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POSTMASTER:  
TIME-SENSITIVE  
MATERIAL  
REQUESTED IN HOME  
2/15/19



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OPEN SUN 2/17, 1-4



### Alexandria | \$1,825,000

Coveted Jefferson Park stunner marries history with modern day amenities. 6 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, over 5,500 square feet on 4 finished levels. New master bath, high-end kitchen, 2 gas fireplaces, hardwood floors throughout, screened porch, deck, and off-street parking on a beautifully landscaped lot. Walkable to Del Ray shops and restaurants, and near Metro and new Amazon HQ2. 304 Virginia Avenue  
**Melissa Shelby 703.627.0074**  
[www.MelissaSellsVirginia.com](http://www.MelissaSellsVirginia.com)

OPEN SAT 2/16 & SUN 2/17, 1-4



### Old Town Riverfront | \$1,699,999

Rivergate End Unit! 3-bedroom, 3.5-bath townhome equipped with a chef's kitchen, designed by Stuart Kitchens, high-end stainless appliances, renovated master bath 2-car garage with extra custom built-in storage. Plantation shutters, new roof, and all new windows throughout the residence. Enjoy sunrises over the Potomac every morning with your coffee and all that Old Town has to offer. 815 Rivergate Place  
**Kristen Jones 703.851.2556**  
[www.alexandriabykj.com](http://www.alexandriabykj.com)

OPEN SUN 2/17, 2-4



### Alexandria South | \$949,000

Stately colonial with contemporary flair on quiet cul-de sac! Offering 2 story foyer & family room; formal living & dining rooms. 4 bedrooms & 3 baths upstairs with grand master. Lower level rec room with built-ins, full bath, storage & walk out. 8204 Collingwood Court  
**Kate Patterson 703.627.2166**  
[www.KatePattersonHomes.com](http://www.KatePattersonHomes.com)

OPEN SAT 2/16 & SUN 2/17, 2-4



### Del Ray | \$899,900

Classic 3-bedroom, 3-bath home. Spacious family room, dining room and updated kitchen. 3 bedrooms upstairs including master with en suite & sitting room. Screened in porch overlooks patio and large backyard. Driveway. Blocks to "The Avenue." 5 W Monroe Ave.  
**Jen Walker 703.675.1566**  
[www.JenWalker.com](http://www.JenWalker.com)

OPEN SUN 2/17, 2-4



### Old Town | \$920,000

Just steps from the shops, pubs and restaurants of King Street is this wonderful home with main level living, dining and kitchen. First upper level holds the guest suite and den/study. Top floor master suite with vaulted ceilings and stunning views. 144 N Union St.  
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[www.ColleenCoopersmith.com](http://www.ColleenCoopersmith.com)



### Georgetown \$789,000

Stunning townhouse-style condo at The Paper Mill, offering 2 bedrooms and 1.5 baths, with rarely available finished loft for 3rd bedroom/office, and assigned garage parking! Beautifully updated kitchen, hardwood floors throughout, wood-burning fireplace, and private balcony.

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# Storck Calls for Green Initiatives

Joined by Supervisors McKay and Foust and unanimously endorsed.

**M**ount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck introduced the Fairfax Green Initiatives Board Matter on Tuesday, Feb. 5, a call for the county to consider additional actions to accelerate efforts to address climate change and environmental preservation.

Storck was joined by Supervisors Jeff McKay (D-Lee) and John Foust (D-Dranesville) in presenting the Board Matter that was approved unanimously by the full board.

"Based on recent scientific reports, I believe it is crucial that we act expeditiously and urgently if we are to begin to stem the growth of greenhouse gasses which are dramatically altering our environment, our world and the people, places and property in our communities," Storck said.

The Board Matter calls for a comprehensive review of initiatives and actions the county could take to be a leader in addressing climate change and in preserving the environment. Key initiatives include:

- ❖ Developing a Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP) and a county-specific Climate Resiliency and Adaptation Plan,
- ❖ Contracting with an energy savings performance contractor (ESPC),
- ❖ Accelerating goals and targets for the county's Operational Energy Strategy,
- ❖ Increasing locally generated environmentally friendly energy (like solar) to offset all county government energy usage,
- ❖ Increasing dedicated county energy, climate change and environment related staffing,
- ❖ Enhancing communications

and coordination between the county and residents.

"As a business person, I sincerely believe that the financial return on investment (ROI) on most, if not all, of these initiatives is high, at least a \$3 return for every \$1 invested, which means they can save, not cost, the county money," Storck said. "Energy efficiency is a relatively inexpensive resource we can all embrace and take action on immediately."

This new initiative builds on the environmental commitments the Board of Supervisors has made over the past decade, including a County Energy Policy, Environmental Improvement Program, Sustainability Initiatives, and the recently adopted County Operational Energy Strategy. Next steps include review and consideration of a variety of proposed actions by board committees, the County Executive and County staff, with some levels of reporting due by June 2019.

"Climate Change is a real threat to our society, and I'm happy to be a part of this call to action," said McKay. "I've long been an advocate of solar freedom, and many other Green initiatives. The Commonwealth looks to Fairfax County to lead and set a good example of environmental sustainability — we must carry the torch and light a path for all other jurisdictions to ensure we have a healthier climate for everyone. Many county efforts and actions are already underway, but it's time to recognize the importance and urgency of addressing climate change. I hope this comprehensive review of Green initiatives and efforts will push state legislatures to give us the flexibility to complete projects successfully."

SEE GREEN, PAGE 18

## Pedestrian Killed in Crash

**T**he Mount Vernon Police District's Crash Reconstruction Unit is investigating after a pedestrian was hit and killed around 9:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 8. Detectives believe 51-year-old Nelissa Alston, of Alexandria, was attempting to cross Richmond Highway near Fort Hunt Road. The driver of a 2015 Lexus RC 350, who was traveling southbound on Richmond

Highway hit Alston. She was not in a crosswalk. Fairfax County Fire and Rescue personnel responded and pronounced her dead. The driver remained at the scene and is cooperating with detectives. Neither speed nor alcohol appear to be factors.

Anyone with information about this crash is asked to contact the Crash Reconstruction Unit at 703-280-0543.

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### New Members

**Luigi and Marie Caballero were inducted into the Mt. Vernon Evening Lions Club at the club's January meeting by District Governor Lion Wilma Murphy (left) and First Vice President Andrea Corsillo (right). The Lions Club is an international organization who support hearing, sight and community projects. Its next dinner meeting will be held on Feb. 19 and all are welcome to come and learn more about Lions Club. See <http://www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/mountvernonelc/>.**



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

### Lions Music Contest

**The winners of the Mt. Vernon Evening Lions Bland Contest were first place Daniel Choi, age 17, an 11th grader at Colgan High School in Manassas, and second place Gavin Bhulipongsanon, age 11 a fifth grader at Hollin Meadows Elementary School. This contest was held on Jan. 26. Daniel Choi will compete in the regional contest. Above, from left, are Past District Governor Woody Woodward, Gavin Bhulipongsanon, Daniel Choi, and President Lion Reba Morse.**

## Discarded Cigarettes Cause House Fire

**U**nits from Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department and the City of Alexandria Fire Department were dispatched on Saturday, Feb. 2 at approximately 1:08 a.m. for a reported house fire in the 6300 block of Telegraph Road in the Rose Hill area of Fairfax County.

Units arrived on the scene of a two-story, single family home with fire showing on one side of the house. The crew from Truck 411, Penn Daw, were performing a primary search of the first floor when they heard a female screaming. They located an 11-year-old female in a bedroom behind a closed door. She was unharmed and carried outside to safety. There were no firefighter or civilian injuries reported.

Two occupants were home at the time of the fire. The fire was discovered by an occupant when he heard a popping noise coming from the kitchen. The occupant evacuated prior to the arrival of the fire department. The other occupant was rescued by fire department personnel. Smoke alarms were present in the home and activated.

Fire Investigators determined that the fire was accidental in nature and started in the kitchen area. The fire was caused by improperly discarded cigarettes into the trash.

Two adults and two juveniles were displaced due to the fire. Red Cross assistance was offered and accepted. Damages as a result of the fire were approximately \$93,750.

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department offers the following safety tips:

- ❖ Never dispose of cigarette butts in potted planting soil. The soil, when it gets too dry, can become highly flammable.
- ❖ Never flick cigarettes into mulch or shrubbery. Dispose of them in a suitable ashtray or bucket with sand. Ensure designated outside smoking areas have an appropriate fireproof container, ashtray or bucket.
- ❖ Completely douse butts and ashes with water



FCF&RD PHOTO

**Cigarettes caused approximately \$93,750 in damages to this Rose Hill house.**

before throwing them away, as they can smolder and cause a fire.

- ❖ Never smoke in bed.
- ❖ Provide large, deep ashtrays with a center support for smokers. Check furniture for any dropped ashes before going to bed. Empty ashes into a fireproof container with water and sand.
- ❖ Keep smoking materials away from anything that can burn (i.e., mattresses, bedding, upholstered furniture, draperies, etc.).
- ❖ Never smoke in a home where oxygen is being used.
- ❖ If you smoke, choose fire-safe cigarettes. They are less likely to cause fires.
- ❖ To prevent a deadly cigarette fire, you must be alert. You won't be if you are sleepy, have been drinking, or have taken medicine or other drugs.
- ❖ Keep matches and lighters up high, out of children's sight and reach.



# Health Hazards in Military Housing?

**Warner follows up on Reuters' report.**

**U**.S. Sen. Mark R. Warner (D-VA) met with Secretary of the Army Dr. Mark Esper on Feb. 6 and pressed him on what the Army is doing to resolve serious hazards in military housing reported at several bases in Virginia including Fort Belvoir.

A recent investigation by Reuters alleged significant problems in base housing such as cockroaches, mice, mold and leaks, and described the difficulty that military families have encountered in getting the private management companies that own and operate the housing to address issues posing health hazards for families living in the homes. As part of its investigation, Reuters identified problems at several facilities across the country, including Fort Belvoir, Quantico, Oceana Naval Air Station, and other military bases in Hampton Roads.

"Our nation's military families deserve

better than this. They deserve safe and healthy housing, free from mold, lead, pests, and other hazards," said Warner. "In our meeting today, I told Secretary Esper that I

expect the Army to make improving military housing conditions a top priority and hold accountable any companies who may have profited off the mistreatment of mili-

tary families." In November, Warner sent a letter to then Secretary of Defense James Mattis regarding the "unacceptable conditions" documented in the homes. In the letter, he demanded a briefing from the Defense Department on the current situation, as well as a plan from DoD to ensure the safety of military families residing in private housing moving forward.

In August, Warner – along with Senators Tim Kaine (D-VA), David Perdue (R-GA) and Johnny Isakson (R-GA) – also pressed Esper to address problems with lead poisoning affecting families at several Army bases around the country, including Fort Belvoir.

This isn't the first time Warner has intervened on behalf of military families experiencing health hazards in military housing. In 2011, dozens of military families stationed in Norfolk described problems with Lincoln Military Housing, one of the contractors identified in Reuters' recent reporting. As now, the affected families – experiencing issues such as leaks, mold, and infestation – recounted major difficulties in getting the company or the Navy to take the complaints seriously.



**U.S. Sen. Mark Warner meets in his Senate office with Secretary of the Army Dr. Mark Esper.**

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At the podium, Rear Admiral Oswald addressed the Rotary Club of Alexandria. Seated to his left is former U.S. Rep. Mary Bono.

## Astronaut Speaks to Rotary

Local NASA astronaut, Rear Admiral (USNR Ret) Steve Oswald spoke about the Earth and ecology at the Jan. 22 meeting of the Rotary Club of Alexandria. Attended by over 120 people, the event was held at Belle Haven Country Club in Alexandria.

Also in attendance was Mary Bono, former U.S. representative California's 45th congressional district, serving from 1998 to 2013. She is married to Oswald.

The Rotary Club of Alexandria hosts featured speakers who encourage Rotarians to think differently, to apply leadership and expertise to issues, and find solutions to make a difference at home and abroad.

