

# THE RESTON LETTER

## The Wine Cabinet Celebrates 20 Years

By Ellyn Wexler, Staff Writer

When Rande Jenus retired after 21 years with Marriott International, the groundwork for his next chapter had already been laid. He had traveled extensively, both domestically and internationally, for the company, and along the way, became a knowledgeable wine enthusiast and collector.

Jenus and fellow former Marriott executive Mike Mackie recognized the need for an independently owned wine shop in Reston, one “that would provide a selection of wine and craft beer to fit every palate and price point.” As such, shortly after the Northpoint Village Center space became available, they opened The Wine Cabinet in October 2003.

“The store looks 95 percent the same as when we started,” Jenus said. “The only changes we’ve made reflect changes in the industry.” For example, rosé wines were once considered inferior and overly sweet, but have become increasingly popular, with dry, crisp options, and so, The Wine Cabinet accordingly expanded its rosé collection.

An essential component of the partners’ vision was that the shop would be a welcoming place for the community to gather, much like the Bull & Finch Pub that was the model for “Cheers” where “everybody knows your name.” When Jenus lived in the Boston area, “that place made a big impression on me,” he said, citing the easy interactions between staff and customers. “That’s what we’ve been trying to do here. We know our customers’ names, and what



Owner Rande Jenus continues to carefully curate his wine and beer selection for Restonians. Photo by Benjamin Burgess

they like.”

Reston founder Robert Simon and his wife Cheryl, Jenus said, were early supporters of our “gathering place to meet friends and enjoy the finer things in life.” Simon, who was “a good customer and friend, loved big reds,” occasionally acted as a pourer at the shop’s tasting table events.

From the outset, Jenus said, “we’ve stayed away from most of the commercial wines available in supermarkets and big box stores.” Instead, The Wine Cabinet offers about 1,400 wines and 200 craft beers, mostly from small family-owned grower-producers “who pay attention to the land and the climate,” and for whom “wine is science plus art.”

Throughout his tenure at the shop, Jenus has continued to take three or four trips a year to build relationships with small producers and buy “wines you won’t get anywhere else.” And, he said, “Every single one of our wines and craft beers is personally tasted and selected by staff, so we have

Continued on Page 3

## Harvest the Fun at Reston's Fall Fest

By Megan Schmid, Staff Writer

Reston Farm Garden Market’s annual Fall Fest kicked off Sept. 23 and continues to be a Northern Virginia family favorite. The original Reston Farm Market was established in 1976, and initially only sold seasonal items like pumpkins and Christmas trees.

In 2018, Bonita and Lowell Weinstein purchased the market and rebranded it the Reston Farm Garden Market that we all know and love today. Over the past five years, the Weinstains have successfully grown the family business and added five seasonal Neighborhood Garden Markets throughout the DMV.

They have deep roots in our community, finding joy in providing locally-sourced produce and plants, and hosting seasonal events for the people of Reston and beyond. They also plan to host hands-on classes and posting helpful garden tutorial videos to share with the community in 2024.

Fall Fest runs every weekend through

**The Wine Cabinet**  
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It's Fall Fest at Reston Farm Garden Market. Photo by Isadora Guerreiro

Oct. 29, from 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online or on-site, and entry includes a pumpkin, access to multiple bounce houses, games, a train ride, and the adorable farm animals in the petting zoo.

Leo’s Food Truck is also there each weekend selling fresh Mexican food to attendees.

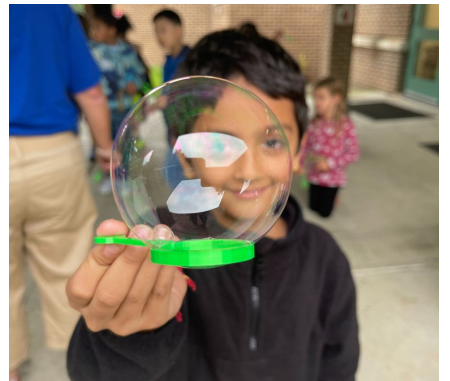
Come harvest the fun, while supporting a local family-owned minority business, at Reston Farm Garden Market’s Fall Fest!

### sports



South Lakes claims the Baron Cameron Bowl title again, track athletes honored

### education



South Lakes High Homecoming, Making An Impact column, Crossword Corner

### the bulletin



Important work of Reset 180, ArtInsights going online, Runway To the Cure

### lifestyle



Neighborhood Spotlight on The Wharf, Introducing local author’s book, taking care of our urban forest this autumn

### opinions

Restonian’s casino musings, a farmers market for all seasons, Q & A column with Dr. S.

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# THE BULLETIN

## Town Center's ArtInsights Takes Business Online

By Ellyn Wexler, Staff Writer



By Halloween, Leslie Combemale's nearly 29 years as co-owner of an art gallery in Reston Town Center [RTC] will be relegated to the realm of memory. She and her business partner and husband, master framer Michael Barry, have opted to vacate their brick-and-mortar location and conduct all the business of ArtInsights Gallery of Film and Contemporary Art exclusively online.

For the past 28 years, ArtInsights has dealt in original production artwork -- limited editions and unique, one-of-a-kind animation and film art -- all created by animation and film artists that work in the field. "That sets us apart from any other gallery in the world," Combemale asserted.

"We've loved being in person and face-to-face all this time with our framing clients, and some of our art clients," she explained, "but we've discovered that with some creative marketing, commitment to communication, and great service, a combination of art consulting for folks in the area, phone consults, and email interactions can prove very successful."

The couple originally chose to situate their gallery in RTC because of its proximity to Dulles International Airport. "We have had people fly in from around the world in the course of our being there," Combemale said. "Being in Reston Town Center was a delight, especially at Christmastime, when the center was decked out in decorations."

"We had lots of fun at our events, and with the many artists who came through for appearances," she added.

But not everything remained delightful. "When, without asking any of the retailers, the owners of the center decided to charge for parking, the people who wandered into the gallery dropped to a trickle, even on weekends," Combemale recalled. "[And] once the pandemic hit, we rarely saw anyone in the gallery."

Despite the negatives of the parking and the pandemic, one bright side emerged for the gallery owners. They realized how little they needed the store. "In terms of retail, we never depended on folks physically coming into the gallery," Combemale said.

To help cope with the pandemic, Combemale decided to do more writing on the ArtInsights blog. "Sometimes it was just about art we had and explaining it; other times, it was about the art business or featured an interview with artists we love and work with... They were struggling, too," she recalled. "Word spread, and more people found us through our blogs and special virtual events."

"Between the special releases and exclusive art we represented, people still found us online, and once we started a phone dialogue, they learned to trust our integrity and our expertise," Combemale said. "Over time, our business became about building relationships via phone and email. A huge percentage of our clientele became people we've never met but know well through mutual trust and built history."

Combemale is also an accomplished freelance writer for retail, corporate and pop culture websites as well as a film critic, known as Cinema Siren, who studied at the Royal Academy of Art and Virginia Commonwealth University.

Through a separate company, Combemale Creative, she represents artists and art estates, acts as an international art consultant, and partners with collectors, galleries, and museums worldwide.

In all these pursuits, Combemale em-

phasized, the goal is "to amplify others."

ArtInsights' owners are aware of "how incredibly lucky" they are that "recent events had a positive impact on our business instead of putting us out of business."

They attribute their good fortune in part to selling "art that makes people happy, and happiness is sometimes in short supply these days... We feel very, very grateful," Combemale said.

Before the gallery's closing, ArtInsights is having an open house, with all art still on view, on Saturday, Oct. 14, noon to 4 p.m.

For information on ArtInsights, visit [artinsights.com](http://artinsights.com).



Owner Leslie Combemale with some of her business's artwork. Photo contributed by ArtInsights

## Banned Books Week at Scrawl

By Terri Wright, Staff Writer

The American Library Association [ALA] publishes an annual list of the most frequently challenged and banned books.

This year, from Oct. 1 to 7 libraries and bookstores highlighted and explored issues of intellectual freedom and censorship during Banned Book Week.

