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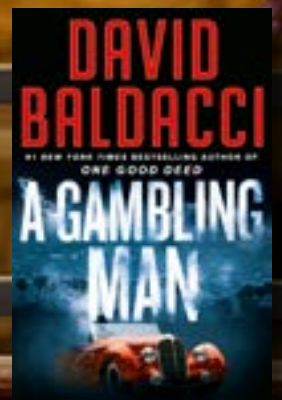
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Features



12

A Trail of Toleration

By Linda Barrett

No matter how long you've lived in the DMV area, I'll bet you have neither heard or nor traveled Maryland's Religious Freedom National Scenic Byway. I discovered it as part of my "what's in your own backyard" explorations and, being a history buff, was truly impressed.

Behind the Scenes with Best-Selling Local Author Baldacci

By Linda Barrett

Local author David Baldacci just released his latest book in April 2021—sure to be the next best seller. But there is so much more to this local writer. Come with me behind the scenes to learn a little more about the man and his process for creativity.



18

11 Tips to Preparing Your Home For Your Summer Vacation

By Linda Barrett

Will you be traveling this summer? If so, you have more to do to get ready than just pack your suitcases. When you leave your home for an extended period of time, like a summer vacation, there are things you need to do to ensure that your home remains safe while you're away. Here are some tips from Golden Rule Home Watch & Concierge you can employ the next time you leave.



46

Top 10 Most Expensive New Listings

The real estate market is still going strong. See the Top 10 most expensive listings in the Metropolitan DC area courtesy of Bright MLS.



56



And More . . .

- 14 Home and Design**
Backyard Design Trends You Will Love!
- 26 Beauty Spotlight**
Christina M. Dipietro
- 27 Vienna Merchants**
- 28 Dental Connection**
- 30 Early Intervention Recommended for Pre-orthodontic Screenings**
By Airway and Sleep Group
- 34 Wine**
2021 Virginia Governor's Cup Gold Medal Trail
- 36 Entertaining the "New Normal"**
By Helga's Catering
- 40 Dining Guide**
- 42 Back-to-School Prep Essentials**
By Kimberley Blaker
- 44 Beauty**
Hidden Gem in Vienna—Malisse Skin Bar
- 48 Local Real Estate Experts**
- 54 Premier Real Estate**
See new luxury listings in the real estate market.
- 62 Finance**
Ask an Advisor: About Being a Woman Caught in the Sandwich Generation
- 64 Tysons Update**
Tysons Silver Line Update and Charles Stark, Executive Director of The Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project talks about Phase 2



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ON THE COVER
Author of *A Gambling Man*,
David Baldacci. Photo credit:
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Behind the Scenes with Best-Selling Local Author

David Baldacci

By Linda Barrett

Local author David Baldacci just released his latest book in April 2021—sure to be the next best seller.

But there is so much more to this local writer. Come with me behind the scenes to learn a little more about the man and his process for creativity.

A GAMBLING MAN

David Baldacci's most recent book, *A Gambling Man*, is the second in the Archer series and the follow-up to the Nero Award-winning thriller *One Good Deed* featuring once again the ex-con and straight-talking WWII veteran Aloysius Archer. The story opens in 1949 with Archer heading out to California to connect with a former FBI agent named Willie Dash. He takes a detour in Reno, wins enough money to buy a blood-red Delahaye convertible, meets an aspiring actress named Liberty Callahan, and the two head off to California. Upon arrival,

Archer quickly discovers that the people who flocked there seeking fame and fortune landed in a false paradise that instead caters to their worst addictions and fears.

What was the inspiration for Aloysius Archer?

"I'm a history buff and World War II has always fascinated me—people had been through war and a depression and they uprooted themselves and went in search for a better life. Like Archer," Baldacci explained.

"One thing a writer has to do for motivation is to give yourself a new comfort zone, like a setting in a new time period. Archer is a very new thing for me and something I really got excited about. It's a fun read in a different time period. People will know what life is like after WWII and they'll like the characters—especially Archer. He's somebody that resonates in

every person, as he always tries to do the right thing."

Aloysius Archer fans will be pleased to know that Baldacci has just completed the first draft of the third book in the series, set in 1953 in Hollywood's glamour golden period and due out in 2022. Asked for a sneak peek, Baldacci answered, "Archer has learned a lot and is a different man for it."

Do you become the character or is part of you in the character?

"In a story like this with a lot of characters, you have to immerse yourself. I did a lot of research and traveled places (pre-covid). I tried as much as possible to put myself in that time and place. I ask the reader to do that, so I have to do it as well. Immersion is very important or you lose connectivity with the story and the plot doesn't add up the way you want it to."

"I'm part of every character I've written," Baldacci said with a laugh. "Like Archer, I'm an optimist. Although Archer is only 27, he's in the middle span of his life. He has a lot of experience, but is still naïve at times, and has learned some of his lessons from *One Good Deed*."

The #1 *New York Times* bestselling author is often promoted as a mystery, thriller or crime writer. "I describe myself as a storyteller, and no more than that. I don't put myself in a box. When I sit down to write, whether it's a thriller or young adult fantasy, I think about the story I'm writing. Every story is simply a story."

"There are two things I try to do: 1) entertain and 2) inform," Baldacci said. "Every book covers subject matter that is important to me and should be to others. I try to alert people to 'this is something you might want to check out.' Even though I write fiction, I understand the critical power of understanding what the truth is."

What is your method for writing a novel?

"I like to let the story grow organically. For example, let's say you want to learn to drive a Formula One car. You can read a book about it or actually drive the car. I like writing in the trenches and don't work with an outline. Nothing in an outline prepares you to be in the battlefield of being in the novel. As you write, your mind is going a million miles an hour with plot twists and turns along the way. Each becomes a possibility as you're writing. I let the story grow and work at it every day, think about what I want the people to do, and fashion a number of possible endings before picking the perfect one."

Do you have advice for new writers?

"The most important thing is to write about something you're so interested in you can spend years on it and not lose enthusiasm. Don't write about what you know a lot about. Write about what you'd like to know a lot about. The passion will show up in your prose and plot."

Baldacci also pointed out that although someone may publish a book that is very well received, but seven years have passed and there's no second book, "The audience will forget the first book." He added that, "If you take a few years off, you muscles will atrophy and you won't be as good the second time around. If you want to build a career or a business, be consistent and think down the road. When you finish up one book, think about what you want to tackle next. You can only have a successful career if your books are being sold to readers. With mystery/thriller writers, they produce a book a year—at least."

"On the business end, I work with almost 50 publishers worldwide, and publishing agreements are very pro-publisher. My mantra is simple: nobody should make more money off a book than the person who created it. Nobody will care about your career more than you do, so you need to learn the industry."

Why did you start your Wish You Well Foundation?

"When I first started on book tours, events were sponsored by libraries. Over the course of three years, I got a crash course in how illiterate this country is. There are 50-60 million illiterate people who can't read directions or a menu. Without that skill, they won't be able to reach their potential."

David and Michelle Baldacci started the Wish You Well Foundation®, named after his deeply personal book of the same title, to combat illiteracy. Its literacy programs have evolved from one on one tutoring to ways that can allow people to support themselves and be sustainable, and to get better education and jobs. Program participants can choose a defined goal and obtain credits towards a GED or college. Funds have been awarded in more than 40 states.

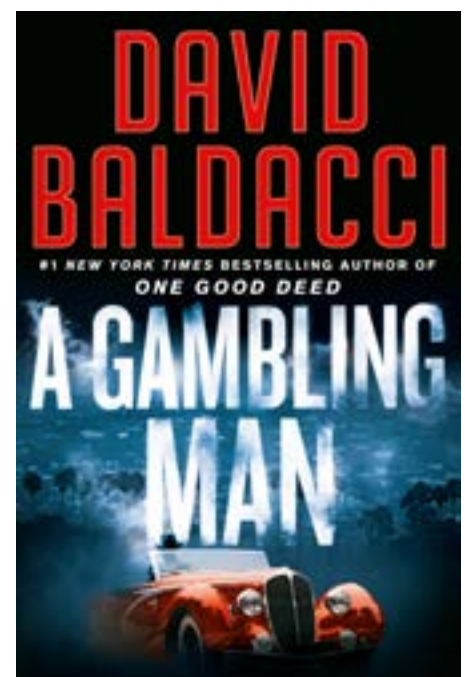
"Literacy is not an ESL, rural, urban or suburban issue; it's a growing problem, and literacy and poverty go hand in hand," he said. "Reading permeates every aspect of your life, and too many people never read a single book. If there is a number one job we have to do, it is to make everyone literate."

ABOUT DAVID BALDACCI

David Baldacci received his degree from Virginia Commonwealth University and his law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law, after which he practiced law in Washington, D.C. He and his family live in Virginia.

"As a kid growing up in Richmond, my job was to create the fantasies we would play every day. I used my imagination to the fullest. I was also a huge reader and enjoyed living in my head. Even though I didn't travel out of Virginia as a child, I saw the world through books. I learned about people who didn't look, dress, play, eat or learn like me, but I saw the common humanity we shared. That has resonated through my life as well as my writing."

Baldacci published his first novel, *Absolute Power*, in 1996. He has published 40+ novels for adults, all of which have been national and international bestsellers, with several adapted for film and television. He also published seven novels for younger readers. See a downloadable checklist of book and a list of upcoming author events at www.davidbaldacci.com. ♦





Backyard Design Trends for 2021

We found some we think you'll love!

By Linda Barrett

Now that the weather is warm again and we're getting outside, it's time to think about what to do in the yard and garden. We looked around to see if there were any trends for 2021...and we found some that we think you'll love.

Bigger & Better Gardens

With pandemic restrictions, families have been eating at home rather than going out to restaurants. This has resulted in more home gardens. The trend for 2021 is leaning towards bigger and better home gardens, reminiscent of the "victory gardens" of generations past, and embracing healthier eating habits. Keep in mind that gardening is also a great stress reducer and something that can involve the whole family!

One benefit of a bigger garden and a bigger yield is excess food that you can use to help feed neighbors or donate to your local food pantry.

Outdoor Living Spaces

Tired of being cooped up in your home with the entire family? Isn't everyone? We are seeing a trend towards creating permanent outdoor living spaces, like outdoor living rooms, kitchens, and play and exercise areas. Look for outdoor-hearty furniture and appliances, and fade-resistant, waterproof cushions. Install a fireplace or pizza oven for extra appeal.

Backyard courtyards are also trending, with outdoor living spaces replacing traditional yards. Decks and patios span the house, with multiple entrances from var-

ious rooms to cooking, dining, lounging and entertaining areas.

Defined Areas

Creating separate spaces throughout the yard with walkways, plantings, fences, walls, lattice, and seating options offer homeowners private and intimate areas where they can "get away from it all." Take advantage of views, exposure and lighting when planning.

