Alount Pernon Gazette

Mount Vernon's Hometown Newspaper • A Connection Newspaper

New District Amenities and Suffragist Re-Enactors Highlight the Mount Vernon Town Hall Meeting

By Mike Salmon The Gazette

n the Mount Vernon District, there are a number of developments on the planning board that will improve the district and make life a little better for the residents. Those projects and a whole lot more were featured at the Mount Vernon Town Meeting on February 1 at Mount Vernon High School.

"The Mount Vernon district is renowned for its scenic beauty, civic activism, hospitality, history and diversity; and we are balancing these assets with 21st century opportunities," said Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon).

This was Mount Vernon's 33rd annual town meeting and a good opportunity for the residents of Mount Vernon to find out what's going on. Greeting the visitors in the lobby were six poster boards of things that were in the works, with descriptions, schedules and price tags for all to see. There is a new \$11.9 million Woodlawn Fire and Rescue Station in the works, and it is scheduled to open in 2024, read the one of the posters. Other district projects include the future South County Police Station and animal shelter; the Lorton Volunteer Fire Department Station; the Lorton Community Library redevelopment; and the old Mount Vernon High School redevelopment. In addition, the United States Army's National Museum is opening at Fort Belvoir on June 4, possibly attracting an estimated 700,000 visitors a year, the Army said.

County Services

The cafeteria at Mount Vernon was full of county service representatives handing out information and answering questions. The Fairfax County Sheriff's office, the Richmond Highway Bus Rapid Transit, Mount Vernon Lion's Club, bicycle representatives, animal control and others lined the room. Smoke detectors were on the agenda for the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue. "Last year we did thousands of alarm replacements," said representatives Wyleng Liew. "We recommend monthly testing," she said.

At the animal table, covotes were a topic of discussion, and animal control expert Katherine Edwards knows about coyotes, who have been sighted in the Northern Virginia area over the last 10 years. People often confuse coyotes with foxes since they look similar. "We're getting more and more sightings, this time of the year is mating season," she said.



Lyn McKinney is the librarian at the Lorton Library, and it is closing temporarily in April for remodeling.

The Lorton Library is getting ready to close in mid-April for renovations and will be closed for 21 months, said Lyn McKinney the librarian. It is being remodeled

and expanded by 6,000 square Democrats set up right by the door, feet.

In addition to the county facilities at the event, there were a few political tables as well. The Fairfax

and promoted their candidate in several races, and Republican candidate Mark Ellmore was set up a SEE TOWN HALL, PAGE 3



BRICK

The new Army Museum is scheduled to open June 4, 2020.

Wellbeing

Page, 13

February G, 2020

Mount Vernon Frye Road Improvements Complete Enhancements include new rectangular rapid flashing beacons, high-visibility crosswalk.



improving driver and pedestrian safety are complete on Frye Road just north of Route 1 (Richmond Highway), according to the Virginia Department of Transportation.

The improvements, located between Route 1 and Madge Lane, include rectangular rapid-flashing beacons (RRFBs) with push but-

Several enhancements aimed at tons and audible indications for the visually impaired. RRFBs provide a strobe-like flashing to drivers after a pedestrian pushes the button before crossing.

> The other improvements include:

✤ A high-visibility crosswalk

✤ Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant curb ramps See Frye Road, Page 4

5/7/20 KEQUESTED IN HOM матевіаг IME-SENSITIVE Розтмазтея ATTENTION . екміт #482 COUNCIL DAID CIRCULATION

RSRT STD

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News Ghost of Harry Byrd Haunts Assembly

Effort to remove statue prompts soul-searching at the Capitol.

> By Michael Lee Pope The Gazette

he statue of Harry Byrd stands in a prominent spot in Capitol Square, watching lawmakers as they scurry from their offices to committee meetings and closeddoor caucus meetings. It was erected in 1976, a time when memories of the segregationist governor and U.S. senator were still fresh among the Democratic majority. Now times have changed, and many people would like to see it removed and tucked away in a museum with a note explaining his plan to close public schools rather than integrate them.

Enter Wendell Walker. That's the freshman Republican delegate from Lynchburg, a Republican operative turned elected official. A few days before the General Assembly session began, he introduced House Bill 1305, a bill to direct the Department of General Services to remove the statue of Byrd from Capitol Square. Walker says he had no intention of actually supporting the bill or even removing the statue. It was, essentially, an effort to troll Gov. Ralph Northam.

"When the governor came out and was talking about removing some of the historic statues around here — referencing to Robert E. Lee — that was just unacceptable to me," said Walker in an interview. "I wanted to get the governor to come around and say we are not removing any statues."

The effort failed spectacularly. Northam did not back down, and a spokeswoman for the governor confirmed that he still supports a bill to remove the Lee statue from the U.S. Capitol and another bill that would give local governments the ability to remove Confederate statues. Those bills are still working their way through the committee process. Meanwhile, Walker has decided to withdraw his bill. But only if the Democrats let him. During a contentious Rules Committee meeting last week, Majority Leader Charniele Herring pulled Walker's bill out of a block of bills lawmakers wanted to strike.

"I would like to hear from the delegate about why he wants to strike the bill," explained Herring.

"We've had several people strike bills, and I don't think, candidly this session, I haven't heard anyone ask someone why they were striking their bill," protested former Republican Speaker Kirk Cox, now a member of the minority leadership team. "I'm a little disturbed by the inconsistency of that."

When Republicans were in power, they would frequently bring bills to the floor to kill them in public — making a public spectacle of their opposition and maybe even scoring a few soundbites in the process. Last year, for example, Republicans made sure a bill by Del. Lee Carter (D-50) to overturn Virginia's anti-



The legacy of Harry Byrd has become a flashpoint in Richmond this year as lawmakers debate removing his statue from Capitol Square.

labor "right-to-work" law was debated on the floor. Even though the bill had zero Republican support, they worked the system to make sure it got to the floor so they could orchestrate an electionyear spectacle.

It was a strategy that ultimately failed because Carter was reelected, and Republicans lost the majority.

"When it comes to the Harry Byrd statue," says Carter, when asked about Walker's bill. "Hell, rip that one out too."

Walker may have wanted to troll the governor but he ended up sparking a debate about the legacy of Harry Byrd and the politics of statues. The freshman delegate from Lynchburg doesn't support his bill, but a number of Democrats say they'd love a chance to vote in favor of it. One of those is Del. Mark Levine (D-45), who says Bryd was a racist and his statute should be removed from Capitol Square.

"There are some Republicans who think that Democrats love all Democrats, no matter how racist or awful they are. They're wrong," said Levine, when asked about the statue. "The Democratic Party today is nothing like the Democratic Party of Harry Byrd. We have completely changed, and I would argue that the Republican Party is nothing like the party of Abraham Lincoln anymore."

