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Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

APRIL 4, 2019

Inside Senior Living

Affordable Housing Complex Gets Updating

Plan for garden apartments in line with Embark goals on Richmond Highway.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

The Murraygate Village Apartments in the Hybla Valley-Gum Springs area are one of the few affordable apartments left in the area. In keeping with the Embark project that encompasses much of the Richmond Highway area in Fairfax County, a renovation project is underway to upgrade and maintain the property.

"It's overdue," said Supervisor Jeff McKay (Lee-D). "This is the type of preservation we can encourage other properties to go through," he said.

In the early 1990s, when McKay was growing up around the corner, Murraygate Village fell into disrepair. It was plagued by drug trafficking and crime before Fairfax County bought it and renovated it in 1994. It now serves households at or below 60 percent of the area median income, which is \$58,000 or \$70,000 for a family of four.

The renovation is addressing everything on the inside of the individual apartments, primarily focusing on the kitchen and bath-



Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay and Tom Fleetwood of the Department of Housing look at the grounds at Murraygate.

rooms. When first built in 1971, the kitchens were enclosed, making it difficult for parents to monitor young children. This is a common set up in many older apartments, and the renovation includes taking out part of the wall between the kitchen and living room, adding new counters, cabinets, sinks and a dishwasher that was not included in the first renovation.

They are getting individual electricity boxes as well so each apartment will be responsible for that utility.

"We are opening up the kitchen area," said Regina Gerner at the Fairfax County Department of Housing.

There are 200 apartments in Murraygate Village and the renovation is being done in seven phases. The families will be moved out to another apartment or another location before being moved back when the work is done. The project is scheduled to be completed in 2020.

Security will be part of the upgrades. Currently the doors to the buildings lock and can only be opened with an ID/Key or from a resident inside, but this system needs to be replaced too. "They don't work," said Judy Niles, the occupancy manager, "some of them are so old," she added.

Embark is a project that was launched a few years ago by Supervisors McKay and Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon) to "create a multimodal future for Richmond Highway where residents, workers and visitors can walk, bike or drive to the places they want to

go," according to county information. Although there is an emphasis on transportation, upgrading aging buildings and affordable housing is part of the larger Embark picture.

Tom Fleetwood, the Fairfax County director of the Department of Housing was at the tour as well. "Preserving existing affordable housing is consistent with the goals of Embark," he said.



Electrical circuits, structures, painting, tiling and wallboard are part of the work involved.



In an apartment undergoing renovations, Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay looks at the progress with Regina Gerner at the Fairfax County Department of Housing.



Lesley Hatch of Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services, looks at the renovation plans in the management office of Murraygate Village Apartments.

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ceilings, deep moldings, plantation shutters, 2 fireplaces, and new spa-like master bath. Open chef's kitchen with stainless appliances and granite countertops. Garage parking for 2 cars.

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Dustin Foley, state Sen. Adam Ebbin, Del. Paul Krizek and Del. Mark Sickles.



Nicole Angarella, Ilona Birenbaum, Deborah Ruggieri and Connie Matthews Harshaw.

PHOTOS FROM NEW HOPE HOUSING

\$160,000 Raised at Casino Night Fundraiser

Greg Garcia honored.

More than 250 people gathered at the Waterford Receptions in Springfield on March 16 for New Hope Housing's Spring fundraiser: "80s Night at the Casino." Over \$160,000 was raised to support New Hope Housing's mission to end homelessness and help move homeless neighbors from homelessness to a home.

Greg Garcia was presented with New Hope Housing's "Good Neighbor" award for his years of philanthropy and for his inclusive writing that demonstrates dignity and respect for all people. Currently the creator, producer, and writer of "The Guest Book" on TBS, he is also the creator of "My Name is Earl," "Raising Hope," and "Yes, Dear," and the writer of the Jimmy Buffett musical, "Escape to Margaritaville."

An Arlington native, Garcia graduated from Frostburg State University in 1992 and moved to Los Angeles to participate in the Warner Brothers Writing Program. After completion, he began working on a number of hit TV shows before he created "Yes, Dear" in 2000. Since then, he has received an Emmy for comedy, and has twice received a GLAAD award for an episode each of "My Name is Earl" and "Raising Hope." The GLAAD Media Award recognizes outstanding representations of the LGBTQ

community and issues that affect their lives. His current show, "The Guest Book," won a GLAAD award this year. "My Name is Earl" also received a Humanitas Award, which is awarded to film and television writing intended to promote human dignity, meaning, and freedom.

Garcia's path first intersected with New Hope Housing when a team of cast members from his show "My Name is Earl" competed on "Celebrity Family Feud" in 2008. The winnings would be given to a charity of the team's choice.

Garcia wanted to give back home in Northern Virginia and called his mom, Natalie Garcia. She recommended New Hope Housing. "My Name is Earl" won \$10,000 on the show and donated to NHH. "That was the beginning of a beautiful friendship," said Pamela L. Michell, executive director of New Hope Housing.

During the presentation, Michell also said, "We applaud Greg for his inclusive writing that demonstrates dignity and respect for all, values that are so important at New Hope Housing."

State Sen. Adam Ebbin presented Garcia with a Virginia flag that had previously



Greg Garcia and Pam Michell.

flown over the state capitol building in thanks for remembering his roots in Northern Virginia, adding "you may be the only person in Hollywood flying a Virginia flag on your front lawn."

A video was shown of Suequita Williams in which she shared her struggles with homelessness and trying to take care of her young son while living out of her car. Williams moved into a New Hope Housing

apartment over a year ago and has been working to rebuild her health and reconnect with her now adult son. She spoke live after the video to thank everyone for their support of people who have been in her situation.

Diamond Club Sponsors were Greg and Kim Garcia. Platinum Sponsors were United Bank, Kaiser Permanente, Modern Technology Solutions, Inc., Phil & Peg Soucy, and Rob & Lorraine Lavet. Thirty-four additional families and businesses also sponsored this event.

Everything Entertainment from Rockville, Md, provided DJ services, casino gaming, and motivational dancers to get everyone up and dancing to tunes from the 80s. Swisher Auctions provided the auctioneer for our Live Auction and Fund-A-Need Auction which itself raised over \$27,000 for NHH's Home & Bright Future Fund to rapidly house homeless individuals.

New Hope Housing is a nonprofit agency providing shelter, transitional and permanent supportive housing, outreach and support services for homeless families and single adults in Fairfax County, City of Alexandria, Arlington County, and City of Falls Church. See www.newhopehousing.org.



Patrick Schmidt, Dan Peabody and Renee Aldrich



Suequita Williams



Suzi Welch and Stacy Young

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Harriet H. Fatzinger Memorial Scholarship

From left are Dr. Laura Dickson, acting dean of Nursing; Dr. Nicole Reaves, provost of the Medical Education Campus at Northern Virginia Community College; Dr. Scott Ralls, president, Northern Virginia Community College; Linda Kim, 2019 nursing scholarship winner; and Dr. Glenn Fatzinger, scholarship sponsor for his late wife, Harriet H. Fatzinger who was a cum laude nursing graduate of the Northern Virginia Community College in 1972. The scholarship luncheon was held March 13 at the Mount Vernon Inn. More than 160 persons have contributed over \$100,000 to the Harriet H. Fatzinger endowed nursing memorial scholarship administered by the Northern Virginia Educational Foundation, Inc. of the Northern Virginia Community College. A total of 14 nursing scholarships have been awarded since the scholarship was established in 2011.

Awarded First in VFW Essay Contest

Austin Houck, a senior at West Potomac High School, was awarded first place in the Voice of Democracy scholarship contest offered by the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 7327 and Auxiliary in Springfield, during their annual awards ceremony on Saturday, March 30.

Austin and his submission was sponsored by his former history teacher, Daniel Baldwin. The topic of the Voice of Democracy essay for this year was "Why My Vote Matters." Austin performed a reading of his essay during the awards ceremony, which also honored teachers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, law enforcement officers, and other volunteers who contribute to the betterment of their communities. Austin's and the others' awards were entered into the Congressional Record via the U.S. Gerald E. Connolly (D-11).

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is a nonprofit veterans service organization; its programs and services support veterans, service mem-



Austin Houck

bers and their families, as well as communities worldwide. The VFW Voice of Democracy audio-essay program provides high school students with the opportunity to express themselves through a democratic and patriotic-themed recorded essay. Each year, nearly 40,000 9-12 grade students from across the country enter to win their share of \$2.1 million in educational scholarships and incentives awarded through the program.

Austin was also selected as a candidate for the Presidential Scholars Program this year, which is a program of the Department of Education. It is described as "one of the nation's highest honors for students." Semifinalists are announced in mid-April, and all scholars are announced the first week of May. The National Recognition Program in Washington, D.C. usually occurs in June. Austin will be attending the University of Virginia this fall as part of its 200th graduating class (Class of 2023).

BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

DONATIONS NEEDED

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. Email Assistant Food Pantry Manager Von at vonnetta.jones@ucmagency.org or visit at www.ucmagency.org.

FRIDAY/APRIL 5

Sibshops. 9 a.m.-noon at Providence Community Center, 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax. The Sibshop workshops are for children in grades 2-5 who have siblings with special needs enrolled in Fairfax County Public Schools. Meet other siblings in a fun, recreational setting; celebrate siblings; share sibling experiences and receive peer support; play games and more. A snack will be provided.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 18



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NEW LISTING
OPEN SUNDAY 1-4



Alex/Riverside Estates \$699,900
8334 Blowing Rock Road
Start with Riverside Estate's Popular "B" Model Colonial, add a 2 car garage, above that large garage add a huge addition consisting of 2BRs, & a 3rd full bath; not done yet, throw in a large in-ground swimming pool & separate hot tub, both updated in 2016, last but not least build a beautiful 12'x9' covered screened porch looking out at the pool & hot tub. Also, freshly painted interior, refinished hwd flrs on main & upper lvls. Furnace & A/C replaced in 2016. Updated kitchen & baths. What you have...a once in a lifetime home which is expanded to offer a wonderful in-law/Nanny's suite, & lastly on a wonderful, quiet cul-de-sac!!

