



Off the shore with a view of Mount Vernon, Joe Wright scans the river for trash.



Joe Wright of Fort Hunt, G7 eco-citizen winner, meets Ambassador Philippe Etienne and receives G7 AWAKE watch for his sustainability efforts in the Potomac River.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

Local Resident Moonlights as a Floating Trash Picker

Cleaning up the Potomac got Joe Wright international recognition.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

When Fort Hunt resident Joe Wright left the office to get his lunch the other day, he saw a trash can floating in a creek right off the Potomac River, and since he is the “SUPGarbageman,” it was only

natural that he’d stop, launch his paddleboard into the creek and retrieve the can. While he was at it, he got a few other pieces of trash from the waters too. That’s what self-proclaimed SUP Garbagemen do.

“If I hadn’t forgotten my lunch, I wouldn’t have seen that,” he said. “I usually have my board with me just in case.”

Since last May, Wright has made cleaning up garbage out of the Potomac River his mission. When he’s not working, that’s how he spends the remaining daylight hours a couple days a week, on a stand-up paddleboard, retrieving garbage out of the Potomac River, and its tributaries around Mount Vernon and National Airport. “It’s

never ending,” he said.

“It’s your trash, I just pick it up,” is his jingle on the website. He’s not looking for notoriety or fame, he just wants trash reduction to be the focus. His mission: “Haul trash out of our waterways and raise awareness by sharing my finds with the world,” he says on his website. “I want people to see anyone can do it,” he said.

SUP, for “stand-up paddleboard,” can present a challenge, but Wright has only fallen once when the rudder hit something underwater. He wears a wetsuit in the colder months and noted that he doesn’t get that wet, but every once in a while the water does wash over the surface of the board. This April will be his

first Earth Day, but he doesn’t have big plans. After all, being the garbageman is a full time Earth Day role. “I think I just live Earth Day,” he said.

Wright’s efforts with trash have attracted some outside attention as well. Some see him on the water and think he’s just paddling around, and maybe fishing in the warmer months, but somehow the company “Werner Paddles,” got word, and sent him a paddle, and a sponsorship. “They’ve reached out to me,” he said, and all he has to do is to attach their link to his web posts. Werner has a healthy waters section in their company and Wright’s efforts go right along with that. Werner is also linked to the Sierra Club, American Rivers,

American Whitewaters and other outdoor organizations. “Taking responsibility to protect the places we paddle, we created our Healthy Waters initiative,” Werner said.

Somehow, the folks at the French Embassy in Washington, D.C. heard about him too, and made him a “G7 Eco Citizen.” Wright met with the French ambassador Philippe Etienne in December. In the picture of Wright with the ambassador, Wright is wearing the G7 AWAKE watch, which is a 100% sustainable product made from recycled fishing nets that was worn by President Emmanuel Macron and world leaders at the G7 summit.

In addition to his international SEE LOCAL RESIDENT, PAGE 8

Coronavirus Could Hit Family Finances

Don Beyer advocates for paid sick leave legislation and then self-quarantines after friend tests positive.

BY KEN MOORE
THE GAZETTE

Monday morning, U.S. Rep. Don Beyer advocated for legislation that would mandate paid sick leave for U.S. workers, saying it was critical both for workers and community in the time of coronavirus.

Tuesday, Beyer found himself



Don Beyer

grateful for the sick leave, health coverage and other supports he has as he began self-quarantine following a positive test for COVID-19 by a friend in Washington D.C., with whom he recently had dinner.

“This afternoon my wife Megan and I were contacted by the Virginia Department of Health to share details with us about the illness of a friend who

tested positive for COVID-19 after dining with us. They informed us that the timeline of his infection began shortly after our contact on Feb. 28.

“At the request of the public health officials, I will self-quarantine to ensure that I do not pass on any potential illness to others. In the 10 days since that dinner neither of us has shown symptoms, and we understand that the probability that we have an infection is low.”

Nearly 27 percent of employees don’t have comprehensive paid sick leave.

Workers without sick pay can’t afford to stay home when they are sick, or quarantined, one of the pillars of containing the national outbreak of novel coronavirus.

U.S. Rep. Rose DeLauro (D-Ct)

introduced legislation Monday that would require all employers to allow workers to accrue seven days of paid sick leave and an additional 14 days in the event of a public health emergency. Beyer, U.S. Rep. David Trone and DeLauro with advocates held a

SEE SEEKING PAID, PAGE 9

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NEWS

Generational Divide

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE GAZETTE

When Democrats won both chambers of the General Assembly in November, hopes were high that the new majorities in the House and Senate would move forward with a progressive agenda that had been rejected when Republicans were in power. Labor groups were particularly excited about the prospect of passing a \$15 minimum wage, collective bargaining for public employees and a requirement that all employers offer five paid sick days. But the General Assembly session ended this week without fully accomplishing these goals.

Standing in the way: a trio of conservative Democratic senators from Fairfax County.