Urban Oases

Even in small outdoor spaces, people are infusing their lives with plants. They're building "garden rooms" with houseplants, hanging blooming plants, and installing small (and sometimes vertical) vegetable and herb gardens along with sitting areas

where they can enjoy the view. Sustainability is important, with low-maintenance and drought-tolerant plantings.

Backyard Habitats

With fewer cars on the road, the area's wildlife has made a resurgence. Setting up bird- and bee-friendly gardens, beehives, insect hotels, and feeding stations let you get up close with nature while helping to nurture the various species.

Changing Architecture

Both remodeling and landscape architecture have seen a surge in interest since the pandemic began. People are paying more attention to their homes and their style of living than ever before. Gazebos, arbors, screened porches, decks, pool areas, outdoor living rooms, and water features are

in demand. On both the front and back of the home, elegant entranceways and walkways are being installed to match and enhance the home's architecture.

Texture, Color and Whimsy

Yards no longer consist of "just grass." Homeowners are looking to include texture and color through stone, metal, pottery, glass, mosaics, and decorative items. Incorporate items from your heritage or travels. Choose things that make you smile. From the simple to the exotic, a bit of whimsy offers delight and serves as a conversation piece.

Added Luxury

Lighting, sound systems and air movement are being incorporated into outdoor landscape and living area designs, along with

spa-type features like a sauna, hot tub or plunge tub.

Engage a Professional

For structural or landscaping changes you should consult with, or hire, a professional. While some jobs can be done yourselves, larger ones, or projects involving structures or ground issues should be left to those in the know. There are a number of great landscape architects and landscape designers in our area to choose from.

With the home as the center of our lives, our outdoor living spaces are ever-so more important. And since we're not traveling, why not put that vacation budget towards a permanent addition to your home! ♦

NINE STEPS FOR DESIGNING YOUR BACKYARD DESIGN

1. Decide how you will use the space
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4. Consider exposure & wind
5. Choose hardscapes
6. Select plants
7. Add comfort features
8. Install lighting
9. Place outdoor furnishings



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A Trail of Toleration

Explore the route of religious freedom on this National Scenic Byway

By Linda Barrett

No matter how long you've lived in the DMV area, I'll bet you have neither heard or nor traveled Maryland's Religious Freedom National Scenic Byway. I discovered it as part of my "what's in your own backyard" explorations and, being a history buff, was truly impressed.

Marylanders were fraught with tension over the different religious beliefs of its founders, colonists and the English government. To maintain peace and attract different religious beliefs, Lord Baltimore adopted a policy of freedom and worship. The Religious Freedom Byway tells the story of religious toleration, and the attempt to separate church and state that was put into law for the first time in the Western World, becoming the foundation to our First Amendment and guaranteeing religious freedom to all U.S. citizens.

The Religious Freedom Byway traverses 189 miles through southern Maryland, from Port Tobacco to Point Lookout, taking travelers down scenic country roads and through distinguished Main Streets.

Drive the Port Tobacco Loop

Begin the Byway at **Port Tobacco**, originally a Potapoco Indian village where Jesuit Father Andrew White established a missionary outpost (more on him later). Visit the **one-room schoolhouse** and the **Port Tobacco Courthouse**, now a museum containing tobacco exhibits and archeological finds.

Nearby, visit the **Christ Church Durham Parish**, established in 1692, with the current church constructed in the 1730s. **Smallwood State Park** houses the estate of General William Smallwood, a Revolutionary War hero and 4th Governor of Maryland.

All photos credit: Linda Barrett.



Loop back to the **Mt. Carmel Monastery**, established in 1790 as America's first religious community for women. The nuns returned here in 1976, and several Carmelite nuns and novices still live here. Their only vocation is to pray. We were told that five miracles happened out of here.

Look for the historical marker for **Chandler's Hope**. Job Chandler was the first Charles County settler and built the oldest part of the house (1639-1650) aided by the Potapoco tribe. It was later the birthplace of Archbishop Leonard Neale, one of six brothers, all Catholic priests, and one sister, a nun. It became the first (temporary) seat of Carmelite nuns in America in 1790.

Visit the 322-acre **Thomas Stone National Historic Site**. Take a guided tour of the 1770s Georgian mansion to learn about Stone, one of the four Maryland signers of the Declaration of Independence, and Colonial life. A Junior Ranger program engages the young folks.

Chapel Point to St. Clement's Island

Travel south to Chapel Point to **St. Ignatius Catholic Church**, the oldest continuously-serving Catholic parish in the U.S., established by the Jesuits in 1641. From this church, the priests would travel into the communities and homes to deliver Mass. Nearby is **St. Thomas Manor**, the oldest Jesuit residence in the world still in use (built 1741).

Travel east to **Chaptico**, a port town occupied by the British during the American Revolution and the War of 1812 to grab a meal at the **Chaptico Market** traditional country store. This town features several places on the National Register of Historic Places, including **Christ Episcopal Church, King and Queen Parish**, built here in 1736 on land donated by Francis Scott Key's grandfather. Several Key family members are buried here.

Branch off the main highway and head south to Coltons Point and the **St. Clement's Island Museum**, the launching point for the water taxi to St. Clement's Island.

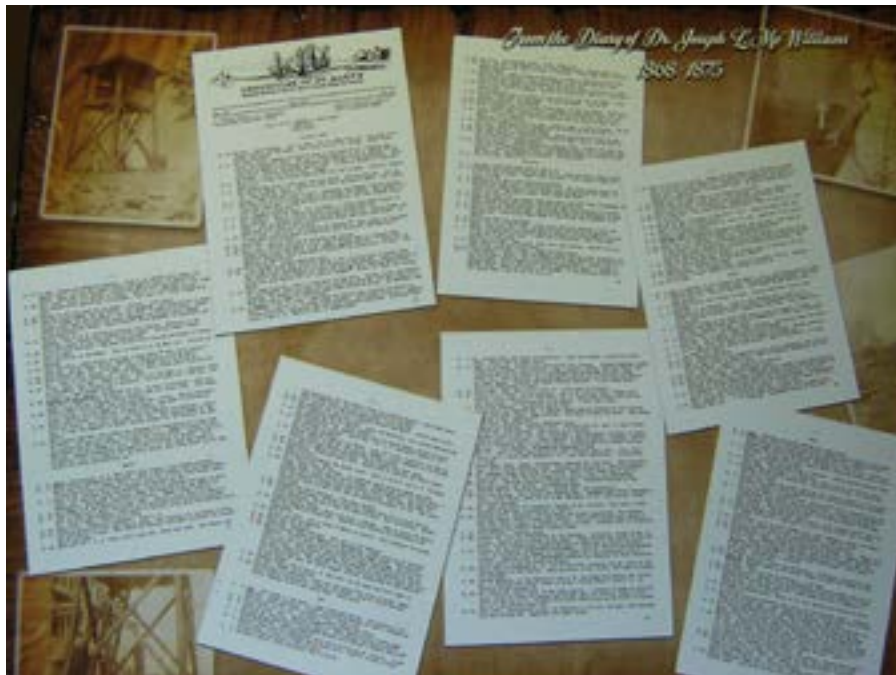
Jesuit Father Andrew White sailed to America along with 140 other Catholics and Christians on the ships *Ark* and *Dove* to establish a missionary outpost, arriving in 1634 at the mouth of the St. Mary's River. They made landfall on the island they named St. Clement's after the patron saint of mariners, and here celebrated the first Catholic Mass in Maryland.

They brought with them an iron cross believed to have been hammered together by a blacksmith aboard either the *Ark* or *Dove*. Amazingly, that same cross, previously lost, was found in 1989 in the Georgetown University archives. It is now on display at the University's Dahlgren Chapel. It is also believed Father White brought with him a Relic of the Holy Cross brought by the Crusaders to England in the 12th-14th century and presented to him by Queen Henrietta Maria.

You can visit **St. Clement's Island**, now a Maryland State Park, but only by boat or seasonal water taxi. Here you'll find a 40-foot cross standing as a memorial to those colonists who sought religious toleration. Bring a picnic and explore the lighthouse and trails.

Chaptico to Point Lookout

Stop to view **St. Francis Xavier Church**, the oldest Roman Catholic Church in



Maryland before entering **Leonardtown**. Enjoy its **waterside park** with a launch for canoes and kayaks, then visit the **Old Jail Museum**, both a museum and tourism information center (look for a cannon rescued from the Ark), and **Tudor Hall**, a 250-year-old Colonial House that was the childhood home of John Wilkes Booth.

Your next stop is **St. George's Episcopal Church**, in continuous operation since 1638, making it the oldest Episcopal parish in Maryland. Continue south to the **Piney Point Lighthouse**, the oldest on the Potomac River, and **St. Mary's College of Maryland**, a female seminary established in 1840. It is now a co-ed state college featuring a weekly summer concert series.

The most-visited destination on this byway is **Historic St. Mary's City**, an expansive living-history museum and archaeological site. It served as Maryland's first capital from 1634 to 1695, was the 4th permanent settlement in America, and the site of the first Catholic chapel in the colonies. Spend several hours here exploring the interactive exhibits, a reconstructed 17th-century State House, a tobacco plantation, and Indian hamlet and a replica of the *Dove* ship. Costumed interpreters recount what life was like

Note: To tour any of the churches, it is recommended to contact their administrative offices before your visit.

in this settlement founded by those who sought democracy and toleration.

The Freedom of Conscience Monument sits at the entrance to commemorate a 1649 Act passed by the General Assembly mandating religious tolerance of all Trinitarians, laying the foundation for the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Your final stop is **Point Lookout State Park**. Look for several lighthouses along the way, and enjoy the beaches along the Chesapeake Bay. **Point Lookout** served as a notorious prison camp where during the Civil War, more than 4,000 Confederate soldiers died.

The Religious Freedom Byway is part of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail that ranges from the mouth of the Potomac River to the Allegheny Highlands. If you're looking to explore your own backyard, try this tour. ❖

Download the Religious Freedom Byway brochure and map at <https://destinationsouthernmaryland.files.wordpress.com/2015/10/bywaybrochure.pdf>



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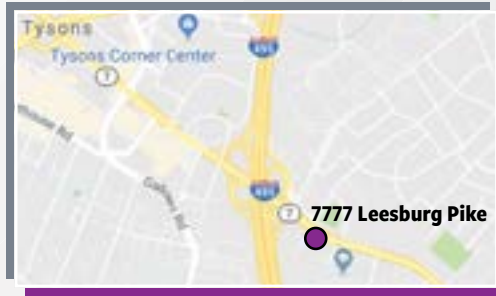


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Christina M. Dipietro

AVP Portfolio Relationship Manager

What is your biggest beauty splurge that you deem necessary?

