

# CONNECTION

Reston ♦ Oak Hill Herndon ♦ Chantilly ♦ CENTRE VIEW

## Jingle On the Lake

PAGE 3

Santa front and center waves to children of Lake Anne in Reston while Grand Marshall Kurt Rose takes in the crowd and watches the onboard campfire.

### Sneak Attack in Reston?

PAGE 3

### Herndon Tree Lighting

PAGE 4

### Chantilly Christmas

PAGE 8

CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 6 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 7

PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

ATTENTION POSTMASTER:  
TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL.  
REQUESTED IN HOME 12-8-22

POSTAL CUSTOMER  
ECR WSS

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
EASTON, MD  
PERMIT #322

DECEMBER 7-13, 2022

ONLINE AT [WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

Same Company, Same Employees,  
Same Great Value - Now Celebrating 20 Years!

## TWO POOR TEACHERS

### Kitchen and Bathroom Remodeling



- Electrical (ELE)
- Gas Fitting (GFC)
- Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVA)
- Plumbing (PLB)
- Residential Building (RBC)

Fully Insured & Class A Licensed  
Since 1999



**Free Estimates 703-999-2929**

Check if your contractor is licensed at the state level  
<http://www.DPOR.virginia.gov>

Visit our website: [www.twopoorteachers.com](http://www.twopoorteachers.com)

## SULLY ROUNDUPS

### Centreville Pedestrian Struck and Killed by Car

Detectives from the Fairfax County Police Department's Crash Reconstruction Unit continue to investigate a fatal crash that happened last Monday, Nov. 28, at 9:03 p.m. The victim was a pedestrian, Jacinto Chavez Ramos, 29, of Centreville.

The tragedy occurred at the intersection of Lee Highway and Trinity Parkway in Centreville. According to Sully District police, the driver of a 2021 Toyota Corolla was traveling south on Lee Highway when that vehicle struck Chavez Ramos in the crosswalk.

Rescue personnel responded and pronounced Chavez Ramos dead; the driver remained at the scene. Preliminarily, police say speed and alcohol do not appear to be factors for the driver in the crash.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to contact the Crash Reconstruction Unit at 703-280-0543. Tips may also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by calling 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477).

### Chantilly Woman Charged with Felony Embezzlement

Fairfax County police have charged a Chantilly woman with felony embezzlement. Arrested last week was Denise Pitkin-Tilson, 55, who worked at Target and also at Eagle View Elementary School in Fairfax as an instructional assistant.

She's charged with stealing more than \$10,000 in cash, gift cards and merchandise from the Target store in Chantilly. Police were called Monday, Nov. 28, at 7:52 p.m., by a loss-prevention officer at the store at 14391 Chantilly Crossing Lane. Pitkin-Tilson worked there as a part-time cashier, and police say this officer had received word from Target headquarters that "the store was missing money at the end of Pitkin-Tilson's shift."

SEE SULLY ROUNDUPS, PAGE 5

## Freedom<sup>2</sup>Earn Checking

Earn 2.0% Annual Percentage Yield  
on your Operating Accounts



Are you tired of being ignored by the mega-banks and earning sub-par returns on your hard-earned cash? Would you like a banking relationship that provides both high tech and high touch to help you meet your goals? Then make the switch to **Freedom Bank** and experience innovation.

Our new 2.0% APY **Freedom<sup>2</sup>Earn Checking Account** is for new money only and is available for both business and personal accounts. Visit [freedom.bank/freedom2earn](http://freedom.bank/freedom2earn) or speak with one of our talented Bankers for additional details and disclosures.

Let us put our **IDEAS** to work for you.



APY accurate as of October 7, 2022. Minimum opening deposits \$2,500, no minimum balance to earn APY. Limited time offer. Subject to change without notice. Fees could reduce the earnings on the account. Rate may change after account opening.



Business Banking



Personal Banking



Mortgage Banking

Call 703-242-5300 or visit [freedom.bank/freedom2earn](http://freedom.bank/freedom2earn).



# NEWS

## Jingle on Lake Rings in the Season

### Elf escort for Santa on Lake Anne.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

Lake Anne, considered the “heart and soul” of Reston, held its annual Jingle on Lake holiday event on December 3. The long-running custom marked its 51st season with activities throughout the day.

At noon, much to the delight of the children and adults, Santa arrived on the scene by barge, escorted by his paddleboarding elves.



Santa front and center waves to children of Lake Anne in Reston while Grand Marshall Kurt Rose takes in the crowd and watches the onboard campfire.



Santa docks at Lake Anne in Reston, leaving his elves to take care of the barge.



Sky Bold, 3, of Reston with mom Zaya, is one of the first children to sit next to Santa but is not comfortable next to him.



