

THE CONNECTION

CENTREVIEW ❖ Chantilly ❖ Great Falls ❖ Herndon ❖ McLean ❖ Oak Hill ❖ Oakton ❖ Reston ❖ Vienna

PHOTO VIA MCLEAN COMMUNITY CENTR@MCLEANVACENTER AWARDS, PAGE 3, 4, 10 ❖ OPINION, PAGE 6 ❖ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 13 ❖ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 14

The McLean Community Center held its Community Independence Day Fireworks Celebration Saturday, July 1.

Celebrating Independence Day Around the Region

PAGE 8-9

Rollicking, Relevant 'Footloose'

PAGE 12

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Another ***PHENOMENAL*** new home construction by MR Custom Homes - the premier local builder in McLean! This ***SPECTACULAR*** 6BR/7.5 BA home will feature breathtaking high ceilings, hdwd floors, 3-car garage & elevator-ready floorplan. Gourmet Chef's kitchen; sunny morning rm; kitchen opens to the family room with cedar beams along the ceiling, dramatic 42" stone hearth fireplace plus built-ins and doors leading out to the large screened porch with flagstone decking, outdoor gas fireplace, ceiling fan and speakers; incredible primary suite; expansive walkout LL! **Chesterbrook, Longfellow, Mclean Schools!**

BEST WASHINGTONIAN 2022

FOR SALE!

Offered for...\$1,199,000

802 Ridge Place, Falls Church City
BEAUTIFUL 4BR/3 full BA brick rambler in sought after **Broadmont location!** Moments to E. Falls Church Metro and Eden Center! You are going to LOVE this inviting home nestled in nature on lush, 1/4 acre lot featuring hardwood floors & freshly painted main level. Updated kitchen w/ Silestone countertops, Italian tile flooring and breakfast bar peninsula. Main level features primary BR with remodeled bath (2019); nice add'l bedrooms, plus office/den. LL includes in-law suite, rec rooms & updated full bathroom. **FC City Schools!**

SOLD!

1741 Fairview Avenue
McLean, 22101
\$1,570,000

FOR SALE!

Offered for...\$1,524,750

2041 Westmoreland Street, Falls Church
FABULOUS 5BR/3.5 BA colonial home on 4 levels, with large backyard and separate in-law suite! This home features gleaming hdwd floors on main and upper lvls; family room with 2-story arched window and floor-to-ceiling stone fireplace. The light/bright kitchen has ample cabinet and countertop space with eat-in breakfast area. Walk-out to a huge deck from the kitchen area overlooking the backyard. UL w/ spacious primary BR w/ luxury BA, plus 2 BR's. Huge in-law suite on LL. **McLean HS Pyramid! (Also for RENT!)**

SOLD!

6013 Woodland Terrace
McLean, 22101
\$1,399,000

SOLD!

6631 Tucker Avenue
McLean 22101
\$1,824,750

SOLD!

1562 Forest Villa Ln
McLean, 22101
\$1,550,000

SOLD!

2336 N. Oak Street
Falls Church, 22046
\$2,000,000

SOLD!

1639 Macon Street
McLean, 22101
\$2,215,000

SOLD!

2204 Beacon Lane
Falls Church, 22043
\$1,795,000

Curious what your home is worth? Call to chat with JD and Ed today!

NEWS



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Far right, William "Bill" Canis, president of the Great Falls Citizens Association, accepts the Glen Sjoblom Award from Chris Rich, vice president and president-elect.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

From left, Supervisor John W. Foust, Senator Barbara Favola (D-31), Bill Canis, president of the Great Falls Citizens Association and the recipient of the Glen Sjoblom Award 2023, Delegate Kathleen Murphy (D-34), and Delegate Rip Sullivan (D-48).

Bill Canis Recipient of the Glen Sjoblom Award

Outgoing GFCA president contributed his time unselfishly.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The Great Falls Citizens Association Executive Board presented the coveted Glen Sjoblom Award to William "Bill" Canis, president of the GFCA (July 1-2016–June 30, 2023), on Wednesday, June 28. Canis listened as various speakers shared their appreciation in a gathering full of family, friends, colleagues and dignitaries.

The GFCA Board hosted the program to honor Canis at the home of Ellen and Allie Ash. Elected government officials included Dranesville District Supervisor John Foust



SCREENSHOT

Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) extends congratulations to William "Bill" Canis, the president of the Great Falls Citizens Association. A Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Resolution pays tribute to Canis' dedication and contributions to the local community.

(D), Sen. Barbara Favola (D-31), Del. Kathleen Murphy (D-34), Del. Rip Sullivan (D-48), and Sen. Jennifer Boysko (D-33). The event and award honored Canis's unwavering dedication to preserving the beloved elements of the Great Falls community and ensuring that residents have a voice in issues affecting Great Falls.

According to Chris Rich, the current vice president and president-elect of the organization, Canis has made a lasting impact on the organization and the broader community through his sustained leadership, innovative solutions, team-building abilities, and recognition of others' contributions.

Canis displayed exceptional leadership qualities crucial to overseeing an all-volunteer association and establishing effective relationships with government officials and various community organizations during his three terms as vice president and president for an unprecedented seven years.

According to Pam Grosvenor, the position

requires an individual who can foster teamwork and collaboration while effectively engaging and motivating others. Furthermore, this individual must be open to hearing and considering diverse points of view, actively promote civil discourse on various issues and adeptly mediate conflicts when they arise. "Bill has all of these qualities."

Jane Edmondson, chief of staff for Supervisor Foust, looked over the crowd of other dignitaries and said, "In one way or another, we've all worked with Bill Canis."

Murphy laughed and told how the best part of working with Canis was sitting at the neighborhood restaurant and bar, The Old Brogue, to discuss matters.

Foust presented a resolution issued by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. He praised Canis for guiding the GFCA through several challenging issues involving land use, roads and trails, trees, parks and play-

SEE CANIS, PAGE 15

Third Annual Liberty Amendments Month Continues Until July 17

The Town of Vienna is gearing up for one of the biggest events of the year, Liberty Amendments Month. This annual celebration of citizenship highlights local history and liberties as they relate to the 13th, 14th, 15th and 19th Amendments, which granted equal citizenship rights and protections to people who were previously excluded from the U.S. Constitution. Age appropriate activities and events will be held throughout the month until July 17.

The festivities began with the town's Juneteenth celebration on Saturday, June 17 at First Baptist Church, 450 Orchard St., NW, Vienna. Keynote address was by Dr. Gregory Washington, president of George Mason University.

The second major event was the Town's Independence Day celebration, on Sunday, July 2, at Yeonas Park. This beloved, patriotic, Vienna tradition features live music, food trucks and concessions, and a fireworks show.

New this year is "Our American Liberty Stories," an interactive feature giving residents the opportunity to share their family history with the Vienna community. The stories will be displayed at Town government buildings, local businesses and at Liberty Amendments Month events.

Closing out the month-long celebration is a Multicultural Festival on Saturday, July 15, from 3-8:30 p.m. on the Vienna Town Green. The day will feature

SEE LIBERTY AMENDMENTS MONTH, PAGE 14

Overdose Leaves One Youth Dead, One Critical

Detectives from Fairfax County Police Major Crimes Bureau, Crime Scene Section, and Opioid Investigation Unit are investigating a fatal overdose that left one juvenile dead.

On June 25, at 7:21 p.m. officers responded to the 5700 block of Columbia Pike, Falls Church for two juveniles unconscious and foaming at the mouth inside a vehicle. Officers immediately began performing

life-saving measures by administering multiple doses of Narcan and performing CPR. Both juveniles were transported to local hospitals, where one juvenile was pronounced deceased. The other juvenile remains hospitalized in critical condition.

Detectives are asking anyone who may have information about this overdose to contact

SEE OVERDOSE, PAGE 15

Local Writers Win Virginia Press Association Awards

Connection and Gazette garner awards for work published in 2022.

BY MARY KIMM
THE CONNECTION

Each year the Virginia Press Association holds a competition to select the best published material from newspapers and news sites from across the state. The contest is judged by journalists from outside the commonwealth, for what is one of the largest such competitions in the country.

