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Features



The Faces of Tysons

Get to know the faces of the small business owners in and around Tysons that serve their comminity well.

Cork & Keg Tours Takes Visitors on a Personal Tour of our Local Craft Beverages

By Linda Barrett

Renee Ventrice, who along with her husband Don, own Cork & Keg Tours. If you've ever taken one of her tours, you'll recognize her bon vivant spirit. The couple opened Cork & Keg tours in 2016, originally as a weekend business. In 2019, Renee left her job to run the business full time.





How to Choose a Summer Camp

By Kimberly Blaker

Whether you're looking for enrichment for your child, a way to keep your kids occupied and supervised while you work, or need a short reprieve from parenting, there's sure to be a summer camp that's the right fit for your child and family.

Curio by Fifth & Main highlights life's little joys

By Linda Barrett

Curio by Fifth & Main is a curated collection of ethically-sourced everyday delights. Its wide array of mindfully-curated products include décor, gifts, accessories and wellness products to invite warmth and peace of mind into your home and soul—your sanctuary.



5







And More...

- Vienna Merchants 21
- **Dental Connection**
- 24 Diagnosing and Treating Obstructive Sleep Apnea By Airway and Sleep Group
- **Real Estate** 32 What To Expect From Scotts Run South's New Buildings
- 34 Local Real Estate Experts
- 40 Tysons Premier See what's new in the real estate market.
- **Top 10 Most Expensive Homes** Sold in Northern Virginia
- 48 Home and Design Van Metre Homes Ambassador Chef Spike Mendelsohn Shares Kitchen Design Tips
- 50 Taste Go Crazy Over Pazzo Pomodoro
- **Angels in Our Midst** Lydia Russo & the Vienna VA Foodies Facebook Group
- 58 Finance Ask an Advisor: Special Needs Planning
- 60 Mother's Day Celebrations and Gifts She'll Treasure
- 62 Pets We Love, Therefore we Grieve Our Pets
- 64 Tysons Update IW Marriott Lands in Reston and Silver Line's Dulles Airport Station







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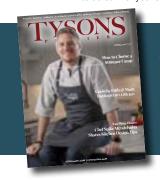
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Cork & Keg Tours Takes Visitors on a Personal Tour of our Local Craft Beverages



Photo credit: Sweet Memories Photography by Samantha

Kenee Amories Photography by Samantha

Personality Plus—that's how I'd describe Renee Ventrice, who along with her husband Don, own Cork & Keg Tours. If you've ever taken one of her tours, you'll recognize her bon vivant spirit.

It may be just this spirit which landed her a video feature on Entrepreneur.com (https://www.entrepreneur.com/provider/facebook-for-business) that garnered more than 18 million views to date! Her company was also voted third in the nation by popular vote in a 2020 USA TODAY Reader's Choice "Best Wine Tour Company" poll (https://www.tobest.com/awards/travel/best-wine-tour-company/), behind two well-established California tour companies!

"I discovered there was something special about wine, so I started trying more. I developed a good palate, and when we moved to Loudoun and began experiencing all the wineries, it became a natural progression." Since she loved being a wine educator, Renee pursued training and became a Wine & Spirit Education Trust (WSET)-certified wine expert.

The couple opened Cork & Keg tours in 2016, originally as a weekend business. In 2019, Renee left her job to run the business full time.

How the Love Began

Renee and Don met while each was serving in the U.S. Navy as cryptologists and stationed in Spain. While in Europe, they began sampling wine in Germany. Later in their careers, when eating out in Pensacola, FL, a waiter suggested they try a Riesling to accompany their sushi dinner. "It was the first time I'd ever had wine with food, and I realized how it can change when paired with food," Renee said.

The Idea for a Tour Company

"Don and I had been going to Sonoma [California's wine country] on vacation for 10 years and when we moved to Loudoun County, we wanted to take the same type of wine tours, but nobody here was offering the same type of backstage-pass tour. So we thought, 'What if we do it like Sonoma does?'"

"We decided to take it up a level and make it luxurious," she exclaimed. Since transportation is part of the experience, they purchased and outfitted a gorgeous van. It



Photo credit: Sweet Memories Photography by Samantha



includes two 40" screens where guests can view a slide show of photos they submit, customized music playlists and luxurious seating. The van is stocked with chilled still and sparkling waters and tours always start with a sparkling wine toast.

With COVID-19 restrictions, Cork & Keg tours can only accommodate a group of 10 and tours must be booked by individual private groups. Strict disinfection procedures are in place prior to, in between, and after stops, and guests are asked to hand sanitize before entering the van.

A typical day tour is about six hours long, with visits to up to three venues: wineries, breweries, distilleries, cideries, or a combination. "If the group allows me to do the planning, I find out more about the group: is it a bachelorette party that wants to have lively fun, or a group of sommeliers on a tasting experience?" Renee said. "I get a feel for the group and pick the type of atmosphere that's the best fit."

Renee always makes reservations and ensures that wherever they go has a food menu available. She encourages guests to order food to pair with their wines. She also likes to end the day in a lively atmosphere, like one with a live performer. "This



is what makes us different. We're not just a driver, we offer a fully-curated experience."

Cork & Keg Tours is a member of the Loudoun Bed & Breakfast Guild. Renee is also a member of the Rural Economic Development Committee Board and Visit Loudoun, and is obtaining her Certified Tourism Ambassador (CTA) certification. This enables her to add local resources to her tours, for example, if someone wants to stay for the weekend and visit area restaurants or retailers.

Go Be Grape!

"What saved us from going under during COVID was our ability to find ways to help other businesses in our community." Because the company had to switch to virtual wine tastings during COVID-19 shutdowns, Renee pivoted and put her personality on display. "I worked as a DJ while in the Navy, so I pull out a bottle of wine to do a tasting on Facebook Live and sing karaoke." It caught on and area restaurants like The Conche and Eddie Merlot's began engaging her to do tastings at their restaurants. So did networking groups, sororities, families, private groups and fundraising campaigns. She ended up making it a brand she calls Go Be Grape, a takeoff on "Go Be Great." For the virtual tasting experience, Renee creates a menu of food and wine. Participants order their wine and foods in advance to enjoy while Renee leads the live tasting.

Charity Crush

"As a local business, people constantly ask for donations, but I cannot give away but so many tours, so we decided to make charitable giving into a marketing opportunity we call Charity Crush." Area charities apply to be part of the Crush and have to earn points by "doing things" like signing up for Renee's newsletter, liking her on social media, or sharing a post. Whichever charity gets the most points at the end of the Crush receives a \$500 tour gift certificate. The charities also benefit. Renee spotlights them in her newsletters and on social media to garner them volunteers and donations.

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The Face of Pediatric Dentistry

Pr. Gema Island

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Dr. Gema Island is a pediatric dentist, a Diplomate of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry, a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, and a member of the American Dental Society of Anesthesiology. Dr. Island founded Island Children's Dentistry in 2014. She's dedicated to providing the highest quality of dental care in the most gentle, positive, and enthusiastic manner possible. Dr. Island combines her academic background, research experience, clinical skills, and mother's touch to deliver the best to her little patients and their parents. Dr. Gema obtained her Board certification in 2006 and did 3 years of residency at TUFTS University in Boston, MA. While at TUFTS, she received the prestigious Bates Award for her postgraduate research, and, in her senior year, she won the Aesthetic Dentistry Challenge. She has published articles in peer-review journals and has lectured nationally and internationally on different topics and participated in the Infant Oral Care and Prevention of Early Childhood Caries Project at San Francisco General Hospital.

