

# CONNECTION

Burke ♦ Fairfax ♦ Springfield ♦ Fairfax Station ♦ Lorton ♦ Clifton



## Love and Opportunity At Cameron's

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### Chris Atwood Foundation Finds Home in Fairfax City

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### zMOD on Ice

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Cameron's employee Catie Cunningham (center) with boyfriend Tony Linthicum and mom Maria Cunningham.

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION OPINION, PAGE 7 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 12 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 14

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



Cutting the anniversary ribbon are (from left) the EDA's Fred Cornett and Tara Borwey, Ellen and Cameron Graham, Catherine Read, Tom Ross, Dawn McGruder (EDA) and Jennifer Rose.



Customers shopping for Cameron's many fall treats.

# Place of Support, Hope, Love and Opportunity

## Cameron's Coffee & Chocolates celebrates 10 years.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

For the past decade, Cameron's Coffee & Chocolates in Fairfax City has made life sweeter not only for its customers, but for its special-needs employees. So it's no wonder that everyone from City officials to members of the community turned out last Friday, Sept. 29, to help it celebrate its 10th anniversary.

Knowing firsthand the serious challenges those with intellectual disabilities face when seeking jobs, owners Ellen and Jim Graham began the nonprofit, Every 1 Can Work. They then operated it as Cameron's, named after their daughter, who's worked there since it opened its doors on Oct. 1, 2013.

Offering treats made from the finest Callebaut Belgian chocolate, plus beverages and signature baked goods made from scratch each day, this Fairfax Circle shop soon be-

came a local destination. And all the people jamming into the business last week to honor Cameron's anniversary affirmed how it continues to grow in popularity.

Fairfax Mayor Catherine Read, who's Jim Graham's cousin, said it was important to him to build a successful business the community would come to "because the baked goods were delicious, and the chocolates were distinctive." Otherwise, they wouldn't be able to provide employment for their daughter and others like her.

"There were three employees when they

opened," she said. "And it's great to look out and see all the people here now who have a job where you make people happy with what you do every day.

"I've always believed this would be a unique business that could be a blueprint in the county, region and country for how we employ people who want to do meaningful work and get paid for it," continued Read. "So my heart overflows because I know how much this business and the people here have meant to the City of Fairfax and beyond."

SEE ANNIVERSARY, PAGE 16



### Gunston Hall Opens Historic Riverside Garden

After years of archaeological investigation, research and construction, we have moved from concept plan to 1-acre restored garden!

Join us on  
**Saturday, October 7, 2023**  
10 am - 4 pm



You will have a chance to explore and learn from our education team about the plants currently growing in the NABA butterfly certified garden. Join in seed saving activities, crafts, flower arranging, and more!  
*For info and tickets scan QR code.*



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# ‘No Judgment, Just Love’ At Chris Atwood Foundation

Substance-use recovery center opens in Fairfax City.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

Chris Atwood was a warm, loving and intelligent young man who also suffered from anxiety, depression and ADHD. His problems led him into opioid use; and in 2013, when he died of an overdose at age 21, his family members were devastated.

Yet even in their grief, they remained as caring and compassionate as was their late son. And to best honor his memory and help prevent the loss of other lives that way, they established the Chris Atwood Foundation (the CAF) that same year.

This nonprofit helps individuals recovering from substance-use disorder by addressing the gaps in care that people like Chris and others have encountered. With the motto, “No judgment. Just Love,” it provides trained peer support, guidance, referrals and even free Narcan (naloxone) to reverse overdoses.

Previously, the CAF reached people via a mobile unit. But in July, it opened a Recovery Community Center so people could come to a place to receive their services onsite in a safe and friendly environment. And because it's located in Fairfax City, there's also access to public transportation, as well as a range of other essential services and partners.

A peer-driven, community organization, the CAF offers free harm-reduction and recovery-support services, plus advocacy, for people impacted by substance use. For example, at the new center, individuals may obtain peer coaching appointments, overdose-reversal training and help finding housing while they're in recovery.

The new facility is on the ground floor of 10301 Democracy Lane, Suite 150, on the side of the building facing Blenheim Boulevard. And on Sept. 15, a large community of well-wishers gathered there for the official ribbon cutting, a tour of the CAF offices and to celebrate this welcome addition to the City.

“Since opiates came on the scene centuries ago, there have been addiction problems,” said



Celebrating the recovery center's ribbon cutting: In the middle (from left) are Fairfax City Councilmembers Billy Bates (green shirt) and Jon Stehle, CAF Board Chairman Mark Atwood, Ginny Atwood Lovitt, Shelly Young and Fairfax Mayor Catherine Read.

BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



Jon Fairbanks in a room where peers meet with certified peer-recovery specialists.



Elix Wingfield stands beside the recovery center's motto.

Mayor Catherine Read. “But we always thought it was rare in our communities and families. And I think that was true until oxycontin arrived in this country. It's in high-school locker rooms and is used by people we know – and we've got to

do something.

“We have to remove the stigma around addiction and get help for people before they lose their lives. The Chris Atwood Foundation is named for Mark Atwood's son and Ginny Atwood Lovitt's brother,

Chris, who did succumb to his addiction. And they work every day with people who don't want to die from theirs.”

“Recovery is hard, and everyone deserves an opportunity to work their way back to their lives,” con-

tinued Read. “Here we have an organization committed to helping them, and they chose our city to do it in. I could not be happier to have them here and for all of us to acknowledge that, as a community,

SEE SUBSTANCE-USE, PAGE 6

# Va. Supreme Court Refuses Second Petition to Rehear zMOD

## What now?

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

**O**n Monday, Oct. 2, the Supreme Court of Virginia, in *Berry v. Board of Supervisors*, struck down the Fairfax County Zoning Ordinance Amendment, known as zMod, for the second time. The court denied the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors' petition for rehearing in the civil case, which was received on March 19, 2023.

The court ruled this spring that the county's approval of zMod, a broad update of zoning, was illegal, rendering it null and void. Fairfax County removed the 2021 zMod ordinance and reinstated the 1978 Zoning Ordinance, which is in effect today. The amendment, zMOD, re-codified the 42-year-old ordinance to adapt it to Fairfax County's changing development environment. The consequence is that rezoning predicated on the 2021 ordinance may be at risk.

The Court concluded in the March case that adopting zMOD at a virtual meeting was unnecessary to assure the continuation of the County's essential functions and services.

Therefore, the meeting was not authorized by any of the exceptions to FOIA's open meeting requirements. Thus, according to the Court, approval of zMod at the electronic meeting on March 23, 2021, violated the open meeting provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and the state's enabling legislation, which allowed for spe-



SCREENSHOT

**Implications of the Oct. 2, 2023 decision by the Virginia Supreme Court to deny the petition for rehearing by Fairfax County Board of Supervisors case on zMOD could be far reaching.**

cific electronic meetings in response to the pandemic.

On March 23, 2021, the Board of Supervisors approved the zoning ordinance modernization, which would take effect on July 1, 2021. According to a March 24, 2021, post on the county's NewsCenter, the ordinance "brought zoning into the twenty-first century." (Source: <https://www.fairfax-county.gov/news/modernized-zoning-ordinance-zmod-approved-effect-july-1-2021>)

Jeff McKay, chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The new zMod Ordinance was a rewrite of the Zoning Ordinance. Among other things, it updated regulations for certain residential uses, such as accessory structures, accesso-

ry living units, home-based businesses, and flags. Accessory structures up to 12 feet tall, such as sheds, children's play equipment, and gazebos, were to be located at least five feet from the side and rear lot lines, according to zMOD.

The ordinance eliminated the requirements for age and disability for accessory living units (previously known as accessory dwelling units). It changed the process for interior units from requiring special permit approval to an administrative permit. It modernized home-based business use and allowed customers with special permit approval to do so.

It increased the maximum flagpole height to 25 feet for lots with single-family dwellings or manufactured homes and 60 feet for

all other uses, with the option to request a special permit for a higher height. The ordinance stated a three-flag limit per lot. There was no restriction on the size of the flags.