Harry Byrd was not just a Democrat. He was the head of a political machine that ran Virginia politics for half a century. Born into a blue-blood family that traced its history back to colonial days, Byrd made a name for himself as a state senator opposing an effort to take on debt to improve Virginia's roads. By the time he campaigned for governor in 1925, he was pushing a program called "pay as you go."

"That approach has endured," says Frank Shafroth, director of the Center for State and Local Leadership at George Mason University. "Virginia excels in its bond rating and has held its AAA bond rating since 1938, longer than any other state."

Byrd may have made a name for himself with "pay as you go." But his legacy will forever be tarnished by another line on his resume, the one that declares "massive resistance."

That was the name of his 1956 plan to resist integration by closing public schools. Like Wendell Walker's bill, it was a spectacular failure. Virginia's schools integrated, and now Byrd is remembered as a racist U.S. senator who ran a political machine that embraced the Lost Cause of segregation.

"The Democratic majorities that Harry Byrd built long ago are no more, as almost none of the Democratic lawmakers in the current majorities represent the rural districts that powered the Byrd organization," says Stephen Farnsworth, political science professor at the University of Mary Washington. "The days of Byrd's ghost hunting Virginia politics and of his statue gracing Capitol Square are numbered."

Mount Vernon Town Hall Meeting

From Page 1

few tables down. He is a candidate this spring against Representative Don Beyer (D-8th) in the 8th District with several "red" points on his platform like securing the nation's borders, low taxes and second amendment rights. "There's no voice for moderation," Ellmore said.

Holly Dougherty represented the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce and was concentrating on activities in Richmond that could impact the chamber. "A lot of antibusiness legislation in the Gen-

eral Assembly," she said.

Elected Officials Speak

In the auditorium, Storck was joined by suffragist re-enactors and special guest speaker Congressman Gerry Connolly, who opened this portion of the event with formal remarks. Connolly was followed by other local leaders, including new Board Chairman Jeffrey C. McKay and new EDA President and CEO Victor Hoskins, who spoke about the State of Mount Vernon, economic revitalization of the Richmond Highway Corridor, updates on District schools and community engagement at Fort Belvoir.

Storck declared 2020 the Year of the Woman and recognized Virginia's appointment of the first female leader of the House of Delegates and the passage of the ERA, as well as the recent opening of the Lucy Burns Museum and the opening of the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial in August. "It is an honor and a privilege to be your Mount Vernon District Supervisor," Storck said. "Together we have accomplished much, and I know we will accomplish far more in the future."



Mark Ellmore is running for congress in the 8th District.

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News

Mount Vernon Frye Road **Improvements** Complete

From Page 1 Pedestrian warning and other road signage Pavement markings ✤ Concrete median Frye Road averages 5,400 vehicles a day in the area of the improvements.

> A curb ramp that is ADA-compliant.

Photos by the Virginia Department of Transportation



Frye Road pavement markings.





A high-visibility crosswalk is part of the project.







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OPINION

Fourth Week Wrap-Up And Crossover

Del. Paul Krizek

e are beginning yet another busy week down in Richmond. Last week was filled with a marathon of bill presentations in subcommittees and committees, some lasting long into the night to get through large dockets of



legislation. A lot of important work was accomplished, including the passage of several landmark labor, gun safety, and long-awaited equality bills in the House. It starts all over again this week as we prepare for "crossover" on February 11th. That is the day when every bill originating in the House must make its way over to the Senate, and vice-versa.

Here is an update on my bills heard for the first time before subcommittees this week:

HB 333 seeks to eliminate the exclusion in the Virginia Minimum Wage Act "for persons whose earning capacity is impaired by physical deficiency, mental illness, or intellectual disability." This language in the code is discriminatory.

No one should be paid subminimum wages. A big thank you to my constituent, Larysa Kautz, for her important advocacy on this issue, and for traveling to Richmond and waiting late into the night to testify in favor of this bill. Her testimony was critical to its passage in a unanimous subcommittee vote and then through the full committee of Labor and Commerce on a vote of 21-1. It goes to the House floor later this week.

An important bill for many of us in the 44th district is HB 334 which provides that if the termination of a rental agreement is due to the sale of a mobile home park to a buyer that is going to redevelop the park, the landlord shall provide to each mobile home owner in the park \$3,500 in relocation expenses (in our planning district 8) within the 180day notice period for the purpose of removing the mobile home from the park. This bill was reported out of the Housing/Consumer Protection subcommittee 7-0.

HB 500 directs the Department of Elections to provide lists of registered voters to the courts of the Commonwealth and the United States for jury selection purposes at no charge. Currently, the Department charges a fee to provide this information to the Clerks. Calling people for jury duty is an essential function of the Clerk's office, and it makes sense for the state to provide this list free of charge. This bill reported out of the full Privileges and Elections Committee unanimously and is headed to the House floor.

HB 501 makes a small edit, and yet it makes a big difference. It essentially corrects a punctuation error in a bill passed last year which added a number of participants, or their designee, to required annual reviews of written school safety plans, but not for school boards. My bill would simply extend the ability to name a designee to school boards too. It will be on second reading on the House floor on Monday.

HB 1044, 1047, and 1048 are bills that I introduced in the Courts of Justice Committee. HB 1044 addresses a problem I have written about before with

the unauthorized use of tracking devices. This bill will raise the penalty from a Class 3 to a Class 1 misdemeanor to install, place, or use an electronic tracking device through intentionally deceptive means and without consent.

Victims of domestic violence are often tracked by their abusers. The current punishment for such an offense is up to a \$500 fine and no jail time, which is on par with the offense of unintentional property damage.

Making it a Class 1 misdemeanor elevates unauthorized tracking to the same level as stalking, for example. HB 1047 and 1048 will give police the power to take fingerprints and photographs of persons who plead guilty or are found guilty for driving while intoxicated, or persons found in contempt or in violation of the terms or conditions of a suspended sentence or probation for a felony offense, respectively. All three of these important bills that keep Virginians safer reported from subcommittee and the Courts committee unanimously.

My bill HB 1046, which prohibits food vendors from using single use polystyrene (styrofoam) containers as a means to give customers food, was rolled into Delegate Carr's HB 533. Carr's bill includes a 5year phase-in period. Certain institutions, such as correctional facilities and public schools, will be exempt, and localities may also grant consecutive oneyear exemptions to individual food vendors on the basis of undue economic hardship. It is my hope that this bill will help to curb pollution and reduce the amount of styrofoam waste that ends up in the waterways of the Commonwealth, damaging the environment and wildlife.

