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Keyli Melgar, 7, didn't mind getting her boots muddy on the road-side.

PHOTOS BY
MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE



Matt Giehill finds an interesting styrofoam headstone left over from Halloween.

A Sense of Community

Clean-up honors namesake of Jeff Todd Way.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

There doesn't seem to be a shortage of trash on the roadside of Jeff Todd Way in Mount Vernon so the spring clean up on April 27 brought out local volunteers who pulled together, fostering a spirit of community while they scoured the roadside.

The road between Telegraph Road and Richmond Highway was named after Jeff Todd, a Mount Vernon

community leader who was killed in a car accident in 2011, and the clean-up event has been held every year since.

Organizers included the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce and Fort Belvoir Installation Command. Volunteers and police escorts met at the Candlewood Hotel. Some were transported by van to the Telegraph Road area, and headed east while others walked over and started at Roy Rogers, heading west and they met in the middle. The sun was out, and so was the spirit of community.

Why are you volunteering to join in the clean-up of Jeff Todd Way?



"Be a part of the community and serve the community, and I know the owner of Roy Rogers, and I work for a cleaning company, and this is what we do."
— Sonja Caison, The Cleaning Authority



"Jeff Todd is part of our environment, it's a pretty big thing to clean our environment."
— Sena Deressa, a junior from Mount Vernon High School

"It's part of our community, we want to keep it looking nice."
— Robin Highfield and Matt Giehill from Baywood Hotels



"It's part of the community and you have to keep it clean"
— Cristina Nativi, a Walmart employee



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#WeAreAlexandria



Old Town | \$1,779,000

This circa 1877 all-brick Victorian gem is fully detached on a double lot with an exquisite lush walled garden and 2 off-street parking spaces. Formal entertaining spaces perfect for small or larger gatherings. Please call today for a private showing!

Colleen Coopersmith 703.338.2930
www.ColleenCoopersmith.com



OPEN SUN 5/5, 2-4

Del Ray | \$779,900

4-bedroom, 1-bath classic bungalow! Warm hardwoods throughout. Kitchen, dining, living rooms, 2 bedrooms & full bath on main floor. 2 upper bedrooms. Deck & unfinished lower level with walk-out to flat backyard. Walk to Metro & "The Avenue." 206 E Nelson Avenue
Jen Walker 703.675.1566
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OPEN SUN 5/5, 2-4

Arlington/National Landing | \$1,499,000

Views Beyond Compare! This double unit condo (2,800 SF) offers an open floor plan perfect for elegant entertaining! Features include 3 bedrooms, 3 baths & views of all that is Washington, DC. Two car spaces & 4th of July fireworks convey! 1200 Crystal Dr #1413-1414.
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Del Ray | \$649,900

3-bedroom, 2-bath townhouse offers plenty of living space. Main level features a living & dining room and kitchen. Finished lower level rec room and full bath. Enjoy the large fenced yard and screened-in porch. Metro and "The Avenue" just blocks away!

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Old Town | \$435,000

This one has it all! Steps away from Braddock Rd Metro and 6 blocks to King St! Gorgeous condo is on the quiet side of the building with 2 ample bedrooms and garage parking. Updated kitchen & spacious living areas with walkout to balcony overlooking courtyard.

Kim Peele 703.244.5852
www.ThePeeleGroup.biz



OPEN SUN 5/5, 2-4

Springfield | \$539,900

Recently refreshed, this 4-bedroom home sits on a large corner lot with fenced yard and patio. New flooring on the main level and carpeting on the upper level. Living room with fireplace. Lower level den, bedroom, full bath and utility room. 8021 Ellet Road
Richard McGuire 703.627.1985
www.RichardMcGuire.net



OPEN SUN 5/5, 2-4

Alexandria \$385,000

Amazingly bright townhouse in South Kings Station. This 2-bedroom, 2.5-bath has been meticulously maintained. The master offers double closets, skylights and vaulted ceilings. Cozy lower level with fireplace and fenced back yard. Close to Huntington Metro. 6522 Brick Hearth Court

Rebecca McCullough 571.384.0941
www.RebeccaMcCullough.com

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Customers Savor Barbecue at Johnny Mac's

Carry out attracts Mount Vernon locals and North Carolina barbecue fans looking for authenticity.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

The plastic twist ice cream cone on the roof and the weathered sign on Richmond Highway are evidence that Johnny Mac Barbecue has been around a few years, and the regular customers can attest to the popularity of their food. "I've had almost everything on this menu," said Wayne Scott, who stopped by one afternoon for a sandwich.

Dave Jackson comes in twice a week, but likes the comradery as much as the food, which ranges from hamburgers, hot dogs, ribs, soft-serve ice cream and their banana split. "It's authentic, they interact with their customers in a special way."

Jackson was referring to the owners, Mike and Claudia Hill who have owned Johnny Mac's for 30 years. Mike Hill's a graduate of Edison High School in Franconia and Claudia Hill graduated from Hayfield in 1973. The Hills put all their energy into the 600-square-foot carry out, and love every minute of it.

"Chocolate chip cookies I make from scratch," said Claudia Hill. The Strawberry



Mike Hill emphasizes the authenticity of his North Carolina barbecue sauce.



The homemade chocolate chip cookies are one of Claudia Hill's specialties.

Shortcake is the newest item on the menu. "We sell a lot of banana splits," she added.

Johnny Mac's specializes in North Carolina barbecue and Mike Hill is proud of the fact that they don't skimp on the sauce's authenticity. It's got vinegar and peppers to start with, and they get a lot of military folks come in, mostly from Fort Belvoir for the real thing. "We do it right," he said.

Johnny Mac's started years ago with owner Ralph Roof, a local restaurateur who built it from the ground up. He now lives in Carolina Beach where he has a successful



The cone on the roof has endured many a storm over the last 25 years.

restaurant, the Hills say. They are friends and stay in touch. Roof is over 80 years old. "He comes up and stays with us every once in a while," said Mike Hill. Inside the kitchen, things are tight due to space constraints, but they make it work. "Everything has its place," said Claudia Hill. "The grill was here when we came but it doesn't look old because we keep it up," she added.

The faded sign out front may have to be moved when the Richmond Highway widening project comes through, but they're not concerned. Mike Hill has looked into the



Wayne Scott is a fan of Johnny Mac's and has tried everything on the menu.

project a little, and took note of the plans for the intersection at Cooper and Sacramento Roads, but he's been through road work before. "It will be interesting to see how they do it," he said. As for the plastic ice cream cone mounted on the peak of the roof, it's been there so long it's become part of the scenery. Maybe 25 years. "It's been up there a long time," said Mike Hill. There's no plans to move it, or any other thing around this local icon, except maybe the sign. "They say not," said Mike Hill when he talked to the road planners.

Wings over Mount Vernon Bulgarian manager praised as he delivers strong sales of chicken wings after one year in business.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

In Bulgaria, chicken wings are not served as an appetizer or fast food, but it's one thing Zdravko Solenkov got used to when he settled in Alexandria and got a job as a delivery driver for Del Ray's Wing Zone.

He made the best of the situation and is now the manager of a Wing Zone in Mount Vernon where he just celebrated one year with major sales figures. "His earnings ranked him at number 15 out of all the Wing Zone locations in the country," a company spokesperson stated, and this was noted by company owners who congratulated Solenkov in person.

"I wanted to open a place on my own," Solenkov said, "I saw it as a good opportunity," he said.

Delivering wings in Del Ray was a little low key compared to managing a place in Mount Vernon where his restaurant is in a strip mall just north of Fort Belvoir. He met Mitko Kostadinov, the manager in Del Ray who is from Macedonia and

the two hit it off since both were newcomers to the United States. Kostadinov helped him set up the new restaurant and they've done well in the new location.

After delivering wings for a few months, he went to Arlington and became a bar manager where he met a waitress with a Somali background.

They started dating and now he's been married for two years.

Super Bowl Sunday was the benchmark that all area food establishments eye for sales, and although football isn't big in Bulgaria, Solenkov could see that it was a big deal here. "Football season, probably our busiest time," he said.

Solenkov plays soccer when he has the time as he did at home but noticed a few other things that people do in this country that they don't do in Bulgaria. Bulgarian food has more vegetables in it, there was not much delivery service, and tipping was a new experience. "Over there it's not as common," he said.

His family is still in Bulgaria, and he plans to visit soon. With the computer and Skype, "I talk to them all the time," he said.

Wing Zone was founded in 1991 at the



Zdravko Solenkov

University of Florida by Matt Friedman and Adam Scott, who dubbed themselves "Flavorholics," because of their love of wings, according to company information. The Wing Zone franchise was born in their fraternity house kitchen, and the concept

grew through delivery to their fellow college students. Wing Zone now has nearly 100 locations open across the U.S. and overseas with new restaurants in Panama, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Malabo, Singapore and Guatemala.


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7121 Marine Drive, Alexandria, VA 22307
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\$950,000

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PENDING

7920 Bainbridge Road, Alexandria, VA 22308
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News

Event Highlights Environment

Supervisor plans on focusing on environment in upcoming campaign.

By Mike Salmon
The Gazette

The brownies being passed around at Supervisor Dan Storck's (D-Mount Vernon) earth day event had an earthy ingredients most did seem to mind, which was insects, earning them the name "Bug Bites." There was enough sugar and chocolate that the bug taste didn't come through that strongly, but it provided a recycling theme that Storck wants to take with him in his re-election effort over the next six months. "Real crickets inside," he said with a smile.

A big point on his agenda is "to address the environmental health of our county," he said.

He picked the residence of Camela Speer, the communications director in Storck's office with an environmentally friendly house to hold the Earth Day event. Speer's house, across the street from the Workhouse Art Center, "blends elements of efficiency and sustainability," the fact sheet stated. It's an all-electric house that generates so much solar energy that they sell some back to the company. They have a 1500-gallon cistern for recycling rainwater, hydronic radiant flooring, low reflective argon-filled encasement windows, a bamboo trellis out back, and a couple of chickens for fresh eggs.

