

Great Falls CONNECTION

"My son loves trucks, especially fire trucks and engines. It's important my son sees firefighters as real people," said mom, at the Great Falls Volunteer Fire Department Open House.

Plan Your Escape

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NAACP Award for Parks

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New Director for Grange Foundation

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PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION
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Halloween at The Perch takes place on Saturday, Oct. 29 in Tysons Corner.

NOW THRU NOV 5
Workhouse Haunt: Nightmare Harvest. At Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. This year's Haunt, titled "Nightmare Harvest," will run on weekends from Saturday, Oct. 1 through Saturday, Nov. 5. Friday and Saturday hours are 7-11 p.m. and Sunday hours are 7-10 p.m. The Haunt will also perform on Halloween night, Monday, Oct. 31, from 7-9 p.m. Each Friday and Saturday night from Oct. 7 through Oct. 29, live bands will perform in the Rizer Pavilion near the Haunt Bar, where guests can purchase snacks and beverages. Tickets are now available for purchase and prices start at \$30 per person. Visit www.workhousearts.org for schedule and event details.

FRIDAY/OCT. 28
Synetic Theater's Vampire Ball 2022. At 1800 S. Bell Street, Arlington. Synetic Theater's Vampire Ball is DC's hottest Halloween party with everything you need for a spooktacular night. There will be Dracula themed cocktails, dancing, physical theater, spooky Georgian remixes, fun-sized candy bars, and more. The festivities start with a performance of Dracula followed by an indoor/outdoor dance party with all the food and drinks that a ghoul could ask for. Gather all your Basic Witches for a party to wake the dead! Costumes encouraged!

Walker Nature Center Halloween House and Trick-or-Treat Trail. Advance online sales only for this sell out spectacular. Go to <https://bit.ly/2Oj1l6j>. Event Times: Fri. Oct. 26, 6 p.m. & 7:30 p.m., Sat. Oct. 27, 6 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.. For ages 3 - Adult. Reston Association

SATURDAY/OCT 29
Haunted Mini Golf. 5-7 p.m. At Oak Marr Rec Center, 3200 Jermantown Road, Oakton. Come in your favorite costume to Oak Marr Rec Center and play some Haunted Mini Golf. There will be spooky treats, face painting, Halloween games and food trucks with delicious offerings. Call 703-281-6501.

SATURDAY/OCT. 29
Halloween at The Perch. 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. At Capital One Center in Tysons. Capital One Center is hosting a big Halloween costume party at The Perch – a 2.5 acre sky high gathering place adjacent to Capital One's headquarters in Tysons. Guests are encouraged to bring their furry besties and participate in dog and human costume contests at Starr Hill Biergarten and meet Lucky Dog Animal Rescue's adoptable pups in costumes. Family activities will be held from 12 p.m.-6 p.m. (everything from spooky golf at Perch Putt to face painting, pumpkin painting, inflatable bounce houses, live music, Wegmans-sponsored pumpkin pie eating contests, Halloween arts and crafts and more!). Once the sun sets the ghostly vibes and spooky characters come out! College gameday watch parties and Hocus Pocus will be featured on the big screen, along with a bocce tournament hosted by DC Bocce and a pop-up box office hosted by Capital One Hall. Visit <https://www.capitalonecenter.com/events/halloween-at-the-perch>

HALLOWEEN OCT. 31
Great Falls Halloween Spooktacular 4 pm - 4:45pm, Pet Parade; 5:00pm - 7 pm Trick-or-Treating, Great Falls Village Centre

SoberRide for Halloween

A local nonprofit organization will make free safe rides available to would-be drunk drivers throughout the Washington-metropolitan area during this Halloween weekend.

Offered by the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) the, 2022 Halloween SoberRide program will be in operation from 4 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 29 through 4 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 30 as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk period.

During this twelve-hour period, area residents age 21 and older celebrating with alcohol may download the Lyft app to their phones, then enter the SoberRide code in the app's "Payment" tab (under the "Add Lyft Pass" option) to receive their no-cost (up to \$15) safe transportation home. WRAP's 2022 Halloween SoberRide promo code will be posted at 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 29 on www.SoberRide.com.

"Halloween is of particular concern for younger drivers as 2020 NHTSA data shows that 68-percent of drunk driving deaths on U.S. roadways during the fall holiday involve drivers ages 21 to 34."

During the 2021 Halloween period, 700 (777) persons in the Washington-metropolitan area used WRAP's SoberRide program rather than possibly driving home impaired. The charity also offers its SoberRide program on St. Patrick's Day, Cinco de Mayo, Independence Day and the winter holidays. Since 1991, WRAP's SoberRide program has provided 82,735 free safe rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area.

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Getting a chance to use a real fire hose.



This youngster is taking the experience at the Great Falls Fire Department open house very seriously.

Great Falls Volunteer Fire Department Gets Top 'Friendly' Award

On Saturday, Oct. 15, every fire station in Fairfax County held an Open House, welcoming community families into the stations. Each fire battalion sponsors a friendly competition among the stations to determine the best open house, and the Great Falls Volunteer Fire Department received the award for the 1st battalion.

This year's Fire Prevention Week theme was "Fire Won't Wait. Plan Your Escape." The GFVFD discussed fire safety with their guests through several interactive activities. Kids were able to "extinguish" their body flames in a fun Stop, Drop, and Roll mat activity and were also able to hold and spray a real fire hose to "knock out" the fire in a display house. A new county initiative called Community Connect was explained to the adult attendees. This program allows residents to securely share as much or as little information with emergency responders regarding their residence, family members (including helpful information about someone who might have special needs), and location of family pets, in addition to other information that could be important for responders



Leslie Smith, Volunteer EMT and Chair of the best Open House

during a fire or other emergency.