The ramifications of the Court's second denial could be far-reaching to development and legal communities. The status of land use decisions, including zoning approvals, site plans, permits, and subdivisions granted under zMod since mid-2021, may be up for reevaluation and at risk. There may be an impact on permitting that resulted from approvals, financing, and contract conditions that relied on or warranted compliance with approved zoning. There is concern about spillover effects in other jurisdictions that granted development approvals through electronic meetings.

## Can FCPD Drones See You? Did the public have any input to county policies on use of drones?

**T**he Fairfax County Police Department says it is revolutionizing policing with its Unmanned Aircraft System. While it has been using drones for small jobs since 2019, "in the past year, FCPD's drone program has expanded to assist the department's helicopter program with a lot more detailed work," states the county's website. On May 21, 2019, the Board of Supervisors approved the Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Manual,

When asked if the 2019 UAS manual is the "official policy" and if it has been updated, Fairfax Police Department media responded via email on Sept. 23: "The Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) policy was drafted by the County, see the link for additional details of the policies guiding drone usage. It is the policy that our department follows." <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/uas/unmanned-aircraft-systems>

In response to a question about

9/1	Homicide Investigation	8000 Block of Sacramento Dr	PD
9/6	Flight Training	9000 Block of Furnace Rd	PD
9/6	Assist patrol on warrant service	6000 Block of Springfield Mall	PD
9/6	Crash Reconstruction	Lee Highway/Clifton Rd	PD
9/7	Barricade	9000 Block of Piney Grove Rd	PD
9/7	Flight training	FS40	FD
9/9	Flight Demo	3700 Block of Stonecroft Blvd	PD
9/10	Critical Mission Person	8000 Block of Reflexion Ln	PD
9/11	Flight Demo	13000 Block of Route 50	PD
9/12	Flight Training	FS40	FD
9/12	Marine Patrol Operation	10000 Block of Hampton Rd	PD
9/13	Dive Team Training	14000 Block of Compton Rd	PD
9/15	SWAT Search Warrant	14000 block of Smithwood Dr	PD

September 2023 Unmanned Aircraft System Mission Schedule.

civilian oversight, Fairfax Police Department media stated, "Regarding public input into our policies, FCPD has historically sought community input since 2015 on sever-

al core General Orders, to include Human Relations (002), Release of Information (402), Vehicle Pursuits (504), Vehicle Stopping Techniques (505), Body-Worn Cameras and

### FCPD flies drones:

with a search warrant; to serve a felony arrest warrant at a wanted subject's primary residence; when in pursuit of someone actively sought for an arrest; when there's an amber, silver or blue alert; to investigate a reportable traffic crash; in a location where they have consent to be; for training pilots and evaluating equipment; and to "alleviate an immediate danger to any person," such as an active shooter.

In-Car Video (509), Use of Force (540), Arrest Procedures (601), and Immigration Status, Citizenship, and National Origin (604)."

According to Fairfax County, the most recent public comment on the UAS Manual is a series of public meetings held in 2019 with written comments on the draft program previously submitted by Feb. 8, 2019. They are part of the official public record. The public presentation occurred in January and February of 2019, with the Presenta-



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSH LAITINEN  
Captain Mike Shamblin (File photo)

tion to the Public Safety Committee on March 12, 2019.

On Dec. 2, 2022, the Office of Aviation Services of the U.S. Department of the Interior revised its Uncrewed Aircraft Systems (UAS) operations and procurement policy. On Jan. 1, 2023, those revisions went into effect. The policy is based on the Department's completion of a comprehensive review of the UAS program, as required by Secretary's Order (SO) 3379. It addresses the Department's critical need for UAS

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WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

# Body Found at Burke Lake Campground

## Suspect arrested in New Jersey.

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE GAZETTE

**D**etectives from the Fairfax County Police Department's Major Crimes Bureau Homicide Unit are investigating the circumstances around a body found in Burke Lake Park campgrounds this past weekend.

At approximately 3:09 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 30, authorities received a 911 call and dispatched officers to Burke Lake Park, located at 7315 Ox Road in Fairfax Station. Upon arrival, officers discovered Cara Abbruscato, a 40-year-old resident of Springfield, inside what they described as a "makeshift tent." Fairfax County Fire and Rescue personnel pronounced her deceased on the scene.

According to the police, the park staff expected the campsite

to be vacant and saw the tent still there. The camping space was reserved for another camper so park staff was notified

and that's when Abbruscato's body was discovered, said FCPD Major Jeff Reiff at a press conference on Monday, Oct. 2.

During the initial investigation, the Chief Medical Examiners' office responded to the scene and discovered evidence of trauma to Abbruscato's upper body. An autopsy will be completed to confirm the cause and manner of death. Reiff described the wounds as "lacerations and stab wounds," he said.

The police are holding a suspect, Rami El Sayed, who had been seen with Abbruscato at the park between Sept. 19-30. According to Reiff, they identified El Sayed on surveillance video they got at the

SEE SUSPECT, PAGE 15



Rami El Sayed



Tents at the Burke Lake campground.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/CONNECTION

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# Substance-use Recovery Center Opens in Fairfax City

FROM PAGE 3

we have to support people on their journey to recovery and the people supporting them.”

Co-Founder Atwood Lovitt said how pleased the CAF is to be in Fairfax City. She also thanked its sponsors, including the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board; the Department of Behavioral Health, Office of Recovery Services; and the Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Foundation.

“We’ve now saved over 1,800 lives with naloxone,” she said. “And we’ve given out over 110,000 doses of it as a preventative measure.”

“September is National Recovery Month,” said the CAF Executive Director Shelly Young. “And what better way to celebrate that than to create a hub where people can come and get together with people of lived experience [in recovery from substance use disorder]? We’re so excited to welcome individuals and their families, plus our support partners, to an environment that supports recovery and the community.”

“We’ll share information about the services we’re going to bring to the community – services we’ve largely been providing remotely for 10 years,” she continued. “So we’re delighted to be housed in this gorgeous space. We’ve already had 38 people come for appointments with their peer-support specialists whose lived experience makes them the most relatable to people seeking recovery and in recovery. And we’re happy to have an environment of ‘No judgment. Just

Love.’”

Gesturing toward the large crowd there for the ceremony, Young noted that the Fairfax County Sheriff’s Office and the Community Services Board are among the CAF’s partners. And, she added, “Some of the most important people here today are our past peers.” She then had them raise their hands to be applauded and stressed that “Peer support is one of the most valuable kinds of support because people with lived experience [with substance-use disorder] really understand.”

After the ribbon cutting, The Connection spoke with some people who work at the center. Jon Fairbanks, the re-entry program manager, said those coming for help are called ‘peers’ and “all the services they receive are free.” His particular niche is working with people with substance-use disorder in the county’s Adult Detention Center.

Beth Cline, the education and training coordinator, said the center has about 23 employees plus weekly volunteers that help with its comprehensive harm-reduction program. “Our mobile unit goes out to the community every week and provides safer-use supplies, such as needles, smoking kits, naloxone, and even pregnancy tests, sanitary pads and tampons,” she said. “We go throughout Fairfax and Prince William counties, and 5-10 volunteers at a time help pack those supply kits.”

Cline said the center is also for anyone with mental-health challenges. “And almost all the employ-



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Employees Jon Fairbanks and Whitney Bland (who works in comprehensive harm reduction) pose by the CAF’s mobile van.

ees are people who have a family member who is or was affected by drug or alcohol use, or mental challenges, or who has experienced them personally,” she said. “We hold hope for people who can’t hold it for themselves.”

She trains the peer-recovery specialists; and for those coming there for help, said Cline, “It’s different from working with a clinician or therapist. We have that deeper knowledge about what they’re going through – and, yes, I’ve been there and I know what it’s like.”

“And that’s what’s so cool about it,” she added. “It’s one-on-one coaching and development. And

we give people resources. For example, we tell them where to go for food, clothes or treatment.”

Elix Wingfield is currently an intern there; but after working 500 hours, he’ll be one of the certified peer-recovery specialists. “I came here because I wanted to help people that went through the same problems I had,” he explained. “I had a substance-use disorder and went to prison, about 30 years ago.”

