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CONNECTION PET CONNECTION

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We got Luna at a rescue, and she's heading on eight years old. Her most endearing feature is that she's pretty smart. She knows all the places in the downtown neighborhood with treats. - Ed Clark of Herndon

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PET CONNECTION

Theodore, a DRNA rescue with right rear leg amputation. This is The Blessing of the Animals. - Theodore's 'mom,' Louann Kitchen, Herndon



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

We got Luna at a rescue, and she's heading on eight years old. Her most endearing feature is that she's pretty smart. She knows all the places in the downtown neighborhood with treats. - Ed Clark of Herndon



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Theodore was listed with DRNA [Dachshund Rescue of Northern Virginia]. He was hit by a car in Texas, and his family couldn't pay for his surgery, so DRNA paid for it. After rehab, he went to his foster parents in Maryland (Mommy Peg and Daddy Paul). I had to have him and had multiple copies of his pictures at home and work. Each time I saw the picture, I prayed. Then Kristel Lowry of DRNA notified me he was mine. Theodore loves his Auntie Janet, Miss Janet Wunder [pictured holding Theodore.] His Auntie stays with us about half of the time. - Theodore's 'mom,' Louann Kitchen of Herndon



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Murphy, six months old. He's my pride and joy. Murphy and I are training to be a service dog team. He's an Australian Labradoodle Cocker Spaniel mix - Megan Wahl, Herndon, Waiting for Murphy's veterinary appointment

'Tails of Love,' Doing Good

The Pet Connection Summer 2021.

MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Something is shifting in our relationships with the animals we generally call pets. They are becoming "quasi" family members, not in the exact same manner generally as the other humans in our nuclear and extended lives. Still, we dote on the creatures. We can honestly say we love them (or at least some of them) and believe they love us back.

We stroke their feathery, furry, and scaly skin coverings, a tactile sensation for both of us. We bend down and confide our secrets to them, knowing they understand.

We acknowledge their rights and act on them. Pets have us trained. They tell us when we are to feed them, walk them, take them out to play. And we frequently boast to others of their intelligence, basking in their shadows with pride. All of this is good, especially during a pandemic.

We do not own our pets; they hold us to be their guardians, ensuring their safety and that they do not suffer. The Connection understands the mutual pet/human bonds, their sentient natures, and different levels, hence the Pet Connection.

We hope you enjoy these photos and their accompanying tales of love-that they make you smile and recall perhaps a pet you had the privilege to guard.

A vet once shared, with me, you only get a special pet once in your life.

This is for my Molly dog. I hope I did her good.



MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

My Molly dog. - Mercia Hobson, Herndon



MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Vennie, my Cocker Spaniel 6 years old, follows me everywhere I go. Of course, I'm the one who feeds her. - Ben Pater, Reston

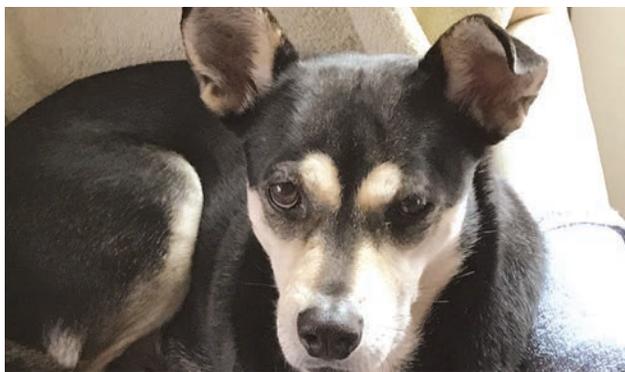


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Annie, our very sweet nine-and-a-half-year-old rescue. She has been with us for a bit more than eight years and is a true delight and is our personal trainer taking my wife for an hour-long walk in the morning and me for a little less than an hour in the late afternoon. - Irwin Flashman, Reston



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Scout runs the [Reston] Craft Market at Lake Anne. She loves people and treats. And she only wakes up early on Saturdays. She knows what day the market is. - Rick Thompson, Reston



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

I like reptiles, and my previous gecko passed, so it was time for Gary. He bites. A lot. Crested Geckos don't take handling too well, but they love to climb. - Vince Dory, Reston