NEW LISTING
OPEN SUNDAY 1-4



Alex/Sulgrave Manor \$530,000
4002 Old Mill Road
Beautiful 3 lvl brick split on a large, lovely .5 acre lot w/lots of trees & privacy. Spacious kitchen w/eating area that looks out to a beautiful screened porch & brick patio-perfect for grilling & entertaining. 3 spacious BRs & 2 full updated baths on the upper lvl. The lower level offers a 4th BR, Family room w/walk-out utility room & 3rd full bath. 5 minutes to Ft. Belvoir, 15 minutes to Old Town & 30 mins to National airport. Great price on this Stunning Home!!

NEW LISTING
COMING SOON



Alex/Riverside Estates \$579,850
3012 Battersea Lane
Coming Soon....Riverside's popular "Yorkshire" colonial featuring 3 finished lvls, 4 spacious BRs, 2.5 updated baths & a large 2 car garage, all on a beautiful corner lot. Numerous updates include the roof, replacement double pane windows, HVAC system, hot water heater, refinished hwdls on the main lvl w/Travertine flooring in the family rm. Additional finished space in the basement w/a rec rm & utility rm. Great location: 7 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 15 mins to Old Town, Alex, & 28 mins to Natl Airport. All this for less than \$580,000

NEW LISTING
COMING SOON



Alex/Riverside Estates Mid 500s
8309 Bound Brook Lane
Riverside's largest Colonial model w/4 large BRs, 2.5 BAs & large 1 car garage. 2000 sq.ft. on the main & upper lvls plus 900 or so sq.ft. in the basement. A great floor plan w/a spacious kit, dining rm, living rm & family rm & half bath greet you on the main lvl. 4 large bedrms & 2 full baths on the upper lvl. The basement has a large "L" shaped rec rm & a separate utility rm w/a stairwell taking you to a beautifully landscaped & fenced bkyd. Updates include a brand new roof, double pane replacement windows, a remodeled half bath & stunning refinished hwd floors on the main & upper lvls. Priced in the mid 500's to allow you to create quick equity w/a fresh paint job & some updates in the kit. Minutes to Ft. Belvoir (S) & Old Towne (N).

NEW LISTING
COMING SOON



Alex/Riverside Estates \$659,000
8332 Wagon Wheel Road
\$100,000+ of outstanding renovations in Riverside Estates popular "B" model Colonial w/garage. New roof, deck, front door & A/C in '18. Kitchen & baths in '17. Kitchen totally gutted & opens to Living & Dining rms, includes: quartz tile counters, six burner gas range by Miele, new hwd floor, SS appliances & beautiful stained cabinets. All 3.5 baths are gorgeous. MBR combined w/another bedrm to offer a beautiful suite including a huge walk-in closet to die for. Beautifully finished lower lvl offers a 4th bedrm & 3rd full BA along w/an inviting Rec rm - perfect for a Nanny or Au Pair. DBL pane windows & 6 panel doorsof course!!! Totally turnkey, enjoy!!!

UNDER CONTRACT



Alex/Stoneybrook Court \$439,900
4411 Coldbrooke Court
Charming 3BR, 1BA, 1 Level Rambler on a friendly & private cul-de-sac. Freshly painted interior, brand new carpeting, replacement double pane windows. Stainless steel kitchen appliances. Lovely, large bkyd w/privacy fence, perfect for children & the family dog. Sought after community of Stoneybrooke w/quick access to shopping, dining, Metro & highways. Enjoy the comfort of one-level living in this wonderful & well-priced home!

UNDER CONTRACT



Alex/Riverside Estates \$544,900
8525 Wagon Wheel Road
Looking for primarily one level living? You've Found It!! This lovely 2 level Rambler has been beautifully updated: roof, windows, kitchen, baths, HVAC, painted interior, & stunning refinished hwd floors. The main lvl offers the kitchen, dining & living rms, along w/a family rm, 3 bedrms & 2 beautiful baths. The lower lvl has a rec rm, large den, utility rm & has a walkout to a large fenced bkyd, complete w/a lovely slate patio & detached shed. An asphalt driveway offers side by side parking plus a spacious 1 car garage. 7 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 15 mins to Old Towne, Alex & 28 mins to National Airport. A beautiful & rare rambler!!



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OPINION

United Way Helps with Tax Prep

How could Fairfax County residents receive a larger refund?

BY ROSIE ALLEN-HERRING
PRESIDENT AND CEO
UNITED WAY OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA

As the deadline to file taxes on April 15 approaches quickly, it's important for residents to plan ahead and submit their income tax returns as soon as possible. The United Way of the National Capital Area and its partners are providing free tax preparation services for families earning less than \$55,000 by IRS trained tax volunteers at United Way NCA Financial Empowerment Centers and VITA locations throughout the Fairfax County area.

COMMENTARY While working with one of these tax volunteers, residents can see if they qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), a refundable tax credit available to qualifying lower wage workers and their families as well as the Child Tax Credit.

The EITC is one of the nation's largest and most effective anti-poverty programs as it both supplements earnings and incentivizes employment. In 2016, the EITC lifted an estimated 5.8 million people out of poverty, more than

half of them children. Specifically, families with less than an annual income of \$55,000 from wages or self-employment can qualify to earn up to \$6,400 in EITC.

Here's what residents need to know when they visit a United Way NCA Financial Empowerment Center or one of its eight partner VITA sites located throughout the Fairfax County area:

- ❖ Free tax preparation services for families earning less than \$55,000.
- ❖ Residents should bring income documents from all jobs worked throughout the year as well as their social security number, and a valid photo ID.
- ❖ Many people will qualify for EITC for the first time this year due to changes in their income, their marital status, or parental status, according to the IRS.

❖ The IRS estimates that only four out of five eligible workers currently claim their EITC.

❖ The Child Tax Credit is available to workers who earn more than \$2,500 in 2018. To qualify, a child must be under the age of 17.

We want all residents in our community to reach financial security. We can help them reduce the cost of tax preparation services and

identify all of their eligible tax credit options, and ensure they get refunds in a timely manner. In 2018, United Way NCA and its partners helped families in D.C., Maryland and Virginia access a total of \$17.7 million in refunds through the VITA program.^o

A larger refund can make a difference for those who are struggling to make ends meet. Residents are encouraged to use traditional banking services to save as much of their tax return as possible. Using check cashing or other services typically charge large fees to cash checks. Residents looking for access to free or low-cost banking solutions can visit a United Way NCA Financial Empowerment Center. To find a location near you, please visit unitedwaynca.org/FEC.

United Way NCA VITA sites are located throughout DC, Maryland and Virginia and will offer free tax services until April 15, 2019. A full list of locations is available at unitedwaynca.org/VITA-Site. In addition, year-round tax services are available at United Way NCA's Financial Empowerment Center at Prince George's Community College, Center for Advanced Technology, Room 102 located at 301 Largo Road Largo, MD 20774.

17 Bills Vetoed and 48 Bills Amended

BY PAUL KRIZEK
DELEGATE (D-44)



By the time you read this, the General Assembly will have reconvened for the annual "Veto Session" on April 3. According to the Rules of the House, the purpose of the Reconvened Session (its proper name) is to specifically, and exclusively, consider only the Governor's recommendations to amend, and vetoes to, the legislation we passed during the 2019 Regular Session.

COMMENTARY In the five weeks since the conclusion of the 2019 Regular Session, the Governor of Virginia has taken action on all of the 883 bills that were passed through the General Assembly.

The Governor signed 819 of these bills or 92.75 percent of those that passed into law. Of the 64 other bills, the Governor vetoed 17 bills and recommended amendments to 48 bills. On the 2018-2020 budget bill, the Governor suggested 40 amendments. During the 2019 General Assembly session, numerous public safety and criminal justice reform initiatives championed by the Northam administration were advanced, making tremendous progress on a number of issues. While not all of these initiatives were pushed through into law, the Northam administration has included many of these proposals in budget amendments that we will decide upon this Wednesday.

One of these important proposals included in the Governor's amended budget is ending the inequitable policy of suspending Virginians' driver's licenses due to failure to pay court costs and fines. Should this policy end, more than 600,000 Virginians will have their licenses re-

stored. License suspension for failure to pay court costs and fees punishes Virginians for their socioeconomic status and makes it more difficult for Virginians to support their families and repay these court costs.

Additional amendments include:

❖ Adding an additional \$4 million to the Virginia Housing Trust Fund, which helps address the affordable housing crisis in the Commonwealth.

❖ Making Virginia's tax code fairer by ensuring that low-income taxpayers with tax credits, taxpayers with incomes of less than \$50,000, are eligible to receive the same tax refund as others. This proposal would benefit 149,000 working Virginians.

❖ Amendments to strike language that restricts the Commonwealth's ability to join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and use proceeds from it to address the negative ef

SEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, PAGE 7

Economics and Environment

To the Editor:

With respect, I wholeheartedly disagree with Aidan Fielding who supported the Green New Deal in a recent letter to the editor (Feb 20).

Not only do I not support the Green New Deal, the call for public servants to adopt it is harmful to Americans in many ways as well as the faulty logic that we alone can solve the issues it claims we can rectify. By calling for us as a nation to adopt this without considering all the other nations is faulty. Other countries are some of the worst offenders.

6 ❖ MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE ❖ APRIL 4-10, 2019

It won't create "millions of high paying jobs." In fact one of the country's top labor unions recently announced its opposition to the plan because it would actually hurt working men and women who live in this country.