I am happy to announce that the bill inspired by my constituents in Stratford Landing , HB 173, was passed through the House and will be heading to the Senate side for consideration. This bill will prohibit the issuance of duck blind permits in areas around Little Hunting Creek where hunting is not allowed.

Notable bills are finding passage much easier this year, including Delegate Jeion Ward's HB 395, which would raise the state minimum wage to \$9.00 per hour this July, passed through the Labor and Commerce subcommittee.

Delegate Elizabeth Guzman's bill HB 582 passed through the Labor and Commerce Committee, and then I voted for it when it came before the Appropriations Committee which I sit on.

I am proud to be a co-patron of this bill, as it provides the right to collective bargaining for public employees. I was especially pleased to see a favorite teacher of mine, Mr. Robert Wood, from Groveton High School, testify in support of this important legislation.

The new House Majority is also acting to make voting easier with HB1's no excuse absentee voting. It is past time to let Virginians vote early without having to come up with an excuse.

And a lighter moment was had when Mike Rizzo, the General Manager of the Nationals, brought the World Series trophy to the Capitol when we passed HJ 165, commending the World Champion Washington Nationals!

It is always a privilege to serve you in Richmond. Please do not hesitate to reach out to my office at any time at DelPKrizek@house.virginia.gov to share your thoughts, concerns, or legislative opinions.



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Mt. Vernon/Wessynton \$764,900 3102 Cunningham Drive Gorgeous, newly renovated 4 Bedroom, 3 BA contemporary home in sought after waterfront community of Wessynton, 1 car garage, new deck, .34 acre lot. Large, spectacular new kitchen w/all the bells & whistles. Beautiful new bathrooms. Separate dining room. Living

room w/fireplace. Large picture windows on back wall overlook private wooded setting. Family Room w/nice wood paneled ceiling. Wessynton amenities include tennis courts, swimming pool, walking paths, & boat ramp on Little Hunting Creek which flows to the Potomac River. Located just a half mile from Mount Vernon Estate & the GW Parkway, it is a mere 10 minutes to Ft. Belvoir, 20 mins to Old Town, & 30 mins to D.C.



Alex/Mt. Zephyr \$489,900 8541 Mt. Zephyr Dr. Great price for this lovely two level solid all-brick home with garage on 1/3 acre in Mt. Vernon community. 3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths. Renovated eat-in kitchen, spacious and open, with sliding glass doors to private backyard. Charming front living

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Alex/Riverside Estates \$2,800 8506 Wagon Wheel Road Beautifully remodeled 4BR, 3BA Split – Kitchen w/granite, SS & ceramic tile floor opens to the living & dining rooms– hardwood floors on main level, 6 panel doors – replacement double pane windows-lower level w/large family

room & wood burning fireplace w/large 3rd & 4th bedrooms & 3rd full bathwalkout to large fenced bkyd – deck overlooks bkyd- Carport w/large storage shed–Close to Ft. Belvoir- Walk to elementary, high school & Mt. Vernon Estate – Great commute along GW Pkwy to Old Town, - Owner is Realtor.



Alex/Engleside \$1,300,000 8734 Lukens Lane 4.128 acres zones R-2 for sale. There are 2 lots: 4/0 acres w/house (Tax Map 1101 01 0043) and .128 acre vacant land (1101 01 0043A). House on Property sold "AS IS" and NO ACCESS given or allowed. Land Value only. Water, sewer, gas, electricity available. This

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OPINION Dysfunction in Richmond

To the Editor:

In previous letters, I have talked about the need to revise sections of the Virginia Code covering removal of elected officials for cause. Summarizing, until 2018, these laws were construed based upon the 1989 opinion of Virginia Attorney General Mary

LETTER

from requiring voters signing the petition for removal to sign it under penalty

Sue Terry to refrain

of perjury. Only the people who prepared the petition and submitted it to a Court were required to sign under penalty of perjury to verify as true the facts alleged against the elected official.

In 2018, the Virginia Supreme Court overturned the Attorney General opinion and required, going forward, that all the voters signing the petition (10 percent of the number of voters who voted for the office in question during the most recent election) must sign it under penalty of perjury. This change essentially made elected officials invulnerable to removal because it would be next

to impossible to obtain the signatures of enough voters if they were required to verify the allegations in the petition where they did not personally conduct the investigation.

Thus, a simple legislative fix is necessary, merely amending these laws to state that registered voters signing the petition are not required to sign under penalty of perjury.

I approached our local delegate, Paul Krizek (D-44th), and asked him to propose a bill on this subject. I commend him for doing so and, at his request, I traveled to Richmond on Jan. 23 to testify in favor of passage of his House Bill 842.

We have all heard about the dysfunction of our General Assembly caused by their extremely short legislative season.

I experienced that dysfunction first-hand. As I sat in the hearing room of the Campaign Finance Subcommittee of the House Privileges and Elections Committee, I observed members of the Subcommittee coming and going because

they had simultaneous hearings in different committees and subcommittees. Thus, although the subcommittee has six members and one ex officio member, when the time came for the vote on the bill, only four of them were present.

The vote was 2-2 with Delegate Krizek and Subcommittee Chairman David Reid voting in favor. Later, the vote was corrected to show three in opposition and it was later explained to me that the third vote against had been precast by one of the members of the subcommittee before even hearing the testimony. They left the hearing to travel to another hearing.

What is the penalty for this dysfunction? The penalty is that the bill died in subcommittee and cannot be resurrected until 2021. This is a heavy price to pay for the dysfunction of our General Assembly and I wrote this letter so that citizens and voters are apprised of this issue and hopefully will make their feelings known so that something can be done about it. Perhaps, the salaries of General Assembly members ought to be

raised and the legislative session be extended by several weeks so that members of the various committees can attend each hearing without having to leave to attend another hearing.

The issues facing citizens of the Commonwealth are too important to be given short shrift by our legislators.

Given the high bar for obtaining signatures of voters under penalty of perjury on a petition seeking removal of a politician who violates their oath of office or commits a crime, these elected officials are now essentially invulnerable until at least a year from now. This scenario is grossly disreputable and serious reform ought to be on the table

Once more, I thank Delegate Krizek for carrying the water on an important issue that should have received fair consideration in the subcommittee but, frankly, didn't. Fair consideration would have likely met with success.

> **H. Jay Spiegel** Mount Vernon

> > ВΥ



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On Monday, Feb. 17, George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate is all about celebrating George Washington. Here is the schedule for the day. For more details, go to www.mountvernon.org.

