

# Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

FEBRUARY 20, 2020



PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE GAZETTE  
A U.S. Post Office is one of the tenants in Belle View Shopping Center.

The shopping center appears dated but adequate for the surrounding community.

## Change May be in Store for Belle View Shopping Center

Plans being discussed for mixed use and a modern look.

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE GAZETTE

The waves of change have reached the Belle View Shopping Center and plans are being drawn for a complete makeover, incorporating nearly 1,000 apartments and retail in the plan, and doing away

with the strip mall concept that's been there for several generations. Residents in the surrounding communities of Fort Hunt and Mount Vernon have different outlooks on the proposal. Richard Campbell, a Fort Hunt resident, has roots in the area since his father bought in the area in 1959. He likes the "rural vibe," but realized the next generation may not want

that. With the influx of workers from Amazon in Arlington, and the density predictions he has seen of the project, the area will look "more like a Mosaic District, or Ballston," he said. Kevin Green, manager of The Virginia Florist in the shopping center, thought the project might revive things. "It would inject energy into the neighborhood," he said,

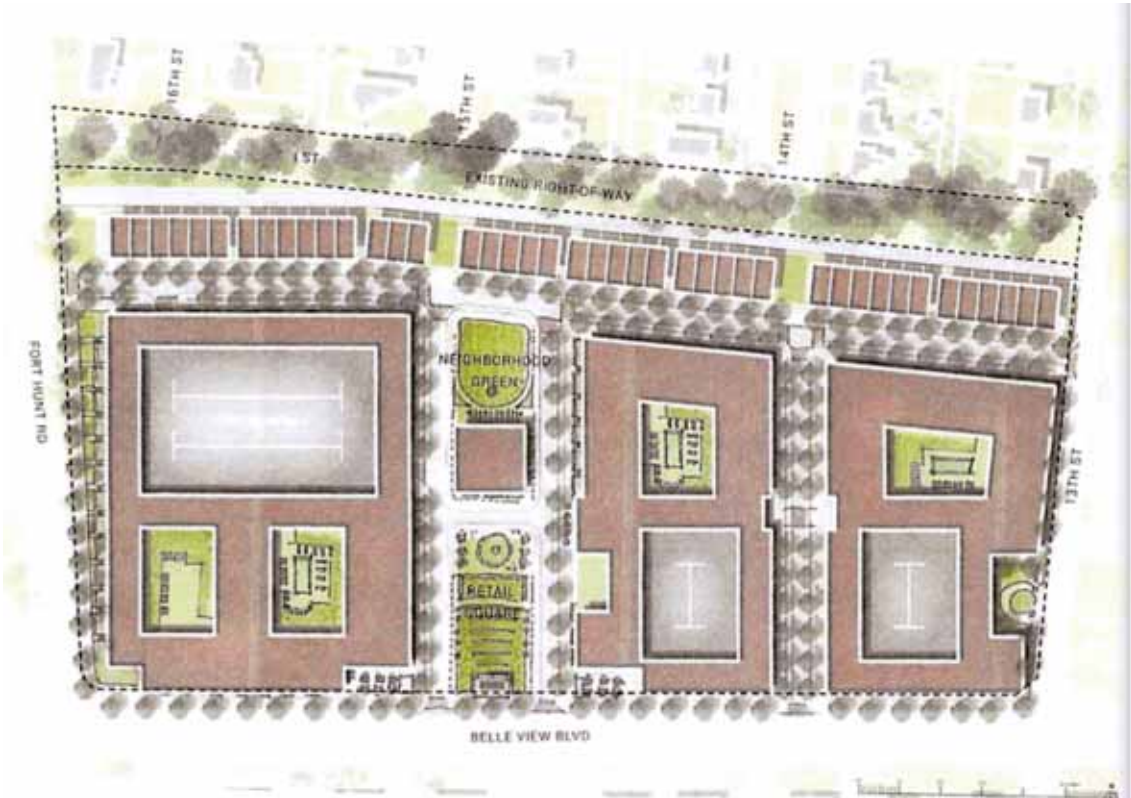
knowing that construction is not starting anytime soon. "It's a long process," he said, and noted that he "hasn't heard from (Supervisor) Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon) or Scott Surrovell, (D-36)," he said. Green has had customers coming in the flower shop talking about the proposed project. Storck did send an email out to nearby residents about the plans, encouraging participation. "Citizen input and transparency are key to the process," it read.

Belle View resident Renee Lorraine worries about the impact a larger shopping center would bring. "As a resident, the traffic would be a nightmare," she said. The plans don't include any transportation improvements.

Mark Tooley, a shopper who frequents the center, admitted "this shopping center is kind of dated," he said.

### On the Drawing Boards

In the plans that were presented, the strip mall concept would be gone, and instead there would be blocks of stores and restau-



One of the new plans includes a fountain and green space.



PLANS BY SSPA SOUTH  
As it exists now, the parking lot is a large part of the center.

SEE BELLE VIEW, PAGE 14

2/21/20  
REQUESTED IN HOME  
MATERIAL  
TIME-SENSITIVE  
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# Why a Regional Wage?

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE GAZETTE

It's shortly after 7 p.m. on a Tuesday night, state Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36) is working the Senate chamber to save the minimum wage increase. This particular Tuesday isn't just any day of the week. It's the final deadline for Senate bills to cross over to the House, so the pressure is building as the clock winds down. Senators are tired and cranky, and they will be working past midnight.

Surovell is skipping from senator to senator, engaged in one-on-one conversations as he tries to cobble together a majority. The effort to raise the minimum wage is perilously close to failing, a development that could have been a disaster for the new Democratic majority who got elected, in part, to make this happen. A handful of senators are holding out for a regional approach to the minimum wage, one that would recognize the income disparity between Northern Virginia and the rest of the commonwealth. The leader of that bloc is Sen. David Marsden (D-37), who tried and failed to create a regional approach to the minimum wage during a meeting of the Senate Commerce and Labor Committee.

"I just want to slow this down a bit and give the business community an opportunity to adjust," Marsden explained during the committee meeting. "I'm very concerned this will have a huge impact on the state budget, and it'll have a huge impact on Virginia's economy."

Now Marsden has an opportunity to revive that approach. His idea may have failed in committee. But at the last minute before the final deadline, it's making a comeback on the Senate floor. Without the handful of senators holding out for a regional approach, Democrats won't have the votes to make the increase happen. The bill to increase the minimum wage was introduced by Senate Majority Leader Dick Saslaw, an indication of how important it is to the agenda of the new majority. The amendment creating a regional approach was introduced by Surovell, who acknowledges it was crafted to cobble together a majority.

"There's some members of my caucus that didn't feel comfortable going to \$15 across the commonwealth," says Surovell. "We had to structure a bill that would get 21 votes, and that's what we did."

**A REGIONAL APPROACH** to raising the minimum wage is prohibited under current law, which establishes on minimum wage across Virginia. But the bill that emerged out of the Senate last week pegs it to the median household income, which is about \$120,000 in Northern Virginia but only \$62,000 in Hampton Roads.