I try to get at least 8 hours of sleep and drink lots of water.

What is your workout pick?

Evening walks with my mini-Aussie, Izzy, and 4-5 days at the gym (45 minutes on the elliptical and 20 minutes on the rowing machine).

What is your view on a diet?

As the saying goes, "you are what you eat" or sometimes what you don't eat. I stay away from anything fried and use my juicer as often as possible. I use a scoop of organic coconut oil to my shakes for flavor and my skin to keep it moisturized.

What's your spa fix?

The medical massage followed by acupuncture to de-stress.

Where do you get your hair done?

I get my hair done at Difference's Hair Designers in Falls Church. Stefano Biancaniello is Amazing! He is an artist with an exquisite eye for symmetry, color, and perfection. He can take one look at your face, shape, and coloring and determine the best style for you. Curious, ask!

What are your secrets to happiness?

Extend your hand to help other women succeed in work and life, be a mentor!

This past year has brought many discoveries along with some difficult lessons. I've developed a new appreciation for the saying, "There is no better time than the present." Don't wait. Spend quality time with the ones you love and as often as possible because tomorrow is never promised.

What are your secrets to success?

My message to people would be to practice gratitude daily! Be aware of the lessons learned along your journey. Don't lose sight of those who have helped you get to where you are today. Take risks, be persistent, be passionate in whatever you do.

Hair Stefano Biancaniello, Differences-Yorktown Center

Make-up Bellina Lambdin, Merle Norman, Vienna VA

Location Bonaroti Restaurant, Vienna VA



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EDUCATION: Kenyon College

EXPERTISE: Board Certified by the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. Past Chairman of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Division of General Surgery, at the Reston Hospital Center. Fellow, American College of Dentists.



ORTHODONTIC SPECIALIST

DR. GARAI

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EDUCATION: Eastman Dental Center, University of Rochester

EXPERTISE: Served as attending faculty and taught lingual "invisible" orthodontics in the postdoctoral orthodontic program of Children's National Medical Center and Washington Hospital Center. Diplomate by the American Board of Orthodontics.



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DRS. HAN & AHN

Han & Ahn DMD, PC
6845 Elm St #450
McLean, VA 22101
703.356.7001
www.mcleandmd.com

EDUCATION: University of Pennsylvania

EXPERTISE: Achieved dual specialty certificates in both Periodontics/Implantology and Periodontal Prosthesis (Advanced Restorative, Cosmetic Dentistry) and recognized as a Diplomate of the American Board of Periodontology.



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www.islandchildrensdentistry.com

EDUCATION: TUFTS University in Boston, MA

EXPERTISE: 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. Using the latest techniques and equipment.



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www.airwayandsleepgroup.com

EDUCATION: National Autonomous University of Mexico City

EXPERTISE: Dr. Calkins has become well versed in the areas of dental sleep medicine, craniofacial orthopedics, nasalveolar molding for infants, along with diagnosis and treatment for Temporomandibular Joint disorders.



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EDUCATION: George Washington University

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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Early Intervention & Pre-orthodontic Screenings

By Dr. Liliana Calkins

ZERO TO 5
Early Intervention in Craniofacial Orthopedics & Orthodontics



Airway & Sleep Group

Dr. Liliana L.C.
Calkins, D.D.S.

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Airway development is one of the most crucial aspects to a child's overall health. Early intervention is the best approach to deficient craniofacial growth that affects sleep, tooth alignment and the space allotted for the tongue. Airway improvement has shown to improve the quality of sleep and treat obstructive sleep apnea. And obstructive sleep apnea has been known to be one of the root causes for behavioral problems and learning issues like ADHD. An early airway diagnosis and intervention for children ages zero to 5 identifies and addresses issues before they have the chance to impact a child's growth and development.

A study by Pub Med had a series of six consecutive cephalograms taken between birth and 5 years of age, as well as one adult cephalogram. This study determined the maxillary growth and maturation during infancy and early childhood in 30 subjects (15 male and 15 female). The study concluded that the maxilla undergoes its greatest postnatal growth change during infancy and early childhood, when relative anteroposterior growth and maturation are emphasized.

Overall linear growth changes that occurred between 0.5 and 5 years of age (a span of 4.5 years) were generally greater than the changes in maxillary growth that occurred between 5 and 16 years (a span of 11 years). The size and shape changes that occurred were greatest between

0.4 and 1 years. And yearly velocities decelerated regularly thereafter.

Children should have their airway evaluated between the ages of zero to 5 as the best approach to deficient craniofacial growth is early intervention. Let Airway & Sleep Group provide a diagnosis of your child's airway to give them the best start in life.

Resources: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/233410246_Maxillary_growth_and_maturation_during_infancy_and_early_childhood

For more information and to schedule an appointment visit the links below:

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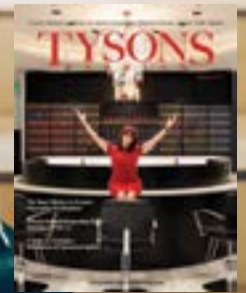


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Tyson's Premier knows that there are a number of people in our community that have made a positive impact during the years of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our Late Summer issue would like to recognize those who have come through for us in our times of need.

Join us in recognizing our Community Heroes by nominating the people in our community who have embodied Hero Status during the pandemic who have stepped up to help their friends and neighbors. Whether they are chefs, delivery drivers, healthcare workers, and volunteers.

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2021 Virginia Governor's Cup Gold Medal Trail

By Linda Barrett



The Virginia Governor's Cup is our Commonwealth's most stringent wine competition. After 544 entries, world-class judges awarded 47 wineries, cideries and meaderies throughout Virginia with a Gold Medal. Now, it is easy for you to access the 'best of the best' with the Virginia Governor's Cup Gold Medal Trail, exploring winning wines from Northern Virginia, Central Virginia, Shenandoah Valley, Chesapeake Bay and Hampton Roads.

The Gold Medal Trail is a mobile-exclusive journey that is delivered instantly via text and email, with no apps to download. Grab your friends and follow the trail to taste the wines that embody the grace, grit and experimental spirit of Virginia and enjoy special deals and discounts. Here's how:

Step One: Get your Pass

Register for your pass at:

<https://taste.virginiawine.org/check-out/431/virginia-wine/2037/2021-virginia-governor-s-cup-gold-medal-trail/overview>

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Your passport is instantly delivered to your phone via text and email for instant use. It can be saved to your home screen for one-tap access.

Step Three: Redeem for a Prize

When you visit a participating winery,



open your pass, locate the winery's listing and check in via the smartphone's GPS. Once you've checked into 12 wineries, you'll receive a free Virginia Wine wine tumbler (while supplies last).

The Competition

Sixteen world-class judges samples 544 Virginia wines from more than 100 wineries. In the Preliminary Round, each wine is tasted by seven judges over the course of 10 days in a single-blind tasting. Their scores are averaged into one score after the lowest score is dropped. In the Final Round, 12 judges assess the highest-rank-

ing wines over the course of three days. Each judge samples all the Final Round wines. The lowest score is dropped and the remaining scores are averaged. The 12 highest average score wines are identified for the Governor's Cup Case, and the wine with the highest overall score is the Governor's Cup Winner. ♦

The 2021 Governor's Cup winner is the Barboursville Vineyards 2015 Paxxito.

The 2021 Governor's Cup Case Winners

Barboursville Vineyards

2019 Vermentino Reserve, 2015 Paxxito & 2016 Octagon

Bluestone Vineyard

2019 Petit Manseng

Breaux Vineyards

2016 Nebbiolo & 2016 Meritage

Carriage House Wineworks

2019 Petit Verdot

King Family Vineyards

2017 Mountain Plains

Michael Shaps Wineworks

2015 Meritage

R.A.H. Wine Co.