Is it possible for others in the county to adopt measures like this? "I know that it is," said Storck. "Energy efficiency pays for itself," he added. In his own house, he's pumped in extra insulation, used bright colored shingles on the roof to reflect heat, and keeps his thermostat down so his electric bill is only about \$50, he said.

BIGGER PICTURE

The Mount Vernon District is bordered by the Potomac River on the eastern edge, and this puts it on ground zero if the sea level rises due to global



PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE GAZETTE

Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck with Marvin Miller, a supporter from Mason Neck.

warming.

"New Alexandria and Belle View would be especially impacted by climate change," Storck said. The Fairfax Green Initiative is something Storck stands behind, that "lays out the goals that I have to accelerate our efforts towards climate change," he said. "The Potomac River could rise, the storms, hurricanes, superstorms could be more harmful to the lower areas," he said.

Inside Speer's house, "it was our vision," said Wes Speer. "I was happy to share" the extra energy the house creates with the solar panels and other measures they've taken. "No off gassing," he said, which means the paints and other finishes were not toxic, and the stones used in various places were donated from Vulcan Quarry.

Also at the event was Karen Corbett Sanders from the Fairfax County School Board. She's worked with the Board of Supervisors on a Joint Environmental Task Force, which Storck is on as well. Vienna resident Helene Shore also attended and has supported Storck on the environment and a group she's on called "350 Fairfax." "It's all grass roots," she said.



Brownies made with crickets.



A bamboo plant trellis was one earthy feature in the yard.



Earth Day event included roaming chickens.

News

Cyclist Charged After Crash

On Sunday, April 21, around 10:21 a.m., an officer from the Mount Vernon District Station was involved in a crash with a cyclist at the intersection of Fordson Road and Richmond Highway.

According to police, the officer was stopped at a traffic light waiting to make a right turn onto southbound Richmond Highway from the Mount Vernon Plaza shopping center. The cyclist was riding northbound on the sidewalk of the southbound side of Richmond Highway. He entered Fordson Road from the sidewalk without stopping and disregarded the pedestrian signal. The police investigation shows the officer had the right of way and determined it was safe to enter the intersection when the cyclist came

off the sidewalk and hit the cruiser. The officer immediately rendered aid and called an ambulance which took the man to a local hospital with minor injuries.

The 55-year-old man from Alexandria was charged with Fail to Pay Full Time and Attention. In accordance with policy, an administrative investigation is also being conducted into the crash.

Pedestrian and cyclist deaths account for more than 33 percent of all traffic fatalities in the region, mirroring national trends, according to the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.

View the video of the accident at: <https://fcpdnews.wordpress.com/2019/04/24/cyclist-charged-after-crash-with-fcpd-cruiser/>.

CRIME REPORT

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

COMMERCIAL ROBBERY: 2405 Fairhaven Avenue (7-Eleven), April 29, 11:50 p.m. A man entered the store, displayed a handgun and demanded money. The man took an undisclosed amount of cash and ran away. He was described as black, 22 to 25-years-old, about 5'6", average build, wearing black clothes.

BURGLARY: 7900 block of Janna Lee Avenue, April 29, 12:29 p.m. Someone entered an apartment and stole electronic items.

BURGLARY: 7900 block of Audubon Avenue, April 25, 12 p.m. Someone entered an unoccupied apartment and stole money.

ROBBERY: 1930 block of Rollins Road, April 24, 8:59 p.m. The victim was walking home when he was pushed to the ground by the suspect. The victim handed over his phone when the suspect displayed a handgun. The suspect ran away and is described as black, 20 to 25-

years-old, approximately 6' tall and wearing dark clothing.

COMMERCIAL ROBBERY: 6327 South Kings Highway (7-Eleven), April 25, 12:30 a.m. A man entered the store, displayed a handgun, jumped the counter and demanded money. The man took an undisclosed amount of cash and ran away. The man was described as black, 18 to 25-years-old, about 5'11", average build, wearing black clothes, a black ski mask and a black backpack.

APRIL 30 LARCENIES
4500 block of Colony Court, tools from vehicle
2300 block of Huntington Avenue, cash from business
7700 block of Richmond Highway, tiles from business
6400 block of Richmond Highway, vaping fluid from business
STOLEN VEHICLES
4300 block of Halfe Street, 2003 Dodge Ram

APRIL 29 LARCENIES
8000 block of Linton Lane, cash from

church
2500 block of Parkers Lane, keys and cell phone from vehicle
7500 block of Republic Court, bicycle from location
7600 block of Richmond Highway, beer and detergent from business
7700 block of Richmond Highway, belt from business
4400 block of Rolling Brooke Court, license plate from vehicle
7700 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business
8200 block of Russell Road, beer from business
6300 block of South Kings Highway, merchandise from business

APRIL 25 LARCENIES
8200 block of Chancery Court, property from location
6200 block of Gentle Lane, wallets from vehicles
4300 block of Granada Street, wallet from vehicle
STOLEN VEHICLES
2500 block of Fairhaven Avenue, 2001 BMW 530i
9100 block of Richmond Highway, 2017 Yamaha R6

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.

SATURDAY/MAY 4

Vessel Safety Check. At the Alexandria City Marina. Increase the

chances of a mishap-free season on the water this year with a free Vessel Safety Check from the Coast Auxiliary's Mount Vernon Flotilla, whether it's a powerboat, sailboat, jet ski, or paddle craft. Contact Steve Rybicki at sjrybicki@gmail.com or 703-887-0415.

SUNDAY/MAY 5

Low Cost Rabies Vaccine Clinic. Noon-2 p.m. at Mount Vernon

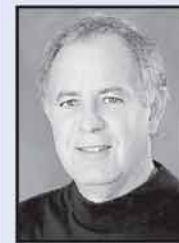
SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 17

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



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NEW LISTING
OPEN SUNDAY 1-4

Alex/Riverside Estates \$594,900
8318 Cherry Valley Lane
Popular updated "B" model Colonial with 4BRs, 2.BAs, 2 gas FPLs and a single car garage, all on a beautifully landscaped lot. Numerous updates: refinished hardwood floors on main and upper levels, freshly painted interior, double pane windows and a delightful screened porch overlooking a beautiful backyard. Family rm on main level with a gas FPL and a 2nd gas FPL in the finished basement. 10 mins to Ft. Belvoir- 30 mins to Natl' Airport. This market is hot so come on over and take a look.



SALE PENDING

Alex/Riverside Estates \$579,850
3012 Battersea Lane
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 hwdws 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.



SALE PENDING

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 doors ...of course!!! Totally turnkey, enjoy!!!



UNDER CONTRACT

Ft. Hunt/Hollin Hall \$584,000
7923 Jackson Road
Gorgeous home offers 1 lvl living w/contemporary open floor plan in sought after Ft. Hunt community zoned for Wayneswood Ele. This beautiful home has been completely remodeled & has stunning architectural features including an addition which has a Great rm w/high vaulted ceiling, a stone FPL, 2 skylights w/remote controlled shades, & a 2nd full bath, master bedrm, & enclosed washer/dryer area. Kitchen has SS appliances & silestone counters & shaker style maple cabinetry. Both baths renovated. New French doors off of Great rm open to beautiful 2 year old deck made w/low maintenance composite material, overlooks private, fenced bkdy. This home is a GEM and is in a great location!



SOLD

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 hwdw 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 hwdw 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!!



SOLD

Alex/Riverside Estate \$595,000
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!!



SOLD

Alex/Riverside Estates \$548,000
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 hwdw 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 bkdy, 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

Improving Parkway's Safety

BY PAUL KRIZEK
STATE DELEGATE (D-44)



The George Washington Memorial Parkway, especially the portion that is south of Alexandria, is not the safe and scenic parkway as was envisioned back in the 1930s when it was built. It is too narrow and curvy, has no shoulders, very few median areas, and too many cars speed on it. It is almost impossible for bikes and pedestrians to cross, and it can be extremely difficult and dangerous for cars to go north (left as you are facing the river) from most of the intersections coming out from our neighborhoods.

On Monday, April 29, there was not just a serious accident that stopped all traffic going in both directions during rush hour, but tragically, a 55-year-old taxi driver lost his life, and two others were airlifted by helicopter to the hospital for emergency treatment of serious injuries. A third injured person was taken away by ambulance. It was a very bad accident, and this was on a day where the weather was wonderful. Indeed, from a 2016 study by the Fed-

eral Highway Administration of just the "Morningside Lane intersection reported that 30 crashes had occurred there from 2006-2012, an average of 4.3 per year, and the vast majority of the incidents happened in clear, dry and daylight conditions," as was reported in this newspaper Oct. 26, 2017.

As readers know, your local elected officials, following Congressman Don Beyer's lead, have worked hard to push federal officials to focus on making this federal road safer for the community. Sen. Scott Surovell and I, having grown up in the Mount Vernon community and witnessed the increased speeds and volume of traffic on the parkway, have long been concerned about its safety. After a serious crash in 2017, I sent a letter to the Superintendent of the National Park Service citing safety issues brought up to me by constituents and other stakeholders promoting improvements that can be made to address these concerns while preserving the beauty of our neighborhoods. Some of these include reducing the speed zone between Belle Haven and Mount Vernon, creating a median at Morningside Lane, or putting in a rumble strip along the centerline of the parkway. Senator Surovell has

also suggested the addition of speed cameras at intersections as a method to reduce the speed of traffic.