It has been no small accomplishment just to keep publishing in this economic climate, between the pandemic and the decline in newspaper advertising. But we continue to be called to provide the best journalism we can to the communities we serve. We have great readers. We've been blessed with a group of remarkable writers. We're pleased that we won 15 awards. Many categories are judged as a "body of work," so a group of three or sometimes more stories, as you can see below.

Fairfax County Connection Newspapers

Susan Laume, First Place, General News Writing, Americans Show Love For Ukraine, Injured Ukrainian Soldiers Treated Locally, War Takes Heavy Toll on Ukrainian Women, Injured Ukrainian Soldiers Enjoy a Fishing Adventure, Injured Ukrainian Soldiers Receive Treatment Locally; Judge Comment: "Awesome way to tie compelling local coverage with an international news story" [http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Writing/W12_General_News_Writing_\(N3\)/First_Place_Fairfax_County_South_Connection_1/Attachment_01.pdf](http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Writing/W12_General_News_Writing_(N3)/First_Place_Fairfax_County_South_Connection_1/Attachment_01.pdf)

Susan Laume, Second Place, Breaking News Writing, "Coyote Bites Cause Cautionary Park Closure" [http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Writing/W02_Breaking_News_Writing_\(N3\)/Second_Place_Fairfax_County_South_Connection_2/Attachment_01.pdf](http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Writing/W02_Breaking_News_Writing_(N3)/Second_Place_Fairfax_County_South_Connection_2/Attachment_01.pdf)

Bonnie Hobbs, Third Place, General News Writing, 'You Can't Imagine Living Without Your Daughter' Remembering Reema and Erin, 15 years after VT tragedy; Doing Good in Her Name, Celeste Peterson honors her child by serving her neighbors; Helping Others to Honor Those Who Were Killed; [http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Writing/W12_General_News_Writing_\(N3\)/Third_Place_Fairfax_County_Northwest_Connection_3/Attachment_01.pdf](http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Writing/W12_General_News_Writing_(N3)/Third_Place_Fairfax_County_Northwest_Connection_3/Attachment_01.pdf)

Mike Salmon, Third Place, Health, Science & Environment Writing, Group Opposes Cinder Bed Road Bikeway; Climate Change Study Warns of Coastal Flooding in 2050; Paralyzed Cyclist Gains Freedom for 4 ♦ THE CONNECTION ♦ JULY 5-11, 2023



Ashley Simpson



Bonnie Hobbs



Eden Brown



Glenda Booth



Janet Barnett



Jeanne Theismann



Laurence Foong

Susan Laume, Third Place, Picture Story or Essay; Local Gardeners Can Assist Monarchs Judge Comment: "Photos really tell the story. Good job." [http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Photography/P06_Picture_Story_or_Essay_\(N3\)/Third_Place_Fairfax_County_South_Connection_3/Attachment_01.pdf](http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Photography/P06_Picture_Story_or_Essay_(N3)/Third_Place_Fairfax_County_South_Connection_3/Attachment_01.pdf)



Michael Lee Pope



Mike Salmon



Shirley Ruhe



Susan Laume

Bonnie Hobbs, Alternate, Feature Profile Writing, Fulbright for Valerie Nguyen; Judge Comment: Nice story. Very well-written. [http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Writing/W11_Feature_Profile_Writing_\(including_News_Obituaries\)__\(N3\)/Alternate_Winner_Fairfax_County_Northwest_Connection_4/Attachment_01.pdf](http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Writing/W11_Feature_Profile_Writing_(including_News_Obituaries)__(N3)/Alternate_Winner_Fairfax_County_Northwest_Connection_4/Attachment_01.pdf)

Arlington Connection

Eden Brown, First Place, Feature Writing Portfolio, Old Instruments, New Friends in Arlington; Arlington's USA Team Headed To Finals in Ramadan Tourney; Nightmare on Jackson Street. Judge comment: "Eden Brown is a seasoned, clever writer with a magical pen; well-articulated in all venues; vivid details, word choice and clever titles keep you wanting to read more." See [http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Writing/W09_Feature_Writing_Portfolio_\(N3\)/First_Place_Arlington_Connection_1/Attachment_01.pdf](http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Writing/W09_Feature_Writing_Portfolio_(N3)/First_Place_Arlington_Connection_1/Attachment_01.pdf)

Ashley Simpson, Second Place, Feature Profile Writing: What Makes Ted Run. Judge Comment: "Very inspiring story that not only tells of his accomplishments, but also his motivations. Nicely done." [http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Writing/W11_Feature_Profile_Writing_\(including_News_Obituaries\)__\(N3\)/Second_Place_Arlington_Connection_2/Attachment_01.pdf](http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Writing/W11_Feature_Profile_Writing_(including_News_Obituaries)__(N3)/Second_Place_Arlington_Connection_2/Attachment_01.pdf)

Eden Brown, Second Place; Health, Science & Environment Writing, Arlington Man Who Donated Kidney Will Climb 7 Summits; Glad I Flunked May Home Safety Check; Fishy Story: Thousands of Fish Die In Four Mile Run, Cause Unknown; Judge Comment: "Uses a very readable storytelling format." [http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Writing/W15_Health_Science_and_Environmental_Writing_\(N3\)/Second_Place_Arlington_Connection_2/Attachment_01.pdf](http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Writing/W15_Health_Science_and_Environmental_Writing_(N3)/Second_Place_Arlington_Connection_2/Attachment_01.pdf)

Shirley Ruhe, Third Place, Combination Picture & Story. Once Part of Segregated Arlington, Now, Jennie Dean Park is

SEE CONNECTION, PAGE 9
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CONNECTION Burke ♦ Fairfax ♦ Springfield ♦ Fairfax Station



OPINION, PAGE 6 ♦ CALENDAR, PAGE 14 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 12

PHOTO COURTESY OF LINSLEY WISE

MARCH 31 - APRIL 6, 2022

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Susan Laume won first place for General News Writing for extensive coverage of how local people here and overseas are helping in Ukraine. The judge said: "Awesome way to tie compelling local coverage with an international news story"

Near Normal Life; Judge Comment: "Gives good details on topics familiar to readers." [http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Writing/W15_Health_Science_and_Environmental_Writing_\(N3\)/Third_Place_Fairfax_County_South_Connection_3/Attachment_01.pdf](http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Writing/W15_Health_Science_and_Environmental_Writing_(N3)/Third_Place_Fairfax_County_South_Connection_3/Attachment_01.pdf)

W15_Health_Science_and_Environmental_Writing_(N3)/Third_Place_Fairfax_County_South_Connection_3/Attachment_01.pdf

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Fund Public Schools and Virginia Budget Impasse

BY DEL. VIVIAN WATTS



Funding public schools is central to the Virginia state budget impasse. While there are other issues – particularly mental health and tax fairness – our public schools are facing serious challenges. The pandemic drove uneven learning losses and classroom discipline lapses, but teacher shortages and lack of essential funding are long-standing.

In the last 15 years, Virginia hasn't kept up with other states. Before the 2008 recession, we had managed to increase state/local per pupil spending to just above the national average. However, since 2008, other states increased total per pupil spending by over 8% on average while Virginia's K-12 funding per pupil (adjusted for inflation) has fallen.

Raising teacher salaries, funding counselors and other support personnel, and correcting the error made in covering the end of the state food tax are the big ticket items. I spoke to other critical needs in these remarks on the House floor:

"I went to a poor rural school, Maple Grove, through the 8th grade. We had a grade and half in each classroom of 35 or so kids. I had it pretty good in the house my father built. But for Pat Wright, the most awesome slugger on our girl's baseball team, it was different. Pat went home to a shack lit with kerosene lanterns and cardboard on the walls for insulation.

"I also had it pretty good, when I started thinking about boys. I didn't have to feel self-conscious about being tall because Max and Gary had flunked a grade or two. Max dropped out as soon as he turned 16. Gary died in a drunk driving accident. I was the first in my family to graduate college.

"I know my childhood reality is shared by oth-

ers in this Chamber – urban and rural. If you came from that kind of background and you are here, you survived. Why? A big reason I survived was Mrs. Persich, my teacher for 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. Yes, all 3 years and she taught every subject, even though all she really knew was how to diagram sentences. I survived because even though Mrs Persich didn't know math, she came to know me.