Oswald is a 1973 graduate of the Naval Academy, with a bachelor's degree in aeronautical engineering. He is a 1978 graduate of the Naval Test Pilot

School at Patuxent River, Md. He subsequently logged more than 7,000 hours of flight piloting more than 40 aircraft.

Oswald joined NASA in November 1984 as an aerospace engineer and instructor pilot, and was selected as an astronaut candidate in June 1985. He piloted two missions on Space Shuttle Discovery in 1992 and 1993. Additionally, Oswald commanded a mission on Space Shuttle Endeavor in 1995. On these missions, he accumulated 33 days in space.

While speaking to the Rotary Club of Alexandria, Oswald reflected on his time in space, and acknowledged it changed his perception of the Earth and ecology.

Additionally, Oswald answered questions on the growing prominence of private space programs, the Space Command within the U.S. Air Force, and the implications of an autonomous Space Force.

### CRIME

The following incidents were reported by the Mount Vernon District Police Station.

**BURGLARY:** 8200 block of Russell Road, Feb. 8, 8:42 a.m. Officers responded to a burglary report and located the suspect still on scene. A 42-year-old woman from Alexandria entered the victim's apartment and took items from the home. She was arrested for burglary and petit larceny.

**ROBBERY:** 3500 block of Robert E Lee Place, Feb. 6 11 p.m. A man was

sent a message by an acquaintance to meet at the location. When he arrived, he was approached by the acquaintance and an unknown man and woman who pushed him to the ground and assaulted him. After going through the victim's pockets, the three suspects ran off without taking anything. The man was transported to the hospital with minor injuries.

**ROBBERY:** 8400 block of Richmond Highway, Feb. 6, 10:53 p.m. A pizza delivery driver was trying to find the address to deliver an order and was ap-

proached by a man who displayed a handgun. The suspect took the victim's personal property and the food, then ran away. The suspect was described as black, 5'6", 35 to 40 years old, 180 to 200 pounds, wearing a black mask, black hooded sweatshirt, blue jeans and black shoes.

**BURGLARY:** 9700 block of Kingsbridge Drive, Feb. 6, 1:13 p.m. The homeowner arrived home and discovered electronics were taken.

SEE CRIME, PAGE 18



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**COMING SOON**



**Alex/Riverside Estates** Under \$600  
**3100 Battersea Lane**  
Beautifully updated 4BR, 2.5BA Colonial in popular Riverside Estates. Double pane windows, kitchen with hardwood floors, granite counters/SS appliances. Baths all updated and nicely painted interior with newly refinished hardwood floors on main and upper levels. Large walkup basement with fresh paint and new flooring. 8 minutes to Ft. Belvoir (S), 16 mins to Old Town, Alex (N). Beautiful home and just minutes to the George Washington Parkway!!

**NEW LISTING**



**Alex/Riverside Park Hessick** \$670,000  
**2201 Londonderry Road**  
This house will take you breath away... Private & beautifully landscaped .39 acre yard. Large 2 car garage, stunning hwd floors on main & upper levels plus beautiful solid stained 6 panel doors also on main & upper levels. Beautifully painted interior, updated baths & double pane windows. A spectacular & enchanting kitchen w/beautiful lite hwd floors, stunning cherry cabinets, SS appliances, dark granite counters & a stunning center isle also w/granite plus 3 large pictures windows overlooking a fabulous front yard. The lower level offers a 4th BR, beautiful half bath, Family room, laundry room extraordinaire plus a floored crawl space for extra storage. This is a 10!!

**UNDER CONTRACT**



**Alex/Riverside Estates** \$519,900  
**8323 Blowing Rock**  
Lovely 4BR, 2.5BA Split on a beautiful, .25 acre fenced lot! Become a member of coveted Riverside Estates for the great price of \$514,900. Upgraded kitchen w/12" ceramic tile floor, granite counter tops & SS appliances. Double pane windows & 6 panel doors throughout. Updated baths & hardwood floors covered by carpet on main & upper levels. Barbecue and entertain out back on a charming slate patio. This will go quickly - 10 mins to Ft. Belvoir, and 15 minutes to Old Town, Alex.

**UNDER CONTRACT**



**Alex/Riverside Estates** \$589,900  
**8312 Cherry Valley Lane**  
Beautifully, renovated 4BR, 2.5BA home w/1 car garage-New Kitchen w/SS, and quartz counters, New baths, Interior freshly painted, Refinished hwd floors, new carpeting in LL and New windows throughout. Large deck w/no-maintenance composite decking can be accessed from Master Bedroom, Kitchen & Dining Rm. Family Rm w/FPL-Crown molding, 6 panel int. doors, recessed lighting. Great Location Minutes to Ft. Belvoir & GW Pkwy.

**SOLD**



**Stafford/Harris** \$235,000  
**11 Shady Lane**  
Beautiful 3BR, 3BA Cape Cod, bursting with charm. This property contains two lots (for total .67 acres), with winter views of Aquia Creek. 2nd Lot may potentially be buildable (grandfathered). Expansive and open floor plan. Enjoy nature's beauty from the back screened porch or multiple decks. Large shed/hobby room w/electricity (conveys as is). Quiet and serene location. Close to Quantico!

**UNDER CONTRACT**



**Alex/Woodland Heights** \$819,900  
**8608 Woodland Heights Ct.**  
Beautiful turnkey home: 4BR, 3.5BA center hall colonial in sought after Mt. Vernon neighborhood of Woodland Heights. 4,000 sq. ft. Stunning Sun Rm addition looks out over beautifully landscaped & terraced bkyd, complete w/in-ground irrigation system. Large & updated kitchen w/center isle, granite counters & ceramic tile. Gorgeous hardwood floors, 6 panel doors, double pane windows. Large Owner's suite w/vaulted ceiling & walk-in closets. Updated MBA has separate soaking tub & shower. Finished basement offers a Rec Rm w/bar, 3rd full bath & ample storage. GREAT LOCATION: 10 mins to Ft. Belvoir & 15 to Old Town & easy access to GW Pkwy.

**UNDER CONTRACT**



**Alex/Stratford** \$574,900  
**2601 Culpeper Road**  
Price just reduced on this - Lovely 4BR, 3BA home with carport in popular Stratford on the Potomac. Situated in sought after Stratford Elementary school district. Well maintained home. Replacement windows. Freshly painted interior with refinished hardwood floors. Beautiful landscaping. Updated baths. Family room with gas fireplace. You'll love it!!



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# OPINION

## Creating Fiscally Responsible Budget

PAUL KRIZEK  
DELEGATE (D-44)



make significant changes to our financial compliance system causing confusion and delays. Tax filers would not have seen their returns until later in the summer. Now, Virginians will be able to file their taxes in a timely manner.

justments.

Although this budget contains good investments, we missed a critical opportunity to significantly invest in K-12 education (we are still at pre-recession funding levels despite 25,000 more students than 10 years ago), environmental initiatives, and affordable housing. Unfortunately, these new investments were stripped from the Administration's budget and returned to the original funding levels we approved last year in the biennium budget.

Additionally, we were unable to expand the Earned Income Tax Credit which would have put money back into the pocket of the most vulnerable among us. We will continue to fight for these investments in the budget conference and I am hopeful some will be included in the final budget. However, most of the funds that will be received due to the changes at the federal level will be placed into a reserve fund. Then, next year, we will have the chance to allocate these funds back into Virginia. If Democrats are able to win the majority in the General Assembly this fall, I am confident many of these investments will be enacted along with other bold, new initiatives to benefit our Commonwealth. Even during these tumultuous times this deal proves that we can put aside our differences to work for the betterment of all Virginians. We continue to govern responsibly and fairly here in Richmond and I am humbled by your support and so very proud to represent you in the 44th district of Virginia.

Within this budget, Democrats advocated for tax fairness and this compromise rectifies some of the damage wrought by the Trump tax changes. This led to a 50 percent increase in the standard deduction, a change that benefits every single Virginia tax filer. Of the resulting \$360 million in tax relief, half the benefits go to those making less than \$40,000. For single filers, it will be increased by 50 percent from \$3,000 to \$4,500 and for joint filers from \$6,000 to \$9,000. These dollars will provide citizens the opportunity to save and spend back into the Virginia economy. Additionally, in October, we will be sending every taxpayer a check for \$110, or \$220 for joint filers. While this might seem like a small amount, and not the refund we were hoping for, every dollar helps families make car payments, rent, and put food on the table. In total, we will be returning over \$970 million to taxpayers through a combination of refunds and tax policy ad-

Over the last week, Democrats worked tirelessly with the Administration and our Republican colleagues in the General Assembly to reach a compromise on a tax and budget deal. As a member of the Appropriations Committee, I have been advocating for a fiscally responsible budget that also provides much needed investment back into Virginia.

Within the budget, we set aside additional funds to help maintain our valuable Triple A bond rating and ensure Virginia is prepared for any possible economic downturn. I am proud to have reached this compromise that will allow for tax certainty as we are in the filing season. Now, compromise means that we didn't get everything that we wanted, but this is a deal that will benefit all hardworking Virginians, and creates fairness across all incomes.

First, it is important to note that the tax deal will provide conformity with federal tax law. Generally, tax conformity and tax policy are agreed upon separately. This year, however, Republicans used conformity as a political tool in the budget debate. Democrats have been fighting to address tax conformity separately since the very beginning of session. Without conformity, Virginia would have needed to

### COMMENTARY

## Passing Bills, Serving the Public

BY SCOTT SUROVELL  
STATE SENATOR (D-36)



bill also requires Dominion to work with localities to minimize transportation impacts; to give priority to local workers; and to continually seek proposals to recycle ash as technology evolves so that we can minimize coal ash landfill storage.

While the bill is not everything I want, it achieves my primary objectives to prohibit "cap in place" or using old leaky ash ponds to store ash forever and to promote recycling.

On a vote of 29-11, the Senate passed my legislation to give Fairfax County an additional tool to pay for underground utilities on U.S. 1. The bill allows the county to pay for underground utilities and then recover the cost by levying a utility fee that will cost about \$0.80-0.90 per month. I have heard loud and clear from my constituents that they want underground utilities on U.S. 1. Prince William County's government funded it for all 10 miles of U.S. 1. If Prince William can afford it, so can Fairfax County, and I am hoping to provide County officials with a method to do it.

On a vote of 34-6, the Senate passed my bill to create penalties for government officials who intentionally try to avoid our sunshine laws. The bill creates penalties for destroying public records to avoid the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and penalties for officials who incorrectly vote to certify that they only discussed specifically exempted and previously-announced matters in closed public meetings.

I also passed legislation clarifying that cars cannot use bike lanes to pass other vehicles and making it easier to convict drivers for seriously injuring cyclists and pedestrians. U.S. 1 is the deadliest road in Virginia for pedestrians and pedestrian deaths are up by 50 percent in the last five years in Virginia. Most injured cyclists and pedestrians cannot remember what happened or are killed when struck. This will help balance the playing field on the criminal side of justice.

Finally, this was another rough week as the Governor's situation continued to percolate, the Attorney General admitted to using blackface at age 19 in college and two different women accused our Lieutenant Governor of sexual assault.

We were initially willing to wait for time and information after one accusation was made, but when a second woman 4,000 miles away made a very serious allegation, it was clear to some of us that this was becoming an issue that could distract from his duties.

The Senate Democratic, House Democratic and Legislative Black Caucuses and called for his resignation. I am continuing to assess my position on the situations and welcome your input.

Please weigh in on my constituent survey at <http://bit.ly/sd362019survey> and email me at [scott@scottsurovell.org](mailto:scott@scottsurovell.org) with your feedback.

Last week in the General Assembly was a week of accomplishments, revelations and stress.

The Senate approved and sent to the House of Delegates 20 of my 25 bills and added several of my budget amendments to the Senate budget.

The Senate agreed to \$2 million to study extending Metro's Blue Line to Lorton, Woodbridge and Potomac Mills, along with enhanced transit on U.S. 1 in Prince William County. I have been fighting for this for three years and with Sen. George Barker's help, we got it included in the Senate budget. Additionally, my proposal to fund additional treatment services and a study for incarcerated, sexually-violent predators was included so that they can receive treatment before they are committed to a post-incarceration civil treatment facility, an approach that costs taxpayers significantly more per day than a standard jail. There is no reason to delay therapy until they have completed their sentence. This will save taxpayers millions of dollars if it works.

