

McLean Project
For the Arts
Opens Exhibits

PAGE 4

Coats, Food
Needed Locally

PAGE 3

The Children's
Art Walk Exhibit
is on display
at MPA's Arts
Ramp Gallery.

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COUNTY ROUNDUP

Highlights of County Government Actions in a 3-Minute Read

Week of October 11-18, 2022

FY 2022 Carryover Package
Following a public hearing at the Oct. 11 meeting of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, the board approved staff recommendations in the \$199.6 million FY 2022 Carryover Package by a 9-1 vote. It reappropriates unencumbered obligations, commitments, unexpended capital projects, and grant balances. It included funding for one-time items not included in the Adopted budget. The review recommended allocations of \$190.05 million, excluding federal stimulus funds carried forward. It left the board with a discretionary balance of \$9.56 million to consider. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget/sites/budget/files/assets/documents/fy2022/carryover/fy-2022-carryover-package.pdf>

Here are the two approved uses of the \$9.56 million carryover funds.

❖ Restrooms at FCPS School Stadiums: \$7.5 million to support the construction of permanent restrooms at the 15 FCPS high school outdoor stadiums. The county estimates that costs per site will range from \$800,000



PHOTO VIA FAIRFAX COUNTY

Rendering of SOMOS in McLean

to \$1.2 million. Construction is a matter of equity, and there is an economic incentive. Permanent restrooms will attract more athletic competitions, thereby increasing tourism revenue. The \$7.5 million carryover funds and the School Board's agreed contribution of 50 percent of the required funds provide \$15 million for the project.

❖ \$2.058 million for Employment Incentives Funding: The board approved the additional funding to support establishing a comprehensive hiring incentive program for difficult-to-fill positions. This fund-

SEE COUNTY ROUNDUP, PAGE 5

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NEWS

SHARE of McLean Seeks Coats, Food, Gift Card Donations

SHARE of McLean is an all-volunteer organization with no paid staff that has been helping people for more than 50 years. SHARE is supported by donations from local religious congregations, community organizations and individuals. The food and clothing room is housed in space donated by the McLean Baptist Church. Programs, year round and seasonal, include family emergency financial assistance, food pantry, used clothing room, recycled furniture, back-to-school supplies and refurbished laptop computers. During the holidays, SHARE also provides neighbors in need with grocery cards and gifts.

Main Message Center: (703) 229-1414
info@shareofmclean.org
www.shareofmclean.org

DONORS--HOW TO HELP

❖ Gift cards for clients can now be purchased at McLean Giant front desk. Giant or Target cards are available. Share also accepts

Walmart cards bought at other locations.

❖ Donations can be dropped off with a Share volunteer on Wednesday and Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. - 12 noon. Donations can also be placed in the outside storage bin located next to the side entrance of McLean Baptist Church at any time. Our volunteers are not continuously present at the McLean Baptist Church to accept deliveries for Share but they do empty the sheds daily. For large donations, contact sharevolunteers1367@gmail.com to arrange a drop off time.

❖ Gift cards for clients can now be purchased at McLean Giant front desk. Giant or Target cards are available. Share also accepts Walmart cards bought at other locations. Donors can donate money online by credit card, PayPal or by mailing a check. Share volunteers will purchase what is most needed and available. Click here to go to DONATE page.

❖ Gift cards for clients can now be purchased at McLean Giant front desk. Giant or Target cards are available. Share also

accepts Walmart cards bought at other locations. Purchase Share's most needed items at My Registry. Deliveries are sent directly to a safe location where they are loaded into a Share food truck. <https://www.myregistry.com/organization/share-of-mclean-mclean-va/2380279/giftlist>

SHARE's CLOTHING and LINEN ROOM is co-located with the Share food pantry in the McLean Baptist Church. Share accepts donations of seasonal clothing, shoes and household linens and provides them free to Share neighbors.

❖ Clothing donations are sorted by volunteers by size and gender and shoppers are allowed to take what they need.

❖ We ask that you only donate clothes in-season (i.e. shorts in the summer, coats in the winter) as we do not have much storage space in the clothing room.