Majority Leader Dick Saslaw (D-35) who blocked collective bargaining for state workers. Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37) blocked a \$15 minimum wage by 2025. And Sen. Chap Petersen (D-35) blocked guaranteed paid sick days. Saslaw, Marsden and Petersen are some of the most senior Democrats in the Senate, and their approach to labor issues offers a stark contrast with the approach taken by the more progressive and younger members of the House of Delegates.

"In many ways, I think we're talking about a generational change," said Stephen Farnsworth, political science professor at the University of Mary Washington. "If you're looking at the vision of what a Democrat was in the days of Mark Warner, and you're looking at the vision of what a Democrat is today, you see significant changes and significant differences."

Saslaw was first elected to the House in 1975 then was elected to the Senate in 1979. He is the longest serving senator in the chamber, and he's already announced that he does not plan to run for reelection in 2023. Petersen was first elected to the House in 2001 then was elected to the Senate in 2007. He is the eighth longest serving Democrat in the Senate. Marsden was elected to the Senate in 2009. He is the tenth longest Democrat in the Senate.

"The three of them, although from the political party and region of Virginia from which much of the populist energy has come in recent times, are also from an earlier era of Virginia Democratic Party politics when Virginia Democrats were by and large more business friendly," said Quentin Kidd, political science professor at Christopher Newport University. "We not only have partisan differences on things like collective bargaining and minimum wage, but we also have generational differences within the Democratic Party itself."

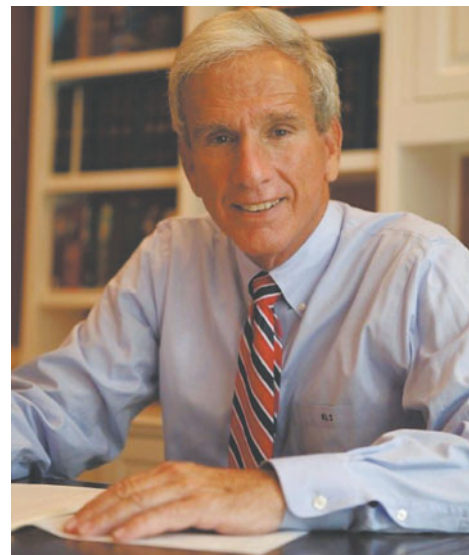
RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE was one of the major agenda items for Democrats when they arrived in Richmond for the opening of the General Assembly session in January. When the bill was consid-



Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37)



Sen. Chap Petersen (D-35)



Sen. Dick Saslaw (D-35)

ered in the Senate Commerce and Labor Committee, Marsden unsuccessfully tried to create a regional variation. When the bill made its way to the Senate floor, Marsden held out for regional variation, and enough conservative Democrats joined him that the bill was only able to pass by delaying \$15 an hour until 2023 in Hampton Roads.

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

The House held out for \$15 an hour across Virginia, although the Senate version retained that regional variation. That sent the bill into a secret closed-door conference committee, where lawmakers hashed out a deal shielded from public view. They emerged with a plan that would raise the minimum wage to \$12 an hour by 2023 then pause to study how a regional minimum wage might work. It also carved out exemptions for young people and farmworkers.

"Virginians across the Commonwealth work hard and deserve a raise," said Anna Scholl, executive director of Progress Virginia. "We will keep working to make sure that all families in our communities, regardless of what kind of work they do, make \$15 an hour and have the ability to raise their families with dignity."

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING for public employees was another top-tier issue for Democrats as they arrived in Richmond this year for the General Assembly session. Virginia is one of only three states that prohibits public service workers the right to negotiate together for fair wages and safe working conditions. Del. Elizabeth Guzman (D-31) passed a bill out of the House that allowed collective bargaining for local government employees and state employees.

"We not only have partisan differences on things like collective bargaining and minimum wage, but we also have generational differences within the Democratic Party itself."

— **Quentin Kidd, political science professor at Christopher Newport University**

Her bill also gave workers the ability to decide to unionize rather than the leaders of the local government.

"My bill will empower workers like teachers, firefighters, social workers, police officers to have a seat at the table during the decision making process," said Guzman. "And it is my belief that if we are going to take care of a group of public employees, we have to take care of all of them, and that include state employees. They also deserve to have a voice at the table and advocate for better resources, better equipment and better salaries."

Across the hall in the Senate, Saslaw was working on a much more conservative approach. His bill allowed collective bargaining for employees of local governments but not state workers. His bill also took the decision to unionize out of the hands of workers and put it instead into the hands of the local government leaders. If members of a county board of supervisors decide they don't want to deal with a union, they'll be able to block their workers from collective bargaining under Saslaw's version of the bill. When asked by a reporter what's wrong with allowing state workers to unionize, Saslaw said it wasn't going to happen.

"We don't have the votes," he said, ducking into a closed-door caucus meeting. "There's nothing more to say. We don't have the votes."