The National Park Service is currently conducting a traffic and safety study along the parkway that we pushed for and that the congressman urged be expedited. This study began on Feb. 25 of this year but its completion was delayed due to the government shutdown earlier this year. There will be an opportunity for public comments on the final draft of the traffic study at a soon-to-be-scheduled meeting with National Park Service officials, most likely to be held at the Martha Washington Library on Fort Hunt Road. Though the exact date for this meeting has yet to be set, I will be sure to provide updates and more details as I receive them on social media and in this newspaper. You can find me on Twitter at @KrizekForVA and on Facebook at Paul Krizek for Virginia. Our communities have grown, the number of cars on our roads has increased, and changes are necessary to ensure we can travel safely. This study is critical to making this happen. I will continue to work with Congressman Beyer, Senator Surovell, Sen. Adam Ebbin, and Supervisor Dan Storck to explore all possible avenues for keeping our parkway a safe byway for residents to enjoy.

Region's Public Schools Not 'Fully Funded'

BY SCOTT SUROVELL
STATE SENATOR (D-36)

As election year heats up, some candidates use terms like "fully funded" schools. Here's my perspective on the subject.

First, Virginia's median family

income is ninth in the United States. It is largely driven by Northern Virginia counties: Fairfax County (3rd - \$106,690), Stafford County (5th - \$95,927), and Prince William County (6th - \$93,011).



Fairfax, Stafford and Prince William Counties rank in the top 1 percent of all American jurisdictions - 3rd, 19th and 20th in the entire USA.

However, per pupil

COMMENTARY

investment in elementary-secondary education ranks orders of magnitude lower. Virginia is 22nd in the country in per pupil spending, averaging around \$11,432. Arlington County leads Virginia at \$19,348 per student even with a lower median income than Fairfax County. Fairfax County "fully funds" FCPS by spending 21 percent less than Arlington or \$15,293 per student, Prince William spends \$12,427 and Stafford spends \$11,319.

In Virginia, public education is a shared state and local government obligation. After the General Assembly was captured by the "no new taxes" craze of the 1990s, state elementary-secondary education funding has lagged. The "Great Recession" of 2009 inflicted significant cuts and while the state appropriations have recovered to pre-2009 levels, they still lag on an inflation-adjusted, per pupil basis and increasing education appropriations continues to be a priority for the House and Senate Democratic Caucuses, but we need more votes to make needed changes.

Notwithstanding, the counties in my Senate district have done very well. Since 2010, Direct Aid to Education from Virginia to Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) has

SEE SCHOOLS, PAGE 9



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Quilts for Walter Reed Hospital

Simple Quilts for Charity is a group of women from Messiah Lutheran Church and Nativity Lutheran Church who get together every Tuesday morning at Messiah to make quilts for charitable organizations. The group recently delivered 15 patriotic quilts to the Red Cross office at Walter Reed Hospital. Red Cross includes the quilts in kits that are given to long-term patients at Walter Reed. Above, from left, are Mary Bobb, Carol Mattaino, Stephanie Harris, Shirley Barry, Marj Kehler and Joan Ehle. The group is now making quilts for Lutheran World Relief and the Eleanor Kennedy Homeless Shelter.

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OPINION

Black or Blue

**Lessons learned from how Virginia
Democrats handled the Ralph Northam debacle.**

BY KOFI ANNAN
PRESIDENT, FAIRFAX COUNTY NAACP

During a 1960 speech to a mixed audience in New York City, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, “There is a pressing need for a liberalism in the North which is truly liberal.” While Virginia is a southern state, it gets bluer with each election, therefore we should take heed to MLK’s words, which essentially challenges liberals to fight the gravitational pull to the right on issues of civil rights and equity. It is difficult to see both the election of Ralph Northam, his subsequent actions, and the actions of the party to protect him as anything but the party signaling to the center-right that they have their back and are willing to sacrifice a few black voters if need be.

Liberals have long sought to convince African Americans that they alone can shield us from conservative’s intent on rolling back the hands of time. And African Americans normally respond to that message, having never

wavered in our loyalty for the last half century. Every election cycle we make or break elections in favor of the Democratic Party, even though for the most part we get marginal improvement in our quality of life overall, and in many measurable ways we actually regress. Our average collective net worth remains a fraction of whites, our employment rate remains half that of whites, our neighborhoods are still gentrified in the name of progress, predominantly black public schools are still underfunded, we still make up 40 percent of the nations’ incarcerated, and school administrators still consistently dole out harsher punishments to our kids compared to their white counterparts, even in districts dominated by Democratic Party leadership. A report from the Institute for Policy Studies, released to coincide with what would have been MLK’s 90th birthday, demonstrated that over the past few decades, black wealth actually fell by 50 percent.

On the other hand, Republicans haven’t presented a particularly appealing message to African Americans voters at any point during this time period either, and even less so during the Trump Administration, which uses racism and xenophobia to collect votes as effectively as any administration in recent history. However, what’s more intriguing is the possibility that Democrats like Northam view Trump’s success as a reason to shift focus on securing the white middle-class vote even if that means sacrificing some of the African American vote, or at least taking the black vote for granted. After all, the politics of “fear the racist Republican” is a lot easier to sell today than it was just a few years ago. This might explain why presidential favorite Pete Buttigieg felt comfortable proposing that he would undo decades of work to expand voting rights to those convicted of crimes, who are disproportionately represented by minorities.

This certainly appears to be the case in Virginia. Most of us are familiar with the controversy surrounding Governor Northam and his possible Ku Klux Klan (KKK) affiliation by now, right? Perhaps I shouldn’t assume. Maybe you were one of those that ignored the Klan member in the photograph, and instead saw this incident as a [less harmful]

‘blackface’ controversy that could be explained by innocent cultural insensitivity. But let’s get something straight, this is not a blackface controversy, this is a KKK controversy. A lot of people — including the governor — would rather focus on the person in blackface because it’s a slightly more tolerant form of white supremacy, and conveniently ignore the terrorist next to the individual in blackface. But the governor should not be let off the hook that easily. The KKK is America’s original domestic terrorist group (despite what the laws say), having killed well over 4,000 Americans that we know of, and our governor either is or was associated with them. Let that sink in, particularly as we still mourn the loss of another group of innocent lives at the hands of other terrorist groups in New Zealand a few weeks ago, Pittsburgh, Charlottesville, and most recently Sri Lanka. The leader of the Democratic Party in Virginia has yet to offer a sensible explanation for why a terrorist was in his yearbook, and the Democratic Party is okay enough with this that they’re now openly not only defending him but trotting him out at political fundraisers.

To most the case against Northam seemed open and shut, and his resignation seemed inevitable. One would imagine that an elected official who represents the party which prides itself on its diversity, that routinely secures over 90 percent of the African American vote, and counts on that constituency to win key battleground territories in a purple state that was red just a few elections ago, would certainly recognize that defending the governor is not a hill worth dying on and step aside as quickly and as gracefully as possible.

Well we’re now approaching May and not only has Northam refused to step aside, but even more unfortunate the Democratic Party has begun to rally around him in a show of solidarity. First came the slow drip of messages of appreciation from members of the General Assembly for one bill after the other on social media. Then the ridiculous Michael Jackson impersonation story that once seemed straight out of a bad SNL skit became the official party line. As for the “Coonman” nickname in his VMI yearbook that never received a formal explanation from the governor? Well one explanation floated to me by a Democratic member of in the Virginia House of Delegates — who happened to be African American — was an even greater insult to our intelligence, and full of even more racist stereotypes. According to the delegate the governor’s nickname stemmed from the fact that he had a lot of black friends due to his love of basketball.

As if insulting our intelligence wasn’t bad enough, many within the Democratic Party felt it necessary to go after those amplifying the call for the governor’s resignation. Following a protest led by the Fairfax County National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) at a Democratic fundraiser where the governor was scheduled to attend, Democratic Party loyalists and leaders alike attacked the NAACP for doing the very thing the organization was founded for — standing up against racism. Its members were described as “troublemakers” and “bullies”; and the nation’s oldest and most successful civil rights organization is described as a “fringe element” by one party leader.

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Schools Not ‘Fully Funded’

FROM PAGE 6

risen by around \$270 million or 63.49 percent. However, local funding from Fairfax County has only increased 26 percent. Given that that Fairfax County provides 80 percent of FCPS’ budget, this shortfall has severely limited the School Board’s ability to address many needs.

Likewise, Virginia’s Direct Aid to Prince William County Public Schools (PWCPS) has risen by \$194 million per year or 51 percent, but local funds from the Prince William County Board of Supervisors has increased only 37 percent. In Prince William, the County provides approximately 45 percent of PWCPS’ budget.

The most glaring result of this under-funding is teacher salaries. In 2018, Virginia’s \$51,994 average teacher salaries were \$8,483 behind the national average and 32nd in the country – 20 spots below our relative income ranking.

When I was an FCPS student, Fairfax County had the highest paid teachers in Virginia and all wanted to teach for FCPS. Today, Arlington County leads with average teacher salaries of \$81,044.

Teacher salaries remain far too low. Fairfax County averages \$73,228, Prince William County averages \$60,227 and Stafford County averages \$53,152. Across the Potomac, the average salary in Montgomery County is \$82,316 and Prince George’s County, \$71,110. These salaries lure the best teachers away from the 36th District.

This also plays out in services. Today’s economy

requires digital literacy and learning skills. Henrico and Albemarle Counties deployed one-to-one computer programs over a decade ago. Arlington County did the same five years ago. Fairfax County is finally rolling out one-to-one computer programs 12 years behind Henrico County. Prince William and Stafford counties are barely discussing it.

School construction is a local responsibility. Fairfax County has over 700 temporary classrooms; Prince William, over 200.

Fairfax, Prince William and Stafford counties all require free and reduced lunch children to pay for AP tests and online classes.

Most disturbingly, these three counties leave \$9 million of state matching dollars on the table every year for free preschool. Prince William County is the worst, leaving over \$6 million.

The next time you hear someone claim that our schools are “fully funded,” ask questions. Class sizes remain too large.

Teacher vacancy and retention rates are growing and English proficiency continues to lag. Northern Virginians have more resources than nearly everyone in the rest of the United States, but we are often told to settle for less.

As your state senator, I will continue to work to make Virginia’s public schools the best in the country and I will never tolerate low expectations given our area’s relative ability to invest in our future.