The Senate, on a 37-2-1 vote, passed my bill to create a framework to clean up Virginia's coal ash repositories. The bill requires at least 6.8 million cubic yards of the 27 million cubic yards to be recycled into "encapsulated" products like bricks, cinderblocks or cement. The

### COMMENTARY

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:  
[gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com)

Steven Mauren  
Editor, 703-778-9415  
[smauren@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:smauren@connectionnewspapers.com)

Jean Card  
Production Editor  
[jcard@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jcard@connectionnewspapers.com)

Andrea Worker  
Contributing Writer  
[aworker@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:aworker@connectionnewspapers.com)

Jeanne Theismann  
[jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com)  
[@TheismannMedia](https://twitter.com/TheismannMedia)

ADVERTISING:  
For advertising information  
[sales@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:sales@connectionnewspapers.com)  
703-778-9431

Debbie Funk  
Display Advertising/National Sales  
703-778-9444  
[debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com)

Julie Ferrill  
Real Estate, 703-927-1364  
[jferrill@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jferrill@connectionnewspapers.com)

Helen Walutes  
Display Advertising, 703-778-9410  
[hwalutes@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:hwalutes@connectionnewspapers.com)

David Griffin  
Marketing Assistant  
703-778-9431  
[dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com)

Classified & Employment  
Advertising  
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Publisher  
Jerry Vernon  
703-549-0004  
[jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com)

Editor & Publisher  
Mary Kimm  
[mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com)  
[@MaryKimm](https://twitter.com/MaryKimm)

Editor in Chief  
Steven Mauren  
Art/Design:  
Laurence Foong, John Heinly,  
Ali Khaligh  
Production Manager:  
Geovani Flores

CIRCULATION  
Circulation Manager:  
Ann Oliver  
[circulation@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:circulation@connectionnewspapers.com)

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# LETTERS

## Infinite Moment

To the Editor:

On President's Day, it is important to remember the words of our founders. Almost 225 years ago, George Washington spoke to the nation as he departed from office. More than anything, he urged America to remain united. The America of 1796 was different in many ways, except for its politics. There was significant ideological, economic, and geographic strife. There was even fear of foreign influence (by the French) in the upcoming election. It was in this context that our nation's first president offered some words of advice. He reminded us, in the face of division, that unity is our greatest strength. He said, "It is of infinite moment that you should properly estimate the immense value of your national union to your collective and individual happiness."

For what is America but a people united in search of freedom and prosperity? A nation of people made stronger and better through the combination of their strengths and efforts. A combination, embodied in a government, that creates a place better than any could build on their own. He called this federal government "a main pillar in the edifice of your real independence." To threaten it was to threaten our freedom. However, Washington cautioned that, "much pains will be taken, many artifices employed to weaken in your minds the conviction of this truth; as this is the point in your political fortress against which the batteries of internal and external enemies will be most constantly and actively (though often covertly and insidiously) directed."

It is at this moment that we must ask ourselves,

will we heed his words? Are we able to see through the divisions that threaten one of the most important sources of our peace, prosperity, and freedom? While we may rightly question the actions and role of the federal government, to threaten it is to threaten our nation. Once in our history, we have already seen the chaos that results when our union dissolves. It is of infinite moment that we once again appreciate the value of our bonds as Americans, and the institutions in which those bonds are embodied. For if our unity dies, what else is next?

**Jack Washington**

(Seventh great-nephew of George Washington)  
Blacksburg, Va.

## Remember Washington's Knight

To the Editor:

Fisher Ames (1758-1808), the great orator of Massachusetts, made a decisive speech favoring the controversial 1796 Jay Treaty. His winning its adoption saved Washington from a major political defeat, and earned him the President's gratitude — an invitation to Mt. Vernon.

Republicans in the House of Representatives were holding up the appropriation to fund the unpopular treaty. Washington desperately wanted this treaty with England which would open their ports to trade with us, end the Royal Navy's interdiction of American ships, and get England finally to complete the terms of the peace treaty of 1783. At the close of his

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 8

Alexandria

Gazette Packet Mount Vernon Gazette

Special Edition



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MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE ♦ FEBRUARY 14-20, 2019 ♦ 7



# Maintaining Focus in Richmond

BY ADAM P. EBBIN  
STATE SENATOR (D-30)

**A**s controversies seem to arise with each news cycle, the General Assembly is continuing its work, convening floor sessions and committees with its customary unflinchingly-courteous efficiency. Despite the emotional toll of the last two weeks, our state government must maintain the trust of our diverse constituencies by coming together to pass a budget and complete the work we were sent here to do.

## COMMENTARY

Thirteen of my bills have made it through the Senate to the House of Delegates. My bills to ban discrimination in housing and public employment against LGBT Virginians faces tough opposition in the House. I am optimistic about my bill to establish “municipal net-metering” pilot programs, enabling localities to offset the cost of electricity used by energy-intensive buildings with power generated by renewable sources at another city- or county-owned location. Another bill would ensure independent oversight of \$1 billion in energy efficiency funding.

Despite overwhelming bipartisan support in the Senate, my legislation to end the modern-day debtors’ prison caused by the practice of suspending driver’s licenses for non-driving (often drug-related) offenses was defeated in subcommittee on a party-line vote. My bill to ban all governmental



cal education/dual enrollment classes in high schools. This legislation would strengthen our employment pipeline for students who do not have access to in-demand courses in fields such as cybersecurity, emergency medical technician (EMT), veterinary science, and culinary arts.

In addition to debating legislation, we have begun considering amendments to the biennial budget.

Major changes to the federal tax code and an infusion of revenue due to the Supreme Court decision in *South Dakota v. Wayfair, Inc.* that will bring in additional out of state internet sales tax revenue complicated both the “caboose” budget and tax conformity — normally perfunctory procedural matters that include addressing the difference between projected and actual revenue, and aligning Virginia’s tax code with the federal tax code.

A compromise plan was adopted that returned money to taxpayers through a mid-October refund of \$110 per person and

use of software prohibited by the Department of Homeland Security passed unanimously, as did my bill to lower employment barriers for community college professors seeking to teach career and technical

funding was retained for several key priorities. For the first time since 2005, the plan also included conformity legislation that raises the standard deduction by 50 percent to \$4,500 for individuals and \$9,000 for couples. When the Governor signs this legislation, the state will be able to begin preparing tax software to process returns.

I voted in favor of the Senate budget that includes important education priorities, including: increasing teacher pay by 5 percent, replacing federal funding for the Virginia Preschool Initiative grant, and providing \$70 million in school construction loans to help rebuild older derelict facilities. Several key floor amendments, proposed by Senate Democrats, included increased funding for school counselors, mental health supportive housing, water quality improvement, and staff to decrease evictions in the state.

I passed a floor amendment to increase funding for the Virginia Housing Trust Fund (VHTF) by \$1.5 million per year. The VHTF provides “gap funding” to help bring affordable housing projects online. The funds invested will help finance an additional \$78 million in affordable housing development over the biennium. Much work remains to be done to invest more in affordable housing, but I was proud that the Senate budget takes a step in the right direction.

With so much at stake, we cannot afford to lose focus.

It is my continued honor to serve the 30th district.

## LETTERS

FROM PAGE 5

Presidency, this treaty would vindicate his policy of neutrality between England and France who were at war. However, Republicans opposed it because of their sympathies to France for helping America win our war of independence, and the fact Jay did not get Britain to complete all the terms of the 1783 peace.

After a month’s deadlock Ames, the last to speak, essentially argued the Constitution. The “President and the Senate are the agents and instruments of treaties.” Congressman are not elected to work in this province, but have to support the Senate’s and Executive’s treaty efforts like they support our legislations, he said. “The treaty is the promise of a nation,” he continued, and spoke of all the accomplishments of the United States. He declared the treaty (while not perfect), was a chance for America to gain respect in the world. Many present became emotional at his putting America on par with the great nations of Europe. “I see no exception to the respect that is paid among nations to the Law of Good Faith.” It was unlike anything heard before in the Congress. One Supreme Court Justice exclaimed: “Bless my stars! I never heard anything so great since I was born!” Vice President Adams replied: “Divine! ... Tears enough were shed.”

This speech, extemporaneously delivered for an hour and a half, turned nine Republicans to vote with the Federalists. When President Washington later got a copy said: “In the opinion of most that heard it delivered or have read it since, his reasoning is unanswerable.”

About to leave Philadelphia, Washington rewarded Ames by inviting him to dinner at the President’s Mansion. Neither recorded that dinner conversation, but Washington sent a note to his manager at Mt. Vernon directing he “have a few Bottles of Porter there and some wine for particular company ... among these Mr. Aimes [sic] will, I expect, be one ... and is one I wish well treated while he stays.”

Washington had a true friend in young Fisher Ames and likely hosted the “Cicero of New England” at Mt. Vernon when Ames traveled here in 1796. No local records have yet surfaced chronicling a stop in Alexandria, but it is known he came through Georgetown, and it can be deduced he used the road that came through Alexandria on his way to Mr. Vernon. Perhaps a record will yet appear in this town? Let’s remember Washington’s knight: Fisher Ames.

**Harold Knudsen**  
Alexandria

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**UCM Needs Help.** United Community Ministries (UCM), 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria. Inventory is low on disposable diapers especially sizes 4, 5, 6; canned tuna and other canned meats like chicken; and low-sugar breakfast cereals. Shop and donate with their Amazon Wish List at: [bit.ly/UCM\\_FoodPantry\\_AmazonWishList](http://bit.ly/UCM_FoodPantry_AmazonWishList). Email Assistant Food Pantry Manager Von at [vonneta.jones@ucmagency.org](mailto:vonneta.jones@ucmagency.org) or visit at [www.ucmagency.org](http://www.ucmagency.org).

# Black Leaders Call for Forgiveness for Northam

BY OWEN FITZGERALD  
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

**“R**edemption.” That word was used repeatedly as five black leaders from across Virginia gathered Monday urging state legislators to rescind statements calling for Gov. Ralph Northam’s resignation following his blackface photo scandal.

On the steps of the Capitol, former Richmond City Council Member Henry “Chuck” Richardson read a prepared statement, saying that racial issues in the U.S. still permeate virtually every aspect of American life.

“There are no more complex, abiding and haunting questions in America than those surrounding race,” Richardson said. “And through it all is the constant that though we have come far, we still have far to go.”

“We are drawn here under the Christian doctrine that it is human to err but divine to forgive. We have evaluated the governor’s past performance as we have known him and choose to forgive,” Richardson said.

Richardson added that the group of leaders believes almost every person in the southern United States in the latter half of the 20th century has been influenced by, has participated in or has been associated with blackface in a similar nature to the governor.

“Rather than pursue measures that accomplish nothing,” Richardson said, “we

choose to use this opportunity to advance the cause of African-Americans rather than wallow in the punitive measures of revenge.”

Northam, a Democrat, has been under fire since the discovery on Feb. 1 of a racist photo on his page of his 1984 medical school yearbook. The picture showed two men — one in blackface and the other in a Ku Klux Klan hood. Initially, Northam said he was in the photo and apologized. Later, he said that he was not in the picture but that he did wear blackface for a Michael Jackson dance contest in 1984.

The controversy prompted many state and national Democratic leaders as well as advocacy groups to call on Northam to resign. Northam has said he does not plan to do so.

John Boyd, founding president of the National Black Farmers Association, also was at Monday’s press conference in support of Northam. Boyd said he met with the governor following the disclosure of the yearbook photo. Boyd said he prayed with the governor and used the meeting to address the issues of white privilege and blackface.

Boyd said Northam asked for forgiveness. “He has a good heart,” Boyd said. “I looked in the governor’s eyes, and I believe that he was sincerely sorry for what has happened. “I believe today that we need to give the governor a second chance. I be-

lieve that he is the right person to guide Virginia and bring us through this troubling time in history.”

Boyd added that during the federal government shutdown, he met with Northam to discuss the effects of closure on Virginia’s black farmers. Boyd said that even following the release of Northam’s yearbook photo, his constituents still trust the governor to advance the cause of farmers in the state.