Part of the reason the Senate didn't have the votes was that Saslaw didn't support it, which is why it ended in a closed-door conference committee where a final version of the bill was crafted in secret. Saslaw's version of the bill is what emerged from that secret process, and that's the version now

on the governor's desk.

PAID SICK DAYS have suddenly become a major political issue because of the coronavirus. But even as lawmakers arrived in Richmond earlier this year, many progressive Democrats were hopeful about a bill that would

have required employers offer five paid sick days. The Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy initially wanted this to apply to businesses that had five employees or more. Gov. Ralph Northam suggested that the mandate should apply to businesses that have 25 employees or more, a threshold advocates worried would exempt 90 percent of businesses in Virginia.

"Employers who are employing 25 individuals or more are already offering five paid sick days to their employees," said Sen. Barbara Favola (D-31). "So we're perplexed because we don't believe that many employers would be affected by the governor's bill."

Lawmakers started by compromising at mandating five paid sick days for businesses that have 15 employees or more. Northam declined to answer questions about whether he would amend the bill to exclude 90 percent of businesses in Virginia. But he never got the chance. In the closing hours of the General Assembly session, Petersen killed the bill by making a case on the Senate floor that part-time workers didn't deserve paid sick days.

"So once they have vested, and once they have accumulated the 30 hours and they work for me eight hours a week and the other 160 hours are their free time and they need to take a child to the doctors office or what have you, they can use the eight hours they're working for me to run that errand as opposed to the 160 hours they have of their own free time," said Petersen.

The bill died in an unrecorded vote to delay the bill, which had the effect of killing the bill for the year because lawmakers were on the verge of closing the session and leaving town.

Fairfax Couple Presumed Positive for COVID-19

County, state, health professionals provide answers, advice.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE GAZETTE

A Fairfax City man in his 80s and his wife have both tested presumptive positive for the coronavirus (COVID-19). Both were infected as a result of international travel, and the husband – who contracted it first – appears to have transmitted the virus to his wife.

“We know the risk of coronavirus disease increases among close contacts of infected persons,” said Fairfax County Health Director Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu on Monday. “Based on the results of our investigation to date, the [couple] had limited contact with others outside the home while ill, so the risk to the general Fairfax community remains low.”

Out of privacy concerns, their names are not being revealed, but health officials say the couple traveled on a similar, Nile River cruise as other positive coronavirus patients elsewhere. The husband began developing symptoms of respiratory illness on Feb. 28, was hospitalized last Thursday, March 5, and is currently in stable condition.

According to the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), when he was tested, his wife was asked to self-quarantine at home and she complied. When she developed minor respiratory-illness symptoms herself, specimens were collected from her and sent to the Virginia state laboratory, Sunday, March 8. She, too, is doing well, but was hospitalized during her tests.

Meanwhile, Fairfax City Manager Rob Stalzer has confirmed that six members of the City’s Fire Department were also potentially exposed to the disease when they responded to the couple’s home, the afternoon of Feb. 28, and are now under quarantine.

“Based on the recommendation of the county Health Department and the CDC [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention], they’ll be ‘furloughed’ for 14 days in their homes, in an abundance of caution,” said Stalzer. “And the Fairfax County Health Department has already made contact with them.”

STATE AND LOCAL public-health leaders held a press conference, Sunday afternoon, March 8, at the Sherwood Center in Fairfax, sharing what information they could. They also advised people to take normal precautions to remain healthy, while reassuring them there’s no reason to panic.

Ironically, the Sherwood Center was scheduled to host the City Fire Department’s annual awards ceremony, Sunday afternoon. But it was postponed to a later date, said Stalzer, “out of respect for the firefighters and their families.” In addition, Mayor David Meyer had planned to hold his re-election-campaign kickoff that same afternoon, but postponed it, as well.



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE GAZETTE

Listening to Dr. Ben Schwartz speak are (from left) Dr. Lilian Peake, Dr. Norm Oliver, Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu, Jeff McKay, Dr. Denise Toney, Dr. Alison Ansher, David Meyer and John Silcox.



Fairfax County Health Director, Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu, discusses the coronavirus at Fairfax City press conference, while Jeff McKay listens.



Dr. Ben Schwartz



State Health Commissioner, Dr. Norm Oliver, talks while Jeff McKay listens.

According to State Health Commissioner, Dr. Norm Oliver, “A coordinated, health response is already underway to identify people who had contact with the [ones] infected and may be at risk, themselves.”

State Epidemiologist, Dr. Lilian Peake said the Fairfax man’s test was also done in Richmond at Virginia’s public-health lab and would be confirmed by the CDC in a few days. Until then, his positive result – which came back Saturday, March 7 – is considered presumptive. The same is true of his wife, who received her positive result Monday, March 9 – the day after the press conference.

On Sunday, Peake said, “By 9 a.m. this morning, 44 Virginians have been tested. Thirty-six have come back negative so far, and we’re awaiting the rest of the results.” She also noted that the Commonwealth wasted no time springing into action in response to this worldwide threat.