In a letter to the two lawmakers who are sponsoring the "Green New Deal" the AFL-CIO, which represents 12.5 million union workers, said the plan "is far too short on specific solutions that speak to the jobs of our members and the critical sections of our economy." The group also said it "will not accept proposals that could cause immediate harm to millions of our members and their families" and "will not stand by and allow threats to our members' jobs and their families standard of living

go unanswered."

Notably, labor groups have supported natural gas pipelines — perhaps because these projects really lead to well paying jobs. I hope readers who might support the "Green New Deal" will reconsider.

Natural gas production is rising at the same time greenhouse gas emissions are dropping as we transition away from coal.

We are on the right environmental path — and one that won't hurt working moms and dads.

By encouraging support of the Green New Deal based on fear and not logic is no way to

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 7

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General Assembly Reconvenes for Veto Session

FROM PAGE 6

fects of climate change in the Commonwealth. Virginia's participation in this initiative is critical to the environment, as the Commonwealth is one of the states most affected by climate change and stands to benefit greatly from taking action.

❖ Amendments to reverse the unnecessary restriction on state funds for critical healthcare currently provided to Virginia women.

During this session, SB 1768 was passed, which made it a violation to drive a motor vehicle in a highway work zone while holding a personal communications device. The Governor's amendments to the bill incorporate language from another bill which will make it unlawful to drive a motor vehicle while holding a personal communication device at the same time on all roads in the Commonwealth. This amendment clears up any possible confusion about the definition of "highway work zone" but more importantly, will help address the growing problem of distracted driving and help to reduce injuries and fatalities caused by it. States that have passed distracted driving laws like this have seen a 16 percent decrease in traffic fatalities within two years of the law being adopted. Amendments to SB 1025 would increase the required length of chained dogs' tethers to at least four times the length of the animal's body or 15 feet

long, whichever is greater. In addition, agricultural animals would no longer be exempted from this requirement. The legislation as passed by the General Assembly also requires animals to be provided with adequate food, water, and shelter, as well as ensuring that tethers are not excessively heavy or at all painful to the animal. This is a step in the right direction towards improving animal welfare throughout the Commonwealth. I-81 corridor safety improve-

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 6

govern or have any meaningful change.

Laura Niswander
Alexandria

Straw Vote Landslide

To the Editor:

On Sunday, March 31, I enjoyed the Democratic county-wide straw poll. We had a great time and saw many neighbors from Lee District.

Candidates for Lee District Supervisor attended and were each on the ballot. We have four good people standing as candidates for public office.

ments: The manner in which the Governor proposes we raise these funds for I-81 and other important interstate infrastructure is threefold: 1) \$76 million from an increase in truck registration fees by bringing Virginia's rates more in line with those on the I-81 corridor; 2) \$142 million from an increase in the road and diesel tax for heavy trucks phased in over 3 years; 3) \$60 million from a 2.1 percent regional fuel tax along the I-81 corridor. Much of the money

will go towards the I-81 Corridor Improvement Fund (\$150.8 million), but I-95 (\$39.2 million) and I-64 (\$27.6 million) will see improvements too. And, importantly, \$20 million will go into the Northern Virginia Transportation Fund which lost money last year with the Metro funding bill. The rest goes towards various interstate corridor improvements throughout the Commonwealth. I-81 is an important commercial corridor with a big effect on our economy and safety.

With 43 percent of the vote in a four-person contest, Rodney Lusk won the competition by earning 126 of the 293 votes cast.

With nearly two and three times as many votes as each of the other candidates, the husband and father of two daughters, the director of National Marketing for Fairfax County Economic Development Authority, governing board member for the Fairfax County Committee to Prevent and End Homelessness, Affordable Housing resource panelist, board member of Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation, Lee District representative to EMBARK Richmond Highway, former Lee District planning commissioner, former At-Large Fairfax County Park Authority Board member, past Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year, recipient of the Les Dorsen Public Ser-

vice Award from Lee District Association of Civic Organizations, recipient of the Torchbearer Award from Leadership Fairfax Inc., and great listener demonstrates leadership. Rodney Lusk shows promising potential for the office of Lee District supervisor.

We cannot rest on the laurels of accolades and past achievements. The work of good government continues at the level of our local community. We cannot take anything for granted.

While the local and county-wide straw votes are fun and informative, the most important vote is yours at the Democratic primary on June 11 and the general election on Nov. 5.

Will Radle
Franconia

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More Public Input Sought on Parkway Studies

Fairfax County and Franconia-Springfield Parkways study moves to next phase.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE GAZETTE

It's time for the public to weigh in again on improvements to the Fairfax County and Franconia-Springfield parkways.

Last fall, Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) took their show on the road for three public outreach meetings, seeking input from residents as they conduct the "Alternatives Analysis and Long Term Planning Study" of the two major thoroughfares.

The study aims to review the deficiencies along the 31-mile corridor that starts at Route 7 (Leesburg Pike) in the north and runs to Route 1 (Richmond Highway) in the south and includes 17 interchanges and 83 intersections. Ultimately studies will lead to recommendations to improve the often-congested roadways in the near-term, and as far into the future as 2040.

Some improvements are already underway, as FCDOT representatives told attendees at the 2018 meetings.

Resulting from an "Existing Conditions" study conducted by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) in 2017, 49 of more than 350 road improvement recommendations have already been implemented, are underway, or are funded, as state and county work together on the project. Many actions are possible without changes to the county's Comprehensive Plan, but others require amendments to the Plan and passage by the Board of Supervisors.

"Public input is critical in making such changes and in considering improvements from all angles," FCDOT Planner Thomas Burke said at the fall outreach sessions.

During the October meetings, and for 45 days after, residents were given the opportunity to provide their own suggestions on how best to improve travel conditions on the parkways. FCDOT solicited the public's ideas via a number of on-line, interactive exercises and comment forums.

Expecting participation by 3,000-to-4,000 county residents, FCDOT instead received 15,150 responses through the survey, another 108 responses via emails and the website comment form, and another 71 comments came through on FCDOT's Facebook page.

THE BIGGEST TAKE-AWAY from the survey – overwhelming opposition from imposing tolls on either road – already made headlines, and Burke assures that the mes-



Supervisor Pat Herrity (Springfield) welcomes residents to the Fairfax County Department of Transportation's public outreach session to discuss improvement to the Fairfax County and Franconia-Springfield Parkways.

sage was received.

"There is no plan that includes tolls on either the Fairfax County or Franconia-Springfield Parkways."

After presenting an update on the study and the analysis of the public's response at a Board of Supervisors Transportation Committee meeting in February, Burke and his FCDOT colleagues held the first session in the second round of public engagement at the Willow Springs Elementary School in Fairfax on March 27 with opening remarks by Supervisor Pat Herrity.

Updated "story" boards were displayed around the school's cafeteria, reflecting a few changes made based on the feedback already received and on requests from Supervisors John Cook (Braddock) and Pat Herrity (Springfield) that FCDOT take a more regional outlook, rather than micro-focusing on the roadways.

Burke used graphs and charts to illustrate analysis of the public's preferences.

Several general themes emerged, which Burke discussed, before summarizing the public's responses by surveyed roadway segments.

After taking toll lanes out of the equation, general support was shown for widening the parkways, although there was concern expressed about homes and businesses that might be lost in the process. There was significant approval for the addition of interchanges to replace signalized intersections.

HOV-3+ lanes were not much appreciated by the respondents, although there was

more interest in HOV-2+ lanes. High Occupancy Vehicle lanes drew some criticism from residents who worried that their addition would divert solo-driver parkway traffic onto neighborhood roads.

Burke responded that in the first place, the parkways would always include "general purpose" lanes and not be converted to strictly HOV, even during peak times. He also assured that test models would be vigorously employed before any recommendations became final.

"But, I think it's clear that an HOV lane is necessary for successful enhanced transit," he added.

Enhanced transit was a winner in the public's opinion, with many residents asking for more high-capacity options. Several attendees championed transit, saying the plans should go further than just adding express buses. Suggestions included bus routes that intersected – allowing parkway commuters to change to

buses travelling east or to Metro stations. One audience member even recommended light rail transportation to run in the center of the parkways.

PUBLIC OPINION HIGHLIGHTS by segment:

Route 7 to Franklin Farm Road

❖ Interest in connecting the gaps in McLearen Road

❖ Concern regarding congestion at intersections, interest in interchanges, particularly at the Dulles Toll Road and south (i.e. FC Pkwy. at Sunrise Valley)

Franklin Farm to Route 123 – this section includes the VDOT projects widening projects

❖ Strong support for widening and addition of over or under pass at intersections like Pope's Head Road.

Route 123 – Rolling Road – split with Franconia-Springfield Parkway

❖ Concerns at Huntsman and Lee Chapel

❖ Congestion at intersections

❖ Concern for tree preservation and environmental impacts, particularly near Burke Lake and South Run parks

Fairfax County parkway from parkway split to Richmond Highway

❖ General approval for the Comprehensive Plan as is with interest in improved signage for ramps

Franconia-Springfield Parkway from split to Beulah

❖ General satisfaction with the current plan to widen to 8 lanes

Two more general meetings are scheduled, but FCDOT hopes for the same level of participation in the new online survey, launching on March 27 at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/study/fairfax-county-parkway.

A Baseline Improvements Map is available on the department's website. The Baseline is assumed to be in place, but FCDOT wants the public to provide feedback on five strategies to build on the baseline assumptions. The strategies are:

1. Expanded Bike and Pedestrian Facilities
2. Capacity improvements – intersections/interchanges
3. Capacity improvements – widening without HOV
4. HOV Feeder
5. HOV-2+

The strategies are further explained on the website.