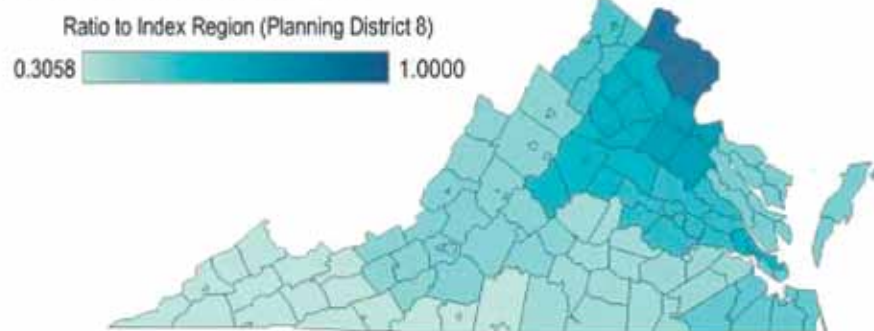
The Commonwealth Institute calls the regional approach adopted by the Virginia Senate "one of the most complicated and inequitable minimum wage laws in the country," accelerating inequality rather than alleviating it.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/THE GAZETTE

**Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36), right, introduced an amendment on the Senate floor to take a regional approach to the minimum wage. That's an idea originally proposed by Sen. David Marsden (D-37), whose vote Surovell was trying to get by introducing the amendment.**

## Falling Farther Behind: Lower Median Household Income Will Mean Smaller Raises

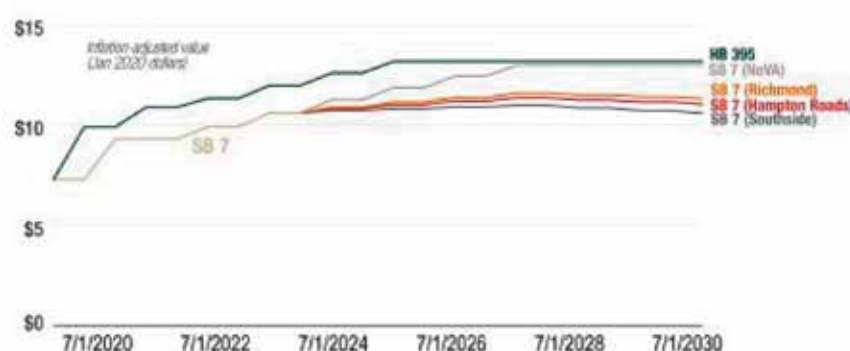


Source: TCI analysis of American Community Survey 2018 median household income by region and proposed legislation as of 2/12/2020. SB7 allows the Commissioner to establish the regions. TCI selected regions for this map based on data availability (PUMAs) and Virginia's economic landscape.



COMMONWEALTH INSTITUTE FOR FISCAL ANALYSIS

## SB 7 as Amended Leaves Most of Virginia Behind



Note: Northern Virginia includes Arlington, Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Loudoun, Manassas, Manassas Park, and Prince William. Richmond includes Chesterfield, Goodland, Hanover, Henrico, King William, New Kent, Powhatan, and Richmond City. Hampton Roads includes Chesapeake, Franklin City, Hampton, Isle of Wight, Newport News, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Southampton, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach. Southside includes Dinwiddie, Colonial Heights, Dinwiddie, Greensville, Hopewell, Petersburg, Prince George, Surry, and Sussex.

Source: TCI analysis of proposed legislation as of 2/12/2020 assuming 2.4% inflation per year and current income rates compared to Northern Virginia.



COMMONWEALTH INSTITUTE FOR FISCAL ANALYSIS

"For every dollar increase in the minimum wage in Northern Virginia, Hampton Roads would receive only 51 cents," says Laura

Goren, research director at the Commonwealth Institute. "As a result, low-wage workers in Hampton Roads would not see

**Effort to raise minimum wage hits snag on Senate floor, leading to regional approach.**

\$15 until 2034 or even later."

Under Senate Bill 7, Virginia's minimum wage would increase to \$11.50 across Virginia by 2023. Then Virginia's Commissioner of Labor and Industry would create a series of "regions," and set different minimum wage rates based on median household income. The region with the highest minimum wage would receive \$1 annual increases to the minimum wage until it gets to \$15 an hour. Other regions would receive less. Richmond and Hampton Roads would take the biggest hit, being stuck with a lower wage for years to come.

**"I just want to slow this down a bit and give the business community an opportunity to adjust."**

**— Sen. David Marsden (D-37)**

"The regional approach is needlessly complex and unpredictable for businesses," said David Broder, president of SEIU Virginia 512. "This bill that aims to help alleviate economic inequality is actually going to bake it in even more."

**HOUSE DEMOCRATS** took a more straightforward approach, increasing the minimum wage to \$15 an hour across Virginia by 2025. Senators are now considering the House version, although it'll face the same group of Democratic senators who are concerned about the business community. Meanwhile, over in the House, momentum is heading in the other direction. Instead of making the bill more friendly to big business, House Democrats took action to shed a vestige of slavery by removing the exemption for farm workers.

"It's common knowledge many of Virginia's exemptions to the minimum wage law were rooted in race," Del. Elizabeth Guzman (D-31), who introduced a bill to remove the exemption "It's past time we give these workers the same protection as everyone else."

The Senate also voted to end some discriminatory exclusions, including ones for domestic workers and piece workers. But critics of the regional approach fear that black workers could once again be left behind because many of them live in communities with low median household incomes. That means Senate Democrats are feeling a pull in two separate directions, one in favor of low-income minorities and the other big business and their allies.

"Working people have been leading the fight to raise the minimum wage in Virginia for years now. They have taken this fight to the streets, to the ballot box and now to the legislature," said Broder. "They helped elect Democratic majorities in the House and the Senate, and it's time for legislators to deliver for working families."

# Bloomberg Finds Support and Opposition in Virginia

BY CONOR LOBB  
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE  
RICHMOND, VA.

**R**oughly two weeks before Super Tuesday, former New York Mayor Mike Bloomberg was in Richmond looking for support from voters and from many of the lawmakers whose campaigns he helped fund.

The day after Valentine's Day, the Democratic presidential candidate campaigned around the city, stopping first for an afternoon speech at Hardywood Park Craft Brewery. The event attracted about 900 people, according to his campaign staff. In the evening, Bloomberg attended the Blue Commonwealth Gala at Main Street Station in downtown Richmond. The gala is an annual fundraiser hosted by the Democratic Party of Virginia.

"This is the event that keeps the lights on," said Andrew Whitley, executive director of the Democratic Party of Virginia.

Bloomberg also campaigned in Arlington earlier in the week, appearing with D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser. Bowser also appeared for Bloomberg at an event and straw poll at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church. Former U.S. Senator Chris Dodd (D-CT) spoke for former Vice President Joe Biden at the Mount Vernon event. Bloomberg's campaign garnered 63 votes to win the straw poll



PHOTO BY CONOR LOBB/CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE  
**Presidential candidate and former New York Mayor Mike Bloomberg was in Richmond at Hardywood looking for support from voters and from many of the lawmakers whose campaigns he helped fund.**

there at the gala sponsored by the Mt Vernon District Democratic Committee. Amy Klobuchar was second with 24 votes, and Pete Buttigieg third with 22. Other votes were: Elizabeth Warren, 18; Bernie Sanders, 14; Joe Biden, 12.

During the Hardywood and Blue Commonwealth Gala events, Bloomberg apologized for the controversial stop-and-frisk policy in place when he was New York's mayor. He

**"I want to thank Mayor Bloomberg for helping to turn Virginia blue."**

— House Speaker Eileen Filler-Corn

said the policy disproportionately affected young men of color. Stop and frisk is a procedure where a police officer stops a person on the street they believe might be armed and pats them down to search for weapons. In 2011, during Bloomberg's ninth year as mayor, the New York City Police Department stopped over 685,000 people under the stop-and-frisk policy, according to the New York Civil Lib-

SEE BLOOMBERG, PAGE 8

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## LETTER

# Belle View Shopping Center Development Proposal

In December 2019, the owners of the Belle View Shopping Center submitted to Fairfax County a proposal to change the comprehensive plan to allow a large mixed-use development to replace the current shopping center.

The owners propose to maintain some retail presence and to build 850 to 925 multifamily units and 30 to 50 townhouses.

There are several problems with this proposal.

The proposed density is appropriate for a neighborhood that is a five minute walk from a Metro stop, but this site is a little over two miles from the Metro, a 40 minute walk, which includes a half mile of Ft. Hunt Road that has no sidewalks.

It is not close to the Metro. If built as planned, it will result in much more traffic on roads that are already overloaded.

More than half the site is in a FEMA designated flood plain and almost half the site flooded during Tropical Storm Isabel in 2003. I took the accompanying picture



**Paddling to Belle View during Isabel Friday, Sept. 19, 2003.**

on the morning of Friday, Sept. 19, 2003. My neighbor and I paddled to the shopping center, over H Street, over 13th Street, over the back parking lot, and we made landfall on the breezeway that opens to the back parking lot (see picture).

Increasing density in a flood plain is a bad idea in an era of rising sea levels, stronger hurricanes, and increasingly heavy rain.