❖ We need volunteers to help manage the clothing rooms every Wednesday and Sat-

urday. If you are interested in volunteering, please complete a volunteer interest form. <https://www.shareofmclean.org/>

❖ One of the most effective ways to collect needed clothing and linens for Share is to hold a drive at your school, business, community or religious organization. Middle and High School students can receive community service hour credits for organizing a drive.

Most Needed Clothing

Fall/Winter Clothing – (through March 31)

❖ Winter coats, gloves, hats, sweaters, polar fleeces, sweatshirts, boots, scarves.

❖ New adult and children's t-shirts, underwear, pajamas, active wear

❖ Infant wear, trendy but appropriate pre-teen and teen clothing

❖ Men's pants, shirts and shoes

❖ Men's and Women's clothing in XL, XXL, Plus sizes, etc.



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/CONNECTION FILE PHOTO

Winter wear is free to anyone in need.

No One Should Go Without a Coat, Receive or Donate

Cornerstones and Hunter Mill District Supervisors Office 2022-2023

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

It is time to warm up your neighbors by going through your winter outerwear closet and donating what you can, or buying a new coat to donate. The temperature in the area dropped to 34 degrees early Tuesday morning, Oct. 18 and more cold

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weather is on the way.

Cornerstones is reopening the Hunter Mill Winter Coat Closet in collaboration with the Hunter Mill supervisor's office. The goal is to provide free winter coats, hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves to anyone in need. All distribution activities occur outside, and participants are strongly encouraged to wear face masks and maintain social distancing.



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/CONNECTION FILE PHOTO

Individuals and families needing winter outerwear can select one coat, and accessory for each household member at the Hunter Mill Winter Coat Closet held outdoors last season.

Need a Coat? Oct. 29, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cornerstones Food Pantry, 11484 Washington Plaza West, Reston

Nov. 19, Dec. 17, Jan. 14, Feb. 11, March 11, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. North County Government Center, 1801 Cameron Glen Dr., Reston

Have a Coat to Donate? Donations of new or gently used, clean heavy winter coats and

new hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves are needed. All adult and child sizes are welcome.

Oct. 17-Nov. 10- 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Cornerstones, 11150 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 210, Reston

Nov. 19, Dec 17, Jan. 14, 10 a.m. to 1p.m. North County Government Building, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston

VIENNA/OAKTON / McLEAN CONNECTION

❖ OCTOBER 26 - NOVEMBER 1, 2022 ❖ 3

MPA Installs Two New Exhibits

The Children's Art Walk" & "Continuum: Artists Teaching Artists"

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Two exhibits are currently on display at the McLean Project for the Arts located inside the McLean Community Center at 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean.

The first exhibit, Children's Art Walk, is presented by the New Dominion Women's Club and MPA. The exhibition is open during McLean Community Center operating hours and is on display at the Arts Ramp Gallery until Nov. 1. <https://mcleancenter.org/>

Continuum: Artists Teaching Artists, is the second MPA exhibition.

The exhibit highlights works by artists who "give significant time to teaching, mentoring, and community-building while continuing to sustain and develop strong and innovative personal bodies of work." Most area colleges and universities are represented, including George Mason, George Washington, Georgetown, Northern Virginia Community College, University of Maryland, and Maryland Institute College of Art, as well as some teaching institutes like the Washington Glass School. It is on display now through Nov. 13 at the McLean Project for the Arts Emerson and Atrium Galleries.

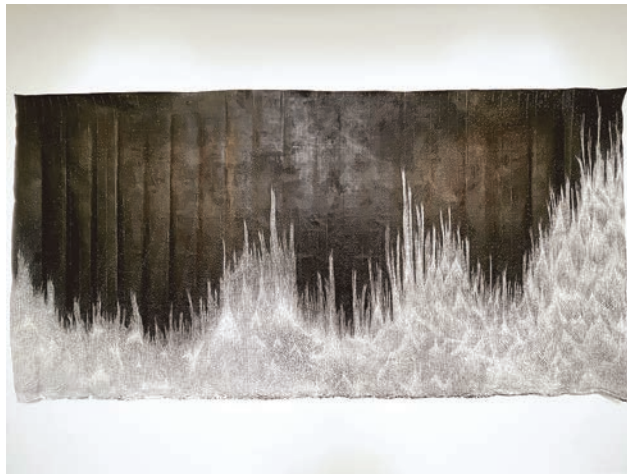
The Emerson Gallery is open Tuesdays through Fridays from 1 – 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. The Atrium Gallery is available during McLean Community Center operating hours, Monday–Thursday: 8 a.m.–11 p.m., Friday: 8 a.m.–midnight, and Saturday: 9 a.m.–midnight.