Scrawl Books, Reston's independent book store, hosted a panel event Oct. 2 to explore issues under the title Books for Everyone.

"According to the ALA there has been a 20 percent increase in book challenges nationwide from 2022 to the 2023," Leah Grover, Scrawl's event coordinator, shared with attendees. "To Kill A Mockingbird" by Harper Lee has held a spot on the annual list since 1990. Mark Twain's classic "Huckleberry Finn" is also still banned in

some states. Most recently, attention has shifted away from instructional material toward library inventory. "By and large, the common themes in banned books are those by and about marginalized communities and people," Grover said.

Melanie Meren, Hunter Mill District FCPS school board member, provided attendees with information about the book challenge process in the public school system.

"My experience as both a board member and as a parent is that schools and staff want help from the local community in building and vetting classroom materials," Meren said.

Banned Books Week is a good time to remember that it's important to be aware of what readers are reading and not reading, and why.



Banned Books Week sparked conversation at Scrawl Books on Oct. 2. Photo by Ryan Grover

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# THE BULLETIN

20th Anniversary Tasting  
The Wine Cabinet  
Saturday, Oct. 14, 1-6 p.m.

Herndon High Homecoming Parade  
Downtown Herndon  
Saturday, Oct. 14, 9:30 a.m.

DogFest  
Reston Town Center Pavilion  
Oct. 14 10 a.m. - 4 pm.

## The Wine Cabinet: 20 Years in Reston

Continued from Page 1

more interesting wines at all price points.” In addition to the higher level of care and institutional knowledge the owner-operator offers, Jenus said the shop’s 12 staff members “look like our customers [in terms of being world travelers and foodies]. “Half of them used to be our customers.”

Like Jenus, 80 percent of the shop’s long-term employees live in Reston, the others in nearby Oakton and Clifton; about 70 percent of them have wine certifications.

While “some of our current loyal customers have been with us from toy box to tasting table,” bringing in ID to get their first legal sample, “we all love people, and there are always new people to win over.”

They accomplish this by “putting in the time and effort to learn about our customers,” Jenus explained. “We ask that they tell us what they like in terms of wine and food, so we can get to know their palate, and build a profile. All this takes the guesswork out of making future recommendations.”

The Wine Cabinet’s customers are given ample opportunities to gather, taste and learn from winemakers, brewers, importers, and educators at free weekly tastings: 4 to 7:30 p.m. Fridays (wines and beers); and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturdays (wine only).

On Thursdays, 3 to 8 p.m., a single wine with great ratings is available for tasting, and heavily discounted for purchase. The selections are at all prices points and pedigrees, Jenus said, and have earned high



The Wine Cabinet is set for its 20th year tasting celebration, which will include 25 wines at four tables, poured by a master sommelier. Photo by Benjamin Burgess

scores from accredited wine critics and publications.

Samples of gourmet foods from local product vendors, which the shop also sells, typically accompany the events.

In addition to the wines and craft beers, The Wine Closet has a selection of specialty products like gourmet cheese, meats, crackers, locally made artisan chocolates, soups from Eastern Shore, olive oils, spices, jellies, cocktail mixers, and giftware including wine and bar accessories, glassware, antiques, candles, and cheese boards.

The work of local artists, currently Joanne Wittauer and Melanie Stanley, enhances the shop’s décor. “I loan my wall

to them, and it’s a win/win,” Jenus said. The artists get exposure, and “it makes the place look good.”

The Wine Cabinet is celebrating its 20th anniversary, and owner-operator Rande Jenus plans to share the joy “of serving the community ... one bottle at a time!” at a Tasting Event on Saturday, Oct. 14, 1 to 6 p.m.

There will be four tasting tables, with 25 wines from Italy, Austria, California, and France.

Importer Fran Kysela, who is among the world’s fewer than 280 master sommeliers, will be pouring.

For more information, call 703-668-9463 or visit <https://thewinecabinet.com/>



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## Reset 180 Disrupts Human Trafficking

By E. Zirak, Staff Writer

The term “human trafficking” conjures up images of violent kidnappings or suspicious looking vans with no license plates attempting to lure unsuspecting youth. According to Reset 180, a non-profit organization in Reston dedicated to helping those affected by human trafficking, the reality is actually quite different.

Kim Luckabaugh, Executive Director at Reset 180, highlighted four main types of human trafficking occurring in our area: gang trafficking, pimp-controlled trafficking, familial trafficking (where parents sell their own children), and illicit massage businesses or labor trafficking. Unfortunately, human sex traf-

ficking seems to have grown exponentially over the last few years, with approximately 43,000 people sold online in just the 50-mile radius of the Reset 180 office in Reston.

Perpetrators tend to prey on people with vulnerabilities including individuals experiencing poverty. There are higher levels of such populations in certain parts of Fairfax County including pockets in Centreville, Seven Corners, Herndon, and Mount Vernon along Route 1. Often, a form of Stockholm Syndrome forms between the victims and their traffickers; victims are told not to trust law enforcement, so they remain loyal. And so the human trafficking industry continues, an industry estimated at being

more than \$25 million annually in Fairfax County alone.

When former Rep. Frank Wolf realized 13 years ago how big a problem human trafficking is in our area, he brought together several local pastors to help the survivors of human trafficking. Since then, Reset 180 has touched the lives of more than 700 victims and survivors, over 98 percent of whom are female.

The organization is planning to build a shelter in Fauquier County followed by “tiny homes” to serve as transitional housing for survivors of human trafficking.

The motto for Reset 180 is “Prevent. Disrupt. Restore.” In addition to strategies to prevent human trafficking, the organization works to help victims find a path forward after leaving their former lives, including finding work.

Given the high rates of suicide and mental health issues among victims of human trafficking, it is important for their new employers to be trauma informed.

To learn more about this Reston-based organization, please visit their website (<https://reset180.com/>) where you can find details about a fundraising gala on November 17.



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# THE BULLETIN

## Breast Cancer Survivors Model Clothing for RTC Event



Breast cancer survivors participated in Runway To the Cure at Reston Town Center. Photos contributed by Chuck Cascio

By Chuck Cascio, Guest Writer

A crowd of approximately 500 gathered at the Reston Town Center Pavilion on Sunday, Oct. 1, for the annual Runway To the Cure fashion show fundraiser to kick off Breast Cancer Awareness Month. "When I had my first fashion show in 2017, I dreamed of the whole Reston community coming together to raise funds for breast cancer research and local support programs," said Jane Abraham, founding member and chair emerita of Runway. "The outpouring of support from the community has fulfilled that dream."

This year 30 models, all of whom are breast cancer survivors and some of

whom are still undergoing treatment, modeled clothing from various local shops.

As they walked down the runway individually amid cheers from the crowd, Kristen Berset-Harris, TV host of Great Day Washington on WUSA 9, herself a two-time breast cancer survivor, read the background story of each participant's battle with the disease. Abraham said that the participants and their stories illustrate "what is so special about Runway to the Cure: the celebration of the lives of our models and the relationships that have developed over the years."

During the past six years, the nonprof-

it organization has steadily produced increased funding through its fashion show and silent auction, a growth trend that Theresa Goudie, chairman of the Runway board, hopes will continue. "Seeing the emotional impact on our survivor-models walking the runway in beautiful designer outfits and feeling supported by their families, friends and fellow members of the breast cancer community warms my heart," Goudie said. "I hope the show provides inspiration for the audience members who may be facing breast cancer themselves, or who have a friend or family member going through their journey."



Model Vesna Cottrel



Model Sahar Amin

## Promising Therapy for Parkinson's Available at Reston Hospital: LSVT BIG

By Holly Weatherwax, Staff Writer

A diagnosis of Parkinson's disease (PD) can be devastating. PD is a progressive disorder that affects the nervous system and the parts of the body controlled by the nerves.

It is the second most common neurological disease behind Alzheimer's disease. There are currently more than 8 million people diagnosed with Parkinson's and that number is expected to double by 2040.