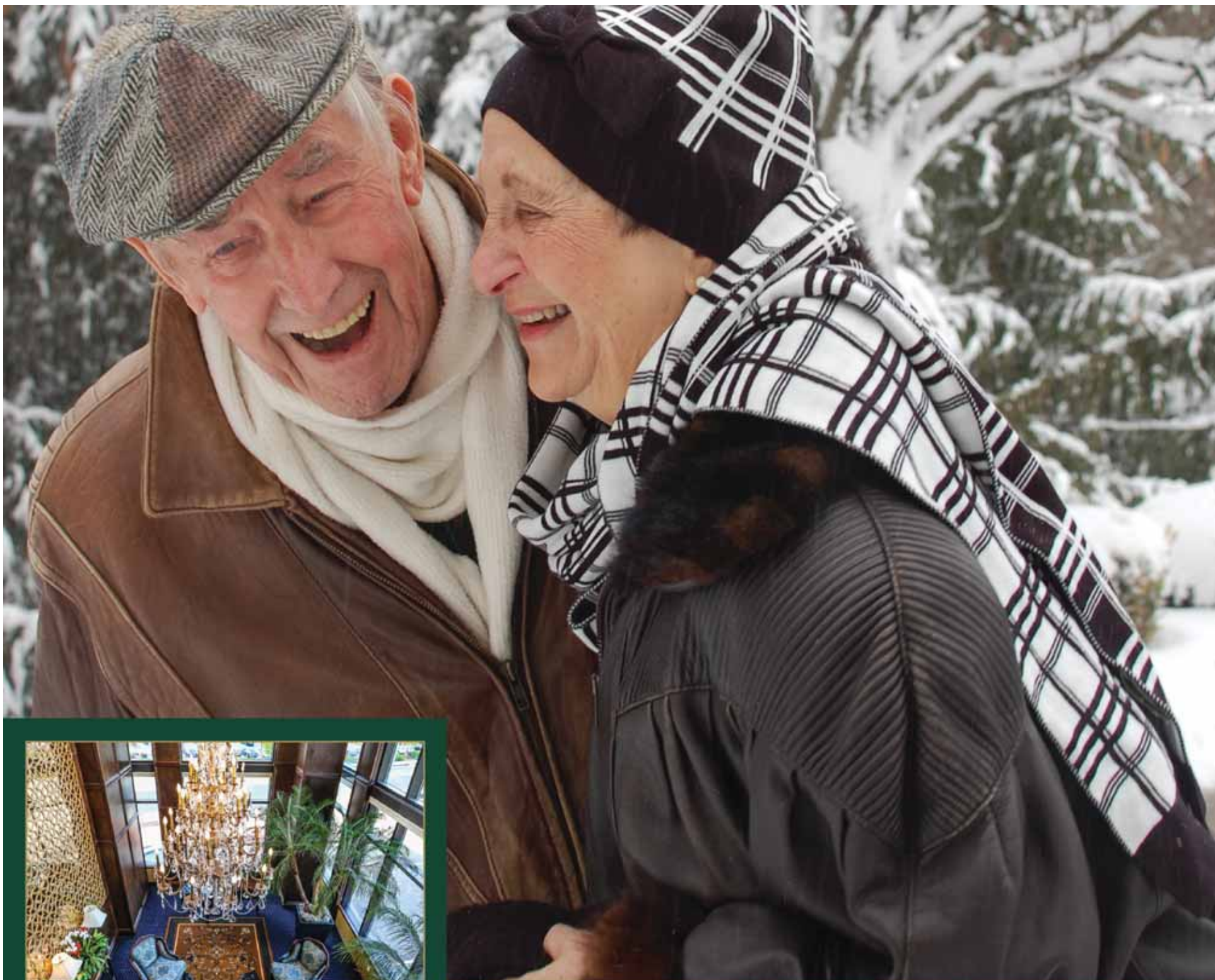
Leaders at the press conference refused to directly address questions regarding a statement by Attorney General Mark Herring that he wore blackface to imitate a rapper for a college party in 1980.

Lt. Gov. Justin Fairfax also is under pressure after two women came forward last week to say that he sexually assaulted them. Several Democratic leaders and groups have called on Fairfax to resign. At Monday’s news conference, the leaders said that they support due process and that Fairfax should be presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Sen. Amanda Chase, R-Chesterfield, released a statement Monday in support of Fairfax’s right to due process.

“The women involved in Lt. Governor Justin Fairfax’s allegations must be heard in the jurisdiction where the incidents occurred,” Chase’s statement said. “Due process must be followed to ensure both parties the right of innocence until proven guilty.”





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# 'Living Coral' Named 2019 Color of the Year

**"... can help to brighten a space lacking natural light."**

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

A breeze of warm air to heat the winter chill is how some designers are describing one of the trendiest colors on tap for this year. "Living Coral" was selected as the 2019 Color of the Year by the Pantone Color Institute, the self-described global authority of color. It's a shade that is expected to have a prominent presence in interior design, home accessories and fashion this year.

"It works well with most of the foundation colors everyone has in their homes including white, taupe, gray, and brown," said designer Amanda Mertins of Patina Polished Living in Alexandria. "If you choose to paint, it can help to brighten a space lacking natural light."

Described as a nurturing color that can be found in nature, Living Coral is a shade of orange with a golden undertone. "It can be used as a wonderful accent color," said Mertins. "Introduce it with artwork, toss pillows, rugs and throws."



PHOTO COURTESY OF NICELY DONE KITCHENS AND BATHS

Life-affirming and reminiscent of coral reefs, Living Coral is credited with the ability to breathe life into any space in one's home. "[It's] is vibrant, energizing shade ... that can be incorporated as a light accent or bold statement in both a kitchen or bath," said designer Natalia Fabisiak of Nicely Done Kitchens and Baths in Springfield. "As the timeless trend of white kitchens continues, Living Coral offers the perfect pop of color an all-white kitchen may need."

"Coffee mugs, dish towels, trays and trivets are an easy and inexpensive way to introduce the trending color of the year into your kitchen," added Fabisiak.

Home accent pieces are the way that de-

**When used on a wall in a kitchen or bathroom, Living Coral can make a bold statement, says designer Natalia Fabisiak of Nicely Done Kitchens and Baths.**



PHOTO COURTESY OF PATINA POLISHED LIVING  
**Living Coral can be introduced into one's home through art, says designer Amanda Mertins.**

signer Julie Ackerman of Home Polish in Bethesda recommends using the Pantone pick. "Dishware, serveware or decorative accent pieces and porcelain figurines, like those by Herend are a great way to incorporate Living Coral into your home," she said.

For a more long-term commitment, Fabisiak says, "In a bathroom, Living Coral can be used as a wall color that can be easily paired with neutral tile and fixtures. If painting the walls is too drastic, bath accents like coral towels or a rug can brighten up the space beautifully as well."

In announcing the selection, Leatrice Eiseman, executive director of the Pantone Color Institute, said, "Color is an equaliz-

ing lens through which we experience our natural and digital realities and this is particularly true for Living Coral. With consumers craving human interaction and social connection, the humanizing and heartening qualities displayed by the convivial Pantone Living Coral hit a responsive chord."

Each year, the Pantone Color Institute makes a prediction about the color that will be on trend for the upcoming year. The selection process, which takes about nine months, has color gurus at Pantone spanning the globe, taking note of the trends in industries that run the gamut from ranging from film and entertainment to art and interior design.

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**ALEXANDRIA / Ft. Hunt - Stratford Landing \$ 600,000**

Readied for sale with handsome, refinished hardwood floors and neutral paint, this 4BR / 2.5BA home backing to parkland, has upgrades and updates and loads of storage space. A huge master suite includes a gorgeous almost like-new bath. Call today to arrange and appointment to see!



Georgia McLaughlin 703.628.4663

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Brick front garage townhome sparkles with fresh paint, gleaming hardwoods, new roof, new HVAC. With 3BR/2.55BA, this home boasts 3 finished levels, spacious living/dining rooms, open kitchen, breakfast sunroom. Vaulted ceilings, wall of windows in Master. Bright LL level, walkout to yard. 1 mile to Metro/shops.



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# ENTERTAINMENT

Submit entertainment announcements at [www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/). The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

## ONGOING

### Photograph Exhibit: Fax Ayres.

Through Feb. 24, Thursday-Sunday, noon-4 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Fax Ayres' photography employs a 'lightpainting' technique to embue his subjects with an almost surreal quality. He sets up still life vignettes in the dark and then carefully paints individual components with light, assembling multiple images together to create the final photograph. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) or call 703-548-0035.

**“Three Sistahs.”** Through Feb. 24, at MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St., Alexandria. “Three Sistahs” is an intimate musical which exposes the souls of three strong independent women as they gather together in the family home one last time. They reflect on the past, present and their hope for the future with powerful music and insights about their lives and relationships. Performances will be Thursdays and Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 3 p.m., and 8 p.m., Sundays at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m., Jan 24- Feb 24, 2019. Tickets are \$55 with student and active military and group discounts available. Four or more tickets are \$50 each. Call the theatre at 703-548-9044 or go online to [www.metrostage.org](http://www.metrostage.org).

**Winter Golf.** Through Feb. 28, skip the traffic with the Afternoon Drive special at the heated and covered ranges at Burke Lake Golf Center and the newly renovated Oak Marr Golf Complex. All buckets are \$2 off, Monday-Thursday, 4 p.m. until closing. Or try the indoor studio at Pinecrest Golf Course's Valis Family Golf Learning Center, featuring three indoor hitting bays or a private session with the TrackMan Golf Simulator Suite (five person max.), both reserved by the hour. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf).

**Art Exhibit: Ritualisms.** Through March 3, gallery hours at Target Gallery, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. New Target Gallery Exhibition contemplates the universality of rituals. The exhibition juxtaposes different artists' interpretations of rituals through their work, daily routines, habits, or personal quirks. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org).

**“Opposites Attract.”** Through March 10, at Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, Studio 29, 105 North Union St., Alexandria. Show featuring everything Quiet and Loud, Large and Small, Smooth and Rough, Bright and Dull, Stiff and Flowing, Smiles and Frowns – the list goes on and the artists had a great time incorporating this theme into their work. Visit [www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com](http://www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com).

**Beginner Square Dance Lessons.** Through March 27, 7:30-9 p.m. at the Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 N. Chambliss St. Keep up with New Year's resolutions and enjoy both mental and physical exercise with Square Dance Lessons. \$30 for each four-week session. Open to couples, singles and groups. Email [boomerangs@wascaclubs.com](mailto:boomerangs@wascaclubs.com) or call 571-210-5480.

**Art Exhibition: High School Students.** Through March 30, at The Gallery at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. The Alexandria All City High School Art Exhibition hosted by the Convergence Arts Initiative returns for its fourth year. This year's experience features more than 90 Alexandria high school students representing six high schools including public, private, and



## Dominion Brass Concert

Benefit concert for Rising Hope Mission Church with Dominion Brass, a large brass and percussion ensemble of professional musicians. Sunday, Feb. 17, 3-4:30 p.m. at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria. Free. Donations to support Rising Hope will be collected during the concert. Call 703-300-0985.

independent. Returning for 2019's collaborative event are students from Bishop Ireton, Episcopal High School, T.C. Williams, St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School, Commonwealth Academy, and The Howard Gardner School. Visit [ourconvergence.org](http://ourconvergence.org).

## CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

**Community Dance.** 7:30-9:30 p.m. every third Friday at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Live music. \$4. Call 703-765-4573.

**Life Drawing.** Del Ray Artisans offers a range of open life drawing sessions for anyone to develop life-drawing skills further. Drop-in for the session and bring supplies to draw or paint live models. Fee ranges from \$8-\$12. All skill levels are welcome. Del Ray Artisans is located at 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org).

**The Harmony Heritage Singers** (Mount Vernon Chapter of Barbershop Harmony Society), a daytime, a cappella, Chorus, rehearses on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays, monthly, at Sherwood Hall Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Newcomers welcome for fun or to book for a performance. Visit [HHSingers.org](http://HHSingers.org), or call 703-352-5271.