West Potomac High School is bursting at the seams with students and Belle View School is still being renovated. Adding hundreds more students to schools that are at or over their capacity is a bad idea.

The current proposal is the wrong development in the wrong place in the wrong century.

**Jim Gearing**  
Alexandria, VA



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**Alex/Mt. Zephyr \$489,900**  
**8541 Mt. Zephyr Dr.**

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**FOR RENT**

**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 bath-walkout 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.



**Manassas/Classic Springs \$649,900**  
**12835 Classic Springs Drive**

Is this huge 2 level Rambler all for me? 4BRs, 3.5BAs, 2 car garage, front & side porches & covered porch in the rear. Almost 4500 SF under roof, including about 3100 finished. Main level has Brazilian hwdws plus carpeting in the BRs. 10' ceilings w/crown molding, 6 panel doors, DBL pane windows & extra wide hallways & doors. Stunning kitchen w/dark cherry cabinets, SS appliances & dark granite counters. The bedrooms are spacious-the master bedrm has a huge walk-in closet & a magnificent master bath. The lower level has a 4th BR & 3rd full BA, large family rm & approximately 1400 SF for storage/workshops & walks out to an incredible bkyd backing to woods. You have to see this home to believe it. It's stunning!!!



**UNDER CONTRACT**

**Alex/Randall Estates \$659,900**  
**2215 Shiver Dr.**

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**UNDER CONTRACT**

**Alex/Engleside \$1,300,000**  
**8734 Lukens Lane**

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**South County High School**  
**Saturday, March 7th**  
**2 pm to 4 pm**

**West Springfield High School**  
**Saturday, March 28th**  
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**Chantilly High School**  
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# OPINION

## Equal Rights For Women

BY U.S. REP. DON BEYER (D)

Last month the Virginia General Assembly, under new barrier-breaking leadership, took the long-awaited step of voting to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment.

The Equal Rights Amendment is a very simple amendment to the Constitution. It is just a few words: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex."

Those few words could have a powerful legal impact, however.

Embedding the text of the ERA in our Constitution would give women in the United States a legal tool to fight everyday discrimination women face. That would include pay discrimination, pregnancy discrimination, and domestic violence. It would provide one national standard to protect against sex discrimination across America.

The move was exciting, not only



**One of the advocates who worked long for the passage of the ERA, Lisa Sales, was U.S. Rep. Don Beyer's guest at the State of the Union address.**

because of how long Virginia advocates had fought for ratification, but because Virginia became the 38th state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment. That put the ERA over the three-fourths threshold required for national ratification.

One of the advocates who worked long for the passage of the ERA, Lisa Sales, was my guest earlier this month for the State of the

Union Address.

Some of you may have heard Lisa speak on the panel discussion about the struggle to get equal pay, and reduce the wage gap (including the ERA) at my Annual Women's Conference and Forum in Arlington last year. A key point Lisa made that sticks with me: "the Equal Rights Amendment can strengthen protections for women who are survivors of sexual vio-

lence."

The ERA enjoys enormous support across the Commonwealth and the country, but unfortunately, opponents in the Trump Administration recently released a legal memo arguing that the passage of a deadline for ratification proposed in the original legislative text invalidates the national adoption of the amendment.

Virginia's Attorney General Mark Herring is fighting that determination in court, but in the meantime, the House of Representatives just took action by passing legislation to remove the deadline in question. I gave remarks on the House floor during debate, which was presided over by Virginia Congresswoman Jennifer Wexton, before voting for the bill.

There are still hurdles ahead, but I will continue to do everything I can to secure passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.

It's long past time to enact this Amendment to guarantee equal rights for women.

## House Appropriations Committee Budget Release

BY DEL. PAUL KRIZEK (D-44)

We have officially moved past crossover day, and I have seventeen of my twenty-seven bills introduced bills that will be considered in the Senate. It has been a productive and exciting session as my colleagues and I work together to reshape Virginia. Between both chambers, 3,292 pieces of legislation have been introduced this year. As of the beginning of this week, 1,640 bills are still alive and pending. Numerous progressive bills regarding voting access, labor protection, climate change, social justice, and gun safety came before the House. We have deliberated thoughtfully on these bills to ensure we are passing legislation that benefits all Virginians.

Sunday was an important day, as it was the release of the House Appropriations Committee's budget for the biennium. Budgets are a true reflection of our values as a Commonwealth, and I am excited for the direction this budget we have put together takes us in.

The goals for this budget revolve around saving more money for the Commonwealth's rainy day fund and providing employee compensation increases for all groups of employees, including an addi-

tional raise for school teachers above what was provided for in the Governor's budget. It ensures that college remains accessible and affordable for Virginia's students by continuing last year's historic tuition freeze over the coming biennium. This budget also includes critical investments in education, affordable health care, environmental protection, and workers' rights in Virginia. It will guard Virginia's AAA bond rating while supporting every Virginian's ability to succeed. This is the most progressive amendment package in Virginia's history all the while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

Read on below for my first report to the Appropriations Committee as the Chair of the Transportation and Public Safety Subcommittee.

### **Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:**

On behalf of the newly merged Transportation and Public Safety Subcommittee, I am very pleased to present to you our budget recommendations. I also would like to thank the Chairman for his support and guidance during my first year chairing this subcommittee.

To ensure the fair and efficient operation of our justice system, the Subcommittee report supports

several investments in our judicial branch. First, the Subcommittee recommends more than \$11 million over the biennium for 60 new deputy district court clerks each year. The report also provides funding for 59 new public defenders, and to open the first new public defender office in the Commonwealth since 2005, in Prince William County. The subcommittee also recommends an additional \$1 million each year be provided to increase the number of civil indigent defense attorneys.

The Subcommittee's recommendations also support several bills adopted by the House of Delegates. This includes \$7 million over the biennium for State Police to implement the provisions of the Community Policing Act, more than \$2 million over the biennium to support the expansion of eligibility for writs of actual innocence, and more than \$1 million to reflect the corrections impacts of 21 House Bills affecting criminal sentencing.

I am also pleased to hear the Compensation and General Government Subcommittee has recommended targeted salary adjustments for DOC'S correctional officers, and for our state troopers. Ensuring adequate compensation for the individuals who work to keep our Commonwealth safe is

something I know the members of the Transportation and Public Safety Subcommittee wholeheartedly support.

In the area of transportation, the funding adjustments recommended by the Subcommittee are driven largely by our passage of the Speaker's House Bill 1414, the omnibus transportation legislation, as well as the passage of House Bill 1541 which creates the Central Virginia Transportation Authority. Based on the provisions of these bills and the resulting funding amendments, the subcommittee recommendations would provide a total of approximately \$18.8 billion for transportation during the 2020-22 biennium, an increase of more than 12 percent compared to the current biennium. These funding increases for the upcoming and future biennium will enable us to address mobility chokepoints, which is vital to improving the day to day lives of our citizens and to ensuring our future economic prosperity.

While we can never fully prepare for future unknowns, tying transportation user fees to growth in the Consumer Price Index and average fuel efficiency is a first step toward bridging the funding gap arising from new technologies

SEE KRIZEK, PAGE 7

## Mount Vernon Gazette

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**Published by**  
**Local Media Connection LLC**

**1606 King Street**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22314**

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A Connection Newspaper



## OPINION

# Arriving at Crossover with Many Bills Moving

Driver privilege, minimum wage, class action lawsuits, marijuana decriminalization ...

BY SEN. SCOTT SUROVELL  
(D-36)

The sixth week of the General Assembly brought us to "crossover" – the day each chamber is required to cease work on their own bills and work on bills from the other chamber.

The last two days brought furious action on many major bills. Forty-three of my own bills crossed over to the House of Delegates. Last week, the Senate passed my legislation creating driver privilege cards for undocumented immigrants for the first time and on a bipartisan basis. We still have work to do in order to reconcile the House and Senate bills, but it will change the lives of over 100,000 Virginia residents.

We also passed my legislation authorizing state-level class action lawsuits. Forty-eight other states and the District of Columbia already allow similar lawsuits. The lack of such remedies in Virginia means that corporations can steal money from Virginians in smaller amounts and never face justice.