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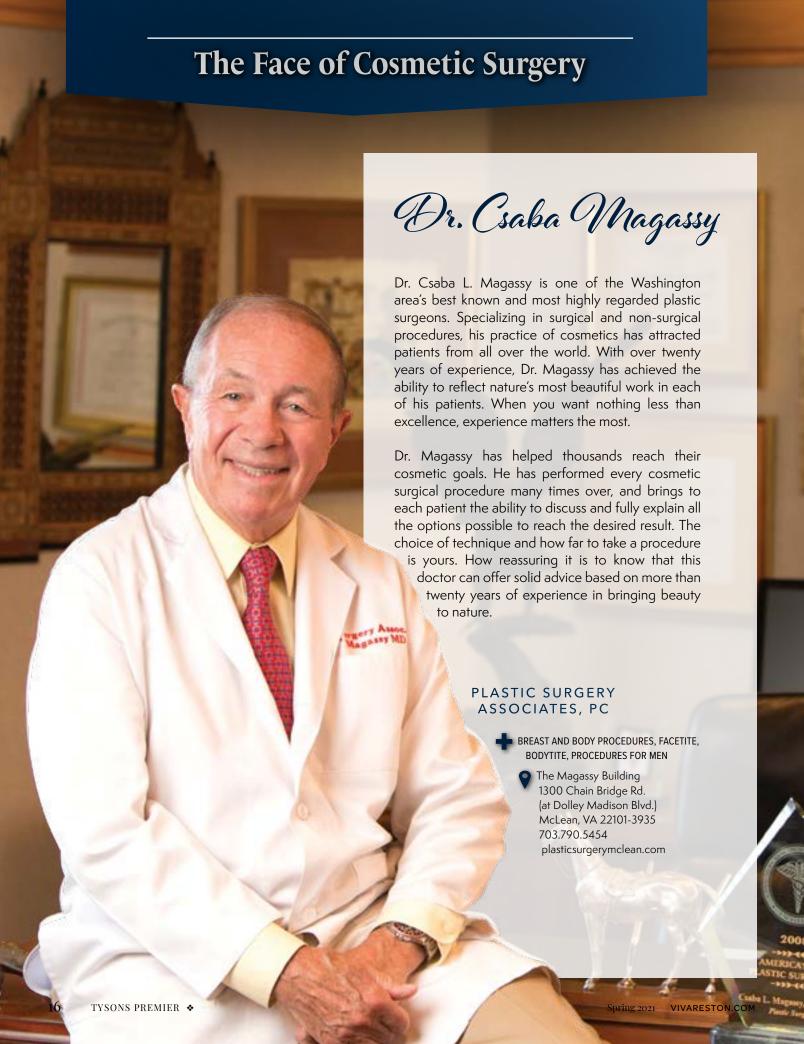
Dr. Christopher Bonacci is celebrating 20 years of service to our community and 20 years as a Top Doc! He is Board Certified by The American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. Dr. Bonacci has served as Chairman of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Division of General Surgery at the Reston Hospital Center. Dr. Bonacci was inducted as a Fellow into The American College of Dentists, an honor that only 2-3% of dentists nationwide receive. He received his medical and dental degrees and completed general surgery and oral surgery residencies from Columbia University in New York City.

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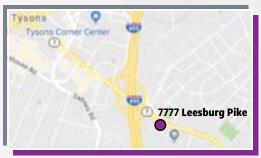


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EXPERTISE: Awarded both his Fellowship and Mastership in the Academy of General Dentistry (AGD). Member of American Dental Association, Virginia Dental Association, Academy of General Dentistry, and the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry.

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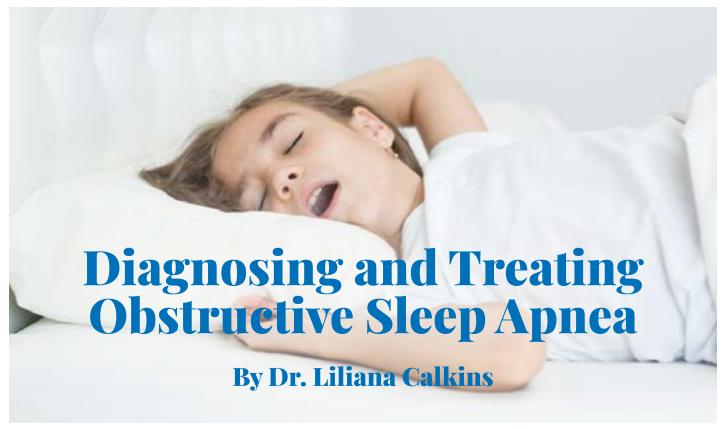
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s everyone knows, poor sleep quality can cause one to feel fatigue during the day. But did you know that sleep quality can be affected by heavy snoring, choking, gasping or breathing cessation during the night? Sleep-disordered breathing can cause you wake up often during the night and is characterized by recurrent episodes of upper airway collapse during sleep.

Obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) is the most common type of sleep-disordered breathing. The following symptoms are often present for years before the patient is referred for evaluation. Some signs of OSA during the night are:

- Snoring, usually loud, habitual, and bothersome to others
- Witnessed apneas, which often interrupt the snoring and end with a snort
- Gasping and choking sensations that arouse the patient from sleep, though in a very low proportion relative to the number of apneas they experience
- Nocturia
- Insomnia; restless sleep, with patients often experiencing frequent arous-

als and tossing or turning during the night

If you have OSA, during the day you may feel upon waking as though you are as tired as went you went to bed. You may have a headache upon waking memory and intellectual impairment, personality and mood changes, Gastroesophageal reflux or Hypertension.

To know for sure whether you have obstructive sleep apnea, an overnight sleep study, or polysomnography, is necessary. The study would record sleep stages, heart rhythm, leg movements, airflow at the nose and mouth, breathing effort and breathing patterns.

Some steps you can take to help manage or prevent OSA is to manage your sleep position: avoid sleeping on your back, or sleeping upright. You should also avoid smoking, alcohol and sleep deprivation.

People with moderate to severe apnea should be treated with nasal continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP), however there are other ways to improve airflow using craniofacial orthopedics—like Rapid Maxillary Expansion.

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hether you're looking for enrichment for your child, a way to keep your kids occupied and supervised while you work, or need a short reprieve from parenting, there's sure to be a summer camp that's the right fit for your child and family.

The benefits of summer camp

Summer camp offers kids plenty of benefits, and many kids thrill at the idea of going away to summer camp. Still, for some kids, particularly those who are shy,

introverted, or homebodies, the thought of going away for a night, let alone a week or more, can cause considerable anxiety. When kids are adamantly opposed, forcing summer camp on them may not be in their best interest.

But for kids who are eager—or at least willing to give it a shot without much fuss—summer camp offers opportunities kids may not have elsewhere. Summer camp provides kids the following benefits:

✓ fosters independence

- a place to develop new and lasting friendships
- ✓ development of new skills
- discovery of new interests and hobbies
- ✓ the opportunity for creative expression
- ✓ a break from being plugged-in
- ✓ daily exercise
- ✓ improves their self-esteem
- teaches kids to work with others
- makes them feel part of a community
- prevents or reduces summer learning loss



Getting started in your search

Before you begin looking into summer camps, create a list of the criteria you're looking for. Here are some things you'll want to consider.

- O What is your budget for summer camp?
- O What is the purpose of sending your child to summer camp?
- O Do you want a resident (overnight) or a day camp?
- O Are you looking for a short-term (week or two) or summer-long program?
- O Do you want a camp that's very struc-

- tured or one that provides your child with lots of freedom and choices?
- O What are your child's passions, such as a particular sport, hobby, or other in-

Once you've narrowed down some of the criteria, you can begin your search. An excellent place to start is your local parenting magazine. Many summer camps advertise in local parenting publications found at newsstands and online. Also, visit http:// www.summercamps.com/, where you can search by zip code or category.

The American Camp Association (ACA) accredits summer camps. So this is another excellent place to look. The ACA educates camp owners and directors in health and safety for both staff and campers as well as program quality. It then accredits camps that meet the ACA's standards.

Next steps to finding the perfect summer camp

Once you've selected a few summer camps that meet your primary criteria, and that fit your child's interests, share the choices with your child to see what excites him or her. Be sure to let your child know upfront that you still need to thoroughly investigate the camp(s) before making a final decision. But do keep your child's choices in mind to ensure your child gets the most out of summer camp.

Once you and your child have narrowed the list down to a manageable selection, you'll want to investigate the camps further. There are several things you'll want to consider.

What are the staff's qualifications?

Many summer camps use teens to staff the camps. Teens make excellent mentors and can bring liveliness to summer camp programs. However, the programs themselves should be developed by professionals and have professional oversight to ensure kids are getting the most from their camp experience.

But for kids who are eager—or at least willing to give it a shot without much fuss—summer camp offers opportunities kids may not have elsewhere.

How does the camp ensure your child's safety?