- 9:00 am 5:00 pm Mount Vernon Food Truck on Site 10:00 am Official Presidential Wreathlaying Ceremony 10:30 am Military Tactical Demonstration 11:00 am - 2:00 pm Syrup Tastings 1:00 am - 4:00 pm Book Signing w ith Author Jeff Finegan 11:15 am Military demonstrations 12:00 pm A Tribute to George Washington 1:00 pm The Old Guard Fife & Drum Corps 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm Book Signing with Author Patrick K. O'Donnell
- 1:00 pm 3:00 pm General Washington, We Honor You
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Lorton | 4 BR | 3 FB | \$1,635,000

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Mount Vernon Gazette 🔹 February 6-12, 2020 🔹 7

News

The Other Alexandria Clifton D. Wanzer: The View from the Air Traffic Controllers' Tower.

By Char McCargo Bah Special to the Gazette

lifton D. Wanzer graduated from Parker-Gray School in 1948. In those days, there were not many employment opportunities for African Americans. After graduation, Wanzer worked as a porter and later as a receiving clerk at a topnotch menclothing store, Cohen's Quality Shop but he was longing for something else. He decided to enlist in the military.

In 1952, he enlisted in the United States Air Force. While in the military, he received training in Biloxi, Miss., as an Air Traffic Controller. He was the only African American in his class but he completed his service in 1956. When Wanzer returned home, he obtained a job with the State Department where he processed passports. He stayed at the State Department for a short time until his aunt heard on the radio about the government recruiting Air Traffic Controllers. She encouraged him to apply for the job and after several months, he was interviewed and hired as an Air Traffic Controller at the journeyman level for the Federal Aviation Administration.

His job as an Air Traffic Controller was to determine an aircraft's identity, altitude and other data through alphanumeric codes on a radar screen. This monitoring was used to keep planes apart from one another in the air. Today computers have replaced the type of monitoring he performed.

His job sent him to Youngstown-Warren Regional Airport in Ohio, then to Allegheny Airport in Pittsburg. After sometime in



Pittsburg, Wanzer decided to get a job closer to Virginia. There was a job opening at National Airport in Washington, D.C.; he applied for it and got it. He was promoted and then received a higher grade.

Wanzer returned to the District of Columbia area in 1960. Thereafter, he and his family began looking for a house to buy on Quander Road in the Alexandria section of Fairfax County. They found one but could not buy it because of housing discrimination during that period. They experienced this not once but many times while searching for housing. They went to Maryland to look at a new development in Glenarden, where he finally purchased a new home.

Wanzer worked for the FAA at Washington National Airport from 1960 to 1989. During his career at the airport, he was promoted to an Air Traffic Area Supervisor and then to Manager. In 1984, he received, "A Special Award," for his service from the head of the FAA, Donald J. Engen. In 1989, with over 30 years of service at a GS-15 grade and at the age of 58, Wanzer retired. He was one of the first African Americans in Alexandria to become an Air Traffic Controller.

Wanzer was born on Jan. 15, 1931, to Daniel Wanzer and Viola Williams in the Seminary area. He has two living siblings, Janet and Gerald Wanzer. Wanzer is married to Irene Lee. They had two children: a deceased daughter named Leslie, and a son, Kurt that lives in Maryland.

Wanzer is a lucky man to have served in



Clifton D. Wanzer receiving 1984 Special Award from FAA.

Clifton D. Wanzer with his 1952 Air Force Class.

the USAF. His training in the Air Force enabled him to have a civilian career as an Air Traffic Controller during the last decades of segregation. He was indeed in the right place at the right time to have the opportunity to be in the Air Traffic Controller's Tower.

Wanzer still lives in Glendaren in the house he purchased in 1964. He still thinks about the opportunity he missed to buy a property on Quander Road. His family history in Virginia spans over 150 years.

Char McCargo Bah is a published author, freelance writer, independent historian, genealogist and a Living Legend of Alexandria. She maintains two blogs, http:// www.theotheralexandria.com and http:// www.findingthingsforu.com.

ASO Presents: Schubert, Mozart and Classical Guitar

By Melinda Kernc

Ross.

he Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Maestro James Ross, continues the 2019-2020 Season on Saturday, Feb. 15, and Sunday, Feb. 16, presenting music by Schubert, Mozart, Castelnuovo-Tedesco and Florence Price. Maestro Ross has nearly completed two full seasons with the ASO as its new Music Director.

Bringing the voices of women and composers from diverse backgrounds to the ASO stage has been a common thread throughout this season and one of Maestro Ross's programming initiatives. "Our seasons in-Beethoven, Mozart and Schubert as well as unfamiliar and re-emerging composers Art. like Florence Price and Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco," says

ary performances are works by two masters: Mozart's Serenata notturna and Schubert's Symphony No. 5. Mozart's serenade

Opening and closing the Febru-

features a solo string quartet accompanied by string orchestra. Schubert, who admired and emulated Mozart, presents a light and lyrical Fifth Symphony with elegant melodies.

Headlining the program is celebrated classical guitarist Berta Rojas performing Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco's Concerto No. 1, considered one the premier concertos in the guitar repertoire. Ms. Rojas is renowned as one of the most influential women in the Hispanic world and named a Felclude familiar music of low of the Americas by the Kennedy Center and Paraguay's Illustrious Ambassador of Musical

> The program also incorporates Maestro Ross's own arrangement,



Classical guitarist Berta Rojas will perform Feb. 15 and 16 with the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra.

Moderato movement from Florence Price's String Quartet in G held on the campus of the Univermajor. "Florence Price's time has finally come!" exclaims Ross. "Her compositions are re-emerging with renewed popularity and recognition of her genius." Price was the first African American woman to premiere her work with a major orchestra (Chicago Symphony,

an expansion of the Andante 1933). A new festival called Price Fest highlights her compositions, sity of Maryland each year.

> All patrons attending Saturday's performance are encouraged to arrive early for a pre-concert chat with Maestro Ross and Berta Rojas at 7 p.m. Ms. Rojas will also offer her recordings for sale in the lobby

during intermission.

B

The Alexandria Symphony is a fully-professional orchestra drawing from the Washington, D.C. metropolitan region's wealth of musical talent. Many musicians perform with other orchestras and top military

bands. The ASO performs Saturday

evenings (8 p.m.) at the Rachel

M. Schlesinger Concert Hall

and Arts Center and Sunday matinees (3 p.m.) at the George Washington Masonic Memorial. Single tickets are \$20-\$85 for adults, \$5 for youth (18 and under), and \$10

for students (with ID). The ASO also offers senior and group rates and a special discount for military employees and veterans for this performance. For tickets and more information, visit www.alexsym.org or call (703) 548-0885.

ENTERTAINMENT Yagut St. Paves the Way for Coffee, Treats

By Hope Nelson

the sweeter side

ove over, St. Asaph – Yagut St. is taking over the real estate, at least for a portion of the northern 600 block. Yagut St. – the kid sibling to its next-door neighbor, Sunday in Saigon – has opened its doors with a different twist than the savory Vietnamese fare served a dining room away. The newcomer's stock in trade is

APPETITE

of life, with gelato, pastries and plenty of caffeinated beverages ready for the choosing. "We're just happy that we can provide a good atmosphere and a good product for people to enjoy; that's our biggest thing," said managing partner Dustin Ngo.