“The Virginia Department of Health [VDH] has been working on this since January,” she said. “It set up a Website that’s continually updated, plus an information line.” The Website is www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/ and the information phone number is 1-877-ASK-VDH3. And, she added, “If anyone has symptoms including a light fever, cough and difficulty breathing – especially if they’ve traveled out of the country recently – please call your healthcare provider.”

Dr. Ben Schwartz, director of epidemiology with the county Health Department, said the Fairfax City man was hospitalized

March 5 with a fever, cough, fatigue and shortness of breath. “If other people are found to have been exposed [to the virus through him], we’ll guide them on what to do and monitor them closely,” said Schwartz.

He also said the public need not take any additional precautions at this time beyond the normal things anyone would do to prevent the spread of a virus. “Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds,” said Schwartz. “Cover coughs and sneezes, stay away from people who are sick, and stay home if you’re sick, yourself.”

County Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeff McKay addressed the crowd, as well. “There’s a lot of misinformation out there,” he said. “So I implore you to come to Fairfax County as a trusted source of information.” The county’s Website and information line are: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health/novel-coronavirus and 703-267-3511.

“Fairfax County has sophisticated plans to deal with this kind of event, and they’ve been in place for over a decade,” continued McKay. “So no one should panic as this situation evolves. We’ll constantly message out information to the community.”

Regarding children, McKay said, “If your child is having symptoms, don’t send them to school. But at this time, there’s absolutely no reason to close the schools – and they’re closely monitoring the situation. I also encourage all parents to sign up for messages from FCPS directly.”

Schwartz said the county is currently investigating whether the Fairfax man came

into contact with any school-aged children or anyone else in a hospital setting. “We’re not releasing the name of the hospital he’s in, but he’s not in intensive care,” said Schwartz. “And to our knowledge, [he was on] a different boat than the other [Nile cruise] cases have been on.” Furthermore, he said, “We aren’t recommending any events be canceled or venues shut down.”

Like McKay, Peake said, “Stay tuned to what’s going on and get your information from a trusted source like the VDH, CDC or Fairfax County. And take measures to prevent the spread of respiratory diseases.”

Also speaking was Dr. Denise Toney, director of the Department of General Service’s Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services – the state’s public-health lab in Richmond. “Virginia has two test kits in house, and we hope to have several more next week,” she said. “Each kit can test 150-200 patients. We have the capacity to handle the volume of patients we have now, and we anticipate access to testing to increase each day.”

AT THE END, Mayor Meyer thanked all the health professionals for coming to the City. “I hope their presence here today will give you confidence that the health officials in state and local government are staying on top of this,” he told the audience. “The City and county are one entity when it comes to health management. We contract with the county for our comprehensive, public-health services, so our City residents can be assured that they’re receiving the best public-health services available.”

As for the six, quarantined, City firefighters, Addo-Ayensu said the county Health Department is “monitoring them daily to see how they’re doing and to advise them what they should look for, going forward. In conjunction with the other symptoms, a fever of at least 100 or 101 is especially the critical symptom, because fever is a hallmark of this disease. And we always do other tests to rule out anything else.”

“It’s a new virus, but the approaches we take are tried and tested and are things we do every day,” she continued. For now, said Addo-Ayensu, the elderly – and especially those with underlying medical conditions – seem to be the most vulnerable. And while there’s no indication so far that coronavirus affects children, she acknowledged that “We’re still learning about it.”

She also noted that COVID-19 doesn’t spread through brief, casual contact. Rather, it’s mainly contracted via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

Afterward, City Councilman Sang Yi said he, too – as a Councilman and parent – is keeping a close eye on the virus. “The City of Fairfax is a tightknit community, and I’m praying that our resident who tested presumptively positive makes a full and speedy recovery. The safety and health of our fellow neighbors and residents is our top priority. It’s important we all take appropriate precautions and follow health-safety guidelines outlined by the CDC.”

HOME LIFESTYLE

Local Designers Donate Talent for a Cause

A home in McLean Gets a Makeover to Benefit Cancer Support Community.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION



Aspire Design Home in McLean will be open to the public from May 9 through June 7.

Some local interior design gurus are joining tastemakers from around the country to re-vamp the Aspire Design Home in McLean, Virginia, as part of an effort to raise money for charity.

The effort will give visitors a chance to see the latest trends in home design while supporting the Cancer Support Community, the largest professionally led, nonprofit network of cancer support worldwide dedicated to providing emotional support and navigation for individuals impacted by cancer, including their families and friends.

"I have had the enormous privilege of working with many of the talented creatives whose submissions and design work were selected to complete the interiors of this remarkable house," said Mary Douglas Drysdale, design chair of the McLean 2020 Design House. "The final show house will be exceptional."