The line of people is growing longer and longer as everyone eagerly waits to share their wishes with Santa.

## Supervisors Accept and Reject Countywide Site-Specific Plan Amendment Nominations

### It's a screening process, not bulldozers.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County received 75 nominations from all magisterial districts to change the Comprehensive Plan as a part of the 2022-2023 Site-Specific Plan Amendment nomination process. On Tuesday, Dec. 6, the board unanimously accepted eligible nominations into the 2022-2023 Countywide Site-Specific Plan Amendment (SSPA) process. The supervisors then unanimously rejected nominations not on the list. The SSPA is the process by which anyone can propose (nominate) a change to the land use recommendations in the County's Comprehensive Plan for a particular site.

One proposal worried some in Reston. According to a summary of the proposed

comprehensive plan change, nominator Steve Siegel of Virginia Investment Partners 2019 LLC proposed that a portion of Reston National Golf Course's 168 acres be developed with a mixed-use village accompanied by a linear park and the permanent preservation of the remaining approximately 100 acres as publicly accessible open space/nature conservancy.

Board action was requested at the Dec. 6 meeting to allow community outreach for the screening phase to begin in January 2023. The county executive recommended that the board review the nominations and direct staff on which ones should move forward to the screening phase.

Supervisor Kathy Smith (D-Sully) explained that the Dec. 6, 2022 proposed nominations circulated to board members

and the clerk of the board included a few additional nominations that were not part of the 74 nominations shown in Attachment 1: 2022-2023 SSPA Nomination Summary.

“The nominations that are accepted will proceed into screening which will include a review by staff, the community, and the Planning Commission to determine which nominations should be advanced to the Comprehensive Plan Amendment Work Program as formal plan amendment,” Smith said.

Vice Chair Penny Gross (D-Mason) said she thought there still was much misunderstanding of the SSPA process based on the emails she had received from one particular district. “We need to do a better job perhaps of that. The bulldozers are not coming down the street because somebody has put forward an SSPA,” she said.

According to Gross, it is a long process. Many nominations might not advance.

Concerned about dead-ending some nominations, she asked the staff when the next SSPA opportunity would be.

“We anticipate that the next round of review will begin no sooner than 2024. But that's subject to the board's action,” said Graham Owen, planner IV, Policy & Plan Development Branch, PD, Department of Planning and Development. He explained this was the beginning of the initial countywide review.

Gross clarified. I just wanted to make sure of it because there's a lot of angst about what may go forward but may not go forward.”

Supervisor Walter Alcorn spoke briefly. “I'll just say, as the district with the most ones of these (15), I look forward to the screening process. Thank you.

Track nominations, maps, community meetings and PC Public Workshop online at Tracking the Progress of a Nomination.

# TREE LIGHTING

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION



The Pride of Herndon plays music for the crowd to join in the sing-along after the town's official Christmas Tree is illuminated on Sat., Dec. 3.



Wynde and Jim of Herndon pose seconds after the lights go on for the Town of Herndon's Christmas Tree. It is a beloved holiday tradition in front of the old Town Hall on Elden Street.



Emily, 3, and Madeline, 1 1/2, of Herndon drink up on a chilly night, waiting for Santa to arrive at the Town Hall Square in Herndon.

## Holiday Tree Lighting & Sing Along in the Town

### Santa arrives by fire truck.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

The Herndon Chamber of Commerce presented the Holiday Tree Lighting & Sing-Along 2022 Saturday evening, Dec. 3, on the Town Hall Square in Herndon.

Laura Poindexter of the chamber said that 14 sponsors came forward to make the tree lighting and sing-along happen, including Northwest Federal Credit Union, Herndon Moose Lodge 2274, Green Lizard Cycling, Mile 20 at Mediterranean Breeze, and Queenb Creative. Poindexter welcomed Mayor Sheila Olem and Councilmember Signe Friedrichs, who stood beside her.

Olem reminded everyone that the Herndon Station on the Silver Line is open, and Herndon is the only town in the Commonwealth with Metro. She added that the Pride

of Herndon Band presented at the Metro opening just like it was that evening for the Holiday Tree Lighting. She invited everyone to the Menorah Lighting on Dec. 18 to join the Nachman family and others who put it up years ago on the Town Square and will continue to do so in the future.

Olem counted, "Five, four, three, two, one." The tree glowed against the night sky, and the caroling began with music by the Herndon High School Band led by Kathleen Jacoby, director of bands at Herndon High School.

John Boylan, president of the chamber, said the organization does three things very well, commerce, connections, and community. "That's where we are tonight, a great community," Boylan said.

A special thanks went out to the Town of Herndon Public Works, Herndon High School Band, Fairfax County Fire Station 4, and mayor Sheila Olem.