“But I’m still being persecuted and losing jobs because of my record. I believe that, after staying out of trouble for a long time, your record should be expunged. So I’m fighting for advocacy and to get

my voting rights back.”

Pleased to be working at the center, Wingfield described it as “refreshing and fulfilling knowing I’m able to help someone through my own, personal experience. And who would have thought that what happened to me could help somebody else? But it’s easier for people to open up to you when they know you really understand and empathize with them. It’s real – and that’s where the connection comes from.”

For more information, go to [www.thecaf.org](http://www.thecaf.org). To make an appointment to speak with a certified peer-recovery specialist, call 703-653-4221.

## Two 17 Year Olds Arrested in Kingstowne Shooting

Detectives from the Major Crimes Bureau, Criminal Investigations Division arrested two seventeen-year-olds in a recent shooting in the Kingstowne Shopping Center. No injuries were reported during the shooting.

The investigation led to the discovery of video footage and physical evidence. Detectives were able to pinpoint the whereabouts of the two teenagers, leading to a search warrant for the 7600 block of Oakridge Woods Court, in Lorton.

During the search, two firearms were recovered at the residence. Both teenagers have been taken into custody and transported to the Fairfax County Juvenile Detention Center.

### BULLETIN BOARD

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

#### TUESDAY/OCT. 10

NARFE Chapter 1116 Meeting. 1 p.m. At Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., SE, Vienna. Guest speaker will be Michele Nesbitt-Johnson, Blue Cross Blue Shield Sr. Account Consultant. She will share the changes in Blue Cross and Blue Shield for 2024. Call 703-205-9041. There is no charge.

#### THURSDAY/OCT. 12

MCA Local Candidates Debate. 7:30-9:30 p.m. At McLean Community Center Community Hall. The debate will be hybrid, in person and via Zoom. There will be two 45-minute debates in the following order: Dranesville Supervisor -- Puneet Ahluwalia and Jimmy Bierman; Dranesville School Board Rep. -- Robyn Lady and Paul Bartkowski. Visit [www.mcleancitizens.org](http://www.mcleancitizens.org).

#### FRIDAY/OCT. 13

FACETS’ 35th Anniversary Benefit. 7-9 a.m. At Fairview Park Marriott, 3111 Fairview Park Drive, Falls Church. FACETS, a nonprofit that opens doors by helping parents, their children, and individuals who suffer the effects of homelessness, poverty and hunger in Fairfax County, is

hosting its 35th Anniversary Benefit Breakfast to share with the public, local businesses and elected officials FACETS’ life-changing work to help residents who are struggling. Several FACETS’ clients will be sharing their courageous stories about homelessness and efforts to overcome it. Attendees will be inspired as they renew their commitment to a Fairfax County where everyone has a place to call home. Register at [www.FACETSCares.org](http://www.FACETSCares.org).

#### WEDNESDAY/OCT. 18

An Evening With Dr. Michelle Reid. 6 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Fairfax County Schools Superintendent Dr. Michelle Reid will be answering questions from students. All students from kindergarten through 12th grade are encouraged to bring their questions or simply come to meet and listen to our new FCPS Superintendent. The Superintendent oversees almost 200 schools and centers in a county serving approximately 180,000 students. This event will be focused on questions from students attending elementary, middle, and high school from within the McLean, Langley, and Marshall Pyramids. If you have any questions, please email, Jim Beggs, MCA Education and Youth Committee Chair, [e-y\\_committee@mcleancitizens.org](mailto:e-y_committee@mcleancitizens.org)

#### MCLEAN NEWCOMERS AND NEIGHBORS

The club was founded in 1969 to create new friendships, provide opportunities for socializing and acquaint residents with the community. It sponsors many group activities including: Anything with food, Armchair Traveler, Book Club, Bunco, Canasta, Crafty Ladies, Genealogy, Golf, Let Us Lunch, Mah Jongg, Mah Jongg NY Style, Movie Lovers, Museums/House and Garden Tours, Nature Walks, Restaurant Critics, Sing for Fun and Tech Forums. Application forms may be mailed to: Membership McLean Newcomers and Neighbors, P.O. Box 6166, McLean, VA 22106. Visit the website: [www.mclean-newcomers.org](http://www.mclean-newcomers.org).

#### SUPPORT GROUPS

Parent Support Partners, a service of the Healthy Minds Fairfax initiative, are all parents who have received training and are qualified to offer education, support and assistance at no cost to families or caregivers. They provide reliable information that families can use in deci-

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# Well-Being Matters

BY SUPERVISOR DAN STORCK  
Mount Vernon District

**C** OVID's impact on our families and communities has reminded us all of the importance of our health and well-being and Fairfax County's role in protecting it. Nationally and locally this has been especially true in our responsiveness to behavioral health services and support. My background in running non-profits and providing health care services, as well as life experiences, have helped me to be particularly attuned to our residents needs and the health challenges many experience.

The County has an interdisciplinary, interagency and holistic approach that varies for each individual. With our Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB), Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD), Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department (FCFRD), Fairfax County Sheriff's Office (FCSO), Department of Pub-



Fairfax County's Behavioral Health Crisis Response System.

lic Safety Communications (DPSC) and other community partners we have been creating a system of care that is improving the tailoring of services to individual needs. These efforts are far reaching, and some examples include:

Partnering a CSB Crisis Intervention Specialist with a FCPD officer to respond to those in crises (Co-Responder Program).

Embedding a CSB Behavioral Health Liaison within DPSC to as-

sist in identifying callers who may benefit from a behavioral health response.

Providing a mobile crisis response to those experiencing a crisis.

Partnering with the Sheriff's Office to provide care to those who are incarcerated with behavioral health needs.

A new Telehealth Pilot program is also coming, in which FCPD and CSB are equipping some patrol officers with tablets that connect

them with a CSB behavioral health specialist while responding to an incident. Enhancements such as these add to the impact and reach of services while minimizing staffing and costs.

These efforts go beyond caring for those in need by also having a positive impact on public safety. Co-responder teams help free up patrol officers to focus on criminal activity in the County. Our County has been making great strides in better supporting those with behavioral and mental health needs, while more aggressively and effectively catching those committing crime in our neighborhoods. As always, we must continue to rethink and innovate how we help all in our community reach their full potential.

If you or someone you know needs help call 1-866-903-3787 or the CSB at 703-383-8500. More information about supportive services can also be found at Healthy Minds Fairfax - <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthymindsfairfax/finding-supportive-services>.

## 'Mary Poppins' Coming to Hayfield

BY MARY COPELAND

**H**ayfield Secondary School Class of 2026 The Hayfield Drama-hawks have been working on a production of Disney's well-known and well-loved Mary Poppins. Featuring popular songs like "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious" and "A Spoonful of Sugar," this show is great for families to introduce, or reintroduce, kids of all ages to the theater.

The show follows the Banks family as they navigate the addition of their mysterious yet exciting new nanny, Mary Poppins, played by Celia Dusingberre. The Banks children, Jane and Michael, played by Katie Ross and Katie Dunn, discover the world through the fresh, bright perspective that Mary Poppins brings to their lives. Their parents, Winifred and George Banks, played by Jordyn Sooley and Alex Dealdo, rebuild their relationship with each other and the rest of their family, learning to appreciate the world around them. And no production of Mary



Cast and crew of Mary Poppins at Hayfield High School.

Poppins is complete without Bert, the chimney sweep who helps tell the story during the show. Played by Carter Elliff, Bert goes "over the rooftops" during "Step in Time," the big tap dancing number that is one of the high points of the show.

Mary Poppins is an enchanting musical, but the thing that makes it so special is the dedication of the cast and crew. The production is built upon the hard work of the high school students, from the student choreographers, Josie

Sinniger, Catherine Weingold, and Naila Tesfaye, who are creating and teaching show stopping dance numbers, to the tech theater students and volunteers building the set under the supervision and guidance of the director, Dr. Patrick Mitchell.