The makeover event has drawn 31 designers from around the world and local designers including Allie Mann of Case Design/Remodeling in Bethesda, MD and Falls Church, VA, Michael Winn of Winn Design + Build in Falls Church, Maria Galiani of Galiani McLean, Josh Hildreth of Josh Hildreth Interiors in Reston, Jonas Carnemark of Konst Siematic in Bethesda, MD, Paul Lobkovich of Lobkovich in Tysons, Federica Asack of Masseria Chic in McLean, and Pamela Harvey of Pamela Harvey Interiors in Oak Hill, Va.

The home itself is described as an innovative marriage of classical Monticello elements and on-trend materials and design techniques. Among those materials is a whimsical green hue, cheetah pattern wall covering created by Allie Mann of Case of Design/Remodeling for the upper level bathroom.

"Bathrooms in general are these little gems that can be both public and private where great design can live," she said. "In this show house bathroom, the tile is the biggest part of the space where I'll in-

corporate materials that are a little edgier or unexpected in terms of color or saturation and that will really create a dramatic space. I also love the different play with the pattern of the tile."

It was a personal connection that influenced the upper level bedroom created by Josh Hildreth of Josh Hildreth Interiors.

"Our bedroom is dedicated to my inspiring mother and all of those who fight or have fought the brave fight against cancer," he said. "This enchanted aerie creates a quiet respite that exists for relaxation and renewal inside of a large and sprawling home."

He says that his design process is often instigated by the discovery of what he describes as animating objects. "For instance, in January I traveled to Paris and uncovered some wonderful items from some favorite sources," said Hildreth. "Our retreat reflects a love for the beauty of France and artfully mixes French and other design elements across the centuries into a jewel box space that delights the eye and promises hope for a better tomorrow."

While guest bedrooms often accommodate one's in-laws, Annie Elliott of Annie Elliott Design says that the space she is re-imagining doesn't fit that mold. "This isn't 'granny chic,' she said. "It's 'uncle chic, with masculine furnishings paired with traditionally feminine elements to create a warm and inviting retreat."

Wallpaper made of subtle pink grasscloth encompasses masculine, modern elements such as the quasi-industrial étagère, which has tiny brass rivets on metal strapping and a black-caned bench at the foot of the bed, says Elliott. "The bed is canopied, but in Cowtan & Tout's Rutland – a sophisticated woodland scene in browns, greens, and blues – to counter the sweetness of the pink walls," she said. "We repeat the fabric on the drapes, layering it over woven wood shades for depth and texture. The room is a mix of vintage, and vintage-look furnishings.



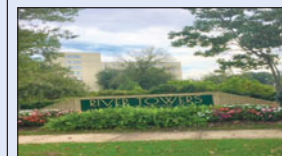
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Alex/River Towers \$177,000

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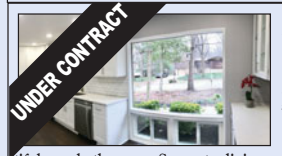
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Manassas/Classic Springs \$649,900

12835 Classic Springs Drive

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OPINION

2020 General Assembly: 39 Surovell Bills Passed

BY SCOTT SUROVELL
STATE SENATOR (D-36)



The 2020 General Assembly finished work on all legislation this past Sunday, except we did not pass a final state budget or elect new judges to fill vacancies. We will return to Richmond on Thursday, March 13, to complete that work and adjourn for this year.

This was my most successful session in passing bills in my eleven years in the General Assembly. The legislature sent 39 of my bills to Governor Ralph Northam. We carried over nine bills and referred them to study commissions. The legislature also carried over my legislation to abolish the death penalty to be potentially considered over the summer.

I will highlight some of the other major bills we passed and discuss more bills and the budget in future columns.

I carried a bill with Norfolk Delegate Jay Jones to authorize Virginia to join 20 other states that allow community net metering for electricity. This bill, which passed both chambers with large bipartisan majorities, opens the door to solar energy for Virginians who live in communities with heavy tree cover, apartments, condominiums or for businesses that do not own their roofs. It will enable them to purchase solar power and net the energy against their home meters, while reducing car-

bon-generated energy usage and purchasing a share of the energy generated by a solar project.

Both bodies sent my bill banning hydraulic fracturing or “fracking” for natural gas east of Interstate 95 to Governor Northam for signature. Both chambers also finalized my legislation requiring each state agency to designate an energy manager and energy reduction goals to help coordinate a reduction in energy usage by state agencies. Thank you to my constituent Elizabeth Beardsley with the Green Buildings Council for the concept.

The House also passed my bill to authorize the State Corporation Commission to approve 2,700 megawatts of energy storage, enough to power 2.7 million homes. As we transition to a clean energy economy, we must also develop technology for night-time storage of energy generated during the day. This requires significant advances in energy storage. My legislation is a first step.

Virginia will become the seventeenth state plus the District of Columbia to authorize temporary driver privilege cards for undocumented immigrants. The legislation I carried with Senator Jennifer Boysko and Delegate Kathy Tran passed with a bipartisan vote in both chambers. It will pay for itself and likely generate significant long-term benefits for taxpayers, in addition to simply fostering a better quality of life for our newest Virginians and their families. This legislation is projected to help about 240,000 drivers plus their children.