2017 Series 1

Trump Winery

2015 Brut Reserve

Veritas Winery

2017 Petit Verdot

Gold Medal Wines & Participating Wineries

- **Afton Mountain Vineyards** – 2017 Cabernet Franc
- **Albemarle Ciderworks** – 2018 Harrison & 2019 Pomme Mary. *Special: \$1 off glasses of Gold Medal winners*
- **Barboursville Vineyards** – 2015 Paxxito
- **Barren Ridge Vineyards** – 2015 Meritage. *Special: Reduced price on 2015 Meritage 2 + 3 packs.*
- **Blue Bee Cider** – 2019 Firecracker
- **Bluestone Vineyard** – 2014 Merlot, 2017 Chardonnay & 2019 Petit Manseng
- **Breaux Vineyards** – 2016 Meritage, 2016 Nebbiolo & 2019 Sauvignon Blanc. *Special: BOGO Gold Medal Wine Tasting*
- **Carriage House Wineworks** – 2019 Petit Verdot. *Special: Free tasting*
- **Cave Ridge Vineyard** – 2017 Red Silk Barrel Select Cabernet Franc
- **Chestnut Oak Vineyard** – 2017 Petit Manseng
- **Chisholm Vineyards** – 2019 Chambourcin. *Special: 1 free tasting per person of Gold Medal wine*
- **CrossKeys Vineyards** – 2017 Petit Verdot. *Special: BOGO tasting*
- **Cunningham Creek Winery** – 2017 Meritage & 2017 Estate Petit Verdot. *Special: 20% off wine 3-pack*
- **Delaplane Cellars** – 2017 Tannat
- **Delfosse Vineyards & Winery** – 2017 Petit Verdot Reserve & 2017 Screaming Hawk Meritage
- **DuCard Vineyards** – 2017 Triskele. *Special: Bonus pour of Gold Medal winner with purchase of wine flight*
- **Early Mountain Vineyards** – 2017 Eluvium, 2019 Capstone Vineyard Cabernet Franc, 2019 Five Forks & 2019 Cabernet Franc. *Special: 20% off 3-bottle retail purchase in Tasting Room*
- **Fifty-Third Winery & Vineyard** – 2019 Vidal Blanc
- **Gadino Cellars** – 2017 Petit Verdot. *Special: Free tasting of 2017 Petit Verdot & 15% off wine 3-pack*
- **Greenhill Vineyards** – 2019 Chardonnay Reserve
- **Honah Lee Vineyard** – 2017 Petit Verdot. *Special: BOGO tasting*
- **Horton Vineyards** – 2015 Tannat & 2016 Petit Verdot Private Reserve. *Special: 10% off 6 bottles of Governor's Cup Silver or Gold winners*
- **Ingleside Vineyards** – 2018 Chardonnay Reserve & 2019 Albarino. *Special: 5% off 6+ bottles; 15% off case purchases*
- **Jefferson Vineyards** – 2016 Jefferson's Own Estate Reserve, 2019 Viognier & 2019 Cabernet Franc
- **Keswick Vineyards** – 2017 Heritage Estate Reserve & 2019 Estate Reserve Cabernet Franc
- **King Family Vineyards** – 2017 Mountain Plains, 2017 Loreley
- **Lake Anna Winery** – 2017 Petit Verdot. *Special: Free tasting of Gold Medal winner & 20% off 3-pack*
- **Lost Boy Cider** – Best in Show Cider Award for 2020 Comeback Kid
- **Michael Shaps Wineworks** – 2015 Raisin d'Etre White, 2015 Meritage, 2016 Tannat, 2016 Chardonnay, 2017 Cabernet Franc, 2017 Chardonnay, 2017 Meritage, 2018 Chardonnay, 2019 Roussanne & 2019 Petit Manseng.
- **Muse Vineyards** – 2017 Clio
- **Narmada Winery** – 2016 Yash-Vir & 2017 Melange. *Special: 10% off Gold Medal wines 2-pack*
- **October One Vineyard** – 2019 Cabernet Franc (not eligible for trail check-in). *Special: Half off shipping on 4 or more bottles*
- **Paradise Springs Winery** – 2018 Apres Rose. *Special: 10% off purchase of Gold Medal winning wine, 10% off food truck item*
- **Pippin Hill Farm & Vineyards** – 2015 Easton Blue, 2017 Easton Blue & 2019 Zero White
- **Pollack Vineyards** – 2015 Meritage, 2017 Mille Fleurs & 2017 Meritage
- **Rockbridge Vineyard** – 2018 DeChiel Chardonnay. *Special: BOGO 50% off wine or beer flight OR receive a logo Truetap Waiter Opener.*
- **Shenandoah Vineyards** – 2017 Reserve Red
- **Silvery Hand Meadery** – 2020 Dream by the Fire, 2020 Black Velvet, 2020 Raspberry Passion, 2020 Strawberry Swing, 2020 Soak up the Sun & 2020 All Blues. *Special: Club pricing: 15% off all available Gold Medal winners*
- **Stinson Vineyards** – 2017 Tannat
- **Thatch Winery** – 2017 Block 8 Tannat & 2019 Mount Juliet Farm Vineyard Merlot
- **The Williamsburg Winery** – 2017 Petit Verdot Reserve
- **The Winery at Bull Run** – 2019 Barrel Select Viognier, 2019 Cabernet Franc Reserve, 2019 Reconciliation & 2019 Petit Manseng
- **Trump Winery** – 2014 Brut Reserve. *Special: \$10 off purchase of 2014 Sparkling Reserve*
- **Upper Shirley Vineyards** – 2016 Tannat & 2016 Zachariah
- **Veritas Winery** – 2019 The Momentarius Collection Monticello White Blend, 2015 Scintilla, 2017 Petit Verdot, 2017 Cabernet Franc Reserve & 2019 Sauvignon Blanc. *Special Flight Offering: Taste all 5 Gold Medal Wines, 20% off purchase of the 5 winning wines together*
- **Walsh Family Wine** – 2019 Dutchman's Creek Cabernet Franc



Entertaining the “New Normal”

By Michael Evans

The devastating effects of the Coronavirus pandemic are unparalleled, but there is hope as we are starting to see a light at the end of this dark tunnel. With vaccines rolling out and businesses, schools and event venues continuing their phased reopening, there is much excitement and anticipation over reuniting with loved ones! Although everyone has their own personal comfort levels for size and location of social gatherings, (as of April 2021) Virginia is currently open for indoor gatherings of up to 50 people, outdoor gatherings of up to 100 people, and public event venues operating at 30% capacity, with a 500-person maximum for indoor venues (no maximum for outdoor venues).

While these guidelines are encouraging for people to be able to start to get back to “normal,” it is important to consider what this new normal will look like. Social distancing and safety precautions should continue to be maintained in order to protect both guests and staff. Having the conversation with your vendors about their specific COVID-19 protocols is a great starting point for keeping everyone as safe as possible while they reunite with loved ones and make up for lost time! Whether it’s a summertime barbecue, an intimate Father’s Day get together with family, or the dream wedding you’ve had to postpone and are patiently waiting for, there is so much to look forward to this summer!



SUMMER BBQS

The summer holidays provide a great opportunity to casually reunite, get outside, and spend time catching up with friends and family, while still distancing and enjoying the fresh air. With Memorial Day weekend as the unofficial summer kick off, many people give thanks to those who gave the ultimate sacrifice to protect our freedoms by cherishing time with loved ones. Holiday weekends are a great time to relax, enjoy the sun and water, and grill out with your favorite people. The summer cookout possibilities are endless, but some of our favorites include Beers & Brats for Father’s Day, an All-American Grill for 4th of July, Hawaiian Luau for Labor Day, and a festive Oktoberfest to send summer out with a bang!



Beers & Brats

Chef grilling assorted bratwurst with Dijon mustard and rolls

Buffet:

- Grilled veggie skewers
- Homemade potato salad
- Homemade macaroni and cheese (or Pasta salad)
- Summer fruit salad in a watermelon bowl

Dessert:

- Strawberry shortcake
- Assorted brownies and blondies



All-American BBQ

Chef grilling barbecue chicken, hamburgers and hot dogs with buns

Buffet:

- Coleslaw
- Macaroni salad
- Baked beans
- Corn on the cob
- Assorted chips and pretzels

Dessert:

- Ice cold watermelon
- Cherry & Apple pies



Hawaiian Luau

Chef grilling Hawaiian beef kebabs and Mahi-Mahi kebabs with green peppers and pineapple

Buffet:

- Tropical fruit salad
- Paella: saffron rice with tomatoes, mussels, shrimp, chicken and baby green peas
- Pacific Coast cole slaw with fresh cilantro
- Miniature ginger-laced pancakes with julienne vegetables and soy dip
- An elaborate bread display with a variety of rolls and Hawaiian bread

Dessert:

- Assorted fresh melons
- Coconut cream pie



Oktoberfest

Chef grilling assorted bratwurst with Dijon mustard and rolls

Buffet:

- Roasted suckling pig accompanied by pulled pork
- Homemade German potato salad
- Red cabbage salad with apples and onions
- Potato pancakes with applesauce

Dessert:

- Mini apple strudel
- Assorted homemade cookies



WEDDINGS

Over the last year and a half, so many couples have had their wedding plans derailed due to the pandemic. Thankfully, with things opening up, couples are finally able to start planning again and celebrating their special days! While couples have faced many disheartening changes such as their original wedding dates, venues and/or guest lists, now, more than ever, there's a profound appreciation for the little things, which makes these events that much more special. We look forward to helping you celebrate your love with the most important people in your lives!

Weddings "Royal Gala"

Hors D'oeuvres

- Assorted Sushi
- Chicken Polynesian with chutney butter
- Fresh grapes rolled in Chevre with walnuts and chives
- Rolls to be passed and wine poured as your guests are seated

Ristorante Bonaroti

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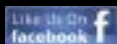
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First Course:

Smoked salmon roll with caviar and pumpernickel

Salad:

Baby spinach with sugar-coated almonds and mandarin oranges, tossed in balsamic vinaigrette

Second Course:

- French service entrée 1: Chicken Wellington: tender breast of chicken wrapped in puff pastry with duxelle, served with wild mushroom sauce
- French service entrée 2: Grilled swordfish marinated with cilantro and lime
- A colorful medley of julienne vegetables
- Orzo Florentine



MILESTONE EVENTS

With things opening up, we can finally make up for those celebrations we missed, as well as look forward to the milestones up ahead! Now is the time to honor the class of 2021 with a memorable graduation party and/or college sendoff, or celebrate those milestone birthdays, anniversaries and events with your loved ones. Whether keeping it small and simple with a brunch consisting of quiche, pastries, salad, smoked salmon and a bubbly bar, or serving up an elaborate cocktail buffet complete with heavy hors d'oeuvres, a raw bar and a carving station, and a full open bar, the combination of good food and good company will make it a celebration to remember!

Graduation Party: "Italian Feast"

Chef grilling Italian sausage with peppers and onions and Italian chicken rubbed with olive oil and fresh herbs

Buffet:

- Tortellini pasta salad with mozzarella, plum tomatoes and fresh basil vinaigrette
- Meatball submarines
- Calamari salad with baby pasta, sea shells, diced peppers and green peas
- Caesar salad of crisp romaine lettuce, tossed in a creamy Caesar dressing with croutons
- A variety of rolls and butter

Dessert:

- Fresh melon balls wrapped with prosciutto
- Tiramisu

Milestone Events: "Cocktail Reception"

Hors D'oeuvres:

- Italian marinated shrimp wrapped with snow peas
- Spinach and feta triangles, wrapped in phyllo and baked to perfection
- Cajun duck bites with Creole sauce
- Red bliss potato baskets filled with sour cream and caviar
- Belgian endives with smoked salmon mousse
- A variety of fresh melons wrapped with prosciutto

Raw Bar:

Pine Island oysters and Cherrystone clams shucked to order onto giant beds of fresh seaweed with cocktail sauce, lemons and oyster crackers at side

Fruit and cheese:

Fresh strawberries flowing onto trays of mounded grapes and an array of domestic and imported cheese and crackers, garnishes with dried dates and figs

Carving Station:

Succulent beef tenderloin and boneless pork loin stuffed with plums, served on slices of French bread with condiments of Horseradish sauce, Dijon mustard and mustard caper sauce ♦

Michael Evans is chef-owner of [Helga's Caterers](http://Helga'sCaterers.com), a family-owned, full-service catering company with over 35 years of experience in providing fine food and excellent service for all of your catering needs throughout the D.C. Metro Area.

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▲ BAZIN'S ON CHURCH

Vienna | American | \$\$\$

Set on historic Church Street in the heart of Vienna, Bazin's on Church continues to exceed the expectations of the town's discriminating diners. Chef Patrick Bazin's modern American cuisine is simply extraordinary. Stop in for a drink at the bar or a delicious meal in their comfortable and casual dining area. Reservations are strongly recommended.

111 Church St. | 703.255.7212
www.bazinsonchurch.com



▲ MAGGIO'S

Vienna | Greek-Italian | \$

Specializing in Greek and Italian cuisine with American favorites, Maggio's offers award winning Mediterranean selections such as Greek festive rotisserie chicken, classic gyros, souvlaki, moussaka, pita wraps, and falafel, as well as their popular marinated flame broiled lamb chops, and Italian specialties. Committed to healthy eating, they use only the freshest, high quality ingredients and cooking methods.

21 Maple Ave E | 703.938.7777
www.maggiosvienna.com



▲ RISTORANTE BONAROTI

Vienna | Italian | \$\$

Warm and romantic, Bonaroti's is a favorite of Italian fine dining patrons. Enjoy an extensive wine list and culinary creations made of the freshest and finest ingredients from Italy. There is everything from calamari to antipasti dishes and entrées of seafood, veal, and lamb.