Please email me at scott@scotturovell.org if you have any questions.

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Schar Cancer Institute Opens to Patients May 13

Institute becomes a landmark for health care
and research in Fairfax County.

The Inova Health System will usher in a new level of medical treatment and patient care when the Inova Schar Cancer Institute opens to patients May 13 on its Merrifield campus.

"The Schar Cancer Center raises the already-high level of health-care facilities in Fairfax County," said Catherine W. Riley, interim president and CEO of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority. "As part of the Inova Center for Personalized Health it can make Fairfax County a destination for world-class research and clinical work."

Dedication ceremonies took place Wednesday, April 24, for the \$150 million center for care and research that is anchoring the 117-acre Inova campus, fulfilling a vision that began with the acquisition of the former Exxon Mobil site. The institute was made possible, in part, by a \$50 million contribution from Dwight Schar and wife Martha, whose legacy will extend beyond Fairfax County-based NVR home builders.

MEMBERS OF THE SCHAR FAMILY were joined by others, including U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy and wife Marcelle, political commentator Cokie Roberts, and Lara Hopewell, a local hockey mom-turned-crusader for cancer research — all cancer survivors. Also participating in the ceremonies were U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova and Inova CEO Dr. Stephen Jones. The ceremonies featured more than 100 cancer patients and their family members, who became the first to walk through the front door of the newly-dedicated facility.

"We are so fortunate in Fairfax County to have access to such world class medical care and treatment," said Bulova, who presented a proclamation from the Board of Supervisors congratulating Inova. "We have amazing facilities, doctors and cutting-edge technologies that are right here, literally in our own backyard, and that is so incredibly valuable."

Riley echoed the importance of having a first-class cancer facility in the county, offering residents the highest quality care without requiring them to travel, often hundreds of miles for treatment. She also emphasized the importance of the research that will take place at the facility, creating a new horizon in the

diversification of Fairfax County's workforce.

"We're very excited about the research and development aspect of the Schar Institute and the ways in which it will help diversify our local economy," Riley said. "It will attract new doctors and scientists. In partnership with facilities like the University of Virginia Medical School, those researchers will be applying for new grants and developing the kinds of programs that will make Fairfax County known as a medical research and development center."

"We are so fortunate in Fairfax County to have access to such world class medical care and treatment."

**Sharon Bulova, Chairman,
County Board of Supervisors**

DURING THE DEDICATION, Jones announced that Dr. John Deeken, who had been serving as acting president of the Inova Schar Cancer Institute, is named permanently to the president's role. Deeken said the institute would continue stress its "patient-first" philosophy, building on its ability to provide one-stop care through teams of doctors, nurses, therapists, researchers and specialized counselors.

"The vision and the spirit is that the patient is at the center of everything we do," said Deeken, who previously served as COO of the Inova Translational Medicine Institute. "Fundamentally, that's the difference in the model of care at Inova."

"This is the culmination of years of effort in planning and design and recruiting — to make real what we'd hoped to have for all the patients in Northern Virginia, which is expert care close to home. Nobody in Northern Virginia should think they need to go to Houston, New York or Baltimore to get world-class cancer care. We have it right here."

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PEOPLE



PHOTO BY DAN VIGLIONE/USCG AUXILIARY

Volunteer Auxiliarist Praised

The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) awarded volunteer Auxiliarist Peter Wang (left) the Coast Guard Auxiliary Medal of Operational Merit for rescuing three people and their dog after their canoe capsized in the Potomac on Oct. 22, 2017. Wang, a member of Auxiliary Flotilla 25-08 (Mount Vernon), who was boating but not on duty at the time, spotted the two adults and a small boy calling for help as they floated just southwest of National Harbor. His actions to bring them and their pet aboard his boat and return them to Belle Haven Marina prevented them from suffering hypothermia, being struck by other boats, or drowning. The three were wearing life jackets, which significantly increased their chances of survival. Lieutenant David McConky (right), Commanding Officer of Coast Guard Station Washington, presented the medal to Wang at Flotilla 25-08's April 2019 meeting. To learn more about the Auxiliary and inquire about volunteering contact Ted Caliga at johnbielli2@gmail.com, visit Flotilla 25-08 online and explore the Auxiliary's Recruiting website.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Mount Vernon Volunteer Honored

Danae Delman (center), a longtime resident of Mount Vernon, receives, from Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, the Volunteer Fairfax Service Award for Adult Volunteers who contribute up to 250 hours of service for her work with Capital Caring. Despite hospice being a difficult time for families, she finds a way to bring comfort to the individuals and their families. Her patients are always a priority and she's enjoyed learning more through the years with Capital Caring's various seminars and programs. She herself is not a nurse, but visits the patients multiple times a week, as needed, to alleviate the family stress and pressure and to comfort the individual dying. The April 24 awards ceremony at the Waterford in Springfield was emceed by Tisha Lewis of FOX 5 DC. Delman also volunteers for UCM and the Mount Vernon Auxiliary at Select Seconds, Inova Mount Vernon's community thrift store.

lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way. 2. not appreciated or understood. 3. no longer owned or known

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ENTERTAINMENT



Katie Rey Bogdan as Lucy Meli and Colton Needles as Eddie Randall in rehearsals for "Ponzi."



Christopher Overly as Carlo Ponzi and Talia Segal as Rose Gnecco Ponzi.



PHOTOS BY ROBERT BLIZARD

Lois Cecsarini who created the music and lyrics for "Ponzi."

Play Reading for the Musical, 'Ponzi'

Music and lyrics written by Alexandria resident Lois Cecsarini.

BY STEVE HIBBARD

With original music and lyrics by Lois Cecsarini of Alexandria, the first play reading of the new musical "Ponzi" will be held on Saturday, May 4, at 2 p.m. at the Nannie J. Lee Center in Alexandria.

It was a time of turmoil, with new technology flooding the market, as well as voting rights, Russian influence, and unrest on the Southern border dominating the headlines. Weary of war, people were anxious to believe their fortunes would soon change for the better. Enter Charles Ponzi, with his signature smile and confidence, ready to take anyone's money and turn it into gold. So, began the saga that would make the name 'Ponzi' live on to this day.

According to Director Bridget Grace Sheaff: "Ponzi" is a new musical about the

life of Charles Ponzi who the Ponzi scheme is named after. A lot of the musical is taken from his autobiography. There's quite a few direct quotes from his writings that end up in the text itself. It's really about the scope of society around Ponzi, specifically in the heat of the 1920s and the rapidly changing century that we experienced in the early 1900s."

Playwright and lyricist Lois Cecsarini of Alexandria said she had been inspired by a random audiobook on the life of Ponzi and found his autobiography, which is what the main inspiration is based upon. It took her 10 months to write.

"I was struck by that same question," she said. "Why did people believe in this person? Why did they give him their money when it all seemed too good to be true? It's a darn good story with a fascinating character — a complex character. He has moments of great insight and moments of self-

delusion, and I found that fascinating."

She added: "For me, the story is about a man but also the crowds who respond to him. There are many different reasons the crowds respond to Ponzi. You could say it was greed but it was more than that."

In composing the music, she said she wanted to make it sound vaguely 1920s. "I'm not well versed in jazz or genres composing specifically to those genres. So, there are syncopations that might remind you of Ragtime. And a few dance themes that were popular but mostly the story dictates the music and I try to listen to the voices," she said.

Writing a musical is a long process and many changes are made along the way, she said. "First of all, every composer wants his or her work to come to life but you realize that to do that you have to give it over to the performing artists and the audience, and it's a little daunting to let that go," she said.

Cecsarini has written five plays or musicals; her writing started when she was stationed in the U.S. Foreign Service in Cape Town, South Africa, with her production of "The Gospel of Mary" in 1999.

Christopher Overly, 46, of Prince Frederick, Md., is playing the lead role of Ponzi, a swindler. "Money was of utmost importance to him. He generally cared for people but money edged them out. He actually stole money from paperboys and his brother-in-law. He took them as investors to the Ponzi scheme. But he would also literally give you the skin off his back. But almost everything he did was for a reason," he said.

The first reading of the musical "Ponzi" will be held on Saturday, May 4, at 2 p.m. at the Nannie J. Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St., Alexandria. No tickets are required; a free will donation will be taken. Visit www.lonotesmusic.com.

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

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.

Art Exhibit: "Bugs. Or Kafka on Prozac." Through May 5, gallery hours at The Art League, 105 North Union St., Studio 21 in the Torpedo Factory Art Center. Megan Partridge's "Bugs. Or Kafka on Prozac" takes a closer look at these tiny creatures that are often overlooked. The artist imparts each arthropod with a

personality as distinct as their biology, from the bedraggled bug aptly named Hangover Cricket to the speeding blur in Super Bee. Exhibitions are free and open to the public. Visit www.theartleague.org or call 703-683-1780.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/MAY 2-4

Sailing on String. Thursday-Friday, 10:30 a.m.; Saturday, 10 and 11:30 a.m. at The Lab at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane. Arts on the Horizon produces original work exclusively for children ages 0-6 and their families. Follow two curious explorers on a voyage into a world made of string. This gentle, engaging performance features object transformation, movement, live string music, and captivating design. Best for children ages 0-2 and their families. Sign interpreted performance May 11, 10 a.m. \$7. Visit www.ArtsOnTheHorizon.org or call 571-549-1270.

FRIDAY/MAY 3

Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony. 10 a.m.



PHOTO BY H. PAUL MOON

Eclipse Music Director Abel Pereira and musicians.

Eclipse Chamber Orchestra

Britten: Lachrymae: Reflections on a Song of Dowland, Mahoko Eguchi, viola; Britten: Serenade for Tenor, Horn, and Strings, Benjamin Butterfield, tenor / Abel Pereira, horn; Haydn: Symphony No. 104, "London." Sunday, May 5, 3-5 p.m. at George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. \$30 suggested donation; students and children free. Visit www.eclipseco.org for more.