The Pride of Herndon, Herndon High School Band under the direction of Kathleen Jacoby



Santa arrives by Fairfax County Fire Station 4 with his Food for Neighbors bag.



Hands quietly ask Santa for a mini candy cane.



The eyes of a child in awe



High fives speak all languages.



Lighting the night with plastic Christmas trees compliments of Northwest Federal Credit Union.

# DNA Testing Identifies Cold Case Victim

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

**D**etectives from Fairfax County Police Department's Major Crimes Bureau Cold Case Squad have solved the mystery of a woman found dead in 1993 at the base of a cedar tree in Centreville. She was identified Nov. 21 as Sharon Kay Abbott Lane.

Her identification was made possible by advanced DNA testing and forensic-grade, genome sequencing provided by Othram Inc. Funding for this testing was provided by anonymous donors through DNASolves.

On Dec. 6, 1993, landscapers discovered human skeletal remains in a wooded area in the 6800 block of Sharpsburg Drive in Centreville. Detectives responded to the scene, where they gathered evidence that they believed belonged to the victim. These items included jewelry, deteriorated clothing, a red comb and a yellow barrette.

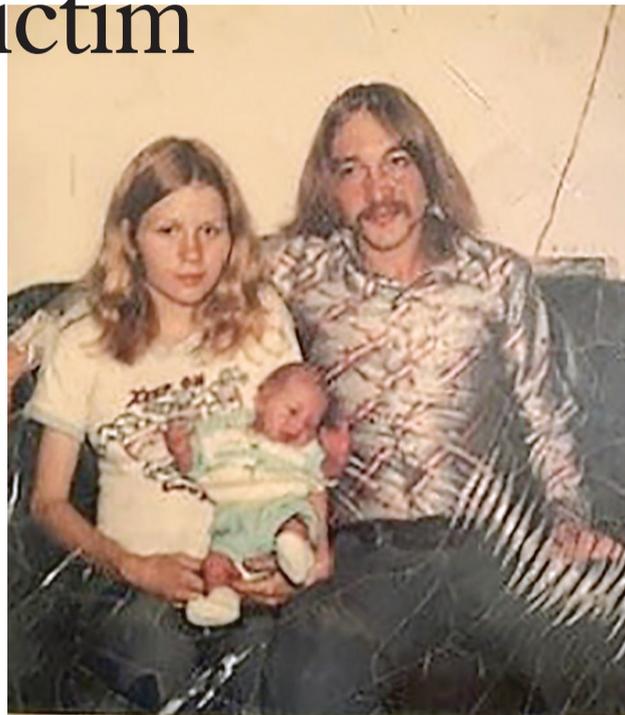
The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner believed the body was that of a female between 28-39 years old. Experts determined that she'd sustained several stab and knife wounds to the upper body.

Police say Lane was last heard from around 1987 and was believed to be living in Fairfax County. Some three to four years later, her late father received an anonymous phone call from a woman stating that his daughter was dead. But there are still many unanswered questions related to her death, such as who was responsible and what was the motive.

However, Major Ed O'Carroll, of the Major Crimes, Cyber and Forensics Bureau, remains optimistic.

"The tragic death of Sharon Kay Abbott Lane is now closer to being solved with the help of advanced DNA testing," he said. "Our detectives will use this new information to continue to seek justice for the victim in this case."

According to police, Othram used advanced Foren-



Police released this photo of 16-year-old Sharon Lane holding her baby daughter beside her husband Danny in 1976. She later had a son, as well.



The yellow barrette and red comb police found at the scene.

sic Genetic Genealogy technology to identify a possible family member of Lane's. Detectives contacted that person, which then led to additional family connections across the nation. Police combed through the names and made many calls to track down Lane's immediate family.

Furthermore, with the help of the Jackson County Sheriff's Office in Georgia, Fairfax County detectives were able to make contact with a family member who led them to Lane's brother and, eventually, her children. A DNA sample provided to Othram confirmed the match.

Meanwhile, police here continue asking the public for help in solving Lane's murder. "We encourage anyone who may have known Sharon or her associates to contact our detectives," said O'Carroll. "They'd like to hear from you." Tips may be submitted anonymously via Crime Solvers by phoning 1-866-411-TIPS.

## 'Appalachian Bluegrass Christmas' Comes to Arts Herndon

**A**udiences are invited to spend an evening tapping their feet, singing along and hearing Christmas memories during the Appalachian Bluegrass Christmas show presented by Shoestring Theatre Co. It's one night only – Friday, Dec. 16, at 7:30 p.m. at Arts Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon.

Tickets are \$10 at the door or via <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/appalachian-bluegrass-christmas-tickets-462652785937>. But seating is very limited, so people are encouraged to purchase their tickets in advance.