The Senate also approved my bill allowing people to expunge evictions that have been dismissed. Companies have begun to collect and disseminate eviction records to landlords and the existence of multiple dismissed and unfounded eviction cases can present a barrier to property rental. My bill will allow people to clear unfounded lawsuits from their third party data files.

We also passed my bill to create the Virginia Efficient and Resilient Buildings Board. It requires each state agency to designate an energy manager to monitor and reduce energy consumption over time. Energy efficiency is America's cheapest energy resource to access and I appreciate the collaboration with my con-

stituent Elizabeth Beardsley and the United States Green Buildings Council who brought this concept to my attention.

The Senate also approved my bill I am carrying with Del. Kathleen Murphy to create two hundred \$4,000 college scholarships for children in families who receive Temporary Need for Families (TANF). The bill has passed the Senate four times but always dies in the House. This year will be different.

Beyond my own bills, we took action on majority legislation. Sen. Adam Ebbin's marijuana decriminalization bill passed with a large bipartisan majority. The bill is not perfect, but an appropriate first step as we move towards legalization. I helped to negotiate the Senate's proposed minimum wage increase. The bill increases the state minimum wage to \$9.50/hour starting January 1, 2021. The wage then increases \$1/hour per year starting July 1, 2022 until it reaches \$15/hour and then increases with the Consumer Price Index. Other parts of Virginia would be divided into Wage Regions and the wage increased on a basis relative to their Median Family Income compared with Northern Virginia. We also created an exemption for training employees and students employed part-time while in college or high school. The House approach is much different and must be reconciled.

Both chambers passed legislation allowing collective bargaining by public employees, ending Virginia's ban on project labor agreements, and allowing localities to require prevailing wages to be paid in public contracts. We also passed legislation creating private actions for worker misclassification, employer retaliation.

SEE SUROVELL, PAGE 9

## Krizek

FROM PAGE 6  
and preparing for the increase in electric and other non-petroleum powered vehicles.

Mr. Chairman, the report of the Subcommittee is now before you and the Members of the Committee. Committee staff will review the report in more detail, and I hope it will be the Committee's

pleasure to adopt the Subcommittee's report.

It is always an honor to serve you in Richmond. Please do not hesitate to reach out to my office at DelPKrizek@House.Virginia.Gov throughout this legislative session with questions, concerns, or legislative opinions.



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**U.S. Rep. Don Beyer was master of ceremonies at a Mt Vernon District Democratic Committee (MVDDC) straw poll and Mardi Gras fundraiser Sunday. MVDDC chair Maritza Zermeno joins him on stage.**

## Bloomberg Looking for Support

FROM PAGE 4

erties Union. A majority of those searches were performed on Black or Lantinx people (87%). The NYCLU said that 88 percent of people stopped were innocent.

"I defended it for too long, I think, because I didn't understand the unintended pain it caused to young black and brown kids and to their families," Bloomberg said. "And for that, I have apologized."

Bloomberg pledged that if elected, he'd prioritize dismantling systems of bias and oppression. He did not elaborate what those systems were or how he would change them.

The Virginia Citizens Defense League, a gun rights advocacy group, protested at both of Bloomberg's Richmond events. VCDL protesters, who are opposed to Bloomberg's gun control policy, entered Hardywood brewery and called Bloomberg a fascist while he was speaking. They were removed from the brewery by Bloomberg supporters and staff and resumed their post outside. They did not enter Main Street Station but lined the street outside, where other anti-Bloomberg protesters were gathered.

Anti-Bloomberg sentiment was also visible inside the gala. Jasmine Leeward, a board member of Richmond For All, approached the podium while Bloomberg was speaking and attached a sign that read: "He protects racist systems, will you?" It was quickly taken down and Leeward was escorted away from the stage. Richmond For All is a coalition that fights for housing, education, environmental rights and racial justice.

Leeward explained the sign, saying that Bloomberg protects racist systems by only offering an apology and "not actually repaying for the harms that were caused by his stop-and-frisk policies."

"I saw a lot of politicians, both at the city and state level, kind of forgiving or not being truthful and honest about how dangerous he would be as a president," Leeward said. "And so I did what I felt like I needed to do, which was to talk to the people who have the power to get him elected and ask them if

they support racist systems and protect them, as I feel Mike Bloomberg does."

After the sign was removed, Bloomberg said, "It's always nice to be welcomed."

At the gala, six Democratic candidates for president were represented by surrogates, influential people who campaign for candidates at events, but Bloomberg was the only candidate who appeared. Virginia's key leaders were in attendance, including Gov. Ralph Northam, Lt. Gov. Justin Fairfax, House Speaker Eileen Filler-Corn, Attorney General Mark Herring, and Virginia Congresswomen Elaine Luria, Abigail Spanberger and Jennifer Wexton.

Bloomberg received support from Filler-Corn during her speech at the gala.

"I want to thank Mayor Bloomberg for helping to turn Virginia blue," Filler-Corn said.

Bloomberg said winning in Virginia is a key part of his electoral strategy.

Everytown for Gun Safety, a gun control advocacy group largely funded by Bloomberg, has spent \$3.8 million since 2017 to help usher in Democratic legislators. After the 2019 elections, the Democrats gained a majority in Virginia's executive and legislative branches for the first time since the early '90s.

Bloomberg said that defeating President Donald Trump is one of the main reasons he entered the race.

Charles Bissett, an Army veteran who is leaning toward voting for Bloomberg, said that he thinks that Bloomberg will have the best chance of implementing Democratic policy. In particular, Bissett supports how Bloomberg handled education reform as mayor of New York.

Under Bloomberg's administration, the graduation rate for high school students went from less than half to nearly two-thirds, according to a 2013 article by *The Atlantic*. Bloomberg also said he raised teacher salaries in New York by 43 percent.


Bloomberg ranks third in an average of national polls for the Democratic presidential nomination, according to polling data from RealClearPolitics that also has Sen. Elizabeth Warren closely trailing him.

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## OPINION

# Arriving at Crossover with Many Bills Moving

FROM PAGE 7

ation for reporting illegal conduct, and wage theft.

On the energy front, we passed bills endorsing a renewable energy portfolio standard or mandate that utilities shift to renewable energy by certain deadlines. We created a framework to authorize a \$2 billion investment in offshore wind that will make Virginia and Hampton Roads a national leader in technology deployment.

We also passed legislation to officially join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) also known as "Reggie." Joining this compact will give the Commonwealth greater flexibility in reducing carbon emissions and net the Commonwealth \$100 million

per year in revenue given the progress we have made this far relative to other compact states.

We also passed Senator Adam Ebbin's legislation authorizing a statewide tax on plastic bags of \$0.05 per bag. It only applies to bags in grocery, convenience, and drug stores, but not restaurants. The monies will go to the General Fund and retailers will be allowed to keep \$0.02 of the tax to defray the costs of collection.

Each chambers' proposed budgets will come out before this goes to print and we will also begin work on legislation from the opposite chamber and the state budget. Please send me any feedback at [scott@scottsuovell.org](mailto:scott@scottsuovell.org).



**CALENDAR**

			1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31		

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# ENTERTAINMENT

## Lift a Stein for Village Brauhaus' First Year

BY HOPE NELSON

Every 1-year-old deserves a birthday party – but most of them don't celebrate with beer on tap. Village Brauhaus' chronological age may keep it under the legal drinking age, but no matter; on Saturday, the German-style beer hall is bucking that trend, celebrating its first year in business with a party that could rival Oktoberfest. From live music to lots of food, Jagermeister shots and even the tapping of a new Vienna lager, the Old Town restaurant is ready to lift a glass indeed.

"People are already expressing a lot of interest," said Bill Gross who with his wife, Chelsea, owns Village Brauhaus. "We've gotten over 200 phone calls and messages regarding times and things like that."

The festivities start when the restaurant opens at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, and as the

day rolls on, the music picks up and the fun really begins. The Johnny Koenig Band will play first at 3 p.m., followed by Love Music Again at 9 p.m. And the food and drink will be served up plentifully all day.

Village Brauhaus' bread and butter – so to speak – is its array of sausages and schnitzels, and both will be in great supply throughout the celebration. Jagermeister will be on hand with giveaways and swag – think shirts, hats and shots – to help patrons wash everything down.