## THURSDAY/FEB. 14

**Happy Valentine's Day, Frederick Douglass!** 3:30-4:30 p.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. A history lesson you'll never forget. For school aged kids. Visit [www.alexandria.lib.va.us](http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us) or call 703-746-1705.

**Pre-K Fun.** 4-5 p.m. at Burke Branch Library - Meeting Room, 4701 Seminary Road. Sing and dance to the songs of Stevie Wonder and Louis Armstrong. Includes a craft. Ages 3-5. Visit [www.alexandria.lib.va.us](http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us) or call 703-746-1704.

**Butterflies and Blossoms.** 7:30-9 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. A talk by Margaret Chatham on larval host plants and the lepidoptera that eat them. Beautiful butterflies and lovely blossoms are all the result of

trying to make a living. The plants need someone to pollinate them, but at the same time need to limit the number of caterpillars and other insects that can eat them. The butterflies and caterpillars need to avoid being eaten long enough to lay eggs for the next generation. We'll learn what natives to plant to nurture more than just monarchs. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring) or call 703-642-5173.

**18th Century Dance Classes.** 7:30-9:30 p.m. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, Alexandria. In preparation for George Washington's Birthnight Ball on Feb. 16, 2019, learn 18th-century English country dancing from expert dance instructors at Gadsby's Tavern Museum. Tickets are \$12 per class or \$30 for the series. Reservations are recommended. Visit [Alexandriava.gov/Shop](http://Alexandriava.gov/Shop) or call 703-746-4242.

## FRIDAY/FEB. 15

**Celebrating Building Bridges and Creating Community Through Poetry.** 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. Wendi Kaplan, Poet Laureate, invites everyone to a special reception “Celebrating Building Bridges and Creating Community through Poetry.” Formal program beginning at 7 p.m. The reception will highlight Ms. Kaplan's tenure as the City's Poet Laureate through poetry, programs and activities. The reception is free, RSVPs requested at [poet@alexandriava.gov](mailto:poet@alexandriava.gov).

**Second Glance.** 7:30-8:30 p.m. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. An everyday object can be irresistible. Beyond the intended purpose to get the job done, objects can represent a memory or merge in unlikely, whimsical combinations. “Second Glance” features excerpts from Jane Franklin's “EyeSoar” and new work in cooperation with Fine Art Photographer Fax Ayres. Cost is \$15. Visit [www.nvfaa.org/events/second-glance](http://www.nvfaa.org/events/second-glance).

## SATURDAY/FEB. 16

**African American Children's Book Fair.** At Alexandria Black History

nuances of urban slavery expand the understanding of slavery and Alexandria. Advance purchase of tickets recommended; limited space available. \$15 per person, \$12 for Gadsby Tavern Museum members. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov](http://www.alexandriava.gov).

**Monthly Puppet Shows.** 10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. at the Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. The National Capital Puppetry Guild continues their series of monthly family-friendly puppet shows at the Durant Arts Center. With a performance by Bob Brown Puppets' Second Hand Stars. Monthly Puppet Shows are designed for the youngest of audiences, so toddlers are welcome. \$6, for all ages. Children must be accompanied by at least one adult. Make your reservations at [www.alexandriava.gov/Arts](http://www.alexandriava.gov/Arts) and select Durant Arts Center. Tickets are available at the door.

**Locals' Alley Saturdays.** 12:30-2:30 p.m. at The Old Town Shop, 105 S. Union St. at King Street. Meet the makers of local goods, featuring: Popped Republic flavored popcorn tasting. Call 703-684-4682 or visit [www.TheOldTownShop.com](http://www.TheOldTownShop.com).

**Calligraphy Class.** 1-3 p.m. At Historic Huntley, 6918 Harrison Lane, Alexandria. In honor of Huntley residents who loved both books and art, Historic Huntley is offering a set of classes that introduce different aspects of the art of bookmaking. Explore the art of beautiful writing with a variety of pens and brushes in a program. \$15 per person. Call 703-768-2525 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/historic-huntley](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/historic-huntley).

**Movie Matinee: Loving.** 2:30-4:45 p.m. at Barrett Branch Library - Second Floor, 717 Queen St. A dramatization of the Loving family's relationship and the 1967 Supreme Court case, which overturned the Jim Crow law banning interracial marriage. PG-13. Visit [www.alexandria.lib.va.us](http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us) or call 703-746-1703.

**George Washington's Birthnight Banquet & Ball.** 5:30-11 p.m. (9 p.m. if attending the ball only). At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St., Alexandria. Don dancing shoes for this famous celebration of Washington's Birthday at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, set in the year 1799. The evening includes an 18th-century banquet, English country dancing, dessert collation, character re-enactors plus the General and Mrs. Washington. Period costume optional; “after-five” attire encouraged. Cost is \$125 per ticket. \$150 per person ticket includes dinner in the same room with the Washingtons. \$250 per person ticket reserves a spot at a table with the Washingtons for dinner. Reservations required. To purchase tickets, visit [Alexandriava.gov/Shop](http://Alexandriava.gov/Shop) or call 703-746-4242.

**First Friday: “Chinese New Year Celebration.”** 6-10 p.m. at the Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. The evening will include the Fairfax Chinese Dance Troupe dancing several traditional Chinese Folk Dances accompanied by Alice Guzheng Ensemble, Mr. Zhang on a traditional instrument called hulusi, and a vocalist Mr. Lin. A Chinese Kungfu, Martial Arts demonstration and the City's Mobile Art Lab leading interactive art activity will round off the evening's festivities. A “meet and greet” begins at 6 p.m. with festivities beginning at 6:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be available complements of the Office of the Arts. \$9 per person. Children under 5 years old are free. Children must be accompanied by one adult. Reserve today at [www.alexandriava.gov/Arts](http://www.alexandriava.gov/Arts) and select Durant Arts Center. Tickets are available at the door.



## ENTERTAINMENT

# Off the Menu: Restaurant Notebook

BY HOPE NELSON

The customers of several Alexandria restaurants and retailers may feel jilted this Valentine's Day, but at least one eatery in town is feeling the love from its foodie faithful in the face of hard times. This February, a tour of closures – and near-misses – has dotted the restaurant landscape around town.

### Society Fair Gets By With a Little Help From Its Friends

Society Fair, a South Washington Street mainstay for several years, raised some eyebrows – and jangled some piggy banks – over the past couple of weeks with a call for financial assistance from the public. The restaurant and market, owned by Dan Fisher and Nadine Brown, created a GoFundMe page asking customers to give them a financial boost.

### APPETITE

"2018 was a difficult year to say the least. We lost some amazing staff that went on to new opportunities. We lost our catering manager who went back to her old job. We lost our beloved butcher. It has taken us almost a year to rebuild our staff," the GoFundMe page read. "... December and January with the government shutdown and record-breaking temperatures were like a final one-two punch. This is a unforgiving business at times and we have made mistakes."

The campaign's goal was listed at \$30,000, and as of press time the initiative has raised \$7,420. But according to co-owner Brown, that is enough to tide

Society Fair over for now.

"Because of all of you and a generous landlord we will not be closing after service (tomorrow)," she wrote. "We have many changes coming and hope to be able to provide cake and gumbo for years to come."

### Flat Top Burger Closes in Del Ray

Visitors to Flat Top Burger on the outskirts of Del Ray have found the lights off and the doors locked over the past weeks. The burger-and-shake shop, which opened its doors in December 2016, has closed in its current location at 529 E. Howell Ave., adjacent to Route 1 and just beyond the Monroe Street bridge. Owners and managers have not returned calls for comment, but a post on Flat Top Burger's website reads, "Flat Top Burger is closed – but don't worry, we will be re-opening soon at a new location! Check back soon for more information!"

### Williams Sonoma Closes in Old Town

Drivers along the George Washington Parkway will likely notice a shuttered storefront along the 800 block of South Washington Street. The Williams Sonoma location that had resided in the strip for many years has closed its doors for good. The company has been systematically closing underperforming stores (while opening new ones in promising locations) for the past several years. In the wider region, the Reston Town Center location also closed in January.

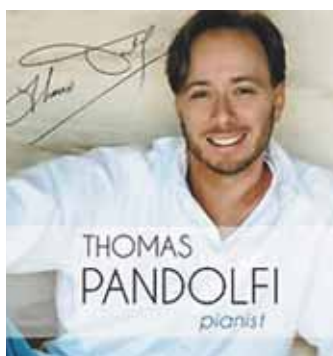
Hope Nelson owns and operates the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at [www.kitchenrecessionista.com](http://www.kitchenrecessionista.com). Email her any time at [hope@kitchenrecessionista.com](mailto:hope@kitchenrecessionista.com).

## CALENDAR

**An Evening of Love Songs.** 8 p.m. at The Carlyle Club, 2050 Ballenger Ave. Join in for an unforgettable evening of love songs with music legends Leonard, Coleman and Blunt (LCB), three former lead vocalists from the Temptations, Platters, and Drifters as they perform the most popular songs of the past decades. Hear some of the greatest hits, such as "Under The Boardwalk," "My Girl," "Smoke Gets In Your Eyes," "Get Ready," "On Broadway," "Only You" and some new romantic melodies written and produced by Joe Coleman. Reserve seats today at [leonardcolemanandblunt.com/calendar/](http://leonardcolemanandblunt.com/calendar/).

### SUNDAY/FEB. 17

**2019 Alexandria Wedding Showcase.** 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Road. 2019 Alexandria Wedding Showcase will feature more than 60 vendors, a grand prize \$25,000 wedding giveaway, a fashion show, demonstrations, a multicultural wedding display, and destination experts, all at an event benefiting Brides Across America. Visit [www.visitalexandriava.com/event/2019-alexandria-wedding-showcase/10189/](http://www.visitalexandriava.com/event/2019-alexandria-wedding-showcase/10189/) or [www.bridesacrossamerica.com](http://www.bridesacrossamerica.com).  
**Harry Allen Winter Lecture Series.** 1:30-2:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn about the keystone plants in a garden in a lecture on "Selecting and Planting Trees." National Arboretum Head of Horticulture Scott Aker will offer tips on plant selection and proper planting and demonstrate a quick way and easy way to determine a tree's health. Adults. \$10 in advance; \$12 at the door. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring) or call 703-642-5173.  
**Walking With Washington Tour.** 2-



Pianist Thomas Pandolfi

## Philharmonic Orchestra Concert

The Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic continues its Spotlight on Women Composers season. Concert explores outstanding works by women composers Fanny Mendelssohn, Louise Farrenc, and Clara Schumann and features acclaimed virtuoso pianist Thomas Pandolfi. Sunday, Feb. 17, 3-5 p.m. At George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan St., Alexandria. \$25. Visit [www.wmpamusic.org](http://www.wmpamusic.org).

4 p.m. at Ramsay House, Alexandria Visitor's Center, 221 King St., Alexandria. Explore important sites associated with George Washington in his hometown of Alexandria. This guided walking tour of historic Old Towne covers significant people and events in Washington's life and in American history, with stops at Ramsay House, Market Square, Carlyle House, Wise's Tavern, Duvall Tavern/Charles Lee House, Gadsby's Tavern, Washington's townhouse, The Lord Fairfax House, the "Light-Horse" Harry Lee house and Christ Church. Free. Visit [washingtonbirthday.com](http://washingtonbirthday.com).

**Eclipse Chamber Orchestra.** 3 p.m. At Alexandria Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. Eclipse Chamber Orchestra Recital Series In Honor of Valentine's Day. Featuring the Columbia String Quartet; Susan Midkiff and Jane Bowyer Stewart, violins; Denise Wilkinson, viola; and Kerry Van Laanen, cello. Cost is \$25 suggested donation. Visit [www.eclipseco.org](http://www.eclipseco.org).

**Dominion Brass Concert.** 3-4:30 p.m. at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Road,

Alexandria. Dominion Brass, a large brass and percussion ensemble of professional musicians, presents benefit concert for Rising Hope Mission Church. Free. Donations to support Rising Hope will be collected during the concert. Call 703-300-0985.