Performers Dell Pendergrast, Nora Zanger and Angela Castillo will share stories of Christmas in

the hills of Virginia. For example, attendees will learn why so many old timers celebrated Christmas on Jan. 6. They'll also hear about Christmas in the Coal Camps and may even want to board the Santa Train.

"Musical Director Roger Bullock and musicians Hank Lewis and Katherine Graham bring the soul of the mountains to life with Appalachian music," said Shoestring founder Amelia Townsend. "Audiences will love singing with the performers and enjoying both familiar songs, plus traditional Appalachian tunes."

— BONNIE HOBBS

## SULLY ROUNDUPS

FROM PAGE 2

According to police, she was recorded for more than a month and "was [allegedly] seen embezzling money from registers, as well as stealing gift cards and merchandise." After being questioned at the Sully District Police Station, Pitkin-Tilson was taken to the Adult Detention Center and later released on \$2,000 bond. In addition, FCPS was notified of her arrest.

Anyone with information about this case, or others possibly related, is asked to contact detectives at 703-246-7800. Tips may also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by calling 1-866-411-TIPS.

## 'Hidden in Plain Sight' for Parents of Teens

Fairfax County police are offering a hands-on, in-person, interactive program for parents and guardians of teenagers. Called "Hidden in Plain Sight," it'll be held Monday, Dec. 12, from 6:30-8:30 p.m., at Liberty Middle School, 6801 Union Mill Road in Little Rocky Run.

Attendees will be guided through a presentation opening their eyes to what's right in front of them. This program begins with a setup of a teenager's bedroom which includes close to 100 "red flags" indicating risky behavior. Parents are encouraged to touch everything and identify these red flags.

Register at <https://bit.ly/libertyhips22>. Or register for other, upcoming presentations dates at <https://bit.ly/fcpdhips>. Registration is required, and seats are limited for this free event. For further information or to arrange a presentation for an organization, club or group, email PFC Meg Hawkins at [FCPDHIPS@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:FCPDHIPS@fairfaxcounty.gov).

## Car Seat Inspections, Dec. 15

Parents may get their children's car seats inspected on Thursday, Dec. 15, 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, if necessary, and parents will be taught how to install the seat properly, in the future.

## Gift Card Drive for Child Victims

The Fairfax County Police Department's Victim Services Division is holding its 9th Annual gift-card drive. They'll be used to benefit child victims, children who've witnessed domestic and sexual violence, and children who've lost a loved one to homicide. Especially useful are gift cards to, for example, Target, Walmart, Amazon, grocery and clothing stores, as well as to local restaurants.

Please drop off or mail these cards, from now until Dec. 16, to: Saly Faye, director, Victim Services Division, 12099 Government Center Pkwy., Fairfax, VA 22035. Gift cards will be distributed to the children's families by Dec. 17 to enable them to have meals and presents and a happier holiday. For more information, contact Faye at [saly.faye@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:saly.faye@fairfaxcounty.gov) or 703-246-2465.

## Storybook Trail Opens at E.C. Lawrence Park

Children may learn all about squirrels and chipmunk and spot some local squirrels while taking a child-appropriate stroll on the new Storybook Trail in Ellanor C. Lawrence Park. This new trail lets parents and children share a healthful walk and an outdoor adventure together.

Children will enjoy running like squirrels from sign to sign along this .15-mile path to read a story about a squirrel and a chipmunk in their natural habitat. And besides English, it'll also be available in Spanish and Korean. The park is at 5040 Walney Road in Chantilly. For more information, call 703-631-0013 or go to <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence>.

# GUARANTEED Life Insurance up to \$20,000.00

Modified Whole Life Insurance from Physicians Life Insurance Company

- Cash to help pay funeral or other final expenses
- Guaranteed acceptance ages 45 to 85\*
- No medical exam, no health questions

Call for FREE Information  
**1-844-509-1697**  
 or go to [life55plus.info/vapress](http://life55plus.info/vapress)  
 ▶ You'll also get a FREE Final Wishes Planner!

\*Ages may vary by state. Guaranteed for one of these life insurance policies. Benefits reduced first two years. Insurance Policy L770 (ID: L770ID; OK: L770OK; TN: L770TN). 6236

**LeafFilter**  
GUTTER PROTECTION

BACKED BY A YEAR-ROUND CLOG-FREE GUARANTEE

BEFORE LeafFilter AFTER LeafFilter

THE NATION'S #1 GUTTER GUARD

EXCLUSIVE LIMITED TIME OFFER!

**20% OFF + 10% OFF**

YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE\* SENIORS & MILITARY!

