds of supporters who helped to keep all your Connection Newspapers alive throughout Alexandria, Fairfax County, Arlington County and Potomac, Md. along with affiliated websites and digital media. Now we need help again in 2022.

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.

Please, help save these historical papers. All gifts will be used to fund our printed newspapers and websites and to meet obligations to our loyal and patient employees, writers, contractors and suppliers.

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.

Visit connectionnewspapers.com or <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-keep-your-newspaper-printing>

Connection Newspapers—Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette, Centre View, Potomac Almanac
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July 16th Has Come and Gone



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Through no acknowledgement by me. The acknowledgement came from my sister-in-law, Vanessa. (The date not exactly unbeknownst to me, more like lost in the ether.) July 16th, 2023 was the one-year anniversary of the first day my brother Richard was admitted (“ambulanced” is more like it) to the hospital. The date which is firmly stuck in my brain is Dec. 3rd, the date of his death, which some of you regular readers are no doubt familiar. And likely the subject of a future column – or two, as we get closer to the actual date of his semi-unexpected, though not totally surprising, death. This column is not about dates or acknowledgements, however. It’s about a phone call and a story that I was not ready to tell, which became increasingly obvious as I stammered and stuttered my way through the call.

The call to which I’m now going to refer was a call I made to one of my brother’s nearly 2,000 clients. As it so happens, I had spoken to this client about a year or so ago concerning a Social Security issue I was having. Per my brother’s referral, I contacted these clients for advice - as both husband and wife previously worked as lawyers for the Social Security Administration. I had needed some insight on the best way to reconcile a financial discrepancy between me and Social Security. These clients were helpful, but it was hardly “Casablanca,” in that it was not “the beginning of a beautiful friendship.” It was simply a one-time request for advice/assessment of a situation I was experiencing with Social Security about my retirement benefits. The point being: these clients and I did not have any kind of relationship.

Recently I had cause – and need, to contact these clients about this same Social Security issue as before. Still, my call was out of the blue as it had been previously when I had initially reached out. Their phone rang and the wife picked up the receiver and naturally said “Hello.” I said “Hello” as well and introduced myself. She knew immediately who I was and excitedly asked “How’s your brother? I haven’t heard from him in months” (ordinarily he’s in very regular contact with his clients). To which I responded with a brief exhale, then began muttering to myself that she/they don’t know about Richard’s death – and now, quite unexpectedly, I had to tell this extremely sad tale. I was not prepared for the gruesome task at hand: the recounting of my brother’s final few months of life.

The greatest difficulty I have discussing my brother’s death is when I get a totally out-of-the-blue question about his status/death from someone from whom I might not be anticipating such a query. (Cheryl, my brother’s Dir. Of Operations had sent out a mass email to his clients alerting one and all to Richard’s passing – and of course, there was an obituary in the Washington Post.) This was that exact situation. I tried to compose myself as I slowly began the story of Richard’s month’s long hospitalization, his cancer, his surgery, his two weeks in a rehab hospital, and finally his return home and ultimate death on Dec. 3rd. And as I continued to detail his last few months; my voice cracked, my eyes watered, and I began to cry – controllably, all the while sharing some of the facts and feelings with these clients.

Clients of Richard’s who I knew he had known going back 25 years. I tried to be as open and honest as possible about what had happened to Richard. I knew he would expect nothing less from me when talking with his clients. It wasn’t easy – for either of us. They were shocked and saddened to hear of Richard’s death. Apparently, they never received – or overlooked, the mass email that Cheryl had sent.

Here I thought I was a big shot; having handled/assimilated my brother’s death as responsibly and maturely as one would hope. But the first time that I had to – unexpectedly, answer questions concerning his death, the three and half months preceding it and the story of how Vanessa found Richard on the floor that final morning and then called 911, I crumbled. Maybe that’s why I whiffed acknowledging July 16th, his initial hospitalization in ICU, and all the surrounding circumstances. It’s still too hard for me. (As the old joke says: “When God made him, they broke the mold: You should see what they did to the mold maker.”) There will never be another like him.

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



VIRGINIA NATIVE AMERICAN FESTIVAL
Saturday, September 16, 2023
10 a.m.-3 p.m.
\$12 per person
32B.8NWN

- Rappahannock Native American traditional dancing & drumming
- Hands-on demonstrations
- Storytelling
- Virginia Tribal Vendors
- Traditional crafts for sale
- Food concessions

Riverbend Park’s Virginia Native American Festival is on Saturday, Sept. 16, 2023, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. It’s one of the highlights of Riverbend Park’s year, pre-register and come and enjoy the festivities. The Rappahannock Dancers and Drummers are supported by the Friends of Riverbend Park, and Friends of Riverbend Park will have a booth at the fair.



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Offered for...\$709,000

3409 Wilson Boulevard, #308, Arlington
SPARKLING 2 BR/2 BA modern condo in sought-after Ballston location! Enjoy the luxury of this unit featuring a gourmet kitchen with island, assigned parking space and spacious rooftop deck with stunning views of Arlington and DC—perfect for entertaining! 9' ceilings; exposed ductwork; large windows with natural light—all providing a modern feel! Spacious primary BR w/ 2 closets & luxury BA; spacious 2nd BR; wonderful amenities!



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1405 Layman Street, McLean
FABULOUS 4BR/3BA, 2-level home, nestled in nature in sought-after Potomac Hills! This amazing home features a light/bright updated kitchen with herringbone tile backsplash, 6-burner gas cooktop, breakfast bar and more! Elegant living room with huge picture window, fireplace & custom built-ins with lighting. Primary bedroom w/ luxury bath and two add'l BR's on main level. Walkout LL features an inviting family room w/ frpl, wet bar & huge picture window overlooking the patio; 4th bedroom, full bath, and large laundry room. Custom deck off dining room, overlooks parkland! **Chesterbrook, Longfellow, McLean Schools!**

FOR SALE! **FRANKLIN PARK!**

**2049 Rockingham Street
McLean, 22101
\$4,695,000
NEW CONSTRUCTION!**

Under Contract!

Offered for...\$1,299,000

6603 Byrnes Drive, McLean
ABSOLUTELY GORGEOUS 4BR/4.5 BA custom home in sought-after McLean location, nestled in nature! Featuring a sparkling open-concept floorplan, vaulted ceilings and tons of natural light, this beautiful home also features hardwood floors, exquisite primary BR suite with dressing area, walk-in and luxury bath; completely separate living space attached with its' own entrance; modern, mid-century feel throughout!

SOLD!

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McLean, 22101
\$1,570,000**



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\$1,824,750**



**1562 Forest Villa Ln
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\$1,550,000**



**2336 N. Oak Street
Falls Church, 22046
\$2,000,000**



**1639 Macon Street
McLean, 22101
\$2,215,000**



**2204 Beacon Lane
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