The tech crew work before and during the shows to help everything flow smoothly. The lights, sound, and set are all student designed and run, adding in the elements that make the show all

the more magical. The set changes quickly throughout the show thanks to an amazing run crew, who work in the dark between scenes and songs to move the heavy set pieces.

Performances of Mary Poppins will be in the Hayfield Secondary School auditorium, right inside the main entrance, on October 19-21, at 7 pm, with a matinee show on October 21st at 2 pm. Tickets can be purchased online at [hayfelddrama.com](http://hayfelddrama.com) or at the door before the show.

[www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com)

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Liz Dennison, President, Secret Garden Birds and Bees, and Lil Red, a Red Shouldered Hawk, bring education about birds of prey to increase understanding about how to help them



Keira Kovack, 5, of Fairfax, and Ava Lewis, 6, of Springfield, wanted a picture with Lil Red, as Barred Owl, Scarlett, watched the activity in the background



When not focused on birds, you might spot angels, Joanna Ragland, 4, and Brie Brooks, 3, visiting friends in Burke



John Walsh, 4, of Fairfax, preferred his balloon penguin. John attended with his sister, Ginny, 3 years old



Volunteer leads TusaRebecca and Steve Pannucci manage the Nativity Fall Festival.



Bryan Novak, Springfield, enjoys strawberry shortcake, and wife, Theresa, says that's not all, "He used up all the tickets."

# Fall Festival for Everyone and the Birds

## Burke Church Brings Back the Raptors.

BY SUSAN LAUME  
THE CONNECTION

Each year, on the last weekend of September, the large property of Nativity Catholic Church on Nativity Lane in Burke turns into an iconic community Fall festival like those enjoyed by Americans across the country since before the country's birth. With fun, food, and activities for all ages, the festival includes on-site grilled BBQ wafting its aromas, a pie contest, cake walk, a large stage with live music, and plenty of tables and places to sit and enjoy the food, weather, and community. For the more active in the crowd, there are bounce houses, including one with a wrecking ball; obstacle course, ring toss, and rock climbing wall. And for those with an artistic appreciation, there is a photo area and face painting.

Even with all the festival elements to enjoy, the stars of the show are the raptors of Secret Garden Birds and Bees. Requested to return each year, State certified rehabilitator Liz Dennison and her volunteers bring her flock to share the beauty of the big, and little

birds, who earn their mouse keep by helping to educate the public about raptors and to advocate for their protection. All but one of Secret Garden birds were born in the wild, found with injuries which precludes their ability to survive in their natural habitat. Then there is Pippin, the American Kestrel, with a slightly different story. Secret Gardens tells us, "Pippin was found wandering the streets of Washington DC; weak, hungry, and not flying away when approached. He was picked up by a kind person and brought to City Wildlife for care. They didn't find anything wrong with him and transferred him to Owl Moon Raptor Center for flight conditioning and live prey testing, before release back to the wild. But his behavior was obviously not normal. Pippin showed no fear of people. He flew to the heads and shoulders of volunteers. He flew to us for food and ate calmly while perched on our hands. And he begged loudly whenever we entered the room. All of these are imprint behaviors." So Pippin joined the flock of educator birds, and Dennison reports he has taken to the work quite well.

The one bird in the flock hatched in captivity by a licensed breeder is Olive, a Barn Owl. Dennison explains this species of owl is becoming increasingly rare in our area. Since their preferred habitat is open low-lying fields and farms where they can hunt for



Olive, a captive bred, 3-year-old Barn Owl, poses in front at a photo booth showing the farmland and barn environment ideal for her species

mice and nest in barns. It's easy to see why our developed area is not inviting for them. Although Barn Owls also eat bats, frogs and lizards, a pair with young can need nearly 1,000 rodents to feed the family. That's help appreciated in the areas these owls frequent,



The variety, intricacy and placement of feathering on the Barn Owl, forming a heart shaped face with dark eyes within, are one of the beautiful features of the bird.

encouraged by farmers, to keep vermin under control as a crop protection. With few barns and farms in northern Virginia, we have less

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Pippin, an American Kestrel, was found mooching handouts in D.C. before making his way to Secret Gardens sanctuary

to offer these beautiful birds. It is certainly our loss in not having a chance to see the distinctive heart-shaped face, lined with over-

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



If you are a little afraid of a large bird, it takes some courage to pose for a newspaper picture with a hawk behind you. Elena Alderete, 9, of Burke, says owls, "are cool. Owls can turn their heads all around."

laid feathers that seem like jewel-like lace, and the dark eyes like rubies within.

The birds are easy around the crowds anx-

BURKE / FAIRFAX / FAIRFAX STATION/CLIFTON/LORTON / SPRINGFIELD ♦ OCTOBER 5-11, 2023 ♦ 9



# Creatures Haunt Forest at South Run

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

Are you going to scream?

By SUSAN LAUME  
THE CONNECTION

The woods at twilight and in darkest night are ringing with the screams of the frightened on the trails and in the tree canopies near South Run Rec Center. Heard in September and expected to continue in October, the screams come from those brave enough to navigate the trails and zip-lines at Go Ape. You too may be unable to withhold that gasp, yell, or blood curdling scream that comes from meeting creatures unexpectedly in the woods; creatures meant only for nightmares.

If you enjoy being “scared to death” but living to talk about it, you will enjoy two offerings from GoApe this Halloween season, their new Haunted Trails, and the returning Frights at Height.

For the guided ground based 20-30 minute Haunt adventure, participants will be immersed in the natural environment, passing by unnatural creatures, never knowing what might be waiting around the next curve in the path. Is that just the wind moving through the branches?

Or in the most adventurous way to celebrate Halloween, overhead adventure guests will find zombies, ghosts, and ghouls hiding in creepy corners under the Treetop Journey zip-line and ropes during their one hour on the gravity defying course above.

We met two of the event’s scare actors, in the light, and again unexpectedly on the dark trail. Peter Leresche, Falls Church, as a theater person, finds “It’s fun to be in a family setting and haunted house.” He is usually found preventing scary things from happening in his full-time job as an emergency coordinator at a private school. Franny Montero, Alexandria, a student at Mount Vernon High School, finds this part time job matches well with her interest in make-up and past cosplay experience; a practice of dressing up as a known fictional character. We must say, these two and their fellow actors are good at their jobs.

Prefer to celebrate Halloween without being scared? Assistant manager Tyler Shedd, with four years of Go Ape experience, says, not to worry. Go Ape also is open before the sun goes down. Guests can find a Halloween themed ad-

SEE CREATURES, PAGE 13



The woods hide several demons at Go Ape during the Halloween season, including scare actor Franny Monero of Alexandria, who lives up to her job title.



The Halloween season brings creatures out in the woods thankfully not seen at other times of the year.



This Go Ape employee sleeps on-the-job amid Go Ape’s safety harnesses with never a reprimand from the boss, Tyler Shedd.



Scare actor Peter Leresche of Falls Church cooks up some frightening moments at his caldron at Go Ape. ... You won’t want the recipe.

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# Drones

FROM PAGE 4

capabilities while ensuring that necessary security measures and related mitigations are met per Executive Order (EO) 13981.

Fairfax Police Department began flying UAS (Unmanned Aerial System), or drone missions in 2019, and by 2020, it had 30 trained drone pilots. According to the department, they fly drones under certain conditions, such as with a search warrant, to serve a felony arrest warrant at a wanted subject's primary residence, when in pursuit of someone actively sought for an arrest, when there's an amber, senior, or blue alert; to investigate a reportable traffic crash; in a location where they have consent to be; for training pilots and evaluating equipment; and to "alleviate an immediate danger to any person," such as an active shooter.

According to Captain Mike Shamblin of the Fairfax County Police Department, the department had 12 drones by mid-2021: six for the SWAT team, one for the Technical Investigation Unit, one for Fugitive & Apprehension, two for the Crime Scene Unit, and two for Helicopter Search & Rescue. There are logs of drone activity and lists of what the drones can and cannot

do on the county's website.