Free on-site blood pressure screenings were performed. And Volunteer EMTs provided instruction on two-step CPR to many enthusiastic attendees, who were surprised at the simplicity of the new American Heart Association hands-only version of CPR for bystanders. Kids loved the quiet table where they solved fire escape puzzles, read board books about fire trucks and ambulances, colored in take-home fire prevention booklets, and received fire-related temporary tattoos.



Friendly EMTs assisted children into the ambulance for a tour and to calm any fears about future possible real-life rides in the vehicle. The biggest hit might have been "Sparky the Fire Dog" who walked around handing out treats from an old-fashioned fire bucket and posing for countless family photos.

Leslie Smith, who is a volunteer EMT and chair of the Great Falls Volunteer Fire

Department's Open House, said the goals of their event were to welcome neighbors into their hometown fire station and provide important fire safety and emergency medical information in a non-intimidating way. She hopes residents will feel free to reach out to the department if they have questions or want more information about fire safety or health measures they can take to protect themselves.

FCFRD Supports National Fire Safety Campaign

Open houses held at local stations.

MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

In a fire, seconds can be the difference between a successful escape and a tragic outcome. With modern combustibles and synthetics, fires burn faster than ever, and people may have less than two

minutes to escape or, if necessary, seek shelter in place.

On Saturday, Oct. 15, the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department celebrated the 100th anniversary of Fire Prevention Week alongside the National Fire Protection Association. The 2022 campaign, "Fire Won't Wait. Plan

Your Escape," aims to educate everyone. This meant teaching not only children but caretakers, older adults, and those with disabilities about fire and the steps they can take to protect themselves and others, whether in their homes, workplaces, businesses, or public spaces.

SEE OPEN HOUSES, PAGE 5



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Young guests familiarize themselves with the ambulance and the wheeled stretcher with variable heights.



Paul Gilbert, Executive Director of NOVA Parks, was honored with NAACP's Freedom Fund Community Award, announced Oct. 4.



Fairfax NAACP President Karen Campblin and NOVA Parks Executive Director Paul Gilbert mark new signage telling the story of how Jim Crow laws impacted people riding trains in Virginia.

NAACP Recognizes NOVA Park's Paul Gilbert

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax County Branch of the NAACP has acknowledged the work of NOVA Parks Executive Director Paul Gilbert with a Freedom Fund Community Advocate Award. The Award recognizes community members working for racial equality. NOVA Parks partnered with the Fairfax County NAACP to help tell the stories of the Black community's contributions to Northern Virginia.

"Fairfax NAACP has enjoyed a strong partnership with NOVA Parks. We owe that to Paul Gilbert," said Reverend Lynda Alicudo, Chair of the Religious and Community Coordination Committee for the NAACP Fairfax County Branch. "Paul has been tireless in his commitment to a vision that includes programming that engages our community, the African American community, and tells a more inclusive history."

The award is the result of an on-going NAACP/NOVA Parks partnership, focused on telling a more inclusive history of Northern Virginia. Under Gilbert's leader-

ship, NOVA Parks unveiled nine interpretive signs that focus on a diverse history, and adopted 'Belonging' as one of the five main priority pillars of its 2023-2027 Strategic Plan.

"What we sometimes call 'Black history' is really our history. It is the history of our region and our nation," Gilbert said about the award. "Understanding our past is important because we all get to collectively write the next chapter, and we can make choices about what that future will be. Public lands like NOVA Parks belong to everyone."

"It is important for the history we tell to reflect the entire community," Gilbert said. "The award from the NAACP is a great indication that we are on the right track. It has been a real pleasure to work with the NAACP to deliver these and other stories."

The stories told on the newly placed signs highlight a painful, at times inspiring past. The signs dedicated in February, in Arlington, Fairfax, and Loudoun counties, tell the story of Jim Crow era laws which discriminated against people of color who rode the Washington & Old Dominion railroad in the first half of the 20th century. Also, in Febru-

ary, NOVA Parks dedicated a site at Bull Run Marina in the Clifton area that had been a graveyard for enslaved people.

In June, the Fairfax County Branch of NAACP and NOVA Parks partnered to host the first annual Juneteenth event at Bull Run Regional Park in Centreville. Bull Run Regional Park is on land once part of the 18th century Leo Plantation, owned by Robert Carter III. After a religious experience, Carter built a church that was open to both Black and white residents of the area. He later emancipated over 500 enslaved people and allowed them to own land. Carter's actions resulted in a thriving freedmen's community at Bull Run 70 years before the Civil War and Emancipation Proclamation. A descendant of one of those freed, Alfred Harris, earned his law degree from Howard University, shortly after the Civil War. He went on to serve on the Alexandria City Council; and later moved to Petersburg where he became a State Delegate. Delegate Harris championed the bill that created the first University open to people of color in Virginia.

These and other related stories on display for visitors at Bull Run Regional Park were

researched by NOVA Parks historian, Paul McCray, a Parks employee with 40 years of service. Through McCray's work on the interpretive signs, visitors can follow a trail that leads to the site of the former Bull Run Baptist Church, which was created by Carter, and its cemetery. NOVA Parks has discovered over 90, mostly unmarked, graves in this area using ground penetrating radar. During the Juneteenth event and the unveiling of these newly discovered stories, the accomplishments of Del. Alfred Harris were celebrated with resolutions from the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, City of Alexandria City Council, and Virginia House of Delegates.