At about 4 p.m., one of the day's crowning moments begins: The debut of a new beer straight from the Motherland.

"We are looking to premiere a brand-new beer – the beer is called Ottakringer – based in Vienna (Austria), and it will be the first time a Vienna lager is going to be released in the United States that's actually from Vienna," Gross said.

Ottakringer's approval just passed the Virginia ABC this week, and the beer is en

### IF YOU GO

Village Brauhaus' anniversary celebration

Where: 710 King St., Alexandria

When: Saturday, 11:30 a.m.-2 a.m.

Pro Tip: Get there early. While the restaurant is taking limited reservations, "it's going to be more of a first-come, first-served basis," co-owner Bill Gross said.

route for Saturday's event.

"We put out invitations to the Austrian Embassy in D.C.," Gross added.

The past year has brought its share of challenges alongside the triumphs, Gross said, from its successful launch just before last year's Irish Parade through the Metro shutdown and out the other side.

"We've had tough moments; last summer with the Metro shutdown, being a new business and opening, we basically got two months of regular business before the Metro shutdown and we did notice a decline over the summer," Gross said.

But the Metro reopened, the patrons came

back, and before long, Oktoberfest was in sight. Then came the holidays, and then the new year ... and just like that, Village Brauhaus has hit the year mark.

And it's not stopping with this weekend's anniversary party. Up next, from Feb. 23-25, is Fasching, the German-Austrian Mardi Gras celebration, complete with German-style Hurricanes and traditional German Berliner doughnuts made in-house. Then comes another visit from the Irish parade – the beer hall will be taking on an Irish flair for that – and then Starkbierfest, a celebration of Germany's best dark beers that begins on March 13 and extends through April.

But before that comes Saturday, when patrons can say a hearty "Prost!" and lift a glass to Village Brauhaus' first year.

*Hope Nelson is the author of "Classic Restaurants of Alexandria" and owns the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at [www.kitchenrecessionista.com](http://www.kitchenrecessionista.com). Email her any time at [hope@kitchenrecessionista.com](mailto:hope@kitchenrecessionista.com).*

### CALENDAR

Submit entertainment announcements at [www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://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](mailto:boxoffice@bravespiritstheatre.com) or [www.bravespiritstheatre.com](http://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](http://DelRayArtisans.org/life-drawing)

**Tell Me a Story Art Exhibit.** March 6-29. 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



**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, 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](http://www.DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits) or contact the curator Lesley Hall ([lesley.ruthless@gmail.com](mailto:lesley.ruthless@gmail.com)) or Director of Curating Brittany Gabel ([Curating@DelRayArtisans.org](mailto:Curating@DelRayArtisans.org)).

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](http://www.DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits).

**Student Art Exhibit.** Now thru 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 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.

**Architecture in Fiber.** Now thru March 15. 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.



**The Alexandria All City High School Art Exhibition hosted by the Convergence Arts Initiative returns thru March 28.**

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Artists Reception: Friday, February 21<sup>st</sup> 2020. 7 – 9 p.m.

### THURSDAY/FEB. 20

**Alexandria PTAC Camp Fair.** 5:30-8 p.m. At T.C. Williams High School, Cafeteria, 3330 King Street, Alexandria. Alexandria PTA Council (PTAC) to host summer camp fair. Over 40 camps will be represented, all types. Free to attend. Pizza for sale. Printed directory for all attendees. Free. Email: [AlexandriaPTACCampFair@gmail.com](mailto:AlexandriaPTACCampFair@gmail.com)

**Blues Night with Meigs Hodge.** 7 p.m. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Tickets \$10.

Meigs Hodge explores delta and Chicago styles through the music of Robert Johnson, Muddy Waters, and others; as well as contemporary standards and original compositions.

**Lecture on George Washington.** 7-8:30 p.m. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal Street, Alexandria. During this lecture, Professor Peter Henriques will examine how George Washington, despite his limited experience and numerous mistakes, overcame

obstacles to win independence for the new country he committed himself to without reserve. Henriques will touch on Washington's view of a professional army, the need to win over the general populace and the necessity of civilian control of the military, as well as how Washington saved the American cause with his actions at Trenton and Princeton. Tickets are \$12/\$10. Visit [Alexandriava.gov/Shop](http://Alexandriava.gov/Shop) or call 703-746-4242.

### SATURDAY/FEB. 22

**George Washington's 288th Birthday.** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. At George Washington's Mount Vernon, Southern end of the George Washington Memorial Parkway, Alexandria. Free admission. All day: Experience the Revolutionary War in 4-D with Mount Vernon's new revamped theater and step into Washington's shoes in the new interactive "Be Washington" theater. 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.: General Washington  
SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

# ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 10

greet his guests in the historic area.  
11 a.m. – 11:30 a.m: Punch & Judy Puppet Show.  
11:30 a.m. – 12 p.m: Behind-the-Scenes of the Punch & Judy Puppet Show.  
12 p.m. – 12:30 p.m: Punch & Judy Puppet Show.  
1 p.m. – 1:45 p.m: Select readings and performance from Washington's Favorite Play, Cato.  
2 p.m: Birthday Cake with General Washington! Enjoy a free piece of birthday cake, while supplies last.  
2:30 p.m: United States Air Force Strings perform in Robert H. Smith Auditorium.

**Winter Witch Hazel Hunt.** 10-11:30 a.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Celebrate Green Spring's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a garden tour featuring the park's signature shrub. This docent-led tour will showcase Green Spring Gardens' nationally-accredited witch hazel collection featuring more than 200 specimens that bloom from fall through March. After the tour, warm up in the Historic House with hot drinks. Cost is \$15 per person. Call 703-642-5173 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring).

**A Complicated Hospitality.** 10 a.m. to noon. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal Street, Alexandria. Cost is \$15 per person; \$12 GTMS/Volunteer. Through the stories, experiences, and archival traces of those enslaved by John Gadsby, consider how the nuances of urban slavery expand our understanding of slavery and Alexandria. Purchase tickets at [alexandriava.gov/shop](http://alexandriava.gov/shop).

**From Slavery to Concert Hall.** 12:30 p.m. At Duncan Branch Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave., Alexandria. Learn about how former enslaved people inspired the world through music, theater, art and dance.

**George Washington Symposium.** 1-4 p.m. At George Washington Masonic National Memorial. The theme of the 2020 George Washington Symposium is "George Washington's Construction of the United States Capitol." The George Washington Symposium is held annually on Washington's birthday to provide the public with enlightening contemporary research on the life of George Washington. Admission is free. Visit [www.GWMemorial.org](http://www.GWMemorial.org).

**Alexandria's Big Band Winter Bash.** 4-5 p.m. At Del Ray United Methodist Church, 100 East Windsor Ave., Alexandria. Hear hits by the biggest stars of the last 100 years in Alexandria's Free Roaring 2020 Big Band Winter Bash. You'll enjoy "Crocille Rock," "Proud Mary," "It Don't Mean a Thing If It Ain't Got That Swing," "Hoop-Dee-Do," plus songs from The Beatles, Frank Sinatra, Glenn Miller, Andy Williams, and The Osborne Brothers. Performing will be the Alexandria Citizens Swing Band. Bring the whole family for a fun afternoon. Free tickets available at: <https://bigbandbash.eventbrite.com>

**Hunt for Flying Squirrels.** 4:30-6 p.m. At Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. At the "Family Woodcock Walk" at Huntley Meadows Park, listen for the call of the male woodcock and hopefully see his amazing courtship display and flight. Be ready for an approximately 1.5-mile walk on uneven terrain, and don't forget to bring a flashlight. This event is designed for family members age 6 to adult; cost is \$8 per person. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Call 703-768-2525 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows)

**Annual Washington's Birthday Gala.** 5-10 p.m. At George Washington Masonic National



PHOTO BY KEVIN DOOLEY

**John McCrary conducts the Blessed Sacrament Festival Choir and Orchestra.**

## Blessed Sacrament Festival

Friday/Feb. 21, 7:30 p.m. At Blessed Sacrament Church, 1427 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria. Blessed Sacrament Festival Choir and Orchestra will perform Beethoven's stirring Mass in C and Mozart's cantata, Davide Penitente. Soloists are members of the Washington National Opera and San Francisco Opera. Reception at intermission. Free-will offering at the door. For more information, contact parish music director John McCrary, Call 703-998-6100 ext. 103.