The Majority Leader asked me to help negotiate the final minimum wage legislation with Mount Vernon Delegate Paul Krizek as mem-

bers of the joint, six-person conference committee. The final bill raises Virginia’s minimum wage to \$9.50 per hour effective January 1 and up to \$12.50 by January 1, 2023 in annual \$1/hr steps. The wage can rise to \$15.00 per hour in 2026 with an additional vote, narrows exemptions for disabled individuals while preserving exemptions for high school and seasonal workers. The bill also requires various agencies to conduct a study to determine whether Virginia should enact regional minimum wage rates before moving wages to \$15/hour. A \$15-per-hour wage would be nearly 90 percent of median family income in nearly two dozen Virginia localities.

My legislation to authorize Fairfax and Arlington Counties to adopt ordinances to address retailers who fail to control their shopping carts passed both bodies with bipartisan majorities. I have now removed over 230 shopping carts from Little Hunting Creek itself since 2014. Residents in Springfield and Crystal City also reached out to me about their ongoing challenges when they heard of our problems in Hybla Valley. Local governments will now be able to act.

The House approved my bill to allow people to expunge public records relating to dismissed evictions. There are over 200,000 dismissed eviction cases in Virginia each year. Since most tenant application screenings are now done by automation and most algorithms do not distinguish between dismissed evictions and actual evictions, this will help potential tenants to clear their records.

I encourage you to email me at scott@scottsurovell.org with your comments.

Down to the wire: Conference Committees

BY DEL. PAUL KRIZEK

Saturday, March 7th, was the date we planned to end this year’s session, formally known as “Sine Die”. However, session was extended this year in order to accommodate the extensive outstanding work we still have before us as a body. We worked long hours over the weekend to come to a final agreement on legislation like the minimum wage increase, which will go to \$9.50 on Jan. 1, 2021, and to finish our critical budget work. Indeed, we will be returning to Richmond on Thursday, March 12th, to take our final vote on the budget.

I am proud of the work that the General Assembly has accomplished this session. We have made extraordinary progress for Virginians in every corner of the Commonwealth. House Majority Leader Charniele Herring said, “Women, people of color, the LGBTQ+ community, low-income families, and other marginalized communities will have laws that recognize and respect them more than ever before in the Commonwealth’s history.” Take a look at the list below for highlights

of the successes this session:

- ❖ Passed common-sense gun safety legislation.
- ❖ Ratified the Equal Rights Amendment, making Virginia the 38th and final state needed to complete the ratification process.
- ❖ Restored reproductive rights by rolling back some of the most harmful medically unnecessary restrictions on abortion access in Virginia.
- ❖ Repealed racially discriminatory laws still in Virginia code allowing school segregation and housing discrimination, as well as restrictions on African Americans relating to public transportation, medical care, public documents, and public facilities.
- ❖ Passed numerous bills to protect the environment and fight climate change.
- ❖ Expanded voting rights with different measures to grant Virginians more accessibility and flexibility to cast their ballots.
- ❖ Raised the minimum wage for the first time in over a decade to help working families and most financially vulnerable Virginians.
- ❖ Enacted discrimination protections for the LGBTQ+ community.

❖ Fought predatory short-term loan practices by capping the interest and fees that may be charged for a short-term loan.

❖ Dissolved ban on collective bargaining for public employees.

❖ Removed the criminal penalty for simple marijuana possession.

The Governor has already signed close to 200 of these critical pieces of legislation into law. April 6th is the deadline for Governor Northam to act on the legislation we have passed.

By Friday afternoon, our most difficult challenges remained: resolving the differences between similar bills passed by the House and the Senate. These bills were sent to conference committees, which are small legislative panels that typically consist of three legislators from each chamber. These groups decided the final forms of the bills before them. These agreements could have been the form favored by the Senate, the form preferred by the House, or a combination of both. The conference committees then presented their reports on the bills, and a final vote was taken before it was sent to the Governor for him to sign into law, amend, or veto.

I was assigned to 11 conference committees. These included some of my own bills where the House and Senate worked out differences, as well as bills that went through my ABC/Gaming subcommittee, and some critical labor bills. I’ve outlined these conference bills below:

❖ HB 4 and its Senate cognate SB 36 will decide the regulation and control of future casino gaming in Virginia.

❖ HB 220 is my bill which will require prepaid postage on absentee ballot return envelopes.

❖ HB 395 and its Senate cognate SB 7 will determine the increase and implementation schedule of the minimum wage.

❖ My bill HB 1424 and its Senate cognate SB 407 will establish the Virginia Revolutionary 250th Anniversary Commission.

❖ HB 533 will prohibit expanded polystyrene (styrofoam) food service containers. My bill HB 1046 was incorporated into HB 533 earlier this session.

❖ HB 582 and SB 939 will allow collective bargaining for Virginia’s public employees.