The result of the NAACP/NOVA Parks' partnership has been increased public awareness of the contributions of people of color to area history, and a focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion in park programs, to engage the various cultures and communities that make up Northern Virginia and create a sense of belonging for all.

Visit novaparks.com/News for more information about Northern Virginia's inclusive history being shared in parks.

BULLETIN BOARD

FREE HALLOWEEN WEEKEND LYFT RIDES

Free safe rides will be offered to would-be drunk drivers throughout the Washington-metropolitan area during this Halloween weekend. Offered by the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) the, 2022 Halloween SoberRide program will be in operation from 4 p.m. on Saturday,

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before the event.

October 29th and operate until 4 a.m. on Sunday, October 30th as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk period. During this 12-hour period, area residents age 21 and older celebrating with alcohol may download the Lyft app to their phones, then enter the SoberRide code in the app's "Payment" tab (under the "Add

Lyft Pass" option) to receive their no-cost (up to \$15) safe transportation home. WRAP's 2022 Halloween SoberRide promo code will be posted at 3 p.m. on Saturday, October 29 on www.SoberRide.com.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Parent Support Partners, a service of the Healthy Minds Fairfax

initiative, are all parents who have received training and are qualified to offer education, support and assistance at no cost to families or caregivers. They provide reliable information that families can use in decision-making and are familiar with services and resources that can help families in distress. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthy-mindsfairfax or [\[ernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html\]\(http://ernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html\).](http://www.nami-north-</p>
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The Shepherd's Center of Northern Virginia Caregivers' Support Group takes place the first and third Tuesdays of each month, 10-11:30 a.m. via Zoom. This group is for caregivers of family members with dementia. Meetings are gently facilitated. For more information and to get the Zoom link, contact Jack Tarr at jtarr5@verizon.net or 703-821-6838.



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Practicing with the fire hose

Open Houses Held at Local Stations

FROM PAGE 3

The county's thirty-nine fire stations and the City of Fairfax's two fire stations opened their doors to the community. Fairfax County Fire and Rescue is one of only three accredited agencies worldwide holding an ISO 1 rating and serving a population of over one million people. "We are focused on meeting the needs of our community," said Fire Chief John S. Butler in the online Chief's Message. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fire-ems/fcmessage>

Station #12, Great Falls Volunteer Fire Department

To achieve its responsibility, each station has different equipment based on factors such as its community's terrain, access to public water, types of roads, and building heights. According to Fire Chief Frank Smith, volunteer president and paramedic, the mission at Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Station #12 Great Falls Volunteer Fire Department is broader and slightly different than other stations.

"We don't have fire hydrants, so we have tankers. We take our www.connectionnewspapers.com

water to a fire, for example. We also spend a lot of time supporting the topography of the area. We have four-wheel-drive vehicles and brush trucks for fighting smaller fires, usually in off-road areas. Even our ambulances are four-wheel-drive," Smith said. He added that a snow plow is part of their equipment because they plow their way to patients on the back roads of Great Falls.

Because Great Falls is adjacent to Maryland's Potomac River, Station #12 often responds to areas of the river around Great Falls along with the Montgomery County, Maryland departments. Station #12 uses its boats to take people off the rocks or if they go down to a place where they cannot come back up. Along Mather Gorge, the water can look calm, tempting waders pulling them into currents below the surface.

"Yes; the river belongs to Maryland, but we work pretty well with them on being able to get down there. It's all about the person in the river, not who's got the territory," Smith said.

SEE OPEN HOUSES, PAGE 7



Public Notice

Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

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

Jurisdiction	Fed Struc Id	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Posted Date
GILES	8517	643	GRAY SULPHUR SPG/ 643	SULPHUR BRANCH	9/27/2022
POWHATAN	10136	684	BELL RD	STEGERS CREEK	9/26/2022
GILES	13259	626	CASTLE ROCK DR	DOE CREEK	9/26/2022
GILES	2918	623	RIVER RD/ 623	NEW RIVER/NS RWY	9/26/2022
GILES	10171	635	BIGSTONEY CR RD/ 635	WHITE ROCK BRANCH	9/22/2022
GILES	12345	623	CASCADE DR/ 623	LITTLE STONEY CREEK	9/22/2022
MONTGOMERY	13414	616	DOBBINS HOLLOW RD/ 616	BRUSH CREEK	9/22/2022
FALLS CHURCH	13413	0	SHERROW AVENUE	TRIPPS RUN	9/21/2022
SCOTT	13290	617	SHELLEYS RD	BRANCH	9/20/2022
ROANOKE	13269	864	OLD CATAWBA RD/864	MASON CREEK	9/19/2022
FALLS CHURCH	13283	0	S. OAK STREET	TRIPPS RUN	9/16/2022
ROANOKE	2782	637	BOTTOM CREEK LANE	LAUREL CREEK	9/16/2022
FRANKLIN	3455	757	SKILLET RD/ 757	STORY CREEK	9/15/2022
ROANOKE	13396	777	FTLEWIS CHURCH RD/ 777	STYPES BRANCH	9/15/2022
ROANOKE	13392	1662	MCVITTY RD/ 1662	MUDLICK CREEK	9/15/2022
BOTETOURT	13410	615	CRAIG CREEK RD/ 615	DUTCHMAN BRANCH	9/14/2022
CARROLL	14974	747	PINE GROVE RD/ 747	BRANCH SHORTS CREEK	9/14/2022
FRANKLIN	5503	623	FAIRSTONE PK RD/ 623	RYANS BRANCH	9/14/2022
FRANKLIN	5556	825	HILLOCK RD/ 825	RENNET BAG CREEK	9/14/2022
ROANOKE	10147	696	APPLE GROVE LANE/ 696	BACK CREEK	9/14/2022
BOTETOURT	10152	616	BLUE RDGE SPGS/ 616	BRANCH OF GLADE CREEK	9/13/2022
FRANKLIN	13278	919	GRASSY HILL RD/ 919	LITTLE CREEK	9/13/2022
FRANKLIN	13337	688	POTEET RD/ 688	GILLS CREEK	9/13/2022
BEDFORD	13317	695	GOOSE CK VLY R/ 695	N. FORK GOOSE CREEK	9/12/2022
BEDFORD	13336	639	HURRICANE DR/ 639	NORTH OTTER CREEK	9/12/2022
BEDFORD	13303	680	MURRELLS GAP RD	SHEEP CREEK	9/12/2022
BEDFORD	3387	680	PATTERSN MILL RD/ 680	LITTLE OTTER CREEK	9/12/2022
ROANOKE	12355	666	BANDY CREEK RD/ 666	BACK CREEK	9/12/2022
BOTETOURT	12304	606	GROVE HILL RD/ 606	CATAWBA CREEK	9/9/2022
FRANKLIN	18127	697	BRICK CHURCH RD/ 697	LITTLE CREEK	9/9/2022
BOTETOURT	18065	737	HOGAN HOLLOW RD/ 737	CATAWBA CREEK	9/6/2022
DINWIDDIE	14789	709	SHIPPINGS RD	BUCKSKIN CREEK	9/2/2022
BOTETOURT	14773	1324	PATTONSBURGLA/ 1324	PURGATORY CREEK	9/1/2022
BOTETOURT	14801	764	SPEC MINE RD	BRANCH OF BACK CREEK	9/1/2022