Ending Election Fraud

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



COMMENTARY

My earliest experience in government and politics came when I was a senior in high school. Responding to rumors in the rural community where I lived with my parents that vote buying was going on, I did a research paper at the encouragement of my government class teacher who knew of my intense interest in politics to learn whether vote buying was taking place. I made an inquiry to the then-secretary of the State Board of Elections as to whether I could secure vote totals along with the absentee votes cast for all the jurisdictions in the 1950s. Much to my surprise he responded with the numbers, and I charted votes cast in total along with the absentee votes cast. What I found was what I had been told: In rural Page County where I lived and several counties in far Southwest Virginia the percentage of absentee votes cast in years when local officials were elected would be about one-third. In other ju-

risdictions including more urban and suburban areas, absentee votes would account for only one to two percent.

What was happening was that political workers in these counties, apparently of both parties, would go out to backroads and mountain hollows with absentee ballots for which they would approach voters by agreeing to pay their poll taxes that were re-

quired to vote at the time and promising who knows what other favors. The answer I received when I inquired of leaders of both parties as to why this illegal practice continued was that both sides were doing it and there was no one left to enforce the law!

The poll tax requiring voters to pay a tax three years in a row at least six months before the election was instituted in the 1902 Constitution with the avowed purpose of "cleaning up" elections, translated to mean keeping Black citizens and poor whites from voting. Along with the blank sheet voter registration and lit-

eracy test the number of registered voters was cut in half. The reform of the voting system had met its intended purpose of ensuring—without fraud—that only the "right" people voted.

Fortunately, these abuses of the electoral system were eliminated by a federal constitutional amendment and court decisions. With the outcome of the Virginia elections in 2019 a more progressive General Assembly and governor were elected who further modernized the electoral registration and voting system to make Virginia a leader in election reform. We have the most open and accessible system of government among the states.

For the dozens of people who emailed me (with few emails coming from my constituents) asking that I seek a "forensic investigation" of the outcome of the 2020 election in Virginia, I want to be clear that I will not seek such an investigation. President Biden won clearly nationwide, and he won by a landslide in Virginia. There is no credible evidence of fraud or irregularities. The entire election process in Virginia is monitored by persons of both parties. The "big lie" is just that. Those who propose election changes to enhance their chances of winning are the ones who are creating the fraud.

On the Road Again

BY JOHN LOVAAS
COMMUNITY ACTIVIST AND FOUNDER
OF RESTON FARMERS MARKET



INDEPENDENT PROGRESSIVE

far, we have completed all but the Covid-19 test.

We are anxious to board our ship in Malta with our travel companions so we can truly relax. Covid testing is

Now that the country is pretty much down to a pandemic of the unvaccinated with national public health policy guided by science, not weird politics, we think this is the time to make up for travel we had to cancel in 2020.

This week we are off to the Mediterranean: Malta, Greece and Greek Isles. Preparation for the trip has been complicated, unlike any in all our well-travelled lives. First, we had to renew our US passports which expire this year. Then, besides filling out the usual guest information material for the cruise line, we had to provide: CDC Certificates of Covid vaccinations; Veri-FLY verification of our Covid vaccinations; a Malta Passenger Information form with state where travel began (Virginia, classified as Amber-Covid 19 not out of control. Over half US states are classified RED-Covid out of control, travel to Malta barred!), and destinations, all for Covid contact tracing purposes; Cruise line Covid-19 Health Questionnaire; and, finally, negative Covid-19 PCR test within 72 hours before initiating travel. So

possible on board at any time with prompt results from the ship's on-board lab. We're not sure yet if we have to mask up on board.

Assuming mastery of all the protocols and restrictions for this voyage, we plan another European adventure in October. We are marshalling all positive thoughts not only to make that a reality but also to create a great upsurge in vaccinations in the US and worldwide to end the scourge of Covid-19.

At the same time, there are important things going on in Reston that part of me wishes I could be present to follow and be involved in. For example, the work of the Reston Comprehensive Plan Task Force is at a crucial stage. Citizens and some county officials are engaged in writing the chapters of what will constitute the guidelines for future growth and land use in Reston perhaps for a generation. For example, should Reston grow from about 66,000 residents to maybe 120,000?!