As the disease progresses, it can cause ongoing symptoms, including resting tremor, rigidity, postural instability. It also can result in slower movements, speech limitations, and a decrease in automatic movements, such as blinking or smiling.

The Reston Hospital Center's rehabilitation center has a physical and occupational therapy program for PD patients: LSVT BIG. The results make the tasks of daily living significantly better for participants. Designed to restore normal movement, LSVT is an acronym for Lee Silverman Voice Treatment in reference to the LSVT LOUD protocol. In 1987, Dr. Lorraine Ramig met Lee Silverman who was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. Her family told the doctor that if they could hear and understand her they could help her more. That motivated Dr. Ramig to develop an effective speech treatment for people with PD.

She created the speech treatment protocol LSVT LOUD, and then the same techniques were expanded to create a movement protocol, called LSVT BIG.

The goal of the therapy is to recalibrate how individuals perceive their movements, and train them to be larger, faster, and more normal. This recalibration is called neuroplasticity, which is the brain's ability to rewire itself in response to motor learning.

Courtney Bontz, PT DPT is one of the therapists at Reston Hospital trained in this technique. She has a clear passion for her patients. "I strive to provide goal-oriented and skilled patient-specific therapy services. My aspiration is to not only help them achieve their goals, but to improve their quality of life. I traditionally see improvement in my patients' overall mobility through the completion of the program," Bontz said.

"What I love to hear from them is how they are able to rejoin their friends in their bowling league which they have not been able to do in years. Or how their overall attitude and confidence has improved, or even that their granddaughter can now hear them better when talking on the phone," she said. And those aren't the only lifestyle changes she sees.

"Exercise gives someone with Parkinson's the chance to take their life back from the symptoms and course of the

disease. There is significant research that shows how beneficial exercise is for individuals with Parkinson's, exercise is a form of medicine to overcome this disease!"

The treatment, while designed for PD patients, can also be used to treat patients who have had stroke, Multiple Sclerosis (MS), balance dysfunction and falls, brain injury, and general aging.

There are four components to the LSVT treatment:

**Daily exercise:** the focus here is on rescaling the amplitude of movement across use of the body.

**Functional exercise:** these are specific to each patient and focus on their day-to-day activities such as buttoning a shirt or stepping over an obstacle.

**Hierarchy tasks:** these are again patient specific but are complex multi-level tasks such as check writing or getting up off the floor.

**"Big" walking:** helping the patient take bigger steps, swing their arms, increase amplitude while walking.

Because PD limits the ability of the patient to have "big" movements, much of the work that takes place in this treatment protocol is about exaggerated movements and teaching the patient amplitude in their day-to-day activities. The program is intensive. It takes place with a physical or occupational therapist four



LSVT Big Participant works with Therapy Technician.

Photo contributed by Courtney Bontz

times a week, 60 minutes a session for four weeks in an outpatient setting.

Once patients complete the program, they are encouraged to continue with their exercises. If they find they need a tune-up, they can return to the clinic setting.

A doctor's referral is required from either a neurologist or primary care doctor. For more information, contact Reston Therapy and Fitness Center at Reston Hospital, 1850 Town Center Parkway, Suite 200 or call 703-689-9250.



# THE CALENDAR

## Walker Nature Center Set for Annual Halloween Trail

By Caroline Ayers, Staff Writer

At this time of year, most Halloween events are gearing up to spook and scare their visitors. Meanwhile, off Glade Drive, the Walker Nature Center team is preparing for a different type of fall celebration: the family-friendly 26th annual Halloween Trail on Oct. 27 and 28.

The Walker Nature Center's Halloween Trail is one of the most popular events it hosts each year. The tradition began before the Nature House was even built, and many families come back year after year. The trail provides patrons with a delightful walk in the woods, showing that nighttime in nature doesn't need to be scary. Created for children, ages 3 and older, the event features game stations, fun activities inside the Nature House, and of course, the trail itself.

Visitors buy tickets to enter for an hour at staggered times so that the event is never too crowded, and they get popcorn and cider with their tickets.

True to the Nature Center's mission to teach residents about the environment, all of the activities have a little bit of science and nature-based elements tucked in with the fun. The team at the Nature Center encourages those of all ages to dress up for the trail. "I really like seeing the kids in costume. They are adorable!" said Abby

Stocking, the Nature Center's resident naturalist.

At the entrance area to the festivities, patrons will be able to meet Nature Center mascots Walker the Woodpecker and Earl the Squirrel.

Throughout the trail, they'll come across a charming cast of characters who not only entertain visitors with their antics, but also inform them about their natural surroundings and provide treats at several stations along the way. The trail ends with a galactic dance party for all ages at the pavilion.

Visitors will also have the opportunity to meet owls outside the Nature House, though they aren't the big fans of pictures.

When asked what might be new this year, Stocking chuckled. "We don't like to give away our secrets, but we always like to change parts of the trail and the stations." As the Nature Center begins to prepare for year 26, the organizers and the community are excited to once again head back into the forest for a fun fall time. Tickets are available through the Reston Association, and the event is held rain or shine.

Tickets are available for purchase at <https://bit.ly/HalloweenHouseAndTrail>.



Halloween Trail Photos by William O'Brien



## Tastes, Sips, and Sparkles Help Celebrate Community Heroes at Giving Gala

Contributed by CORE Foundation

The CORE Foundation annual Giving Gala and Community Hero Awards is Nov. 4 at the Reston Community Center. The annual event from the Reston-based nonprofit celebrates and honors individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions to the community.

"The CORE Gala brings together local businesses and community leaders for a special evening to recognize the inspiring and valuable work of the 2023 CORE Community Heroes, and to support the Foundation's mission of fostering positive change," said Suzanne Zurn, Gala Co-Chair.

Gala guests will be treated to delicious tastes and sips from some of the area's top restaurants. "An event like this would not be possible without the generous support of sponsors. We are excited to have an incredible line up of restaurants who have donated top shelf food and beverages to this year's event," Jennifer Heffner, Gala Co-Chair explained.

- Big Wonton
- Davio's Northern Italian Steakhouse
- Elden Street Tea Shop
- Lake Anne Brew House
- Lake Anne Coffee House & Wine Bar
- FOGO de CHAO
- Maker's Union Pub for the People
- True Food Kitchen

A raffle for a diamond necklace donated by Aspen Jewelry Design will add special sparkle to this year's event. Tickets are on sale for \$175 each through October 31 at <https://corefoundation.org/giving-gala-community-hero-awards>.



Visit the event website at [corefoundation.org/giving-gala-community-hero-awards](https://corefoundation.org/giving-gala-community-hero-awards) to learn more about the event, purchase tickets, and explore sponsorship opportunities.

### Corrections from August's Reston Butterfly Garden article:

In our August issue the email address for the butterfly garden should have been [bgreston@comcast.net](mailto:bgreston@comcast.net). Please contact Dan Asher for the 2024 calendar fundraiser.



## Early In-Person Voting is Here School Board, State Senate, and House on Ballot

By Scott L. Parkin, Staff Writer

Reston voters will have many choices to make in this fall's upcoming election including who will represent the community on the Board of Supervisors, Fairfax County School Board, and crucial elections for both the House of Delegates and State Senate.

Since Sept. 22, registered voters have been able to vote at the North County Government Center, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive in Reston on weekdays from 1 to 7 p.m. through November 4. Election Day is November 7, the last day to vote.

Choices on this year's ballot include: Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, a Hunter Mill District Supervisor, one Hunter Mill District school board, three at-large school board members, Clerk of Court, Commonwealth's Attorney, Sheriff, and three Northern Virginia Soil Water & Conservation members.

Voters also will choose someone to represent Reston in the Virginia House of Delegates and one state Senator.