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

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

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

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

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Interview with Julie Maher, Great Falls Grange Foundation Director

Savvy business skills assist volunteer-turned-employee.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Longtime Great Falls resident Julie Maher attended one of the first meetings of the Great Falls Grange Foundation, Inc., held earlier this year in the historic Grange Hall No. 738. It is located at 9818 Georgetown Pike, adjacent to Forestville School.

"I had heard about the foundation, so I went to the meeting," Maher said. Recalling that night's presentations, Maher said she made a mental commitment to volunteer for the organization. Maher had no idea that she would transition from volunteer to foundation employee so quickly.

On Oct. 9, 1920, 102 years before Maher made the promise to herself, 29 residents of the village known as Forestville and renamed Great Falls in 1955, applied to join the National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry. The charter members committed to establishing Great Falls Grange #738.

They successfully bid and joined the Grange that promoted and protected agricultural and community interests on the local and national political stage. After eight years of meeting "in a small schoolhouse, likely the wood-frame schoolhouse ... Cornwell's sawmill... (and) meeting in the auditorium of the Forestville School," according to Northern Virginia History Notes, the Grange hall was completed in March 1929.

The 1 1/2 story Grange No. 738 served as the hub of community gatherings until membership declined. The shareholders lacked confidence in their ability to maintain the building adequately. The Fairfax County Park Authority purchased the Grange and the surrounding 7.8 acres in 1980, then closed the facility for two years for repairs leading up to reopening it for public use in 1982.

Maher said she later approached Jorge Adeler, president and principal officer of the foundation. She knew that the foundation's ultimate goal was to transform the Grange into a community center through a licensing agreement between the foundation and the county. Rental fees from performances, programs, and events could reduce community use fees for the venues while ensuring the



Grange No. 738 in Great Falls, VA.

Grange and Forestville School's operational sustainability.

The following interview has been lightly edited for clarity and space.

Q: In what capacity did you consider volunteering for the organization?

Maher: I asked Jorge Adeler, "Is there somebody in place to answer the phone and respond to website inquiries?" He came back to me and asked if that was something I was interested in doing.

Q: What do you consider to be your three most important responsibilities as the foundation's director?

Maher: First, I must move this project. Fundraising, also known as development, is required for this. I helped the foundation with its highly successful gala. Second is managing administrative functions, the website, and being available to respond to all inquiries. Moreover, we are trying to expand our social media presence. Third is implementing events as a project manager coordinator.

Q: How many hours does the position require weekly?

Maher: It is only a 15 hour per week position, and we are taking baby steps. But we are getting there. I believe that coordinating our efforts with Fairfax County within their parameters as landlords is a significant aspect of my job. Everything we do has to fall



Metal medallion hanging in the Great Falls Grange hall on the wall above the stage.

within historically accurate integrity. They have been wonderful.

Q: What do you consider to be some winter projects?

Maher: On Nov. 1, we will launch an additional fundraising campaign with a \$100,000 goal for specific projects. The exterior emergency generator for the Grange is one project. This is one of our most significant concerns about rental events, particularly weddings, in Great Falls, where power outages are frequent. The installation of HVAC in the school is another project. In addition to exterior and interior painting, the school requires carpentry and exterior painting. The renovation of the Grange's bathrooms is another project.

We are also planning winter programming, including afternoon teas at the school and a concert coordinated with Amadeus. The Saturday following Thanksgiving, we are planning a Cookies with Santa



Julie Maher is the new director of the Great Falls Grange Foundation.

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON / THE CONNECTION



The historic Forestville School in Great Falls, VA.

event.

Q: Why did you decide to accept the director position?

Maher: My interest lies in the buildings; these are the facilities I grew up with in Great Falls before I got married and moved away. Now that I am back, however, I recall the country store. It was our neighborhood center. I remember taking ballet classes there. I recall the Fireman's Fair. The structure is extremely important to me. It reminds me of how much fun it was growing up in Great Falls and being part of a farm community in the 1960s and 70s.