428 Maple Ave E. | 703.281.7550
www.bonarotirestaurant.com



▲ NOSTOS

Vienna | Greek | \$\$

Presenting a fresh take on Greek cuisine, Nostos offers fresh food in sharing-sized portions. Try one of their 50 different wines from different regions of Greece to complement your lunch or dinner. The menu showcases new and traditional Greek dishes, as well as fresh fish from the Mediterranean Sea.

8100 Boone Blvd. | 703.760.0690
www.nostosrestaurant.com



▲ CAFE OGGI

McLean | Italian | \$\$

For over 27 years, Café Oggi has reflected a pure and newfound combination of Italy's old world sophistication with McLean's contemporary novelty. With authentic preparations in an inviting and warm atmosphere, Café Oggi aims to please. Pasta, fresh fish, succulent veal, a notable wine list, and more.

6671 Old Dominion Dr | 703.442.7360
www.cafeoggi.com



▲ NOT YOUR AVERAGE JOE'S

Reston | American | \$\$

Enjoy fun and eclectic cuisine from every corner of the globe. Not Your Average Joe's began with the goal to create a unique neighborhood place where people know your name, where the food and prices are great, and where you feel special without dressing up. The large restaurant features a full bar, two seasonal outdoor patios, an open kitchen, and a wood-burning oven, all in a bright and polished atmosphere.

1845 Fountain Dr. Reston, VA | 571-234-8200
www.notyouraveragejoes.com/reston/



▲ DOLCE VELOCE

Fairfax | Italian | \$

Stop at a bar along the piazza in sunny Sardinia, or linger at a trattoria in Venice's San Marco Square and you will be invited to experience cicchetti (chi-KET-tee), small plates or side dishes from the legendary cuisine of Italy. Now you can also enjoy cicchetti closer to home, at Dolce Veloce. These small plates offer a variety of flavors, from seafoods, salumes, and salads to skewered meats, risotto, and Mediterranean plates of olives and cheese.

10824 Fairfax Boulevard | 703.385.1530
dolceveloce.com



▲ CAFE RENAISSANCE

Vienna | French | \$\$

Touted as the most romantic dinner in Northern Virginia, Cafe Renaissance is an elegant restaurant in the true sense of Parisian tradition and is Vienna's most sophisticated dining experience. An old-world destination with an enormous wine list and ornate, gilded rooms, its cuisine is classic French with a modern twist and an Italian accent.

163 Glyndon St SE | 703.938.3311
www.caferenaissance.com



▲ ZEFFIRELLI RISTORANTE ITALIANO

Herndon | Italian | \$\$

This upscale, white-tablecloth Tuscan-Italian restaurant serves pasta, seafood and popular veal chops. If you are looking for a quiet Italian dinner in Herndon, this is the place. They have great food, amazing service and make a wonderful cappuccino.

728 Pine St, Herndon, VA | 703-318-7000
zeffirelliristorante.com



▲ L'AUBERGE CHEZ FRANCOIS

Great Falls | French | \$\$\$

Internationally acclaimed, L'Auberge Chez François transports diners to the Alsatian countryside in this rustic French country inn, nestled among lush woods and fragrant gardens. Well-known as the place to celebrate special occasions for more than 60 years, L'Auberge Chez François offers an authentic menu, full of the flavors of Alsace and traditional French cuisine. Expect professional fine dining service, extreme attention to detail in a casual yet elegant atmosphere. Reservations recommended.

332 Springvale Rd, Great Falls, VA | 703.759.3800
www.laubergechezfrancois.com

Back-to-School Prep Essentials

Is Your Family Ready for a New School Year?

by Kimberly Blaker



The start of a new school year with a new routine that takes over most of the kids' waking hours is a significant transition from the long lazy days of the summer. Whether your child is just beginning school for the first time or a seasoned student, a new grade level or school with new teachers, classes, and expectations requires an adjustment. Students and parents alike may feel a range of emotions as the back-to-school season quickly approaches. So ease your family's anxieties by adequately preparing for and setting the tone for the new school year.

Establish rules and routines

A new school year means a fresh start and transition from your schedule over the break. Even from one school year to the next, it's smart to reevaluate school year routines and rules. Your kids are a year older and might be in new schools and have new teachers, different schedules, or be ready for new responsibilities. So sit down as a family to discuss rules and expectations while also allowing your child some input. Setting clear expectations ahead of time can help things go more smoothly.

Travel safety between home and school, whether your kids walk, ride a bike, take the bus, or carpool with another student or family is especially important.

Here are some things you'll want to determine:

- Each person's responsibilities
- A daily schedule
- A family calendar for the year, months, and weeks.
- Different expectations between weekdays and weekends
- Screen time restrictions
- Rules around playdates or spending time with friends
- Homework routines and expectations
- When kids need to be awake, eating breakfast, and ready to walk out the door
- How kids will get to and from school and related expectations

Take safety precautions

Your child's safety is a significant concern when heading back to school and away from your watchful eye. Travel safety between home and school, whether your kids walk, ride a bike, take the bus, or carpool with another student or family is especially important. So, create a safety plan for your kids before school resumes.

A reliable way to communicate with your child is essential to her safety. Phones are available that are appropriate for kids of all different ages. Just be aware of your school's policy regarding devices and make sure your child abides by the rules. For younger children, screenless devices like the Relay, KidsConnect, or Gizmo Watch are excellent options. These devices are designed specifically for children's safety and come with features like GPS trackers and the ability to communicate with limited contacts.

Another useful way to protect your kids is to use location tracking apps. If you have older kids with phones, there are many apps for sharing or tracking locations using their phones. Options include GPS tracking or geofencing, where you define a certain perimeter for your child and get notified if your child leaves that area.

Be sure to set expectations that your kids check-in at certain times and before leaving or arriving at a new destination. Also, designate trusted emergency contacts and plans for unexpected events and make sure your child knows who you've chosen.

Schedule routine check-ups

Get your child up to date on health screenings, especially vision and hearing tests, before the school year starts. If your child has problems with hearing or vision, it can severely impact their education. Discovering and addressing any issues ahead of time will prevent unnecessary struggles and reduce or eliminate their need for support or accommodations. Young kids often don't realize they have a fixable problem or are unable to articulate their difficulties. So seeing a doctor or professional for screenings is essential to getting young children off to a good start.

Stay up to date on immunizations

Part of setting up a successful school year is ensuring your child and their classmates are protected from preventable diseases with immunizations. Schools are a hotbed for spreading germs and viruses because of the volume of students and lack of personal space and hygiene. Many schools also require certain immunizations. So you'll need to provide proof that your child is up to date unless you have a medical waiver.

Prepare for special needs or accommodations

If your child has special needs related to school and learning, take that into consideration. Review any documented plans that are in place like a 504 or IEP. Teachers should have this information if it has already been created for your child. But it's a good idea to refresh yourself on your

child's needs and established supports so you can advocate on your child's behalf. Also, plan ahead for special accommodations to help your student at home, too. This may include hiring a tutor or setting a regular homework schedule.

Get school supplies ready

Kids must have the supplies they need to support their learning. Find out what's on your child's supply list and see what you can provide your child or their class. Even if your child's school provides the supplies, it's good to have supplies at home for homework or projects. Ask your child's teacher what would be helpful to have at home. Basic supplies usually include at least a backpack, pens, pencils, paper, and a binder or folders.

If you don't have the financial means to cover your child's supplies, help may be available. Check with your child's school or the public library to see if they offer assistance or know of any programs that can help.

Don't forget to build excitement!

Even kids who are excited about getting back to school and seeing their classmates often feel some amount of trepidation about a new school year. Going back to school should be a time of celebration and new beginnings. So treat it like a holiday and start a back-to-school family tradition! Have your child choose a special outfit for the first day of school. Talk with your kids about what everyone is excited about and looking forward to in the new school year. Also, make school year resolutions and help your kids set realistic goals. Involve your kids in the process of preparing for the new school year, and find ways to make it fun, to ensure a smooth transition. ♦

So treat it like a holiday and start a back-to-school family tradition!

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

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ments, dermaplaning, eyebrow tinting, eyelash tinting, and waxing. She has been a licensed and practicing Master Aesthetician since 1998.

Malisse Skin Bar opened its doors in January 2020. Before opening her medical spa, Mali worked for Red Door, where she developed relationships and made many friendships with her colleagues. Any one of us would have a hard time opening and staying in business the year the COVID-19 pandemic started, but that didn't seem to stop Mali. Like many business owners, she had no choice but to close her doors temporarily. Not all businesses were so lucky. Some of the same colleagues she worked with at Red Door reached out to Mali when Red Door closed permanently because of COVID. Mali saw this as an opportunity to support and empower her former colleagues and friends. She spent the closure re-configuring her space to accommodate multiple services, and she reopened the doors on May 29, 2020.

When asked what makes Malisse Skin Bar so special: she stated, "We provide quality over quantity. We want nothing but the best for our clients and patients. When they come in, we want them to feel at home and as if they are part of our family." Her love for her craft and her clients showed as she spoke. Everything from the velvet, contemporary chairs to the elegant touches around the space displayed her acute attention to the fine details.

Hidden Gem in Vienna **Malisse Skin Bar**

By Maranda Llewellyn

Tucked away in a group of brick office buildings on Church Street in Vienna, you will find Malisse Skin Bar. I have driven by these cookie-cutter buildings dozens of times and never thought to investigate. I was told about a Master Aesthetician named Mali Amini in Vienna. She was named the Best Aesthetician in the Washington, D.C. area by Allure magazine three times. With this information, I felt it necessary to investigate. I reached out to Mali, and she was happy

to speak with me and share her story. Mali wasn't always an Aesthetician. Although she has always had a passion for skincare, she graduated with a degree in Mathematics and Business and worked in accounting before going back to school for aesthetics. After beginning her studies, Mali realized that she was passionate about making people feel and look their best. Mali received advanced training in the fields of skincare, aesthetics, chemical peels, microdermabrasion, micro-needling, glycolic treat-

She attributes her success to her loyal clients and her talented team. If you go to her website malisseskinbar.com/client-reviews, you can read all of the rave reviews for Mali and her team of experts. Here are just a couple that I have selected to share.

Alice B. – “Mali and Roxana have been my go-to aestheticians over the years. Based on my own experience, Mali does the BEST facials... If you want the most beautiful brows, see Roxana. Both receptionists, Dora and Annie, are the most friendly gals.”

And the gentlemen love Malisse Skin Bar just as much as the ladies!

Anthony S.–“The personalized service and care here is GREAT! All the staff is friendly and taking extra precautions with Covid-19. Sylvia is a long-time, well-educated, master nail tech who I use, and she is amazing! She can turn the worst hands and feet into the best thing walking the streets!”

