



BUSINESS BEAT

Economic Development News



February 6, 2020

Featured Business: **SEMIFREDDO Italian Cuisine**



We are thrilled to welcome SEMIFREDDO Italian Cuisine to Canterbury Shopping Center. After years of serving as Head Chef for Tortino Mare, just a few miles outside of Manassas, Chef Franklin Hernandez decided to open his own restaurant and has already created quite the buzz. For foodies, Chef Franklin is a bit of a rockstar known for his inspired made-from-scratch creations.

Originally from El Salvador, Chef Franklin came to the U.S. when he was 13 years old and by 17 was working in a family-owned pizza shop in Old Town Alexandria. It was there he discovered a passion for

cooking, and specifically, Italian cuisine. For the next 20 years Chef Franklin refined his craft at several acclaimed restaurants and was selected to prepare meals for the 2002 Italian Olympic Team in Salt Lake City, Utah. In 2017, he and a partner decided to open their own restaurant, Tortino Mare,

Featured Partner: **Mason Small Business Development Center**



For over 40 years, the Mason Small Business Development Center (SBDC) of George Mason University has provided business counseling, training and resources to help businesses thrive and grow.

In 2019, the City of Manassas and CenterFuse announced a new partnership with the Mason SBDC to establish an office at CenterFuse in Historic Downtown Manassas. While SBDC services were always available to local businesses, individuals had to travel to other localities

throughout Northern Virginia for assistance. The City's Economic Development Authority played an instrumental role in this partnership, further reinforcing the City's commitment to supporting small businesses and

decided to open their own restaurant, Tortino Mare, with Franklin as Head Chef.

After tremendous success, Chef Franklin has decided to open his own restaurant- and in doing so- fulfilling a lifelong dream. SEMIFREDDO Italian Cuisine is on schedule to open for lunch and dinner by March 1. The extensive menu will offer only the freshest ingredients and changing weekly specials.

Follow SEMIFREDDO Italian Cuisine on Facebook for updates on the grand opening, or visit www.semifreddoitaliancuisine.com.

Featured Property: **9113 Church Street**



Property Highlights:

RARE OPPORTUNITY! Located at the corner of Church and Battle streets in the heart of Historic Downtown, this property has it all: charm, accessibility and is just steps away from restaurants, shops and the Prince William District Court House.

Located within an Opportunity Zone, this gem is a perfect investment opportunity with a motivated seller. Partial floor is leased but seller is willing to consider a lease back for the entire second floor.

Building Features:

- 11 Private Offices
- 2 spacious Conference Room
- Reception/Waiting Area
- Storage & Server Rooms
- 4 Private Restrooms

The program provides counseling and training for aspiring or existing small business owners and entrepreneurs. Every business participating in the program receives thorough counseling support for any stage of its life-cycle. In addition to its general business guidance and access to capital marketing, programs tailored to the specific needs of small retailers, restaurants and government contractors will be available.

For the past year, senior business counselor, George Siragusa has provided these invaluable free resources to businesses once a week in Manassas. In that time "Coach S" has had a tremendous impact on small businesses in our community providing counseling to more than 50 clients and resulting in new business start-ups, job creation and retention and increased capital investment. To learn more about how you or your company can take advantage of this invaluable service, please visit: <https://masonsfdc.org/>.



For additional information,
please contact:

Brian Snook, 703-330-1224
brian@weber-rector.com

or

Patrick Small, 703-257-8881
psmall@manassasava.gov



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[How Tall is Too Tall in Manassas](#)

[With Micron and Amazon Under Construction, Leaders Turn Focus to the Workforce](#)

Calendar of Events

2/11, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m., SBDC: Start a Business (Legal & Admin Steps), Prince William Chamber of Commerce, 9720 Capital Court, [Free Registration](#)

2/11, 4:30 p.m., Novant Health UVA Health System Ribbon Cutting for State-of-the-Art Cardiac Catheterization Lab, 8700 Sudley Road

2/12, 9:00 a.m., 1 Million Cups, CenterFuse, 9071 Center Street

2/17, 10:00 a.m., The Goddard School Ribbon Cutting, 10405 Dumfries Road

2/27, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m., Prince William Chamber Business Awards, Hylton Performing Arts Center, 10900 University Boulevard, [RSVP](#)

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City of Manassas Economic Development Department

9027 Center Street, Suite 401, Manassas, VA 20110

Visit us online at ChooseManassas.org or call 703.257.8882