Thinking About 'Good Trouble'

To the Editor:

Today I was thinking about "Good Trouble." Once upon a time when I was a young girl my father worked with a young impetuous man named John Lewis. He was chomping at the bit for change and made it clear to all the Civil Rights players in the 60s, barely deferring to Martin Luther King at times. My Dad adored him. My Dad was a young White Presbyterian minister. Jump to 2014, my husband's law firm threw a reception to honor Mr. Lewis and

I attended. I approached him and said, "I am Dave's daughter" (mind you I was and am old) - he doubled back and then embraced me in a huge bear hug. I giggled. He then said with a huge smile on his lips, "Your Dad was always fighting and challenging everybody in the Movement." We both laughed. He never, ever saw my Dad as White, he saw him and loved him as a colleague and a friend.

Elizabeth Ramage
Great Falls

The chapters include an Introduction, presumably setting forth goals and guiding principles for the Plan; Land Use; Open Space; Transportation/Transit; Environmental Stewardship; Health (e.g., hospitals, healthy activities); Affordable Housing (Cathy Hudgins' legacy?); and, Equity (more appropriate perhaps as principles in each chapter?). There is extensive citizen involvement in the writing and, as I understand it, some chapters are well along, others less so.

The final meeting of the Task Force until September was July 26. In the meantime, drafting will proceed, leading perhaps to discussion of a draft Plan after the August recess. Missing at this point in the Plan is an Implementation Chapter—that is, how implementation will be managed. Another gaping

hole thus far is how open space resources and facilities to accommodate say 50,000 new residents would be managed and funded. Reston Association has evinced little interest in making the effort to assure that future residents in the Transit Station Areas pay into RA to contribute to space and facilities they will most assuredly use. Neither the former Supervisor nor her successor has exercised jawboning

SEE LOVAAS, PAGE 5

CORRECTION: In a cover story 'Friday Night Live! Opens at Last' (Connection, July 14, 2001) it should have been stated that this is the FNL's 27th season (not 29th)..

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Man Charged with Sex Offenses from 20 Years Ago

A 48-year-old Winchester man has been charged with six felonies for sexual assaults that occurred between 1999 and 2001. Detectives began their investigation in May after a victim disclosed the unlawful sexual contact occurring in 2001. Detectives determined Rigoberto Garcia Nolasco resided in the 13300 block of Schwenger Place in Herndon where he provided piano lessons to the victim. He did not have a business associated with the piano lessons and provided lessons to other juveniles through community contacts.



FCPD
Rigoberto Garcia Nolasco

2000s, and detectives have not yet confirmed if he continued to provide piano lessons after moving. Anyone with information about this case or believes Garcia Nolasco had inappropriate contact with them or their child please call Major Crimes Bureau at 703-246-7800, option 3. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by phone – 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477), by text – Type “FCCS” plus tip to 847411, and by web – Click [HERE](#). Download our Mobile tip411 App “Fairfax Co Crime Solvers”. Anonymous tipsters are eligible for cash rewards of \$100

to \$1,000 dollars if their information leads to an arrest. Those who wish for a detective to contact them, please leave contact information.

Victim specialists from our Victim Services Division have been assigned to ensure that the victims receive appropriate resources and assistance.

— FCPD PUBLIC AFFAIRS BUREAU

During the course of investigation, detectives identified two additional victims. On Tuesday, July 20, detectives from Major Crimes Bureau’s Sex Crimes Squad arrested Garcia Nolasco and charged him with indecent liberties with a minor, two counts of aggravated sexual assault and three counts of animate object sexual penetration. Garcia Nolasco was held at the Adult Detention Center without bond.

Garcia Nolasco moved to Maryland in the early

Lovaas

FROM PAGE 4

talents to make that happen either. So, if not RA, then whom? Perhaps the Supervisor is looking for a larger Fairfax County role managing Reston, possibly with additional taxes to pay for them?

Speaking of the Supervisor.... He has been working constructively for possible relief to Lake Anne Village Center to address critical infrastructure needs...in return for a piece of property (like a parking lot?) and improved Condo management. It’s a complex undertaking.