The café's origins come from several directions at once: The first being an opening in the marketplace with the nearby Starbucks' closure last year.

"With Sunday in Saigon, whenever we did desserts, we were sort of confined to Vietnamese desserts" lest it come across as inauthentic, Ngo said. "As soon as Starbucks closed ... we figured that now was the best time to jump on for our cause."

But Yagut St.'s name comes from an origin much deeper in meaning. Owner Mimi Huynh grew up on Yagut St. in Dalat, Vietnam, which is also the country's coffee region. With the café serving as a crossroads between Vietnamese cuisine and coffee and sweets, the name fit the theme perfectly.

And the products, so far, are popular. From bubble teas to gelato to all manner of caffeinated concoctions, the menu is small but mighty – and growing mightier all the time. One of the shop's signature drinks is a coffee drink that packs a decadent punch. "Our house special is the Vietnamese version of bulletproof coffee," Ngo said. Made with butter and keto-friendly, "It has an amazing flavor profile that people won't find in most places."

Looking to take your beverage completely over the top? Yagut St. has you covered there, too: Get the bulletproof coffee with a cream cheese foam. "We do what we call



The warm interior of Yagut St.'s cafe takes the ambiance of next-door Sunday in Saigon to a new level of chic.

IF YOU GO

Yagut St., 682 N. St. Asaph St. Hours: 8 a.m.-8 p.m. daily. Try this: Managing partner Dustin Ngo's favorite treat. "We have a fantastic strawberry mascarpone matcha croissant. It's absolutely fantastic; it's flying off the shelves," he said.

a cream cheese foam," Ngo said. "We make this foam similar to how you would froth milk; we froth cream cheese along with some sea salt. It adds this amazing decadent rich salty profile to the strong and sweet coffee, so it's kind of like an umami burst in a coffee cup."

And these offerings are only the tip of the iceberg: Ngo says the shop will continue to expand and refine its menu over the coming weeks and months. But early results are good, he added. "For the most part, what we had out, people have been flocking towards, which has been great," he said.

Hope Nelson is the author of "Classic Restaurants of Alexandria" and owns the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at www.kitchenrecessionista.com. Email her any time at hope@kitchenrecessionista.com.



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Entertainment

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

ONGOING

"The King's Shadow." Now thru April 19. 8 p.m. At The Lab at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. In this season, Shakespeare's Histories: "The King's Shadow" runs January 2nd - April 19th, 2020; "Richard the Second" runs January 2 - April 18, 2020; "Henry the Fourth, Part 1" runs January 30 - April 18, 2020; "Henry the Fourth, Part 2" runs February 13 - April 19, 2020; and "Henry the Fifth" runs March 12 - April 19, 2020. These plays follow the troubled passing of the English crown from the philosopher King Richard II, to the conqueror King Henry IV, to his rogue son, Prince Hal. With his father's deeds looming over him, Hal indulges in a reckless adolescence that tarnishes his reputation. But when the time comes to rule, Hal must take control of how history will remember him, unite his country, and become the legendary King Henry V. Tickets are \$35. Contact boxoffice@bravespiritstheatre.com or www.bravespiritstheatre.com.

Life Drawing Sessions. Now thru Dec. 9. At Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Looking for a chance to hone your figure drawing skills? Del Ray Artisans offers a range of open life drawing sessions for just this purpose. Just drop in for the session and bring your supplies to draw or paint the live models. Fee ranges from \$8-\$12. All skill levels are welcome. Visit DelRayArtisans.org/ life-drawing

THURSDAY/FEB. 6

Decluttering Workshop. 1-3 p.m. At Charles Beatley Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria. At Home in Alexandria is sponsoring a Decluttering and Downsizing Workshop featuring experts who will guide you on getting started or getting help in this process. Preregistration is required. Free. Visit the website www.athomeinalexandria.org

FRIDAY/FEB. 7

(His) Story. 7-9 p.m. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street,

- Alexandria. Presented and hosted by C.Thomas. Join in (His) Story, an all-black man showcase sharing stories through poetry. These stories are a celebration and testament to the strength black men have gained over years through wisdom, pain and struggle. Featuring: 13 of Nazareth, Rodrick Minor, Khalil Houston and Micah Powell.
- Opening Reception. 7-9 p.m. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery in the Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. Opening reception for the "Kondo vs. Chaos" art exhibit (Feb. 7 – March 1), which explores ways artists visualize the world and their preference for order, disarray, or a balance of both. Meet the artists. Gallery hours are: Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays 12-9 p.m., and Sundays 12-6 p.m. The gallery is free, open to the public, and accessible. Visit artisans.org/event/ kondo-vs-chaos/

MARCH 6-29

Tell Me a Story Art Exhibit. Opening reception Friday, March 6 from 7-9 p.m. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave.,



The Tell Me a Story Art Exhibit runs from March 6-29 at Del Ray Artisans Gallery in Alexandria.

Tell Me a Story

March 6-29, **Tell Me a Story Art Exhibit.** Opening reception Friday, March 6 from 7-9 p.m. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Have you ever looked at a piece of art and your imagination immediately starts to wander? Narrative art tells a story, either as a moment in an ongoing story or as a sequence of events unfolding over time. A picture is worth a thousand words; Tell Me a Story will take you on an imaginative journey. Gallery hours are: Thursdays 12-6pm, Fridays 12-9pm, Saturdays 12-9pm, and Sundays 12-6pm. The gallery is free, open to the public, and accessible. For more information, please visit www.DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits or contact the curator Lesley Hall (lesley.ruthless@gmail.com) or Director of Curating Brittany Gabel (Curating@DelRayArtisans.org).

Alexandria. Have you ever looked at a piece of art and your imagination immediately starts to wander? Narrative art tells a story, either as a moment in an ongoing story or as a sequence of events unfolding over time. A picture is worth a thousand words; Tell Me a Story will take you on an imaginative journey. Gallery hours are: Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays 12-9 p.m., and Sundays 12-6 p.m. The gallery is free, open to the public, and accessible. Visit www.DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits.

FEB. 7 TO MARCH 28

Student Art Exhibit. At the Gallery at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. The Alexandria All City High School Art Exhibition hosted by the Convergence Arts Initiative returns Feb. 7 – March 28 for its fifth year. 2020's experience will feature 90 Alexandria high school students representing six high schools including public, private, and independent spanning over 10 different mediums of art. Returning for 2020's collaborative event are students from Bishop Ireton, Episcopal High School, T.C. Williams, St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School, Commonwealth Academy, and The Howard Gardner School. Artists Reception: Friday, Feb. 21 from 7 – 9 p.m.