Q: What professional and volunteer skills do you bring to the position?

Maher: I bring a business background and the ability to develop concierge-style services to the po-

sition. I also have extensive volunteer experience in development, as evidenced by my work with local nonprofits.

Asked to describe Maher, Jorge Adeler said, "Intelligent, energetic, dedicated, and in love with Great Falls are some of the words that come to mind when I think of Julie. And thanks to her efforts and the board's commitment to the Grange, we have more than doubled the organizations that have joined the foundation board in the last four months."

The historic Grange hall and Forestville school, as well as the picnic pavilion, are accepting reservations. The Foundation is seeking volunteers to support a wide variety of service initiatives. CONTACT | Great Falls Grange Foundation <https://www.gfgrange.org/> contact to reach Maher.



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

A young student practices cardiopulmonary resuscitation on the training dummy.

Open Houses Held at Local Stations

FROM PAGE 5

Station #1 McLean Volunteer Fire Department

A short eight miles from Station #12 is the McLean Volunteer Fire Department Station #1. As part of the county's department, they invited the community to their Open House to tour the ambulance, meet firefighters, EMTs, and paramedics, and even spray a firehose. According to John Hootman, volunteer chief of the McLean Volunteer Fire Department, Station #1 has a Tower Ladder 401 with a bucket on top instead of a straight stick ladder truck because of the area it serves.

"There's a number of unique things around here (in McLean), especially if you go down the George Washington Parkway where we can do low-angle rescues," Hootman said. "Because we have the bucket out front, that gives us lots of options to safely rescue folks from cars that have gone off and other accidents."

According to Hootman, Station #1 is "in a nice middle ground." There are some mid-rise buildings, such as the Palladium, seven stories or less, as opposed to the high-rise buildings at Tysons. "We can use the bucket to do all sorts of different things, such as bringing patients off the roofs of buildings," said Hootman.

Hootman said that all ambulances in the county have stair chairs. They have belted treads that allow the operator to glide the patient down the stairs, relieving strain on the EMS personnel's backs. The

combination of tools enables a more efficient approach to assist community members. "All those tools come together and make it much more effective," Hootman said.

Hootman addressed high rise buildings, and said that very modern fire alarm systems, such as those installed in new buildings with more than six stories, will alert occupants to shelter in place or evacuate. National building codes require automated HVAC systems for more recent structures to either shut down or pressurize stairwells to keep smoke out, allowing people to evacuate via the stairs. In addition, alarm systems may activate on a subset of floors but not the entire structure. That is because if someone is below the fire, it may not be necessary to evacuate them first.

"You want to get the people from the most affected area out first. If you are well above it, that might not be as big of a problem because of the fire ratings of the stairwells and things like that. It behooves an individual in a high rise to understand where they are living and working," said Hootman.

"The theme for this year is to plan your escape. Know multiple ways out of your building, how your building works, and the expectations, especially in a work setting."

Fairfax County residents can get free battery-powered smoke alarms by contacting their local Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department (FRD) station, calling 703-246-3801, or emailing fire.smokealarms@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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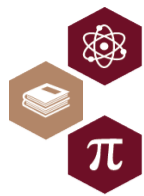
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CAPPIES REVIEW



PHOTO BY BLAKE TIPPENS

Katie Murchison, left and Brady Kastner

'The Man Who Came to Dinner' at Langley High

By MCKENZIE PHELAN
QUINCE ORCHARD HIGH SCHOOL

What do a Hollywood star, a Broadway composer, two penguins, and an Egyptian sarcophagus have in common? They all ended up at the Stanley household for Christmas in Langley High School's production of "The Man Who Came to Dinner."

"The Man Who Came to Dinner" was written by George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart, and opened on Broadway in 1939, with multiple revivals since in both New York and London. The farcical comedy follows Sheridan Whiteside, an obnoxious radio personality, as he spends a month as the guest of the Stanley family after slipping on a patch of ice outside the front door. The Stanleys, and the rest of their small Ohio town, must attempt to cope with "Sherry's" outrageous demands as the most wonderful time of the year quickly proves to be anything but.

The show's central figure was the man himself, Mr. Whiteside, played by Conor Farah. Farah kept the audience chuckling through all three acts with his deadpan delivery and excellent comic timing, developing a delightfully disagreeable character. Despite his use of a wheelchair for the majority of the play, Farah's performance incorporated plenty of movement, often to great comedic effect. His interactions with his secretary, Maggie Cutler (the brilliant Sarah Hilton), were laden with both sardonic wit and, towards the end of the play, genuine tenderness. Hilton was a star in her own right, balancing bitter cynicism with hopeless romance while never losing her sense of professionalism. Poised mannerisms and a consistent transatlantic accent further elevated Hilton's refined performance.

Also of note was Ethan Bhatia as

Bert Jefferson: a newspaper man, aspiring playwright, and Maggie's beau. Bhatia approached the role with earnestness and good-natured humor, bringing both sensibility and levity to his scenes.

And rounding out the guest list were Scarlett Spano and Brady Kastner as Lorraine Sheldon and Banjo, two larger-than-life Hollywood personalities whom Whiteside employs in his ridiculous schemes. Both Spano and Kastner displayed remarkable stage presence and were unafraid to make bold choices for their characters, infusing them with an uproarious sense of flamboyance and fun.