Residents can choose whether to provide input for the entire length of both the Fairfax County and Franconia-Springfield Parkways, or for specific segments. A forum for general comments and other suggestions is also available in the survey.

The survey will be open until May 6. Burke will come back to the public with the new results in late summer of 2019, anticipating recommendations and prioritization by early 2020 and Board consideration later in that year.



FCDOT has boards displayed around the meeting hall like this one, illustrating a possible HOV "feeder" to provide better access and exit from proposed HOV lanes on the parkways.

PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE GAZETTE

Senior Living

SPRING 2019

PHOTOS BY DONNA MOULTON/FAIRFAX GARDEN CLUB

Mount Vernon Gazette

Historic Garden Week in McLean

April 30 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Visitors to the McLean portion of the Virginia Historic Garden Week will explore five picturesque gardens and four private homes spanning four centuries. Tickets online at www.vagardenweek.org Questions? Google Garden Club of Fairfax or email fairfax@vagardenweek.org.

Old Town Homes, Gardens Open for Historic Garden Week

Five of Old Town Alexandria's finest private homes and gardens will open to the public on Saturday, April 27, as part of Historic Garden Week in Virginia, the oldest and largest house and garden tour in the nation.

The homes will feature floral arrangements created by the members of the Garden Club of Alexandria and The Hunting Creek Garden Club, which are sponsoring the tour, open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This walking tour features private townhomes and secluded gardens located along the tree lined streets of Alexandria's historic district, refreshments and a marketplace at the Athenaeum, and is just steps away from Old Town's fine dining and boutique shopping.

Tour tickets also provide access to two Garden Club of Virginia restoration projects, George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens and Green Spring Gardens. Tour attendees also are encouraged to stop by the historic Ramsay House at the Alexandria Visitor Center, where the garden is undergoing a major renovation to create a more accessible and sustainable design to welcome visitors to Old Town Alexandria.

HOMES WITH HISTORY

❖ All five of the tour homes were built more than 200 years ago, and two homes predate the Revolutionary War.

❖ George Washington figures in the history of four of the tour homes. He witnessed the deed of sale for one of the properties and surveyed the land for another of the homes.

❖ One of the homes was rented to Dr. James Craik, who was George Washington's physician.

DISTINCTIVE GARDEN AND FLORAL DESIGN

❖ Beautiful floral arrangements by the garden clubs' finest designers decorate the tour homes.

❖ A courtyard garden where a statue of Thomas Jefferson, by Colorado artist George Lundeen, takes center stage.

❖ The garden at the historic Ramsay House Visitor Center in Old Town Alexandria will be nearing completion of a restoration project that features accessible and sustainable designs.

❖ The gardens of Mt. Vernon, the American Horticultural Society, Green Spring Gardens, Gunston Hall, Carlyle House, and Lee-Fendall House are all included with the tour ticket.

HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL STYLES MAGAZINE-WORTHY INTERIORS

❖ The first home restored in Old Town, whose owners (Gay Montague Moore and Charles Beatty Moore) helped pioneer the preservation movement in America and are widely credited with starting the movement in Old Town.

❖ A notable example of 18th century brick row houses, known as flounder houses, turned at a 90-degree angle to the usual street orientation of flounder buildings.



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The gardens at the Carlyle House, designed in the 18th-century style.

❖ A home with exterior finishes including carved stone jack arches above the front windows and a modillion cornice (a cornice supporting elaborate dentils), and interior finishes including late-Georgian woodwork and a fully paneled fireplace wall and buffets.

❖ A home with original double parlors, a new spacious kitchen, and a sitting room which opens onto a patio. This home also features an extensive collection of British paintings, watercolors, and drawings as well as Chinese porcelain from the Ming and Qing dynasties.

ALEXANDRIA TOUR DETAILS

The Alexandria Tour Ticket includes entrance to:

❖ Five private townhomes and gardens in Old Town

❖ Ramsay House Visitor Center garden, which is undergoing a restoration project initiated and planned by the Garden Club of Alexandria in cooperation with the city

❖ Tea and light refreshments from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House

❖ Carlyle House, where visitors can enjoy the 18th century mansion house and stroll through its gardens

❖ The Marketplace at the Athenaeum, where high-end, distinctive vendors will sell clothing and accessories from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

❖ Lee-Fendall House Museum and Garden, which was built in 1785 and is listed

on the National Register of Historic Places. Lee-Fendall House was home to several generations of the Virginia Lee family, as well as labor leader John Lewis

❖ The American Horticultural Society, headquartered at River Farm, which overlooks the Potomac River with 25 acres of gardens

❖ George Washington's Mt. Vernon, where the Garden Club of Virginia has helped restore the bowling green, one of Mt. Vernon's major landscape features

❖ Green Spring Gardens, which includes a garden designed by renowned landscape designer, Beatrix Farrand

❖ Gunston Hall, the 550-acre National Historic Landmark 18th century home of George Mason, author of The Virginia Declaration of Rights

TICKETS

Tickets may be purchased in advance for \$45 at www.vagardenweek.org or at the Alexandria Visitor Center at Ramsay House (221 King Street).

On the date of the tour, tickets may be purchased for \$55 at the Athenaeum (201 Prince Street) and at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House (323 South Fairfax Street). Tickets will not be sold at individual tour homes. Group tours of 20 people or more can purchase tickets for \$40 per person by contacting Hartley Wensing at ahobson21@comcast.net. The Alexandria tour will be held on its scheduled day, rain or shine.

PARKING

Information on parking in Old Town Alexandria can be accessed via the Alexandria Visitor Center website: <https://www.visitalexandriava.com/plan/parking/>

About Historic Garden Week

Virginia's Historic Garden Week is presented by the Garden Club of Virginia and is the only statewide house and garden tour in the country. Now in its 86th year, Historic Garden Week encompasses 31 tours organized and hosted by member clubs. Visitors will be welcomed to over 250 of Virginia's most beautiful gardens, homes and historic landmarks during "America's Largest Open House." This 8-day statewide event provides visitors an opportunity to see unforgettable gardens at the peak of Virginia's springtime color, as well as beautiful houses sparkling with over 2,300 flower arrangements created by Garden Club of Virginia members.

Tour proceeds fund the restoration and preservation of more than 40 of Virginia's historic public gardens and landscapes, a research fellowship program, and a Garden Club of Virginia Centennial project with Virginia State Parks. Historic Garden Week has raised millions of dollars to fund projects across Virginia, including conservation and restoration efforts at treasured landmarks like Mount Vernon and Stratford Hall. To learn, go to www.gcvirginia.org and look under "Our Work."

Commission Plans Listening Sessions

The Virginia Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Commission plans listening sessions this spring to hear from the public, particularly individuals with dementia and family care partners, about the draft of its Dementia State Plan for 2020-2024.

The commission develops and oversees the implementation of the Commonwealth's four-year plan for meeting the needs of individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders and their care partners. The public may review the draft at <http://bit.ly/alzdraft> or Alzpossible.org.

A scheduled listening session is planned in Northern Virginia: April 11, 7-9 p.m., the Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area Chapter, 8180 Greensboro Dr., Suite 400, McLean. For more information, call Ana Nelson, (703) 766-9006.

Direct comments on the draft by mail, email or phone to: Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services Attention: George Worthington 1610 Forest Ave., Suite 100 Henrico, VA 23229 (804) 662-9154 dementia@dars.virginia.gov

For more information, visit www.vadars.org or follow DARS on Facebook at www.facebook.com/vadars or Twitter at @vadars.



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Senior Living

Greenspring Opens New Continuing Care Building

Retirement community expands to meet the growing demand for specialized senior care.

Greenspring, a continuing care retirement community, developed and managed by Erickson Living in Fairfax County, on March 22 opened Dogwood Commons, the new four-story, 77,500 square-foot assisted living and memory care addition to its continuing care neighborhood. The first Dogwood Commons residents moved into the building on Feb. 5, 2019.

"Dogwood Commons is an important and much-anticipated addition to Greenspring's continuum of care," said Executive Director Chandra Kumar. The facility addition helps to meet the growing demand for specialized senior care in our region, she said.

Speakers at the event included Kumar, Donna Epps, Continuing Care Administrator; Del. Vivian Watts; Roy O'Connor, Greenspring Board Member; Jackson Bain, Greenspring Board Chair; Betty Christman, President of the Greenspring Resident Council; Peggy Trotter, Garden Ridge Resident; Jeff McKay, Fairfax County Supervisor; and Alex Robbins, Office of Congressman Gerry Connelly.

More than 200 attended the celebration, including residents, family members, employees, health care providers, elected officials and community partners.



Betty Christman, President of the Greenspring Resident Council; Jeff McKay, Fairfax County Supervisor; Alex Robbins, Office of Congressman Gerry Connelly (back); Donna Epps, Continuing Care Administrator; Peggy Trotter, Garden Ridge Resident; Jackson Bain, Greenspring Board Chair; Vivian Watts, Virginia House of Delegates; Chandra Kumar, Executive Director; and Roy O'Connor, Greenspring Board Member gather to celebrate the opening of Dogwood Commons, Greenspring's new continuing care building, which provides an array of person-centered services to help residents achieve optimal health outcomes.

The new building is part of Greenspring's multi-phase, multi-year plan to expand and renovate its existing assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing care residences, along with amenity spaces. Dogwood Commons provides 53 assisted living apartment homes and 26 memory care suites. The new apartment homes range in size from studios to one-bedroom floor plans. Living spaces include a full, private bath and a kitchenette. Some apartment homes will feature private, screened porches.

The new memory care residences have been designed to meet the specialized needs of residents by providing a stimulating, nurturing and amenity-rich environment. The Dogwood Commons Suites feature private bedrooms and full baths. Common areas available for use by all Greenspring residents include multi-purpose, activity, meeting and programming spaces, living rooms, a billiards and games lounge, a library and a card game room, as well as a theater.

