

# CONNECTION

Reston ♦ Oak Hill ♦ Herndon ♦ Chantilly ♦ CENTRE VIEW



Sandy Weinger of Chantilly and Carol Stone of Oakton at the Walk to End Alzheimer's in Reston on Sunday, Oct. 23.

## Walking for Alzheimer's

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## 9 Seek Seats on Herndon Town Council

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## Firehouse Open House

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## Drug Take Back Day Is Oct. 29

The public is encouraged to dispose of any unused or expired medications during the upcoming Drug Take Back Day, this Saturday, Oct. 29, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at all Fairfax County police stations. The Sully District Station is at 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly, and the Fair Oaks District Station is at 12300 Lee Jackson Memorial Hwy. in Fair Oaks. This event is a reminder to the community that drug disposal is offered all year 'round at county police stations. The drop-off boxes there are available 24/7 and are confidential.

if necessary, and parents will be taught how to install the seat properly, in the future. Another car-seat inspection is scheduled for Nov. 17, at the same place and time.

## Free Webinar on Vaping and Marijuana

Hoping to provide parents of teens/young adults with information about vaping and marijuana, the Fairfax Prevention Coalition is presenting a free webinar. It's set for Wednesday, Nov. 9, from 1-3 p.m. Register at <https://bit.ly/FPC-Nov9>.

With nicotine vaping remaining popular, and recreational marijuana use increasingly normalized and promoted, young people face new and difficult pitfalls related to substance use and addiction. Misinformation and confusion persist around these topics, and debunked myths are often taken as fact.

So parents are encouraged to join Dr. Aaron Weiner for an in-depth look at vaping and marijuana in today's world, including the impact of the THC and nicotine industries on public perception and how these substances affect teen health. Parent strategies for prevention and discussing this subject with teens will also be covered. A live, question-and-answer period will also be part of the program.

## Car Seat Inspections, Nov. 3

Parents may get their children's car seats inspected next Thursday, Nov. 3, from 5-8:30 p.m., outside the Sully District Police Station. It's at 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. Inspections are done on a first-come, first-served basis. Participants are asked to wear a mask and adhere to social-distancing and safety precautions.

They should also install the child safety seat, themselves, so the inspection can be performed. The seat will be properly re-installed,

## CONNECTION

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An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by  
**Local Media Connection LLC**

**1606 King Street**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22314**

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# NEWS

## Candidates for Member of Council, Town of Herndon 2022

Four incumbents and five challengers vie for six councilmember seats.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

The Connection Newspapers' Oct. 19-25, 2022 Herndon edition featured "3-Way Race for Herndon Mayor."

On Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2022, as part of the General Election, registered voters in the Town of Herndon may vote for one person for mayor and not more than six people for members of the town council, Town of Herndon. Four incumbent councilmembers, Cesar de Aguila vice mayor, Naila Alam, Signe V. Friedrichs, and Pradip Dhakal, face challengers Keven J. Leblanc Jr., Clark A. Hedrick, Donielle M. Scherff, Stevan M. Porter, and Roland B. Taylor. The locations of polling places for local and national elections coincide.

The upcoming two-year terms begin on Jan. 1, 2023, and end on Dec. 31, 2024. Local offices do not have their party designation on the ballot, according to Virginia Election 24.2-613. The Virginia Department of Elections qualified the nine candidates running for the six council seats.

We asked each candidate: "What is the most critical council matter you intend to address at one of the first public town council meetings in 2023? Why is there a need; what will you ask the town manager to look into, and when will you request a report on the findings? After findings are released and public hearings held if appropriate, how would you persuade councilmembers opposed to a pending motion supporting the issue that it is the best course of action?"

### Naila Alam

The most critical council matter I intend to address is the need to have a DMV facility permanently in the Town of Herndon. The new federal law for Real IDs and other essential matters that are dependent upon a DMV having a permanent facility here in Herndon. It is an issue that positively impacts every Herndon community member.