"We have the opportunity to reach kids like those in Maple Grove – kids floundering in circumstances beyond their control, circumstances they were born into. The most crucial opportunity we have before us is negotiating the Budget.

"Our Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) provided a strong assessment of how to begin to fix failing schools: Hire instructional assistants to '(i) help teachers provide small group and individualized instruction necessitated by widening academic needs within classrooms, (ii) help teachers manage challenging student behaviors within classrooms, and (iii) reduce teacher workloads.' In other words, give teachers time to know their students, like Mrs. Persich got to know me. Give our teachers time to use their professional training to awaken the potential for learning that is there but that must be recognized, if there's any hope that it can be touched.

"The House budget only helps schools if they've fallen below five or more accreditation benchmarks – finally throwing a line after they've gone underwater for the fifth time. I hope we will be able to vote for a budget that helps floundering schools long before they miss a fifth benchmark ... before another Gary ends up dead looking for something in a drug high because school didn't open any doors for him.

"I hope we will be able to vote for a budget that recognizes the reality of students like Pat by increasing the At-Risk add-on to funnel extra help based on the number of students needing free and reduced lunch.

"I hope we can vote for a budget that takes another recommendation seriously in JLARC's report, 'Pandemic Impact on K-12 Public Education,' to expand the proven success of the Tiered Support System – a program that provides technical assistance and coaching to reduce disruptive classroom behavior through positive behavior interventions. Not flunk Max, not throw Max out of the classroom, not push Max into the school to prison pipeline.

"In the face of the tragic growth in student mental health problems, Tiered Support was also recommended by the Behavioral Health Commission. It has the capability to reach far more students with positive intervention – but not with token funding. JLARC underscored pleas from teachers throughout Virginia: 'The Covid aftermath on student behavior is real. We need help.'

"Finally, Tiered Support from outside has to be backed up with ongoing support inside school walls. I hope we will be able to vote for a final budget that provides the funding – totally absent in the House budget – to provide a counselor support position for every 1000 students using social workers, psychologists, nurses, or other health and behavioral licensed workers.

"I had the blessing of stability growing up – many, many of today's students do not. If their needs aren't timely identified, problems will get out of control. I hope we will be able to vote for a final budget focused on quality public education for today's Max and Pat and Gary and for the potential of me and of you that is in them. I hope we will be able to show teachers like Mrs Persich who cared about us that we care about them."

Broadening Internal Threat to Our Democracy

BY DEL. KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM



Comparing periods of our country's history requires a greater in-depth knowledge than I have, but my more than a half-century involvement in the study and active participation in government causes me concern about where we are and where we are headed as a Nation. President Biden in a speech earlier this year that I have quoted in this column in the past expressed concern about the future of democracy. The threats to our democracy as I see them now are greater than at any other time in our history as I know it.

My fears have only increased as I have followed the decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) in recent years

and most especially last week. Ignoring stare decisis, the following of precedent from previous decisions on the same subject, interjects an uncertainty into our legal framework and creates a fear by those most vulnerable in our society as to what SCOTUS, with a majority of very conservative justices with life terms, might do to reorder our legal system to their views on the world.

Over the centuries it has been the decisions of the United States Supreme Court that have done so much to enhance democracy in Virginia when the state legislature has refused to act. Likewise the Court has dealt with difficult issues that elected political bodies

over time have not been able to resolve. Now the Court looks little different than politically motivated bodies taking huge gifts that influence their decisions while they

follow a political ideology rather than the Constitution and legal precedent. Some have expressed

SEE PLUM, PAGE 7

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OPINION

Plum

FROM PAGE 6

that the Court is about remaking our society — and not in a way that is better.

With the decision to overturn Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court whose members had generally expressed in their confirmation hearings that the issue of abortion was settled law overturned the decision, and for the first time in the history of the Court took away a right that had been in existence for more than fifty years. The Court has overturned Affirmative Action that has been such a centerpiece to the success of many citizens, including members of the Court, to be able to access education.

The Court whose responsibility it is to interpret the law found that the President had exceeded his authority to grant student loan relief

and went about issuing a decision that I believe exceeds the authority of the Court. In the most incredible of the many questionable decisions of the Court, private businesses were given the authority in a hypothetical case to discriminate against those in same-sex weddings in the LGBTQ+ community and maybe more.

In the wedding website case, Justice Elena Kagan expressed the concern that many of us feel. She wrote in a dissent, “From the first page to the last, today’s opinion departs from the demands of judicial restraint ... That is why the Court is supposed to stick to its business—to decide only cases and controversies, and to stay away from making this Nation’s policy ... The Court exercises authority it does not have. It violates the Constitution.”

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Independence Day 2023

Local communities celebrate-
Town of Herndon home goes up in flames.



McLean PHOTO VIA McLEAN COMMUNITY CENTR@MCLEANVACENTER
The McLean Community Center held its Community Independence Day Fireworks Celebration Saturday, July 1.



Great Falls PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION
Jake and Joi Rogers, with baby Tali, 11 months, are decked out for the Great Falls Little Patriots Day parade held at the Village Centre, part of the five 4th of July events produced by Celebrate Great Falls, an all-volunteer organization. Note the "reading material" for baby Tali; mom was a political science major.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED
The American Legion Dyer-Gunnell Post 184 co-sponsored the public reading of the foundation documents of American democracy. Some of the people at the event included Maggie Reidy, president of Post 184; Anna Bacon, Madison High School reader; Margaret Dellinger, Unit 180 member; and Avery Canedo, Madison High School reader.

Town of Vienna

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED
On July 4th, as part of the Town of Vienna's third annual Liberty Amendments Month, the jurisdiction presented the first-ever public round-robin reading of the foundational documents of American democracy, the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights, the Emancipation Proclamation, the Fairfax Resolves, and the Liberty Amendments — the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, Fifteenth and Nineteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution.

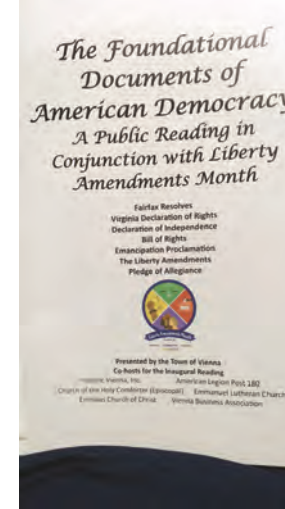


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED
Chuck Anderson, a member of the Vienna Town Council, served as moderator.

Connection and Gazette Win Awards in 2022

FROM PAGE 4
expanded with larger playground, renovated picnic pavilion, softball and baseball, plus art that honors its history. [http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Design_and_Presentation/M01_Combination_Picture_and_Story_\(N3\)/Third_Place_Arlington_Connection_3/Attachment_01.pdf](http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Design_and_Presentation/M01_Combination_Picture_and_Story_(N3)/Third_Place_Arlington_Connection_3/Attachment_01.pdf)

Ashley Simpson, Third Place, Feature Writing Portfolio. On the Horns of the Dilemma; Best of Both Worlds for Dog Siblings Samson and Mishka; It's Not All About Running for Arlington's 100-Marathon Man. Judge Comment: "Ashley Simpson is a straightforward, to the point writer; she sets up a contrast for a well-argued viewpoint. Her material is relevant with good ideas." [http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Writing/W03_Business_and_Financial_Writing_\(N4\)/First_Place_Alexandria_Gazette_Packet_1/Attachment_01.pdf](http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Writing/W03_Business_and_Financial_Writing_(N4)/First_Place_Alexandria_Gazette_Packet_1/Attachment_01.pdf)

Shirley Ruhe, Alternate, Feature Series or Continuing Story, Teach Your Kids About Hunger During March Nutrition Month; How to Help Hungry People as Costs Rise; Frozen Hands Cart Home Frozen Turkeys at AFAC Turkey Week, You can help with near record need for food. Judge Comment: "A great entry with a few technical errors. A very competitive category. Kudos to all of the publications with entries in this category for delving into their communities to find topics that are informative, entertaining and valuable to the local community." [http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Writing/W08_Feature_Series_or_Continuing_Story_\(N2,N3\)/Alternate_Winner_Arlington_Connection_4/Attachment_01.pdf](http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Writing/W08_Feature_Series_or_Continuing_Story_(N2,N3)/Alternate_Winner_Arlington_Connection_4/Attachment_01.pdf)