When the multi-year project is complete, Greenspring's continuing care neighborhood will have a total of 176 assisted living apartment homes, 59 memory care residences and 62 skilled nursing residences.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Pipeline Playwrights To Present New Reading

"The Best Worst That Can Happen" play reading on Monday, April 8 at MetroStage.

BY STEVE HIBBARD

The next play reading of Pipeline Playwrights' Winter/Spring 2019 Reading Series will be "The Best Worst That Can Happen" by Jean Koppen. The staged reading will be held on Monday, April 8, at 7:30 p.m., at MetroStage in Alexandria.



Jean Koppen



Jean Koppen



Jean Koppen



Jean Koppen



Jean Koppen

According to Koppen: "The Best Worst That Can Happen" is a comedy/drama about a mother, Margie, and her daughter, Joanna, dealing with what they consider the worst that could happen — Margie getting Alzheimer's. It's also about Margie meddling in Joanna's career and love life, which results in Margie taking in a younger male roommate and contacting an old school chum of Joanna's. There's humor, romance, music and make believe."

As far as challenges, she said she wanted

to make sure to portray Alzheimer's disease appropriately and find a way to balance the serious nature of the condition within a comedic storyline without trivializing the situation. "Presenting this play and getting audience reactions and feedback will let me know whether I've accomplished this and if there are moments that miss the mark. And humor is always a challenge. Hearing the play read in front of a live audience will help me know where the humor lands and where it doesn't," she said.

She added: "I want audiences to identify with the characters. I want audiences to laugh and cry. I want audiences to feel hope, to feel there can be beauty in difficult times. I like plays that make me think, but I love plays that make me feel — and that's the experience I want to create for others."

Directed by Joanna Henry, the play stars Toni Rae Salmi, Faith Potts, Brad Sperber, Kevin Dykstra, and Madeline Muravchik. Next up in the Pipeline Playwrights' Read-

ing Series will be "The Whole is Greater," by Ann Timmons on April 29.

Pipeline Playwrights is a group of women playwrights based in Northern Virginia who have decided to work together to support each other's work and get women's voices into theatre. The group's other members are Crystal Adaway, Ann Timmons, Patricia Connelly, and

Nicole Burton.

Pipeline Playwrights will present a reading of "The Best Worst That Can Happen" on Monday, April 8, at 7:30 p.m., at MetroStage, located at 1201 North Royal St., Alexandria. The show is free, with a suggested \$10 donation. Stay for the post-performance discussion and reception with the cast, Jean Koppen, and all the Pipeline Playwrights. Visit them on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pipelineplaywrights/>

CALENDAR

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

Good Luck Charms. Through April 14, at Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, 105 N. Union Street, Studio 29, Alexandria. A very special found object, a four leaf clover, a rainbow, a wishbone, a charm on a bracelet - these objects all serve as inspiration to gallery members when creating pieces for this show. Themed work will be eligible for recognition by the jurors. Non-themed work may also be exhibited. Visit www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com.

Art Exhibit: Waterworks. Through April 14, Thursday-Sunday, noon-4 p.m. in the Athenaeum main gallery, 201 Prince St. Water Works features paintings by Lisa Tubach and Suzanne Yurdin, and prints by Rhonda Smith. Each artist explores varied interpretations of water and aquatic environments. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

Art Exhibit: Checks & Balances. Through April 14, Thursday-Sunday, noon-4 p.m. in the Athenaeum rear gallery, 201 Prince St. Alexandra N. Sherman stumbled onto a cache of 1930's checks in an antique writing box and was inspired to make use of the printed engraving, beautiful handwriting from a bygone era, and stamps that marked their passage through the banking system in a series of collages. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

Photography Exhibit: "Ranch Life." Through May 5, daily 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thursdays, 2-8 p.m. at Multiple Exposures Gallery, The Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N Union St., Studio 312. Sandy LeBrun-Evans visited Eaton's Ranch in Wyoming last year and was enamored with the lifestyle and how easy it was to forget the troubles of the world and to get lost in the past. Visit www.multipleexposuresgallery.com or call 703-683-2205.

Kathryn Coneway Exhibit. Through May 31, at Huntley Meadows

Visitor's Center, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Coneway's mixed-media art combines collage and photographic transfers, and it expresses her observations of nature. She uses mulberry paper to create a

ground of color and texture. A reception will be held Sunday, March 10 from 2-4 p.m. Students from Kathryn Coneway's winter class at Huntley Meadows will also display work. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/

parks/huntley-meadows.

THURSDAY/APRIL 4

First Thursday. 6-9 p.m. along Mount Vernon Avenue in Del Ray. Wear a

favorite hat and join this free, outdoor street festival in the Del Ray neighborhood of Alexandria featuring live music, themed activities, and more. Participants are encouraged to bring twin bedding sets or women's underwear for Friends of Guest House; donations will be collected at the Pat Miller Neighborhood Square, located at the intersection of Mount Vernon and Oxford avenues. Visit www.visitdelray.com.

THURSDAY-MONDAY/APRIL 4-8

Yoga/Meditation Retreat. Various times at Yoga in Daily Life, 2402 Mt. Vernon Ave. Paramhans Swami Maheshwarananda, founder of the Yoga in Daily Life system taught in Del Ray, returns for a weekend retreat, including lectures on chakras and wellness, and yoga and meditation instruction. \$25-\$275. Visit www.yogaindailylifeus.org/alexandria or call 703-299-8946.

FRIDAY/APRIL 5

Family Art Night. 6-9 p.m. at the Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. A "meet and greet" begins at 6 p.m. with pizza, soda and water complements of the Office of the Arts. Art activities begin at 6:30 p.m. No experience necessary. Reservation includes one art experience, art supplies, pizza and soda. Reservations are \$9 per person. Children under 5 years old are free. Children must be accompanied by one adult. Register online by visiting www.alexandriava.gov/Webtrac (search Family Art Night).

Annual Dundee Sister Cities

Whisky Tasting. 7-10 p.m. at the historic Gadsby's, 134 N. Royal St. This annual fundraiser supports cultural and educational activities with Dundee, Scotland and Helsingborg, Sweden. \$50-\$75. Get tickets at tickets at www.eventbrite.com/e/annual-



(No) Comfort Zone image, Scribble Scrabble by Kelli Sinco

Art Exhibit: '(No) Comfort Zone'

The "(No) Comfort Zone" exhibit reflects people, places and things that are in and/or out of their comfort zone. Gallery hours at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. An opening reception takes place April 5, 7-9 p.m. Visit DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits.



ECONOMIC OUTLOOK 2019

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ENTERTAINMENT

scottish-whisky-tasting-wine-tickets-57858095120. Email Alexsistercities@gmail.com with questions.

Fundraiser: Annual Dinner. Lindsay Cadillac, 1525 Kenwood Ave. Support Dunbar-Alexandria Olympic Boys & Girls Club at their annual dinner event. Help build the future for youth in the Alexandria community while enjoying cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, silent auction, dinner and dancing. \$125-\$225. Visit one.bidpal.net/starsofbgc/welcome for tickets.

APRIL 5-28

Art Exhibit: “(No) Comfort Zone.” Gallery hours at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. The “(No) Comfort Zone” exhibit reflects people, places and things that are in and/or out of their comfort zone. An opening reception takes place April 5, 7-9 p.m. Visit DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits.

SATURDAY/APRIL 6

Writer’s Workshop for Adults. 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. Popular Simon and Schuster author Sheila P. Moses will conduct a workshop for those interested in writing for the young adult market. Learn how to tell a good story, what a publisher looks for in a new author and how to make your story ideas a reality. This workshop is limited to 20 people. A light breakfast and snacks will be provided. Bring lunch. Reservations are required, and the \$75 registration fee must be paid online by April 1 at www.alexandriava.gov/webtrac and select the activity number 455201.01.

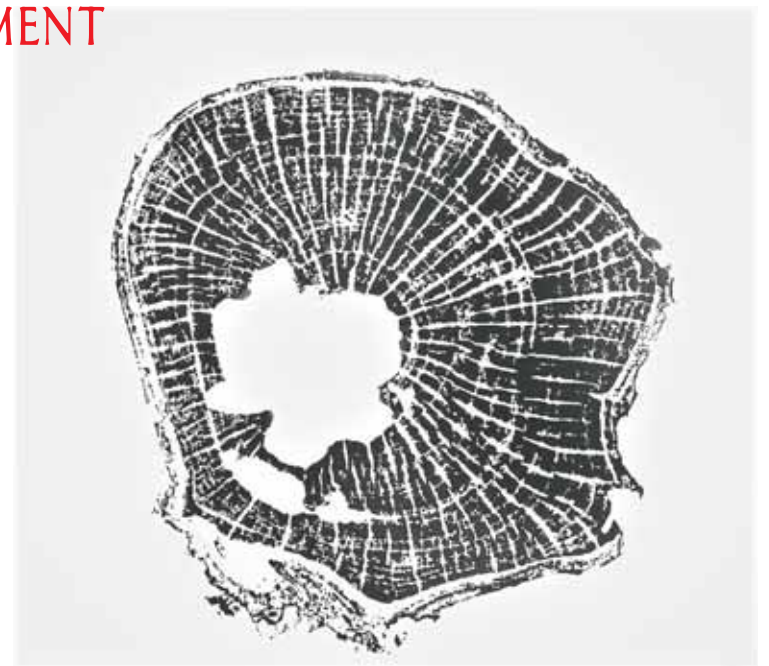
Hamilton’s BFF & Frenemies Specialty Tour. 10-11 a.m. at Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal St. Inspired by the musical Hamilton, hear about Washington, Lafayette, Jefferson, Madison, and Burr, who all came to the tavern, and delve into the issues they faced and how their choices impacted local citizens. This specialty tour is offered every Saturday in April. \$15 per person, \$12 for museum members. Call 703-746-4242 or visit www.alexandriava.gov/shop for tickets.