The most important issue for me is to facilitate the town residents in getting their DMV work in a permanent facility, so that they don't have to go to other locations. I will ask the Town Manager to locate a permanent space, which can accommodate at least 100 visitors per day for their DMV related work.

I know having a vaccine center would be very helpful in getting the residents vaccinated due to their lack of computer skills and transportation.

### Signe V. Friedrichs

Council has wasted staff time by repeatedly initiating new projects without regard for overall strategy or staff's other responsibilities

(trash, infrastructure, and non-negotiable legally required tasks.) The list of "strategic" initiatives dated May 1, 2020, comprised 37 mostly unrelated new proposals, augmented with new proposals every 3-4 months. If elected, I would propose a Strategy Retreat within the first weeks of the new term, during which council would plan the direction staff takes and propose prepared future projects. This would create a more productive term and better staff morale while keeping new ideas in the mix.



Signe V. Friedrichs

### Keven J. Leblanc Jr.

While the most visible concern is the downtown redevelopment, the commercial pause is contractually valid, noted even by the Connection. The underlying concern, though, is utmost – the town's fiscal situation emerging from reduced taxes during COVID with increased commercial costs, staff salary recruitment/retention pressures, and supply chain delays. The softening housing market exacerbates fiscal concerns. I'd investigate town costs, prioritizing necessary maintenance and town services with the greatest value or urgency. I'd couple with an analysis of potential duplicative services or resources and taxes (i.e., meal) that can be reduced on reasonable timelines with citizen input, as should be in all matters.



Keven J. Leblanc Jr.

### Cesar A. del Aguila

The most critical item facing the town is the status and future direction of the downtown redevelopment. I am concerned the economic environment may not improve over the next two years, so I want to discuss, plan, and create options or "fallback" contingencies. I will ask the town staff and leadership to schedule an executive session with the council for planning purposes; obtain consensus on the acceptable priorities and options for ensuring or accelerating the project; and, once approved, present the developer with options to entice or discuss ways to start the development effort. I spoke with many residents over the last few years, and this is the single most pressing item, and I commit to seeing it succeed.



Cesar A. del Aguila

### Clark A. Hedrick

Cost-of-living in Herndon. With skyrocketing gas, grocery, energy, and rent prices, decreasing real wages, and an average real property tax bill increase of \$725 last year alone, many families in Herndon are

struggling to afford even basic needs. The council needs to understand the impact those factors have on Herndon residents, businesses, and town staff — whether they are driving migration, closures, or attrition. We need to find ways to deliver exceptional town services with a more efficient budget. I will work with town staff and the council to identify ways the town can address those needs.



Clark A. Hedrick

### Donielle M. Scherff

The most critical council matter I intend to address at a public town council meeting if elected is the need for a facilitated retreat for the town council and the mayor at the beginning of each new council term. The session will focus on appropriate professional communication among elected officials; benchmarking how we will engage the community in our municipal government; initial conversation on the development and adoption of a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) Plan in line with the federal government's guidelines, and how best to engage staff town staff in council business.



Donielle M. Scherff

By defining how the council will work together, level-setting expectations for communicating and establishing qualitative and quantitative approaches to measure progress in these areas, we will accomplish more and make this part of our working culture.

Should this move forward without unanimous support, I would work with council members to identify what was at the core of their concerns, then ask the expertise of our facilitator to work through any disagreement.

### Stevan M. Porter

I would propose that the town do a complete review of its taxation strategy. Are levels appropriate, and is the "mix" right between different tax sources? Of particular concern here is the overall impact of the Meals Tax and whether reduction or elimination might ultimately be balanced by higher profits for these businesses and related increases in other tax revenues like the business licensing tax. The key to moving this – or any matter – forward is providing good information to the community, getting their feedback, and the council listening to those responses.



Stevan M. Porter

### Pradip Dhakal

Herndon needs real leadership to make changes. Leadership that listens to people



The Town of Herndon installed gateway signs to welcome residents and visitors as they enter the town limits.

and champions their voice, encourages discussions, questions current processes, and seeks improvement. I will first ask the town manager to provide all the details regarding downtown redevelopment to address where the hold is and how the bottleneck is mitigated. We've waited long enough for the groundbreaking, which is yet to commence.