ENTERTAINMENT

Old Town Safeway, 500 S. Royal St. Safeway will unveil renovations to its Old Town store. The celebration will include live music from the New Line Brass Band, refreshments and free gifts. As part of the ribbon-cutting celebration, Safeway will present donations to two local community organizations: The Campagna Center and ALIVE!

UCM Give From the Heart Gala. 6 p.m. at Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road. Hosted by The Friends of UCM, the 2019 Gala is also part of UCM's 50th Anniversary Celebration. The theme for the yearlong celebration is "50 Years of Neighbors Helping Neighbors." Honorary Co-Chairs are U.S. Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA) and Mrs. Addy Krizek, both former UCM Board members. \$200. RSVP at www.ucmagency.org.

MVHS Theatre Arts Alumni Night. 6:15 p.m. (reception); 7 p.m. performance. The MVHS Theatre Arts Alumni night will feature the MVHS Theatre scrapbook and honor all Mount Vernon alumni in their first annual MVHS Theatre Arts Alumni Night during the spring musical production of Cinderella. \$5-\$10. Purchase tickets online (www.itickets.com/events/402293.html) or at the door.

Symphony of Frogs. 7:30-9 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Join a naturalist for an indoor discussion and a guided walk to listen for serenading frogs and toads. Adults. \$8. Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows.

Fostering the Future Gala 2019. 7 p.m. at Hummingbird, 220 South Union St. The Fund for Alexandria's Child hosts its Annual Fostering the Future Event — Captain's Night. This annual fundraiser supports the work of The Fund in providing life enriching opportunities for children in foster care and those at risk of abuse and neglect. Join for an evening of live/silent auction items, an oyster bar, hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, music and dancing. Nautical or cocktail attire. \$100. Visit www.FFAC2019.givesmart.com for tickets.

MAY 3-11

Old Town Cocktail Week. Take part in Alexandria's growing craft scene and enjoy specialty cocktails at restaurants and attend more than 20 events at boutiques, historic sites, restaurants and more. Old Town Cocktail Week is presented by Old



PHOTO BY GAIL BINGHAM

Two dancers on stage during a performance of Mouse in the House.

Mouse in the House

Adapted from the book "The Mouse of Amherst" by Elizabeth Spires, Mouse in House reveals an unlikely friendship between a lively mouse and reclusive 19th-century poet Emily Dickinson. Monday, May 6, 10-11 a.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Free. Call 703-933-1111 or visit www.janefranklin.com/mouse-show.

Town Business with support from the King Street Corridor Initiative. Old Town Cocktail Week kicks off with Art on the Rocks on May 3, presented by The Art League at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, and culminates with a Meet the Makers Virginia Spirits Tasting Event on May 11 at Gadsby's Tavern Museum. Admission varies depending on the event; visit OldTownCocktailWeek.com for details.

MAY 3-JUNE 2

Art Exhibit: "Sacred Feminine." Gallery hours at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. This show explores female energy, the power of life and birth; it connects that energy to ideas, expressions, dreams, life and all of existence. Tap in to your Sacred Feminine and channel the goddess. An opening reception takes place Friday, May 3, 7-9 p.m. Visit DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits.

SATURDAY/MAY 4

Old Town Farmers' Market Spring

Kickoff. 7 a.m.-noon at Market Square, 301 King St. The City of Alexandria's historic Old Town Farmers' Market will host its Spring Kickoff, ushering in the return of favorite warm-weather vendors and the addition of new ones, each offering locally-sourced products including produce, breads, meats, art, flowers and prepared food. Visit alexandriava.gov/OldTownFarmersMarket.

5K Operation Walk/Run. 8-10 a.m. at Fort Hunt Park - Area B, 8999 Fort Hunt Road. Operation Walk Virginia is a not-for-profit volunteer medical services organization that provides free surgical treatment for patients in developing countries who have little or no access to life-improving care for arthritis. All proceeds from the 5K & 1 Mile Fun Run support a 2019 mission trip to Panama. \$35. Register at rnsignup.com/Race/VA/Alexandria/OperationWalk5K.

Ribbon Roses Workshop. 10 a.m.-noon at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. (Adults) Roses made of ribbons make beautiful and enduring gifts. Hear snippets of ribbon history while crafting a ribbon

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Auditions

Saturday, May 11th 2-5 pm
Sunday, May 12th 6-9 pm

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New Executive Director at ASO

George Hanson, the director of two music festivals and an experienced musician and manager will be the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra's new executive director.

Hanson has directed the Tucson Desert Song Festival, a collaborative endeavor among performing arts groups in the Tucson area since 2015. He is also the director of the Sunriver Music Festival in Bend, Ore. Hanson's career includes 20 years with the Tucson Symphony; work with such U.S. orchestras as Atlanta, Charlotte, Indianapolis and Phoenix; and six seasons at the Wuppertal Opera and Orchestra in Germany, as well as other musical activities throughout the U.S. and around the world. An attendee of the Eller College of Management at the University of Arizona Graduate School, he received his Master of Music from Indiana Univer-



George Hanson

PHOTO BY RICARDO LEON

sity. "George brings with him a truly unique portfolio of varied experiences moving orchestras forward from multiple angles and directions," said ASO Music Director James Ross. "He is a fabulous musician, an experienced arts leader, an articulate advocate for classical music, a mean golfer and a creative thought partner who will help raise the intensity of the ASO's vibrant connection to the city and its music lovers. With George on board, the breadth and depth of our impact can now blossom."

Hanson arrives at the ASO just as it completes its 75th anniversary season and its first season under Ross.

Subscriptions for the ASO's 2019-2020 season are now on sale and can be purchased by calling 703-548-0885 or by visiting www.alexsym.org.

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www.lerefugealexandria.com

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ENTERTAINMENT

rose. Supplies included and refreshments served. Class meets at the Historic House. \$28/person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes/ using code AC9.3578 or call 703-642-5173.

RecFest: An Explosion of Fun for All Ages. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Armistead L. Boothe Park, 520 Cameron Station Blvd. RecFest is a day of fun for the whole family, with activities representing the City's fitness, sports, enrichment, arts, nature, out of school time, and summer camp programs. Food trucks will offer food for sale. Admission and all activities are free. Visit alexandriava.gov/Recreation. In case of inclement weather, the event will take place indoors at Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School, 435 Ferdinand Day Drive.

Pillars to Pavers. 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden, 614 Oronoco St. This walking tour will explore the streets of Alexandria with stops to highlight how buildings have been preserved and reused for future generations to enjoy. \$35. Call 703-548-1789 or visit www.leafendallhouse.org.

Used Book Sale. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Selection of over 20,000 gently used books, including children's books, fiction, history, biography, home and garden, cooking, crafts, sports, religion, travel, CDs, DVDs, and more. Unless specially priced, \$1 for hard backs, 50 cents for large paperbacks, and 25 cents for mass market paperbacks. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-sherwood-regional.

Story Time for Little Historians. 11 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. This month, featuring The Fantastic Undersea Life of Jacques Cousteau by Dan Yaccarino. 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.

Grand Opening. Noon-6 p.m. at School of Rock Alexandria, 3260 Duke St. Family fun and kid friendly event. Discounts on programs and camps. Regional School of Rock House bands will be performing live. Ribbon cutting and guitar smashing ceremony. Free trial lessons. Raffle. Food and fun. Free. Call 571-376-ROCK or visit Alexandria.schoolofrock.com.

New Musical Reading: Ponzi. 2 p.m. at Nannie J. Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. A first reading of the new musical Ponzi, with music and lyrics by Lois Cecsarini. Weary of war and want, people were anxious to believe their fortunes would soon change for the better. Enter one Charles Ponzi, with his signature smile and cock-sure confidence, ready to take anyone's hard-earned money and turn it into gold. No tickets required; free will donation.

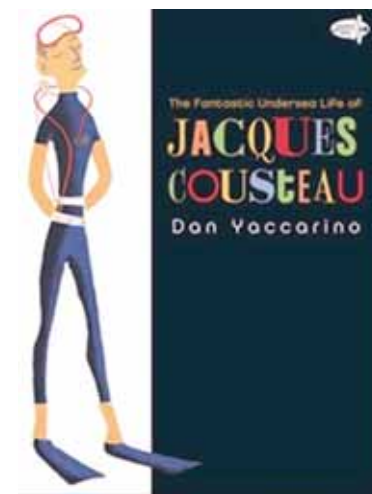
Documentary Screening. 2 p.m. at Alexandria's History Museum at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Construction workers discovered the body of a 19th century African American woman in an iron coffin in Queens, New York. This documentary follows forensic archaeologist Scott Warnasch and a team of historians and scientists as they investigate this woman's story and the time in which she lived. The Alexandria Black

History Museum presents a free screening of the PBS documentary followed by a lecture by Dr. Douglas Owsley of the Smithsonian Institution. Free; open to the public. Reserve a seat by calling 703-746-4356.

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 dance with lessons, 6-7 p.m. and open dancing, 7-9:30 p.m. A DJ provides music. Couples and singles of all ages welcome. Admission for members \$10; non-members \$12; children under 18 accompanied by a paying adult \$5. Smoke-free, alcohol-free. BYO refreshments. Visit www.nvcwda.org for more.

Chocolate & Wine Tasting. 6:30-9 p.m. at Carlyle House Historic Park, Alexandria. Join Potomac Chocolate on the Magnolia Terrace for an evening of locally made chocolates paired with wines. There will also be small snacks that guests can enjoy between wine and chocolate. Tours of the house will run from 6:30-7 with the tasting at 7. Ages 21 and over only. Registration required, no refunds. \$40. Find tickets at apm.activecommunities.com/novaparks/Activity_Search/2568.

Acoustic Eidolon. 7 p.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. Acoustic Eidolon is Joe Scott and Hannah Alkire. Their music is a combination of Celtic, classical and contemporary folk. This show will be a benefit for Holly's Hands Southern Animal Charity (www.hollyshandscharity.org). Tickets are \$18 in advance at www.focusmusic.org/buy-tickets and for members, \$20 at the door.