Floral Design Workshop-Ikebana. 10-11:30 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. (16-Adult) Ikebana is a Japanese art of flower arrangement. Learn its rich symbolism and fundamentals, and take home an arrangement. Materials provided with \$25 supply fee. Program fee is \$39/person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes/ using code 3FB.OBF3 or call 703-642-5173.

Tomato Love. 10:30 a.m.-noon at Burke Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Learn about growing tomatoes: understand the many varieties; select those that suit your needs; prepare a garden; plant and nurture the plants; and harvest tasty tomatoes. This class is offered by Extension Master Gardeners. Free. Advance registration requested at mgnv.org. Call 703-228-6414 or email mgaralex@gmail.com with questions.

Avenue Poems Walk. 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Duncan Library Meeting Room, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Renée Adams of Del Ray’s poetry fence will lead a walk of some of 65 poems placed outside businesses and other locations in Del Ray for April, poetry month. Get a list of the businesses and poems from the Duncan Library and lead your own poetry walk any time in April while the poems are up. Free. Call 703-746-1705.

Story Time for Little Historians. 11



Wood print

Tree Printing Workshop

Join Dan Scott, Associate Director of Horticulture and River Farm, in an educational hands-on workshop about tree rings. Attendees will learn the art of wood printing. Saturday, April 6, 1:30-3 p.m. at River Farm, 7931 East Boulevard Drive. \$65 AHS members; \$75 non-members. Space limited to 20 participants. Email ksomerville@ahsgardening.org or visit www.ahsgardening.org.

a.m. at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St., Alexandria. Enjoy cultural stories and creative craft activities that introduce world history and folklore. Afterwards, explore the museum exhibits to learn about local Black history. All ages welcome, but most suitable for children 4 and older. Admission is \$3 per person. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Call 703-746-4356.

An Afternoon with Groovy Nate. Noon at The Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. Groovy Nate is a children’s entertainer and Wolf Trap Teaching Artist who creates fun and educational shows using exotic musical instruments and ventriloquism. All ages are welcome, but most suitable for children 3-8 years old. Cost \$5; \$3 for those who attend Story Time for Little Historians at 11 a.m. Seats are limited, reserve tickets at shop.alexandriava.gov. Call 703-746-4356 for more.

The “Grandest Congress.” Noon-4 p.m. at Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St. Spring, 1755: Major General Edward Braddock, Commander-in-Chief of His Majesty’s Forces in North America, landed in Alexandria on March 26 to assume command of all North American military forces. He lodged at the grandest dwelling in town, Carlyle House. Visitors to the Carlyle House will experience Braddock’s visit and the French and Indian War firsthand through costumed interpreters. Admission is free, but donations are welcome. Free admission. Visit www.novaparks.com/parks/carlyle-house-historic-park or call 703-549-2997.

“Spring Beauty on Duty.” 1-2:30 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. What are those colorful flowers that carpet the forest floor at Huntley Meadows Park each spring? Hear the Indian lore associated with the flowers and learn about their important place in animal life. View the flower’s fascinating parts under a microscope. Tiptoe near the spring beauty on a walk at the park, and create flower-inspired art to take home. Designed for ages 4-12. \$12 per child. Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows.

Tree Printing Workshop. 1:30-3 p.m. at River Farm, 7931 East Boulevard Drive. Join Dan Scott,

Associate Director of Horticulture and River Farm, in an educational hands-on workshop about tree rings. Attendees will learn the art of wood printing. \$65 AHS members; \$75 non-members. Space limited to 20 participants. Email ksomerville@ahsgardening.org or visit www.ahsgardening.org.

Del Ray Spring Bar Crawl. 2-6 p.m. along Mount Vernon Avenue in Del Ray. Join 13 neighborhood restaurants for a ’70s themed community bar crawl. Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door, and include trolley transportation, food and drink specials, raffles, and more. Proceeds benefit Rebuilding Together Alexandria. Visit www.visitdelray.com.

Country-Western Dance. 6-9:30 p.m. at Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 North Chambliss St. The Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association will hold a Fisher House Benefit dance. There will be a potluck dinner (please bring a dish to share) and no lessons. A DJ provides music. Couples and singles of all ages welcome. Admission \$20 per person. No free passes. Net proceeds from the dance go to Fisher House Foundation. Smoke-free, alcohol-free. Fundraiser raffles including chance for ballet tickets. Visit www.nvcwda.org.

ASO Presents: Rachmaninoff. 8-10 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, 4915 East Campus Drive. Join the ASO and Maestro James Ross for the 2018-2019 season finale, featuring Rachmaninoff’s famed Piano Concerto No. 3 and Robert Schumann’s poetic Symphony No. 1 “Spring.” Pre-concert talk at 7 p.m. \$20-\$80 adult, \$5 youth, \$10 student. Visit www.alexsym.org or call 703-548-0885.

SUNDAY/APRIL 7

Spring Open House. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at CARE Actor Arts Space, 129 South Royal St., Suite 5. CARE Actor is hosting a spring open house with activities for all ages. (2 and older), including storytime, face painting, arts & crafts, an improv workshop and more. Free; get tickets at www.careactorkids.com/special-events.html.

Youth Cultural Book & Arts Festival. 1-5 p.m. at Hayfield Secondary School, 7630 Telegraph Road. Jack and Jill of America, Inc.’s

ENTERTAINMENT

Presenting 75th Anniversary Finale

BY MELINDA KERN
ALEXANDRIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra concludes its 75th anniversary season on Saturday, April 6, 8 p.m., at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center and on Sunday, April 7, 3 p.m., at the George Washington Masonic Memorial. The ASO celebrated its milestone birthday throughout the year along with the introduction of Music Director James Ross to the community and other special events.

Made popular as the theme to Sergeant Preston of the Yukon, the program opens with Emil von Reznicek's Overture to Donna Diana. The ASO and Maestro Ross will capture Robert Schumann's youthful enthusiasm in Symphony No. 1, commonly known as his Spring Symphony. Schumann borrowed from earlier works in his composition, and his symphony foreshadows themes for future works. "Schumann took his inspiration for his symphony in the incredible outburst of songs from the previous year, which included his wedding to pianist and super-musician Clara Wieck," says Maestro Ross. "This musical relationship will provide an unexpected surprise for the audience at the concerts this week."

As a dramatic finale to the concert and this celebratory year, the ASO will perform Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 3 with soloist

Marianna Prjevalskaya. First premiered by the composer himself as soloist, the piece is deemed among the most technically difficult in the piano repertoire. It reached pop-culture fame when featured in the 1996 film, "Shine," loosely based on the life of pianist David Helfgott. The concerto will indeed shine under the fingers of Ms. Prjevalskaya, hailed for her "impeccable precision, clarity, virtuosity and beauty of sound."

Preceding Saturday's performance at 7 p.m., concert-goers are invited to a special pre-concert talk with Rachmaninoff's great-granddaughter Natalie Wanamaker Javier, Rachmaninoff scholar Francis Crociata, and Library of Congress music specialist Dr. Kate Rivers. On Sunday, Maestro Ross will present "As the Baton Swings" at 2:15 p.m., which is geared toward younger attendees and novice symphony-goers. Both talks are open to all concert attendees.

The Alexandria Symphony is a fully-professional orchestra drawing from the Washington, D.C. metropolitan region's wealth of musical talent. Many musicians perform with other orchestras and top military bands. The ASO performs Saturday evenings at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center and Sunday matinees at the George Washington Masonic Memorial. Single tickets are \$20-\$80 for adults, \$5 for youth (18 and under), and \$10 for students (with ID). The ASO also offers senior, military, and group discounts. For tickets and more information, visit www.alexsym.org or call 703-548-0885.

CALENDAR

Northern Virginia Chapter, along with Hayfield Black Student Union and AVID will host the inaugural Youth Cultural Book & Arts Festival. Free admission; registration required at jjbookfestival2019.eventbrite.com/.

Opening Reception: "Ranch Life."

2-4 p.m. at Multiple Exposures Gallery, The Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N Union St., Studio 312. Sandy LeBrun-Evans visited Eaton's Ranch in Wyoming last year and was enamored with the lifestyle and how easy it was to forget the troubles of the world and to get lost in the past. Visit www.multipleexposuresgallery.com or call 703-683-2205.

ASO Presents: Rachmaninoff. 3-5 p.m. at George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Join the ASO and Maestro James Ross for the 2018-2019 season finale, featuring Rachmaninoff's famed Piano Concerto No. 3 and Robert Schumann's poetic Symphony No. 1 "Spring." Pre-concert talk at 2:15 p.m. \$20-\$80 adult, \$5 youth, \$10 student. Visit www.alexsym.org or call 703-548-0885.

MONDAY/APRIL 8

Northern Virginia Positive Aging and Wellness Fair. 8:45 a.m.-4 p.m. at Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. In collaboration with Fairfax County and community partners, the Northern Virginia Positive Aging and Wellness Fair will offer tools, workshops, exhibits and information to educate and inspire adults to achieve a fulfilling and healthy lifestyle as they age. Pat Collins, an award-winning NBC News4 reporter, will be the keynote speaker. Free and open to the public. To register and for more information, visit positiveagingfair.com. For county services for older adults and caregivers, go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/OlderAdults.

Alexandria Library Collections. 7-8:30 p.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. The Alexandria Public Library's reference librarian Leslie Anderson will speak about the library's genealogical resources, especially those related to Virginia and the South. Jointly sponsored by the Alexandria Public Library and Mount Vernon Genealogical Society. Free, open to the public. Visit www.mvgenealogy.org for more.