Artist Reni Gower: "Papercuts DDThree," acrylic on hand-cut paper mounted on silk. On the floor is a sand rug using the papercut as a stencil. Professor Emerita Gower retired from the Painting and Printmaking Department at Virginia Commonwealth University in December 2018.



Artist Peter Winant: a series of projects about cycles of presence generated in the landscape. The clay from which the animals were made was harvested from the Green River. Associate Professor Winant teaches at George Mason University.



Artist Kate Fitzpatrick: "Boundless," Acrylic paint on canvas.



Artist Karim, Ellie, grade 4, Franklin Sherman Elementary.

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION



The Children's Art Walk Exhibit is on display at MPA's Arts Ramp Gallery.



Artist Nancy, grade 5, Global Awareness, Spring Hill Elementary.

In Response to the Fairfax County School Board

BY FREE & ANTIRACIST MINDS

We witnessed a craven display of systemic racism at the Fairfax County School Board meeting on Thursday, Oct. 20, 2022. The majority of the board did not vote for a resolution in support of antiracist and truthful teaching, and as a result, turned their backs on the many educators who practice these critical academic components each day.

The resolution was supported by: Fairfax Education Association, Fairfax County Federation of Teachers, Fairfax County Council of PTAs, Fairfax County Special Education PTA, FCPS Pride, Fairfax County NAACP, and 4 Public Education, among others.

Instead of championing the clear will of the community, two board members proposed and ultimately passed a last-minute, deeply weakened substitute resolution late on the day of their meeting, which removed any real substance from the statement. Despite two months of outreach, multiple conversations with administration and school board members, and the support of a broad coalition of employee and community organizations, they chose a last-minute bait and switch. The substitute motion removed large sections of critical language from the original, deleting references to:

- ❖ Supporting “curricular resources to meet our students’ needs and the high expectations of our community around our historic truths, representative literature, critical thinking, and social justice”

- ❖ Acknowledging “recent events have caused many FCPS educators and school-based administrators to fear that implementing these necessary curricular improvements might lead to personal or professional harm”

- ❖ Supporting “antiracist, equity- and justice-based classroom resources and pedagogy that meet the high aspirations of each and every one of our students and of the Fairfax County community.”

The student representative, Michele Togbe, said it best: the amended resolution was “weak and hollow,” while the original language “was strong and clear.”

That testimony from the student representative, a young Black woman, did not move the majority. The testimony of their two Black colleagues on the board did not move the majority. Weeks of advocacy from across the community did not move the majority. When the chair called for a picture with community members to “celebrate” the hollowed-out substitute, no one from the audience moved to join them.

On the eve of their election year, the Fairfax County School Board majority stood alone. They chose weakness and isolation from the most important employee and community groups in Fairfax County. They chose to kowtow to a minority right-wing pushback to potential progressive movement forward. All so that they could avoid speaking some truth about historic and systemic racism; nevermind that students, teachers, parents and community members have those tough conversations every day. Being antiracist means consistently giving voice to injustice and inequities in voice and in deed and not just when it’s convenient.

FAM’s work continues, with eyes wide open. We cannot look to this school board for leadership, even when the community clearly calls for it. We are pushing ahead on our calls for change.

FAM applauds the three board members who remained steadfast and supported this community’s values last night by rejecting the amended

resolution: Dr. Ricardy Anderson, Karen Keys Gamarra, and Melanie Meren. FAM also thanks the organizations listed above, who helped advocate for the original resolution and opposed the unacceptable substitute.