Story Time for Little Historians

Enjoy cultural stories and creative craft activities that introduce world history and folklore. This month, featuring The Fantastic Undersea Life of Jacques Cousteau by Dan Yaccarino. Afterwards, explore the museum exhibits to learn about local Black history. All ages welcome, but most suitable for children 4 and older. Saturday, May 4, 11 a.m. at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St., Alexandria. Admission is \$3 per person. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Call 703-746-4356.

SUNDAY/MAY 5

Walk for a Cure. 9 a.m. at Cameron Run Regional Park. The Foundation

Operation Walk-Virginia Annual 5K & 1 Mile Family Fun Run

Saturday, May 4th, 2019

This is a kid and dog friendly event!

Race Starts at 8:00am

Same Day Packet Pickup at Fort Hunt Park @ 7am.

Ft Hunt Park, Area B

8999 Fort Hunt Rd, Area B, Alexandria, VA 22308

To register go to:

<https://runsignup.com/OperationWalk5K>

Registration fee of \$35 includes a T-shirt and Race Packet



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Operation Walk Virginia is a not-for-profit volunteer medical services organization that provides free surgical treatment for patients in developing countries who have little or no access to life-improving care for arthritis. All proceeds from the 5K & 1 Mile Fun Run go to supporting our 2019 mission trip to Panama. Thank you for your support!



**Let us know
about an
upcoming event**

connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar

ENTERTAINMENT

4 Dates to Circle in May

BY HOPE NELSON

From beer tastings to Italian cuisine to a book release, May is shaping up to be an action-packed month for Alexandria's foodies. Here are some of the month's top picks.

Old Town Drinks Book Release at The Hour, May 7

Join author Victoria Vergason to celebrate the release of her new book, "Old Town Drinks," a showcase of local watering holes and their cocktail menus.

APPETITE Think of it as a travel guide for those looking for a libation that matches their mood. Twenty-one establishments are featured, as are 42 different cocktail recipes for you to try at home. 1015 King St. 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$40, which includes a copy of the book.

Steal the Taster Night at Hops N Shine, May 9

Northern Virginia's own Crooked Run Brewing will kick off Hops N Shine's May 9 happy hour with an array of its latest brews. Take advantage of the eatery's happy hour prices – including \$2 off appetizers and a number of drink specials to boot. On your way out, pocket a taster glass from Crooked Run – it's not shoplifting if they give you permission. 3410 Mount Vernon Ave. 5-8 p.m.

CALENDAR

Fighting Blindness (FFB) and its Northern Virginia Chapter will host their 14th Annual VisionWalk. The VisionWalk is a family friendly 5K walk that serves to raise awareness and funds for research. Free to attend though donations are encouraged. Participants of all ages are welcome, as well as leashed dogs. Registration and sponsorship information can be found at www.fightblindness.org/NorthernVirginiaVisionWalk.

Spring Ballet: Coppelia. 12:30 and 3:30 p.m. at Metropolitan School of the Arts, 5775 Barclay Ave., Alexandria. \$12. Visit www.metropolitanarts.org for more.

Tutor & Student Reunion. 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Calvary Presbyterian Church, 6120 N. Kings Highway. A tutoring program that began 30 years ago at Calvary Presbyterian Church has impacted the lives of more than 750 Mount Eagle Elementary School students. Anyone who participated in Eagles Wings as a tutor, substitute tutor, Mount Eagle staff member or teacher, and Eagles Wings' student alumni over the past 30 years is invited to a celebration of the Eagles Wings Tutoring program commemorating the 30 years of collaboration between the school and the community. Email ladyalicemiller@gmail.com or call 703-960-3743 with questions.

Eclipse Chamber Orchestra. 3-5 p.m. at George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Britten: Lachrymae: Reflections on a Song of Dowland, Mahoko Eguchi, viola; Britten: Serenade for Tenor, Horn, and Strings, Benjamin Butterfield, tenor / Abel Pereira, horn; Haydn: Symphony No. 104, "London." \$30 suggested donation; students and children free. Visit www.eclipseco.org for more.

Lloyd, Martin & Vox plus Shanna in a Dress. 7 p.m. at George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Lloyd, Martin and Vox marry Heather Aubrey Lloyd's powerhouse percussion, Victoria Vox's renowned mouth trumpet and ukulele prowess

and Kipyn Martin's flawless folk songwriting and vocals. Shanna in a Dress is a smashing combination of clever lyrics, sweet serenade, and tongue twisting rhymes. Tickets are \$18 in advance at www.focusmusic.org/buy-tickets and for members, \$20 at the door.

MONDAY/MAY 6

Mouse in the House. 10-11 a.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Adapted from the book "The Mouse of Amherst" by Elizabeth Spire, Mouse in House reveals an unlikely friendship between a lively mouse and reclusive 19th-century poet Emily Dickinson. Free. Call 703-933-1111 or visit www.janefranklin.com/mouse-show.

Garden Sprouts Spring-Nature Playgroup.

10-11:30 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. (3-5 yrs.) Preschoolers enjoy nature-themed toys and puzzles while parents chat. Explore monthly topics with games, songs, activities and a garden walk. The May topic is worms. \$8/child. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes/ using code EDA.9A9B or call 703-642-5173.

TUESDAY/MAY 7

Yoga on the Magnolia Terrace.

May-October; Tuesdays, 5:30-6:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 10-11 a.m., at Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St. Join for an hour long Vinyasa Flow Yoga on Carlyle House's Magnolia Terrace. A gentle flow yoga class that uses the breath to flow from one pose to the other. Bring water, a towel, and yoga mat. Wear comfortable yoga wear. Class may be cancelled due to extreme weather. Call the site to check class status. \$5 per class, \$20 for 5 classes. Visit www.novaparks.com/parks/carlyle-house-historic-park.

TUESDAY-SATURDAY/MAY 7-11

Sailing on String. Tuesday-Friday,

A Taste of Italy in Old Town at The Italian Place, May 19

The Italian Place has teamed up with Ciao DC to offer a round-the-country taste of Italy without leaving Alexandria. Taste a sampling of Italian wines, nibble on antipasto and start your Italian language lessons all in one compact afternoon. Salut! 621 Wythe St. 3-5 p.m. \$15.

Memorial Day Party at Port City Brewing, May 25

Port City Brewing Company is hosting an all-day soiree to kick off Memorial Day weekend festivities, and it's safe to say that the party has something for most every taste. The day starts with the inaugural Rivershed Run 5K, which leads runners through Cameron Run Park and winds back toward – you guessed it – the brewery, where participants can cool off and refuel with both beer and lots of food. Barbecue and apple pie are on the menu, and the brewery's new Rivershed Ale, a dry-hopped pale ale, is on tap. 3950 Wheeler Ave. Run at 10 a.m.; festivities run at the brewery through 10 p.m. \$45 registration for race; free admission for party.

Hope Nelson owns and operates the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at www.kitchenrecessionista.com. Email her any time at hope@kitchenrecessionista.com.

10:30 a.m.; Saturday, 10 and 11:30 a.m. at The Lab at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane. Arts on the Horizon produces original work exclusively for children ages 0-6 and their families. Follow two curious explorers on a voyage into a world made of string. This gentle, engaging performance features object transformation, movement, live string music, and captivating design. Best for children ages 0-2 and their families. Sign interpreted performance May 11, 10 a.m. \$7. Visit www.ArtsOnTheHorizon.org or call 571-549-1270.

MAY 7-JUNE 15

Photography Exhibit: "Tonal Visions." Gallery hours at Multiple Exposures Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center #312, 105 N. Union St. Featuring work by Alan Sislen. The highly graphic, black and white architectural images in this exhibit explore the range and beauty of tones that might or might not have existed, but were visible in the mind of the photographer. Whether it's the darkest tones that convey a sense of mystery, the brightest tones that attract attention, or the mid-tones that provide the connecting tissue, it is this range of tonalities that shapes the lines, curves, volumes and objects to give the structures life, beauty and meaning. This exhibit is an exploration of tonalities. Visit www.MultipleExposuresGallery.com or call 703-683-2205.

THURSDAY/MAY 9

Garden Tour & Tea. 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. (Adult) Tour the lush demonstration gardens with master gardener docents. View show-stopping plants of spring and learn how to grow them. Hear about Green Spring's past and how horticultural and historical resources are shared with visitors today. \$32. Call 703-941-7987, TTY 703-324-3988.

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Rise in Religion-based Hate Across Virginia

Violent acts follow growth of white supremacy movements.

BY SAFFEYA AHMED
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Vandals spray-painted 19 swastikas on the walls of the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia last October. A young woman leaving a mosque with her friends in Sterling, after nightly prayers in the summer of 2017 was raped and killed. Someone scrawled “F*** God & Allah” across a Farmville mosque in October 2017. Later that year, a Fairfax teacher pulled off a Muslim student’s hijab in front of her class. “These events aren’t isolated,” said Samuel J. West, a doctoral student of social psychology and neuroscience at Virginia Commonwealth University. “They’re happening in conjunction with a well-documented rise of activity of the white power movement and white supremacist organizations.”

In Virginia, hate crimes include illegal, criminal or violent acts committed against a person or property on the basis of race, religion or ethnicity. But often, such offenses are not classified as hate crimes. Because it’s hard to assess intent, it’s rare to be charged with a hate crime.

“The bar is pretty high for that conviction of ‘hate crime,’” said West, whose research focuses on the development of aggressive behavior across populations. “You not only have to be proven guilty of intent, but you also have to be proven of a specific kind of intent ... not only are you the one who attacked them, you attacked them because they’re queer or black or Muslim.”

Tangible forms of intent for religiously based hate crimes can be anything from social media posts expressing hatred for the specific targeted group to verbal slurs yelled when committing the hate crime.