In fact, there are still two competing Condo association governing boards of directors, a dispute to be heard in court Aug. 24. Meanwhile, the County, while wisely professing neutrality, seems to be quietly putting a hand on the scales favoring one side over the other.



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	VA Struc No.	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Posted Date
WYTHE	1086	52	FORT CHISWELL RD	GALENA CREEK	7/7/2021
WYTHE	1093	52	FORT CHISWELL RD	STREAM	7/7/2021
HANOVER	6016	617	SPRING RD	SOUTH ANNA RIVER	7/6/2021
SMYTH	6345	800	ST. CLAIR CREEK RD	ST CLAIR CREEK	7/3/2021
RICHMOND (M)	8034	7542	GROVE AVE	ROUTE 195 & CSX RR	6/24/2021
SCOTT	6505	617	SHELLEYS RD	BRANCH	6/17/2021
BUCHANAN	1060	460	RIVERSIDE DR	LOONEYS CREEK	6/15/2021
BUCHANAN	1107	T1012	RAILROAD AVE	LEVISA RIVER	6/15/2021
WISE	6219	630	SOUTH MOUNTAIN RD	BAD CREEK	6/11/2021

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

For a full listing of all bridge and culvert weight restrictions with detailed information about specific structures, including location data and actual weight limits, visit 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.

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Remembering Restonian Burton 'Burt' E. Lamkin

A leader who, with a smile, created other leaders.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Reston pioneer, humanitarian, and entrepreneur Burton "Burt" Emmanuel Lamkin died June 24, at the age of 86. He and his wife Kathryn moved to Reston in 1966 based solely on Robert Simon's 1964 commitment to an "open community." To the best of the couple's knowledge, they "were the thirteenth African American family to move to the developing town," according to Reston writer Rev. LaVerne McCain Gill, in her book, Reston's African American Legacy, Volume One. Two years later, Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Still, the landmark 1968 "Fair Housing Act" meant as a follow-up to the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was a congressional pipe dream away. Segregated housing existed in the District of Columbia and surrounding suburbs, including Reston and Herndon.

Burt lived to see that dream and others come true. He made his mark locally and internationally. "Burt Lamkin was the finest of gentlemen—a man of deep consciousness and courage, whose humanitarian response to both his neighbor and the sojourner were compassionate as well as just," said Rev. Dr. Marcus Leathers, Pastor at United Christian Parish in Reston. "As his ability to remember names, faces, and events eluded him, his capacity to love and empathize with his fellow sisters and brothers didn't fade."

Burt graduated with a bachelor's degree in Chemistry from Denver University and a master's in Library Sciences. As a published author, he served as a part-time professor for graduate courses at the University of Maryland. He lived lifelong learning. Burt's interests spanned topics, and his productivity required four secretaries, according to the Celebration of His Life and Legacy [1934-2021] held July 20, 2021, in Los Angeles, Calif.

As Burt's health began failing a few years ago, he and Kathryn relocated to California to be near family. Burt is survived by his wife of 61 years, Kathryn "Kathy" (Stephens) Lamkin, adult children: Burton Eugene, Stephen James, Staci Lamkin Boggeri, sister Joyce Lamkin, and loved ones.

BURT MADE HIS MARK, creating collaborative opportunities for the greater good in his professional and service careers. Highlights include Associate Commissioner, Bureau of Libraries and Education Technologies [the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Office of Education under President Nixon], Mr. Roger's Neighborhood & Sesame Street [U.S. Department of Education], U.S. Agency for International Development (US-AID), and Rotary International: Rotary Club of Herndon.

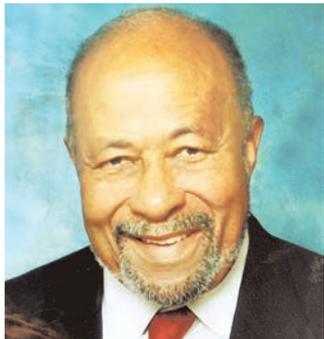


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Burton "Burt" E. Lamkin

According to Sarah Duckworth, 2002-03 Governor, Rotary District 7610, when Burt became the District Governor of Rotary District 7610 in 2006, his life mirrored the Rotary International Presidential Theme of "Lead the Way." "His enthusiastic commitment to Rotary and The Rotary Foundation was exemplified in every position he held, from club president to district governor - receiving awards and recognitions all along the way - including Rotarian of the Year...