FINANCING THAT FITS YOUR BUDGET!  
\*Subject to credit approval. Call for details.  
 Promo Code: 285

FREE GUTTER ALIGNMENT + FREE GUTTER CLEANING\*

CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE  
**1-877-614-6667**

Mon-Thurs: 8am-1pm, Fri-Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: 2pm-8pm EST

A COMPANY OF LEAFHOME

\*For those who qualify. One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. \*\*Offer valid at time of estimate only. 21The leading consumer reporting agency conducted a 16 month outdoor test of gutter guards in 2010 and recognized LeafFilter as the #1 rated professionally installed gutter guard system in America. Manufactured in Plainwell, Michigan and processed at LMT Mercer Group in Ohio. See Representative for full warranty details. Registration# 0366020922 CDEB# 1035795 Registration# HIC-0449705 License# CBC056678 License# RCE-51604 Registration# C12720 License# 35544 Suffolk HIC License# 52229-H License# 2102212986 License# 202000022 License# 202000403 License# 2105212546 License# A/HIC111225 Registration# 176447 License# 423330 Registration# IR731864 License# SD145 License# 408693 Registration# 13VH09953900 Registration# H-19114 License# 218294 Registration# PA069383 License# 41354 License# 7656 DOP# #10783658-5501 License# 423330 License# 2705169445 License# LEAFNNW822J License# WV056912

## The Bath or Shower You've Always Wanted IN AS LITTLE AS 1 DAY



**\$1000 OFF\*** OR **No Payments & No Interest for 18 Months\*\***

Military & Senior Discounts Available

OFFER EXPIRES DECEMBER 31, 2022

**BCI BATH & SHOWER** CALL NOW!  
**(844) 945-1631**

\*Includes product and labor; bathtub, shower or walk-in tub and wall surround. This promotion cannot be combined with any other offer. Other restrictions may apply. This offer expires 12/31/2022. Each dealership is independently owned and operated. \*\*Third party financing is available for those customers who qualify. See your dealer for details. ©2022 BCI Acrylic Inc.

# CLASSIFIED

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

TO ADVERTISE IN THIS PAPER, CALL BY MONDAY 11:00 AM 703-778-9411

Upgrade Your Home with a  
**NEW METAL ROOF**  
 Guaranteed to Last a Lifetime!

MADE IN THE USA

Call today to schedule your  
**FREE ESTIMATE**  
**1-844-902-4611**

**LIMITED TIME OFFER**  
**60% off**  
 YOUR INSTALLATION  
 +  
**TAKE AN ADDITIONAL 10% off**  
 Install for Military, Health Workers and First Responders

**ERIE Metal Roofs**  
Warranty - Limited Lifetime. Transferable to 1st subsequent owner. Excludes gutters/paintwork. Terms and conditions apply. Min. 10-15' Appearance of the roof must be kept in accordance with.

New orders only. Does not include material costs. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Minimum purchase required. Other restrictions may apply. This is an advertisement placed on behalf of Erie Construction Mid-West, Inc ("Erie"). Offer terms and conditions may apply and the offer may not be available in your area. Offer expires December 31, 2022. If you call the number provided, you consent to being contacted by telephone, SMS text message, email, pre-recorded messages by Erie or its affiliates and service providers using automated technologies notwithstanding if you are on a DO NOT CALL list or register. Please review our Privacy Policy and Terms of Use on [homeservicescompliance.com](http://homeservicescompliance.com). All rights reserved. VA License Number: 2705029944

Prepare for Power Outages & Save Money

**GENERAC PWRCELL**  
 SOLAR + BATTERY STORAGE SYSTEM

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!

**ACT NOW TO RECEIVE A \$300 SPECIAL OFFER!\***  
 | (833) 688-1378

\*Offer value when purchased at retail. Solar panels sold separately.

**TRUGREEN**

Save now with **50% OFF\***  
 Your First Application  
 AMERICA'S #1

Caring for next spring's perfect lawn starts now.

Call for your FREE, no-obligation quote today!  
**1-855-942-6217**

\*Special price is for first lawn application only. Requires purchase of annual plan, for new residential EasyPay or PrePay customers only. Valid at participating TruGreen locations. Availability of services may vary by geography. Not to be combined with or used in conjunction with any other offer or discount. Additional restrictions may apply. Consumer responsible for all sales tax. \*Purchase of annual lawn plan required for Healthy Lawn Analysis, which is performed at the first visit. America's #1 lawn care company based on U.S. market share of professional lawn care companies. 2021 MMR Brand Health Tracker. \*\*Guarantee applies to annual plan customers only. BBB accredited since 07/01/2012. ©2022 TruGreen Limited Partnership. All rights reserved. In Connecticut, B-0153, B-1380, B-0127, B-0200, B-0151.