Jeanne Theismann, Feature Story Writing - Third Place, "Uncommon Valor Survivors mark Iwo Jima 77th anniversary" Judge Comment: "Nicely done. Love the history." See [http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Writing/W10_Feature_Story_Writing_\(excluding_Obituaries\)__\(N4\)/Third_Place_Alexandria_Gazette_Packet_3/Attachment_01.pdf](http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Writing/W10_Feature_Story_Writing_(excluding_Obituaries)__(N4)/Third_Place_Alexandria_Gazette_Packet_3/Attachment_01.pdf)

Glenda Booth, Third Place, Health, Science & Environment Writing. Down the Toilet; Down the Drain. Then What?; The Potomac River Is Healing but Problems Remain; Eagles Are Thriving but Face Challenges. Judge Comment: "Takes reader where they might have never been to deliver impactful information." See [http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Writing/W15_Health_Science_and_Environmental_Writing_\(N4\)/Third_Place_Mount_Vernon_Gazette_3/Attachment_01.pdf](http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Writing/W15_Health_Science_and_Environmental_Writing_(N4)/Third_Place_Mount_Vernon_Gazette_3/Attachment_01.pdf)

Jeanne Theismann & Janet Barnett, First Place for Combination Picture/Story. 'I Pledge Allegiance' Naturalization ceremony celebrates newest American citizens. See the entry at [http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Design_and_Presentation/M01_Combination_Picture_and_Story_\(N4\)/First_Place_Alexandria_Gazette_Packet_1/Attachment_01.pdf](http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Design_and_Presentation/M01_Combination_Picture_and_Story_(N4)/First_Place_Alexandria_Gazette_Packet_1/Attachment_01.pdf)

Michael Lee Pope, First Place for Business & Financial Writing: Reconsidering Marijuana, Tax Code Thunderstruck, Up in Smoke: Black market to remain underground for now as lawmakers reject licensing scheme. Judge Comment: "An interesting topic that will surely dominate headlines, especially in agricultural states. Perspectives regarding marijuana have changed dramatically over the years. I like your ledes, as well." See [http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Writing/W09_Feature_Writing_Portfolio_\(N3\)/Third_Place_Arlington_Connection_3/Attachment_01.pdf](http://vpagallery.com/2022/2022_VPA_News_and_Advertising_Contest/Writing/W09_Feature_Writing_Portfolio_(N3)/Third_Place_Arlington_Connection_3/Attachment_01.pdf)

Winners of the 2022 VPA News Contest were announced at the association's 2023 conference and award banquet on May 6, 2023. The Virginia Press Association has championed the common interests of Virginia newspapers and the ideals of a free press in a democratic society since 1881.



PHOTOS VIA FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE/RESCUE @FFXFIRERESCUE
On July 5, around 1:30 a.m., Fairfax County Fire and Rescue responded to a house fire in the 650 block of Stuart Court in the Town of Herndon. One patient was taken to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.



PHOTO VIA FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE/RESCUE @FFXFIRERESCUE
#FCFRD tweeted: "Currently working 9 outside fires, 2 house fires, and 1 apartment fire. While the cause of these fires is unknown, we can not stress enough the importance of properly disposing of fireworks. Completely soak fireworks in a bucket of water overnight before disposing."

FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE
UNITS ON SCENE
9 OUTSIDE FIRES
2 HOUSE FIRES
1 APARTMENT FIRE
#FCFRD



Town of Herndon

What could be better than a backyard barbecue with friends, family, and live music located overlooking the Town of Herndon's Centennial Golf Course, where fireworks will be shot off later that night?

SCREENSHOTS VIA VIDEO BY SHEILA OLEM

Litzenberger Receives Delayed Award

Litzenberger honored: Fairfax County Citizen of the Year.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Assns. recently honored Centreville's John Litzenberger Jr. as the 2021 Fairfax County Citizen of the Year. He was feted at the Federation's 71st annual awards banquet at the Springfield Golf & Country Club, following postponement of this ceremony because of the pandemic.

The official program described him as someone who's set "a fine example of participation in community activities in many, different areas. Over the past four decades, he has continued to contribute his time and experience to make the community a better place to live."

First, though, Litzenberger served his country. A retired Air Force colonel, he was a pilot during the War in Vietnam, where he flew KC-135 tankers which refueled other aircraft in the air. Later transferring to the Air National Guard branch of the Air Force Reserves, he flew C-7 and C-130 transport aircraft and was called back to active duty seven times for various contingencies before retiring in 2002.

Litzenberger then took a civilian position with the FAA, specializing in airport operations and particularly on maintaining aviation safety at airports. Now retired from the federal government, he currently works as an aviation consultant in litigation matters.

He and his wife Barbara and their three children moved to the Virginia Run community in 1988, and John joined the Virginia



PHOTO COURTESY OF DARIA PARNES

John Litzenberger with his award.

Run Community Association. He served as its vice president from 1991-1993 and was also on its Board of Trustees. He became involved in the larger, Sully District community through his neighbor and good friend, Ron Koch.

"Ron was the Planning Commissioner for this area for many, many years and always listened to the citizens," said Litzenberger. "We both got involved in many land-use issues in Centreville in the 1980s and '90s."

In addition, Litzenberger helped coach lacrosse for Chantilly Youth Association,

Southwestern Youth Association, Centreville High and Westfield High. A coach from the early 1990s until 2008, he said, "Coaching kids and helping them make the right decisions growing up was most rewarding."

He also took an active role in his church, Centreville United Methodist, when VDOT condemned the church's site at the intersection of Route 28 and I-66 so it could expand that intersection. "That was a tough job, but we successfully relocated the church and built a new building a mile south of the current intersection," said Litzenberger. "Our church also did a lot of community service through those years by providing food for needy families, starting up kids' programs, and providing a facility for ESL classes and other community-centered missions. And it continues to help where needed."

So has Litzenberger. He's chaired CUMC's Trustees, Long-Range Planning, Finance and Building committees, as well as its Caregivers Resource Group, providing support and resources to caregivers.

And when it comes to land use, his name has been well-known and respected in this county for decades. In 1980, he was one of the founders of the West Fairfax County Citizens Association (WFCCA), serving on its Land-Use Committee from 1983-1994, and leading as its president from 1986-1988.

Then, said Litzenberger, "In 2004, then Sully District Supervisor Mike Frey appointed me to the Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority as a commissioner, where we focused on affordable dwelling units and universal design for housing in Fairfax County."

"Mike then asked me to move over to the Planning Commission as the Sully District representative, and I served from 2008-2016. During my eight-year tenure there, we accomplished a lot in bringing additional park facilities and desired land-use and transportation improvements to the Sully District. Mike was great to work with; he always put the community first."

After his stint on the Planning Commission, Litzenberger returned to the WFCCA and is currently co-chair of the Joint Land-Use Committee comprised of both the Sully District Council of Citizens Assns. and the WFCCA. Besides his latest honor from the Federation of Citizens Assns., he was feted as Celebrate Fairfax's Sully District Volunteer of the Year in 2007 and was recognized as Sully District's Lord Fairfax in 1987, again acknowledging his volunteer service.

"The honor by the Federation was totally unexpected," he said. "The best part was seeing old friends at the ceremony and remembering all the good things we had done together. The total team effort provided by this dedicated group of community-centered volunteers is what made our efforts so rewarding. It was never one or two individuals, but a dedicated group that made good things happen."

Litzenberger also noted that "The fact that current Fairfax Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeff McKay stopped by to say thank you, coupled with a nice statement from Congressman Gerry Connolly, were both very much appreciated."

As for area residents, Litzenberger advises them to "Please get involved in the community as a volunteer, on behalf of the greater good. The more volunteers we have, the better the community."

Award Goes to Reston Town Center Association

Reston Town Center Association (RTCA) has been awarded the 2023 Employer Services Organization Achievement Award from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), honoring the association's launch of its linkRTC shuttle service. Linkrtc.org

The awards annually recognize transportation demand management (TDM) innovators and leaders committed to reducing vehicle trips and miles traveled while creating measurable and sustainable commuter benefits.