Find out what kind of safety training the camp provides its staffers. Also, is there staff on hand at all times that knows CPR? What are the camp's procedures in the event your child becomes ill, has an accident, or an emergency?

What is the daily schedule for campers?

Ask for a daily itinerary, so you know your child will be getting everything you and your child anticipate from the program.

What are the rules?

Each camp has its own set of rules. So, find out whether your child is allowed to call you. If it's a summer-long residential camp, can parents come and visit? Can kids bring along a cell phone or electronics? Also, how much money can they bring, and how is it managed?

Don't sweat it

Keep in mind, although there are many great camps, no camp is likely to offer everything precisely the way you want it. Just choose the one that best fits your child and satisfies your most important criteria. Remember, your child will have many summers to come and plenty more opportunities to work in more exciting camp experiences. �

Kimberly Blaker is a freelance family writer. She's also founder and director of KB Creative Digital Services, an internet marketing agency, at kbcreativedigital.com

Dittle Luxuries

& Everyday Delights

Curio by Fifth & Main highlights life's little joys

By Linda Barrett

Life can take you on some interesting journeys. However, in Heather Shaw Menis' case, all roads seem to lead back to one passion.

With a bent towards environmentalism, Menis attended college to explore environmental studies and journalism. Graduating in 2001, her first job was in public relations, focused on environmental affairs. It seemed like a good fit, but she soon realized there was very little advocacy in what she was doing. It didn't suit her picture of idealism, so she left there to work for Joan Hisaoka, the grand dame of fine dining PR in Washington, D.C. through Hisaoka Public Relations.

"I worked on public relations for restaurants and hotels, and since Joan knew I was interested in fashion, she allowed me to bring on local boutiques as well. She encouraged me to work on things that I had a passion for." Joan Hisaoka passed away in 2008, and Menis took other public relations positions for a hotel company and Chef Art Smith before landing in an executive marketing position at Saks 5th Avenue, where she spent five years learning about luxury lifestyle brands.

Fifth & Main PR

Getting married and having a baby spurred her to leave that job, with its long hours, holiday and weekend work, to open her own luxury goods public relations agency in 2014 she named Fifth & Main PR. "When naming the company, I wanted to take that 5th Avenue mindset and attention to detail that luxury offers, and bring that to the momand-pop businesses locally. These small business owners tend to spark the most creativity in the world. They have an idea and are trying to make it work, which I find inspiring," she said. She began to build her PR business with local hotel, restaurant and spa clients.

Then the pandemic hit. "Overnight, I had no clients. Everybody went on pause, and even though I understand the reasoning, it felt like a blow to the ego."

/IVARESTON.COM

F&M Wall Coverings Profiles in Gray

Opening Curio by Fifth & Main

"I had always wanted to open my own online boutique, but working for Saks 5th Avenue made me a little gun shy because I saw luxury retail competing with the Amazons of the world. But it was a passion project and it pulled at me. When the world changed in March of 2020, it felt like the right time to get it off the ground. I had the time and the inspiration." She named it Curio by Fifth & Main, and launched in December 2020.

Menis and her husband Dennis had been making custom wallpaper, using their own equipment, so it seemed like a natural transition to sell this as their first product line, F&M Wall Coverings, as a peel and stick textured wallpaper printed with No-HAPS (hazardous air pollutants) Latex Ink that is safe for nurseries, hospitals, or anyone with conditions like asthma. The small-batch, high-quality wallpapers are non-flammable, non-combustible and are nickel-free. The product lines expanded from there.

"Everything is ethically sourced, environmentally friendly and sustainable," Menis said. "Most is made in the U.S., and much is created by women. We have a wide array of products, which is why I called the company Curio. It's a lot of different little things that make me happy that I think others would also find joy in." Her tag line is 'Little Luxuries and Everyday Delights.'

"As I find vendors who inspire me, I add new product lines. I make limited buys because right now, my basement is our warehouse." This enables her to provide one-day local delivery!

Curio by Fifth & Main is a curated collection of ethically-sourced everyday delights. Its wide array of mindfully-curated products include décor, gifts, accessories and wellness products to invite warmth and peace of mind into your home and soul—your sanctuary. Products include fair-trade Oeko-tex linens, hand-poured/dipped candles, health-boosting elixirs, silk initial scarves and ingenious greeting cards. "I have an intense yearning to support the little guys—the makers, shops and service providers that are the heartbeat of communities, and from which creativity abounds.

Nothing is mass produced," she said.

"I find that these offerings are far superior to mass-marketed alternatives, and we should vote with our dollars to preserve artisanal practices, and choose handmade objects of art over mass-produced goods. Our products are carefully curated to embrace these ideals. We believe you should give gifts rich with emotional value and treat yourself to these little luxuries!"

Some of her favorite products include, on the wellness side, tonics and herbal remedies, like her Happiness Tonic that promotes a sense of well-being and boost serotonin, and Ashwagandha. Other favorites include the silk initial scarves from a British designer, loom.ist Turkish towels, and Towl brand towels made from organic cotton and bamboo that never mildew. "I'm also really into our Gluggle Jugs and our candles that contain no scary chemicals."

Learning to Appreciate

"I like the Danish philosophy of hygge, their art of cozy living that engenders a feeling of contentment and well-being. You can light a bunch of candles, get your coziest blanket, make cookies from scratch, and curl up and read a good book."

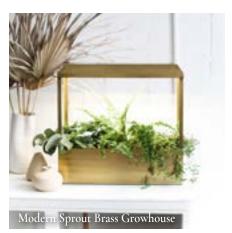
"The good thing about being forced to slow down during the pandemic is that you learn to appreciate more. There are so many everyday delights we didn't pay attention to." She gets to work from home, which enables her to spend more time with her husband and 8-year-old Maxwell. She also runs every day—her form of meditation.

Her advice? "We live in a world where we have so many options, and too often we choose the one forced in front of us without it being what we really want. Hold back until you feel really good about what you're buying. Choose that little luxury, and outfit your life with the things you can feel good about."

Curio by Fifth & Main

www.CuriobyFifthandMain.com









VIVATYSONS.COM Spring 2021 TYSONS PREMIER







What To Expect From Scotts Run South's New Buildings



ou'll be hard-pressed to find a local that hasn't heard of Scotts Run—the 40-acre mixed suburban area near the McLean Metro station. It's essentially a small "city" within a city, featuring a number of malls, restaurants, parks, residential areas, and other places. The most defining aspect of Scotts Run is how construction here is never really completed. Its recent projects are concentrated in South Station. And here's what we know about them so far.

Scotts Run South

Scotts Run is divided into two parts: the North and the South. Between the two, it's the South that has seen more development throughout the years. It debuted with MITRE Building 4 in 2015, which is an all-

around amenity space that includes coffee shops, conference centers, R&D labs, and more. In 2016, Scotts Run South saw the rise of The Haden—its first residential building. In 2017, two more residential buildings and retail space were created. This year, we're seeing the gradual completion of three new buildings in Scotts Run South: Archer Tysons, The Heming, and a new fire station.

New buildings

Archer Tysons is a 178-room hotel that's scheduled to open in summer 2021. Once it does, it will be the first hotel in the area. It's owned by LodgeWorks Partners, who also owns and developed the growing Archer Hotel collection. Guests can choose from four accommodation types: single, double,

a king suite, and "Archer's Den." The latter is a one-bedroom suite bigger than the third option on the list. In addition to a bedroom, it offers a fully furnished living area and wet bar.

The second building under construction, The Heming, is a 28-story luxury condominium building. Its plans consist of 410 units and 40,000 square feet of retail space. It will be complete in 2022. Finally, the new fire station is located at 1766 Old Meadow Lane and is set to be fully functional by spring.

Who is behind Scotts Run?

The Scotts Run project is being developed by Cityline Partners LLC, a real estate business in collaboration with architectural firm SmithGroup. Despite other states





being more urbanized, like New York, both decided to build their projects in Virginia, where it's easy to conduct business. LLCs in Virginia only need to pay an annual registration fee of \$50 to operate, compared to annual reports that most states require. They also don't require a business license aside from those mandated by national law. Since there's little to no hassle to operating businesses in the state, many Virginia LLCs are encouraged to expand. LS Technologies, AAA Healthcare, and Capital Investment Advisors are great examples of this feat. Cityline even has another project in Tysons called Arbor Row—a residential area.