❖ SB 481 concerns paid sick leave for workers.

Mount Vernon Gazette

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An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Mary Kimm
Editor and Publisher
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

Jean Card
Production Editor
jcard@connectionnewspapers.com

Jeanne Theismann
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com
@TheismannMedia

ADVERTISING:
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703-778-9431

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Display Advertising/National Sales
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Helen Walutes
Display Advertising, 703-778-9410
hwalutes@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin
Marketing Assistant
703-778-9431
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Classified & Employment
Advertising
703-778-9431

Publisher
Jerry Vernon
703-549-0004
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

Art/Design:
Laurence Foong, John Heinly,
Ali Khaligh

Production Manager:
Geovani Flores

CIRCULATION
Circulation Manager:
Ann Oliver
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RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

Extra Innings

New Democratic majority has done much toward creating a more equitable and forward-thinking Commonwealth.

BY SEN. ADAM EBBIN

As seems appropriate for a legislative session that has seen more post-midnight adjournments than any in recent memory, the General Assembly went into overtime. On Thursday, March 6th, as the rest of the country started its Friday, the clocks were striking 13 in the Virginia State Capitol, to allow the House and Senate to complete work on our dockets. With the legislature scheduled to adjourn sine die on Saturday, March 7th, the session was extended through Sunday, March 8th to complete work on all legislation with the exception of the budget. The session won't officially end until Thursday when we are slated to pass the biennial budget.

There are several reasons for the long session:

First, budget years are complex. The General Assembly has just fifteen additional days to review and amend a two-year, \$130 billion plus allocation of transportation, education, healthcare, and vital government services funds. For the first time, I've held a major role in the granular decisions of the bud-

get as a member of the Senate Finance and Appropriation, and I am proud that the final budget contains a number of progressive provisions.

Second, this year, members more frequently turned to the camera to speak at length to a social media audience and a polarized electorate, rather than to each other, extending both committee hearings and floor sessions. Each long floor and committee session meant less time for meetings with staff and advocates to workshop legislation, for constituent meetings, and crucially, less time for the finance committee to meet to hammer out the budget.

The third reason we find ourselves in extra innings however, is a positive one. In a body, where adherence to the incremental approach "the Virginia Way" can result in a slow—sometimes glacial—rate of progress, the sea change brought about by the 2019 elections has resulted in long-awaited advancements for Virginians. Addressing this pent-up demand has meant tackling many more challenging issues in detail than in past years, and this has taken up significant amounts of

time, including decisions on raising the minimum wage, paid family leave, and collective bargaining made in the final days of the session.

Here are just a few examples of work, years in the making, that was accomplished in the last 60 days:

With the passage of the Virginia Values Act, that I introduced (sponsored by Del. Mark Sickles (D-Fairfax) in the House) LGBT

Virginians will have meaningful protection against discrimination in housing, employment, public accommodations, and access to credit. We are taking meaningful action to prevent gun violence and gun trafficking including implementing universal background checks, reinstating the one-hand-gun-a-month law, and "Red Flag Laws" to prevent suicides and lower mass shooting risks.

Elections will be more equitable

and secure, with funding to replace Virginia's aging voter registration database software by 2022. No-excuse early voting will be available to all registered voters 45 days prior to an election, and, starting in 2022, same-day voter registration will be enacted. Restrictive voter ID laws have also been struck from our code, and Election Day has replaced Lee-Jackson Day as a state holiday.

SEE EXTRA INNINGS, PAGE 14

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Ferry Traffic Across the River?

Regarding the major traffic changes and congestion in the Mount Vernon area the last few years, I would like to offer a suggestion.

It is my understanding that Ft Belvoir has added over 25,000 people over the last few years and is scheduled to add at least another 25,000 in the not too distant future. As a result, the

roads in the Mt Vernon area including US Route 1 and Fort Hunt Road have become extremely congested and often gridlocked tempting to get over the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. One thought that might be more realistic than attempting to widen neighborhood roads may be to consider a ferry service from Maryland to Virginia somewhere convenient to Ft Belvoir and environs. In places like Boston, New York, California, Washington State and throughout Europe, ferries transport hundreds of thousands of cars a day as a part of the daily norm. A joint project

involving the states of VA, MD, the Defense Department and other appropriate parties might be able to make this project, if proven feasible, much sooner than the traditional road widening approach. The plan could possibly include larger parking garages on either side of the river and shuttles to major destinations like Ft Belvoir to lessen the burden. Just a thought, and I would be interested in the reaction.

Dan Mica
Alexandria

Local Resident Moonlights as a Floating Trash Picker



Back at the marina in Mount Vernon, the trash from the river adds up.

It's easier out on the river in warmer weather, but he has a wet suit for the colder months.

FROM PAGE 1

recognition, Wright has nearly 1,000 followers on his social media channels, and uses social media as a platform for his efforts.

He has a website, Facebook and Instagram accounts. Several online publications have run stories about him, and others are using video as well.