But if intent can’t be proved, offenses that may involve bias aren’t considered hate crimes. A case in point: In Chapel Hill, N.C., in 2015, three Muslims were shot dead by a white man in their apartment over an argument about a parking spot in the complex. The case was classified as a parking dispute.

West said classifying acts like the Chapel Hill shooting as a parking dispute are a reflection of the nation’s judiciary system.

“The U.S. legal system is absolutely created by white men,” West said. “And it certainly makes sense that it would favor them, especially in these cases.”

Because of how hard it is to prove intent, several episodes of religiously motivated violence are often labeled “bias incidents” by the Council on American-Islamic Relations, a Muslim advocacy group that collects data on religiously motivated hate actions and crimes.

“Not only are incidents like those increasing, but the violent nature of those incidents is also increasing,” said Zainab Arain, CAIR research and advocacy manager.

In its 2018 Civil Rights Report, CAIR found nearly 2,600 anti-Muslim-based bias

incidents in 2017 — a 17 percent increase from the previous year. Almost half of those took place within the first three months of the year.

That rise parallels a 23 percent national increase in religiously motivated hate crimes against any religious group — the second-highest number of hate crimes based on religion. The highest number of religiously motivated hate crimes was recorded in 2001, following the 9/11 attacks.

Virginia State Police recorded 44 religion-based hate crimes in 2017, the latest year for which data are available. That was almost double the 23 religion-based hate crimes the previous year.

Of the 44 offenses in 2017, half were anti-Jewish, and eight were classified as anti-Muslim. White men were the largest group of offenders for all hate crimes in Virginia.

Arain said the number of hate crimes is likely higher than what reports show for two reasons: underreporting due to fear of retaliation and inaccuracy of FBI data.

“The FBI does collect it only from law enforcement agencies, and law enforcement agencies are not required to report it to the FBI,” Arain said. “Many law enforcement agencies don’t even collect hate crime data in their own municipalities.”

There are more than 1,000 hate groups in the U.S. — the most the nation has seen more than in two decades — according to the Southern Poverty Law Center. Thirty-nine of those groups call Virginia home.

West called these groups “terrorist organizations.”

Hate crimes and acts of terror do overlap. There is, however, one characteristic that separates the two.

“A hate crime doesn’t have to be politically motivated,” said David Webber, assistant professor in VCU’s Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs. “But an act of terrorism does.”

While there isn’t a standard definition of “terrorism,” the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations defines it as “the unlawful use of force and violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives.” Recent incidents like the mosque attacks in Christchurch, New Zealand, and the church bombings in Sri Lanka are classified as acts of terror since they were fueled by political motives.

Hate crimes are also punishable by law, while domestic acts of terror are not. International acts of terror in the U.S. or by U.S. citizens, however, are punishable under U.S. law — for example, pledging allegiance to ISIS or al-Shabaab.

Webber referenced the car attack at the

2017 Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville as an example of domestic terrorism labeled and punished as a different crime. An avowed neo-Nazi, James Alex Fields Jr. was convicted of murder for driving into a group of counterprotesters and killing Heather Heyer.

“When he used his car to kill that person in Charlottesville, he was never charged with an act of terrorism,” Webber said. “Even though by a definition of terrorism, he was involved in an act of political violence for political reasons, and he killed someone for it. We call that an act of terrorism.”

But since acts of domestic terrorism aren’t punishable by law in the U.S., Webber said, Fields was charged with a hate crime. On March 27, Fields pleaded guilty to 29 counts of hate crimes — one resulting in Heyer’s death and 28 in connection with injuries to other people.

Both hate crimes and acts of terror are forms of aggression. But aggression is not always expressed as physical violence.

“There are many forms of aggression,” said West, a doctoral student who researches the topic. “You’ve got your run-of-the-mill physical violence, your verbal aggression ... then you get into ‘mark your territory’ with things like instrumental violence or relational violence.”

Simple examples of instrumental violence on the basis of religion would be vandalizing the side of a mosque or defacing a Jewish cemetery.

“Most people are not very violent and don’t really like to be unless someone has provoked them or attacked them or offended them in some way,” West said.

“That phenomena (of violence and aggression) is one that is so inconsistent with much of human nature.”

But there are reasons why people are drawn to acting out aggressively.

Webber, who researches violent extremism, identifies three key factors why individuals are drawn toward extreme violence and hate-fueled aggression: needs, narratives and networks — “the three N’s” as he calls them. “People become extremists because they’re striving to fulfill an important psychological need that is universal for all of us,” he said. “The need to feel significant, to feel like you’re valued, to feel like you’re respected.”

Webber said people drawn to extreme violence — whether it be a hate crime, terrorist attack or another form — see an aspect of “heroism” in their actions. This is amplified by the ease of creating communities through social media, he said.

“You used to have to meet with people secretly, talk to them or they have to find a

poster on the street,” Webber said. “Now, they can log online and see everything. It expands your reach, the potential recruitment pool that you have. You can put information up and people can read it instantly. And you can draw people into a cause really quickly.”

Recruitment for hate groups outside of social media still exists. White supremacist propaganda — in the form of leaflets handed out on college campuses, flyers, rallies and other events — increased 182 percent in 2018, according to research conducted by the Anti-Defamation League.

Adding to the hate targeted at specific religious groups is how news outlets portray members of these communities.

“A large contributing factor is likely the negative coverage in the media of certain religious groups,” said Raha Batts, imam of Masjid Ash-Shura in Norfolk.

Batts said Western media outlets portray Islam as a “religion of terror.”

West said media bias likely plays a significant role in the dehumanizing of certain outgroups. “Individuals of different races are treated much differently by the news media,” he said. “A more heinous crime could be committed by a white person, and those [news] articles often are quick to refer to mental illness as being the primary motivation or a primary factor at play.”

But if the perpetrators of violence are non-white, the media raise the specter of terrorism and ties to extremist groups, West said.

Other faith leaders have recognized the spike in hate crimes and acts of terror against their communities.

“Hate crimes have always committed against us; it’s just a fact of being a Jew,” said Rabbi David Spinrad of the Beth El Hebrew Congregation in Alexandria. “It’s not a new phenomenon.”

Nearly 60 percent of hate crimes perpetrated across the U.S. in 2017 were anti-Jewish, according to a report by the Anti-Defamation League. Between 2016 and 2017, anti-Jewish hate crimes rose by 57 percent. On Saturday, authorities said, a man with an assault rifle opened fire in a synagogue in a suburb of San Diego, Calif., killing one person and wounding three. The man has also been charged with arson at a nearby mosque.

Spinrad said interfaith dialogue and solidarity is the best combatant to rising hate.

“This is big — this has so much momentum,” Spinrad said. “The importance of the relationship of American Jews and American Muslims ... I can’t overstate that it is huge. They’re coming for you, and they’re coming for me.” Amid negative news coverage of the Muslim community, Batts echoed Spinrad’s thoughts on interfaith dialogue and building community.

“It’s our job,” Batts said. “We can coexist with one another, and we can work together. There will be certain things that you believe that I don’t necessarily believe. But we can still be good to one another, we can still be kind to one another. We all have the same goals in mind.”

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5

Governmental Center, 2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria. 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. All pets will receive a 1-year rabies vaccination. To obtain a 3-year vaccine, bring pet's rabies certificate (not tag) showing the current rabies vaccination expiration date. 2019 county dog licenses will be sold for an additional \$10 per license. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/animalshelter/communityassistance/rabiesclinics for more.

Community Meeting. 6 p.m. at Mt. Vernon RECenter, 2017 Belle View Blvd. The Mt. Vernon RECenter Expansion & Renovation Project Team will host a community meeting to update residents on the progress of design plans for the expansion and renovation of the RECenter. Park Authority staff will provide a presentation on the current design advancement and project schedule, as well as answer questions. The presentation will be posted online following the event. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/planning-development/mount-vernon-recenter.

SATURDAY/MAY 8

Belvoir Toastmasters Meeting. 4:45-5:45 p.m. at Andrew T. McNamara Building Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Room: 3501 (Third Floor), 8725 John J. Kingman Road, Fort Belvoir. All are welcome. Free refreshments will be provided. An escort may be required to enter the building, contact the group. Call 703-789-4798 or visit belvoir.toastmastersclubs.org.

Fairfax County Park Authority

Board Meeting. 7:30 p.m. in the Herrity Building, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 941, Fairfax. The Park Authority Board is a 12-member board appointed by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to set policy and establish strategic policy and direction for the Park Authority. Open to the public. For information regarding meeting agendas, Park Board members, opportunities for public comment, or to view meeting materials, board minutes and archival materials, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/boardagn2.htm or call 703-324-8662.

FRIDAY/MAY 10

Digital Citizenship: Tips for Parents. 10 a.m.-noon at Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1 – Room 100, Dunn Loring. As parents in the digital age, being aware, alert and involved in a child's use of the internet is crucial. Digital Citizenship can be described as the norms of appropriate, responsible behavior, its positive and negative impact on self and others, with regard to technology use. Free to parents, educators and community members. Call 703-204-3941 or visit www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center for more or to register.

SATURDAY/MAY 11

Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive. Letter carriers will pick up donated food. Leave donations before your typical mail delivery time. All food stays in the local community. The top requested non-perishable food items are: cereal, pasta, pasta sauce or spaghetti sauce, rice, canned fruits and vegetables, canned meals (such as soups, chili and pasta), 100

percent juice, peanut butter, macaroni & cheese, canned protein (tuna, chicken and turkey), beans (canned or dry). You also can donate healthy, low-sodium, low-sugar items such as beans, oatmeal and other whole grains, and canola or olive oil. Specific questions regarding the Food Drive should be directed to 202-662-2489.

"Boot" Sale. 8 a.m.-noon at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 8009 Fort Hunt Road. Like a yard sale, but you sell items from the trunk of a car. Cost: \$20 to rent a space, free to attend, open to the public. Email mcmillan23@cox.net or call 703-780-9418.