To work with the executives of Comstock to provide the exact details of the hold-up and bottleneck and come up with a resolution to address the current situation. Market conditions change, and the development that becomes feasible is not a good assessment of the situation.

It's difficult to answer this question without knowing the details. Once we have them, conduct the cost-benefit analysis, have a public hearing, and understand the matter at discussion, it creates a win-win. I will use my persuasion skill to convince the council that it is a good solution.

### Roland B. Taylor

Request a vote to repeal the recent council vote to increase their pay by 275 percent while increasing fees and the amount of taxes a family pays increases annually with home value.

Request investigation of the council's low-income housing and high-density initiatives to the continued decline in Herndon area elementary schools' scores, which are currently below county and state averages. Over two thousand more residential units have been approved, with more pending.

The education of youth in Herndon should not be negatively impacted by politics or desires for more tax income. Higher-income families move away from poor-scoring schools.



Pradip Dhakal



Roland B. Taylor

PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION



# END ALZHEIMER'S



Sandy Weinger of Chantilly and Carol Stone of Oakton at the Walk to End Alzheimer's in Reston on Saturday.



Tracy Cheifetz of Centreville is the captain of the very large Team Amy's Army.



Maureen Kalenich has attached blue flowers to her walker; she is living with Alzheimer's



Walking to end Alzheimer's



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVID HUXSOLL

From left, Dave Cook, Larry McKinley and Jeff Thomas, all of the Fairfax Resolves Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, give a presentation to students at Bull Run Elementary.

## Constitution Day Celebrated at Local Schools

Members of the Fairfax Resolves Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution celebrated Constitution Day, on Sept. 19, by presenting a program on the U.S. Constitution to students at Bull Run Elementary in Centreville, Greenbriar East Elementary in Chantilly, and White Oaks Elementary in Burke. Most of the students were from the schools' fourth-grade classes, but some fifth- and sixth-grade students also attended.

A discussion of some of the founding fathers followed. The students seemed most interested and even animated at the mention of Alexander Hamilton's name. The program ended with a discussion of the Bill of Rights and some of the more important amendments. The latter included a discussion of the 13th Amendment, which abolished slavery, and the 19th Amendment which granted women the right to vote.

The response from the teachers and students was very positive. A recording of the presentation held at Bull Run Elementary School is available on the VASSAR YouTube channel at <https://youtu.be/yMR-W03Xha2o>.

— DAVID HUXSOLL

# Walking to End Alzheimer's 2022 in Reston

## Alzheimer's Association fights the disease, helps families.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

On Sun., Oct. 23, more than 800 people turned out at Reston Town Center for the Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area Walk to End Alzheimer's. Nearly everyone held one or more of the four color-specific Promise Garden flowers. Madeline Davis held a white flower. Her mother, Holly, lost her battle with early-onset Alzheimer's on Jan. 27, 2022. She was 59.

"My mother was diagnosed in 2016 at the age of 54. She was my idol and my best friend," Davis said.

The flower colors represent a person's connection to Alzheimer's Disease. An orange flower meant that the person was a supporter of the cause. A yellow flower meant that the individual had lost someone to the disease, and a blue flower, like the one Maureen Kalenich held, meant that the person was

living with Alzheimer's or another dementia. The white flower is the promise that someday, there will be a cure.

The Alzheimer's Association is working to end Alzheimer's and other dementias worldwide through research, efforts to reduce risk and get an early diagnosis, and getting the most out of treatment and support.

According to U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), who spoke at the Walk to End Alzheimer's, research and funding to support it are essential. "Alzheimer's disease is now the sixth leading cause of death in the United States. It is also the fifth leading cause of death among adults 65 or older. The necessary resources must be provided to help tackle this growing issue before it reaches crisis level," he said.