For your registration status and polling place, go to: <https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation>

### Who's on the Ballot?

#### Chairman, Board of Supervisors

- Arthur G. Purves (R)
- Jeffrey C. McKay (D)

#### Member, Board of Supervisors

- Hunter Mill District**
- Walter L. Alcorn (D-Incumbent)
- Indira S. Massey (R)

#### Member, School Board

##### Hunter Mill District

- Harry R. Jackson
- Melanie K. Meren

#### At Large, School Board

- Sandra T. Davis
- Cassandra R. Aucoin
- Linda A. Pellegrino
- Ilryong Moon
- Ahmed Mahdi Hussein
- Maureen T. Brody
- Robert K. "Kyle" McDaniel
- Peter C. Gabor
- Ryan L. McElveen

#### Member, House of Delegates

- Luellen Hoffman Maskeny (R)
- Karen a. Keys-Gamarra (D)

#### Member, State Senate

- Matthew J. Matt Lang (R)
- Jennifer B. Boysko (D - Incumbent)

#### Clerk of Court

- Gerarda Marie Culipher (R)
- Christopher J. Falcon (D)

#### Commonwealth's Attorney

- Steve T. Descano (D)

#### Sheriff

- Stacy Ann Kincaid (D-Incumbent)
- Jerry L. McMillan (I)
- Christopher F. DeCarlo (I)

#### Soil and Water Conservation

- Debra O. Maddrell
- Rhonda J. Bitterli
- Chris E. Koerner
- Edward W. Monroe, Jr.
- Mary Ellen "Mell" Flynn
- Mary E. Strayhorne
- Dana H. Barakat



# EDUCATION

## Making an Impact: Reston Graduates Improve Lives

By Chuck Cascio, Reston author, former South Lakes High School teacher

She would cruise along Reston's many paths on her 10-speed bike, go to Baskin and Robbins to devour her favorite chocolate chip ice cream, and make sand art at LANK's arts and crafts fairs at Hunter's Woods. These are just some of the memories Stephanie Heier Reitz has from growing up in Reston, from the time she and her family moved to Reston when she was one-year old through her graduation from South Lakes High School in 1986 and the College of William and Mary in 1990.

Those free-flowing childhood years in Reston contributed to Stephanie's passion to help others. She joined Microsoft in 2001 and, in 2003, moved to Seattle to focus on "how technology helps enable economic growth and development for countries around the world." Two years ago, she took that experience and her passion for establishing ground-level impact to Splunk where "I joined the social

impact team to lead Splunk's workforce development efforts. We are helping individuals from underserved and underrepresented communities pursue opportunities in tech through Splunk's technology skills training, grants, and partnerships."

Stephanie's pursuit of her goal to help others and to provide others with the opportunity to experience, in some small way, the kinds of meaningful experiences she had as a Reston youth, recently led her to a position on the Board of Equal Opportunity Schools (EOS). "EOS works with school districts nationally to help them place more students from marginalized communities in Advanced Placement and other advanced high school courses," Stephanie explains. "Too many talented students miss the chance to follow a more rigorous academic path simply because no one tells them that doing so is an option."

Stephanie's goal is to help give students

those options. "These are areas where I feel I will be able to make a significant contribution based on my professional experience," she said. "As the organization matures, there are opportunities to evolve the operating model in a way that addresses emerging trends in education, like simultaneous enrollment both in high school and community college."

EOS seems well on its way to achieving its goals, stating on its website (<https://eoschools.org>) that "has helped nearly 800 schools in 250 districts across 33 states" identify students of color and low-income students who qualify for, but are missing from Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) classes."

As EOS looks at the next five years, Stephanie said, "There are a number of areas where it expects to devote more time and resources, including policy and advocacy, communications, and technol-



Photo contributed by Stephanie Heier Reitz

ogy. The Board felt these are areas where I will be able to make a significant contribution based on my professional experience."

That is how Stephanie Heier Reitz is making an impact--from speeding along Reston's paths to embracing work that directly strives to improve the daily lives of others.

## Curtains Soon to Rise on The Legend of Sleepy Hollow



South Lakes High School's The Legend of Sleepy Hollow cast, left to right: Lily Ingraham, Itsuko Scoville, Josh Lewis, Noah Kennedy, Zaara Kapadia, Sitina Tochterman. Photo contributed by SLHS Theatre Arts

Contributed by SLHS Theatre Arts

South Lakes High School's Theatre Arts program is set to dazzle audiences with its latest production of the haunting classic, "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow."

Playwrights Peter and Hans Bloedel breathe new life into Washington Irving's timeless tale.

While this version still follows Ichabod Crane, the town Sleepy Hollow's new schoolmaster, the script takes a whimsical, poetic turn.

As Ichabod is thrust into a new world, he must navigate romance, square off against some peculiar townsfolk, and face the spine-chilling legend of the Headless Horseman.

"As always, our talented cast and crew have poured their talents, passion, and dedication into this production. 'Sleepy

Hollow' isn't just a play; it's an immersive experience, said Director Michael Viola.

"We are challenging ourselves in new areas with this show: original puppetry, elaborate hair and makeup, and gothic soundscapes. We're excited to share what we've created with the community."

South Lakes High School's Theatre Arts program stands as a pillar of excellence in performing arts.

With a legacy of hands-on learning and a commitment to artistic excellence, the program has a storied history of delivering award-winning performances.

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow is sure to be another unforgettable production in this tradition, and attending a performance is a great way to support the local arts programs.

Great as gifts!

**Support the South Lakes High School STEAM Team Calendar Fundraiser!**

Join us to support SLHS STEAM Team. Last year's calendar fundraiser was a great success! Over \$4,800 was raised for the STEAM Team to realize their 2023 sculpture Rise for the Lake Thoreau Spillway. It is now on display. Help us reach our goal to raise \$6,000 for the 2024 sculpture! Additional funding allows STEAM Team to use better materials to create more interesting and sturdier sculptures.

Lake Thoreau resident and nature photographer, Mary Prochnow, has once again donated her beautiful photos of Reston nature to create a beautiful art-filled 2024 calendar. Choose your quantity to receive calendars or make a donation if you don't want a calendar. Calendars will be available by the end of October. Calendars can be picked up at various Reston locations, delivered, or choose mail option to have them mailed.

Thanks for your support.

\$20 = one calendar  
\$35 = two calendars  
\$50 = three calendars

use camera on your smart phone

\*100% of donations support the 2024 Lake Thoreau Spillway sculpture. Fundraiser supported by The Lake Thoreau Entertainment Association

PUBLIC ART RESTON

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2023-2024

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A COMIC FABLE BY NEIL SIMON  
November 17-19

**Fiddler on the Roof**  
MAY 3-6

A NEW MYTH FOR A HOTTER WORLD  
WINTER ONE ACT  
FEB. 9



Tickets to The Legend of Sleepy Hollow

### The Legend of Sleepy Hollow Performance Event Details

**When:**  
Nov. 9 at 7:30 p.m.  
Nov. 10 at 7:30 p.m.  
Nov. 11 at 2 and 7:30pm

**Where:** South Lakes High School Theater, 11400 South Lakes Drive, Reston

**Tickets:** Available at the school office and online (access via QR Code)



# EDUCATION



Lake Anne Elementary's Principal Jill Stewart greets the crowds at South Lakes Homecoming Parade. Photos by Isadora Guerreiro



SLHS Juniors Alex Darmory and Audrey Flynn dressed for Homecoming. Darmory plays lacrosse and Flynn is a cheerleader. Photo contributed by Zoo Flynn



Hunters Woods Elementary first-graders had a blast learning about surface tension through bubble science! Fun Fact: The bubble wands were made on their own 3-D printer! Leave it to the wonderful science teacher, Mrs. Negri, to put the "phun" in physics! Photo by Laura King



Second-grade scientists in Ms. Wilson's class at Aldrin Elementary are using their five senses to make observations during outdoor learning. Photo contributed by AES



SLHS students Lila Jaster, Emma Diamond, and Emily Brown went to Lake Anne for homecoming pictures. Photo contributed by Emma Diamond