Other projects

Aside from Archer Tysons, The Heming, and a new fire station, a new project was recently approved in Scotts Run South last quarter: an unnamed 25-story mixed-use building at the corner of Chain Bridge Road and S Dartford Drive. With 47 apartments and 15,000 square feet of retail space, Cityline is using this as an opportunity to attract big businesses into establishing an office in urban Tyson. Once finished, it will be 285-feet-tall, a staggering sight for sure.

Scotts Run is the pride of Tysons, and every expansion proves that. It'll be interesting to see what new things are going to be added in the coming years. �

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Specialties:

Investment Property, New Construction, Works With First Time Home Buyers, Specializes in Relocations, Resale Residential, Single Family Homes and Townhomes, Associate Broker, Luxury



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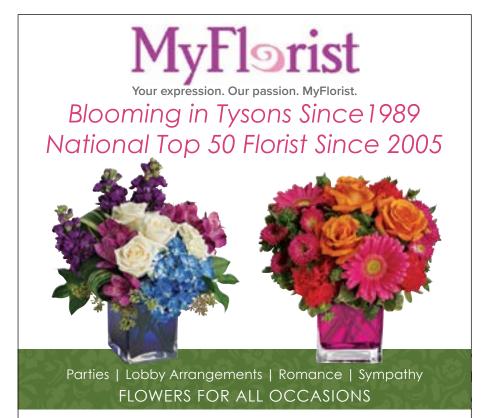
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Love Your Neighborhood".

Specialties: Upsizing, Downsiz

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> Specialties: Negotiation Expert, Resale Residential, Rentals

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Specialties:

Accredited Buyer Representative (ABR), Accredited Staging Professional (ASP), Graduate Realtor Institute (GRI), Senior Real Estate Specialist (SRES)



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Richie is an award winning sales professional that has worked in the sales/ customer service industry his entire adult career. Over 20 years of sales experience perfected his skills needed to not only achieve his client's expectations but exceed them! Acquiring knowledge of schools, commute, surrounding amenities, and indispensable business relationships supplies him with the ability to help you buy or sell with the utmost confidence. If you are looking for a Real Estate Customer Service Expert that sets their expectations high, is totally up front with you, thrives on customer satisfaction, and is a fearless yet effective negotiator then "Real Estate Richie" is the right agent for you. Richie takes great pride in the relationships he builds and always works relentlessly to ensure his clients best interest!

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In every real estate transaction, her focus is to meet and exceed the needs of her clients. She is committed to providing personalized sales support with attention to detail and responsive service--working closely with each buyer or seller to carefully understand their specific goals and needs of home ownership. Whether the purchase or sale is a singlefamily home, townhouse or condominium, she provides clients with the information they need to make wise investment decisions in buying or selling a home.

Her background in real estate settlements is a powerful asset to both her selling clients as well as purchasers. With an in-depth understanding of the settlement process as a former settlement agent, she is able to share this knowledge and successfully guide her clients through all phases of selling or buying a home— from contract to closing.



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> Specialties: Certified Negotiation Expert



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This stately brick colonial on a cul-de-sac street has the greatest location one could ask for. Just minutes to Tysons, the Dulles access road, the beltway, and walking distance to the spring hill recreation center; you wont find a better location. The home is in the school district of Spring Hill, Cooper, Langley which are some of the best schools in the nation. The home itself offers a great lot that is very level and backs to a common area with a beautiful and private pool in the rear yard that has two water features. There is a huge patio area and a large deck and the yard is landscaped to perfection. As you enter the front door, you find dramatic duel stairs and a 2 story foyer and family room, giving you a very open and inviting floor plan. In the family room, you find custom built-ins, a coffered ceiling, soaring glass windows that provide tons of natural light as well as a view of the pool. The rooms flow together which makes entertaining easy and seamless. A library with custom cherry built-ins and raised panels. The kitchen has natural cherry cabinets, a sub-zero refrigerator, double ovens, and a large pantry. The kitchen is open to a large breakfast area as well as a rear sunroom with Palladian windows. Laundry is on the main level and the 3 car garage has garage tech flooring and shelves. The upper level boasts a grand owners suite with tray ceiling, fireplace, a lounge area, 2 large walk-in closets, and an elegant owners bathroom with a beautiful soaking tub and separate water closets. The three secondary bedrooms all have en-suite baths as well. The lower level is something to behold with a billiards room, a beautiful bar, wine cellar, large open rec room that walks out to the pool, an additional bedroom and bath as well as a theatre room that is to die for.

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OAKTON, VA

\$978.500

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Walk to EVERYTHING in Downtown Vienna from this stunning open Craftsman in the Town's quaint historic district. Grand and wonderful details on all three levels including moldings, hardwoods, dual kitchen islands, bent staircases, ten-foot ceilings, luxury baths and two decks. Over 7,000 sq.ft. of gorgeous finished space including five bedrooms, five-plus baths, main level library, two fireplaces and finished lower level. Delightful one-third-acre private flat lot. This home has it all, right where you want to be!





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Enjoy this sunny retro contemporary in the terrific and fun lake-front community of South Bay. This cluster has its own private dock with stunning southern views across Lake Audubon. Three open levels with two-story windows, vaulted ceilings, two-sided fireplace, and a great family room off the kitchen. Large master suite, main level office and open staircases.



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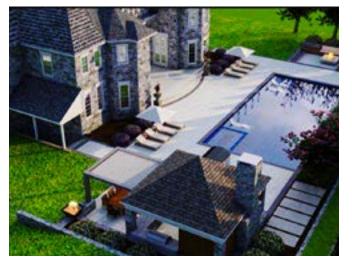
Washington, DC

Architecture: Contemporary Penthouse

List Price: \$18,000.000

Prominently positioned above prestigious Georgetown with breathtaking views overlooking the Potomac River, Penthouse 2C has been curated for the most discerning tastes. This exquisite property contains offers over 6,400 square feet of living space designed for sophisticated living and entertaining. The foyer introduces the residence with carved French Limestone moldings accented by solid rosewood doors and sterling silver casings. The expansive and light-filled living room features unobstructed views of the Kennedy Center, Roosevelt Island, and the Georgetown waterfront. The second level living space has an expansive rooftop terrace with views of the Washington Monument and beyond.





1011 TURKEY RUN RD

Mclean, VA

Architecture: Colonial List Price: \$12.000.000

Positioned on a prominent hilltop, Federal Hall commands views in all directions. The main residence encompasses over 20,000 sf finished with the finest materials including hardwood floors, marble, and plaster. The impressive main entry hall is spacious and designed to accommodate large receptions which flow easily to the great room overlooking the pool and gardens beyond. The main chef's kitchen is a culinary showplace while the separate catering kitchen will accommodate both catering and daily requirements. Throughout, seven exceptional bedrooms with en-suite baths provide ample accommodations.

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2804-2806 Q ST NW

Washington, DC

Architecture: **Traditional**List Price: \$7,900.000

Four-story Federal style home with nearly 11, 000-square-feet of living space. Generous foyer leads to exceptional large scale entertaining spaces. The residence has a large library, formal living room with 21' ceilings, elegant formal dining room, open gourmet kitchen and family room. Third level features 4 bedrooms and 4 full baths, and the master suite occupies the entire 4th level with two full baths, sitting room, and private roof deck. There are two one-car garages, two elevators, a wine cellar, two laundry rooms, and three fireplaces.



2211 MASSACHUSETTS AVE NW

Washington, DC

Architecture: Interior Row/Townhouse

List Price: \$8,500,000

2211 Massachusetts Avenue, NW is a 9,400 sf six-story town-house, ideally located on historic Embassy Row. Formerly part of the Greek Embassy, 2211 Massachusetts Ave, NW has undergone a full renovation, including new elevator, and is being delivered, in a warm lit shell ready for final tenant finish. The property is ideal for an embassy chancery or residence, as well as a high-end residential home.





2915 NW O ST NW

Washington, DC

Architecture: Federal List Price: \$7.395.000

Privacy, History and Grandeur mark this exceptional Georgetown East Village Home. Surrounded by a beautiful walled garden, this spacious home features 7 bedrooms, 7 1/2 baths. On the main level are large rooms for entertaining, formal library, large dining room and kitchen /family room with butler's pantry. Additionally, a second kitchen/ family room and wine cellar in the lower level will allow for greater space for entertaining. The large gardens surrounding the home boast 3 beautiful fountains, the elevator services all four floors and 2 parking spaces can be found outside the rear garden wall.