Memorial. Formal (white tie optional). Reception at 5 p.m. Entertainment in the Memorial Theater at 6:30 p.m. Banquet in the memorial's Grand Masonic Hall at 7:30 p.m. The presentation of the George Washington Memorial Award will take place during the banquet. Tickets are \$200. Reservations are required. To purchase tickets, visit [www.GWMemorial.org](http://www.GWMemorial.org) or call 703-683-2007.

### SUNDAY/FEB. 23

**Royal Manners Lecture and Tea.** 1-3 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Hear about codes of diplomatic decorum and dictates of British royal protocol, past and present. Learn the complex rules of etiquette to follow when in the presence of royalty and the surprising rules the royals must follow as well. The cost is \$36 for the program and tea; \$15 for the program only. Call 703-941-7987 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring](http://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](mailto:suej020924@gmail.com).

**Walking with Washington Tour.** 2:15 – 4:15 p.m. At Christ Church portico entrance, 118 N. Washington St., Alexandria. Led by an old-line Virginian with family stories about Washington, our 18c. action hero, this tour in his chosen hometown focuses on his character and values, and significant people and events in his life and American history where they occurred. Stops at Christ Church, "Light-Horse" Harry Lee house, Gadsby's Tavern, Duvall Tavern, Wise's Tavern, Bank of Alexandria, Carlyle House and Market Square. Reservations not required. Free. Recommended for ages 10 and above. Contact: [WalkingwithWashington@hotmail.com](mailto:WalkingwithWashington@hotmail.com)

**"Deej" Film.** 4 p.m. At Beth El Hebrew

Congregation, 3830 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Free. Beth El Hebrew and Agudas Achim Congregations are co-sponsoring a presentation of the acclaimed film "Deej" as part of the 2020 ReelAbilities Film Festival of Northern Virginia, which is powered by the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia. This inspiring documentary tells the story of a nonverbal young man on the autism spectrum, his transition from high school to college, and the obstacles to inclusion that he confronts. RSVP at Brown Paper Tickets: <https://deej.bpt.me>

**Vote Common Good.** 7-8:30 p.m. At Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Church, 2001 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Local Vote Common Good Rallies are part of the Faith, Hope, & Love for a Change on Election Day National Bus Tour. A blend of rally, revival, party, and political meeting our events are designed for people of all ages, political leanings, and faith interests. The merry band of musicians, poets, speakers, activists, candidates, and other common-do-gooders invite you to join us. Visit the website: [votecommongood.com](http://votecommongood.com)

### MONDAY/FEB. 24

**Walk on the Spy Side.** 2-3:30 p.m. At Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Stroll the less-visited side of Huntley Meadows Park to uncover a history of spies and espionage. Learn how the Cold War struggle between the U.S. and the former Soviet Union shaped Huntley and the Fairfax County we know today.

The "Secrets, Spies, Sputniks and Huntley" program includes a 2.4-mile walk over flat terrain. Cost is \$9 per person. Meet at the park's South Kings Highway entrance. Call 703-768-2525.

**Spring Lawn Care.** 7-8:30 p.m. At Beatley Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria. Learn what you can do now to improve and manage your lawn to make it a more environmentally friendly, less resource intensive part of your home garden. They will discuss the best types of grasses for the area, specific springtime turf management practices, nutrient management and soil testing, and basic pest and disease management. This class is offered by Extension Master Gardeners. Free. Advance registration requested at [mgnv.org](http://mgnv.org). Call 703-228-6414 or email [mgaralex@gmail.com](mailto:mgaralex@gmail.com)

**Historic Beulah Baptist Church.** 7:15 p.m. At Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen Street, Alexandria.



**Outfitting the Men of Fort Ward will take place Feb. 22 at Fort Ward Museum in Alexandria.**

## Outfitting the Men of Fort Ward

Saturday/Feb. 22, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Fort Ward Museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria. Museum interpreters in Union uniform will present on-going talks about the clothing, military accessories and equipment typical of the Federal units who were stationed at Fort Ward throughout the Civil War. Hands-on reproduction items, intricately detailed model soldiers, and original objects on exhibit will be featured. For more information, call Fort Ward Museum at 703-746-4848, or visit [www.fortward.org](http://www.fortward.org).



**Boating Safety Classes will begin Saturday, Feb. 22 in Alexandria.**

## Boating Safety Classes

Saturday/Feb. 22, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Washington Farm United Methodist Church, 3921 Old Mill Road, Alexandria. The one-day class will be taught by experienced Flotilla 25-08 (Mount Vernon) instructors with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Future classes are March 21, April 18, May 16, June 20, and July 18. To enroll in a class contact Ted Caliga at [johnbielli2@gmail.com](mailto:johnbielli2@gmail.com). Newcomers and experienced boaters alike are also encouraged to explore the Coast Guard Auxiliary's "Welcome to the Recreational Boating Safety Outreach Web Site" (<http://wow.uscgaux.info>) to obtain free boating safety tools and materials.

Beulah's pastor, Rev. Quardricos Driskell, will share the deep and rich history of this important Alexandrian institution.

### WEDNESDAY/FEB. 26

**Hidden in Stars: Celebrating Women in Science.** 3:30 p.m. At Duncan Branch Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave., Alexandria. Help celebrate the opening of Women's History Month. They're taking to the stars and talking about the achievements of women in engineering and space.

**Life Drawing Session.** 6:30-9:30 p.m. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery in the Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Open Life Drawing Session with a long pose. Nude models. 3-hour sessions. Visit [www.DelRayArtisans.org](http://www.DelRayArtisans.org).

**"Our Beloved" — Tribute to Toni Morrison.** 7 p.m. At Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria. Through song, spoken word and music, Liberated Muse Arts Group gives tribute to the legendary genius of master writer Toni Morrison.

### THURSDAY/FEB. 27

**SCSC & RSVP.** 1:30-2:30 p.m. At Gerry Hyland Government Center, 8350 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Shepherd's Center of South County, SCSC and Retired Seniors Volunteer Program, RSVP will host a seminar on volunteer opportunities in South County. Join us to learn about fun, convenient and meaningful ways to contribute to your community. Free. Visit the website: <https://www.scsca.org/>

**Family Movie Night.** 6:30 p.m. At Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Wonder tells the heartwarming story of August Pullman, a boy with facial differences who enters the fifth grade, going to elementary school for the first time. Rated PG.

**Struggles of African-American Soldiers.** 7 p.m. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. In celebration of Black History Month, the Proprietor of Manumission Tour Company, John Chapman, will lead a

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 12

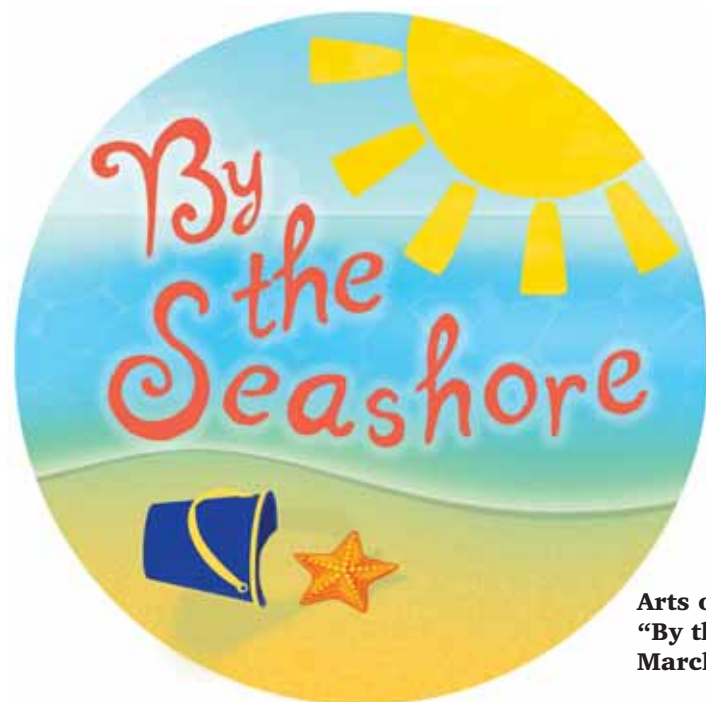
# ENTERTAINMENT



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 now thru 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](mailto:boxoffice@bravespiritstheatre.com) or [www.bravespiritstheatre.com](http://www.bravespiritstheatre.com).