SATURDAY/FEB. 8

- Alexandria Boutique Warehouse **Sale.** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Westin Alexandria Old Town, Alexandria. Deemed in the region as the "Super Bowl of Shopping Event," the winter deals event will take place at the Westin Hotel located in the Carlyle District of Old Town Alexandria. The fun, yet casual, free to enter event will include a variety of new boutiques and retailers not only located in Alexandria, but throughout the Metro region. Deal seekers will find the very best from Alexandria's and the regions finest retailers and indie brands with various brands of clothing, shoes, jewelry, home furnishings and more up to 80% off
- Speaker Joan Mullholland. 10:30 a.m. At Sherwood Regional Library 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Joan Mullholland, American Civil Rights activist and a Freedom Rider, with video documentary. Sponsored by the Mount Vernon AAUW. Contact Patsy



The George Washington Birthday Parade will be held; Monday, Feb. 17 in Old Town Alexandria.

George Washington Birthday Parade

Monday/Feb. 17, 1-3 p.m. In Old Town Alexandria. The nation's largest George Washington Birthday Parade marches a one-mile route through the streets of Old Town Alexandria. The parade grand marshal is RADM Robert Shumaker (ret.) who had a distinguished career in the United States Navy. As a fighter pilot during the Vietnam War, he was shot down on a mission and spent the next eight years as a POW. At the Pentagon, as a Rear Admiral, he was responsible for coordinating the research efforts of the Navy's air, surface, electronics and space activities and was a finalist in the Apollo astronaut selection. This year's parade is dedicated to Kathleen Kelly (1944-2019), a volunteer for Historic Alexandria for more than 30 years. Visit www.WashingtonBirthday.com or call 703-829-6640.



The film, The Rape of Recy Taylor will be shown on Feb. 8 at the Alexandria's History Museum at the Lyceum.

Quick, Mt. Vernon AAUW President, at pnquick@cox.net.

Art Show Reception. 1-3 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria./Dawn Flores, mixed media (at the Horticulture Center) and Katherine Ko, oil paintings (at the Historic House). Horticulture Center Hours: Monday-Saturday 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Sunday noon-4:30 p.m. Historic House Hours: Wednesday-Sunday noon-4:30 p.m. Free admission. The art show runs 02/04 through 03/29.

SUNDAY/FEB. 9

Materials Exploration Day. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. At Upcycle Creative Reuse Center, 1605 Cameron Street, Alexandria. Children ages 2-6 and their families are invited to join in a special Exploration Day at the Durant Center to celebrate Arts on the Horizon's touring production, "Drumming with Dishes." Join in a morning filled with tactile and sensory-based activities, creative play, and visual art. Visit the Creation Station to build your own

The Rape of Recy Taylor

Feb. 8, 11 a.m. at Alexandria's History Museum at the Lyceum, Alexandria. The Alexandria Black History Museum will be hosting a screening of the award-winning documentary film The Rape of Recy Taylor followed by a discussion and audience O&A at Alexandria's History Museum at the Lyceum. Cost is \$10, reservations required at alexandriava.gov/shop. Recy Taylor, a 24-year-old Black mother and sharecropper, was gang raped by six white boys in 1944 Alabama. Sexual violence like this happened commonly in the Jim Crow South and few women spoke up in fear for their lives. Not Recy Taylor: She bravely identified her rapists. The NAACP sent its rape investigator Rosa Parks to Alabama, who rallied support and triggered an unprecedented outcry for justice. Visit: therapeofrecytaylor.com.

- skyscraper or flower, make your rhythm shakers at our Craft Station, and stop by our Creative Play Station to cook up a three-course meal. They are also be offering three miniworkshops with songs, stories, and creative movement at 10:30 a.m., 11 a.m., and 11:30 a.m. Cost is \$5. Visit the website https:// www.upcyclecrc.org/kidsworkshops.html
- **U.S. Navy Band Chamber Players Concert.** 1 p.m. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Join in this special performance by The United States Navy Band Chamber Group from Washington, D.C. The chamber music recital will feature a diverse array of traditional and contemporary music. This event is free and open to the public.
- Green Spring Tea. 1-3 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Green Spring Gardens turns 50, and to help celebrate its golden anniversary, the park is hosting "A Half Century of Headlines: Lecture and Tea." Revisit 50 years of world headlines, from the SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

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ENTERTAINMENT

From Page 10

- transformative to the trivial, and hear about some headlines made at Green Spring. Take home a special anniversary memento after enjoying a traditional English tea. Cost is \$38 for the program and tea; \$18 for the
- program only. Call 703-941-7987 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ green-spring. George Washington's Alexandria Tour. 2-3:30 p.m. At 101 N. Union Street, Alexandria. Explore historic Old Town Alexandria as George Washington knew it! This 90-minute guided walking tour will explore sites associated with Washington and his closest colleagues, including John Fitzgerald's warehouse, Captain's Row, Gentry Row, the Apothecary shop, Ramsay House, Market Square, the Carlyle House, Wise's Tavern, Duvall Tavern, Gadsby's Tavern, and Washington's townhouse. The tour begins behind the Torpedo Factory's south entrance, in front of Vola's Dockside Grill. Free No reservations required. Offered by the Office of Historic Alexandria. Contact 703-599-4010 or suej020924@gmail.com.
- Black History Performance. 3-5 p.m. At Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. The poetry and works Langston Hughes, one of the most important writers and thinkers of the Harlem Renaissance movement, performed by Charles Williams, celebrated vocalist, through song and verse. Cost is \$25. Visit the website: www.mvuc.org
- Super Moon Hike. 7:45-9:15 p.m. At Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Experience the bright super moon rising in the sky as you take an evening boardwalk stroll at Huntley



The house of Alexandria town founder Col. John Carlyle, who is turning 300.

Happy 300th Birthday John Carlyle

Saturday/Feb. 8, 12-4 p.m. At Carlyle House Historic Park, Alexandria. Help wish a happy 300th birthday to Alexandria town founder, Col. John Carlyle. Festivities will include 18th-century dancing, live music, and a birthday treat! Admission is free, but donations are welcome.

Meadows Park. On the night of a super moon, the moon will be at its closest approach to Earth and the full moon often appears to be larger than usual. This program is designed for participants age 6 to adult, and the cost is \$8 per person. Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ parks/huntley-meadows.