**Patrons' Show Fundraiser.** 6-11 p.m. At the Art League Gallery, Studio 21, Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St., Alexandria. Featuring 800 works of art, each one available to go home with ticket holders. Many of the photographs, paintings, drawings, sculptures, wall hangings, and ceramics far exceed the cost of admission. The night of the event, ticket holder's names are drawn in random order, and those called early have their first choice among the hundreds of works. Visitors may view the works through Saturday, Feb. 16, at The Art League Gallery. Visit [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org).

### MONDAY/FEB. 18

**Washington's Birthday Celebration.** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. At



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Wednesday - Roast Turkey Special  
Thursday - Lasagna Night  
Friday - Fish Fry  
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734 North St. Asaph Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

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# ENTERTAINMENT

George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Hwy., Mount Vernon. Free. Celebrate the first president of the United States on the most exciting day of the year. Witness a presidential tribute featuring honored guests and a wreath laying at Washington's tomb. Listen to remarks given by esteemed speakers during the Official Observance Ceremony of George Washington's Birthday. Watch Continental soldiers conduct a marching drill, fire their guns and charge at their enemy in an exciting military demonstration. After the smoke clears, listen to the Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps play patriotic music. Listen to the Washington family share stories about past celebrations of the General's birthday, including the first public celebration and the gathering during the winter encampment at Valley Forge. Visit [www.MountVernon.org/Birthday](http://www.MountVernon.org/Birthday) or call 703-780-2000.

**Breakfast and Meeting.** 9-10:30 a.m. At Crowne Plaza Old Town, 901 N. Fairfax St., Alexandria. Breakfast and Meeting of the Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association. Meet special guests and enjoy a hearty breakfast with members of this historic association at this annual tradition. Be there for the first appearance of the day of General and Lady Washington. Dr. Jimmie McClellan, Dean of the Liberal Arts Division of Northern Virginia Community College, is the guest speaker. Tickets are \$40. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit [www.FriendshipFireCo.org](http://www.FriendshipFireCo.org) or call 703-829-6640.

**Wreath Laying Ceremony.** 11 a.m.-12 p.m. At the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the Revolution, Old Presbyterian Meeting House, 321 S. Fairfax St., Alexandria. Join the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Sons of the American Revolution as they host colonial military and civilians to honor the soldiers of the Revolution. Free.

**Concert at Market Square.** 11 a.m.-12 p.m., Market Square, 301 King St., Alexandria. Come enjoy a free one-hour concert by the parade marching band units in honor of the General and Lady Washington at Market Square. Free.

**Historic Alexandria Open Houses.** 11 a.m.-4 p.m. At various museums throughout Old Town Alexandria. In honor of George Washington's birthday, admission is free at these historic Alexandria sites: Friendship Firehouse Museum, Gadsby's Tavern Museum, Old Presbyterian Meeting House, Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum and Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum. Free.

**Armed Forces Community Covenant Ceremony.** 12-1 p.m. At Market Square, 301 King St., Alexandria. Come honor our nation's veterans and active military, and sign the community covenant document showing your support for our armed forces and their families at the Parade Reviewing Stand adjacent to Market Square. Free.

**George Washington Birthday Parade.** 1-3 p.m. Old Town Alexandria. The nation's largest George Washington Birthday parade marches a one-mile route through the streets of Old Town Alexandria. This community parade honors one of the Alexandria's favorite sons. Free. For more information, including parking, maps, route and status, visit [www.WashingtonBirthday.com](http://www.WashingtonBirthday.com) or call 703-829-6640.

## TUESDAY/FEB. 19

**On-Line Genealogy Privacy.** 1-3 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria.

Sponsored by the Mount Vernon Genealogical Society, Bruce deGrazia, University of Maryland professor of Cyber Security Management and Policy, will speak about how to protect your privacy while engaged in genealogical research on the Internet. Free, open to public. Visit [www.mvgenealogy.org](http://www.mvgenealogy.org).

**Diverse Documentaries – “I Am Not Your Negro.”** 7 p.m. At Barrett Branch Library - Second Floor, 717 Queen St., Alexandria. This documentary, based on the unfinished work of James Baldwin, reflects on the death of three historic African-American men and the current civil rights, Black Lives Matter movement. PG-13. Visit [www.alexandria.lib.va.us](http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us) or call 703-746-1703.

**Night with Super Moon.** 7:30-9 p.m. At Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. The moon won't really be any bigger in February, but it may look that way. Take an evening boardwalk stroll and experience the bright super moon as it rises in the sky. The full moon will be at its closest point to Earth for the year, which can make it look larger than usual. Cost is \$8 per person. Children must be accompanied by an adult registered for the program. Call 703-768-2525 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows).

## WEDNESDAY/FEB. 20

**Antiques Club Program.** 9:30 a.m. at Hollin Hall Center, Room 216, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Dr. Brian Belanger, curator at the National Capital Radio & TV Museum will give a program on “The Fibber McGee and Molly Show” at the Alexandria-Mt. Vernon Antique Club. All are welcomed. Call 703-960-4973.

**Afternoon Book Club – Their Eyes Were Watching God.** 2-3 p.m. At Burke Branch Library Meeting Room, 4701 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Celebrate Black History Month by joining us for a discussion of “Their Eyes Were Watching God” by Zora Neale Hurston. Visit [www.alexandria.lib.va.us](http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us) or call 703-746-1704.

**Be an Inventor!** 4-5 p.m. At Burke Branch Library Meeting Room, 4701 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Learn about African American inventors and try some inventing of one's own. Grades 2-5. Visit [www.alexandria.lib.va.us](http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us) or call 703-746-1704.

**Amazing African American STEAM.** 4 p.m. At Barrett Branch Library - First Floor, 717 Queen St., Alexandria. Hands on art and science projects for ages 5+. No registration required. Visit [www.alexandria.lib.va.us](http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us) or call 703-746-1703.

**Duncan Book Discussion Group – “Underground Railroad.”** 7 p.m. At Duncan Library Meeting Room, 2501 Commonwealth Ave., Alexandria. The Duncan Book Discussion Group meets on the third Wednesday of each month. Visit [www.alexandria.lib.va.us](http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us) or call 703-746-1705.

**Alexandria's African-American History.** 7-8:30 p.m. At Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St., Alexandria. Join Audrey Davis, Director of the Alexandria Black History Museum, and learn some of the fascinating history of African Americans in Alexandria. Visit [alexandria.lib.va.us](http://alexandria.lib.va.us) or call 703-746-1702.

## THURSDAY/FEB. 21

**African-American Experience During the Civil War.** 7 p.m. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. In celebration of Black History Month, Audrey Davis, the Executive Director of the Alexandria



## Still Life Alive

Patricia Uchello One Woman Art Show, featuring 100 original oil paintings of flowers, fruit, landscapes and seascapes. Uchello's work has been collected by IBM, the International Monetary Fund, etc. On display through April 2, 2019, 9-5 p.m. at River Farm, 7931 East Boulevard Drive, Alexandria. Email [pmuchello@aol.com](mailto:pmuchello@aol.com) or visit [www.patriciauchello.com](http://www.patriciauchello.com).

**Patricia Uchello's solo exhibit “Still Life Alive,” is on display at River Farm, headquarters of the American Horticultural Society.**

Black History Museum, will lead a conversation on the African-American experience during the Civil War. The lives of Contrabands in occupied Alexandria, how they worked, survived and succeeded in moving towards freedom will be discovered. Furthermore, as the only Alexandrian that consulted in the PBS mini-series “Mercy Street,” she will lend insight into the making of the show. \$15. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) or call 703-548-0035.

**Lecture: Did You Know?** 7 p.m. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal St., Alexandria. Presenting interesting and little known facts about George Washington. Rather than focusing on one aspect of George Washington's remarkable life in some detail, Professor Henriques will touch on a variety of interesting and relatively little-known facts about Washington, including some that are not very complimentary. \$12 per person, \$10 for members of the Gadsby's Tavern Museum Society and Gadsby's Tavern Museum volunteers. Tickets available online at [shop.alexandriava.gov](http://shop.alexandriava.gov).

## FRIDAY/FEB. 22

**George Washington's Birthday Celebration.** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. At George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mt. Vernon. Celebrate the national observance of George Washington's birthday by visiting his home and burial site free of charge. The traditional wreath-laying ceremony at Washington's Tomb takes place at 10 a.m. followed by Mount Vernon's official celebration on the bowling green including a keynote speaker and 21-gun salute to the first president. Special military demonstrations and patriotic music will follow at 11:15 a.m. Mount Vernon celebrates Washington's 287th birthday with a naturalization ceremony. Visit [mountvernon.org](http://mountvernon.org).  
**Mount Vernon in AR.** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at George Washington's Mount

Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mt. Vernon. Celebrate Washington's love of emerging technologies with the estate's formal debut of “Mount Vernon in AR” tour. Mount Vernon is one of the country's first historic sites to integrate augmented reality tours into its regular visitor offerings, inviting guests to enjoy lesser-known stories of the first president's estate revealed by immersive 3D imagery layered over a view of the real landscape. Holograms of George and Martha Washington, 360-degree recreations of former buildings and gardens, and images of artifacts placed in their original context, are among the many tools used in the one-of-a-kind storytelling. This tour is \$12.50 in addition to general admission. “Mount Vernon in AR” availability is weather dependent. Visit [mountvernon.org](http://mountvernon.org).

**Movie Matinee – “The Hate U Give.”** 3:30 p.m. At Burke Branch Library Meeting Room, 4701 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Visit [www.alexandria.lib.va.us](http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us) or call 703-746-1704.

**Artist Reception.** 6:30-8:30 p.m. At The Gallery at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. The Alexandria All City High School Art Exhibition hosted by the Convergence Arts Initiative returns for its fourth and most exciting year so far. This year's experience features over 90 Alexandria high school students representing six high schools including public, private, and independent. Returning for 2019's collaborative event are students from Bishop Ireton, Episcopal High School, T.C. Williams, St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School, Commonwealth Academy, and The Howard Gardner School. Visit [www.ourconvergence.org](http://www.ourconvergence.org).

## FRIDAY-SATURDAY/FEB. 22-23

**Tales from the Nest.** 7:30 p.m. at Evolution Home, 6239 Shields Ave., Alexandria. Featuring an evening of

comedic short plays, written by local playwright, Veronique Autphenne. These tales offer a snapshot of family life and relationships in the beautiful, flawed, absurdly competitive, and often hilarious suburbs we call home. \$15. Tickets available at [eventbrite.com/e/tales-from-the-nest-tickets-55087694778](http://eventbrite.com/e/tales-from-the-nest-tickets-55087694778).

## SATURDAY/FEB. 23

**Screen-Printing Activity for Families.** At Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St., Alexandria. Materials are limited, so reservations are encouraged via Office of Historic Alexandria website. This event is co-sponsored by the Alexandria Black History Museum and the City of Alexandria Office on the Arts. Free. Reservations strongly suggested. Visit [shop.alexandriava.gov](http://shop.alexandriava.gov).

**Specialty Tour: A Complicated Hospitality.** 10-11 a.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Through the stories, experiences, and archival traces of those enslaved by John Gadsby, consider how the nuances of urban slavery expand the understanding of slavery and Alexandria. Advance purchase of tickets recommended; limited space available. \$15 per person, \$12 for Gadsby Tavern Museum members. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov](http://www.alexandriava.gov).

**Talk on Urban Agriculture.** 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. At Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Discussion on Urban Agriculture - “Grow What You Eat: Starting Your Own Vegetable Garden.” Learn easy-to-implement practices for selecting a site, and evaluating and improving soil. Find out which plants grow best locally, which are best planted directly via seeds and which are typically transplanted as seedlings. Discover how to attract pollinators and other beneficial insects. Learn to identify and manage pests, weeds and diseases. Get free seeds and a vegetable garden calendar



# ENTERTAINMENT

customized for the region. Free. Advance registration requested at [mgmv.org](http://mgmv.org). Call 703-228-6414 or email [mgarlalex@gmail.com](mailto:mgarlalex@gmail.com).

**Locals' Alley Saturdays.** 12:30-2:30 p.m. at The Old Town Shop, 105 S. Union St. at King Street. Meet the makers of local goods, featuring: Sweet Sophia local honey product tasting. Call 703-684-4682 or visit [www.TheOldTownShop.com](http://www.TheOldTownShop.com).