The LinkRTC shuttle launched last November, simultaneous with the opening of the Reston Town Center Metro Station and Phase II of the Silver Line. It operates Monday-Friday, 7am-7pm, stopping about every 10 minutes at six stops connecting Metro with Town Center's expanding urban core. Ridership is up 50% in recent months. "This free, open-to-the-public service is the first of its kind along Phase II of the Silver Line," said RTCA Executive Director Robert Goudie, adding that Reston Town Center is "a livable employment, cultural, and amenity center."

With an estimated 10,000 employees on or near the shuttle route, Reston Town Center is already one of the largest employment centers in Virginia.



RTCA Executive Director Robert Goudie receives the 2023 Employer Services Organization Achievement Award from Reuben B. Collins II, Esq, Chair of the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board at COG and President of the Charles County Board of County Commissioners.

Hunter Mill Supervisor Walter Alcorn said: "Transit oriented development works when people can easily get to transit, and that's why my office was happy to help secure the dedicated pick-up/drop-off spot for linkRTC at the Metro Station. The COG award shines a light on this leading example for how to seamlessly integrate Metro into a transit station area."

ROUNDUPS

Self-Defense Classes for Women

Registration is now open for the Fairfax County Police Department's July self-defense classes for women. They'll be held July 11, 13, 18 and 20, and participants must attend all four nights. Women will learn essential crime-prevention and personal-safety information followed by hands-on, self-defense practice.

Classes are free, but registration is required at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050c44a5a92aa20-july3#/> If the classes are full, continue to check the link because someone may decide to cancel, thereby opening up a spot. Space is limited and there is no waitlist. Participants 13-17 years old must be accompanied by a registered parent/guardian, all four nights.

Car Seat Inspections, July 13

Parents may get their children's car seats inspected next Thursday, July 13, 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 should 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. Everyone is eligible. Another car-seat inspection is scheduled for July 27, at the same place and time.

NEWS

Centreville Man Is Charged with Rape

Fairfax County police have charged a Centreville man – who's also employed by the county's Department of Family Services – with rape. The 35-year-old man is charged in the alleged incident that occurred last Wednesday, June 28.

According to police, the victim met the suspect that night at a restaurant outside Fairfax County. Prior to then, they didn't know each other. Afterward, they went to the victim's house in the Mount Vernon Police District. There, say police, the suspect allegedly sexually assaulted and raped the victim.

The rape was reported to police Saturday, July 1, and detectives from the Major Crimes

Bureau obtained a warrant charging the suspect with rape and two counts of sodomy. He was taken into custody Sunday morning, July 2, by officers from the Sully District Police Station.

He's currently being held without bond at the Adult Detention Center. Detectives learned the suspect is an employee of the county's Department of Family Services as a Human Services Assistant.

Anyone with information about this event is asked to call the Major Crimes Bureau at 703-246-7800, option 3. Tips may also be submitted anonymously via Crime Solvers by phoning 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477)

BULLETIN BOARD

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

SHEPHERD'S CENTER OF MCLEAN-ARLINGTON-FALLS CHURCH SEEKS VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

Shepherd's Center of McLean-Arlington-Falls Church (SCMAFC), an all-volunteer organization, is seeking additional volunteers to support its mission of providing free transportation to seniors for medical and dental appointments or run errands to grocery stores and pharmacies.

The Center is an all-volunteer non-profit organization [501(c)(3)] that has been operating since 2006.

The total number of rides provided in 2022 is expected to exceed 2,500, but to fully respond to recent increases in the number of requests, there is a need for more volunteers to join the current team of 60 volunteer drivers.

For volunteers there is no minimum commitment. Volunteers are free to choose how often and when they drive.

For detailed information or to apply, visit the Center's website <https://scmaf.org/volunteer> or call (703) 506-2199 and leave a message.

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'Familiar Show and Incredibly Relevant Story'

Westfield Summer Stage presents musical, 'Footloose.'

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Shocking changes are in store for a big-city teen who moves to a small, rural town in the 1980s and discovers rock music and dancing have been banned there. So of course, he's going to do all he can to rectify things – and in the process, he just might win the heart of the girl whose father initiated the ban.

That's the premise of Westfield Summer Stage's upcoming rollicking musical, "Footloose." It'll be presented Friday-Saturday, July 14-15 and 21-22, at 7 p.m., and Sunday, July 16, at 2 p.m., at Westfield High in Chantilly. Tickets are \$17 at the door (cash or check only) or \$15 in advance via <https://www.etix.com/ticket/v/21130/>.

With a cast of 53 and crew of 18, it features students from a multitude of local schools, including Westfield, Chantilly, Fairfax, Woodson, Oakton, Vienna and West Springfield high schools, including rising eighth-graders from Franklin, Stone, Rocky Run and other middle schools. Directing Westfield Summer Stage for his third time is Greg Stowers, theater teacher at Katherine Johnson Middle School in Fairfax.

"What's special about this year's show is that it's comprised of veteran, summer-stage actors and those who grew up watching it," he said. "And I've yet to see a group of students of this number so adept at singing, dancing and acting."

Stowers, his stage manager and technical director, husband-and-wife Sierra and Jack Lockrem, respectively, are all Fairfax County theater teachers, and some of the actors are their students, as well. Other members of the production team are Westfield High grads Mary Clare Bernier, in her ninth year as Westfield Summer Stage's lighting designer, and FCPS music teacher Jon Blank, who's the music director.

"I chose 'Footloose' because people are familiar with the show, and the story's incredibly relevant – because, even today, we're dealing with things like censorship, free expression and whether people



From left, Noah Tajudeen, Lorali O'Byrne, John Poncy and Noah Kennedy.

should be allowed to be themselves," explained Stowers. "It also shows a town dealing with a tragedy and eventually overcoming it by listening to an outsider's perspective. And it's a huge dance show that shows off the kids' talent."

Scenes take place in various locations around the town, including the church, high school, a diner and a honky-tonk bar. And, said Stowers, "Our incredible team of parents took my original costume ideas and created over 160 amazing, intricate outfits."

Portraying Ren McCormack is John Poncy, a rising sophomore at Oakton High. A popular student at his high school in Chicago, Ren struggles to adapt and fit in with his new surroundings after moving to Bomont, Texas. "It's a very small, strict town, and teens there don't act out, even though they're forbidden to dance," said Poncy. "But Ren's a big-city kid and dancer-boy. He's also impulsive; and he knows what he believes in and isn't afraid to speak up for himself and others."

Enjoying his role, Poncy said, "Ren's similar to me – we're both dancers and opinionated. Although he's charming and charismatic, and I usually play supporting, comedic roles. It's great playing the lead; there's lots of lines to learn, but it's fun." His favorite song, sung by his character's love-interest Ariel, is "Holding Out for a Hero." He likes it because "It's a roller-skating number the audience will love. There are lots of tight harmonies and athletic dancing, and it introduces Ariel and gets the show going."



Lorali O'Byrne and John Poncy portray Ariel and Ren in "Footloose."

Poncy said "Footloose" will appeal to people because "it's lighthearted. It handles some serious topics, but audiences can expect to feel good, have a great time and a good laugh. They'll also be impressed with our technical elements, including a stunning set and beautiful costumes."

Lorali O'Byrne, a rising junior at Vienna's Oakcrest School, plays high-school senior Ariel Moore, whose father, a pastor, encouraged the dancing ban. "Ariel's fun-loving and smart, but also dealing with a lot of grief because she lost her brother in a horrible accident – and that impacts her actions throughout the show," said O'Byrne. "She tends to be rebellious because she deals with his death

by acting out."

Saying she "absolutely loves" her role, O'Byrne explained, "There's so much depth to explore in Ariel's character. Her grief is in everything she says and does, but the audience doesn't find out why she's so sad until act two. So I have to show that without saying it." O'Byrne especially likes the song, "I'm Free (Heaven Helps the Man)," sung by Poncy and the ensemble, because "It's really empowering and unites all the teens in the community to take a stand for what they believe in."

O'Byrne said attendees will love the singing and dancing in the big, group numbers. "It's a beautiful story – serious but also fun," she added. "I think people will leave

feeling excited and will want to get out of their seats and dance because it's such a lively, entertaining show."