TUESDAY/FEB. 11

Local Authors Lecture. 7-8:30 p.m. At Alexandria History Museum at the

Lyceum, 201 S. Washington, Alexandria. Cost is \$10 per person. The series begins with a lecture featuring Donald Wilson, author of the historical novel Cluverius v. The Commonwealth. Drawing on true historical events, Donald Wilson brings to life the men and women who found themselves at the center of a murder trial that gripped Virginia in the late 19th century. A graduate of the College of William and Mary, Mr. Wilson has lived or



The Alexandria All City High School Art Exhibition hosted by the Convergence Arts Initiative returns Feb. 7 – March 28. Student Art Exhibit

Feb. 7 to March 28, At the Gallery at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. The Alexandria All City High School Art Exhibition hosted by the Convergence Arts Initiative returns Feb. 7 – March 28 for its fifth year. 2020's experience will feature over 90 Alexandria high school students representing six high schools including public, private, and independent spanning over 10 different mediums of art. Returning for 2020's collaborative event are students from Bishop Ireton, Episcopal High School, T.C. Williams, St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School, Commonwealth Academy, and The Howard Gardner School. Artists Reception: Friday, February 21st 2020. 7 – 9 p.m.

worked in Alexandria, VA his entire life.

FEB. 12-26

Life Drawing Session. 6:30-9:30 p.m. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery in the Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Two Open Life Drawing sessions in February the 12th and the 26th. Open Life Drawing sessions — long pose. Nude models. 3-hour sessions. Visit www.DelRayArtisans.org.

THURSDAY/FEB. 13 How to Build Inexpensive Grow

Lights. 7 – 8:30 p.m. At the Burke Library, 4701 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Give your plants a healthy start with grow lights to ensure your seedlings get great light indoors, even when it's freezing outside. Grow unusual and hard-tofind varieties of vegetables not offered at local garden centers, or SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 12



Special Edition: PET Connection

Publishes: Feb 26, 2020 Ads close: Feb 20, 2020

The Pet Connection will publish on February 26 and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by February 20.

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farm nutritious microgreens indoors. Learn the pros and cons of light systems and options for creating your own. Instructions and material lists provided are to help you jumpstart your garden. This class is offered by Extension Master Gardeners. Free. Advance registration requested at mgnv.org. Call 703-228-6414 or email mgarlalex@gmail.com.

FEB. 13 TO MARCH 15

Architecture in Fiber. At Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, Torpedo Factory, Studio 29, 105 North Union Street, Alexandria. Here, in Alexandria, we are surrounded by beautiful and exciting buildings, bridges, parks, and monuments. Both our local and worldwide architecture serve as inspiration for the pieces in this show. Themed work will be eligible for recognition by the jurors. Non-themed work will also be exhibited. Hours: 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily and weekends, and 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month.

FRIDAY/FEB. 14

My Queer Valentine Reception. 7-10 p.m. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union Street, Alexandria. My Queer Valentine explores love and relationships through non-heteronormative and non-binary artists' perspectives. The themes and subjects of artwork in this exhibition explore relationships through the artists' view on love. To celebrate this exhibition, Target Gallery will be hosting a special reception and event in partnership with local LGBTQ+ organizations on Valentine's Day. The juror for this exhibition was Andy Johnson, independent curator and gallery director of Gallery 102 at the Corcoran School of the Arts & Design and George Washington University. The exhibition runs from Saturday, January 25 thru Sunday, March 8, 2020

SATURDAY, FEB. 15

Eco-Savvy Symposium: Four Season Garden. 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria./ (Adults) Discover ways to expand the beauty in your garden at the 16th annual EcoSavvy Symposium: The Four Season Garden—Sensational Ornamentals and Edibles All Year Long.

Author and garden columnist Marianne Willburn and Smithsonian Gardens Horticulture Collections Manager Cindy Brown share insights into selecting plants for all-season color, architectural interest, and extended harvests from your edible garden. \$58 per person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ parktakes (code 986.13C6) or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.



The Yale Whiffepoofs will perform on Friday, Feb. 7 at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial.

Yale Wiffenpoofs Perform

Friday/Feb. 7, 7:30 p.m. At George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. The Alexandria Harmonizers present the Yale Whiffenpoofs. The group, now with women, is the world's oldest collegiate a cappella ensemble and celebrated for its excellence. The award-winning Harmonizer chorus, now in its 72nd year, will also perform. Cost is \$30. Visit the website: www.harmonizers.org



Brave Spirits Theatre at the Lab at Convergence presents "The King's Shadow" now through April 19.

"The King's Shadow"

Now thru April 19, 8 p.m. At The Lab at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. In this season, Shakespeare's Histories: "The King's Shadow" runs January 2nd - April 19th, 2020; "Richard the Second" runs January 2 - April 18, 2020; "Henry the Fourth, Part 1" runs January 30 - April 18, 2020; "Henry the Fourth, Part 2" runs February 13 - April 19, 2020; and "Henry the Fifth" runs March 12 -April 19, 2020. These plays follow the troubled passing of the English crown from the philosopher King Richard II, to the conqueror King Henry IV, to his rogue son, Prince Hal. With his father's deeds looming over him, Hal indulges in a reckless adolescence that tarnishes his reputation. But when the time comes to rule, Hal must take control of how history will remember him, unite his country, and become the legendary King Henry V. Tickets are \$35. Contact boxoffice@bravespiritstheatre.com or www.bravespiritstheatre.com.

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Wellbeing



Washing your hands with soap and water is one of the way to avoid catching the flu.

"Each year the flu kills

thousands of people.

It's very important to

pay attention to it and

Montgomery Department of Health

— Mary Anderson,

and Human Services

do simple things to

prevent it."

thousands and

Preventing the Flu

Simple steps to help you stay healthy during the flu season.

> By Marilyn Campbell The Gazette

eralded by body aches, chills and fever, flu season is in full-swing, At a minimum it can be an inconvenience and at its worst it can be deadly. Influenza activity is considered to be widespread by in the Washington region, according to the Virginia Department of Health.

Influenza B/Victoria is the most common form of the virus that is circulating in our area, says Barbara Downes, Communicable Disease Epidemiology Manager with Fairfax County Health Department.

"Unlike a typical flu season when we tend to see influenza B in the spring at the end of the flu season, we are seeing influenza B predominantly circulating now," she said. "Even though it can cause milder illness in adults and those who are otherwise healthy, it can be more severe in children."

Knowing the causes and practicing preventative habits are keys to keeping the flu at bay. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that the flu virus spreads from one person to another primarily by

when a person with the flu coughs, sneezes or talks. important to pay attention to it and do simple things "One of the things that happens is that someone to prevent it."

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

coughs or sneezes into their hand and then touches a door knob and then someone comes behind them and touches the same door knob," said Mary Anderson of the Montgomery Department of Health and Human Services. "That's a really common way for a virus to spread. Cough or sneeze into your sleeve or elbow and make sure your nose and mouth are covered."