The use of drones has raised concerns. "There is no national framework governing their use and how police make use of the data collected by the thousands of drones being flown by thousands of the machines across the United States," according to the Brookings Institute. "In the absence of a federal framework for governing the technology, cities, [counties], and states have written a patchwork of rules and regulations for police drone use that, taken together, show what a more transparent and just set of laws governing police aerial surveillance might look like."

Brookings cites the George Floyd protests as an example, calling them the largest protests in the US since the 60s. Law enforcement across the country gathered personal data on peaceful protesters by means of drones, as well as social media, body cameras and facial recognition.

While Virginia and some other states require a warrant for many law enforcement use of drones, it also exempts police from the warrant requirements if they're using drones for non-law enforcement purposes, like taking photographs of accident scenes, for disaster response and for assessing traffic levels, Brookings says.

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# ENTERTAINMENT

## NOW THRU NOV. 10

**Into the Hothouse Exhibit.** At Gillespie Gallery of Art, GMU's Art and Design Building, 4515 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Mason Exhibitions presents Into the Hothouse, an immersive site-specific installation by Chicago-based artist Aimée Beaubien. The exhibit is a category-defying constellation of dozens of gathered, printed, and hand-made works that explore botanical and environmental subject matter. Natural forms, technological interventions, and laborious craft techniques abound. The gallery is free and open to the public from Monday to Friday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## WEDNESDAYS THROUGH SATURDAYS

**Tours Aboard Tall Ship Providence and Sen. John Warner Maritime Heritage Center.** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Alexandria's Waterfront Park, 1A Prince Street, Alexandria. Guests of all ages are recruited into the Continental Navy aboard Tall Ship Providence with legendary Captain John Paul Jones. Recruits are assigned jobs on the ship, learn where they will work and live, how to load a cannon, etc... Tours conclude in the Naval History Theatre with a film about the ship. The Heritage center is a floating museum on the Alexandria waterfront. Visit <https://tallshipprovidence.org/>

## FUNDAY MONDAY

**"Funday Monday is open to children of all ages, however is best suited for the preschool set!** Funday Monday runs from 10:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. and — unless otherwise noted — is held at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. There are plenty of free parking lots/garages in Old Town Fairfax. Stroller access is available at the side entrance Old Town Hall facing Route 236/Main Street. For more information visit [www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/cultural-arts](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/cultural-arts)."

## SCHEDULE

Oct. 9 -- No Program  
 Oct. 16 -- Music together Sing and Groove  
 Oct. 23 -- My Gym  
 Oct. 30 -- Kids Nature Puppet Show "Creepy Creatures"  
 Nov 6 -- Miss Mollie's Musical Fun  
 Nov. 13 -- No Program  
 Nov. 20 -- My Gym  
 Nov. 27 -- Drew Blue Shoes Magic  
 Dec. 4 -- Music Together Sing and Groove  
 Dec. 11 -- My Gym  
 Dec. 18 -- TBD

## SATURDAYS THRU NOVEMBER

**Reston Museum.** See how Reston's founding principles were implemented by joining the upcoming walking tour. Tour will be held 10 a.m. every Saturday through November. Sign up at: <https://www.restonmuseum.org/event-details/guided-walking-tour-reston-founding-2023-09-09-10-00>

## SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

**Spooky Fall Festivities.** At Go Ape Zipline & Adventure Park, South Run RECenter, Springfield. This ground-based experience will take guests on a hike through the park, navigating various creatures from your deepest, darkest nightmares. Participants will be immersed in the natural environment, never

knowing what might be waiting around the next curve in the path. Is that just the wind through the branches? Definitely not! This guided, anxiety-filled adventure will take 20-30 minutes with a cost of \$14.95 per person. Go Ape is also expanding the Frights at Height experience! Launched in 2022, this autumnal aerial activity is now available on select evenings in both September and October. Guests will find zombies, ghosts, and ghouls hiding in creepy corners under the Treetop Journey zipline and ropes course. Only \$39.95 per person for this 1-hour gravity defying, scream-filled adventure after dark...if you dare. Visit [www.goape.com](http://www.goape.com).

## NOW THRU NOV. 7

**Cox Farms Fall Festival 2023.** At Cox Farms, corner of Braddock Road and Pleasant Valley Road, Centreville. The Fall Festival is filled with family-friendly entertainment and attractions including slides, swings, animals, hayrides and more. From the world-famous hayride to our corny Cornundrum and giant slides, our Fall Festival has something for the whole family. The Fall Festival is open Sept. 16-17, and then Thursday through Monday Sept. 23-Nov. 6, plus Tuesday, Nov. 7. Hours Sept. 16 – 17; Thursdays through Mondays Sept. 23 – Oct. 30: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. | Nov. 2 – 7: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. (last entry one hour before closing). Market is open daily through Nov. 7.

The Fields of Fear Hours: Friday and Saturday nights Sept. 22 – Nov. 4 (plus Sunday, Oct. 8) 7:30-11 p.m. (last entry 10 p.m.) Featuring more than 20 acres of fear and spooky attractions.

## NOW THRU OCT. 29

**Fall Fest 2023.** At Reston Farm Garden Market, 10800 Baron Cameron Avenue, Reston. Saturdays and Sundays from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Fall Fest schedule spans weekends from September 23rd to October 29th, with the Columbus Day special on October 9th, operating from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Tickets are \$20 per child and \$5 per parent, while children aged two and under enter for free. The festival offers a variety of activities, including inflatables such as a corn maze, two 20' slides, two pumpkin bounce houses, and a basketball game. There's also a charming petting zoo, the Reston Farm Garden Market Express Train, and live music for entertainment. The market features seasonal items like chrysanthemums, pansies, fresh produce, natural jams, local organic honey, farm-fresh products, pumpkins, seasonal decor, and our famous Apple Cider Donuts. You can also savor offerings from local food trucks throughout the weekend. Book your tickets on our website: <https://www.restonfarm.com/fall-fest>.

## SEPT. 28 TO OCT. 22 (EXTENDED)

**"The Chosen."** At 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons. Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. The Chosen by Aaron Posner and Chaim Potok, directed by Alex Levy. Tickets: \$25-\$50 general admission, \$15 students, educators, and military. Purchase online

at [www.1ststage.org](http://www.1ststage.org) or 703-854-1856.

## WEDNESDAY/OCT. 4

**Panel Discussion on Book Banning.** 10 a.m. At the Little River United Church of Christ, 8410 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Hosted by the Lifetime Learning Institute of Northern Virginia, the panelists will be Matt Callahan, senior staff attorney at the American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia, and Lisa Varga, Executive Director of the Virginia Library Association. The panelists will discuss the law and policy applicable to banning books in libraries, both public and in schools, and in bookstores, and whether certain books should be restricted to certain readers based on age or removed from library shelves entirely. For further information, contact David Drachslar at [drachslerd@gmail.com](mailto:drachslerd@gmail.com).

## THURSDAY/OCT. 5

**"Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown".** 1 p.m. At McLean Community Center 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. (Spain; Directed by Pedro Almodóvar); Shown in Spanish with English subtitles. In Almodóvar's breakout dark comedy, a television actress encounters a variety of eccentric characters after embarking on a journey to discover why her lover abruptly left her.

## THURSDAY/OCT. 5

**Free Fall Concert.** 6:45 p.m. At Burke Lake Park, Fairfax Station. Supervisor Pat Herrity (Springfield District) along with the Fairfax County Park Authority and Foundation will be hosting a Fall Free Concert at Burke Lake Park. The concert will feature the Magic Trio, a three-man rock n' roll band based out of Northern Virginia. 2 Silos food and drinks will be available for purchase at the event. Attendees are encouraged to bring blankets, lawn chairs, picnic dinner, and to dress appropriately for a fall evening show.

## THURSDAY/OCT. 5

**Foreign Language Film.** 1 p.m. At The Alden, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The Alden's foreign language movie series is curated by Performing Arts Director Sarah Schallern Treff, with more than a little help from our audience members! The series has a few surprises thrown in.