Portraying Rev. Shaw Moore is new Woodson High grad Noah Tajudeen. "He's jaded, deeply hurt and guarded, and he's really protective of his daughter because of his son's death," said Tajudeen. "And as a reverend, he wants to protect the town from danger and spiritual intruders such as dancing and frivolity. He has a lot of love; but after losing his son, he has a hard time showing it and has become like a wall."

Tajudeen likes playing him because "I can channel his serious nature into more classical singing in my songs. I get to play someone with a backstory, and I have to try to justify his actions so they're earnest and sincere. My favorite song is 'Heaven Help Me,' which I sing. In it, the reverend tells the audience, for the first time, why he's the way he is. He explains he's trying to save Ariel, while understanding where she's coming from – and he's asking the Lord for advice."

Calling the talent in "Footloose" remarkable, Tajudeen said, "We took the collective talent from around the county and channeled it into one impassioned, fun, summer show. And the audience will also enjoy the energetic and vibrant choreography."

Noah Kennedy, a rising senior at South Lakes High, plays Willard Hewitt, Ren's best buddy and first close friend at his new high school. "Willard's a country bumpkin and a southern sweetheart who loves his mama," said Kennedy. "But he's also hotheaded, with strong viewpoints, and sticks to his guns. But although he's easy to anger, he's still a nice guy."

Kennedy loves his part because "Willard's a comedic character who makes everyone laugh, and I like playing someone who makes people feel good. He's just a natural, homegrown, country boy who's a bundle of joy and really funny." Kennedy especially likes Willard's song, "Mama Says," because "he sings about his mama and gives Ren the advice she gave him. It's not wrong advice, but it's hilarious."

As for "Footloose" overall, said Kennedy, "The way we're doing the dancing and singing will make people's hearts glow when they're watching it. Our production is different from other shows because you almost forget that you're seeing a play – you feel like you're actually viewing what's happening in Bomont."

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

ENTERTAINMENT

JULY AND AUGUST

Pups in the Pavilion. Wednesdays from 5-7:30 p.m. At Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. Reston Town Center Kicks Off "Pups in the Pavilion" this Summer; Pavilion transforms into a leash-free play area during the dog days of summer. Enjoy treats, toys, areas to cool off, pet-friendly giveaways, and more. Visit <https://www.restontowncenter.com/>



Pups in the Pavilion takes place in July and August at Reston Town Center on Wednesdays.

FRIDAY/JULY 7

1st Friday Art Walk. 6-8 p.m. Everyone is welcome to stop by to see the latest artwork by 12 artists at The Arts of Great Falls Atelier and Loft studios (756 & 766 Walker Road, Great Falls). This event is free and open to the public.

JULY 10-31

Summer Arts Exhibit. 9-5 p.m. At Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Pathway Homes' 11th Annual Summer of the Arts Exhibit showcases the art, poetry and crafts of Pathway clients who have mental health challenges. Art will be available for sale by Pathway clients. Visit the website: www.pathwayhomes.org

JULY 13-23

Logan Festival of Solo Performance. At 1st Stage in Tysons. This innovative festival will gather celebrated solo performers from across the country for two-weeks of performances, workshops, discussions, and events.

Schedule:
Not My First Pandemic: Thursday, July 13 at 7:30pm, Friday, July 14 at 7:30pm, Saturday, July 15 at 2:00pm, Sunday, July 16 at 6:00pm, Saturday, July 22 at 2:00pm, and Sunday, July 23 at 2:00pm
Mr. Yunioshi: Saturday, July 15 at 7:30pm, Sunday, July 16 at 2:00pm, Thursday, July 20 at 7:30pm, Friday, July 21 at 7:30pm, Saturday, July 22 at 7:30pm, Sunday, July 23 at 6:00pm
Email the box office at boxoffice@1st-stage.org for reservations.
General admission tickets are \$20 per show and \$10 per show for Students with valid ID. Individual tickets and Festival Passes can be purchased online at www.1stStage.org or by calling the 1st Stage box office at 703-854-1856.

SATURDAY/JULY 15

Artist Talk Workhouse. 2-4 p.m. At 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Join the Workhouse for an Artist Talk featuring Alonzo Davis and Chee Keong Kung discussing the artistic process as a form of exploration and discovery as well as the importance of travel to the development of their work. Admission is free; donations are welcome. Visit the website: <https://www.workhousearts.org/open-latitudes>

RESTON COMMUNITY CENTER 2023 SUMMER ENTERTAINMENT LINEUP

Saturdays, June 17 – August 5
10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.
At Reston Town Square Park, Reston
Bring the kids for magic, comedy, puppets, music and lots of laughs. Shows include Rocknoceros, Lohr Family Antics, The Uncle Devin

Show and Turley the Magician. See the full schedule here: Family Fun Entertainment Series. Family Fun Entertainment is presented by RCC and Reston Town Center Association in cooperation with MSE Productions, Inc. Reston Town Center garages offer free parking on Saturdays.

Sunday Art in the Park with the Shenandoah Conservatory
Sundays, thru August 27
7 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Reston Town Square Park
Wind down your weekend with classical, jazz and cabaret-style music provided by faculty and students from Shenandoah University's acclaimed music conservatory. This series will run through August 27. Visit Sunday Art in the Park for the complete schedule. Reston Town Center garage parking is free on Sundays. Sunday Art in the Park is presented by RCC and Reston Town Center Association in cooperation with Shenandoah University.

SATURDAY/JULY 8

The City of Alexandria celebrates its 274th birthday on Saturday, July 8, starting at 6 p.m., with a performance by the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra and a grand finale fireworks display at 9:30 p.m. Enjoy the big birthday experience including cupcakes, local vendors and live music. Oronoco Bay Park, 100 Madison St.
6 p.m. - Opening Music; 7:30 p.m. - Welcome by NPR's Suraya Mohamed. Announcement by Town Crier, Remarks by Mayor Justin Wilson, Poetry by Alexandria Poet Laureate Zeina Azzam; 8 p.m. - Distribution of birthday cupcakes by members of City Council; 8:30 p.m. - Performance by the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra; 9:30 p.m. - Grand finale fireworks display with Alexandria Symphony Orchestra performing 1812
<https://www.alexandriava.gov/Birthday>

JULY 15 & AUGUST 19

Summer Concert Series: Genres. 7-9 p.m. At Tysons Corner Center, The Plaza, McLean. Join the Summer Concert Series featuring performance artists Keeton on July 15 for a Pop throwback and Delta Spur with Country & Classic Rock on August 19. Enjoy takeout and cocktails from our restaurants while dancing and singing along to your favorite tunes!

FREE SUMMER CONCERTS AT MCLEAN CENTRAL PARK
The Alden in McLean presents its

annual Summer Sunday Concerts in the Park at McLean Central Park. This free outdoor concert series runs now through Sunday, July 30. Performances start at 3 p.m., and the June concerts are designed to be family friendly. McLean Central Park is located at 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd.

Schedule

Sunday, July 9, 3 p.m. – Czarna Wolgastar: Intergalactic Balkan Surf Jazz Trio
Sunday, July 16, 3 p.m. – Six Pack Rodeo
Sunday, July 23, 3 p.m. – Justin Trawick
Sunday, July 30, 3 p.m. – Philip Bowen
For more information, call 703-790-0123, TTY: 711 or visit The Alden website: aldentheatre.org.

LAKE ANNE'S PLAZA

CONCERT SERIES

Lake Anne Live! brings Thursday evening concerts to the plaza from now through July 27. The free concerts will feature music and dance from local musicians and dance instructors. The plaza is located at 1609 Washington Plaza North. All concerts are free.