**GENERAC**

Prepare for power outages today  
 WITH A HOME STANDBY GENERATOR

**\$0 MONEY DOWN + LOW MONTHLY PAYMENT OPTIONS**

Contact a Generac dealer for full terms and conditions

**REQUEST A FREE QUOTE**  
 CALL NOW BEFORE THE NEXT POWER OUTAGE  
**(844) 947-1479**

**FREE 7-Year Extended Warranty\***  
 - A \$695 Value!

\*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.

### Employment

VeriSign, Inc. has job openings in Reston, VA: Engineer IV - Software Engineering [Req #V0500]: Provide hands-on implementation including requirements analysis, system and software design, coding and technical leadership of high profile, custom developed, highly available production applications. Engineer - Database Engineering [Req #V0501]: Provide system administration support and responsible for the installation, configuration, upgrade, patching, administration, monitoring, security and maintenance of our corporate applications on-premise databases. Mail resume to Attn: Dave Carney, 12061 Bluemont Way, Reston, VA 20190. Must include job title and req # to be considered.

### Legals

**ABC LICENSE**

ONE TOMO, Inc. trading as TOMO IZAKAYA JAPANESE SUSHI AND GRILL, 13810-A Brad-dock Road, Centreville, Fairfax Co., Virginia 22012 + 2456. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Beer & Wine On Premises and Mixed Beverages license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Jong H. Cho, President. Date notice posted at establishment: 11/23/2022. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at [www.abc.virginia.gov](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or (800) 552-3200.

### Be a part of our:

- Wellbeing pages, the first week of every month.
  - Delight in our **HomeLifeStyle** sections, the second week of every month. Peek at the top real estate sales, glimpse over-the-top remodeling projects, get practical suggestions for your home.
  - Celebrate students, camps, schools, enrichment programs, colleges and more in our **A-plus: Education, Learning, Fun** pages, the third week of every month.
  - Senior Living**, fourth week of every month.
- Questions?**  
 E-mail [sales@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:sales@connectionnewspapers.com) or call 703-778-9431



# CALENDAR

## ONGOING

Town of Vienna Holiday Decorating Contest. Ring in the holiday season by participating in the 2022 Town of Vienna Holiday Decorating Contest. This year's theme is "Shine Bright, Vienna!" As in past years, the contest is open to residents and businesses located in the Town of Vienna who are encouraged to create a festive, holiday display that will draw visitors to the town. Displays will be judged by the Town Business Liaison Committee (TBLC) judging panel and voted on by community members. The TBLC judging panel will select business winners on Dec. 8. Community members will also have an opportunity to vote online for the resident and business "People's Choice Award" through Dec. 9 at 12 p.m., and winners will be announced at the regular Town Council meeting at Town Hall on Dec. 9 beginning at 8 p.m., and via social media and the Town website.



The Winter Lantern Festival will be held Dec. 16 Thru Feb. 12, 2023 in Tysons Corner.

food and beverages, a DJ spinning the latest tunes, an open dance floor and a variety of other attractions and activities.

## HUNTERS WOODS AT RAILS EDGE WINTER EVENTS

Wednesday evenings from 4-6 p.m.  
Dec. 7 -- Holiday Shopping: Local Craft Market  
Dec. 21 -- Welcome Party (New residents) and Karaoke  
Dec. 28 -- Cooking Demo with Chef  
RSVP required. RSVP to [HWTEMarketing@IntegraCare.com](mailto:HWTEMarketing@IntegraCare.com) or call 703-429-1130.

## SUNDAY/DEC. 11

Traditional Celtic Music. 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. At the Old Brogue Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. Featuring Jody Marshall's Holiday Celebration: One of the top hammered dulcimer players in America, Jody Marshall has been performing for more than a quarter century. She is accompanied by Jim Queen on fiddle, banjo and vocals, Susan Queen on bass guitar and vocals, and Paul Nahay on piano, bringing us holiday favorites old and new. Visit [jodymarshall.net](http://jodymarshall.net).

## DEC. 16 THRU FEB. 12

Winter Lantern Festival will debut a spectacular holiday light adventure at the Lerner Town Square, 8025 Galleria Drive in Tysons starting December 16 through February 12th. Created by Kaleido Arts & Entertainment Group, Winter Lantern Festival will feature a total of over 10,000 of LED Chinese-inspired artisan lanterns, along with live performances and on-site food vendors. Guests will wander through a wonderland of light that includes Chinese myths, legends, and zodiacs. In addition, they will view handmade lanterns encompassing a world of ice, including displays of mammoths, polar bears, and penguins. There will also be interactive light swings, see-saws, and tunnels. Be prepared to indulge your friends, family, and yourself in photo opportunities! Hours are Fridays to Sundays from 5-10 p.m. Visit [www.winterlanternfestival.com](http://www.winterlanternfestival.com).