Learning of Burt's death, fellow Rotarians recalled his contributions as a leader, always "giving service above self," with his gentle disposition, and not leading followers but creating leaders.

According to Rotarian Jim Vollmer, Burt implemented a significant grant request of the Herndon Rotary Club called Project Lucy in South Africa. It proved to be the first considerable grant Herndon Rotary Club implemented through The Rotary International Foundation funding. "It was a project that a local town chieftain coordinated because he had a disabled family member who needed assistance and other disabled children and young adults who needed support. The Herndon Rotary Club, thanks to Burt's lead, provided funds to install a large bathing and bathroom facility to support the living quarters."

In addition, Vollmer said that Burt's efforts helped secure Rotary grants to support United Christian Parish's [UCP] partners. Together, they supported purchasing land and building a church, community medical clinic, and an elementary school in Bathsinda, Rwanda.

ROTARIAN Pat Williams, a past president of Herndon Rotary Club and Assistant Governor, called Burt "The Great Encourager." She said that Lamkin stimulated the growth of the Club as well as the growth and promotion of individual Herndon Rotary members. Burt presented an affable manner when leading people toward growth. Tenacity spiked with genuine kindness. "Burt probably asked me two dozen times to consider applying for the job of District Governor," she said. "He did it gently, with his warm twinkly smile.

"Burt will be forever in my heart and the cherished memory of all of us," said Williams.

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Bedridden in Burtonsville



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

It all started innocently enough: on Crystal Beach in Galveston Texas while enjoying a family vacation. Due to 11 years of chemotherapy, I have neuropathy in both feet. As a result, I never walk barefoot, especially on a beach, unless of course, I go into the water. Which on the Saturday before last I did. When I returned to my beach chair, with my feet all sandy and wet, I elected not to put my sneakers and socks on for the 50-yard walk back to our accommodations. Oh (literally), how I wish I had.

Not 10 feet from the end of the beach was a narrow strip of road (tar, concrete, I can't remember) which we had to cross to reach the grassy margins which would then take us to our house. No sooner had I stepped left, right, left, that I felt like a buffalo which had been shot on the Great Plains, as I immediately collapsed onto a neighbor's yard swearing in pain as I landed; as the heat of the pavement seared through the bottom of both feet. As I sat on the grass with my heels clenched and my toes pointing skyward, I thought, "I'm not going to be able to walk the 25 yards to our house." Somehow, within a few minutes, I summoned up the strength to stand and somehow I managed to hobble my way home. (I'll spare you the details of the excruciating pain I endured walking up the 20+ wooden steps to get inside our house.)

The following day, I remained inside with my feet off the floor and my socks on angling for some kind of relief. The only times I had to move (to visit the bathroom) were sheer torture. Later that day, I relented and let my wife, Dina, look at my feet. She removed my bloody socks and recoiled in horror. To say it wasn't a pretty sight isn't really stating the obvious. It's stating that I was oblivious. I suffered through the rest of the night, taking only Extra Strength Tylenol for pain. It didn't really work. The next day we drove to Urgent Care.

I was seen within 15 minutes of my arrival. The physician's assistant on call removed my socks and assessed the damage. He said I had second degree burns on the soles of both feet. He prescribed an antibiotic pill, a pain pill and some medicinal cream. The cream was to be smeared on a non-adhesive bandage which then was to be placed on the affected areas and wrapped with a self-sticking, ace-type bandage which was to be changed twice a day. I was given my prescriptions and a set of crutches. Soon I was out the door - via a wheelchair, and then Dina drove us across the street to a pharmacy where we picked up our goodies. Finally, we had a treatment plan and relief was in sight. Oh (literally) how I wish it were so.

The next day was our last day of vacation. Of course I was no use to anybody as the house was cleaned and everyone packed their stuff as the cars were loaded with luggage (and back down those same 25 wooded steps). It was nearly three hours later (after a two-hour car ride) with Dina driving (don't tell the car rental place) as I squirmed in pain, until we arrived at our airport gate with yours truly getting wheelchair assistance.