1691 34TH ST NW

Washington, DC

Architecture: Contemporary, Traditional

List Price: \$6.450.000

A large private terrace, separate renovated pool house, elevator, and heated pool are some of the remarkable features of this exceptional residence. The charming archedfront vestibule leads to the reception foyer, complemented by marble floors, elegant moldings, and splendid architectural details. The fully renovated gourmet kitchen offers marble countertops, high-end appliances, and abundant cabinet space.

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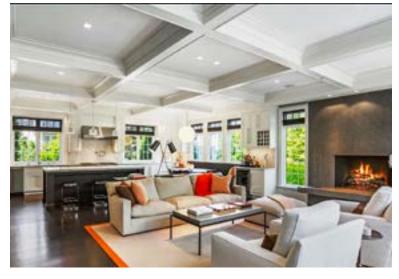


2100 DUNMORE LN NW

Washington, DC

Architecture: **Traditional** List Price: \$6,300,000

No detail was overlooked in the custom construction of this architectural masterpiece, where style and sophistication meet modern day amenities and lifestyle needs. A spectacular open floor plan with 10 foot ceilings provides breadth and airiness on the main level and the two-story foyer, living room, and dining room capture an abundance of natural light. Modern day living is enhanced with the open chef s kitchen and generous family room with fireplace and builtins, both complemented by the highest quality fixtures and finishes.





9410 PISCATAWAY LN

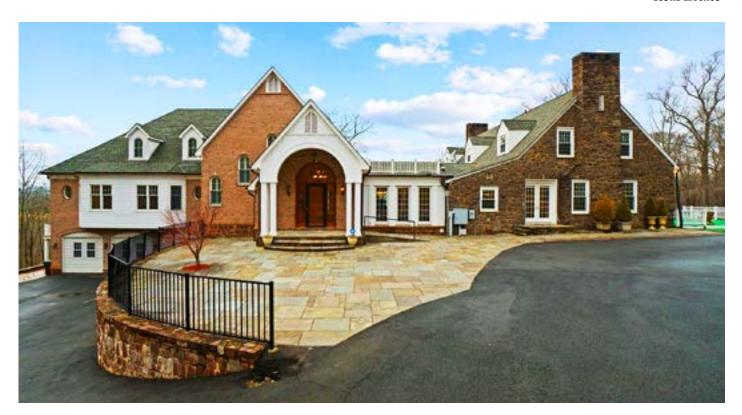
Great Falls, VA

Architecture: French, Manor, Mediterranean

List Price: \$5,850,000

Just a few years young, this gorgeous home is designed for luxurious indoor-outdoor living on 8 private acres! Embassy sized formal rooms with a magnificent entryway that features a stunning, iron, curved floating staircase with breathtaking rear views makes this home a show piece for entertaining. A family compound with a gourmet kitchen, media room, sauna, pool room, wine cellar and a "one of a kind" outdoor space makes this home so special.





40543 COURTLAND FARM LN

Aldie, VA

Architecture: Cape Cod, Traditional

List Price: \$5,800,000

Nestled within 100 acres is this much improved and updated 10,500+ SqFt delightful property combining new and old charm in a tasteful and rather clever fashion. The original 1930s stone manor home was updated and extended in 2006 with a modern addition, while being sympathetic to the original home. The current owner has made significant updates that added some extremely smart additions. The possibilities are endless with this exquisite property, with breathtaking views of mountains, luscious pasture, stream, pond and pool.



12138 HARPERS FERRY RD

Purcellville, VA

Architecture: **Colonial**List Price: \$4,999,000

The large brick estate home features 5 bedrooms, 3 full bathrooms, 2 half bathrooms, 4 fireplaces, 2 car garage, finished basement, country kitchen and a dining room that can accommodate 20 of your closest friends. Indulge in a glass of wine from your own estate on the 1600 square foot brick patio right behind the house while soaking in the new hot tub. The main Winery building is a multipurpose building used for wine storage, wine production, tasting room, and other events. The adjoining 1600 square foot patio has grandiose views.

VIVATYSONS.COM Spring 2021 * TYSONS PREMIER 47

Home & Design



Van Metre Homes Ambassador Chef Spike Mendelsohn Shares Kitchen Design Tips

Maximize your Pantry

"How many times have you wanted to hide stuff, or have a little hide away space, before or even while having people over? Adding a sink and countertop to your pantry allows you to have a clean kitchen while you are entertaining, keeping your entertaining area looking awesome. Use it as a prep area to cut vegetables or use it as a utility sink, you'll find having this added space to be priceless."

Shelving

"Seeing all of your tools gets your creative juices pumping. So, really well designed shelving is key. Cabinetry should be

thoughtful, so there is no wasted space. In my world as a chef, shelving is everything. So rather than being stored in a drawer you stumble on once a year, you see your favorite tools often. My favorite tool is a blender because there is nothing more rewarding than making a refreshing gazpacho in the summer or a hot velvety soup in the winter."

Kitchen Island

"When it comes to the kitchen layout, you can't underestimate the value of a large well designed island. The classic rectangle is most new home buyers go-to, but a new trend that I am loving is the L shaped island. The L shape allows you to have work

space on one side and have friends and family seated on the other so you do not have to holler into the other room."

Pet Dining

"We all know our four legged friends are part of the family too! That's why we added a built-in bowl area to the kitchen island to give furry family members an eating area that is lifted off the floor, which is cleaner and better for them."

Pot Storage

"The key to a great kitchen is to mimic the flow of a restaurant kitchen. We designed under stove pot and pan storage, so everything is within arm's reach. I advise home



buyers to make sure they avoid sharp edges or things you'll bump your head into like hanging pot racks in the kitchen."

Microwave Oven Design

If you can, I suggest upgrading to a speed oven rather than a traditional microwave. It looks better and has more versatility. Another option is to hide the microwave in your kitchen island."

Functional Extras

"Because the kitchen is the hub of the house, it's important to have functional extras designed into the space like a charging post and a storage area for cookbooks, notepads or mail so they are easily accessible but off of your counters."

Ingredient Storage

Proper ingredient storage is the first step to achieving great tasting meals. We designed options for beverage areas and wine fridges in the island so that when you pool a drink out or open a bottle of wine, it's ready to consume at the appropriate temperature. We also designed pull out drawers where new homeowners can drop baskets in for proper storage and easy access to dry ingredients like potatoes and onions.

Flooring

"I love that we offer EVP (engineered vinyl plank) Flooring because it looks beautiful but is also waterproof and scratch proof making it a practical choice for your kitchen. I also advise buyers to opt for slip resistant mats in the high traffic areas of your kitchen."

Outdoor Living Design

"When you move in, find a space and start an outdoor herb, vegetable and mushroom garden. It's a great way to increase your daily veggie intake - especially when we are eating at home now more than ever."

"Try to design your deck or patio so that it wraps around your kitchen window or door so that you have easy access to pass food through when grilling."

"Don't underestimate how long it takes to get your grill hot. Place your grill in the shade so you don't overheat while cooking outdoors."

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Go Crazy Over Pazzo Pomodoro

By Linda Barrett

Tucked away in an unassuming strip mall in Vienna, VA, Pazzo Pomodoro is a delightful combination of a family-friendly neighborhood restaurant and fine Italian dining you'll want to return to again and again. It is an ideal choice for either dinner with the kids or a romantic evening on the town.

Pazzo Pomodoro, owned by Jimmy Audia and Bill Hicks, is a Cantina-style concept, offering a Neapolitan-inspired menu of madefrom-scratch dishes that represent traditional cuisine and pay homage to memories of Campania and Sicily. The dishes are typical to the working class neighborhoods of Napoli, Salerno, Capri, the dozens of small villages along the Amalfi Coast, and the diverse island of Sicily.

You'll notice the enticing aromas and the warm welcome as soon as you step inside. There are several dining areas, each featuring red-and-white checkered tablecloth settings, stone walls and colorful depictions of the Old Country, where dining groups can be spaced safely apart. As an added attraction, the open concept kitchen allows you to watch the chefs in action as they prepare your dishes. Note the massive blue wood-fired pizza oven.