## OCT. 5-9

**Disney on Ice.** At Eagle Bank Arena, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. This newest Disney On Ice spectacular features the most Disney characters in one show, including the on-ice debuts of Frozen 2 and Raya and the Last Dragon. Audiences will take a journey across the night sky with Mickey, Minnie, and all their friends from Encanto, The Princess and the Frog, Toy Story, Moana, Cars, Aladdin, and more. Tickets now available for purchase online at [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com) or visit the venue Box Office.

Dates and Times:  
 Thursday, October 5 at 7:00 PM  
 Friday, October 6 at 10:30 AM & 7:00 PM  
 Saturday, October 7 at 10:30 AM, 2:30 PM & 6:30 PM  
 Sunday, October 8 at 10:30 AM, 2:30 PM & 6:30 PM  
 Monday, October 9 at 1:00 PM



Vienna Oktoberfest takes place Saturday, Oct. 7, 2023 in Vienna.

## OCT. 6 TO OCT. 31

**The Haunted Trail.** Every Friday, Saturday and Sunday night starting at 6:30 p.m. At The Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. The Workhouse Arts Center celebrates its 10th annual Haunted Trail by bringing scares and laughs to the Halloween season. Haunt: Game Over immerses guests through a highly themed walk-through experience, as creepy characters deliver contactless scares in multiple scenes. Guests will travel in small groups via a timed entry for a frightening experience that brings them next to abandoned, historic buildings where they will encounter terrifying characters and sights that are not for the faint of heart. The spirits will get loud with live music on Fridays, Saturdays, and Halloween night, with a rotating schedule of band performances in the Rizer Pavilion, which also serves as the check-in area and 'virtual line' for Haunt entry. Food trucks, soft drinks, snacks, wine, beer, and themed-specialty drinks will be available for purchase on campus. Gates open at 6:30 p.m.; Final groups will be dispatched by 10:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays; and 9:30 p.m. on Sundays.

## SATURDAY/OCT. 7

**Vienna Oktoberfest.** 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. On Historic Church Street, Vienna. More vendors, more food, great music and entertainment, plenty of free kids activities and locally-sourced beer and wine selections. The festival has historically drawn an average of 20,000-30,000 attendees and is sure to be a smash hit this year. Presented by the Vienna Business Association and the Town of Vienna.

Vienna's 2023 Oktoberfest will feature:

- ❖ Live entertainment on three stages: Main Stage, Kid's Stage, Acoustic Stage
  - ❖ Beer/Wine Garden featuring the Caboose Brewing Company, Hawk and Griffin, Norm's Beer and Wine and Vienna Vintner
  - ❖ Beer and multinational food offerings located on Mill Street
  - ❖ Free kids activities, inflatables, games and entertainment on the Town Green
  - ❖ Business Expo Showcase
  - ❖ Vendor Marktplatz
  - ❖ Artisan Market
  - ❖ Loads and Loads of Fun!
- Visit [www.viennaoktoberfest.org](http://www.viennaoktoberfest.org).

## OCT. 7-8

**Virginia Opera Presents Siegfried.** At GMU's Center for the Arts,

Fairfax. Reenter the fantasy realm of gods, heroes, and an epic quest for true love in Wagner's Der Ring des Nibelungen (the "Ring" cycle) with Virginia Opera's production of Siegfried. Libretto and Music by Richard Wagner; Adaptation by Jonathan Dove and Graham Vick; Orchestral Version by Jonathan Dove; Sung in German with English surtitles. Featuring the Virginia Symphony Orchestra. Adam Turner, Conductor.

## SATURDAY/OCT. 7

**Vance Gilbert with Sue Horowitz.** 7 p.m. At Community Lutheran Church, 21014 Whitfield Place, Sterling. Adv tickets \$25, day-of \$30 (member / congregation as-applicable \$25 at the door) at [www.focusmusic.org](http://www.focusmusic.org) | Info: at [rob@focusmusic.org](mailto:rob@focusmusic.org) or [www.focusmusic.org](http://www.focusmusic.org).

## SATURDAY/OCT. 7

**Moneyless Market.** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Chantilly Baptist Church, 14312 hantilly Baptist Lane, Chantilly. Chantilly Baptist Church is holding its "Moneyless Market" where those in need in the community can come and receive donated clothing items free of charge. There will be clothing for women, men, children, and babies. There will be free pony rides from 12 to 2 p.m., a car show, children's entertainment, and food. Visit [www.chantillybaptist.org](http://www.chantillybaptist.org) or call the office at 703-378-6880.

## SATURDAY/OCT. 7

**Parktober Fest.** Noon to 5 p.m. At Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5049 Walney Road, Chantilly. The whole family is invited to a celebration at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park that is becoming a community tradition. Join friends to shop local from artists and artisans, makers and bakers. Enjoy delicious food and drink from Ono Brewing Co. and DC Steakholders. Call 703-631-0013.

## SATURDAY/OCT. 7

**DC-Metro Modern Home Tour.** At homes located in McLean, Arlington, D.C. and Chevy Chase. Visitors will get to see and celebrate some of the finest examples of current Modern residential architecture in the DC area – and meet the people who created them. Host/organizer – Modern Architecture + Design Society; partner/"Finale House" hosts – listModern; participants – BLDUS, Alair Homes with architect Paul Weber and designer Iona Tzatcheva, MPR Architecture, Sagatov

# ENTERTAINMENT



Clifton Day will be held Sunday, Oct. 8, 2023 in the Town of Clifton.

Design+Build, Paola One Design, and Green Build Group. Visit the website <https://mads.media/2023-dc-metro-modern-home-tour/>

## SATURDAY/OCT. 7

**McLean 5K Race.** 8 a.m. Registration, Package Pick Up, Warmup begins at 7 a.m.; Race begins at 8 a.m. At McLean Square Shopping Center, 6631 Old Dominion Drive, McLean.

Hosted by the McLean Community Center with the support of sponsors, Century 21 New Millennium and the Greater McLean Chamber of Commerce, the race features a USATF-certified course through the heart of McLean and is designed to appeal to runners of all abilities. The proceeds of the run benefit the McLEAF Community Foundation. Register at [mclean5k.com](http://mclean5k.com)

## OCT. 7-8, 14-15 AND 21-22

**Goblin Golf.** 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Halloween arrives early at the Burke Lake Park mini golf course. Enjoy a festive-themed experience with Halloween treats included. Our ghosts and goblins will be appearing throughout the day from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Bring a date, a friend or the whole family.

This mini golf experience is fun for everyone! Buy your tickets before they sell out! Cost is \$10. Call 703-323-6600.

## SUNDAY/OCT. 8

**Clifton Day.** 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. To be held on Main Street in the Town of Clifton. Now in its 55th year, Clifton Day features a marketplace with around 150 artisans, antique dealers, vintage sellers and other vendors. Live music, children's activities, pony rides, a beer and wine garden and other delicious food and beverage choices add to the fun. Clifton Day is family-friendly event but please leave your pets at home.

## SUNDAY/OCT. 8

**T-TRAK Model Train Show.** 1-4 p.m. At Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Northern Virginia T-TRAK members will hold a N gauge Model Train Display at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. Admission: museum members, free; adults 13 and over, \$5; children 5-12, \$3; under 4, free. Seniors 65+ and military (active & retired), \$4. For more information on the museum and show events phone 703-425-9225. Visit [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org).

## OCT. 8-9

**Community Wide Yard Sale.** 12-3 p.m. Sunday; 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday. At Congregation Sha'are Shalom, 19357 Evergreen Mills Road, Leesburg. The large sale will be held in the Synagogue's social hall and will include a wide variety of unique items including: clothing, shoes, accessories, toys/games/puzzles, baby gear, books, home decor, seasonal decor, dishes, kitchen gear, small household appliances, small furniture items, electronics, media, and much more. The yard sale will benefit

Rosie Uran Jewish Education Center.

## MONDAY/OCT. 9

**Touch-A-Truck.** 10 a.m.-noon. Free Admission. Registration required for Sensory Friendly Experience at 9:30 a.m. only. Families can now come from 9:30-10 a.m. to see and touch the trucks without all the noise. Join them during the Fairfax County Public Schools' holiday for this free event that gives kids and families the chance to see, touch and explore some of their favorite vehicles.