## "By the Seashore"

March 20 to April 4, Wednesdays thru Saturdays, 10 a.m.; 10:30 a.m.; 11:30 a.m. At The Convergence Main Building, 1801 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. "By the Seashore" takes us on a magical journey to a place children love to visit — the beach! Young audience members are invited to explore all the amazing things we find on the shore, in the ocean, and in the sky; from birds and fish, to sand and water, and everything in-between. Using an imaginative mix of puppetry, movement, and sound, this sensory-filled production is specifically designed for babies and young toddlers.

Tickets are \$8. Discounts for groups and active duty military families are available. Purchase tickets here: <http://www.artsonthehorizon.org/by-the-seashore-2020> or call 571-549-1270.

Arts on the Horizon presents  
"By the Seashore" from  
March 20 to April 4.

FROM PAGE 11

conversation on the struggles of African-American soldiers as they fought for their rights to be buried in the soldier's cemetery. When the Alexandria National Cemetery was begun in 1862, only white soldiers were eligible to be buried there, even though it was yards away from L'Ouverture Hospital, a Civil War hospital for African-American soldiers.

By the end of the Civil War, there were over 200 graves of U.S. Colored Troops that had integrated into the cemetery.

**CAC-GALA.** 7-10 p.m. At Old Dominion Boat Club, 200 Strand Street, Alexandria. The 11th Annual CAC GALA benefits the Center for Alexandria's Children, the City's one safe place for the prevention, investigation and treatment of child abuse. Its Learn & PlayGroups for children ages 0-5 years utilizes a curriculum designed to circumvent abuse by helping parents, children and caregivers build connections within the community. The Center supports abused children on their path to healing, while promoting strong, stable families. It serves more than 1,000 children and families annually. Honorees include Mary Hale, Inova Health System FACT Director, who will receive The Outstanding Dedication to Alexandria's Children Award for her commitment to the safety and well-being of Alexandria's children and Brooke Sydnor Curran, Founder and CEO of RunningBrooke, who will receive The Champion for Children Award for her dedication to the empowerment and wellness of Alexandria's children and families. Tickets are \$175/person. Visit the website: <http://bit.ly/34nQlsJ> For more information, go to [www.centerforalexandriaschildren.org](http://www.centerforalexandriaschildren.org)

**NOVA Children's Concert.** 7:30-9:30 p.m. At The Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, 4915 East Campus Road, Alexandria. The NOVA Alexandria Music Department presents its free Annual Children's Concert featuring the NOVA band and students from local elementary and middle schools. Program selections will include: March of the Resistance from Star Wars: The Force Awakens by John Williams, Excursions for Trumpet and Band by Bruce Broughton, Concerto for Clarinet by Artie Shaw and the world premiere of Le'oria, the City of Music by NOVA student Nathan Pereda. Visit the website: [blogs.nvcc.edu/almusic/](http://blogs.nvcc.edu/almusic/)

## FRIDAY/FEB. 28

**Beau Soir Ensemble Concert.** 7 p.m. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Tickets \$15. Welcome the Beau Soir Ensemble to the Athenaeum! Known for their exciting performance style and diverse programming, their concert will feature "Serenade" by Ludwig Beethoven in honor of his 250th birthday.

This piece was originally written for flute, violin and viola, but has been expertly transcribed to work for flute, viola and harp. The Beau Soir Ensemble will also play a Trio Sonate by J.S. Bach that was transcribed for their trio by Alex Jacobsen of the National Symphony Orchestra, a local premiere by Miguel del Aguila, and add some Irish music to lead the way for St. Patrick's day.

## SATURDAY, FEB. 29

### Citizen Science for Gardeners and Nature Lovers.

10-11 a.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (16-Adult) Explore the concept of data gathering. Gardeners, naturalists and entomologists are recording the world around them through web-based social media applications. Bird migration, butterfly numbers, invasive plant spread, and insect populations are just some examples of data collected by an ecologist and citizen-scientist cyber community. Karen Rexrode will introduce you to some applications that will interest you as a gardener and a nature lover. \$18 per person. Register online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes) (code C4C.7A2A) or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

### Floral Design Workshop: Heart's Desire.

1:30-3 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (16-Adult) In the month of February, we celebrate love in all its splendid forms. Certified floral designer Betty Ann Galway walks you through a floral project that you are sure to love.

Keep this arrangement for yourself or give it to someone you care about. \$39 per person (plus a \$30 supply fee). Register online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes) (code 70D.892E) or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

### Virginia Black History Month Association (VaBHMA) Gala.

6-9 p.m. At Hilton Alexandria Mark Center Hotel, Alexandria. The keynote speaker is Dr. Yusef Salaam of the Central Park Five, also known as the Exonerated Five. Guests of Honor include:

- ❖ Ms. Tina Wyatt: Great-Great Grandniece of Harriet Tubman;
- ❖ Ms. Jeri Lacks Whye: Granddaughter of Henrietta Lacks;
- ❖ Ms. Adia Cummings: Daughter of the late Honorable Congressman Elijah Cummings;
- ❖ Ms. Monique Goldring: Mother of Baby Phoenix Da'Vine.

During the gala, they will identify the winners of the Annual Children's Writing Contest, the James Farmer Scholarship and other scholarships. They will surprise one couple from the audience to rededicate their marriage vows, (officiated by a local Pastor) and then perform the African American wedding tradition of "Jumping the Broom." Visit the website at [www.vabhma.com](http://www.vabhma.com)



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# Belle View

FROM PAGE 1

rants, similar to the Fairfax Corner shopping center near the Fairfax County Government Center off I-66.

Plans call for a "neighborhood green," in the middle, possibly a fountain area, and a retail square, with what appears to be a stage area. At Fairfax Corner, the fountain is a popular place for younger children to cool off in the summer months, so that may be the plan for this too.

In a letter dated Feb. 7, 2020, from shopping center management, the residents of the shopping center were notified of the plans, which included underground parking. The proximity to the river could impact this underground parking aspect of the project, but that remains to be seen. In the letter, which was signed by James L. Claggett Jr., general manager, mentions a task force being put together by Storck's office to hold public meetings that will focus on the county's Site Specific Plan Amendment Process.

Those meetings will take place in March, April and May, the letter states.

Other Mount Vernon properties accepted as a part of the 2019-2020 South County Site-Specific Plan Amendment process are the Beacon Hill Apartments; the Beacon-Groveton Community Business Center; additions to Hilltop Village on Telegraph Road; Springfield Community Business Center; and a mixed-use development on Huntington Avenue. The Embark Richmond Highway project was mentioned in the text.

## BULLETIN BOARD

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

## COLLINGWOOD ROAD CLOSURE

Collingwood Road (Route 628) between Riverside Road and Fort Hunt Road (Route 629) will be closed to through traffic (weather permitting) from 9 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 19 to 4 p.m. Friday, Feb. 21 for crews to replace a stormwater pipe, according to the Virginia Department of Transportation. Those needing to reach properties along Collingwood Road will have access; however, traffic will not be able to go beyond the point of pipe replacement in either direction. Through traffic will be detoured via Riverside Road, Cool Spring Drive and Fort Hunt Road back to Collingwood Road.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 15

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

## Employment

### PART TIME POSITION

Local Old Town political advertising firm looking for a part-time person to assist in the finance department. Bookkeeping and some work in Quick Books. Job will run March through November. Weekly hours will vary from 15 to 30 hours a week. Casual working environment. For details please write: [aiglesias@srcpmedia.com](mailto:aiglesias@srcpmedia.com)

An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.