We are saddened by last night’s outcome, but more convinced of the great need to fight for a school system that truly respects the rich diversity of our community and the values we hold dear.

Free & Antiracist Minds is a student, parent, teacher, and community led organization with the mission to dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline using antiracist, abolitionist, and community-driven approaches to promote transformative public schools.

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COUNTY ROUNDUP

FROM PAGE 2

ing brings \$4.1 million to the reserve for employee recruitment and retention. On Sept. 13, the Board authorized the County Executive to grant up to \$15,000 in bonuses to new hires in difficult-to-fill positions, such as county police officers and mental health treatment personnel.

The county is using the \$190.05 million to strengthen its reserves, meet its obligations, and fund its priorities. Here are some of the non-recurring fundings.

- ❖ \$25,208 million will be set aside for the pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements capital fund. Per the board’s directive, new funding for County-wide pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements is targeted at \$100 million over approximately six years through FY 2027. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/walk/projects>

- ❖ \$15 million is funded for the Construction Escalation Reserve. Current cost estimates from professional consultants on many projects currently in design are trending approximately 20 percent higher than the previously approved budget. This is due to inflation and disruptions to global supply chains for most basic raw materials.

- ❖ \$10.7 million is to support continuing and new IT projects.

- ❖ \$6.5 million is to fund Environment Energy Initiatives supporting solar and renewable energy installations.

- ❖ \$5 million is for the Park Authority CIP Projects. The Park Authority has experienced project delays and, thus, a backlog of unsold bonds in addition to inflation and cost escalation on existing projects. Funding helps alleviate some pressure on the bond program, among other things.

Workforce Housing Actions

In a vote of 9-1, the board approved the Workforce Dwelling Unit Swap Agreement. It supports the construction of Somos at McLean Metro, the affordable multi-family development in the heart of Tysons. There will be 453 affordable rental residential units.

By a 9-1 vote, the board authorized the Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority to issue a \$3 million bond to provide supplemental financing to complete the Ovation at Arrowbrook development at Innovation Station in Herndon. The bond will be repaid by the FCRHA from revenue from the project itself. There will be 274 affordable homes at Arrowbrook.

Actions to Improve Statewide Notification Process for Arrest of School Employees

Earlier this year, Fairfax County Public Schools officials learned of the arrest and conviction of an FCPS counselor. The school division realized that months before, an arrest notification had been sent from another county to a non-working FCPS email address with no follow-up. Once aware, the division put the individual on leave, followed by termination.

Chairman Jeffrey McKay (D) presented a Board Matter, which the board approved, to send a letter to Gov. Youngkin and Virginia Sec. of Education Aimee Guidera. The letter can be viewed on page 53 of the Oct. 11, 2022, meeting materials. It addresses how Virginia handles information sharing regarding arrests or convictions. McKay explains the need to accelerate Virginia’s inclusion in Rap Back. It is the FBI alert system when someone employed in the public trust enters the criminal justice system.

McKay says he supports legislation during the 2023 General Assembly to modernize and ensure accountability. McKay asks the governor to close gaps by providing enhanced reporting guidance and procedures to law enforcement agencies and school systems around the state.

— MERCIA HOBSON

CONNECTION

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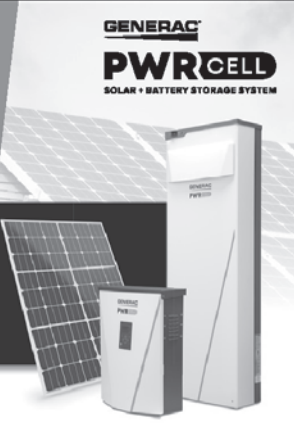
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OCT. 21 - NOV. 13

"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 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. 29

DEA Prescription Drug Take Back Day. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Clifton Presbyterian Church Parking Lot, 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton. DEA's National Prescription Drug Take Back Day reflects Clifton Lions/DEA's commitment to Americans' safety and health, encouraging the public to remove unneeded medications from their homes as a measure of preventing medication misuse and opioid addiction from ever starting. Please remove personal labeling from all pill containers and bottles before turning in your medications.