The show's comfortably cluttered set (designed by Killian Korchnak, Victoria Scarpatto, Mo Rees, and Talia-Rose Dioro) immediately transported audiences in the 1930s. Patterned wallpaper and a grand staircase added depth to the Stanley's front room, and pine trees visible just outside the windows were the perfect touch to create a fully immersive world onstage. The set's festive color scheme of reds, greens, and creams was also present in the show's costumes (created by Logan Dooley, Evey Burnette, Hannah Whalen, and Lorna Evans), which included authentic midcentury pieces.

Costume changes, as well as shifts in hair and makeup (Lily Bowers, Ashraya Suri, Jude Quol, and Anna Cox), were used throughout the show to reflect character development, such as Maggie's beginning to style her hair down as she falls in love with Bert.

Though most high schools may be daunted by the idea of putting on a three-act farce, Langley's theatre department rose to the challenge, and created a highly entertaining production. With devoted actors and a talented crew, "The Man Who Came to Dinner" is an unforgettable romp filled with plenty of Christmas cheer.

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A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held at The Residence at Colvin Run senior living community on Sept. 29, 2022. Participants in the ceremony, from left: Andrew Clark (Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce Chairman), John Foust (Board of Supervisors – Dranesville District Supervisor), Herman Diebler (Co-founder and Principal, Verity Commercial), Larry Rouvelas (IntegraCare Chief Executive Officer), Amy Grossman (Executive Operations Officer, The Residence at Colvin Run), Anne Hill (resident of The Residence at Colvin Run), Bill Canis (President of Great Falls Citizens Association).

Ribbon Cutting for Residence at Colvin Run

The state-of-the-art, 62-unit senior living community, The Residence at Colvin Run, is located at 1131 Walker Road in Great Falls. The facility celebrated its grand opening on Thursday, Sept. 29.

“Many of our prospective residents are moving to Great Falls to be closer to their families who reside

in the area,” Executive Operations Officer Amy Grossman said.

The 53,000-square-foot Residence at Colvin Run is situated on 3 acres in a rustic setting. More than 50 team members are expected to work at the senior living community.

Future of Aging

Attend Town Hall Meetings on SHAPE the Future of Aging – Oct. 31, Nov. 1, 4 and 10

Fairfax County, together with the cities of Fairfax and Falls Church, is collecting input to learn more about the aging experience in our area to plan for a more aging-friendly community. Input will be collected during town hall meetings to inform the SHAPE the Future of Aging Plan, a strategic plan for aging services. Town hall meetings will be held Oct. 31, Nov. 1, Nov. 4 and Nov. 10. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/topics/older-adult-survey>

Community Assessment Survey for Older Adults

Fairfax County, together with the cities of Fairfax and Falls Church, continues to collect input to learn more about the aging experience in our area to plan for a more aging-friendly community.

The Community Assessment Survey for Older Adults (CASOA) was sent to a scientifically random sample of adults ages 50 and older in early 2022.

SHAPE the Future of Aging Town Halls

The plan includes collecting additional input from the community. If you would like to attend an upcoming

town hall meeting, please register:

Monday, Oct. 31, 2022 - Register 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Reston Community Center - Rooms 1, 2, 3 & 4
2310 Colts Neck Road
Reston, VA 20191

Tuesday, Nov. 1, 2022 - Register 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Hybla Valley Community Center - Gymnasium
7950 Audubon Avenue
Alexandria, VA, 22306

Friday, Nov. 4, 2022 - Register 1:30 to 3 p.m.

Fairfax County Government Center - Room 120-C
12000 Government Center Pkwy
Fairfax, VA 22035

Thursday, Nov. 10, 2022 - Register 1:30 to 3 p.m.

Annandale Heritage Center – Rooms A & B
7611 Little River Turnpike
Annandale, VA 22003

Your input from the town hall meetings will be used to help inform the SHAPE the Future of Aging Plan, a strategic plan for aging services.

Don't Move Wood: Limit the spread of invasive pests

As the days turn cooler and shorter, many Virginians are using firewood to keep warm and spend quality time with friends and family.

While seemingly harmless, moving firewood can enable the easy movement of destructive forest and agricultural pests. When firewood is moved from one area to another, the invasive emerald ash borer, spongy moth, Asian longhorned beetle, and spotted lanternfly often “hitchhike” to destroy crops, infect more trees and sometimes even entire forests.

Since it's difficult to determine if firewood is infested, the best option to keep Virginia's forests and crops safe is to buy firewood where you plan to burn it. A general rule is to get firewood that's at least local to the county where it'll be used. If you heat your home with firewood, harvest it locally or purchase it from a reputable dealer in compliance with state and regional firewood regulations.

“Invasive insects and disease are a critical threat to our forests,” said Virginia State Forester Rob Farrell. “When you buy firewood near where you'll burn it, you help protect Virginia's forests while supporting local economies. Simple choices and a little planning can make a big difference in ensuring Virginians will have forests to enjoy for generations to come.”

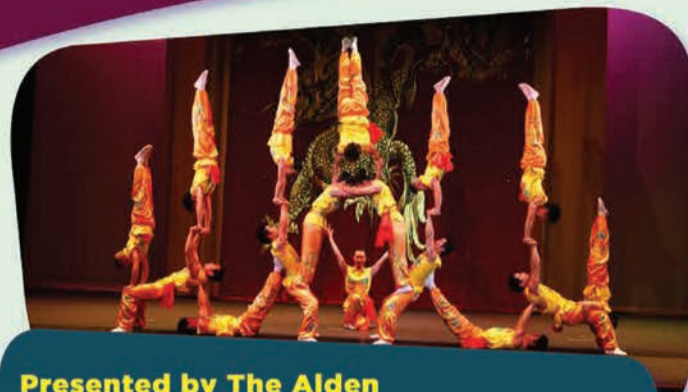
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“Invasive insects and diseases can lurk both inside and on the surface of firewood, so transporting firewood can allow potentially destructive and non-native organisms to move hundreds of miles and start infestations in new places,” said Joseph Guthrie, Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. “When traveling from one location to another, never transport firewood to your destination unless it is heat-treated and certified.”