## 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](http://www.restonartgallery.com)

## NOW THRU DEC. 11

"The Rainmaker." At 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons. "The Rainmaker," written by N. Richard Nash and directed by Deidra LaWan Starnes. Not only is the Curry family farm being paralyzed by a devastating drought, but Lizzie Curry, to the chagrin of her father and brothers, is unmarried with no viable prospects. A charming, confident trickster named Starbuck comes to town and promises to bring rain in exchange for \$100, setting off a series of events that enable Lizzie to see herself in a new light. Show times are Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 and 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$50 general admission, \$47 seniors (65+), \$15 students, educators, and military. Purchase online at [www.1ststage.org](http://www.1ststage.org) or 703-854-1856.

## DEC. 9-11

Capital Art & Craft Festival. At Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly. The Winter Capital Art & Craft Festival will feature art in more than a dozen mediums including glass, jewelry, leather, paintings, prints, photography, pottery, wearable art and wood. Show times: Friday, Dec. 9: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 10: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 11: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tickets: \$10 in advance; \$12 at the door. Senior discount available; children under 12 free. Ticket information: [www.CapitalArtAndCraftFestivals.com](http://www.CapitalArtAndCraftFestivals.com)

## FRIDAY/DEC. 9

Santa's Ride. Vienna residents who wish to support Santa's Ride can drop off new, unwrapped toys, games, books, and gifts at the Vienna Police Department, 301 Center St. S; the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., SE; or Vienna Town Hall during normal business hours. All items must be dropped off by 3 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 9, 2022. Police officers on motorcycle from multiple jurisdictions will escort Santa to local schools and government buildings to pick up the donated items and deliver them to hospitals and to community children in need. Santa's Ride 2022 is supported by the Fairfax County Police Department, Fairfax County Sheriff's Office, City of Fairfax Police Department, Falls Church Sheriff's Office, Herndon Police Department, Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, Vienna Police Department and Virginia State Police.

## FRIDAY/DEC. 9

Ugly Sweater Party. 7-9:30 p.m. At 1440 Chain Bridge Rd, McLean. The Old Firehouse 5th & 6th Grader Parties are themed and decorated accordingly. Partygoers can enjoy catered

[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY

[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

CALL 703-549-0004

FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION

ELECTRICAL ELECTRICAL

## K & D ELECTRIC

COMMERCIAL / RESIDENTIAL SERVICE  
Family Owned & Operated

Recessed Lighting Ceiling Fans Phone/CATV Computer Network Cabling Service Upgrades Hot Tubs, etc...

Licensed/Bonded/Insured  
Office 703-335-0654  
Mobile 703-499-0522  
[lektrkman28@gmail.com](mailto:lektrkman28@gmail.com)

LANDSCAPING LANDSCAPING

Landscape Drainage Landscape Drainage

**ProDrainage**  
A JES Services, Inc Company  
Eco-Friendly Landscape Drainage Experts  
Drainage, Erosion, Landscaping, Hardscaping, Patios, Retaining Walls & More  
Your Neighborhood Company since 1987!  
703-772-0500 [www.ProDrainage.com](http://www.ProDrainage.com)  
VA. Licensed Class A Contractor

Sign up for  
**FREE DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION**  
to any or all of our 15 papers  
[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM/SUBSCRIBE](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM/SUBSCRIBE)

**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

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.

Each newspaper 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>  
Connection Newspapers... Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette, Centre View, Potomac Almanac  
1606 King Street • Alexandria, VA • 703-778-9431

# "IN THE GRASP"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

(Recent emails have prompted this column.) "In the grasp" is a football expression most often associated with quarterbacks being "sacked," (a defensive player having a secure hold of the quarterback). This basically means that the play is over/"the play is dead." It could also characterize an online scam. (I should know.) It occurs when you are speaking with someone at the end of an 800 number who is asking for remote control of your computer to install, upgrade, download, upload, and/or fix whatever computer problem precipitated this call. You're asking/need help and consequently, you might be putting yourself at risk.

I experienced this circumstance one time and it nearly cost me \$3,000. I responded to an online solicitation that seemed to offer a reward/payout for something. It seemed harmless enough, so I made the call. Given how our consuming patterns have evolved with the internet, responding to emails from mostly familiar brands and buying some of what they're selling, "cyber-Monday" comes to mind, is how much of our consuming is done these days. And of course, you pay with a credit card to complete the transaction. However, sometimes the solicitations/sites are not what they purport to be. It's difficult to discern, occasionally, whether "it's live or if its Memorex." Sometimes, it's hard to tell fact from fiction/ to know what's real or what's not (dangerous). (Beginning in the 70s, Memorex advertised Ella Fitzgerald "scatting" into a microphone, live, and showing a glass breaking from her sound. Then they played their recording from the performance and again the wine glass shattered. And then the voice-over asked: "Is it live or Memorex?")