## Crossword Corner

By Reston crossword constructor, Joe O'Neill

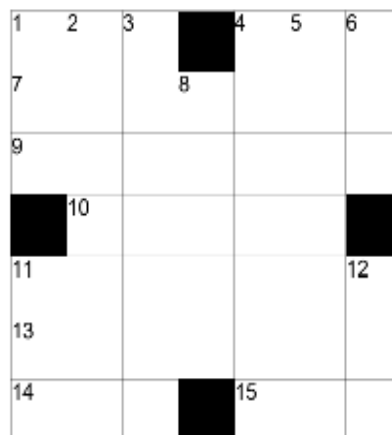
Seasonal Greeting Joe O'Neill

### ACROSS

1. Hoops org.
4. Dispose (of)
7. Where the Hamptons are on Long Island or Jack the Ripper lurked
9. With 8-Down, a frequent late October phrase
10. Con game swindle
11. Winter windshield sprays
13. Kid who gets "ice time" in exchange for maintenance help
14. Liberal Arts maj.
15. CIA operative

### DOWN

1. "The Matrix" protagonist
2. Intrude abruptly
3. What someone may strum or be "kept on"
4. "Joints" or "Doobies"
5. Snared by something set, perhaps
6. Banned pesticide (abbr.)
8. With 9-Across, a frequent late October phrase
11. "Doctor" of Rap
12. Oinky area



© Red Hand Associates

(Answers on back)



Fall sports at Dominion Christian School are off to a roaring start. Soccer teams and cross-country teams are enjoying their time practicing and playing against other local schools, and the volleyball teams love competing in their new gym. Photo contributed by DCS



# SPORTS

## South Lakes High Grabs Ninth Straight Bowl Title

Seahawks' second-half effort evens the all-time Baron Cameron Bowl series with Herndon



The Seahawks celebrate with the Baron Cameron Cup trophy on September 22. Photo by Mamoon Fatima

By Paul Bergeron, Guest Writer

The moment South Lakes senior lineman Aiden Billings was handed the Baron Cameron Bowl trophy at midfield after the Seahawks' game at Herndon, he and his teammates sprinted to the scoreboard to celebrate.

It was still lit with the final score: Visitors 35, Herndon 7.

The win was the ninth in a row in this historic neighborhood rivalry after 26 contests, dating to 1998. Each team has won 13 times.

The game somehow is able to blend the fierce competitiveness of the two schools with the love and admiration those in the communities have for each other. Both showed up in force on this Sept. 23 evening.

For at least half of the game, it looked like the Hornets would turn the table. Herndon took a 7-0 lead on its second possession of the game when John Costello broke through the goal line on fourth down from a yard out. Its defense held the Seahawks to three field-goal attempts in the first half (two were made) and the Hornets led 7-6 at intermission.

Adjustments and illness caught up to the home team in the second half, as South Lakes dominated on both sides of the ball to improve to 5-0 on the season. Herndon (3-2) had its three-game winning streak snapped.

"It's always a big game; everyone in town is watching," said Billings, who recorded his first career blocked punt early in the third quarter. "In the second half, we just stuck with our defensive assignments."

That led to a safety with 9:11 to go in the third quarter as Aarmann Choudry snuffed out a pitch play and tackled Ethan Buhler in the end zone, giving South Lakes the lead for good, 8-7.

"You have to love how the communities come together for this game," said Seahawks coach Jason Hescok. "The game is bigger than me, bigger than the players, bigger than the seniors and bigger than the schools."

Herndon junior quarterback Johnny Callow, suffering from flu symptoms all week, including in the game, could manage little on offense.

"He really gutted it out, but there were plays we couldn't call because he wasn't able to run them," Hornets coach Bill Bachman said. Callow was relieved at quarterback early in the fourth quarter.

The Seahawks, meanwhile, made the most of their chances, adding a third field goal by Dillon Benyo midway through the quarter for an 11-7 advantage. South Lakes quarterback Nick Harris capped a nine-play drive with a 13-yard run to make it 18-7.

"Rivalry games are always close," Harris said. "We just had to stay focused."

Teammate senior Brian Kennedy (three catches, 57 yards) said the seniors got an attitude adjustment at halftime.

"We were messing up in the first half," he said. "Guys will mess up some in every game. It's okay, but some were hanging their heads. We had to change the mindset."

Kennedy said his team expected to win, as it was motivated by Herndon players stomping on the Seahawks' logo in the middle of the Reston school's field earlier in the week – games in which Herndon won at the freshman and junior varsity levels.

One steady contributor in the varsity win was rugged senior running back Isaac Copeland, who had 28 touches in the game, gaining over 100 total yards rushing and receiving. Teammate 6-foot-5 Colin Rutland had four catches. Cody Wood also had a rushing touchdown.

"As coaches, we were disappointed in ourselves with the first half, we didn't finish some plays," Hescok said. "We got punched in the mouth. We wanted to see how the kids would respond."

South Lakes entered the game having not trailed on the season, outscoring its opponents going in, 204-13.

Bachman, coaching for the third time in the series, was mostly pleased with how his players responded.

"You hear about this game all year," he

said. "Our defense played their butts off, and they really kept us in the game."

The Hornets forced three turnovers in the game and stopped South Lakes on fourth down near the goal line in the first half.

"South Lakes has a great team. They are well-coached. This will become a rivalry once we beat them once."

Herndon senior captain Brady Calderwood, an outside linebacker and running back, said the game was a final chance for the seniors to meet their goal of beating their crosstown rival.

He and senior co-captains Thatcher Swinton and Juver Sorto-Canas grew up playing youth football with some of the Seahawks players.

"This game was that chance," Calderwood said.

"We figured the game would be a battle of defenses, and it was. A real dogfight. That's what rivalry games are. But now, we've been coached to realize that the most important game is the one coming up. So, we move on and focus on playing Washington-Liberty."



Photo by Mamoon Fatima



Hornets and Seahawks squared up under a stunning sunset. Photo by Benjamin Burgess



# SPORTS

## Champions Receive FFX County Supervisor Resolution

Contributed by SLHS Sports Boosters

At the Sept. 26 Fairfax County Board of Supervisors meeting, Supervisor Walter Alcorn formally requested a resolution that was unanimously passed to recognize the South Lakes High School Girls Track state and nationals champions.

Supervisor Alcorn's motion to the Board requested "that the Office of Public Affairs prepare a certificate of recognition for the team". He read the formal resolution request describing the Seahawks Women's Track and Field Team outstanding athletes who had great success during the 2023 indoor and outdoor track season.

Their 2023 state championship achievements include:

**Winter Indoor Track 4x800 Relay** setting a new school record at 9:17.69

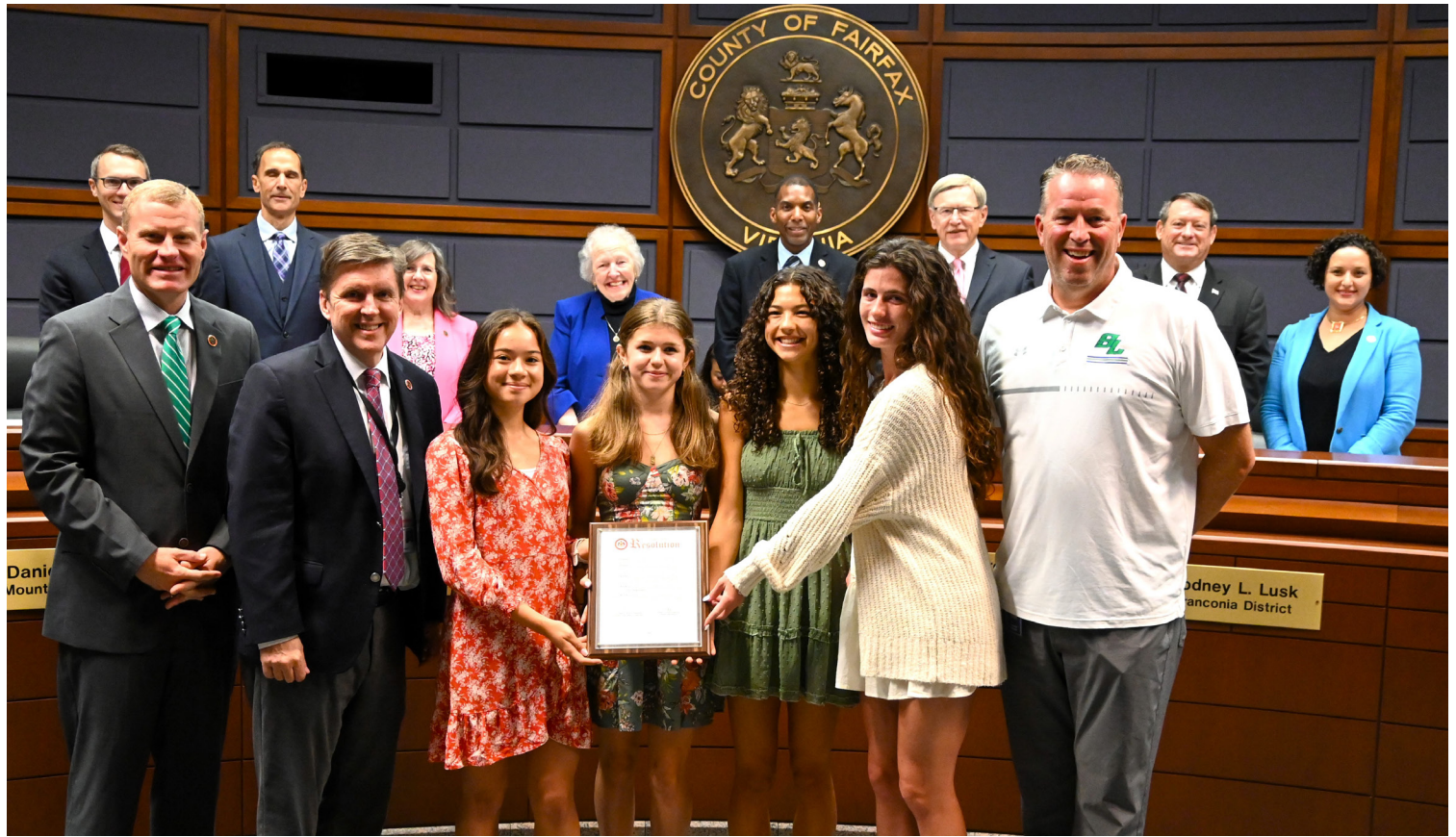
**Indoor Track 1000 Meters** running a new sub-3 PR which was a new school record of 2:53.74

**Outdoor Track 4x800 Relay** setting a new school record at 9:00.11, placing them 7th in the nation at this time and earning First Team 4x800m All-Met Washington Post High School Sports honors.

They also earned national titles including:

**Nike Indoor Nationals 4x800 Relay 2nd place** with a time of 9:07.54, which was a new school record, a season record; earned the team All-American honors and First Team 4x800m Relay All-Met Washington Post High School Sports honors

**Nike Indoor Nationals 800m 5th place** with a time of 2:10.52, which was a PR, a new school record; earned All-American honors and First Team 800m Indoor and Honorable Mention 800m Outdoor All-Met Washington Post High School Sports



South Lakes High School Girls Track state and national champions were recognized for accomplishments on and off the track. Photo courtesy of Fairfax County Supervisors

honors.

**Nike Outdoor Nationals 4000 Meters Distance Medley Relay National Champions** running 11:46:12, the 3rd fastest High School time in the nation this year; a new school record and the team currently holds the State of Virginia #1 time

**Nike Outdoor Nationals 800m** running a time of 2:11 which is currently the State of Virginia #1 time, a PR and earned Honorable Mention 800m All-Met Washington Post High School Sports honors.

**Nike Outdoor Nationals 4x800 Relay 3rd place** running 8:58.74; another 3rd fastest High School time in the nation this year; a new school for the second time

this season; and the team currently holds the State of Virginia #1 time.

The Seahawks recognized were sophomores Caroline Elliot and Aya Ryan; junior Catalina Simon, senior Bella Harsanyi and graduate Annalise Williams now Freshman at University of Lynchburg.

Director of Student Activities Andrew Duggan delightedly accepted the resolution on behalf of the team, Track and Field coaches and South Lakes High School.

Acknowledging the growth and accomplishments of these student athletes in the classroom (nothing less than a 4.0 GPA) he summarized their athletic per-

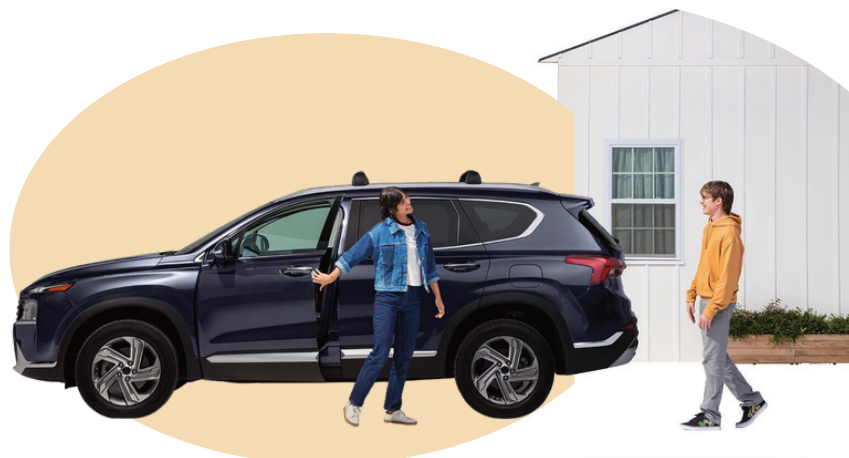
formance with a grin and "these girls run fast!"

There was a theme of Title IX and equity opportunities in sports at the morning's meeting.

The next resolution recognized the NOVA United Senior Women's Basketball Association, requested by Chairman McKay and Supervisors Palchik and Gross.

Acknowledging the 20th anniversary and their championship season and how far women's sports had come in these lifetimes, Supervisor Gross suggested the cross-generational photo.

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# OPINIONS

## Restonian

Blogger, Staff Writer



### What Happens in Reston Stays In Reston

First floated earlier in the year, the idea of building a fun floating casino in Reston has returned with a vengeance, reportedly backed by some well-heeled developers. While there's been a bunch of handwringing that gambling isn't in the spirit of our plastic fantastic planned community, like that other affront to culture and civility (pickleball), we think Reston just needs to think bigger! After all, what does Vegas have that we don't?

**The Sphere and the Luxor:** Vegas has a rad pyramid and just opened a giant globe-shaped concert hall, complete with graphics that can transform it into a creepy unblinking eyeball or emoji or whatnot. But that's so 10th grade geometry! Do they have buildings shaped like rhomboids and parallelograms? We think not, so grab your protractor and get ready to gamble!

**The Fremont Street Experience:** Vegas took the oldest part of town and added a bunch of fancy lights and whatnot to revitalize it. All we have to do is add a couple of tiki torches (and hot water), and the Lake Anne Experience will be golden!

**The Loop:** Elon Musk's fancy Vegas subway system wound up just being a couple of cars in a tunnel. We've already got a freaking SUPERTRAIN that can take you to Tysons or Ashburn, so advantage us.

**The Venetian:** A resort replicating the best of Europe... almost. We've got a bunch of concrete abutments and playgrounds that resemble some of London's

damper suburbs, so basically the same thing.

**Treasure Island:** Famed for having pirates act out a brutal sea battle on the half hour, this could easily be replicated by a reenactment of angry SUV drivers fighting for the last parking space on level G-27 of the Metro garage.

**New York, New York:** Back in the pre-historic days before Metro, people fretted that Reston was turning into "another Manhattan," so why not go all the way? Let's replace the bikeshare stations with ersatz hot dog and bootleg T-shirt vendors, and we'll be set.

**Golf:** Back when the Brat Pack (Google it, kids) was playing the big rooms in Vegas, many of the casinos had golf courses right on the Strip. They've all been redeveloped into 99-story hotels and condominiums so... uh, never mind, the end.