Getting a flu shot is one of the best ways to prevent the flu, advises Kurt Larrick, Assistant Director of the Arlington County Department of Human Services. "It's still not too late," he said. "Peak flu season runs through February, and outbreaks can happen through late May."

Practicing good hygiene is a simple and effective, but often overlooked preventative measure "Wash your, hands wash, your hands, wash your hands," said Anderson "Wash your hands with plain old soap and water for 20 seconds. The soap doesn't have to be fancy. If you don't have access to soap and water, use an alcohol based hand sani-

tizer.'

"Every day communicable disease prevention tips are really important this time of year," added Downes. "Disposing of your tissues properly...and staying home when you are sick."

While Coronavirus is a concern, Anderson says that the flu is a much greater threat to those in the Washington region. "It's important to learn about the virus from China, but we're not at high risk of it unless you've traveled to that part of China," said Anderson. "The flu is much more of a threat. Each year the

touching or inhaling viral droplets that are made flu kills thousands and thousands of people. It's very



Off Topic, Way Off

By KENNETH B. LOURIE

From cancer to toilet paper. Is that 'off' enough? My reason for writing this column might be because I need a diversion (see last week's column), and because, as is so happened recently, I needed to replenish our toilet paper supply. (It had nothing to do with a winter advisory in the forecast.) As the consumer in the house, I am keen and motivated to spend our money wisely. I look for sales, I use paper coupons, I use digital coupons and of course, I peruse the advertising circulars, in print and online (if necessary) regularly. In addition, I have a number of plastic bonus cards hanging on my keychain. In short, I am prepared and ready for any retail or wholesale opportunity that might present itself.

With respect to toilet paper, I believe us regular users have been victimized by the toilet paper manufacturers. I refer specifically to the increase in the size of the actual roll itself; from single to double to triple to jumbo to mega and now super mega. Since the manufacturers can't exactly increase demand, they've devised a strategy to increase supply - in our homes. And though using myself as an example is hardly empirical evidence, I will nonetheless continue to do so in an effort to justify my accusation.

If you're like me, you probably like to have an ample supply of toilet paper in the house, just in case (it happened once in college; not good). And to that end, the toilet paper manufacturers have offered up multipacks equivalent to as high as 96 rolls, if I'm not mistaken, to address this potential shortage. However, my beef is not with the number of rolls in these multipacks, my beef, as I've said, is with the size of the rolls. In these cases, size does matter.

For years, we've been buying 4-, 6-, 9-, 12-, 24-, 36- and even 48-roll multipacks, some single and some double to stock the bathroom linen closets, so we're used to having a specific number of rolls on hand/in inventory. Now the rolls are double or even triple the size we had grown accustomed to having as back-ups. But we're still, in spite of the gargantuan size of the newer mega/ super mega rolls, wanting to have the same number of rolls in the closet as we've always had (I do, anyway). Sort of a comfort level, you might say. The problem is that having the same number of super mega rolls in inventory as previously one had as single or double rolls gives one way more toilet paper in the house than you ever had. In effect, we have over-purchased. The toilet paper manufacturers have used our predispositions against us in order to take a greater share of our household budget previously allocated for toilet paper.

I don't need six super mega rolls in our bathroom. But I do want to see at least six rolls in reserve (aid and comfort you might say). If the six rolls in reserve were single or doubles, their size would be irrelevant. The number of rolls was more important - in my head. And now, because of the toilet paper manufacturer's insistence that size matters, I am forced to buy these spare-tire, donut-sized rolls that I can't possibly use no matter what "snowmageddon" might hit us. But I can't stock my shelves with reasonably-sized rolls because their unit cost is prohibitive compared to the big roll multipacks. As the consumer I am, I am loathe to overpay for such household necessities. So I buy in bulk, stuff my shelves with ply and go about my business. I just wish I had more than a hand in their decision-making.

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



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.

TUESDAY/FEB. 11

Kaufax Koffee. 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. At Grounded Coffee, 6919 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. With Lee District School Board Member Tamara Derenak Kaufax. Join this meeting for coffee and casual conversation. Bring your thoughts, concerns and questions.

SUPERVISOR STORCK HOURS

- Supervisor Dan Storck 2nd Saturday Office Hours for Feb. 8, 2020:
- Lorton Library 9520 Richmond Hwy, Lorton, VA 22079; hours 9-11:30 a.m.; Mount Vernon District office 2511 Parkers Lane,
 - Mount Vernon, VA; 12:30 p.m.-3 p.m.

FRYE ROAD IMPROVEMENTS COMPLETE

- Several enhancements aimed at improving driver and pedestrian safety are complete on Frye Road just north of Route 1 (Richmond Highway), according to the Virginia Department of Transportation. The improvements, located between Route 1 and Madge Lane, include rectangular rapid-flashing beacons (RRFBs) with push buttons and audible indications for the visually impaired. RRFBs provide a strobe-like flashing to drivers after a pedestrian pushes the button before crossing. The other improvements include:
- ♦ A high-visibility crosswalk;
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant curb ramps; Pedestrian warning and other road signage;
- Pavement markings; ✤ Concrete median;

Frye Road averages 5,400 vehicles a day in the area of the improvements.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- Help the Alexandria Domestic Violence Program (DVP) and Sexual Assault Center (SAC) make a positive impact for those in need and increase awareness of domestic violence and sexual assault in our community by becoming a volunteer. Volunteers benefit from the unique experience of interacting personally with victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. There are opportunities in DVP for special events volunteers, court advocates and shelter supervisors. Call 703-746-4911 or visit alexandriava.gov/DomesticViolence. To become a SAC volunteer, which includes opportunities for Volunteer Hotline Advocates, call Lydia at 703-746-3127 or visit alexandriava.gov, SexualViolence.
- Assistance League of Northern Virginia, a volunteer nonprofit, invites community members to join the organization to participate in its Reading Express program. Volunteers provide one-on-one tutoring to first grade students during the school year. To learn more contact VP Membership Mary Gronlund at gronbiz@aol.com or Program Coordinator Lynn
- Barron at lynnieb517@verizon.net. **United Community** (formerly UCM), with main office located at 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, seeks volunteers for Food Pantry assistance, Early Learning Center teacher aides, basic needs counselors, youth tutors and mentors, office administration/data entry, and community outreach. Flexible hours and schedules. Opportunities for all ages to serve, including community service hours. More info at ucmagency.org/volunteer-opportunities or email volunteer@ucmagency.org.
- Operation Paws for Homes, a Virginia based 501(c)(3) organization seeks volunteers, especially to foster dogs. See www.ophrescue.org for information and all volunteer opportunities.
- **RSVP**, a volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older. RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, email Carly Hubicki at chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-403- 5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit www.rsvpnova.org.

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