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## Obituary

### Robert Curt Weigl September 10, 1944-February 1, 2020

Clinical psychologist Robert Curt Weigl died of leukemia at his home in Alexandria, Virginia, February 1, 2020. Son of George and Lois Peck Weigl of Chappaqua, NY, he attended local schools there until enrolling in the Taft School, Watertown, Connecticut for high school. As an English-Speaking Union exchange student, he studied at Wellington School, Somerset, England for a gap year, before attending Princeton University, where he graduated summa cum laude and as a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He met his wife Gail while a graduate student at the University of Michigan, where she volunteered at a service program he co-founded and directed called Ozone House, an oasis for runaway and drug dependent youth, one of many innovations Bob helped to found and sustain during a long career. Very committed to the development of community mental health, he served as Training Director for ten years (1976-88) at the Mt. Vernon Center for Community Mental Health, then devoted 32 years to building a private psychotherapy clinic, the Franklin Center, in the city of Alexandria. He served as mental health consultant for the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia for 25 years.



Bob was very involved in work to enhance intercultural skills and to assist recently arrived immigrants. He co-created a program to assist Latino immigrants to manage their new political and social environs in the United States. From 2005-2008, he worked with Boat People SOS, where he supervised the Mental Health team formed for their Victims of Torture Assistance project. He trained 60 Peer Companion volunteers from the Vietnamese American community to provide emotional support to seniors and survivors of torture; prepared disability waiver applications for Vietnamese survivors of torture to become US citizens; and developed a disability assessment for survivors of Vietnamese communist "re-education" camps.

Bob also enjoyed a long career as a community volunteer. An active member of the ecumenical service organization Ventures in Community, he was asked and declined the honor to serve as its president. He subsequently was invited to lead CHAPA (The Coalition of Hispanic Agencies and Professionals), a regional consortium of persons serving Latino residents of northern Virginia. He was Spanish speaking. In 1998, he was selected as Volunteer of the Year at United Community Ministries of Alexandria, and in 2018 was recognized with the Impact Award from Northern Virginia Family Services, where he created a training model for the Healthy Families program.

A concurrent professional commitment was intercultural education. Bob taught cross-culturally related courses for the universities of Pittsburgh, Georgetown, George Mason and George Washington. He served as psychology faculty and psychotherapy counselor on four voyages of Semester at Sea and became deeply involved in the globe-circling shipboard program for college students from throughout the United States and abroad.

Bob is survived by his wife Gail (Capitol), son Ted (Jenny Bosben) and grandchildren Grace and Jack Weigl of Madison, WI, son Seth of Alexandria, VA, brother Peter (Anne) and sister Nina Weigl of Winston Salem, NC, sister Nancy Sprague of Blue Hill, ME, brother-in-law the Reverend George Westerberg of Fryberg, ME, and many loving friends and colleagues.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m., April 4, 2020 at the Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria, VA, 22307.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a contribution to Capital Caring Hospice, 5845 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, VA 22303, or Northern Virginia Family Services, 10455 White Granite Drive, Oakton, VA 22124.

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# BULLETIN

FROM PAGE 14

## WEDNESDAY/FEB. 26

**Supervisor Dan Storck** will host the Mount Vernon District Budget Town Hall on Wednesday, Feb. 26 at 7 p.m. at the Gerry Hyland Government Center. Learn about the budget process, the County Executive's FY 2021 proposed budget and provide your feedback.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**Volunteer Fairfax** makes it easy for individuals and families, youth and seniors, corporate groups and civic clubs to volunteer. Fulfill hours, give back, or pay it forward through a variety of service options. Visit [www.volunteerfairfax.org](http://www.volunteerfairfax.org) or call 703-246-3460.

**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](http://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](http://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](mailto:gronbiz@aol.com) or Program Coordinator Lynn Barron at [lynnieb517@verizon.net](mailto:lynnieb517@verizon.net).

**Operation Paws for Homes**, a Virginia based 501(c)(3) organization seeks volunteers, especially to foster dogs. See [www.ophrescue.org](http://www.ophrescue.org) for information and all volunteer opportunities.

**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](http://ucmagency.org/volunteer-opportunities) or email [volunteer@ucmagency.org](mailto:volunteer@ucmagency.org).

**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](mailto:chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org) or call RSVP at 703-403-5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit [www.rsvpnova.org](http://www.rsvpnova.org).

**Line Dance Instructor needed** for the Gum Springs Senior Program once a week on either Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. Volunteer Solutions, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711.

**STEM VOLUNTEERS.** The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) needs scientists, engineers, mathematicians, and physicians to assist K-12 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) teachers in the Northern Virginia Area, during the 2016-17 school year. In the 2015-16 school year, the numbers of STEM volunteers in Northern Virginia were: Fairfax County - 40, Arlington - 20, and Alexandria - one. Details of the collaboration are worked out between the teacher and the volunteer, and may involve giving demonstrations, assisting in lab experiments, lecturing on special topics, assisting with homework, etc. The hours are flexible, and volunteers attend a one-day training in September before being assigned to schools. To see how volunteers are assisting their teachers, view the video clips at [www.seniorscientist.org](http://www.seniorscientist.org). To volunteer, contact [donaledge@aol.com](mailto:donaledge@aol.com).

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## One Step Forward, Hopefully Not Two Steps Backward



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

And so, what happens next? There's calm and then there's an eventual storm. The storm to which I refer is what will happen after the March 2nd meeting with my endocrinologist when she will assess and determine the next step in my post-thyroidectomy treatment. Presumably, in conjunction with my oncologist, a coordinated plan will be implemented for treating my two cancers. I can't imagine however, that being treated for two cancers, simultaneously, will be easier than being treated for one. And I doubt, although I don't know, that one medicine will be recommended for the treatment of both my non-small cell lung cancer and my thyroid cancer. We'll know soon enough.

In the interim, I intend to acknowledge and appreciate how easy these next few weeks will be. No appointments with doctors, no diagnostic scans, no procedures, no medicine - and no side effects, and no lab work other than as needed, to measure my calcium and magnesium levels and any other thyroid-related effects. Moreover, I am free to come and go as I please. And it does please me. Because I've earned it. I deserve it and I'm going to bask in it. You think being a cancer patient under constant treatment - for nearly 11 years is in any way amusing? Hardly. I make fun of it to make light of it. Otherwise, the weight of it would crush me. And even though my father always said I had broad shoulders, I'm always fearful that the next result will be the straw that finally breaks this camel's back. After all, I'm only human.

But for now, February 9, as I sit and write, I am three weeks and one day to my next reckoning. And since it's early days yet to know what life will be like after that March 2nd appointment (radiation and/or chemotherapy possibly), I will try to be blissfully ignorant and not think too much how easy and unencumbered my life is at the present. As a cancer patient, ceding control where you can and securing it where you thought you couldn't are keys to managing expectations and minimizing aggravation. Unfortunately, there is no one key that unlocks all doors. And there are plenty of doors, and plenty of doctors too, and plenty of fear waiting for one of your doctors to walk through any of these doors to deliver the results from your most recent cancer-related whatever.

None of which concerns me right now, or rather it shouldn't. And if there's any port in this storm where I can offload some anxiety and get in a little R&R, literally, figuratively, hypothetically, magically, unexpectedly, I should jump at the chance. I am reminded of a conversation I had with my oncologist years ago when I experienced a similar interval between treatment. The medicine I was on had stopped working so we needed to start another, another with unknown benefits and side effects. My oncologist suggested that since I felt good, perhaps we should delay the beginning of the next infusion and that I should take that trip I had always dreamed of because I might never feel this good again. I didn't then and I won't now. When I jump however, I can barely get off the ground.

I haven't exactly been presented this time, with this kind of do-before-you-die opportunity, but there is an erie familiarity to my circumstances. And though I've been down this road trying-to-find out before, I can't be at all certain to what kind of twists and turns await. The last thing a cancer diagnosis provides is a guarantee. Actually, that's wrong. A cancer diagnosis does provide a guarantee: that there are no guarantees. And so, as I prepare for the next phase of my life, the one that begins 11 years after being diagnosed with non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV and being given a 13 month to two-year prognosis to boot, I will quote the late, great Satchel Paige: "Don't look back. Something might be gaining on you."

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



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