Going camping? Make plans to buy firewood when you get there or gather it onsite (if permitted). If you have leftover firewood, leave it behind when you go. Packaged heat-treated (not kiln-dried) firewood, which will have a seal of certification from the U.S. Department of Agriculture or a state agency is also a safe option. Certified heat-treated firewood may be moved as long as it remains sealed. Once the packaging has been opened, it will attract insects and should not be moved.

To find local firewood dealers across Virginia, visit Firewoodscout.org. For more information on invasive insects in Virginia, visit the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services website. For more information about protecting trees from tree-killing insects, visit <https://www.dontmovefirewood.org>

Here's What's Happening at MCC!



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Sunday, Oct. 23, 2 p.m.

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OCT
23

MCC Governing Board
Wednesday, Oct. 26, 6:30 p.m.

All Governing Board meetings
are open to the public.

OCT
26

Performing Arts Documentary
Thursday, Oct. 27, 1 p.m.

Free admission

Learn a little about the performing
arts through these one-hour (or so)
documentaries.

OCT
27

Calling All Ghouls & Goblins!

OFC's Festival of Frights &
Trunk or Treat
Saturday, Oct. 29, 5-10 p.m.

Free admission.
Preregistration is required.

OCT
29

Old Firehouse Teacher Workday Trip

OFC Thrills & Chills Day
Monday, Oct. 31, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

\$60/\$50 MCC district residents

OCT
31



The McLean
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Fall Festival. At Reston Farm Garden Market, 10800 Baron Cameron Ave., Reston. The festival will run Friday, Saturday and Sundays September 24 to October 30 with five 90 minute online ticketed sessions. Fall Festival hours are Friday through Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m., 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., and 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. \$28 per child and \$7 per parent, children 2 and under free. For times and tickets visit <https://www.restonfarm.com/fall-fest>.

OCT. 1-30
"Modern Illuminations – Knowledge and Power" by Rosemarie Forsythe. Presented at Reston Art Gallery and Studios. Rosemarie Forsythe's intricately detailed paintings depicting symbols of knowledge, strength, hope and resilience will be presented in a featured exhibit, "Modern Illuminations – Knowledge and Power," at Reston Art Gallery and Studios (RAGS) from October 1 until October 30. Everyone is invited to meet Forsythe when she is at the gallery for the show's opening weekend, October 1 and 2.

OCT. 6-27
Sights and Sounds of Early Herndon. At Arts Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. The Herndon Historical Society, in collaboration with Arts Herndon, is pleased to announce a unique exhibition that will include many never seen before unique photos of the town of Herndon from the 1880-1930 time period. The exhibit will also include artifacts from Herndon's past. Exhibition visitors will experience a special view of early Herndon life, how our forefathers and families lived and worked. Visitors are invited to attend a free reception at Arts Herndon on October 14 at 6:30 p.m.

OCT. 21-23
Great Falls Studios Art Tour. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Great Falls Studios represents independent artists in Great Falls; including the 14 artists who rent studio space at The Arts of Great Falls two shared art studios: (1) The Artists' Atelier with 9 artists and (2) The Artists' Loft with 5 artists. This year marks the 19th Annual Great Falls Studios Art Tour from Friday October 21-Sunday October 23, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. each day. Visit <https://greatfalls-art.org/>

OCT. 21 - NOV. 13
"Frankenstein." At NextStop Theatre Company, 269 Sunset Park Dr., Herndon. By Nick Dear, adapted from the novel by Mary Shelley. Celebrate Halloween season with this thrilling stage adaptation of Mary Shelley's science fiction masterpiece. Enter the dark world of Victor Frankenstein, as he attempts to decipher the secret of life by creating a childlike, but grotesque shadow of a human. Recommended for mature audiences. Visit www.nextstoptheatre.org

OCT. 21-NOV 5
"Doubt: A Parable." 8 p.m. on Oct. 21, 22, 28, 29; Nov 4, 5; and 2 p.m.: Sundays: Oct 30, Nov 6. At Vienna Community Center: 120 Cherry S. SE, Vienna. "Doubt: A Parable," a play by John Patrick Shanley, analyzes an instance of doubt and



The Vienna Theatre Company will present "Doubt: A Parable" Oct. 21-Nov. 5 in Vienna.



The Peking Acrobats will appear at The Alden Theater in McLean on Sunday, Oct. 23.

suspicion in a Catholic school in the Bronx in the 1960s. The play tells the story of principal Sister Aloysius's suspicions about an inappropriate relationship between a priest and a young male student. Visit the website: www.viennatheatrecompany.org

SATURDAY/OCT 22

Food Drive for LINK Against Hunger. 10 a.m. to noon. At ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. Sponsored by the Herndon-Reston Rotary. Drive up and they will unload your car and take the items to the food pantry and shelter. Needed Items: Diapers in all sizes, especially size 6; Shelf Stable Food (canned soups, rice, legumes, pasta, pasta sauce, canned fruits and vegetables (except green beans); Shelf stable veggies and fruits such as apples, onions, potatoes, etc.; Sanitary napkins, disposable razors, shampoo, deodorant, soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes, toilet paper, cleaning products. Cash and gifts cards (Giant, Target) always accepted.