## That's My Point

Scott L. Parkin, Staff Writer



### A Reston Farmers Market for All Seasons

On Saturday mornings between May and October, I often drive or walk to the Reston Farmers Market which is located at historic Lake Anne, about a mile from my front door. I load up on fresh veggies, ripened fruit, delicious quiche lorraine, and sometimes fresh Rockfish from the Bay or grass-fed Virginia beef. But, as fall approaches and closing is imminent, I wish it was year-round.

In Ithaca, New York, the farmers market in this college town remains open all year in spite of the sometimes brutally cold winters.

Situated in a park at the foot of Cayuga Lake, it is housed in a pavilion modeled after a 13th Century cathedral. A roof that covers the aisles is in the shape of a cross. The building has no sides, but even when subzero Canadian winds blow through and there's little fresh produce to

sell, the farmers, craftspeople, artists, candy makers, cooks and vintners offer other products that attract large crowds every weekend.

Our local supermarkets have started to compete with our local farmers market by offering tables with fruits or vegetables, often with hand-lettered signs to lend authenticity, claiming the limited produce you see is from this or that West Virginia or Pennsylvania farm.

But at Wegmans, Giant or Harris Teeter, the food displayed under fluorescent lights or even in the lobby just doesn't look the same. And, you can't talk to someone about its origins or pass the time of day.

Often, those who staff Lake Anne booths have calloused hands and dirt under their fingernails.

The women or men usually smile and engage shoppers briefly as they weigh and calculate the price. Talking with them, I imagine they woke up at dawn, milked the cows, fed the chickens and maybe picked the zucchini, berries, pumpkins, grapes and melons stacked in the bins--all before they drove the truck to Reston.

Perhaps Reston's Farmers Market managers will take a page from Ithaca and make it a year-round destination for residents and tourists alike.

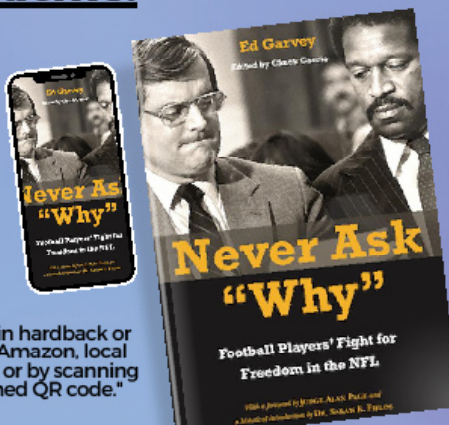
I hope they do, and I know I'd be a fan.

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## Ask Doctor S.

*I have two sons that are one year apart in age. The older one is diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). While meeting his needs, how do I make sure I am not excluding my neurotypical child? As a family, how can we make sure both kids feel seen?*



I am sure that your boys keep you on your toes! I hope that they enjoy playing together. It is important to talk openly about your older child's AND younger child's needs and to create an environment in which diversity, patience and kindness are valued. When talking about children with special needs with neurotypical children, remember to point out how children are alike, too, not just different.

Children with ASD have challenges with social communication and interpreting social cues, and children with ADHD are easily distracted, impulsive and/or hyperactive. No two children with these (and other) diagnoses are the same.

For your neurotypical son, his "normal" is to have a brother who may be quirky and inattentive, and I encourage you to parent and set up your household so that everyone is included. Setting up a list of expectations and chores for your older son? Create one for your younger son as well. Signing up your older child for an

activity? Enroll your younger child in one, too. Establishing a "chill zone" for your older child? Make another for your younger one!

I imagine that your eldest son has a variety of appointments (e.g., individual therapy and/or a social skills group) and activities that allow you to spend some one-on-one time with your younger son.

That time, and any others that allow you to focus solely on your younger child, including planned one-on-one time or an activity in which you engage together each week, can help you to devote uninterrupted energy and attention to him.

Siblings of children with special needs can experience a variety of emotions from frustration and resentment to guilt and to sadness, and it is important that he has time with you for check ins.

At some point, your younger son might benefit from having his own therapist.

Children who grow up with a sibling with special needs have unique oppor-

tunities to learn empathy, and even younger siblings can model how to communicate with others.

There are numerous books to read to both of your boys about neurodivergent children, including "Remarkable Remy" "Hide and Shh!," "The Unstoppable Jamie" and "My Busy Busy Brain." Be sure your neurotypical child also has opportunities with other children so that he gets breaks from his brother.

On a related note, as parents, are you taking care of yourselves and each other? Filling your own tanks will fortify you to parent this dynamic duo. Calling a friend or taking a quick walk can work wonders.

"Psyched" about your question and best of luck to you and your boys!

Dr. S

Dr. Sherwood is a longtime Clinical Psychologist in Reston/Herndon and the Owner of Oak Hill Psychological Services, PLLC.



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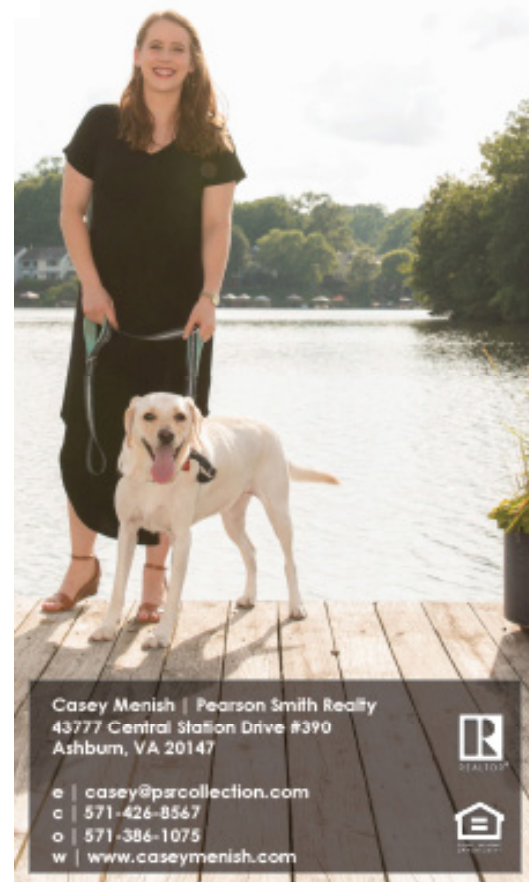
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# LIFESTYLE

## Keeping Reston Green: How to Manage Our Urban Forests

Contributed by Reston's Environmental Advisory Committee

Reston is recognized nationally for its tree cover and tree care. Our urban forests provide many important ecological, economic, and aesthetic services, including: critical habitat for native wildlife, carbon capture and storage, stormwater runoff and soil erosion controls, air and water quality improvements, and property value enhancement. Trees also can provide a sense of place, visual screening, and help residents conserve energy in residences and offices by reducing wind speed and providing cooling through shade and evapotranspiration. The importance of trees to a healthy Reston can hardly be overstated. The 2022 Reston Association State of the Environment Report (RAS-ER), however, listed the condition of our

forests as only FAIR because they are being threatened by invasive plant and animal species, deer overpopulation, climate change, redevelopment, and inappropriate debris removal and dumping in the woods. Compared to many other urban communities, Reston is fortunate to have abundant urban forest parcels, but they need to be monitored continuously and managed carefully to maximize the many beneficial services they provide.

Here are some things we all can do to be better stewards of our urban forest landscape:

Remove and control non-native invasive plants on our property (be aware invasive vines such as Kudzu and English Ivy can harm even full-grown trees),



Autumn colors on Lake Newport Photo by Doug Britt

Replace lost trees by planting young trees that are native to our region,

Consult with a certified RA arborist before taking down living trees, and when observing insect/pathogen infestations, Avoid depositing leaves and yard debris in

RA's natural areas,

Leave dead trees, also known as snags, standing for wildlife habitat when they pose no safety concerns,

Avoid using neonicotinoid pesticides on flowering trees.

## Local Author Publishes Book Set in Area

By Casey Menish, Staff Writer

James M. Roth, a Herndon resident for most of the last three decades, has had many careers throughout his life, including undercover CIA officer, teacher at Nysmith School, and now author. Roth released his first book "The Dead Drop" on Sept. 8, and our local readers may find the setting familiar.