A large bar area at the rear of the restaurant doubles as a wine cellar, as well as offers additional seating. Note the clever way that wine bottles are incorporated into the ceiling storage bins. Pazzo Pomodoro features more than 390 wines, with many available by the glass. Ten tap beers that change on a regular basis are also available, along with bottled beer.

Pazzo Pomodoro has been awarded five Wine Spectator Awards, including Awards of Excellence in 2017, 2018 and 2020. Sign up for a Wine Tasting where you can sample five wines, along with munchies. Or attend a monthly Wine Dinner to enjoy a five-course meal and five wines.

Buon Appetito

Start your meal with one of the appealing salads. We tried the Insalata di Bietole, a light, bright salad composed of two types of beets served with goat cheese and peppery baby arugula, drizzled with a balsamic vinaigrette and topped with shaved Parmesan.







According to owner Jimmy Audia, "It was my mother's favorite."

From there, a couple of hearty appetizers made their way onto our table, and into our stomachs. Although I'm not usually a fan of calamari, I could be converted by the Calamari Fritto o alla Griglia. These lightly-breaded bites were a delight dipped in the spicy tomato sauce that accompanied them. I chose the Polpette di Ricotta, a bowl of Sicilian-style meatballs covered with a tangy sauce and ricotta cheese and garnished with fresh microgreens. Although the menu says they are small, they are hearty enough to be quite filling.

Authentic Entrées

What adds to the experience of dining here is the food's presentation. Each plate is an Instagram-worthy

work of art as well as a taste sensation. The ingredients are fresh and locally-sourced; many of the herbs and vegetables come from Audia's organic family garden in Waterford, VA. And the pasta is always homemade. Patron favorites include the Lasagna alla Partenopea, Involtini di Vitello and the Piccata di Vitello (both Veal); and the Gamberoni al Salmoriglio (Jumbo Shrimp).

Chef Juan Bonilla outdid himself with the Agnello in Crosta di Pistacchio we ordered, translated to Sicilian lamb chops crusted with pistachios and served with a Madeira wine reduction. Grilled to medium, the meat was tender and flavorful, and the crisp roasted vegetables and sprigs of rosemary added to both the presentation and the taste.







The regular menu is large, but don't overlook the Specials menu that changes weekly according to what is fresh and in season. We ordered the Branzino and were delighted with the tableside presentation as our server Jerry Jrab filleted the Whole Grilled Mediterranean Rockfish before our eyes and accented it with a bright green Salmoriglio Sauce before serving it with roasted potato wedges and vegetables. It all paired perfectly with the Torri Montepulciano d'Abruzzo Riserva 2015 wine he suggested.

Wood-Fired Pizzas

The 6,000-pound pizza oven was hand built in Naples, Italy by Stefano Ferrar, a renowned third-generation artisan, and creates the most appetizing array of 12" pizzas in a flash. The classic Margherita pizza with fresh mozzarella and basil, the Ducati, and the Anema e Core are popular choices. Gluten-free crust is available upon request.

Save Room for Dessert

A separate dessert menu offers a variety of tempting options including the house specialty Baci di Sofia Loren, or petite chocolate cups filled with Zabaione and fresh berries, a classic Tiramisu or Cannoli, and a Torta di Limone con Amaretti, or lemon cheesecake soufflé with Amaretti cookies, among them. There's usually a dessert or two on the Specials menu as well.

Indoor seating is currently limited due to COVID-19 restrictions, but in March, the restaurant opens its outdoor dining tent to add 40 additional seats. Private dining is available in the Vienna restaurant's Capri Room for up to 35 guests. A second Pazzo Pomodoro restaurant is located in Ashburn, VA.

The name Pazzo Pomodoro translates to "crazy tomato," but the only thing crazy about this restaurant was that it is crazy good! For high-quality meals at affordable prices, visit either location. ❖

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José Andrés and his World Central Kitchen, Bon Jovi and his restaurant JBJ Soul Kitchen, and Vienna's own ultra-altruist, Lydia Russo and her Vienna VA Foodies. What do they all have in common? They are out on the front lines making a difference in the lives of others, feeding those in need—one meal at a time.

Almost two years ago, Vienna resident Lydia Russo created a Facebook group with her local friend Chris Drinkuth. Their main mission was to feature local Vienna restaurants and shine a spotlight on Vienna's growing culinary scene.

During the pandemic, the Vienna VA Foodies grew into something much larger – a support system for restaurants during the toughest times. The community rushed to come together and keep the local restaurant scene afloat. So many kind souls, such as RusticLoveVienna.com, joined in on the movement. All proceeds from sale of the Rustic Love wooden heart signs, T-shirts, sweatshirts, blankets, and magnets went to the food deliveries organized by Lydia.

The impact became so great, Lydia is currently in the works of establishing the One Neighborhood Foundation to focus entirely on the food deliveries. She knows this could have not been accomplished by all the kind citizens who stood up and played a part with their goodwill.

Lydia says it best. "Vienna VA Foodies has become one of the most magical groups. For the past ten months, we have helped local businesses by sending meals to front-line/first responders, essential workers, and food-insecure families. The entire community has pitched in and played a part, teachers, counselors, business owners, community members—even my dear colleagues."

Recently I watched Lester Holt's compelling report on the food-insecure people in our nation, so many for the first time, and was reminded that I had seen this first-hand before, albeit not at this scale, in the schools where I taught in Fairfax County—especially at a Title I school where many of my students got free lunch. Some got breakfast too. Lydia and the Vienna Food-



ies are well aware and there to lend a hand wherever they can.

"This week alone we surprised over a dozen groups—some of which consist of Capitol police officers, National Guard, firefighters, teachers, and restaurant workers. Such moving, inspiring, heartwarming work. I am left speechless each day. It truly is a beautiful day in the neighborhood. I love Vienna, VA with my whole heart."

Lydia and her tireless Vienna Foodies recently sent a lot of love from Church Street to DC. Local Vienna restaurants reached out to Lydia to help feed the National Guard during the inauguration. Lydia commented, "When I asked them if they minded if I grouped them together, they said, 'Do it! We love our neighbors and we'll go together."

These National Guard members are pulled from their everyday lives to serve, so the Vienna Foodies sent treats throughout the week to show their appreciation, including 100 pasties from The Pure Pasty Co., 100 sandwiches from The Sandwich Shop, 100 salads from Bazin's On Church, 300 freshly baked cookies from Best Buns Ty-

sons, 100 Skorpios Maggio's family restaurant meals, 100 Side Street & Sushi Bar by I-Thai meals, Patriotic Cookies made by Vienna baker Sarah Marshall, and Lollipop bouquets made by Lauren McCabe, and dessert by Lucy Q's. Two Vienna Foodies, Barbara Hamill and Sarah Pollinger, even stepped up to fund and send 200 Rustic Love Vienna masks (special edition gray) as a friendly reminder that Vienna appreciates their heroic service.

Great minds think alike. Great hearts beat alike. Nicola Willis-Jones, chef at The Pure Pasty, noted, "Today we (Pure Pasty) made and sent hot pasties into DC to help keep the National Guard fed and happy. Lydia Russo from Vienna Foodies, who has a heart of gold, has been coordinating food deliveries from restaurants in our area and we were happy to assist. Here to warm your toes, hands, bellies, and hearts."

It's not surprising what Lydia decided to do for her birthday. She posted on Facebook, "Donating blood on my birthday! INOVA is in need of blood! Please consider giving! You can save lives." That following week, with the help of the Vienna Foodies,

VIVATYSONS.COM Spring 2021 * TYSONS PREMIER 55







56



INOVA was able to successfully book two entire days of blood appointments.

From the time Lydia was a little girl, she was taught to always give back. She has had many great mentors along the way. The beloved former Mayor of Vienna, M. Jane Seeman, dear Vera Lloyd, a volunteer for over 50 years at the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, and countless teachers made sure Lydia understood—there is nothing more important than to give.

In addition to these noteworthy recent accomplishments, in February Lydia married Vicente Parra (who she met at a local restaurant!) in a small, intimate ceremony, and the giving community she inspires was there to cheer her on virtually in the weeks prior in true Vienna spirit. Although the wedding was scaled back, Lydia felt the love of her dear neighbors who had become family to her over the past ten months.