I think this is what happened to me when "I was in the grasp" after multiple hours on the phone. My innocent inquiry into the "real" offer lead me down more than just a garden path. Instead, it led very nearly to my bank - to pay the piper. It all started innocently enough (so I thought) with me giving control of my computer to this voice on the other end of the phone to process the purchase/payment due me. The payment was made to my bank, and I was told to go online and check my account. When I looked, I noticed a \$3,000 (not \$30) deposit. They made a mistake or so it seemed. Still on the phone with this far-away person, he admitted they made a mistake and to receive my real reward, I needed to repay them the \$3,000. I suggested that they simply retrieve the money the same way they deposited it. He said they couldn't do that - for whatever reason, and that I needed to repay them, this time said with a bit more urgency. I began to sense that I was being manipulated and slowed my roll accordingly.

Unfortunately, they sped up their roll and said if I didn't repay them, blah, blah, blah. I didn't agree and then their grip/manipulation got tighter. Having control of my computer, he deleted all my icons. I couldn't quite figure out what they were doing. Then when I asked for the icons to be returned, the scam took a nastier turn. He said, he was going to "lock" my computer unless I repaid the \$3,000. Being into the second hour of this negotiation, I began to get nervous - and flustered, realizing that unless I paid this ransom, my computer and all its memories would be gone, and since my computer is my business (and I have minimal computer skills/knowledge), I acquiesced and asked how what I should do to resolve this matter. He said I need to go to my bank and get a certified check (payable to whom I don't remember) and then go to a local Western Union office near me home and wire them the money. Now I officially realized that I was in a trouble/at risk of losing this \$3,000. With no alternatives, so far as I knew (which wasn't very far), I went outside and got into my car and started driving to my bank, while still on the cell phone with this "solicitor." About halfway there, I decided I didn't want to be a victim and so I told the man I was not going to pay him. He got mad and said he "was going to lock my computer," (I determined that the \$3,000 payment would be more harmful to me than the computer lock). I turned the car around and returned home to find out if I had suffered any consequences for not paying. Sure enough, when I got home, I tried to turn on the computer, but I found it impossible to do so. Apparently, this man was indeed a man of his word, as far as locking my computer is concerned anyway. Now, whenever I receive emails from unfamiliar sites, they remain unseen. I learned my lesson, very nearly the hard way (unlocking the computer simply required a trip to Best Buy, computer in hand and to pay a fee for unlocking services rendered). I may not be the sharpest knife in the drawer but thankfully I'm not the dullest, either.

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

# HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



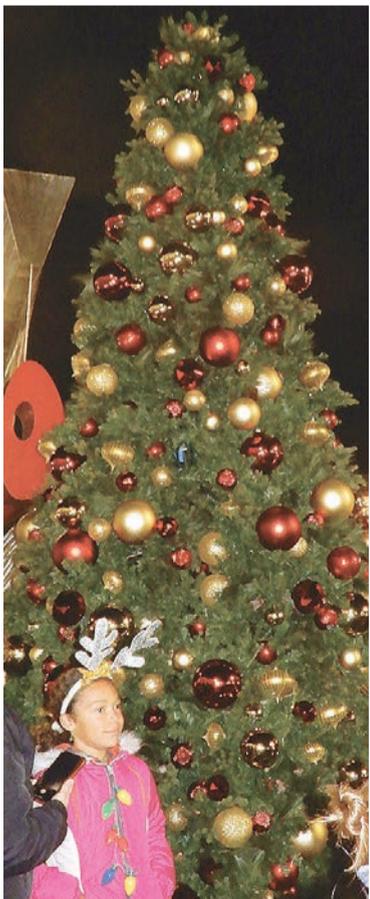
The Philosophers Tones sing Christmas carols to start the festivities.



The Vienna Singing Princesses sang hit children's songs including "Let it Go" and "We Don't Talk about Bruno," plus carols such as "Jingle Bells."

## Carolers, Christmas Tree and a Tall Toy Soldier

The Westfields Business Owners Assn. held a Holiday Lights celebration, Friday night, Dec. 2, in the square at The Field at Commonwealth shopping center in Chantilly. To register for a chance to win gifts from the center's "12 Days of Giveaways," go to [westfieldcenter.com](http://westfieldcenter.com), from Dec. 12 through Dec. 24.



The Christmas tree was lit just before Santa arrived.



The children are excited for Santa's arrival.



Santa Claus shares a laugh with Zoran Savic and his son Neven, 3.



Gregory May juggling colorful, illuminated clubs.



Toy soldier Gregory May was one of the evening's highlights.



Toy soldier Gregory May enjoyed himself as much as the children did.