Tracy Cheifetz of Centreville is the captain of Team Amy's Army. Tracy's mother, Amy Shimkus, died from Alzheimer's in March. "She participated in the trials and knew that they would not help her but might help others someday," said Tracy. At the 2018 Walk to End Alzheimer's, Amy was photographed dancing YMCA. This year, the team raised \$11,846.



U.S. Congressman Gerry Connolly (D-11), "Alzheimer's champion," as emcee Adrianna Hopkins called him, shares the vision of a world without Alzheimer's.



Madeline Davis holds a white flower. Her mother, Holly, lost her battle with early-onset Alzheimer's on Jan. 27, 2022. She was 59. Beside her is Maureen Kalenich, who is living with Alzheimer's. Her flower is blue.

graphed dancing YMCA. This year, the team raised \$11,846.

Connolly said, "It is critical that the necessary resources be provided to help tackle this growing issue before it reaches crisis level." Connolly's grandmother was diagnosed with Alzheimer's when he was a young man. Aware of the toll it took on his family, Connolly added that he tries to do all he can during his time in public service wanting to make sure that "no family has to go through a similar experience

without the tools and support necessary to make that experience manageable, however painful it may be."

Connolly said they secured \$25 million to implement infrastructure for the 2018 Alzheimer's Act and \$289 million for research at the National Institute of Health (March 2022), among other actions. "It is imperative that we begin treating Alzheimer's as a public health cri-

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION



Guneet Kaur of Herndon walks for her grandpa, who died a few years ago; Ruby Grewal, who works in Herndon and lives in Aldie, walks for her boss, Mary Anne Burke.

sis," he said. "There will be 71 million people aged 65 years or older in 2030." According to Connolly, increased legislation is a step in the right direction, but real progress won't be made until serious funding increases to enable scientists to understand the disease better.

According to the Alzheimer's Association Report 2022, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved five medications: donepezil, rivastigmine, galantamine,

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Emcee Adrianna Hopkins at Reston Town Center for the Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area Chapter Walk to End Alzheimer's-Northern Virginia 2022

memantine, and memantine combined with donepezil for treating Alzheimer's. They temporarily alleviate symptoms but do not affect the underlying Alzheimer's brain changes or disease progression.

Event emcee Adrianna Hopkins, a WJLA anchor, and reporter, announced that the association is investing over \$310 million in more than 950 projects in 48 countries for research to end Alzheimer's, "and we're seeing the results." Hopkins referenced a report from the NIH, the National Institute on Aging, calling it "amazing progress that could mean more time for those facing Alzheimer's."

According to the NIA statement  
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Jane Derrick with Team Derrick holds a yellow flower because she supports someone with Alzheimer's.

on report of lecanemab reducing cognitive decline in Alzheimer's clinical trial, Oct. 3, 2022, Richard J. Hodes, M.D., Director, National Institute on Aging, National Institutes of Health, "Pharmaceutical companies Eisai and Biogen recently announced data for a phase 3 Alzheimer's disease clinical trial. The results show that lecanemab, an anti-amyloid antibody, slowed the rate of cognitive decline by 27 percent in an 18-month study involving participants experiencing the early stage of Alzheimer's."

Ultimately, the disease's pace and length depend on age, genetics, biological sex, and other factors.

Michelle Alonso is the Alzheimer's Association Ambassador to Connolly's office and a volunteer on the Latino Outreach Committee.

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Walking to end Alzheimer's

Her grandmother and father died of Alzheimer's. It and other forms of dementia disproportionately affect older Black and Hispanic Americans. According to Alonso's family has participated in the Walk to End Alzheimer's since 2015.

"My dad died that year of young-onset Alzheimer's at the age of 67. We fundraise and walk in hopes that one day we will have our first survivor of this awful disease," she said.

Alonso said the ENACT ACT (S. 1548/H.R. 3085), co-sponsored by Connolly, would increase the participation of underrepresented populations in Alzheimer's and other dementia clinical trials. "This important legislation would expand education and outreach to these populations, encourage the diversity of clinical trial staff, and reduce participation burden, among other things," Alonso said.