## TUESDAY/OCT. 10

**McLean Historical Society Meeting.** 7:30 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The program will feature Paul Kreingold who will discuss "Potomac Marble." All are welcome to attend at no charge.

## SATURDAY/OCT. 14

**Open House.** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sponsored by Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center St., S, Vienna. Join them for food, games, interactive learning, live demos, safety workshops, prizes and more. Learn more at [VVFD.org](http://VVFD.org)

## FALL BOOK SALE

**At Centreville Regional Library** 14200 Saint Germain Dr., Centreville. Fiction, nonfiction, DVDs and audiobooks.

Bag sale on Sunday; fill a grocery bag with books for \$10.

Oct. 20, Friday, 1-5 p.m.

Oct. 21, Saturday, 10-5 p.m.

Oct. 22, Sunday, 1-4 p.m.

## OCT. 28-29

**Ghost Town at Burke Lake Park.** 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. At 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Tickets are \$15/person online until Oct. 26. Day of tickets are \$20.

## Creatures Haunt Forest at South Run

FROM PAGE 10

venture all day long, with candy, cobwebs, pumpkins and fun throughout the Fall. You have the option of a visit while the sun is in the sky or once the ghouls come out after sunset. It only starts to get eerie around twilight, and then super chilling once dark sets in.

Go Ape has helped millions of guests explore nature while stepping out of their comfort zone, even outside of the Halloween season. With 15 locations in the U.S., Go Ape provides a "tree-mendous" experience for participants at any age. More than just zip-lines, Go Ape is an adventure park where guests can tackle various activities and explore the forest from a new perspective. A full list of Go Ape Springfield activities and pricing can be found at [www.goape.com](http://www.goape.com). Haunted Trail tickets are \$14.95 per person; Fright at Height tickets are \$39.95 per person. Advance tickets purchase is suggested. More information on all Halloween activities can be found at <https://www.goape.com/halloween/>.



PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

Some of the beings frequenting the woods have a twinkle in their eyes ... but not in a good, merry way.

## BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 6

sion-making and are familiar with services and resources that can help families in distress. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthymindsfairfax](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthymindsfairfax) or [www.nami-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html](http://www.nami-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html).

The Shepherd's Center of Northern Virginia Caregivers' Support Group takes place the first and third Tuesdays of each month, 10-11:30 a.m. via Zoom. This group is for caregivers of family members with dementia. Meetings are gently facilitated. For more information and to get the Zoom link, contact Jack Tarr at [jtarr5@verizon.net](mailto:jtarr5@verizon.net) or 703-821-6838.

Haven of Northern Virginia Support Group. 703-941-7000, [www.havenofnova.org](http://www.havenofnova.org) or [havenofnova@verizon.net](mailto:havenofnova@verizon.net).

Virginia Chronic Pain Support Group Meets from 1:30-3 p.m. the 2nd Wednesday of each month at Kaplan Center for Integrative Medicine, 6829 Elm St., Suite 300, McLean. Group leader, Jodi Brayton, LCSW. 703-532-4892.

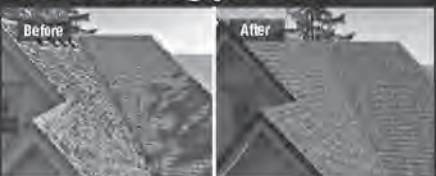
## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Assistance League of Northern Virginia is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that feeds, clothes and provides reading assistance and books to children in need. Assistance League's programs touch the lives of hundreds of children in Fairfax and Prince William Counties and the City of Alexandria. There are many volunteer opportunities for community members to contribute to helping those in need. To learn more, email [info@alnv.org](mailto:info@alnv.org), or visit [www.alnv.org](http://www.alnv.org).

Volunteer Adult Mentors Needed. Help assist the Department of Family Services' BeFriend-A-Child mentoring program. The mentors provide opportunities for companionship, guidance and support to children who have been abused and neglected, or who are at risk of abuse and neglect. Contact Ibrahim Khalil at [ibrahim.khalil@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:ibrahim.khalil@fairfaxcounty.gov) or 703-324-4547.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 15

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## Legals

### City of Fairfax Urgent Election Notice

The registration deadline to vote in the November 7, 2023 General Election is Monday, October 16, 2023. Applications must be postmarked by this date or received in-person by 5 p.m. You may also apply online by 11:59 p.m. at <https://elections.virginia.gov>. Office hours: M-F 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. 10455 Armstrong Street, Suite 300 Fairfax, VA 703-385-7890.

## Legals

### ABC LICENSE

Play Ball USA LLC trading as Glory Days Grill, 9526 Old Keene Mill Rd., Burke, Fairfax County, VA. 22015-4270. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Mixed Beverage Restaurant license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Jesse Steven McPherson, Member. 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.

## Legals

### ABANDONED WATERCRAFT

Notice is hereby given that the following watercraft has been abandoned for more than 60 DAYS on the property of South Riding Golf Club, 43237 Golf View Dr, Chantilly, VA 20152 703-327-6660.

Grady White, 20 ft, 1988, white color, registration number VA 7868 BK, HID number NTLBG614G788

Application for Watercraft Registration/Title will be made in accordance with Section 29.1-733.25 of the Code of Virginia if this watercraft is not claimed and removed within 30 days of first publication of this notice. Please contact the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources with questions.

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-Werner Heisenberg

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PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/CONNECTION

Campers only, the sign says.

# Suspect Arrested In New Jersey

FROM PAGE 5

park and confirmed the identification “based on evidence inside the tent.” El Sayed took Abbruscato’s car and they tracked it to New Jersey using the police license plate recognition system. The police in Patterson, New Jersey made the arrest. El Sayed now faces charges of Second-Degree Murder in Fairfax County related to the murder of Cara Abbruscato. He will be extradited back to Fairfax County.

According to park spokesperson Ben Boxer, this was an isolated event and there is no threat to public safety at the park. “The park

is open and fully staffed and we continue to coordinate directly with the Fairfax County Police Department on all issues pertaining to public safety,” Boxer said.

Additionally, the police are asking the community to come forward if they were at Burke Lake Park campground and noticed a makeshift tent between Sept. 19 and Sept. 30.

Anyone with information regarding these incidents to call the FCPD Major Crimes Bureau at 703-246-7800, option 2. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by phone – 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477).

## BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 13

Operation Paws for Homes, a Virginia based 501(c)(3) organization seeks volunteers, especially to foster dogs. See [www.ophrescue.org](http://www.ophrescue.org) for information and all volunteer opportunities.

RSVP, a volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older. RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, email Carly Hubicki at [chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org](mailto:chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org) or call RSVP at 703-403-5360. To learn more about RSVP visit [www.rsvpnova.org](http://www.rsvpnova.org).

Shepherd’s Center of McLean-Arlington-Falls Church, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean continues to have an urgent need for new volunteers to help area senior citizens get to and from their medical and therapy appointments. To find out more about the Shepherd’s Center and how you can volunteer to provide transportation and other services, call the Center at 703-506-2199

or e-mail the Center at [info@scmaf.org](mailto:info@scmaf.org). The Center’s website is [www.scmaf.org](http://www.scmaf.org). Master Gardener Training. The Fairfax County Master Gardener Association offers plant clinics, home turf training or speakers for homeowner’s meetings. Fees vary. Visit [fairfaxgardening.org](http://fairfaxgardening.org) or call MG Help Desk at 703-324-8556 for more.

Volunteers Needed. PRS is looking for empathetic and caring volunteers to make phone calls to older adults who may be feeling socially isolated. The commitment is one 3-hour shift per week for one year. Located in Arlington. Ages 21 & up. Intensive training provided. Learn more and apply: [prsinc.org/caring-volunteering/](http://prsinc.org/caring-volunteering/). Questions? Email [lpadgett@prsinc.org](mailto:lpadgett@prsinc.org).