Lydia Russo is much more than a self-described hypegirl. Her work with the energetic and enthusiastic Vienna VA Foodies has been deservedly recognized, as she was selected as one of Harris' Heroes on Chan-

nel 4, who said she turned it into "a force for good." She was also awarded the first annual Corporate Social Responsibility Award by the Vienna Business Association.

Delegate Mark Keam from Vienna expressed his appreciation. "Lydia, it's been a tough year, but you certainly put a lot of smiles on my face with all of your wonderful kindness and selfless efforts to support those who are struggling the most in our community. Thank you!"

To join the movement of kindness and share photos from your visits to Vienna restaurants, be sure to join the "Vienna VA Foodies" Facebook group, or follow Vienna VA foodies on Instagram: @viennavafoodies

It is humbling to see so many amazing people stepping up to try to help in any way they can. One of my favorite lines from Mr. Rogers is in times of trouble to look for the helpers. And Lydia Russo is one of the biggest helpers of all. There are indeed angels in our midst. �

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Ask an Advisor: Special Needs Planning

By Dan Lash, CFP® AIF®

All parents worry about their children's futures – it's part of the job. Parents of children with special needs may face more uncertainty. Some of the biggest concerns special needs parents have are financial. Mapping out your child's financial future can seem like a daunting task, but having a plan in place can help ease your fears.

There are complex legal and governmental issues surrounding disability so planning for the long term can be tricky. The wrong decision might create a tax burden or render a child with special needs ineligible for government benefits. Having a strategic plan that maps out your vision for your child's future can lessen some of the uncertainty. Below are three things I recommend parents of children with special needs do to secure their future:

■ Create a letter of intent

No one knows your child better than you do. If something were to happen to you, how can you express your wishes for your child's future and share all the facts about your child's wants, needs, and care? While not a legally binding document, a Letter of Intent will serve as a guide for future caregivers and cover topics such as: daily schedule, medical history, education, benefits received, and your vision for your child's future.

■ Create a special needs trust

Work with an attorney to create a special needs trust. Such trusts are an important part of your child's long-term financial plan. The trust will serve to benefit your child in two ways: A trustee that you identify in the trust document will manages the

assets inside the trust for the best interest of the beneficiary and limit the beneficiary's access based on the trust document's stipulations (i.e., The funds can't be used to buy a sports car, but can be used for food and lodging). The second benefit of having the assets in a trust will preserve the beneficiary's eligibility for public benefits, such as Medicaid and public housing. You should work with an experienced Financial Advisor and a Trust Lawyer to establish and fund the trust.

■ Name a trustee

The trustee is the individual or institution that is responsible for administering the trust in accordance to your trust document. A trustee is usually not the same person that is named as a guardian. A trustee can be a close friend or family

58 TYSONS PREMIER ❖ Spring 2021 VIVARESTON.COM

59

member or an institution, such as a bank or trust company. The trustee controls the money and is responsible for investing the assets and dispersing them as necessary. They should also serve as a partner to a future caretaker to help make and be the voice of reason when tough financial decisions need to be made.

A great place to start planning for the financial future of your child is with your Financial Advisor. You are planning for two generations - yourself and your child. Your Advisor will help you organize and prioritize your personal financial goals and wishes and help you create a long term financial plan for your child. They will also be able to refer you to the appropriate attorneys, accountants, and other service organizations that would be of help. Having a team by your side is easier than going at it alone. ��

Daniel P. Lash, CFP®, AIF® is a Financial Advisor and Partner at VLP Financial Advisors. Dan works with his clients to help them plan for their family's financial future. He believes that strategic planning is the key to creating, protecting, and growing wealth. Visit VLP Financial Advisors online at: www.vlpfa.com

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The role of mothers in shaping their daughters' and sons' lives is unsurpassed. Mothers teach us to love, be strong, be confident, persist, live life to its fullest, and be the best we can be.

60 TYSONS PREMIER * Spring 2021 VIVARESTON.COM

"I realized when you look at your mother, you are looking at the purest love you will ever know."

-Mitch Albom



The role of mothers in shaping their daughters' and sons' lives is unsurpassed. Mothers teach us to love, be strong, be confident, persist, live life to its fullest, and be the best we can be.

Mother's Day is just around the corner. So, this year give her a gift from your heart and your undivided time to make it a special day she'll treasure. Just remember, the pandemic isn't over. When choosing a celebration, take into account whether your mom, yourself, and others involved are fully immunized, and follow pandemic safety protocols.

Mother's Day Brunch – Serve your mom a scrumptious breakfast or take her out for Mother's Day brunch. If you prepare it yourself, the following menu will be sure to please: fruit salad, juice, waffles or pancakes with her favorite blueberry or strawberry topping, Canadian bacon or fresh sausage, omelets or eggs benedict, homemade hash browns, and coffee cake or Danishes. Also, don't forget the fresh cut flowers for the table centerpiece.

Spring Blooms - What better way to spend a spring day than together in your mother's garden? Pick up her favorite annuals and perennials: begonias, petunias, violets, morning glories, poppies, marigolds, snapdragons, or mums. Then enjoy a relaxing day together, planting and sprucing up her flower garden and catching up on old times.

Mother/Daughter or Mother/Son-Memories – Give your mom a keepsake thar'll be dear to her heart. Purchase Mothers & Daughters: A Record Book About Us to fill out and share with her. Or create your own memory book with a scrapbook or journal. Include photos and memories about special times the two of you have had together; the most important things you remember about your mother from your childhood; how she has inspired you; and the times you look forward to in the future.

The Main Event – Surprise your mother with tickets to an event she's been dying to see: the ballet, a concert, play or musical, the opera, a favorite sporting event, a comedy show, or dinner theater. Be sure to tell her you have something special planned (but not what), so she'll be all yours for the day.

Train Excursion – Spring is the perfect time to tour the countryside. Take a

train ride with your mom, and enjoy the vivid colors of spring, blue skies, beautiful blossoms, and other scenic sights.

Family Portrait

 If your family is like most, you're well overdue for an updated family portrait.
 What better time to have it done than on Moth-

er's Day? Schedule to have your family's picture taken at a studio, or hire a photographer for a photoshoot in the park. Coordinate with family members in advance on the formality and color scheme, so outfits don't clash. Inform your mother how to dress for her special day, but keep the

Getaway



specific reason a surprise.

The Power of Poetry – You don't need to be a poet to write a special verse for your mother. In your poem, share what it was like growing up with her, how she influenced your life, or tell her just what she means to you. Then print it on stationery, and matte and frame it.

A Little Pampering – Mothers spend many years pampering their children giving bubble baths, washing hair, and caring for them when they're ill. Give your mother a special treat, a gift certificate for pampering at the spa where she can enjoy a Swedish massage, hair design, a sea spa manicure and pedicure, or a soothing

facial.

Weekend Gctaway – Put together a weekend package designed especially for your mom. Choose a city that offers excellent shopping, art museums and cultural centers, or even a quaint historic town with neat shops, cafes, and parks. Leave the dates for the getaway open so she can make the

trip at her convenience, or so the two of you can make plans together.

Keep it Simple – Plan a relaxing day together, enjoying the outdoors. Head to a nearby park where you can meander along nature trails reminiscing or take a scenic bike ride. ❖

VIVATYSONS.COM Spring 2021 * TYSONS PREMIER 61



WE LOVE, Therefore Me Chieve, OUR PETS

by Holli B. Shan

Pet Loss Grief Counselor and Animal Communicator

At some point in our lives as devoted dog, cat and other pet owners, we all have experienced the loss of these beloved members of our families. After such a loss, it is human nature to not only emotionally grieve that loss, but to physically mourn as well. What I want to share with you is that your grief process is normal; it is also part of being human, and you are not alone in your feelings of sadness.

Grief is a Process

Grief is a process as well as a feeling and an emotion. Grief is something we go through when a loved one has passed on. It doesn't matter whether the loved one was a human or an animal companion. My teacher, Teresa Wagner, states, "Grief is indifferent to the species lost." I would add to that by saying, "We grieve so very deeply because we loved just as deeply." Why it matters is because there is an emotional bond between two beings—two living creatures.