Circumventing lines to drop off baggage and pass through security, with haste and super efficiency, we eventually were deposited at Gate A17 in plenty of time to make our departure. Unfortunately, the pain had not really subsided. In my mind I knew I was going to Urgent Care later that night after we arrived home in Maryland. These painkillers couldn't kill a fly let alone the pain from a second degree burn. (We were seen that night at a local Urgent Care around 11 pm. They confirmed the diagnosis, but they prescribed a more serious painkiller: percocet. Which so far hasn't stopped the pain. Duller it, maybe?)

Back at the gate, while we waited to board, a woman came over to sit next to where I had stretched out across two seats to minimize the pain. Dina explained to her the reason why I had my legs outstretched was because I was injured. She smiled and said: "Would you mind if I...? Stay tuned to this space for "Still Bedridden in Burtonsville" publishing Wednesday, August 4th.

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

Community Garden Sows Skills to Improve Mental and Physical Health

Pathway Homes, Inc. holds ribbon-cutting for the project.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

In 2020, nonprofit Pathway Homes, Inc. provided non-time-limited housing and supportive services to 616 adults in Northern Virginia with serious mental illnesses (SMI) and co-occurring disorders, some of whom experienced homelessness in 2020. The 40-year-old behavioral healthcare agency is built on the foundation of housing, having grown to a network of 476 permanent, supportive housing units, including apartments, condos, townhouses, single families, and more places people call home.

On Thursday, July 22, Pathway Homes, Inc. unveiled their first urban community planter garden located in the backyard of one of their single-family homes in Fairfax County. It consisted of six elevated garden planters on wheels, a potting table, a storage bench, and two Adirondack chairs. The individuals who reside at the home are Pathway's trailblazers. They are the first residents afforded gardens as an additional tool to recover and realize their full potential.

"We believe that housing is a right, not a privilege and that people with mental health issues can and do recover," said Sylisa Lambert-Woodard, President and CEO, Pathway Homes, during her opening remarks at the official ribbon-cutting for the garden. Supervisor Kathy Smith (D-Sully District) attended the event, as did Chairman McKay (D-Member-at-Large), Del. Karrie Delaney (D-67), Chair of Pathways' volunteer board of Directors Patrick Chaing, local civic and business leaders, and a cadre of volunteers.

In a statement provided before the event, James Settle, an individual Pathway Homes serves, said, "I would like to grow spices. I really like to cook, and nothing would be better than fresh spices...Gardening is something that can keep my mind occupied." In 2020, Pathway Homes touched a reported 1,486 lives. Pathways' housing inventory cited 368 units leased, 108 owned, and 616 residents, according to their Annual Report 2020.

Lambert-Woodard said there is an intersection between mental health and physical health. "A healthy mind and body...[are] essential and fundamental, in creating the coping skills and the management skills necessary to move through recovery." Mental health conditions often precede chronic health conditions, which can exacerbate mental health, creating a vicious cycle. "What we're looking to do is to be able to plant a seed at that intersection of that cycle by planting gardens in our backyards," Lambert-Woodard said.

GARDENING provides much-needed opportunities for growth. It provides an avenue for socialization, and yet it is a meditative activity. Residents can interface with nature and find something meaningful in their daily lives. The second piece or goal regarding the addition of gardens is their ability to increase residents' learning about nutrition-related mental health, often overlooked, according to Lambert-Woodard. Healthy



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

(From left) Supervisor Kathy Smith, (D-Sully District), Del. Karrie Delaney (D-67), Jeffrey McKay, Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Sylisa Lambert-Woodard, President and CEO Pathway Homes, Patrick Chaing, Chairman Pathway Homes, and Sharon McHale, board member Pathway Homes.

food choices can improve diets, manage weight better, decrease medications and make people feel better daily.

A third goal of the gardens is the opportunity for client employment." We're hoping that individuals that we have the privilege and pleasure of serving will embark upon creating social enterprises, interface with farmers markets, engage and develop their harvests and share with family and friends and neighbors," Sylisa Lambert-Woodard said.