SATURDAY/OCT. 29

DEA Prescription Drug Take Back Day. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Vienna Police Department, 301 Center Street, South, Vienna (The former Faith Baptist Church). In conjunction with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and state and local law enforcement agencies, the Vienna Police Department will have a collection site for old, expired, unused, or unwanted medications. Prescription medications, controlled or non-controlled substances, and over-the-counter drugs may be turned in anonymously at the collection point inside the Vienna Police Department.

SATURDAY/OCT. 29

Festival of Frights and Trunk or Treat. 5-10 p.m. At the Old Firehouse, McLean. Come join the Old Firehouse (in your best Halloween costumes) for a night of live music, games, food, contests and tons of candy.

SATURDAY/NOV. 5

Reston Homes Tour. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Tickets are now on sale for the 20th Reston Home Tour of various homes in Reston. Ticket-holders can visit up to eight homes throughout Reston. Self-guided tour stops: Hook Road, Triple Crown Road, Dorrance Court, Auburn Grove Lane, Lake Anne House, Beacon Place, and an EYA model home. Proceeds benefit the Reston Museum. A detailed map with addresses will be emailed closer to the event date. Visit <https://www.restonmuseum.org/hometour>.



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

SATURDAY/NOV. 5

Appraisal Roadshow. 10:45 a.m. - Noon at Reston Association Headquarters, Reston. The Appraisal Roadshow delivers a treasure hunt experience in a fun, educational and rewarding forum. Bring an item such as jewelry, coins, a timepiece, porcelain, artwork or other heirlooms, and the appraisal experts will educate you and the other participants with interesting facts and information on what it is, what it's worth and what you can do with your treasure. Questions? Contact Ashleigh@reston.org or 703-435-6577.

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

HALLOWEEN CALENDAR

NOW THRU NOV. 5

Workhouse Haunt: Nightmare Harvest. At Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. This year's Haunt, titled "Nightmare Harvest," will run on week-ends 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.

OCT. 26-27

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

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 ghoulish could ask for. Gather all your Basic Witches for a party to wake the dead! Costumes encouraged!

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SATURDAYS UNTIL DECEMBER

The Reston Farmers Market (sponsored by the Fairfax Co. Park Authority) will take place at Lake Anne Village in Reston from 8 a.m.-noon. SNAP beneficiaries receive up to \$20 match. Visit <http://restonfarmersmarket.com/>

MCLEAN FARMERS MARKET

The McLean Farmers Market opened for the 2022 season on May 6th, at Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. The market will run every Friday from 8 a.m. to noon through Nov. 11. Local farmers and producers will sell fresh produce and fruits; breads and pastries; prepared foods; meats: herbs; flowers, and more. All products are grown or produced by the vendors and come from within 125 miles of Fairfax County. For more information, see: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/>

HERNDON FARMERS MARKET

Thursdays through Nov. 3, 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 765 Lynn St., Herndon, VA, 20170 <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/herndon>

GREAT FALLS FARMERS MARKET

The Great Falls Farmers Market Outdoor Market is open Saturdays, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., 778 Walker Road, Great Falls. For vendors and weekly highlights see <https://www.greatfallsfarmersmarket.org/>

SATURDAY/OCT. 29

Haunted Mini Golf. 5-7 p.m. At Oak Marr Rec Center, 3200 Jermentown 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

Halloweenkend 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/halloweenkend-at-the-perch>

HALLOWEEN OCT. 31

Great Falls Halloween Spooktacular 4 p.m. - 4:45 p.m., Pet Parade; 5:00 p.m. - 7 p.m. Trick-or-Treating, At Great Falls Village Centre, Great Falls.

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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>
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Burton Lourie. A Golden Moment



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

And a complete surprise, too, from my wife, Dina, who got up at 6 am on a Saturday morning no less to initiate the ruse. She said she was getting up so early to help a neighbor (Kathy) on a pickup she was making for her business four hours away in Lexington, Virginia. This neighbor is in the buying and selling business – from home, and as a former truckdriver, driving distances to conduct her business was hardly off putting, so the storyline seemed plausible – to me. And I knew nothing more than that as I was led down the garden path, totally clueless.