Everyone will experience grief in his or her own way. For some, grief lasts only a short time because the passing was expected and the bereaved had time to prepare themselves. For others, the passing of a loved one may be unexpected or sudden. The grief process for an unanticipated death will likely take longer to work through.

Grief is Normal and Understandable

The most important thing to remember is that when you are grieving, your feelings are not only completely and totally normal, they are understandable! Feel free to cry, yell, punch pillows or even just be silent. The grieving process that works best is completely up to the individual.

Two wonderful coping methods that have helped me when I've lost a pet, and may help others, are to journal about how you feel or draw it out, if you like drawing. Remember, no one needs to see your writing or your artwork—it is your private therapy for your own path to healing.

Grief Has No Timeline

Grief has no timeline. Everyone's grief process is their own and it is important to honor that. Some people need to tell their favorite stories over and over again until they have worked through their grief or even anger over the death. Others prefer silence. Both of these methods are normal and acceptable coping mechanisms. Grieving is a process, and each individual will work through it in their own way towards healing. If the bereaved person wants to create a memorial to honor the memory of the pet who has passed, they can see it as a reminder of the animal as they lived, and something that makes them smile or "lifts their spark" when thinking of their beloved animal companion.

Platitudes are Never a Good Idea

When other people tell someone who is grieving the loss of a beloved pet "It's been 6 months, you should be over that by now. After all, it was just a dog," their words are more hurtful than helpful. If you, as the bereaved, have experienced this, it's okay to tell that person their comment isn't helpful. Or you can ignore it outright, depending upon your relationship with the other person. This is one of those moments where platitudes are rarely helpful. Would you believe I've heard about people using this exact same sentence when someone else's father died? If you wouldn't want someone telling you this while you're grieving, consider not saying it to someone else while they are.

Remember to Care for Yourself

The main thing to remember is that it's important to be gentle with yourself during your grief process. Take time to rest, drink plenty of water and nourish your body with healthy foods. And don't be too concerned about eating comfort foods now and then if it helps you. You are undergoing a difficult, emotional time. As humans, we are equipped with a complete set of emotions. It is healthy to allow yourself a grace period to feel all of the feelings you were born with. What exactly "feeling the feelings" looks like will vary from person to person. It all depends on you; be kind to yourself. We love, therefore we grieve, our pets. \$\infty\$

Holli B. Shan is a Certified Pet Loss Grief Counselor and Intuitive Animal Communicator. You can contact her at www.CompassionSpeaks.com. Join her Facebook group at www.facebook.com/groups/PeacefulPetPlayground.









JW Marriott Lands in Reston Iconic Brand's Announcement Welcome News For Dulles Corridor

By Marcia McAllister

The economic future of the Dulles Corridor—from Tysons to Reston, through Herndon, across the Route 28/Innovation area and into eastern Loudoun County—got a gigantic show of faith in early February.

Reston-based Comstock Holdings Inc. announced that a land-mark JW Marriott is coming to Wiehle-Reston East Station as part of Comstock's development.

The announcement comes at a time when the COVID-19 pandemic has some questioning whether the corridor would regain all of its luster, and, if so, when that would happen.

The hotel will be the signature property at the Reston Row Project, according to Chris Clemente, CEO of Comstock Holdings.

The announcement put smiles on the faces of busy leaders and landowners from Tysons to Ashburn, who are aware of JW Marriott properties' reputation for its world-class luxury facilities. The site, midway between Tysons and Washington Dulles International Airport, will be the first JW Marriott property in Virginia and will be centerpiece of Comstock's Reston Station development at the Wiehle-Reston East Station, which opened in 2014.

The \$250 million 26-story glass and structure will have easy access to the metrorail station. The hotel will include 250 guestrooms, 90 luxury residences, two restaurants, an executive lounge, a swimming pool, spa and fitness center. Comstock subsidiary CRC Hotel LC partnered with Marriott for the design and operation.

64 TYSONS PREMIER ❖ Spring 2021 VIVARESTON.COM

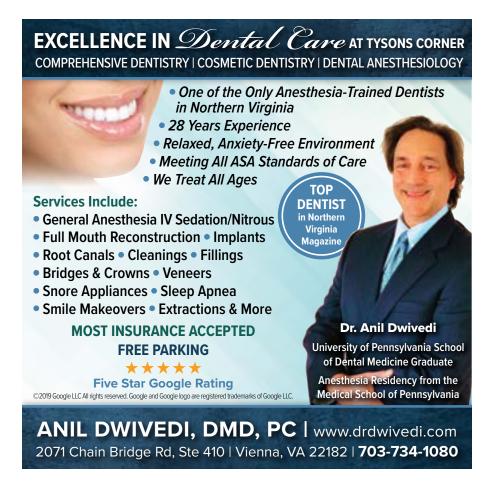
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According to Clemente, he expects the project will attract business and social functions from the DC area and "meet the needs of our corporate office clients, including Google, Rolls Royce, Neustar, ICF Global." Google notably has taken residence in and placed its logo atop Comstock's iconic 1900 Reston Metro Plaza building.

Clemente's developments have anchored the Wiehle-Reston East Station area since Phase 1 of the Silver Line opened, as well as Ashburn Station, where its Loudoun Station mixed-used development opened several years ago.

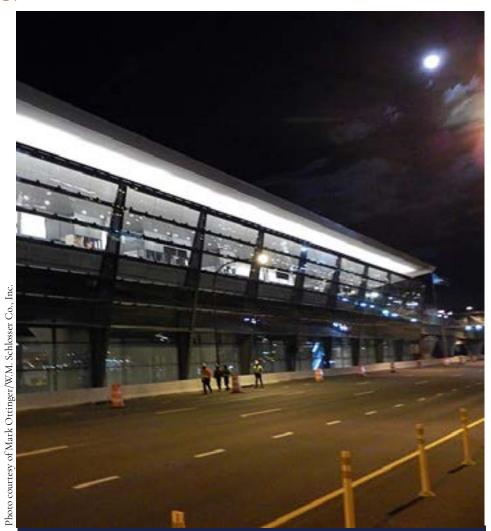
Nunzio Marc DeSantis Architects is designing the JW Marriott project, adding even more drama to the ever-expanding Dulles Corridor skyline.







Tysons Update



The Moon Shines Bright on Success

The lights are on along both sides of the platform at the Silver Line's Dulles Airport Station, marking passage of a major milestone for Phase 2 of the Silver Line construction.

On a cold winter night in February, the moon could be seen overlooking the windscreens that help the station resemble the iconic Eero Saarinen-designed main airport terminal.

Besides lending to the architecture, the windscreens provide protection from

the elements for passengers waiting on the platform for future trains, according to the Airports Authority's Stephen Barna, who directed that aspect element of the project among many others.

Maryland-based W.M. Schlosser Co. Inc. constructed the windscreens, while Capital Rail Constructors, a joint venture of Clark Construction and Kiewit Infrastructure South Co., built the station itself as part of the main project contract.

Rail Update

The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA), leaders of the Silver Line Phase 2 construction project, are preparing for additional testing of the complex systems necessary for opening of the extension from the Wiehle-Reston East Station westward through Dulles Airport and ending in Ashburn.

In addition, the tie-in of the second phase to the first phase at the Wiehle-Reston East must be completed before turning the project over to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA). This will require another temporary shutdown of existing rail service at Wiehle-Reston East as well as major coordination between contractors and the WMATA.

Additional dynamic and other final testings will follow before the project is ready to turnover to WMATA. After turnover happens WMATA then will conduct its own pre-revenue testing, which is expected to take about five months.

The rail team first must resolve some issues that WMATA outlined during a public meeting in February. Those issues include negative cross bond spacing, direct fixation fasteners, water-related platform issues, car hoists in the rail yard and establishment of escrow.

Issues related to ballast in the rail yard, and cracks in panels in stations are resolved and the screenwall at the Dulles Airport Station is complete.

The Phase 2 opening date for the public also depends on budget issues facing WMATA as COVID-19 impacts continue to slam revenues, which are dramatically below previous years' revenues. An infusion of federal dollars has allowed WMATA to anticipate opening this year.

COVID-19 has not slowed construction. All workers are following safety procedures including wearing masks and maintaining social distances. Tours and public presentations have been replaced by virtual sessions.

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