"Archaeological Activities at Mount Vernon." 7-9 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, Sherwood Room (main room, first floor), 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Mount Vernon Regional Historical Society will present "Archaeological Activities at Mount Vernon" with Joe Downer, the archaeological field research manager at George Washington's Mount Vernon. Downer will provide a presentation that will discuss current methods and discoveries taking place on the estate, including ways volunteers can participate.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 10

Enslaved People of George Washington's Mount Vernon. 2 p.m. at Woodlawn, 9000 Richmond Highway. Author talk with Carla Killough McClafferty. This talk will discuss the long reaching effects of the inheritance laws and how those laws affected every enslaved person who lived at Mount Vernon. The Custis children would have known very well the enslaved people at Mount Vernon, including William Lee, George Washington's valet; Oney Judge, Martha and Nelly's lady's maid, and Hercules, the chief cook of the President's House in Philadelphia. Visit www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org for more.

Entry Deadline. 5 p.m. The United States Golf Association (USGA) today announced sectional qualifying sites

for the 2nd U.S. Senior Women's Open Championship, which will be contested May 16-19, 2019, at Pine Needles Lodge & Golf Club in Southern Pines, N.C. Sectional qualifying, conducted over 18 holes, will take place at 17, including Belle Haven Country Club, courses between April 17-30. The Championship is open to any female competitor who is at least 50 years of age as of May 16 and whose Handicap Index does not exceed 7.4. Register at usga.org/applytoapply.

All Alexandria Reads: Meet A.J. Jacobs. 7 p.m. at Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library, located at 5005 Duke St. The library will host It's All Relative author, A.J. Jacobs, for a virtual book discussion. During the author talk, Jacobs will join the community via Zoom Video Conferencing to talk about his book and answer questions. Visit alexlibraryva.org/aar for more.

Spring2ACTION, Alexandria's Giving Day. Since 2011, 55,000 donors have given more than \$8 million dollars to 160 nonprofits through Spring2ACTION, making it one of the most successful city-wide giving days in the country. Give online at www.Spring2ACTION.org – through a computer or phone. Early Giving begins March 27. If you have a DAF at ACT, we can help you make matching grants or day-of gifts from your Fund. Spring2ACTION events include:

- ❖ Stop by one of the McEneaney Associates' Donor Lounges at Stomping Ground in Del Ray or in front of the Courthouse near 510 King St. Donate and enjoy a free cup of coffee.
 - ❖ Dine at any of the Alexandria Restaurant Partners: Lena's, Vola's, Majestic, Theismann's, or Palate 22. Five percent of sales will be donated to Spring2ACTION.
- Visit www.spring2action.org/info/events for more.

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Special Olympics USA team athlete, swimmer Dylan Joseph "Joey" Roney of Herndon after he earns a silver medal for his win in the 100m freestyle.



Special Olympics USA team athlete Jennifer Mitchell of Alexandria learns she takes the gold in the 1500m Open Water Swimming competition with a time 00:41:27.00.



Special Olympics USA team athlete, Karen Dickerson of Springfield shows off her gold after she swept the half-marathon with a time of 01:50:12.



Special Olympics USA team athlete, swimmer Victoria "Tori" Martin of Woodbridge poses with her silver and gold medals.

It's Gold and Silver! Local athletes return from Special Olympic World Games Abu Dhabi 2019.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE GAZETTE

“Local Special Olympics athletes have proudly returned home from Abu Dhabi with an impressive amount of hardware to show off and even more memories to share,” announced Special Olympics Virginia.

Four athletes from Northern Virginia competed in the Special Olympics World Games Abu Dhabi 2019 held March 14–25.

Together the athletes picked up a total of eight medals, three golds and five silvers.

Two days after a crushing technical disqualification in the 200m freestyle, Joey Roney of Herndon earned a silver medal in the 100m freestyle finishing with a time of 00:01:20.72.

“I appreciate the silver medal from the World Games more than my gold from the USA games because I competed against the best in the world. It was the experience of a lifetime,” said Roney.

Jennifer Mitchell of Alexandria set her sights high and dominated the 1500m Open Water Swimming competition capturing gold with a time of 00:41:27.00.

Victoria Martin of Woodbridge took two silvers, one in the 100m individual medley and another in the 200m freestyle. Martin ultimately captured gold during her last day of competition as she blazed through the water in the 100m breaststroke with a winning time of 01:35.99.

Runner, Karen Dickerson of Springfield took home gold in her first of three events with a time of 1:50:12 in the half marathon. Dickerson also earned silver in the 10,000m run. “I’m just doing my best to represent the USA and doing it for a long hard run ... Always start strong, finish

strong, because that is what counts,” said Dickerson.

The USA Special Olympics delegation included 215 athletes, 65 coaches and 34 delegation members who supported team operations.

More than 7,000 athletes from 170 countries competed in the event held across the seven Emirates. Special Olympics described it as “the world’s largest humanitarian sporting event and a global movement which focuses on the empowerment of People of Determination with intellectual disabilities through the power of sport.”

CRIME REPORT

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

MALICIOUS WOUNDING / BURGLARY / THREATS TO BURN: 3300 block of Pintail Ct, April 1, 8:24 p.m. Officers were called to the 3300 block of Pintail Court for a burglary in progress. Two suspects broke into the home of the victim after a personal feud. A 22-year-old woman from Alexandria was charged with malicious wounding, burglary, and threats to burn.

A 22-year-old man from Woodbridge was charged with burglary and threats to burn. They are currently being held on no bond.

RECKLESS DISCHARGE: 8300 block of Pondsides Terrace, March 31, 11:44 p.m. Officers responded to the area for the report of gunshots and discovered a home and a car were shot several times. Nobody inside the home was injured. Officers found numerous shell casings in the parking lot outside of the home.

APRIL 2 LARCENIES
7900 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business

APRIL 1 LARCENIES
4200 block of Aspen Drive, firearm from vehicle
6700 block of Kenyon Drive, jacket from vehicle
4700 block of Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, purse from vehicle
2500 block of Parkers Lane, license plate from vehicle
2500 block of Parkers Lane, wallet from residence

6200 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business
7700 block of Richmond Highway, tools from business
8500 block of Richmond Highway, wallet from location
8600 block of Richmond Highway, liquor from business
8600 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business
2400 block of Windbreak Drive, tires from vehicle

MARCH 29 LARCENIES
8600 block of Gates Head Road, gun and credit cards from vehicle
8800 block of Gates Head Road, property from vehicle
8500 block of Old Mount Vernon Road, electronic device from school
8500 block of Old Mount Vernon Road, property from school
7300 block of Richmond Highway, beer from business
7900 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business
6300 block of South Kings Highway, liquor from business
6300 block of South Kings Highway, merchandise from business

MARCH 28 LARCENIES
1600 block of Belle View Boulevard, merchandise from business
6200 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business
6600 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business
7700 block of Richmond Highway, tools from business
7800 block of Richmond Highway, cell phone from location

SEE CRIME, PAGE 17

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Mariachi Madness

The West Potomac High School Mariachi Band held Mariachi Madness on March 23 at the school. The event included food, games and live music.

New Principal for Quander Road School

Frank Tranfa has been appointed as principal of Quander Road School, effective April 1. Tranfa was the principal of Burke Middle School, before that he served as an assistant principal and as a department chair at Chantilly High School. He also served as an assistant director of

student activities and as a teacher at Centreville High School. Tranfa earned a Master of Arts in Education from George Mason University and has his Virginia Professional License in PreK-12 School Administration and Supervision, Emotional Disturbance and Specific Learning Disabilities.

Solve Riddles, Earn Trail Badge

The Friends of the Mt. Vernon Trail have organized an April Photo Scavenger Hunt. The Friends' 27 riddles will take participants to often overlooked sites on the trail. Solve the riddle, snap a photo and share it with them. Full rules and all of the clues are available at their website: https://mountvernontrail.org/2019/03/22/announcing-the-photo-scavenger-hunt/?mc_cid=9683c7be70&mc_eid=db8e911542

The contest runs now through Tuesday, April 30. Each participant can take a maximum of three photos per week.

That means that participants will have to make at least two trips over two weeks to be eligible for the patch and prizes. Part of the fun of this event is learning about different aspects of the trail and experiencing the trail at different times. A week is Monday-Sunday.

Submit all photos via email at the end.



Trail patch

Harmony Animal Hospital Opening

Harmony Animal Hospital will be coming soon to The Shops at Telegraph Village, located at 6946 S Kings Highway, Alexandria, according to a press release from Rosenthal Properties.

"We feel Harmony will be an excellent addition to the property and community," said Billy Orlove, director of Leasing for Rosenthal.

"Telegraph Village provides a top-quality tenant mix in Alexandria, and we know Harmony will enhance the overall center."

Nora Foley and Nicola Carleton of Rosenthal Realty represented the landlord in the transaction. Cecilia Valois of KW Capital Properties represented the tenant. Harmony will join The Little Gym, Grounded Coffee Shop, and Paisano's.

Harmony Animal Hospital strives to have a state-of-the-art hospital with a staff trained in all the latest medical advances. Harmony prides themselves on being a team full of animal lovers and offers such services as microchipping, nutrition counseling, surgery, diagnostics, and more.

Chamber To Host Trip To China

The Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce is offering a 10-day trip to visit China and experience the country's history and culture. Through a partnership with Citisline, International, the chamber is offering a trip to China on Oct. 10-18. The trip includes stops in Beijing, Shanghai, Suzhou and Hangzhou with opportunities to visit historic sites like the Great Wall of China and Tian An Men Square. There is also an opportunity to meet

local Chinese businesses.