**George Washington Symposium.** 1-4 p.m. At George Washington Masonic National Memorial. Free. The theme is "George Washington: Symbol of an Age." The George Washington Symposium is held annually on Washington's birthday to provide the public with enlightening contemporary research on the life of George Washington. Mark Tabbert, the Memorial's director of collections, serves as the symposium's master of ceremonies. Attendees are asked to pre-register at [www.GWMemorial.org](http://www.GWMemorial.org).

**Civil War Winter Drill Day.** 1-4 p.m. At Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site, 4301 West Braddock Road, Alexandria. Members of the 3rd U.S. Regular Infantry, Company K, will interpret the life of the Union soldier. The program features drills, discussion of equipment, uniforms, weaponry and army life, and information on the popular field of Civil War reenacting for military and civilian interpreters. Visit [forward.org](http://forward.org) or call 703-746-4848.

**Alexandria Big Band Winter Bash.** 4-5 p.m. at Del Ray United Methodist Church, 100 East Windsor Ave. Hear some of the biggest #1 hits in Alexandria's fun-filled Big Band Winter Bash featuring the Alexandria Citizens Swing Band. Free. Call 703-920-8675 or visit [bigbandwinterbash.eventbrite.com](http://bigbandwinterbash.eventbrite.com).

**Birds' Courtship Rituals.** 5:30-7:30 p.m. At Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Journey through the park with a guide to one of Huntley's largest meadows. Listen for the call of the male woodcock and hopefully see his elaborate courtship dance and flight. This program for adults involves a walk of approximately 1.5 miles on uneven terrain. Cost is \$9. Bring a flashlight and meet at the South Kings Highway entrance to the park. Call 703-768-2525 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows).

**Annual Washington's Birthday Gala.** 5:30-10 p.m. At George Washington Masonic National Memorial. Formal (white tie optional). Reception at 5:30 p.m. Entertainment in the Memorial Theater at 6:45 p.m. Banquet in the Memorial's Grand Masonic Hall at 7:30 p.m. The presentation of the George Washington Memorial Award will take place during the banquet. Tickets are \$150. Reservations are required. To purchase tickets, visit [www.GWMemorial.org](http://www.GWMemorial.org) or call 703-683-2007.

## SUNDAY/FEB. 24

**Mikah Meyer Discussion.** 9:30 and 11 a.m. At Fairlington United Methodist Church, 3900 King St., Alexandria. Meyer, a national parks adventurer and National Cathedral countertenor singer, will share music and a message inspired by his nonstop, three-year road trip to all 418 National Park Service sites. Come hear how the church has played an inspiring role in this project. Following services at 12:15 p.m., there will be a light lunch and Q&A session with Meyer in the church fellowship hall; the lunch event is free and no RSVP is required. Visit [fairlingtonumc.org](http://fairlingtonumc.org).

**Harry Allen Winter Lecture Series.** 1:30-2:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Get tips from horticulturalist Karen Rexrode as she leads a lecture on the



**Columbia String Quartet preparing for their upcoming performance. From left: Kerry Van Laanen, Jane Bowyer Stewart, Denise Wilkinson, Susan Midkiff.**

## In Honor of Valentine's Day

Eclipse Chamber Orchestra Recital Series in Honor of Valentine's Day, featuring the Columbia String Quartet; Susan Midkiff and Jane Bowyer Stewart, violins; Denise Wilkinson, viola; and Kerry Van Laanen, cello. Sunday, Feb. 17, 3 p.m. At Alexandria Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. \$25 suggested donation. Visit [www.eclipseco.org](http://www.eclipseco.org).

"Uncommon Cut Flower." She will share some of her favorite plants that are both beautiful ornamentals in the garden and unusual cut flowers. Adults. \$10 in advance; \$12 at the door. Visit [fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring](http://fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring) or call 703-642-5173.

**Walking With Washington Tour.** 2-4 p.m. at Ramsay House, Alexandria Visitor's Center, 221 King St., Alexandria. Explore important sites associated with George Washington in his hometown of Alexandria. This guided walking tour of historic Old Towne covers significant people and events in Washington's life and in American history, with stops at Ramsay House, Market Square, Carlyle House, Wise's Tavern, Duvall Tavern/Charles Lee House, Gadsby's Tavern, Washington's townhouse, The Lord Fairfax House, the "Light-Horse" Harry Lee house and Christ Church. Free. Visit [washingtonbirthday.com](http://washingtonbirthday.com).

**Artist Talk: Fax Ayres, Photography.** 2:30 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Fax Ayres' photography employs a 'lightpainting' technique to imbue his subjects with an almost surreal quality. He sets up still life vignettes in the dark and then carefully paints individual components with light, assembling multiple images together to create the final photograph. Fax Ayres lives and works in Charlottesville. The exhibition runs Jan. 10-Feb. 24, 2019. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org).

**Pohick Church Coffeehouse Fundraiser.** 5-7 p.m. at Historic Pohick Episcopal Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Come for an evening of entertainment, snacks, coffee and hot chocolate. Performers will include youth, adults and local musicians. All are welcome. The event is free, but donations are encouraged: all proceeds go toward the summer Sr. High Mission Trip. Visit [www.pohick.org](http://www.pohick.org).

**The Capitol Steps Benefit Performance.** 7 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run Road, Fairfax. Join in for a SILLYarious evening as the Capitol Steps political satire comedy troupe performs a show to benefit high school theatre for the Cappies of the National Capitol Area. Free parking. Adults, \$30; students/senior citizens, \$20; children 12 and under, \$10; and groups of 10 or more, \$15. Contact Amy.Young@cappies.com or visit

[www.cappies.com/nca](http://www.cappies.com/nca).

## MONDAY/FEB. 25

**Whither Landmark: What Happens After Wonder Woman?** 7:15 p.m. At The Hermitage Auditorium, 5000 Fairbanks Ave., Alexandria. Find out about the Howard Hughes Corporation's big plans for a redeveloped Landmark Mall, which will be an open-air mixed-use community with retail, residential and entertainment. Part of the Agenda:Alexandria program, which falls on the fourth Monday of the month, begin at 7:15 p.m. Programs are \$5 each or free with \$35 membership, payable on-line at [www.AgendaAlexandria.org](http://www.AgendaAlexandria.org)/sign-up page or at the door by check or credit. All are invited to a pre-program dinner, if desired. Dinner is 6:45-7:15 p.m., prices starting at \$32 with reservations by the Friday prior to the program. Visit [www.Agenda:Alexandria.com](http://www.Agenda:Alexandria.com).

**Manumission Tour Company.** 7:15-8:30 p.m. At Kate Waller Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St., Alexandria. The Manumission Tour Company brings the knowledge from their manumission walking tour to the Barrett Branch Library for an evening immersed in the history of African-American Alexandrians. Free. Visit [alexlibraryva.org/event/1557299](http://alexlibraryva.org/event/1557299).

**Liberated Muse Arts Group.** 7-8:30 p.m. At Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St., Alexandria. Liberated Muse Arts Group Presents: "Zora Past the Sun" a musical and poetic tribute to Zora Neale Hurston. Call 703-746-1702 or visit [www.alexandria.lib.va.us](http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us).

**Reading "Sapphira and the Slave Girl."** 7-8:30 p.m. at Duncan Library Meeting Room, 2501 Commonwealth Ave., Alexandria. Dr. Janie Mitchell returns to Dundanc to lead a discussion of Willa Cather's "Sapphira and the Slave Girl." Visit [www.alexandria.lib.va.us](http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us) or call 703-746-1705.

**Journalist Jim McElhatton.** 7-9 p.m. At Burke Branch Library Meeting Room, 4701 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Talk with journalist Jim McElhatton as he highlights 60 Years of Integration of Alexandria Schools and the stories of ordinary people who helped change civil rights in Alexandria Schools. Call 703-746-1704 or visit [alexandria.lib.va.us](http://alexandria.lib.va.us).

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# School Board Adopts FY 2020 Advertised Budget

Budget prioritizes employee compensation with \$55.2 million more for teacher salary scales.

The Fairfax County School Board has adopted the FY 2020 Advertised Budget of \$3.0 billion, an increase of 4.1 percent, or \$117.4 million, over the FY 2019 Approved Budget. The FY 2020 budget prioritizes employee compensation with a \$55.2 million investment in teacher salary scales that includes a 1.0 percent market scale adjustment. The budget also includes \$46.8 million for a step increase for eligible employees, and \$8.2 million for a 1.0 percent market scale adjustment for non-teacher salary scale employees.

"The School Board's Advertised Budget fulfills the Board's commitment to bring teacher salaries to the market average," said School Board Chair Karen Corbett Sanders. "The impact our teachers have on the lives of our students is immeasurable

and we recognize that competitive compensation is a critical component in our effort to provide equity and excellence across our school division. Together with our energized recruiting strategy, offering competitive compensation should enable us to hire and retain the best teachers for our students. In doing so, we can keep the focus on our students, teachers, and classroom instruction."

The School Board has scheduled two work sessions on April 29 and May 2 to further evaluate the budget amendments and follow-on motions.

The FY 2020 budget includes \$46.8 million for a step increase for eligible employees; \$8.2 million for non-teacher salary scale employees; \$4.3 million to expand the FCPSOn program, providing one-to-one computing devices to high school students;

an increase in substitute pay for retirees; and expansion of the AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program at Key Middle, Herndon High, and a Title I elementary school to be named. The board also approved an additional \$2.9 million for student mental health, student safety, and substance abuse prevention.

The budget assumes a slight decrease in student enrollment which will result in savings of \$6.3 million. The Advertised Budget supports more than 188,000 students, nearly 200 schools and centers, and staffing of approximately 24,000 employees — with more than 93 percent of employees school-based.

The FCPS budget relies on the Fairfax County general fund transfer to provide the majority of the revenue needed; this year, FCPS is asking the county to pro-

vide 71.3 percent of the total revenue. This reliance on county funding is due to FCPS only receiving approximately half of the average state funding other Virginia jurisdictions receive. FCPS expects to receive 23.8 percent of its FY 2020 budget from the state in the form of state aid and sales tax revenue. Federal funding provides less than 2 percent of FCPS' annual operating revenue.

The School Board will present its FY 2020 Advertised Budget to the Board of Supervisors on April 9, and is scheduled to take action on the FY 2020 Approved Budget at its May 23 meeting. FCPS' FY 2020 begins July 1, 2019.

Information about relevant budget dates, along with updates and budget news, is available online at [www.fcps.edu/about-fcpsbudget/budget-development-calendar](http://www.fcps.edu/about-fcpsbudget/budget-development-calendar).



PHOTOS BY GLENN COOK  
**Rachelle Vann and Eli Schulman. Accompanist James Woods on piano.**



**From left: John Ray, Gigi George, Brian Selcik, Sylvia Taylor, Eli Schulman, Rachelle Vann, Garrett Janiak, and Mariah White.**

## Choir Students Perform at Library of Congress

Eight choir students of Metropolitan School of the Arts (MSA) Performing Arts Academy of Alexandria recently performed in "The Public Domain: Celebrating the Lifecycle of Copyright" in the Library of Congress Coolidge Auditorium, an event of the U.S. Copyright Office.

The Metropolitan School of the Arts Advanced Choir performed selections of material in the public domain. The eight students in this group are mostly music theater-focused, studying voice, dance and theater in a conservatory-style performance arts program.

As part of the Copyright Matters event series, three creators showcase a performance

based on public domain works and provide an overview of their creative process. They also discuss what the public domain is and how it has changed since the internet.

"We appreciate the Library of Congress providing us a unique creative opportunity to marry performing arts and birds-eye view of the process of copyrighting and public

domain," said Melissa Dobbs, executive director and founder of Metropolitan School of the Arts of Alexandria.

The Academy at Metropolitan School of the Arts is a college preparatory performing arts program for emerging young artists, grades 7 to 12. Visit [www.metropolitanarts.org](http://www.metropolitanarts.org).