The book follows four high school friends who stumble across a dead drop containing a load of cash and a letter to a mole in a U.S. government agency. This all takes place in a quiet suburb in Northern Virginia. The fictional town was modeled on parts of Herndon and Reston, and specifically meant to resemble Sugarland Run Park. The teens assume their elderly Russian neighbor is a former KGB spy and might have something to do with it. As they seek to discover the truth, they quickly find themselves in an adult world with high stakes. Roth set out to write a book about "ordinary people having to react to extraordinary, completely unfamiliar circumstances."

Roth always wanted to write a novel, but the idea for this book came about 20 years ago. "The Dead Drop" was inspired by the true story of Robert Hanssen, an FBI agent who turned spy for the Soviet Union and Russia. Hanssen volunteered to spy by letter, all the while remaining anonymous,

and he communicated with the foreign government via letters, signals, and dead drops in Fairfax County parks. Finally, in 2001, Hanssen was arrested in Foxstone Park in Vienna, and the story made Roth ponder "what if a normal person had stumbled on the dead drop?" Roth's wife Kelly told him "... there's your novel."

Roth's experience as an undercover CIA officer helped him focus on the aspects of the spy world where "Hollywood is missing the boat." Roth says that he and most of his former CIA colleagues don't typically read spy novels because "they can make you roll your eyes." He said they tend to focus too much on "the explosions, a car chase, a shootout. But as a spy you want to stay off the radar and not get noticed. It is more a world of deception, betrayal, trust, egos, and intense human relationships." Roth had the book reviewed by the CIA's Prepublication Classification Review Board; he wanted to keep it as realistic as possible, but was careful not to write anything that would give them heartburn.

"The Dead Drop" will appeal to multiple audiences, including those with an interest in international events. While not specifically meant for young adults, it does focus on four teenage basketball players, including a character named Colbie who is a bit of an amalgamation of Roth's daughters Megan and Mandy. When

asked if there will be a sequel, he said that his book functions as a contained story, but he has ideas percolating for another book that would be a spinoff with a few of the characters.

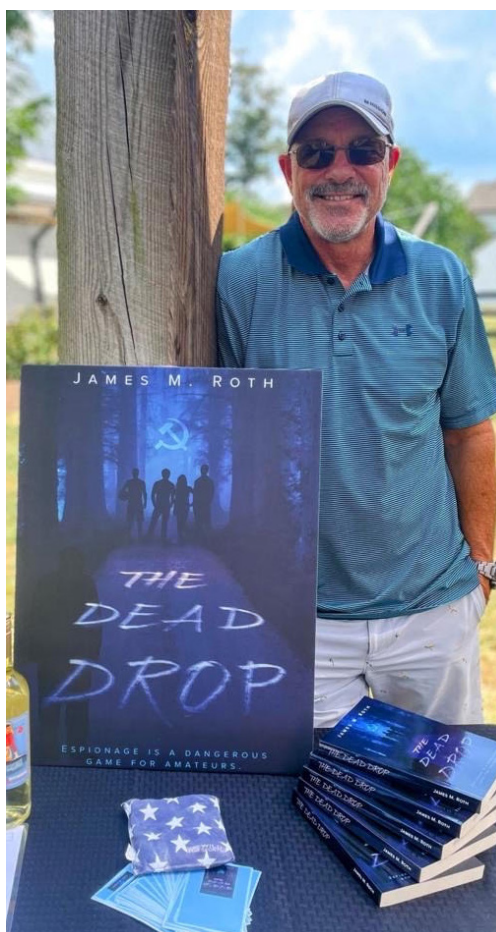


Photo contributed by James M. Roth



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# LIFESTYLE

## Reston Neighborhood Spotlight: The Wharf Cluster

By Debbie Anguizola, Reston-based Realtor of Compass

Located on Glade Drive and Timberhead Lane just south of Lake Audubon, lies one of Reston's most unique and little-known waterfront communities — The Wharf.

The Wharf offers a vacation-like living experience featuring 55 townhomes clustered around two blue lagoons. As a resident of south Reston, I first stumbled upon The Wharf while running on nearby paths along Glade Drive. Once inside the community, I felt transported to a storybook combination of Sausalito, California with its charming house-boats and the quiet tranquility of a seaside Cape Cod village. In 2018, I was fortunate to serve as a volunteer docent for the Reston Home Tour in a remarkable contemporary townhome in The Wharf. I recall visitors being immediately drawn in by the striking blue water visible from multiple levels and living spaces throughout the home.

Residents Mari and Ken Blaustein were first attracted by the non-traditional feel of the development, a post-modern eclectic wharf style. They appreciated the enchanting grounds and thoughtful design, which gives every owner a water view and unique living space. "Even now after living here several years, every time I walk through the door I feel the Fairfax bustle recede," said Mari.

1979 when Reston architect Michael Oxman wanted to develop a lakefront townhome community in which all of the homes, not only a small percentage, were situated on the water. The townhomes were also the first in Reston to feature detached two-car garages. By 1988, all 55 homes and two ponds were complete.

The light-filled contemporary floor plans and beautiful water views attract owners looking for a serene, yet social, lifestyle. Athena Scalise and husband Colin Waite recently relocated to The Wharf as part of their downsizing journey. Of course, the peacefulness of the water is idyllic, but "the neighbors have been so welcoming and social, and we've already had multiple get-togethers and parties in the short time we have lived here," Scalise said.

The lagoons at The Wharf are a carefully balanced ecosystem home to abundant animal life and native vegetation and offer unique opportunities to swim, paddleboard, fish, and ice skate. The community truly embodies Reston's "Live, Work, Play" spirit. Opportunities to own a home at The Wharf are rare. So far this year, only one home was listed — 11104 Glade Drive, a four-bedroom end unit, which sold in three days for \$802,000.

Schools: Sunrise Valley Elementary, Hughes Middle School, South Lakes High



Photos contributed by Debbie Anguizola



## RA's Community Yard Sale Draws Crowds

By Sarah Golden, Staff Writer

Late last month, thousands of Restonians became active participants in the adage, "One man's trash is another man's treasure." Each spring and fall, the Reston Association hosts its annual Community Yard Sale. At this year's event, a record-breaking 3,000 people attended.

The Reston Association has been hosting this event since 1996. Back then, only 30 families participated. This year, 88 families from around the region came to sell their wares — everything from an antique doll house, to modern evening gowns, to an in-home gym set.

A vendor who has participated for the past 18 years shared that she likes that the yard sale brings so many families together in one place. Another veteran vendor, Anne Delaney, shared that the event is extremely well organized and is a nice atmosphere for customers and participants.

The yard sale shoppers were equally enthused about this year's turnout. One attendee described the event as having lots of variety and some good buys, and that they'll be back next year. Even this reporter can attest to the deals. I left with some great items, courtesy of some very fash-



Photo by Isadora Guerreiro



Photo by Sarah Golden

ionable Restonians!

The next yard sale will be held in the spring, and registration for interested vendors will begin in February.

If you're interested in keeping up to date on future Reston Association yard sales and other events, be sure to check out [www.restonwebtrac.com](http://www.restonwebtrac.com) or reach out to [Events@reston.org](mailto:Events@reston.org) to be added to the events list-serve.

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### THE RESTON HOUSING ROUNDUP



Aug 2023 vs Aug 2022

**+9.1%**  
Median Sales Price  
\$505,000 in August 2022

**-8**  
Median Days on Market  
12 Days in August 2022

**+1.9%**  
Median Sales Price / Original List Price  
99.2% in August 2022

Compiled by Casey Menish, Realtor with Pearson Smith Realty  
Data Accessed on September 5, 2023



Seasonal Greeting

N	B	A	R	I	D
E	A	S	T	E	N
O	R	T	R	E	A
G	R	I	F	T	
D	E	I	C	E	R
R	I	N	K	R	A
E	N	G	S	P	Y

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