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

## Westfield High Student Attends Leadership Event

Joanne Stanley (in red dress) with (from left) siblings Marian and Bryan, dad Stanley John and mom Mily. Joanne, a Westfield High sophomore, attended the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, Oct. 7-9, in Triangle. She went to it to learn how to be a leader, en route to someday becoming an attorney. She and her family moved to the U.S. from India in April and live in Centreville's Virginia Run community.



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**Obituary**

**Mary Nicola Kenney (Khoury), 71** of Herndon, VA passed away Tuesday, October 11, 2022 surrounded by her loving family.

Mary was born in Harrisburg, PA to Margaret and Nicola Khoury December 18, 1950. She married Francis K. Kenney, Sr. on December 20, 1969. She is survived by her four children, Shannon (James), Tracey, Robyn (Aaron), and Frank Jr. (Caitlin); eight grandchildren, Miles, Jackson, Addisyn, Frankie III, Declan, Brooklyn, Summer, and Aidan, her sister, Norma Salameh, and many nieces and nephews.

Mary never set a goal she didn't meet or exceed. She excelled in her career and graduated college in 2004.

Mary will always be remembered for her outgoing and kind heart. She made sure everyone around her felt her love and welcome in her home. If you ever had news to share, Mary was going to be the most excited for you. She loved her women's club and many friends she worked with over the years. However, she loved her family above all else. She was so proud of all them and her grandchildren were truly her pride and joy. Mary's humor, smile, and excited spirit will be missed by all, especially her family.

Funeral Service took place at St. Joseph Catholic Church on Tuesday October 18, 2022 at 11 AM, Interment at Fairfax Memorial Park, Fairfax, VA.

Memorial donations may be made to the American Stroke Association.

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# CALENDAR



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

## 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](http://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](http://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>.

## 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.

## 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 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](http://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/20j1l6j>. 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!

## 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.

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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**We Need Your Help Again**

We are sincerely grateful and thankful to you for helping in 2021 to save one of America's oldest newspapers, the Alexandria Gazette Packet, publishing continuously since 1784

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Publishing Since 1784

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**Mount Vernon Gazette**  
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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 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](http://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-months 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 underlying 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.





Davion Ponce, 8, stands beside the Batmobile.



Penelope, 2, sits inside a fire engine.

# Centreville Fire Station 17 Welcomes Visitors

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

As part of national Fire Prevention Week, Fire Station 17 in Centreville held an open house on Saturday, Oct. 15. Children got to play games and sit inside fire and rescue vehicles, and parents learned about planning escape routes from their homes in case of a fire.



Carson Cook, 9, poses by a Station 17 fire engine.



Christopher Stecher, 3, is all dressed to be a firefighter.



Active duty EMT Natalie Graser (center) and EMT students (from left) Deusama Arellano and Brian Nguyen explaining home escape plans.

## PFC Justin Collier: Sully Officer of Quarter

PFC Justin Collier was selected as the Sully District Police Station's Officer of the Quarter for the second quarter of 2022. He was honored at a recent meeting of the station's Citizens Advisory Committee.

Before presenting his award, Lt. Matt Dehler, the station's assistant commander, explained that Collier had earned it because of his work on the Selective Enforcement Team. "As a special-patrol enforcement officer during the summer, PFC Collier handled traffic complaints and conducted enforcement districtwide at traffic hot spots," said Dehler. "During that time, he issued 312 citations

and made 25 criminal arrests."

"He also conducted criminal investigations, arresting the person who'd been stealing high-end wines from Wegmans," continued Dehler. "This case spanned the months from November 2021 to May 2022 and caused over \$50,000 in losses to Wegmans. But Collier successfully closed this case, resulting in charges in Leesburg, Loudoun and Prince William counties, and Fredericksburg. So it's with great pride that I present the Officer of the Quarter award to PFC Justin Collier."

— BONNIE HOBBS



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

From left, Lt. Matt Dehler presents the award to PFC Justin Collier.