## Grist Mill Park Master Plan Revision to Begin

The Fairfax County Park Authority will begin a master plan revision for Grist Mill Park in the Mount Vernon District. Members of the public are invited to attend a public information meeting on Monday, March 4, at 7 p.m. in the Woodley Hills Elementary School cafeteria, located at 8718 Old Mount Vernon Road.

This is a chance to learn the background

of the park, its current conditions, and the park master planning process. The agency would like to gather input from residents and park users on what improvements they would like to see in Grist Mill Park, which is located at 4710 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway in Alexandria.

Grist Mill Park currently provides over 75 acres of playing fields, garden plots, off-leash

dog area, playground, historic barn, parking, trails, and forest. The park is classified as a district park. Existing facilities provide opportunities for park users to attend programs, camps, concerts, and sporting events; practice; exercise; walk their dogs; garden; picnic; and enjoy the outdoors.

Grist Mill Park's current master plan has guided the park's uses and development

since it was approved in 2002. Since 2002, visitation to the park has grown as the county has developed.

For more information, visit the Grist Mill Park Master Plan Revision project webpage at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/grist-mill-park-master-plan-revision>, or contact the Public Information Office at 703-324-8662.





PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE GAZETTE

Attendees at the NOVA Parks and Fairfax County Park Authority joint public meeting listen to Presenter Chris Pauley as he describes the proposed changes.

## E-bikes to Come to Area Trails

FROM PAGE 1

...The way it works is our park regulations are enforceable by law. It is a Class IV misdemeanor. So technically someone riding an e-bike yesterday could be cited with a Class IV misdemeanor. That's probably not where we want to be."

**STATE LAW** is pretty wide-open, said Pauley. He cautioned, "That might not be the best fit for some of our trails from the perspective of safety." Pauley said the proposal they were presenting that evening was to strike the motor-assist piece to clearly define mopeds are not permitted on trails, only where motor vehicles are allowed to go.

Pauley stated that they added a section that would define what a power-assist or e-bike would be. "That's basically operable pedals, with an assist motor," he said. "The proposal would be to discount the e-bike as a motorized vehicle thereby allowing it to travel any place a traditional bike would be able to go," Pauley said. In the draft guidelines,

Pauley said they defined an e-bike, its performance level, where e-bikes can be operated and how it can be used. "This is a significant first step, a positive step to get these people back on the trails, get them into the parks, get them to be inclusive in their recreation, help them with the lifestyle they want to live and get them back on the bike to enjoy themselves," said Pauley.



Members of the NOVA Board listen to the presentation during the Fairfax County Park Authority and Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority joint public meeting.

### VIEWPOINTS

## Comments from the Public



**Beth Meyer,**  
Co-owner,  
Green  
Lizard  
Cycling,  
Herndon

"I was asked by NVRPA to bring a couple

of different styles of e-bikes that comply with the recommended guidelines in that they are less than 750 watts, don't go over 20 mph and do not have a throttle but require the rider to pedal in order to get any benefit from the electric motor."



**Steve Jones,**  
Clifton

"The Bull Run Occoquan Trail is a single track, and even the new improved sections

of the trail have such tight turns and short sight lines that you can't see what's coming around the next bend ... The Trail at Fountainhead (Regional Park) shouldn't be a multi-use trail until you correct it. I have been frightened by e-bikes coming around a sharp turn."



**Susan Arango,**  
Burke

"As a teenager, I was fine riding my bike. Fast forward 40 years and bad knees ...

I'm on an e-bike. I'm discovering so many cool neighborhoods, so many ponds, so many lakes ... If more people can become happy people, happy residents, happy cyclists, like myself, let's make the world a happier place by accepting this proposal."

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-Werner Heisenberg

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## So Far, So Good



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

This column will be the definition of premature.

After subjecting you regular readers to multiple columns discussing my anxiety – and fear – about the potential/presumptive and possibly debilitating and life-changing/life-ending side effects of immunotherapy, I am here to say that after my first pair of bi-weekly infusions – occurring over the past three weeks, I am no worse for the experience.

I'm feeling better than I felt while undergoing chemotherapy: No eating issues, less fatigue, less shortness of breath and more energy. The only caveat to this emptor is whether the infusions are actually shrinking my Adam's Apple tumor, which was the primary reason for making the medicine change we did.

Now whether the side effects are still coming; I certainly don't know, but should they still be on the way, I can't help but wonder: Will they change the quality of my life – for the worse? Because, for the bi-weekly moment, I am less impacted by my treatment than I have been for years.

I can't say with any degree of certainty however, or recall what my oncologist might have said concerning the likely onset of the "over 30 percent report some side effects" as the reprint from "chemocare.com" indicated. Generally speaking, my oncologist would rather not discuss future scenarios: What happens when? What do we do if? When do we do what? And so I don't ask nearly as many questions as I used to.

It's not that I'm less curious, it's that I'm more experienced. And I have learned through my experience, that part of being a cancer patient is unfortunately, waiting and seeing – and of course, hoping. Talking/anticipating/being told what to expect is helpful – up to a point.

The point which is most helpful is when something actually happens. Knowing what to expect is less important than knowing what to do/how to manage expectations should they manifest. It may be something or it may be nothing. Trying not to make matters worse is the key.

Being a cancer patient/survivor is a series of challenges – both emotional and physical. Finding a stride in which you can take the ups and downs and all-arounds will help you live life in the cancer lane. And just because the road is bumpy, doesn't preclude you from smoothing it out.

Actions and reactions, plan "A" and plan "B" are par for the course. So be grateful for today because tomorrow the course may play much more difficult. Being positive about the negative offers the path of least resistance.

Today, I am not experiencing any side effects, thankfully.

"Tomorrow" however, as Scarlet O'Hara said at the end of "Gone With The Wind," "is another day." Worrying, as I had been admitting to in previous columns, about something which as yet had not happened, is especially unhelpful and wastes precious time.

As a cancer patient, so there's plenty of actual bad news, generally, so there's no benefit is rushing it along. Let it happen naturally, or not at all; and occasionally, you might be pleasantly surprised, as three weeks into my new immunotherapy regimen, I am, as what side effects I anticipated/feared have not affected.

I realize I'm probably early in assessing the likely side effects of my treatment but, for the time being, I can find some peace and quiet; and when you're a cancer patient diagnosed originally as "terminal," "peace and quiet" is never to be taken for granted.

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

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## CRIME

FROM PAGE 5

### FEB. 11 LARCENIES

7800 block of Belford Drive, license plate from vehicle  
 4200 block of Corcoran Street, credit cards from location  
 2300 block of Huntington Avenue, merchandise from business  
 6100 block of North Kings Highway, merchandise from business  
 6800 block of Richmond Highway, tires from vehicle  
 7700 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business  
 6900 block of South Kings Highway, cigarettes from business  
 8700 block of Village Green Court, cell phone from location  
**STOLEN VEHICLES**  
 2800 block of Joseph Makell Court, 2018 Honda Accord

### FEB. 8 LARCENIES

5700 block of Indian Court, property from vehicle  
 7800 block of Richmond Highway, metal from business

### FEB. 7 LARCENIES

3100 block of Lockheed Boulevard, merchandise from business  
 7600 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business

### FEB. 6 LARCENIES

8100 block of Brown Court, documents from residence  
 6300 block of Chimney Wood Court, coins from vehicle  
**STOLEN VEHICLES**  
 2500 block of Parkers Lane, 2009 Honda Odyssey van

### FEB. 5 LARCENIES

1200 block of Belle Vista Drive, wallet from location  
 2500 block of Parkers Lane, gun from location  
**STOLEN VEHICLES**  
 3300 block of Glenmore Drive, 1996 Toyota Camry

## Green Initiatives

FROM PAGE 3

Foust said: "Community input, especially the efforts of several environmental advocacy groups, has been crucial to getting Fairfax County to this point. The county can and should play a big role in addressing climate issues and the initiatives outlined in this Board Matter are going to keep us moving in the right direction."

### BULLETIN BOARD

#### FRIDAY/FEB. 15

**Black History Month Celebration: "Know the Past, Shape the Future."** 6 p.m., reception; 7 p.m., program begins at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Virginia's Lieutenant Governor Justin E. Fairfax and Fairfax County Executive Bryan Hill will be part of the free Black History Month Celebration. The program also includes recognition of historically black churches in Fairfax County. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicaffairs/know-past-shape-future-black-history-month-celebration-0](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicaffairs/know-past-shape-future-black-history-month-celebration-0) for more.

#### TUESDAY/FEB. 19

**Board of Supervisors Meeting.** 9:30 a.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center Board Auditorium, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. For information on draft agendas, to sign up, for the meeting schedule and past agendas, as well as additional committee meetings, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/boardofsupervisors/2019-board-meetings](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/boardofsupervisors/2019-board-meetings).



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Check your windshield. Does your sticker say **12/18, 1/19,  
or 2/19**? If so, your VA Safety Inspection is now due

**VIRGINIA STATE INSPECTION**

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## CONTRACTS



**8814 Black Alder Dr.**  
Classic Colonial!

Unique Property, totally updated and remodeled Colonial on quiet cul-de-sac near Mt. Vernon County Club. Five Bedroom, 3.5 Bath home combines traditional exterior with stunning open floor plan! Special features include: dramatic two story entry, open Kitchen to Family room, thermal windows, hardwood floors, updated Kitchen & Baths, Two car garage, and truly amazing finished lower level. Custom deck overlooks expansive back yard!



**9402 Mt Vernon Circle**  
Riverfront Community! | \$875,000

Unique property in highly desired Mt. Vernon on The Potomac Neighborhood! Classic 3 level Colonial in prime location just steps from neighborhood private marina. Features inc: Open Floor plan, large room sizes, family room off nicely updated Kitchen with stone fireplace, hardwood floors, elegant trim detail, and true oversize two car garage. Community includes private waterfront grassy area, 2 tennis courts with hitting wall, fire pit, bathrooms, and docks/boat slips (for additional fee).



**9112 Volunteer Dr | \$655,000**



**8826 Black Alder | \$665,000**



**4021 Colonial Ave**  
\$1,130,000

Incredible brand new build in desirable Mount Vernon area. Almost 5,000 square feet on a flat level half acre lot. 5 Bedrooms and 4.5 Baths with long list of builder selections that set this home apart from your average build. Rare opportunity for a brand new build in Mount Vernon!

**CONTRACT!**



**9416 Old Mt Vernon Rd.**  
\$789,000

Incredible opportunity to own a brand new 5 Bed/5.5 Bath home on 4 finished levels! Economical Gas appliances include: fireplace, cook top, heat and hot water. Hardwoods on main level, open kitchen to family room w/ large island & breakfast area, 4 BR's on upper level w/ 3 baths including luxurious master suite, finished basement w/ rec room, bedroom, & full bath. 10 year builder warranty

**SOLD!**



**1400 Oakbrooke Ave**  
\$637,500

Lovely spacious home in sought after Fort Hunt area. Special features include: 4 Bedrooms, 3 Full Baths, Gourmet Kitchen, FR with Fire Place, massive screen porch off FR, and garage parking!

**SOLD!**



**8902 Beauchamp Dr.**  
\$550,000

Expanded and updated contemporary on gorgeous half acre lot near Mt. Vernon Estate. Fabulous features include: bright open floor plan, glass window wall, gorgeous hardwood floors on two levels, and oversize two car garage. Large deck overlooks private grounds. Freshly painted interior makes this one move in ready!

**SOLD!**



**8314 Wagon Wheel Dr**  
\$665,000

3 level Colonial situated on serene elevated lot overlooking natural wonderland. Private dock for your canoe, kayak, or small motor boat! Home has huge potential & features: 4/5 Bedrooms, large room sizes, hardwood floors, fully finished lower level w/ outside entrance, sunroom overlooking creek. Won't find another one like it!

**SOLD!**



**3708 Carriage House Ct**  
\$810,000

Truly special property in prime location on gorgeous lot bordering Mt. Vernon Estate grounds. Fabulous home in pristine condition. Features include bright open floor plan, stunning glass walled addition, updated expanded kitchen, gorgeous hardwood floors, 4 bedrooms including master suite with recently remodeled bath, & 2 car garage. Custom deck & brick patio overlook backyard & MV Estate

**SOLD!**

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