Later that morning I called Dina on her cell phone to check on their progress. She answered normally enough and said that she was on her way back. I asked her if she could talk (about what Kathy had purchased); she said, "Not really." I replied: "Passenger safely, and I'll see you in a few hours." (I later learned that at the very moment I called, the "Light Golden Retriever" puppy she had gone on this excursion to buy from a breeder whom she had heard about three-month's ago while "day-tripping" in Harpers Ferry, was in a kennel in the back of the car and beginning to fuss/bark. If he had, it might have ruined the nearly four-months-in-the-planning surprise.)

Since Dina said she couldn't talk (ostensibly about the fake reason for this trip: Kathy's business), I politely hung up to not disturb their girls-type day. Little did I know. A few hours later, I knew all too well.

About 2 pm, I see/hear Dina's car coming down our driveway. After she parks, I can't exactly see her getting out of her car, but I'm not the least bit concerned/curious. She's an adult; I don't need to watch her get out of a car. Within a few moments I hear her walking toward our front door. A front door whose top half is glass so I could see if she was carrying anything. She turned her back as she backed in through the door and I could sort of see that she looked as if she was carrying something. As she entered the house and faced-me forward, I saw/asked: "Is that a dog?" What is she doing with a dog, I thought to myself. Maybe she's helping Kathy? Kathy has dogs.

She took a few steps towards to her left where I was sitting on our living room couch and says to me: "Here's your new puppy." I was momentarily stunned and soon started laughing (even though we had previously owned two Golden Retrievers; with five cats in the house, a dog was not necessarily our next step.) Stammering, I ask: "Dina, what did you do?" "I got you a puppy." She says: Then she adds: "That's what this whole trip was about. Kathy did me an amazing favor driving us down there. Are you surprised?" Then she carried him over to where I was sitting and placed him in my arms. I laughed again as I cuddled him and looked into his eyes, speechless as I gently rubbed his coat. "Yes. I'm surprised!" I garbled.

It took us a couple of days to name him. For years, when the subject (never a serious discussion) had come up about a new puppy, I had regularly said I liked the name Shemp. But when I started using it for the new puppy, it didn't sound right so I stopped calling him that and began referring to him as my little buddy (which I definitely needed after Twinkle's unexpected passing). The next day, while Dina was online going through dog names, my father-in-law texts me from New York out of the blue (he knew about the puppy; everybody knew): "How about how naming him Burton?" I looked at my cell phone and saw the text, read it and immediately smiled as I looked up and said to Dina: "Your father has just texted the perfect name for the puppy: Burton." (Our two previous Golden Retrievers were "Brandy" and "Bailey," so we were thinking of a name beginning with the letter "B," which Ernest didn't know and yet, he suggested the perfect name). She immediately agreed. As an underling fact, we happen to live in the historic/registered "Isaac Burton House," a 250-year-old-plus converted log cabin, in Burtonsville. After approximately 14 years, since I was diagnosed with cancer, we're back in the dog business. It couldn't have happened at a better time. We needed something to fill the void left by Twinkle's passing.

"And now you know," as Paul Harvey said for so many years, "the rest of the story. Good day!"

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



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***SPECTACULAR* 5BR/4.5 BA** Craftsman-style home built in 2014 in sought-after FCC location! This like-new custom luxury home features sparkling hwd floors throughout the main level; stylish plantation shutters; modern gourmet island kitchen w/ granite countertops; fam room off the kit includes gas frpl w/ walkout to large screened-in porch. This gorgeous home is situated on a lovely, level, .27/acre lot. **Falls Church City Schools!**

For Sale!



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1930 Relda Court, Falls Church
***BEAUTIFUL* 4BR/3 BA** home on 2 levels situated on a beautiful lot with mature trees on cul-de-sac. This home is filled with tons of natural light w/ several skylights on main living area; inviting floorplan with hardwoods on main level; gourmet kitchen; great screened porch and deck area off kitchen. UL primary BR is very spacious, attached primary BA w/ large storage and washer/dryer. **Haycock, Longfellow, McLean Schools!**

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