SATURDAY/OCT. 22

Harvest Time. 12-3 p.m. At Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Spend a day in the 1800s and explore how local crops were turned into food. Once the farmers harvested their crops, they sold their grain to the miller. Run the sheller and help remove the corn from the cobs. Then, watch as the 20-foot water wheel powers the historic Colvin Run Mill, grinding corn into grits and cornmeal. See the Colvin Run still and learn

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how corn was also made into whiskey. Call 703-759-2771.

SUNDAY/OCT. 23

The Peking Acrobats. 2 p.m. At The Alden at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. For the last 32 years, The Peking Acrobats have redefined audience perceptions of Chinese acrobatics. They perform daring maneuvers atop a precarious pagoda of chairs and display their technical prowess at such arts as trick-cycling, precision tumbling, juggling, somersaulting and gymnastics. They push the limits of human ability, defying gravity with amazing displays of contortion, flexibility and control.

SATURDAY MORNINGS

Summer Programming for Kids. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. At Reston Museum, 1639 Washington Plaza, Reston. Reston Museum is launching new summer programming for kids! Visit the Reston Museum to participate in fun and creative activities inspired by Reston's history. Program is free and everyone will receive an Explore Reston packet.

NOW THRU DEC. 31

Crafts for Kids. 10 a.m. to 12 noon. At Reston Art Gallery and Studios, 11400 Washington Plaza W at Lake Anne, Reston. Free, themed art projects for children (with guardian) are offered at Reston Art Gallery and Studios every Saturday from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. Visit the website: www.restonartgallery.com

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CENTRE VIEW

Thank you to the hundreds of supporters who helped 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.

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Twinkle Lourie. A Sad Tail.



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

May she rest in peace. Our 10-year-old, white domestic short haired cat was euthanized on Thurs., Sept 29. A month or so prior, after not eating for a few days, we took her to the emergency veterinarian near our home. (As you may or may not know, it's nearly impossible to get a time-sensitive appointment with a veterinarian. They're all either too busy or short-staffed and moreover, many are not even taking new clients. And this often applies to the emergency veterinarians as well.) And so, it was for Twinkle. Fortunately, we were existing clients. Otherwise, we would have been turned away, as the sign posted on their day informed, referring us to other emergency veterinary practices, all of which were hours away and who were totally unfamiliar to us and with our animals. Twinkle was admitted that first day and the evaluating process began. A few days and a few thousand dollars later, we received the very distressing news: cancer. Twinkle had a tumor near her heart. Her prognosis was not very encouraging.

Nevertheless, we took her home and for the next week or so and followed the pill regimen as directed. For a few days, there was marginal improvement, but soon thereafter, Twinkle reverted to her non-eating ways, even though she was on an appetite stimulant and was receiving steroids as well to treat her tumor. (Steroids have a side effect of increasing appetite.) If this combination didn't cause Twinkle to improve/eat, we were advised that Twinkle's survival was very much in doubt and perhaps we might be considering her quality of life at that point. We couldn't believe what we were hearing. It all happened so fast, and so unexpectedly. The three of us returned home and then began to organize and plan for Twinkle's next week – or less.

After another few days of Twinkle's continued decline at home despite following doctor's orders – and then another interim visit to the emergency vet. for a B-12 shot (to try again to boost her responses which ended up not helping), we decided that this situation/deterioration wasn't fair to Twinkle and so we made the difficult decision to end her suffering. I spent the last few hours of her life lying in bed with her reassuring and comforting her as best I could. Eventually, Dina came upstairs and suggested that it was probably time to go; that the waiting was too difficult, and that somehow, we needed to move forward, for all our benefits, especially Twinkle's.

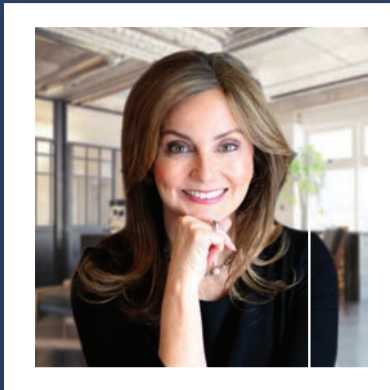
We called ahead to the emergency veterinarian to let them know our decision and that we were on our way and that we lived five minutes away. Sure enough, they were ready for our arrival and quickly escorted all of us into an examining room. The vet. was kind and caring and couldn't have been nicer as she explained the process to us. Dina and I both held Twinkle as the vet injected the two medicines that would gently put her to sleep and ultimately end her life. When it was over, the vet. asked if we'd like some time alone with Twinkle, which of course we said we would. After we got our bearings and the vet. returned, she took Twinkle away to "prepare" her. At that point, we went back out to the waiting room, sat down, and waited to take Twinkle home.

Within 15 minutes or so, the vet. came out carrying a cardboard box – with Twinkle inside. It had her name on it and some pretty artwork as well. We took her home and kept her in the house that first night. We didn't want to leave her alone outside or in the car. We wanted her to spend her last night in the house with us. During that night, we decided when and where to bury her.

Twinkle was buried the next day on our property, "Beliacres" next to her two older siblings, Biscuit and "Chino" who preceded her in death. They're all buried close to the house so we can visit them often, which we do. Their graves are marked with stones. I miss Twinkle terribly. She had bonded with me alone as white cats do, according to an article Dina had read; and soon we were inseparable; during the day in my home office and at night, in bed. She was my cat, just as "Chino" (her brother) had been.

The last three weeks have been difficult for me. I feel cheated by her premature death. The loss is palpable. Something (Twinkle) is most definitely missing from my life.

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



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