"This is a great opportunity for businesses and community members to visit China," said Holly Dougherty, chamber executive director. "It's extremely affordable and includes visits to major cities, various economic zones and major historical sites."

The trip includes airfare from Dulles International Airport, hotel accommodations at 4 and 5 star hotels, three full meals a day, and professional drivers and tour operators fluent in English. The cost is \$2,299 for Chamber Members and \$2,449 for community members.

Some of the highlights include visiting the Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven, Summer Palace, Ming Tombs, and The Bund. An optional tour is available to see the Terra-Cotta Warriors.

For more information visit the Chamber website <https://www.mtvernon-lee-chamber.org/visit-china-with-the-chamber> or call 703-360-6925. Application deadline is July 15.

Achievement Recognized

Senior Lily Fortsch of Alexandria has been elected to the Foxcroft School Chapter of the Cum Laude Society which is modeled on the collegiate Phi Beta Kappa. She and other new members of the society will be inducted in a ceremony during Foxcroft's annual Awards Assembly in May.

Students selected for induction must have superior academic records, as reflected in their course load, grade point average, and other factors. They must also demonstrate a serious interest in the pursuit of knowledge and academic integrity. National guidelines limit membership to 20 percent of a senior class; up to half of those students are eligible to be elected in the junior year.



Lily Fortsch

CRIME REPORT

FROM PAGE 16

8300 block of Richmond Highway, documents from residence

MARCH 27 LARCENIES

1800 block of Old Richmond Highway, license plates from vehicle

2500 block of Parkers Lane, wallet from location
8500 block of Richmond Highway, property from residence

MARCH 26 LARCENIES

2800 block of East Lee Avenue, gun from residence
7700 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business

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It's Not As If My Life Depends On It



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Being totally honest with my oncologist, that is. I mean, it's not as if being diagnosed with non small cell lung cancer, stage IV isn't a "terminal" disease.

Oh wait, it is.

As my oncologist said to me at the initial Team Lourie meeting: "I can treat you, but I can't cure you."

Huh? Followed fairly soon after by the equally distressing prognosis: "13 months to two years." Wait. WHAT!? (As Curly Howard of The Three Stooges said years ago while looking into a mirror: "I'm too young to die, too handsome, well, too young anyway.")

That prognosis – as you regular readers know – is old news, as I recently passed my 10-year anniversary; my oncologist's "third miracle," as he characterizes me. And as life goes on, so too do the studies and research and clinical trials.

As much progress as has been realized, still there are few guarantees for lung cancer patients. Although there are many more of us living beyond the years our respective oncologists initially gave us (our wildest dreams, I often say).

Living as a cancer patient/survivor, especially one still undergoing treatment, requires regular sit-downs with one's oncologist to discuss and/or assess lab work, results from diagnostic scans and side effects – or as I refer to them: "straight-on effects." At these sit-downs, the oncologist will sit down behind his computer and review my past and inquire about the present, typing away as I respond.

The questions are all too familiar.

My answers, maybe familiar as well. Because if they're not, they may catch the attention of the doctor. And if they do catch his attention, he likely will probe further into their occurrence; their frequency, their location, their pain, their intensity, etc. And in so doing, he may learn things that could possibly alter/maybe even stop your treatment.

The doctor may become so worried about the symptoms you're describing, he may focus on the symptom, not the cause. And that's my fear in being honest: he may stop the treatment. I realize it might be counter-intuitive, but cancer scares the hell out of me. As a direct consequence, dishonesty sometimes becomes one's best policy.

Granted, being dishonest, or rather not totally forthcoming, with the person entrusted in extending your life, doesn't exactly win one the patient-of-the-year award. But when that same one is diagnosed with a "terminal" disease at age 54 and a half, there's a certain amount of clear thinking that quickly dissipates.

And if that same one is "ambulanced" to the hospital (in August 2013) for a week long stay in SICU (surgical intensive care), the fear of God is officially invoked which further clouds your judgment.

If you live long enough, your judgment improves but so too does your chance of dying. As I find myself saying: "I just can't keep on living with this thing, can I? I mean, I was diagnosed with a 'terminal' disease. They don't call it 'terminal' for nothing." But here I am, 10 years, post diagnosis, and living the dream, so to speak.

So how do I answer the doctor's questions when doing so honestly might lead to a gruesome outcome: hospitalization, and then, well, you know.

Let me be clear then about my answers. Maybe I'm not so certain about the "straight-on" effects? Maybe, they're not that bad and continuing the treatment will moderate the effects somehow while continuing to keep the cancer in its current place – without growing or moving?

I don't mean to understate my condition, but neither do I want to overrate it. Perhaps this mental anguish I'm describing makes no sense. But that's what cancer seems to do.

Nevertheless, I realize being honest with one's doctors is kind of important. Still, I may be too afraid of the consequences to be so inclined.

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

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FROM PAGE 5

Registration is free, donations will be accepted to support the cost of materials and food. Visit www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center or call the FCPS Parent Resource Center at 703-204-3941 to register.

SATURDAY/APRIL 6

2019 Special Education Conference. 7:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. FCPS will hold its 14th Annual Special Education Conference with a focus on building inclusive and post-secondary practices to support the development of 21st Century skills and Portrait of a Graduate (POG) attributes. Visit www.fcps.edu/spedconference2019 for details, a list of workshops, exhibitor information and to register.

Teen Job Fair and Resume Building Workshop. 10 a.m.-noon at South County High School. These events will focus on student job seekers (approximately ages 16-18) looking for full time employment, after-school employment, seasonal positions, internship opportunities, or volunteer experiences. It is open to all teens in Fairfax County looking for employment or wanting tips to build their resume. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/teen-job-fair-student-registration to register.

Richmond Highway Urban Design Pop-Up. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Mount Vernon Plaza Shopping Center, 7648 Richmond Highway (behind McDonalds). Richmond Highway Urban Design Pop-Up Studio will showcase pedestrian-friendly streetscapes and building design ideas that will help to define the future character of the Richmond Highway corridor. Pop-in to see the work and share ideas. Visit www.fcrcv.org/richmondhwy/designguides.htm for more.

SUNDAY/APRIL 7

Low Cost Rabies Vaccine Clinic. 9-11 a.m. at Fairfax County Animal Shelter, 4500 West Ox Road, Fairfax. Cost is \$15 per pet, cash and check only. Dogs, cats, and ferrets may be vaccinated at the clinic. Dogs must be on leashes; cats and ferrets must be in carriers. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/animalshelter/communityassistance/rabiesclinics for more.

THURSDAY/APRIL 11

Economic Outlook for Greater Richmond Highway Corridor. 7:30-11 a.m. at Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road. Economic Outlook 2019 will highlight economic development, and housing trends in the local economy. Cost is \$40 per person through March 31, \$50 after. Make reservations at www.MtVernon-LeeChamber.org or 703-360-6925.

THURSDAY-FRIDAY/APRIL 11-12

Fairfax County Job Fair. 4-7 p.m. at Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Come attend the 2019 Fairfax County Job Fair. Learn about a variety of careers with various county agencies. Representatives of SkillsSource and DARS will also be on site. Free. Email Debra.Prica@fairfaxcounty.gov or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hr/sites/hr/files/assets/documents/jobfair2019flyer.pdf for more.

SATURDAY/APRIL 13

Boating Safety Classes. 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Washington Farm United Methodist Church, 3921 Old Mill Road. Prepare for boating season by taking one of the Boating Safety classes offered by U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 25-08, Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia have varying requirements for boaters before they may legally operate certain motorized vessels on their respective waterways. Register with Jeff Burt at jdburt@verizon.net or 703-307-6482.

Trash Cleanup. 9 a.m.-noon at Belle Haven Park & Dyke Marsh, GWM Parkway. Help clean up trash in the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve and along the Potomac River shoreline. Check in at the station at the Haul Road trail entrance or Belle Haven Park. Bring water, wear sturdy shoes and sun protection. Supplies provided. Best not to bring pets. Visit www.fodm.org.

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9112 Volunteer Dr

Williamsburg Colonial! | \$655,000

Exceptional property! Spacious Colonial in the Williamsburg tradition featuring premier setting on large level lot in the desirable Westgate community near Mt Vernon Estate. Features include: 4 Bedrooms, 2.5 baths, huge master suite with 2 large closets and private bath, 2 fireplaces in family and living room, hardwood floors on both levels, two car garage, & incredible sun room overlooking half acre rear grounds complete with two storage sheds.

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3601 Riverwood Rd

Desirable Riverwood! | \$785,000

Nicely situated 4 Bed, 2.5 Bath updated home in lovely Riverwood Community. Home features: updated custom Kitchen with granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, beautiful hardwood floors on main and upper level, master suite with private bath and custom closet, replacement windows by Pella, gas fireplace, screened porch, fenced rear yard, and side load 2 car garage. Community has serene riverfront walking path and beachy area!



2207 Lakeshire Dr \$945,000

Curb appeal abounds with distinctive front porch. Exceptionally bright and open floor plan highlighted by updated kitchen opening to spacious family room with soaring cathedral ceiling. Other features include: 4 Bedrooms, 3.5 Baths, main level office/library, upgraded trim detail, and two car garage. Near Stratford Landing School. Unique combination of size, location, & attractive price in premier location!

SOLD!



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!

SOLD!



8826 Black Alder Dr \$665,000

Incredible value for Classic Colonial style on established street adjacent to Mount Vernon Country Club. Many features including: 3 finished levels, 5 Bedrooms including main level master, 3.5 baths, open kitchen to fam room, 2 fireplaces, oversize 2 car garage. Extensive list of recent updates including: Kitchen, roof, master bath, wood floors, powder room, basement bath, interior paint, garage doors, and the list goes on. Turn key opportunity!

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!



9402 Mt. Vernon Circle \$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)

SOLD



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

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