The Northern Virginia Long Term Care Ombudsman Program needs volunteer advocates for residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Contact Lisa Callahan at 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email [Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov). Also visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltombudsman/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltombudsman/).

Fairfax County needs volunteers to drive older adults to medical appointments and wellness programs. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

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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.

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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## Certain About Burton



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

The little dog, affectionately referred to as, recently celebrated his first birthday. And as I anticipated when I wrote my initial column about him/me having gotten a puppy for the first time in 28 years or so: “Burton For Certain,” he has been everything a dog owner could want. He’s a sweet and loving golden retriever (it’s rare that the breed is anything else) who still believes - at almost 75 pounds, that he’s a lapdog. Have you ever tried eating off a snack table with a big dog sitting on your lap and sniffing your plate/fork? It’s not easy. Part of what brings me joy about Burton is the story of how and why he was christened, so to speak, with his name. I’m always interested in pet names and their stories, if any, which people are only too happy to share about their pet’s given name. And Burton, as with Brandy and Bailey before him (both liquor-related), has a good backstory which I will now share.

My wife, Dina surprised me with puppy-Burton on a Saturday morning in early October one year ago. Dina was helping a neighbor, or so I was told, that morning, when she got up at 6 am to drive four hours to Lexington, Va. What little did I know?: As Sergeant Schultz said so often on “Hogan’s Heroes” so too did “I know nothing.” Of course, I didn’t have a dog name at the ready since I was clueless what Dina had started planning three months earlier in June when she first met the breeder in Harper’s Ferry on a Saturday when we took a day trip with some friends. Fast forward, when she arrived home later that afternoon, puppy in tow, with the associated puppy paraphernalia, some of which had been spread around the neighborhood - to maintain the surprise, I was nearly speechless at the sight of him. He was adorable and lovable. Dina placed him in my arms, and I very nearly started to cry. I really hadn’t thought much about a puppy. Ever since I was diagnosed with cancer, I had always thought that with the indeterminate issues with my health and life expectancy, especially factoring in the side effects - and demands of chemotherapy, that adding to the family when we might be subtracting from it was a risky proposition. Nevertheless, here I was back in the dog business for the first time in 14 years. Having not considered a canine addition, given the cancer diagnosis and the five cats we already had in house, I was not thinking expansion. As such, I was totally unprepared for Burton emotionally (physically I could mostly manage, although occasionally a little challenging on some days when I felt the effects of 14 years of chemotherapy), and since I had no inkling as to what Dina was planning, I certainly didn’t know what to call him.

For the next day, we struggled to give him a proper name. We did agree that his name should begin with the letter “B,” given the names of our two previous goldens, but other than that, we were stuck. The only name we could produce was “Buddy,” but other than the “B” part, we weren’t all that enamored, particularly Dina. I can still see her sitting on our living room couch that morning, cellphone in hand, scrolling pet name lists on the internet, as we tried to resolve this pet-naming dilemma. Frustrated by the choices we were considering; we were temporarily at a loss. Then, out of the blue, as I’m sitting in a wingchair perpendicular to the couch, I get a text from Dina’s father in New York - who rarely texts. He knew about the puppy surprise but had no idea that we were focused on finding a name at that moment or were as stuck as we were, struggling to find a suitable name and beginning quite frankly to get a bit frustrated. Granted, it was barely a day, and we hadn’t had much time to get our arms - and head around the changes to our life (me more so than Dina obviously since she was the “surpriser”), but we wanted to call him something other than “puppy.” And until we had a name, it’s almost as if the surprise wasn’t quite finished and therefore, we couldn’t move on and/or plan for our new future as dog owners once again.

Then I hear my phone-text ring, look down on my lap, and see a text out of the blue/unsolicited, from Dina’s father. I click on his name and read the message. I immediately smile and look over to the Dina on the couch, still scrolling/researching names. I snicker and say, “Dina, your father has just come up with the dog’s name: Burton.” And since we live in Burtonsville and live in the Isaac Burton House and the name begins with “B,” we had found/been given Burton’s name. And when I said so, Dina smiled back at me and chuckled: “Perfect,” and so he was officially named. Soon thereafter, his AKC registration confirmed it: “Sir Isaac Burton of Burtonsville.”

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

# ANNIVERSARY

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



Some of Cameron's hand-crafted Belgian chocolates (from left) dark-chocolate coconut, pumpkin and milk-chocolate coconut. Other favorites include salted caramel and dulce de leche.



Cameron's employee Catie Cunningham (center) with boyfriend Tony Linthicum and mom Maria Cunningham.

## Cameron's Coffee & Chocolates Celebrates 10 Years

FROM PAGE 2

Jennifer Rose, executive director of the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce (CFCC), was a Cameron's customer even before joining the CFCC. "Ellen and Cammie have been great friends of mine," said Rose. "I always stop every Monday to pick up some treats to take to my kids, and that's gone back since you've opened your doors."

"We're also thrilled they're part of our Chamber family. They're my go-to source for door prizes, and people are excited to see the white bag with the purple stamp on it because they know there's something delicious in there from Cameron's."

Saying the CFCC is delighted to be a Cameron's supporter, Rose added, "I've been here so many days, each week, for coffee and I love bringing new people in to meet all these wonderful faces. So we're thrilled to celebrate 10 years with you, Ellen. Here's to you, Cammie, and to another 10 years."

Ellen Graham then expressed her appreciation to everyone there. "Ten years ago, we started with three workers, and I couldn't even have imagined we'd have 23 today and have grown so much," she said. "There are so many people in the room today – and even standing outside – who have helped us along the way; and to those people, I'd like to say thank you."

Among the groups she acknowledged for their support through the years were the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board, the Fairfax City Economic Development Authority (EDA), the CFCC, Fair City Mall and The Lamb Center.

"One of our dreams was always for us not to just operate a store, but to be part of the



Some mini cupcakes, scones and muffins.

larger community," said Graham. "And within the City of Fairfax, that's exactly what's happened. Our workers are embraced and supported, and we feel very lucky to be a part of this, so thank you to all of you."

Introducing Cameron, herself, Read called her the business's "heart, soul and pulse." Cameron, too, thanked everyone for coming and told them she hoped they'd enjoy the food served at this celebration.

It was a significant statement because – in addition to the assortment of the store's baked goods – the bountiful spread included some sandwiches made by young adults at the Davis Training Center. Through its culinary program, Cameron and others like her are able to learn employable skills.

Speaking last before the anniversary ribbon-cutting, City Councilmember Tom Ross noted that his first grandson is a "special-needs child." So, to Ross, "This business represents what's so unique about this rela-



Funfetti and carrot cupcakes with buttercream frosting.

tionship between the City, the people who work here with Ellen and Jim, and all the support" Cameron's has received.

"This is what it takes – a community of lots of people coming together to help support this kind of place, where there's love, great food and great chocolates," he continued. "I see so many people in here every day that it's become a networking place. So thank you to all those here today working."

After the ceremony, attendees mingled while enjoying sandwiches and desserts and purchasing some goodies to take home. And family members of some of the employees told The Connection why Cameron's means so much to them, personally.

Maria Cunningham's daughter, Catie, has worked there eight years and loves it. "She makes candy and baked goods, wraps and boxes orders, and cleans up, too," said Cunningham. "And it's a safe environment for a pretty, young woman to work and not worry about her safety, because this population especially can be taken advantage of. So it's a

blessing to her parents not to have to worry about her wellbeing."

Furthermore, she said, "Cameron's is a fun place where the employees have a good time and feel supported. And Catie's learning lots of life skills, like how to handle money, be responsible, problem solve, and take public transportation. She's also made friends with lots of people in the community and looks forward to seeing them every day."

Likewise, Stacy Clift said her niece, Bella Alvarez, has worked five years at Cameron's. "This is my happy place, and I love visiting and supporting such a wonderful community full of love and purpose," said Clift. "And this is what Cameron's provides for these young adults."

"This is family for Bella and the others," she continued. "It's more than just a job. When you work with purpose and meaning, success will follow. The employees have created a skill set; and having that, they feel good about themselves. Places like this tell the story of a community – and hope."

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