Office Hours. Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck will host Saturday office hours. Email mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov.

❖ 9-10:30 a.m. at Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton.
❖ 1:30-3 p.m. at the Mount Vernon district office, 2511 Parkers Lane, Mount Vernon.

Family Caregiver Expo. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center at Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale Campus. Capital Caring will host its first Caregiver Expo in partnership with AARP and Virginia Hospital Center. The expo is free and will feature information highlighting resources and support programs available to family caregivers, including home care services, financial and estate planning, elder law, and information sessions on such topics as Alzheimer's and Dementia, Preservation of Assets, and Caring for the Caregiver. Free health screenings will be offered as well as free massages. Contact Amy Shields

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 18

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PUBLIC NOTICE

U.S. Army Garrison Fort Belvoir Seeking Interest in Establishing a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)

The Department of Defense recognizes the importance of stakeholder participation in Installation Restoration Program (IRP) decision-making. In accordance with 10 USC 2705 and Department of Defense (DoD)/Army policy, U.S. Army Garrison Fort Belvoir is inviting involvement by community members in the decision-making process, including project prioritization, for Fort Belvoir's environmental restoration program. Environmental restoration is the planned and focused cleanup of contamination associated with past DoD activities to ensure threats to public health and the environment are mitigated or eliminated. A Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) is a volunteer, formal stakeholder group that regularly meets to discuss environmental restoration at specific properties on Fort Belvoir that are currently owned by DoD, and where the DoD oversees the restoration process. RABs enable persons interested in the DOD cleanup efforts to exchange information with State regulators, Army management, installation personnel, and other community members while participating in the decision process. Additional information regarding the RAB process, membership, and responsibilities can be found at the following internet sites: <http://www2.epa.gov/fedfac/restoration-advisory-board-rab-implementation-guidelines> and <https://aec.army.mil/index.php?cID=326>.

Environmental restoration program efforts at Fort Belvoir include investigation and remediation of former military munitions sites, landfills, buildings, petroleum remediation and other environmental areas of concern. Fort Belvoir is committed to public involvement in its environmental programs and is seeking to identify if the level of community interest is sufficient to sustain a RAB for the installation. Community members interested in volunteering and serving on a Fort Belvoir RAB are asked to contact Mr. Felix M. Mariani at imcom.fortbelvoir.dpw.environmental@us.army.mil before June 15, 2019.

Mr. Felix M. Mariani
Directorate of Public Works, Chief
Environmental and Natural Resources Division
703-806-3193
9430 Jackson Loop, Building 1442, Suite 200
Fort Belvoir, Virginia 22060-5116.

As Luck Has Had It



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Aside from the fatigue I experienced a few columns ago, this immunotherapy infusion is, and has been, quite manageable.

My biggest take away so far is that I've had no real quality of life issues, as had been the case with my previous chemotherapy/alimta infusions. With that drug, I had post-infusion eating challenges and for nearly a week after the fact, felt less than mediocre.

Moreover, I wouldn't say I felt like I had cancer, but I certainly was reminded of it — if that makes any sense.

And even though I do have some minor side effects from my current immunotherapy infusion, I am reminded nevertheless, that I have cancer. Not because of how I feel, as was the case previously, but because of how I look — and because of what I feel.

I am referring to my "Adam's apple" tumor. Not only can/do I 'look' it all the time but quite often, depending on how I move my head: forward/downward, I can feel it too.

I have to tell you, feeling it as I do, and looking at it as often as I do: every day, is unsettling.

My whole approach to this living-with-cancer life has been to compartmentalize it a la Jerry Seinfeld and "the vault." Out of sight has helped keep some things out of mind. And when things are out of mind, it's much easier to make believe.

And making believe has been one of my methods of "operandi" since Feb. 20, 2009. That's the date (you bet I remember) when my internal medicine doctor called me at work with the results of my previous week's biopsy: "malignant," he said.

Up until that call, the previous six weeks' diagnostic pursuit had been interesting in a curious kind of way wondering what all the goings on were about and when all these inconveniences would end. And not for a minute during this entire process did I ever think I'd be diagnosed with a "terminal" disease: non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV. I figured, to the extent I figured at all, that the process would result in much having been done about nothing.

Boy was I wrong!

I still remember — and laugh when I recall the phone conversation I had with my thoracic surgeon after he had received the results of my PET scan: "You lit that thing up like a Christmas tree," he said.

Presuming that wasn't good news, I replied: "I hear there are false positives all the time which is why these scans aren't used a lot." (A perfect example of a little knowledge in the wrong mouth.)

I can't recall if the doctor snickered before he said the following: "Well, then your scan was a world record false positive." I don't know if I grasped the obvious at that point but soon a surgical biopsy was ordered and the rest is Kenny-with-cancer history, a history with which many of you regular readers are all too familiar.

And that's a familiarity which I hope has not bred contempt. Because even though it's my life — and I'm stuck with it (as the old saying says), it need not be yours. I can well imagine and appreciate how living with and/or seeking out negativity is not likely to improve any one's lot in life. (I try to avoid it every day.)

To that end, I have always tried to tread lightly and write with a soft touch since I've been cancer-centric beginning June 10, 2009, when I published my first column on the subject: "Dying To Tell You, Sort Of." And in so doing, I've tried to see the light amid the darkness and be thankful for any in between.

I can't say it's been fun, but it's funny how things have turned out: alive and reasonably well, 10-plus years later.

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

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OPINION

Debacle

FROM PAGE 8

One of the talking points coming from Virginia's Democrats is that "the governor isn't going anywhere, so we might as well work with him." This intentionally alleviates the burden of responsibility from the rest of the party leadership, because it makes them seem powerless, when in reality they really don't want to challenge him anyway. As the reaction to the protests demonstrated, real challenges to the governor will not be looked upon favorably by the Democratic Party. If they'll publicly assassinate the NAACP, one could only imagine what private pressure is being placed on African American legislators who dare break ranks. This likely explains the deafening silence and acquiescence from most black elected officials on this issue.

Not enough black leaders (elected and community leaders alike) stand with the black community on principle when it matters most; and if they can't stand on principle when it comes to the KKK, when will they? If they can't break ranks with the party now, when will they? Black leaders stood next to Hillary Clinton when she called our youth "super predators", and they stood next to Bill when he doubled down on Reagan's mass incarceration policies. We're often told that the solution is electing more African American to office; but if this is the best they can do when faced with a such a clear-cut choice in a time of crisis, then their true value to the African American community is questionable. If these officials don't have what it takes to tackle overt headline-grabbing racism within their own ranks, how can they be trusted to tackle systemic racism that doesn't make headlines.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 17

at ashields@capitalcaring.org or call 703-531-6095 for more.

Fairfax Board of Supervisors Chair Candidate Forum. 3-5 p.m. at Heritage Fellowship Church, 2501 Fox Mill Road, Reston. Join the Fairfax NAACP for an engaging, moderated panel discussion with candidates for Fairfax County Board of Supervisor's Chair. Candidates are Alicia Plerhoples, Tim Chapman, Ryan McElveen and Jeff McKay. Free. RSVP at www.eventbrite.com/o/naacp-fairfax-county-12397167937.

FRIDAY/MAY 17

Emergency Preparedness for Parents of Students with Disabilities. 10 a.m.-noon at Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1 — Room 100, Dunn Loring. For the millions of Americans with disabilities, natural and human-made disasters present a substantial challenge. Fairfax County's Office of Emergency Management is committed to the inclusion of all by spreading the message of preparedness to its residents with disabilities and access and functional needs. Free. Call 703-204-3941 or visit www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center for more or to register.

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**3 Level
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**Stunning Potomac
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4296 Neitzey Pl | \$1,994,000

Truly spectacular estate in premier setting near the river in prestigious Oxford on the Potomac. Custom home capitalizes on its location with soaring high ceilings, glass walls and multi-level decks designed to capture sweeping views of the river & adjoining wooded areas. Special features include: multi-story entry foyer, grand room sizes, elegant interior finishes, elevator, truly breathtaking master suite with dramatic river views, and his & hers private baths. Nothing was spared in creating this unique, one of a kind masterpiece!



**Meticulously
Maintained!**

**Near Mt Vernon
Estate!**



3808 Colonial Ave | \$849,500

Updated colonial in prime location on quaint street near Mt. Vernon Estate! Fabulous home features bright, open floor plan and many updated items commonly found in \$1 Mil+ homes! Special features include: high ceilings, open kitchen-family room, stunning master suite, finished lower level, and side load 2 car garage. Large deck overlooks back yard and private conservation land. Gorgeous setting!



**Incredibly
Spacious!**

**Walk to Mt Vernon
Yacht Club!**



4710 Dolphin Ln | \$629,500

Exceptional opportunity near river just steps from marina and club house in prestigious Yacht Haven Estates! Imposing home in commanding setting on elevated grounds overlooking neighborhood with some views of water. Huge room sizes and very few steps offer great potential for creating your own estate with close to one level living. Features include 5 bedrooms/4 full baths and amazing oversize two car garage. Rare opportunity to acquire property with true nautical estate vibe in premier setting for remarkably reasonable price!



**9505 Lynnhall Pl
\$1,250,000**

Just completed. Top to bottom renovation maintains the stunning Antebellum character and charm! Potomac River views, expansive verandas & half acre lot give this home a

classic Tidewater Virginia feel. Brand new kitchen, baths, fixtures, flooring, the list goes on and on! Great opportunity for virtually new home in desirable Oxford neighborhood!

SOLD



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

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.

SOLD!



**3601 Riverwood Rd
\$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!

SOLD!



**2208 Basset St
\$725,000**

One of Fort Hunt area's best values! Exceptionally spacious 6 bedroom updated home on quiet cul de sac backing to conservation land. Bright, open floor plan with fresh paint! Custom features include: top

quality updated eat-in kitchen, updated baths, large room sizes and garage parking. Large "Trex" deck overlooks gorgeous grounds.

SOLD!



**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!



**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!

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