I chose to indulge in a deep tissue massage with Alla and a facial with Karin, and I could not have been more impressed.



The personal care and attention these ladies provide are exceptional. Alla released tension in my body in places I didn't even realize I was holding it, and Karin's knowledge and gentle touch made me feel I was in expert hands. I will be scheduling appointments to see these talented ladies again in the future.

Between Mali and the rest of her team at Malisse Skin Bar, they have over a centu-

ry's worth of experience. You can book an appointment to experience what all they have to offer by calling 703- 539- 8300 or going to malisseskinbar.com/booking to schedule services online. Check Malisse Skin Bar out for yourself! Whether you are looking for a facial, massage, nail care, pedicure, or medical aesthetics, including botox or fillers, they have it all! I am sure that you will not be disappointed. ♦

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11 Tips to Preparing Your Home For Your Summer Vacation

By Linda Barrett

If you are traveling this summer, there is more to do to get ready than just pack your suitcase. Here are important tips for leaving your house for summer vacation.

When you leave your home for an extended period of time, like a summer vacation, there are things you need to do to ensure that your home remains safe while you're away. Here are some tips from Golden Rule Home Watch & Concierge you can employ the next time you leave.

Turn off the water

Unless your lawn relies on a sprinkler system, locate the water main in your home and turn off the water. "Statistically, your chances of having a water leak at a toilet

valve or icemaker are pretty low, but billions of dollars of water damage happen each year—and it has to happen to someone," said Dan Lender, owner of Golden Rule Home Watch.

Set your HVAC system

Don't waste energy and money to excessively cool your home when you're not there, but don't turn your HVAC system off. You'll want air circulating throughout the home. Set the temperature higher than normal (78°F) and let it do its work filtering out humidity and maintaining a constant environment to prevent mold and mildew from forming.



Check ALL windows and doors

Ensure that all windows and exterior doors are securely closed and locked, and don't forget garage or basement doors. "You'd be surprised how many times we find a window or door left unlocked or even open when we check a home," Lender said.

Remove valuables from sight

Remove electronics, computers and other valuables from areas where they might be seen through windows or doors. Place small valuables inside drawers or cabinets. Close the curtains or blinds on the sides and rear of your home, but leave the front curtains and blinds as you normally would have them.

Put interior lights on timers

Think about your normal patterns and set lights in rooms you use regularly on timers. This gives the appearance that someone is at home and performing their usual routine. Consider adding a radio on a timer to provide an additional presence.

Cancel deliveries

"Nothing indicates unoccupied house more than cards, flyers and door hangers at the front entrance, or numerous newspapers in the driveway. Cancel regular deliveries, hold your mail, and have someone clear your home on a regular basis," Lender advised.



Remove fresh foods

Don't leave fresh foods on your counter-tops or perishables in your refrigerator. Dispose of them prior to leaving your home. You don't want to come home to a moldy mess!

Plan for lawn or storm care

If you'll be away for an extended vacation, hire a lawn service. An overgrown lawn is a sure giveaway that nobody's home. Likewise, summer often brings strong storms. Line up someone to check for storm damage like downed limbs, torn shingles or debris in your yard. If storm damage does occur, have arrangements for someone to

clear the debris and contact you on how you would like to proceed.



Don't post your trip on social media

Resist the temptation to announce your trip or post vacation pictures while you're away. Wait until you return home to post those fabulous travel pictures. Don't tip off potential criminals to your absence.

Don't hide a key

Criminals know where homeowners hide keys, or they may spot a friend or neighbor accessing or replacing a hidden key. Place your key with a trusted family member or neighbor if you must leave one, or leave it with a bonded Home Watch service. "Golden Rule offers KeyWatch where we will hold a key to your home in order to provide access to those persons you authorize to enter your home. This may include a family member, neighbor, or in case of emergency, firefighters, police, or repair professionals," said Lender.

Hire a Home Watch service

"Say something goes wrong, like a pipe bursts in your home," Lender described. "You'll want to 1) be aware of the problem, and 2) get it fixed as quickly as possible to mitigate damage to your house and its contents. With our Home Watch clients, we visit the home on a predetermined schedule, and notify clients if we discover anything out of the ordinary. If we find something like a burst pipe, we'll offer to line up repair services on your behalf. We can enable access for the repairperson and remain with them to monitor and approve their work, and report the results back to you. It provides that extra peace of mind that can help make your summer vacation more enjoyable."

A Home Watch service can perform specialized or concierge-level tasks, like feeding fish, monitoring your pool, or starting and maintaining cars left behind. "Each client has a set of unique requests," Lender said. A Home Watch service can also put your house into "home watch mode" after you leave, and prepare it for your return by arranging cleaning, changing linens, setting the temperature or stocking the refrigerator with the basics.



If you think having technology is the answer, think again

"People tell me all the time they have a security camera or a Ring doorbell. While we encourage use of these technologies, keep in mind that they only provide data points like an alarm or photo. If you're miles away, what can you do with this information? No technology or sensor replaces human eyes, ears and feet on the street. You will still need someone to check your home and report back with what is going on," Lender explained. "That's where a Home Watch service is useful."

Use these tips the next time you head out of town to secure your home and ensure your peace of mind. ♦

Golden Rule Home Watch & Concierge uses the latest in technology and detailed personal inspections to watch your home while you're away. It serves home and business owners throughout Northern Virginia. www.goldenrulehomewatch.com.



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Specialties:

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Ginger P. King

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Designated Best Real Estate Agent by Washingtonian Magazine 2015 and #4 in the Company Top Ten in 2014, Ginger is a Life Member Northern Virginia Association Top Producer. She is a native and resident of Vienna, VA, and as the daughter of a builder, she loves residential real estate marketing and sales. Ginger is a licensed realtor in Virginia and Florida and specializes in residential real estate sales in Northern Virginia—especially, Vienna, Fairfax, Oakton and nearby. She has a number of real estate designations and enjoys tennis and golf.

Specialties:

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



ginger.king@cbmove.com
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465 Maple Ave West
Vienna, VA 22180



Richie Hanna

REAL ESTATE CUSTOMER SERVICE EXPERT

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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Lori Shafran

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With over 35 years of career experience in residential real estate sales, luxury home sales and marketing, office leasing and real estate settlement services, Lori has in-depth knowledge and experience in the Northern Virginia housing market and provides her clients with a comprehensive level of support in buying or selling their home.

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 single-family 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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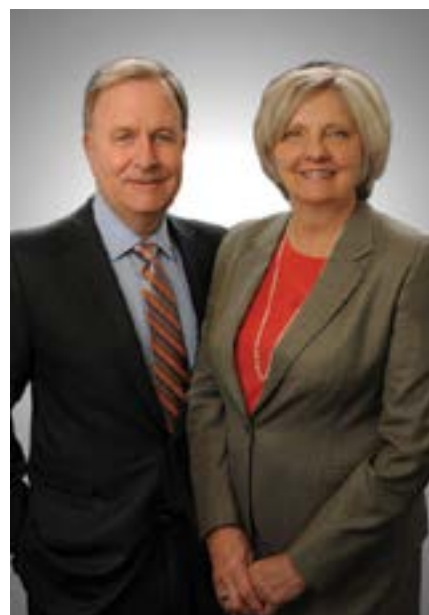
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Dave and Joanne Adams

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After 19 years as a retail business executive with extensive marketing and negotiation skills, JoAnne transitioned into Real Estate. Dave served 21 years with the United States Secret Service before transitioning into Real Estate. His unique knowledge of Northern Virginia and the Washington D.C. area has proven beneficial to their clients. Dave and JoAnne have been Northern Virginia residents since 1991 and work together as a team. They understand the stresses of relocating, having moved several times when Dave worked for the Federal government. Dave's relationships here and abroad, their knowledge of sophisticated database technology, analytical approach to tasks and commitment to service, honesty and integrity are the cornerstones of the Dave and JoAnne Adams Group.

Specialties:

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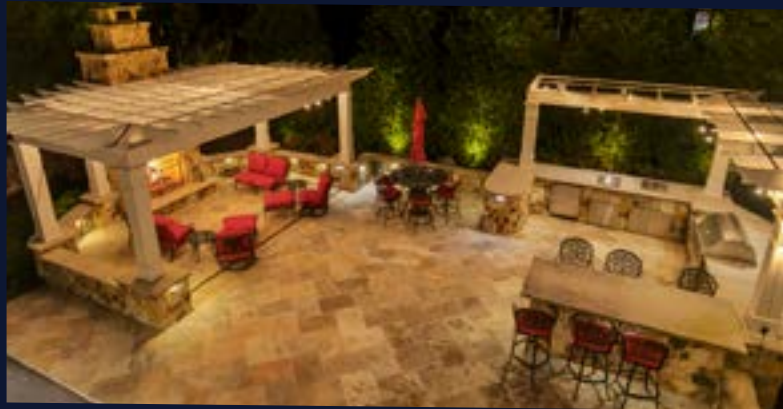
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\$2,822,500



Every part of this home feels like it is an escape from the “real world”. It even has a ventilation system that purifies the air in the whole home this home is full of things things that are a definite rare find. When you drive up the asphalt driveway, you will see not only a wonderfully landscaped front yard but a beautiful water feature as well. As you walk into the front door, you are greeted by a two story foyer that feels open and welcoming. On your right is a formal living room which is connected to both the formal dining room and a sunroom with fireplace. There is a door in the dining room that will lead you out to a covered porch, perfect for enjoying the summer weather without getting sunburned. Stepping out of the covered porch, you find yourself on the rear patio of your dreams. With an outdoor kitchen with grill and bar to the covered sitting area with a fireplace to keep you warm as you relax. As you walk a bit further into the home, you will find yourself in the gourmet kitchen that offers you everything you could want. With a giant center island with a gas cooktop to the double wall ovens, this kitchen is perfect not only for family dinners but also for entertaining guests. The kitchen also has a TV built into the cabinetry so that you can cook and watch the game or your favorite show. The kitchen is open to a massive 2 story family room with soaring windows and a corner fireplace. The second level has an owner’s suite and 4 secondary bedrooms. The Owner’s Suite brings a feeling of luxury with its high ceilings, separate sitting room with fireplace, and a balcony overlooking the rear yard. The owners bathroom has a large soaking tub and a separate shower with multiple shower heads that you will never want to leave. The home has so much to offer that you absolutely must see it to believe it.