Schedule:

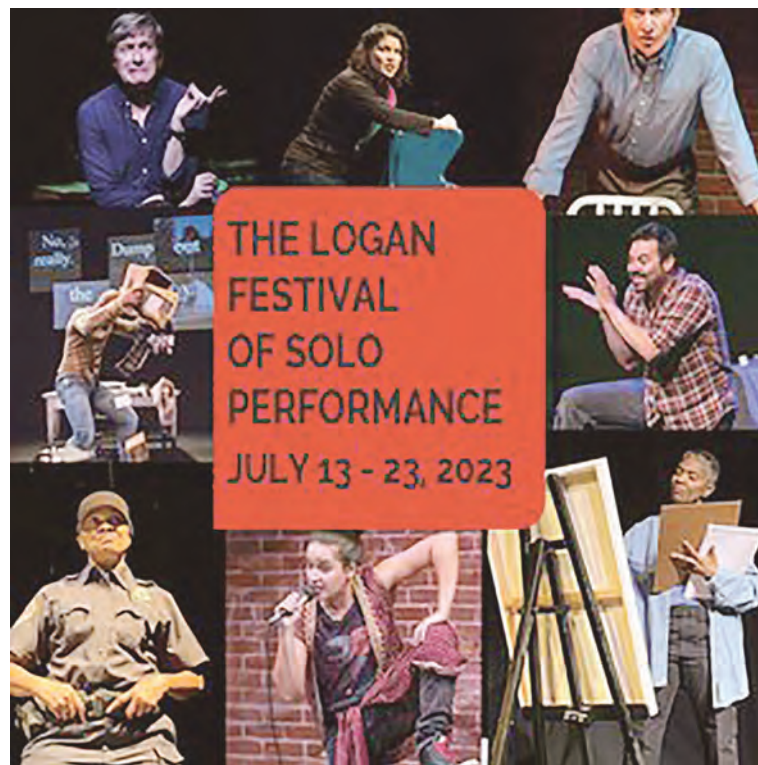
July 6 (6-9 p.m.): Bachata Instruction and Dance with David Norton
July 13 (7-9 p.m.): To be announced on Lake Anne Plaza's social media pages
July 20 (7-9 p.m.): Concert with the Reston Community Orchestra
July 27 (6-9 p.m.): Salsa and Bachata Instruction and Dance with David Norton

FREE CONCERT SERIES AT BURKE LAKE PARK

Every Wednesday night from June 28th through August 23rd at 7p.m., Supervisor Pat Herrity (Springfield District) along with the Fairfax County Park Authority will be hosting the fifth annual Free Concerts in the Park series at Burke Lake Park. The series has expanded to nine shows with pop, rock and R&B music. Peterson's Ice Cream, 2 Silos beer and food trucks will be on site at all concerts. Attendees are encouraged to bring blankets and/or a lawn chair.

JULY

5 The Nighthawks
12 SoHo Down
19 Speidel, Goodrich, Goggin & Lille
26 The Skip Castro Band
AUGUST
2 The English Channel
9 The Road Ducks
16 The Colin Thompson Band
23 Riptide



The Logan Festival of Solo Performance takes place July 13-23, 2023 at 1st Stage in Tysons Corner.

SATURDAY CONCERTS AT WORKHOUSE ARTS CENTER 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton • 7:30 p.m.

JULY
July 8 The Radio Sparks (Modern Rock) This will be a ticketed event if the July 1st Fireworks Festival is postponed to July 8th.
July 15 Project Locrea (World Music)
July 22 Bachelor Boys Band (High Energy Cover Music)
July 29 Bobby Blackhat Band (Traditional/Contemporary Blues)
AUGUST
5 Workhouse Musical Event (Ticketed event. For details visit www.workhousearts.org)
12 Quin Tango (Classical Argentinian Tango Music)
19 Karl Stoll & The Danger Zone (Rock, Blues)
26 The United States Army Field Band Six-String Soldiers (Country)

CONCERTS AT FRYING PAN FARM Thursday Evenings 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. At Park Lawn Near Farmyard

JULY
6 Speidel, Goggin & Lille (Rock)
13 Natyabhoomi School of Dance (Indian Dance and Music)
20 Stacy Brooks Band (Blues)
27 Frank Solivan & Dirty Kitchen (Bluegrass)
AUGUST
3 Patsy Cline Tribute Band (Country)
10 City of Fairfax Band Alte Kameraden German Band (Music of Germany)
17 The United States Army Blues Band Swamp Romp (Jazz)

ARTS IN THE PARKS Experience free, fun, family-oriented alternatives to cartoons and video games with performances in parks this summer.

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Burke Lake Park Amphitheater (7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station), Saturdays at 10 a.m.
Frying Pan Park Visitor Center Pavilion (2739 West Ox Road, Herndon), Wednesdays at 10 a.m.
E.C. Lawrence Park Amphitheater (5040 Walney Road, Chantilly), Saturdays at 10 a.m.
Mason District Park Amphitheater (6621 Columbia Pike, Annandale), Saturdays at 10 a.m.
Trinity Centre (5860 Trinity Parkway, Centreville), Saturdays in August at 7 p.m. (followed by outdoor movies)
Wakefield Park, in front of the Rec Center, (8100 Braddock Road, Annandale), Saturdays at 10 a.m.
For a complete calendar of summer performances for Arts in the Parks, visit the Summer Entertainment Series Arts in the Parks webpage.

JULY 21-23

South Asian Music Festival. The DC South Asian Arts Council Inc, a non-profit arts organization, unveils the 1st ever DC South Asian Music Festival from July 21-23. From the soul-stirring classical vocal and instrumental masterpieces to the mesmerizing Sufi, Ghazal, and Evergreen Bollywood, it promises to be an unforgettable musical journey. Sarod Maestro Amjad Ali Khan and sons Amaan Ali Bangash and Ayaan Ali Bangash, open the festival with their enchanting classical traditions on Friday, July 21. Saturday, July 22 starts with a Singing Competition, a showcase of exceptional local South Asian talent, taking the stage. On Saturday July 22 and Sunday July 23, the exceptional performances continue.
Wheaton High School, 12401 Dalewood Dr, Silver Spring, MD 20906
For full schedule, passes and tickets, visit <https://www.dcsaaci.org>

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NEWS

Third Annual Liberty Amendments Month Continues Until July 17

FROM PAGE 3

live performances, vendors, food trucks, and voting resources all while celebrating the diverse cultures and communities represented across the region.

The four Constitutional amendments will be highlighted through additional children's programs, educational events for teens and adults and special trips.

All event details are listed in the online Liberty Amendments Month calendar: www.viennava.gov/Liberty.

Vienna Multicultural Festival Saturday, July 15, 2023 3-8:30 p.m.

- Vienna Town Green**
- A packed day of celebrating the diverse cultures and communities and the close of Vienna's third annual Liberty Amendments Month. The festival will feature:
- ❖ 'What is your story?' Workshop
 - ❖ Kids Performer: Anansegro of Ghana (African Drumming and Dance)
 - ❖ Seven Food Trucks
 - ❖ Craft Vendors and Artisans
 - ❖ Kids Activities and Games
 - ❖ 'I Belong!' Essay Contest Winners
 - ❖ Voter Registration and Resources

- Entertainment Schedule**
- 3:30 p.m. - Pan Masters Caribbean Steel Drum Orchestra
 - 5 p.m. - "What's Your Story?" Workshop
 - 6 p.m. - Anansegro of Ghana (African Drumming and Dance)
 - 7 p.m. - Quimboa Latin Band Food Vendors
 - Johnson's Icy Bites- Authentic Italian Ice
 - Colonial Kettle Corn- Gourmet popcorn/kettle corn
 - Himalayan Soul Foods - Traditional Himalayan dumplings
 - Mama Spice - West African food
 - Pakos Fresh Mex- Authentic Mexican food
 - New Gourmet Delight- Asian fusion creation
- Interested in volunteering or being a sponsor? Contact Lily Widman at 703-255-5738 or lily.widman@viennava.gov.



SCREENSHOT

From left, Supervisor John W. Foust, Jane Edmonston, Foust's chief of staff, and Chris Rich (white shirt).

Canis Receives Sjoblom Award

FROM PAGE 3

ing fields and for doing an “outstanding job.”

Foust added that “Canis has played a significant role in efforts to preserve historical assets, such as Turner Farm, the Grange, and Forestville Schoolhouse.” “His initiative to conduct an inventory of big trees in the community earned an award from the Fairfax County Tree Commission.”

Canis will continue serving GFCa as its past president as part of the Executive Board, where he will continue to shape the organization by participating in meetings, community discussions, and initiatives. Canis said he is looking forward to spending more time with friends and family, especially his granddaughter Nora, who only knows Canis as grandpa but will one day understand what he has done to help Great Falls.