LAMBERT-WOODWARD acknowledged the gardens held big goals, and it took a village to implement the gardens. She thanked those who assembled the six waist-high wood planters on wheels, a boom for residents with flexibility issues or using wheelchairs, and the volunteers who rallied to prep the garden space for the residents.

Before introducing the elected officials and Pathways' board chair, Lambert-Woodard paraphrased an iconic comment by Audrey Hepburn: "To plant a garden is to believe in the future [tomorrow]." Standing on that metaphor, Lambert-Woodard said, "We want to plant a seed today for recovery tomorrow."

According to Lambert-Woodard, Pathway Homes provides affordable housing and support services to individuals 30 percent below AMI, with them paying 30 percent of their income. The Pathways' Annual Report 2020 cites cost of services per person, per day at \$35 for housing and support services compared to a night in jail at \$86, medical in-patient day \$850 to \$1,100, and psychiatric hospital stay \$2,000 to \$4,000.



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Company**



NEXTSTOP THEATRE
**Jacob Yeh will star
in NextStop's pro-
duction "An Act of
God."**

'An Act of God' Opens NextStop Theatre's Fall Season

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

To bring sharp, rolling laughter to in-person audiences, comedy opens the new season at NextStop with "An Act of God." "I am so unbelievably excited about sharing the joy of live theatre with our community again," said Evan Hoffmann, Producing Artistic Director, NextStop Theatre.

"It has been an unbelievably trying time for all of us," added Hoffman. "So we thought it was only fitting to make our return with a collection of shows that are all about celebrating our ability to face uncertainty with grace, to overcome adversity with conviction, and above all else, our capacity to persevere with compassion and perhaps some humor!"

"An Act of God" is written by 13-time Emmy Award winner David Javerbaum ("The Daily Show with Jon Stewart"). Its premise is that God, along with two "wingmen," try to deal with pressing issues that have been confounded humanity, including the question "what is going on?"

The comedy is directed by Helen Hayes Award winner Tuyen Thi Pham, making her NextStop directing debut. Local audience favorite, Jacob Yeh (NextStop's "Pride and Prejudice" and "East of Eden") stars in a very singular role. His char-

acter has so much to try to explain to humankind. How will they respond?

NextStop also announced a three-show Fall 2021 lineup of jubilant productions. Following "An Act of God," NextStop will produce an outdoor community action adventure; "Ken Ludwig's Sherwood: The Adventures of Robin Hood." There will be a very special location for this NextStop production staged in the parking lot of the Northwest Federal Credit Union Headquarters in Herndon. The playwright, Ken Ludwig is known for his huge array of witty works. Six of his comedies have been produced on Broadway. Megan Behm will direct the clever comedy. Production dates are Sept. 10-19, 2021. NextStop will then produce a musical comedy spoof that takes as its target all things disco and classic disaster films. It is titled "Disaster!" by Seth Rudetsky and Jack Plotnick. The full-speed sendup will be directed by Evan Hoffmann with choreography by Ashleigh King and Music Direction by Elisa Rosman.

"We are thrilled to finally be able to welcome patrons back into our theater," said Vicki Kile, President, NextStop Theatre Company. "Evan has put together a Fall season that is sure to entertain, inspire, and delight all those who, like us, are so ready to escape back into the magical world of theater!"

Where and When

NextStop Theatre presents "An Act of God" at 269 Sunset Park Dr. Herndon. Production runs Aug. 12 to Sept. 5, 2021. Performances: Thursdays, Aug. 12 and Sept. 3 at 8 p.m., Fridays at 8 p.m. Saturdays, Aug. 14 and 21 at 8 p.m., Aug. 28, and Sept. 4 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., Sundays, Aug. 15 and Sept. 5 at 2 p.m., Aug. 22 and 29 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets: \$35. General Admission. Call 703-481-5930 or visit www.nextstoptheatre.org. Three show fall season packages information available at www.nextstoptheatre.org. An announcement about NextStop's spring 2022 season is expected later this fall.

Note: NextStop Theatre is accessible to persons with disabilities. Wheelchair accessible seating may be purchased online or by calling the box office.