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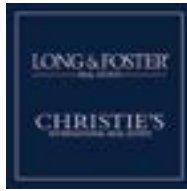
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FRANKLIN GLEN

FAIRFAX, VA

\$774,000

Amazing, large, five-bedrooms-UPSTAIRS home with private flat rear yard on a cul-de-sac!!! Terrific open white kitchen with center island overlooking breakfast area with bay window and family room with raised-hearth wood-burning fireplace. Awesome owner's suite with luxury bath with separate tub and shower. Recreation room with wood-paneled walls, rugged work-out room, bonus den and third full bath. Unbeatable community of Franklin Glen with pool and trails.

LOADED WITH PRIDE

OAKTON, VA

\$842,000

Wonderful colonial in fabulous Berryland Farm!!! Great floorplan including kitchen open to step-down family room with French doors to large, relaxing and secluded deck. Welcoming entry foyer opening to light-filled living room and sought-after main floor library. Terrific owner's suite with private bath and walk-in closet. Awesome lower level with recreation room, bonus den and third full bath. Parkland right across the street leading to Cross County Trail. You will love what you see!



COMMUNITY POND

OAKTON, VA

\$1,060,000

Fabulous upgraded colonial with three gorgeous levels including extended sunroom and remodeled kitchen overlooking open family room. Stunning master suite with sitting room and luxury bath with separate tub and shower. All baths updated, shiny hardwood floors, finished lower level and private nearly-one-acre lot overlooking acres of community common area with pond. This original-owner "Beauty" has been well-loved!



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Top 10 Most Expensive New Listings

Information courtesy of Bright MLS



2900 K ST NW №601

Washington, DC

Architecture: **Penthouse Unit/Flat/Apartment**

List Price: **\$12,000,000**

Privacy On The Potomac - Dramatic 6,000 Sf Unit With A Private Pool And 3,400 Sf Terrace. Situated on the Georgetown Waterfront this magnificent unit offers a unique oasis limited to only six residences. Sun filled rooms have easy access to amazing terrace. The primary bedroom includes a stunning bathroom and two additional bedrooms and bath to complete the first level. The second level has a study or bedroom, full kitchen, sauna, spa and private gym and full bath #4. Each floor opens to an inviting terrace with panoramic unparalleled views of the Potomac River, Kennedy Center, Washington Monument and beyond. 2 Garage parking spaces, storage. Concierge in lobby. By appointment - 24 hour notice required.



749 CHAIN BRIDGE RD

McLean, VA

Architecture: **Contemporary**

List Price: **\$8,500,000**

Take advantage of this rare opportunity to own a newly built contemporary home by The Galileo Group at one of the most exclusive addresses in the Washington, D. C. metropolitan area. Located on nearly two acres on prestigious Chain Bridge Road in McLean, this 5 bedroom, 8 bathroom home with 5 car garage is truly a masterpiece. The open floor plan can accommodate large-scale entertaining as well as warm, inviting family life. With many areas for gathering, wellness and entertainment – including a pool, spa, media room and gym, this home is a must-see for any interested parties.



21281 BELLE GREY LN

Upperville, VA

Architecture: **French**

List Price: **\$7,950,000**

Welcome to 21281 Belle Grey Farm in beautiful Upperville Virginia, where you can enjoy breathtaking sunrises and sunsets on this spectacular 122 acre equestrian estate. This unforgettable farm includes multiple residences for the Owner (3Br, 3 Ba), Manager, (3 Br, 1Ba) and Staff (1 3Br, 1 Ba, 1 2Br, 2Ba and 2 1Br's 1 Ba units) and includes an ideal site for your custom home. There is a 20 stall main barn, an additional 8 stall show barn each fully equipped to pamper the most discriminant equestrian. Enjoy the 220' X 80' indoor arena, 220' X 180' outdoor arena, an 5/8 mile exercise track, each with premium all-weather footing, multiple crossed fenced paddocks, open fields, organic orchards, 2 ponds, one with hydraulic pump, a two-story climate control workshop, 3 additional storage and equipment buildings.



2601 FOXHALL RD NW

Washington, DC

Architecture: **Colonial**

List Price: **\$7,750,000**

This Williamsburg-inspired brick colonial and property have recently undergone a total transformation and expansion thoughtfully completed to delight the next fortunate owner. A real strength of the home, though, is its ability to encourage indoor/outdoor living with amenities like a screened-in, covered, outdoor family room with fireplace and ventilated grilling station/kitchen, walls of windows, multiple French doors leading to the garden or stone terrace and a 30' x 15' heated swimming pool.



8548-A GEORGETOWN PIKE

McLean, VA

Architecture: **Colonial**

List Price: **\$6,495,000**

Just 20 minutes from downtown Washington DC, 10 minutes from Tysons Corner Malls and beyond the trees at the end of a private drive, this McLean estate offers unmatched levels of privacy, security and tranquility. The main house currently is set up as six bedrooms all with en-suite bathrooms. The current main floor TV/Lounge room can also be converted back to a second master bedroom per the original floor plan for a 7th bedroom in the main house. Along each side of the home sits an equally beautiful stone guest home, one with a two-car garage and one with a four-car garage with three commercial car lifts creating a seven-car garage.



825 CLINTON PL

McLean, VA

Architecture: **French**

List Price: **\$5,800,000**

his one-of-a-kind extraordinary home with quintessential European style and modern elegance nestled on a quiet cul-de-sac in Langley Forest. Marble floors, stone fireplaces, oversized windows allowing the home to be flooded with sunlight! A relaxing retreat awaits in the Owner's Suite that has a Breakfast Bar, luxurious Bath with separate vanities and custom Dressing Room with walk-in Closet. Walkout lower level features the Theater, Wet Bar, Fitness Room with an incredible spa Bath with steam shower.



822 CLINTON PL

McLean, VA

Architecture: **Colonial, Craftsman, Farmhouse/National Folk, Manor, Transitional**

List Price: **\$5,750,000**

In 2019, Artisan Builders custom built this masterpiece for the owners and just one year later, the owner is relocating, giving you the opportunity of a lifetime. Pull into the pea gravel motor court and walk through the entryway, you will find an elegant foyer with reclaimed oak hardwood floors in a herringbone pattern. The kitchen is state of the art with a gorgeous hood over the wolf range. The upper level has a library with a fireplace, an owner's suite that has huge walk in closets, a moving deck, and a bath that is sexy and functional.



448 RIVER BEND RD

Great Falls, VA

Architecture: **Manor**

List Price: **\$5,500,000**

448 River Bend Road is impressive in scale and design, with breathtaking sight lines and refined architectural details at every turn. Beautifully presented on 5 acres in Great Falls, this estate prominently spans a total of 19,250 SF and includes 7 Bedroom Suites, 9 Full Baths, and 3 Half Baths. The entire residence consists of an exquisite Main House, a Pool House, an attached 3-Car Garage, a Swimming Pool, Basketball Court, and a Private Dock.



7720-A GEORGETOWN PIKE

McLean, VA

Architecture: **Transitional**

List Price: **\$5,499,000**

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.



3043 P ST NW

Washington, DC

Architecture: **Twin/Semi-Detached**

List Price: **\$5,495,000**

Stunning 6 BR / 4.5 BA semi-detached house with gated parking and large blue stone patio! Fully renovated in 2016, this federal style home features all new maple hardwood floors, designer fixtures, and many more updates throughout. Along with its grand Main Level with Chef's Kitchen, Dining Room, & Living Room, Upper Level 1 features a gorgeous Owner Suite and Owner Bath. Also an expansive Lower Level with Family Room, Bar, Additional Bedroom, & Laundry, LL enjoys access to patio. Complete with 1-Car Gated Driveway.



Ask an Advisor: About Being a Woman Caught in the Sandwich Generation

By Rose Price, CFP[®], AIF[®]

Many women find themselves part of the generation, “sandwiched” between caring for their aging parents and young or even grown children, often providing support while holding down full-time jobs. This role can be challenging, especially when it comes to finances.

With the rising cost of living in the DC-metro area, trying to meet day-to-day expenses while saving for retirement (and possibly college) can be challenging. When you add the financial challenges of caring for aging parents and supporting adult children, the financial burden can seem overwhelming. Below is a list of three things anyone caught in the sandwich generation can do to reduce some of the uncertainty and help ease the burden.

1. Talk with your family about finances

Even though it may be difficult to talk with your parents and children about financial realities, try to do so early on. If you wait until a medical or financial crisis forces you to act, you may not have the time or flexibility you need to make sound financial decisions.

Talking With Your Parents: Try to get a clear view of your parents’ finances, including insur-

ance, retirement savings, sources of income, and expenses. That way you can better understand what they can afford and where you may need to fill in any gaps. The goal is to get everyone thinking about the big picture and working to identify changes that could be made to reduce some of the risk.

If you can, sit down with your parents and discuss their essential living costs (expenses such as housing, food, insurance, and transportation) as well as their discretionary costs (expenses such as entertainment and travel). Compare essential expenses to steady sources of income, such as Social Security or pensions/annuity income (if they have any) then discuss the amount of money they are withdrawing from their retirement savings, investment accounts, or other funding sources and how long that money is likely to last.

Also, check into their health care plans. Try to identify sources that will pay for future health care expenses. Get details on their health and long-term care insurance, as well as any other available resources. Make sure they have a health care proxy and a living will in place.

Talking With Your Children: The discussion with your children may be similar in many ways, depending on their age. If your adult children

are depending on you to fund their expenses or are living with you rent free, you need to identify where they are falling short and work with them to come up with a plan for them to become financially independent.

If your children are college age, discuss with them your ability to fund their education. Your instinct may be to try to protect your children from financial realities, but it is important that they understand that college is not free, and that they may be expected to fund part (or all) of the cost. There are many options for reducing the out-of-pocket expenses of college including scholarships, local college, and work-study programs. Remember, your children can take out loans to fund their education—you cannot take out loans to fund your retirement.

2. Prioritize Saving

If you are in the sandwich generation it’s important to save as much as possible. It is hard to predict future expenses and having a fully funded emergency fund, and being on track with your retirement savings can go a long way in providing for your financial security. This is especially true if you have to take time off from work (and lose income) to care for parents.

Put your retirement first: Contribute as much as possible to your workplace retirement plan. At the very least, make sure you contribute up to any company match so you’re not leaving “free money” from your employer on the table. It is also important to avoid tapping into your retirement savings prematurely through loans or early withdrawals. Dipping into your retirement funds early removes the potential for tax-deferred growth and compounding, which can leave a serious dent in your retirement savings.

Prepare for college costs: If you aren’t already saving for your children’s college, you may want to consider starting. There are several tax-advantaged college savings accounts available. One is a 529 college savings plan account, which offers tax-deferred growth and federal income tax-free withdrawals for qualified higher education expenses. Many states offer a state tax deduction for annual contributions. Research 529 plans in your state to find out your options.