The GFCa board of directors voted in 2019 to rename its annual President’s Award the Glen Sjoblom Award and commissioned a plaque that now hangs in the Great Falls Library with the names of past recipients and room for many more in the future. This original award was created in 2018 to recognize outstanding and sustained service to GFCa and the Great Falls community, working through GFCa and its committees. Additionally, recipients must demonstrate collaborative teamwork, innovation and leadership. The Connection reported in its 2019 story, “Glen Sjoblom Honored for Serving Great Falls Community, that when Sjoblom received the award, Canis said, “America celebrates what it values, and, in making this award, GFCa is celebrating volunteering and commitment to the community.”

Overdose Leaves One Youth Dead, One Critical

FROM PAGE 3

them at 703-246-7800, option 5. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by phone – 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477)

If you feel you may have overdosed or are concerned someone around you has overdosed,, please call 9-1-1 immediately. Fairfax County Police Department personnel carry Narcan and are trained in its use.

Symptoms of an opioid overdose may include some of the following:

- Face is pale or clammy
- Breathing is infrequent or has stopped
- Deep snoring or gurgling (death rattle)
- Unresponsive to any stimuli

- Slow or no heart rate and/or pulse
- Bluish purple, or ashen skin color
- Fingernails turn blue or blue-black

FCPD is working to reduce the number of deaths caused by opioids, as part of a multi-pronged Countywide effort to address the opioid epidemic’s impact on the Fairfax community. Learn more about Fairfax County’s opioid response strategy and available resources. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/topics/opioids>

Help is available 24 hours a day. If you or someone you know needs help to overcome drug dependence, please call the Community Services Board at Sharon Bulova Center at 703-573-5679 to help find appropriate treatment and recovery services. Walk-ins are also welcome Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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Thank you to the hundreds of supporters who helped keep all your Connection Newspapers alive throughout Alexandria, Fairfax County Arlington County and Potomac, Md. along with affiliated websites and digital media. Now we need help again in 2022.

Each local newspaper's mission aspires to provide greater community service, and we do know that our communities are better off if we continue to publish. Last year's financial support from readers and supporters like you bridged the shortfall before Federal PPP funding arrived, and both made our survival possible. We now await a decision for a grant from Rebuild Virginia in early February that we hope will help us in 2022 and beyond. But we need help to survive the first quarter, always a brutal time for cash flow in weekly newspapers. Thank you.

Please, help save these historical papers. All gifts will be used to fund our printed newspapers and websites and to meet obligations to our loyal and patient employees, writers, contractors and suppliers.

The ongoing pandemic continues to crush many newspapers across the country, and our newspapers continue to be at risk. The Northern Virginia area's best read and most trusted source for community news includes the Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette and all Connection Newspapers in the metropolitan region.

The pandemic has hit small businesses hard, which in turn has reduced advertising revenue that keeps these local newspapers alive to provide hyper local news to residents. It feels like no small miracle to be looking forward into 2022.

The pandemic has been a bear, financially and otherwise. Revenue plummeted at the beginning in 2020. Some beloved advertisers have stayed the course supporting us throughout, and many more have done what they can. In the fall of 2021 we saw the return of some advertising for events and Grand Openings, but now ominous clouds the horizon in so many ways. Revenue still remains short of expenses despite our greatly curtailed costs.

Connection Newspapers has been offering these local newspapers to residents for over 200 years. Countless residents have grown up with these papers covering significant moments in the lives of family and children; news, community events, school activities, and even pictures of your dogs and cats. Internet news and large national newspapers cannot provide the local connection or historical connection that local papers like Connection Newspapers and the Alexandria Gazette Packet provide. If your child, dog, mother, father, neighborhood, school has been featured, you understand the value of local community newspapers.

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Grateful for "The Dead," But ...



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Because of circumstances with which I am totally in control – unlike the old black and white television set from the mid-60s when I watched “The Outer Limits,” I am writing this column weeks in advance of its publication. And I must confess, as an active cancer patient still undergoing treatment – for an incurable stage of papillary thyroid cancer, I hesitate to make too many commitments for the future, given that my present is not altogether predictable. But a week’s vacation in mid-July with my step father-in-law and his wife compels me to write in advance so that I can maintain my presence in the newspaper for the week I’m away and for the week when I return.

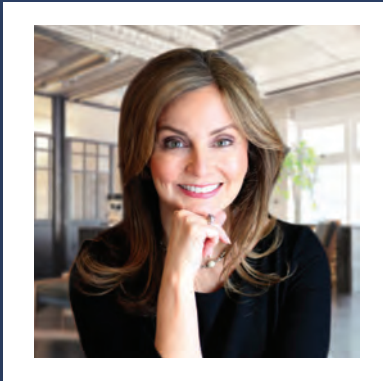
The presumptive content now being explained, let me try to balance the known with what I know now that might resonate/be mildly amusing weeks ahead of its public consumption. That’s not an insurmountable task as it’s hardly brain surgery; nevertheless, since I take my avocation seriously, I will proceed to write something that will stand the test of time and not embarrass me when it finally sees the light of day – in early July (it is now barely mid-June). So, what do I feel now that I will still feel in a month?

I will still be missing my brother, Richard, as I’m sure you regular readers know, but I believe I’ve subjected you all to my emotional challenges surrounding his death often enough lately so I will refrain from going down that road feeling bad (invoking “The Grateful Dead.”). Speaking of “The Dead,” I recently saw them live on June 3rd from Jiffy Lube Live (though not actually in person but online with Nugs.com). Nugs is a streaming service where one can buy access to various types of entertainment; at a not-unreasonable price, given the soaring price of attending rock concerts these days. Between the drive, the parking, the cost of the ticket of course – plus all those service fees, the less-than-ideal location of my seat – given how amazingly quick the good seats at fair price are sold, and the traffic exiting the venue, not to mention the hour-long drive home, I thought I would try something I only recently discovered even existed.

Therefore, from the comfort of my home, while avoiding all the inconveniences I’ve mentioned, I watched “The Dead” in concert while streaming their performance. (As Curly from “The Three Stooges” would say: “What an experience”.) Though watching on the computer hardly compared to being present and accounted for, I was able to see more clearly all the performers, and of course, “refresh” myself as often as I liked, and more importantly, visit the bathroom at as many intervals as necessary without any adieu. But I couldn’t control the songs (set list performed by the band, 75% of which was great (especially “Cumberland Blues,” an all-time favorite of mine). Unfortunately, 25% of their material was boring and disappointing to me, sorry.

This is “The Dead’s” final tour after 50-plus years. We’re lucky to have any opportunity to see them (Mickey Hart, the drummer is almost 80) and listen to their music live. And it’s certainly their prerogative to present their material however they want; they’re more than entitled after all these decades. But during the second set (the first set lived up to expectations), I didn’t enjoy the 15-minute-plus drum interlude, nor did I enjoy the guitar interlude that followed for another 10 or 15 minutes (presumably to allow band members to rest and recover after nearly two hours performing), and I especially didn’t enjoy the Bob Weir cover of “Milestones,” a Miles Davis song, another 10 or 15 minutes. I would much rather have heard the songs they’re most famous for. A few examples: “Me and My Uncle,” “Big River,” “Cold, Rain and Snow,” “The Music Never Stopped,” “Samson and Delilah,” “Mexicali Blues,” and “China Cat Sunflower,” among so many others. But they didn’t. They played to their heart’s delight, I’m sure. But not completely to mine. Of course, there are few guarantees in life, especially for a terminally ill cancer patient. I certainly understood and understand the miscellaneous things for which I have zero control, cancer being the most prominent. But I still haven’t given up hope for a semi normal life. Seeing “The Dead,” was but one example. Regardless of the outcome, the evening we shared together, so to speak, was a testament to that hope and will remain a super-positive memory, part of that second set notwithstanding. It was an evening I’ll not soon forget, and it will forever bring a smile to my face for as long as I hear their music (Sirius channel #23). I consider myself a “deadhead,” and am proud to recount when it all started. It was in the spring of 1973. I pray it continues for many more years yet to come. In fact, I can still hear John Mayer singing “Mississippi Half-Step Uptown Toodleoo” as I complete this column.

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



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