Save on health care: Health Savings Account’s (HSA) and Flexible Spending Account’s (FSA) are two popular savings accounts that allow you to save for healthcare expenses pre-tax and withdraw principal and earnings free from federal taxes for qualified medical expenses. Contact your employer’s benefits provider to find out if you are eligible to save in an FSA or HSA.

3. Protect Yourself and Your Family

Make sure you and your family have adequate insurance coverage to reduce the likelihood of an unexpected large medical expense derailing your financial security.

- **Health:** You cannot depend on Medicare to cover all of your parent's medical expenses. For example, most dental care is not covered by Medicare, and can be pricey.
- **Long Term Care:** Medicare also does not cover long-term care. Do you and your parents need long-term care insurance? The answer depends on your age, the cost of coverage, how long you might need coverage, and the types of benefits you want. So carve out the time to weigh your options.
- **Life & Disability:** With the needs of multiple generations on your shoulders, protecting your family from the risk of your disability or death may be more important than ever. Disability and life insurance can help make sure that your loved ones are cared for in the event that you are unable to work.

The reality is that managing the competing financial priorities of your parents, your children, and yourself can be stressful. So take control by discussing your families options, saving now for future expenses, and making sure you have the safety nets your family needs in place. A good financial advisor should be able to guide your family through these discussions and help you identify and potential shortfalls.

You or your family may have to adjust their expectations—from when you stop working, to where your kids go to college to how your aging parents spend their retirement. In the end, this is what families should do—work together to solve problems. Remember you do not have to handle this on your own. ♦

1. "Market Survey of Long-Term Care Costs" Genworth Cost of Care Survey, 2017

Note: Before investing, the investor should consider whether the investor's or beneficiary's home state offers any state tax or other benefits available only from that state's 529 Plan.

Author: Rose Price, CFP® AIF® is a partner at VLP Financial Advisors. She believes that strategic planning is the key to creating, protecting, and growing wealth. Rose offers a complementary initial consultation to anyone interested in investment advice and/or creating a financial plan.

Want to learn more?

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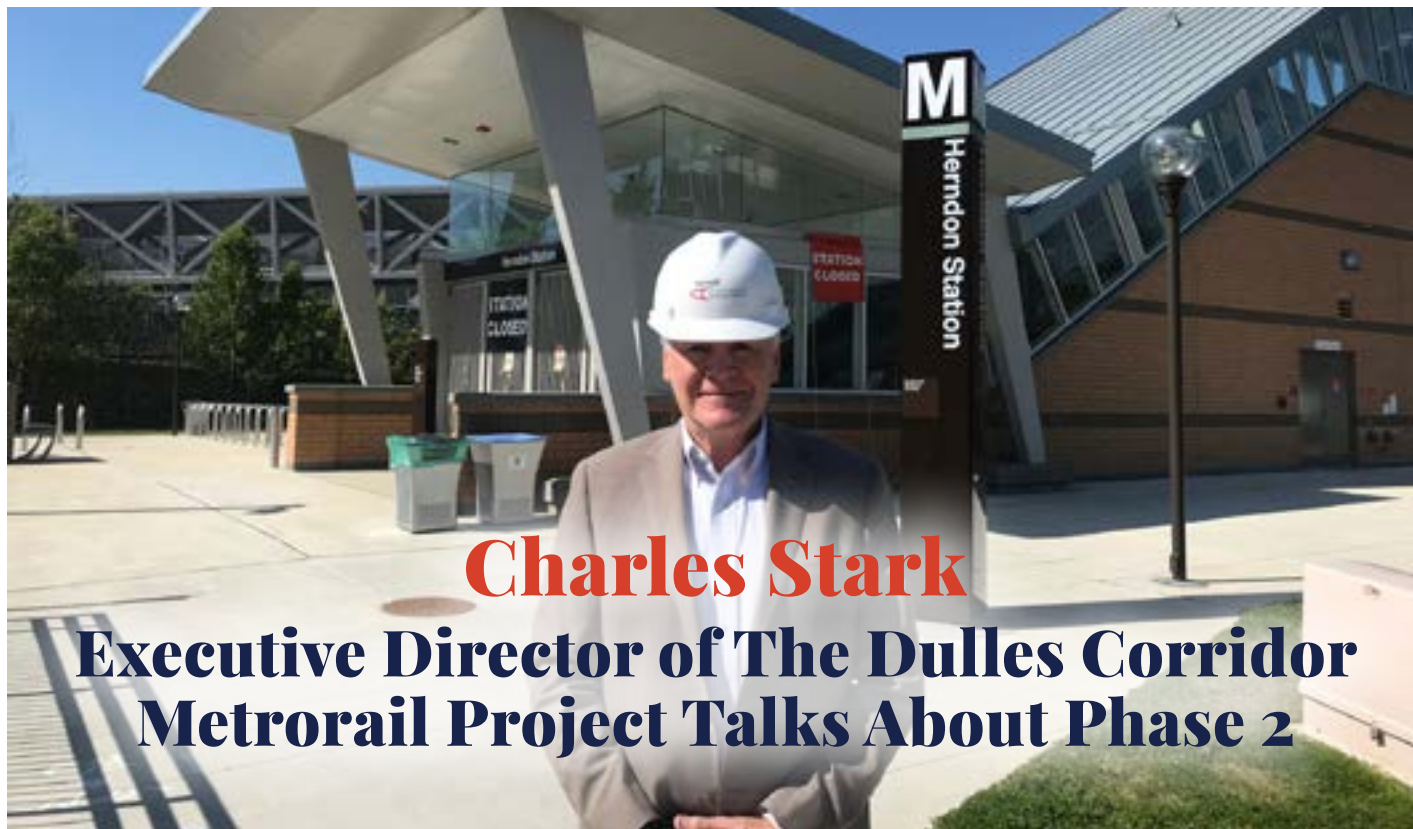
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Charles Stark Executive Director of The Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project Talks About Phase 2

For the past seven years, Charles Stark has been the executive director in charge of The Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project.

Now he has announced he will be retiring in July, a few weeks after announcing that the project, labeled the Silver Line and being built by the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, will be ready in September for turnover to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) to operate, improving the Dulles Corridor's connection to the regional transit system.

Stark is confident that the people and the talent is in place to finish the job and deliver a safe, durable, dependable transit line. He praised his team, some of whom had worked previously on Phase 1 and brought valuable history to the job.

Phase 2 of the Silver Line includes six stations, five of which reflect the design of Phase 1 stations, mostly closely mimicking the Wiehle-Reston East Station. However, Stark's favorite is the distinctive aerial Dulles Airport Station. The architecture

of that station, which sits across Saarinen Circle from the Main Terminal, gives a nod to the Eero Saarinen-designed terminal and includes a glass windscreen comprised of more than 300 panels.

"The station is very impressive and a great addition to the airport," said Stark, who shares Saarinen's Finnish roots.

The Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project was challenging because of the multiple agencies and partners involved. A major positive, however, has been the significant support the project has received from the business community and landowners who were early to recognize the potential economic benefits and opportunities for transit-oriented development in existing older areas such as Tysons as well as in new growth areas in western Fairfax and eastern Loudoun counties.

Stark is not surprised that Tysons Corner, 20 years ago a traffic-congested mass of low-rise development, is now referred to as a "city." Economists say more than 60 million square feet of new transit-oriented development sits in the development pipeline.

Stark came to the job after 40 years of successful stints with train/transit projects since an early opportunity after graduating from college led him to a post involving transit vehicles. His career includes management of new billion-dollar rail projects in Los Angeles and in New York City where he was involved in project management, project construction, design, safety and quality, and budgets. He holds a master's degree in civil engineering from Manhattan College and a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the City College of New York.

The veteran "railroad man" who fell in love with trains as a youngster riding the New York subway with his mom and brother to Macy's to shop has fond memories of Silver Line construction and great expectations for the increasing positive impacts the rail line continues to have on the economy of Northern Virginia, Dulles Airport and the entire region.

When he retires, Stark plans to head home to New Jersey, a bit closer to the New York subway. ♦



Tysons Silver Line Update: Progress Continues as Leaders Target September Deadline

Phase 2 of the Silver Line, which will extend Metrorail service from the Wiehle Reston East Station west to Ashburn, will be ready for transfer from the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (Airports Authority) to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) this fall.

Charles Stark, an Airports Authority executive vice president and head of rail project, said he is confident that construction will be done around Labor Day and that the project will meet WMATA's safety, reliability and durability criteria.

Readiness for transfer doesn't mean WMATA will immediately take control or establish an opening date.

What happens next?

WMATA will then conduct what is called "operational readiness testing." This step could take 90 days during which pre-revenue activities, such as training, additional testing, and asset management, take place to determine if the extension meets criteria to set at a revenue operation date.

At this point, that date is anticipated to be in February, but that date is subject to change depending on the Airports Authority's final completion date and the results of complex testing.

WMATA chief Paul Wiedefeld says that agency recently approved its Fis-

cal 2022 budget, which includes funding for opening Phase 2 and all of its six stations: Reston Town Center, Herndon, Innovation Center, Loudoun Gateway (Old Ox Road) and Ashburn.

Barring unforeseen problems, Stark is confident that the team is in place to complete the project on this schedule.

He said the contractors building it "know what needs to be done."

The Phase 2 mainline – the tracks including the aerial guideway at Dulles International Airport, all six stations and the associated electrical systems – is being built by Capital Rail Constructors, led by Clark Construction. Hensel-Phelps is the contractor building the Phase 2 rail yard and maintenance facility to support the entire regional rail system on more than 90 acres of Dulles Airport property.

Each contractor missed its respective contract completion date but is striving to be ready for a September turnover.

A major challenge to completion is finishing the connection of Phase 2 with Phase 1 just west of the Wiehle-Reston East Metrorail Station. So far, the project has needed to cancel service at that station to work on the connection. The Airports Authority is preparing to seek a final outage in late spring/early summer of this year.

As the fall date nears, the Airports Authority and WMATA will work together

to resolve problems and the Airports Authority will press its contractors to make sure outstanding issues are resolved. Also, as testing continues the Airports Authority remains dependent on WMATA to supply trains for testing at times when those same trains are needed.

According to industry leaders, it is not unusual for a project of the magnitude to experience problems along the way. Many are discovered only as inspections intensify near completion.

There have been significant milestones in recent months.

The complex stormwater control system, which initially delayed the project start by a year, has been completed and not only controls flow but treats stormwater before releasing it into creeks and streams.

The huge 300-plus glass panel windscreen at Dulles Airport Station across Saarinen Circle from the Main Terminal is complete and will shield passengers on the station platform.

Dulles Airport Station sits atop an existing pedestrian tunnel connecting the station and Parking Garage 1 to the Main Terminal. The tunnel has moving sidewalks to ease pedestrian access to and from the terminal. An exhibit showcasing the history of the Dulles area is being prepared for display throughout the tunnel. ♦

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