Wright wouldn't call himself an environmentalist, and didn't grow up in a "green," house, but he does date his efforts back to walks around the neighborhood in

Florida where he grew up. His mother would point out trash, and link each piece of trash to the letter it started with, so this was a reading lesson as well. "That made

me realize how much trash is on the ground," he said.

On Instagram, SUPGarbage.Man Online
www.supgarbageman.org

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Seeking Paid Sick Leave for All

FROM PAGE 1
conference call to discuss the proposal with reporters on Monday.

"This comes at a critical time. A quarter of workers don't have comprehensive paid sick leave," said Beyer Monday.

Beyer pointed to data that shows that in cities that require paid sick leave, the rate of flu is significantly lower. "Not only is the worker protected, the whole community is a lot healthier," said Beyer.

"This is an absolutely necessary piece of legislation," he said.

Trone pointed to Maryland where the 2018 Maryland Healthy Working Family Act requires that paid sick leave be provided by all employers with more than 15 employees. (In 2018, Md. Gov. Larry Hogan (R) had vetoed the bill, but the Maryland Senate voted to override the veto.)

Maryland and Virginia have identified multiple confirmed cases of coronavirus as of Wednesday.

U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Va) cosponsored the emergency paid sick leave legislation, introduced by Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA) and DeLauro.

"This legislation will help ensure that no American has to put their health – and the health of others in their community – at risk to keep their job," said Kaine.

More than 32 million private sector workers are unable to earn paid sick days. Workers of color and workers in low-wage industries are among the least likely to have access to paid sick days.

Deborah Ness is the president of the National Partnership for Women and Families. "This is not a new

issue. It has been hurting our workers and our families for too long," said Ness.

"When emergencies hit, they often affect the people who work most closely with our public," Ness said. "The situation is inhumane and dangerous for our nation's health," said Ness.

Trone and Beyer are both businessmen who tout offering paid sick leave to employees. Trone founded Total Wine which has 7,000 employees. Beyer's family business, Don Beyer Volvo, has "about one-twentieth" that number of employees, he said.

Beyer's congressional office will be closed until Monday, March 16, when his medical advisers say he should be clear to return.

"I am keenly aware that I have social and economic supports, including affordable health care, paid leave, and other benefits which far too many Americans lack.

As I work from home and when I hopefully return to the Capitol I will have these people and those who badly need assistance from leaders in Washington foremost in my mind. We have to do more to help every American get through this pandemic."

Last week in the Virginia General Assembly, a bill to require some paid sick leave failed in the Virginia Senate just as Virginia's first cases of coronavirus were confirmed.

The Virginia Senate failed to vote on the conference committee report on SB 481, that would have required employers to provide five paid sick days to employees. The Virginia House of Delegates had approved the conference committee report earlier. See story, Gazette page 4.



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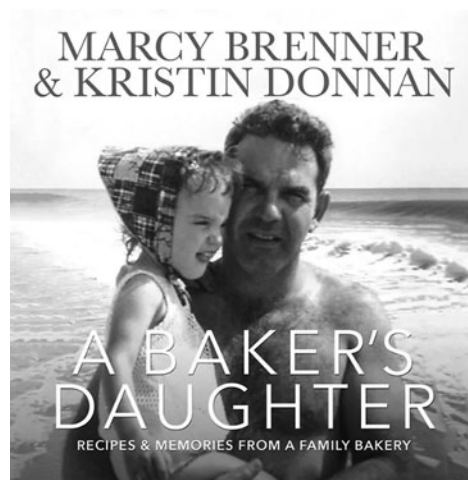
New Book Bakes Up Memories of Belle View Treats

BY HOPE NELSON

Memories of good food have a way of sticking around in the brain for years, decades, sometimes lifetimes after they've actually happened. Sweet rolls, decadent breads, perfectly sugary cookies É those decadent treats often leave a wallop in the memory bank, taking diners back to a happy time in life, often with people they love as the stars of the show. That's the way Marcy Brenner feels about her father Max Brenner's long-time shop, Brenner's Bakery, which kept a residence at the Belle View Shopping Center for the better part of 50 years.

"One of the things about the bakery that's so cool É was that people came to the bakery to celebrate things. So cakes, and pies, and Thanksgiving and Christmas – there we loaves of bread and basic things too, but we participated in everybody's celebrations," Brenner said.

Now, Brenner is allowing people from all



walks of life – longtime customers, native Alexandrians, or just those interested in baked goods – to participate in Brenner's Bakery history in a whole new way with her book, "A Baker's Daughter: Recipes and Memories From a Family Bakery."

"I started writing, and I started baking, and I ended up creating over 50 recipes of everybody's favorites that they can now

bake at home," she said.

Brenner, a native of Alexandria, grew up in her father's bakery – and enjoyed the perks of ownership.

"As a baker's daughter, I got to turn right and go behind that case and open the drawer and get what I wanted," she laughed.

And the baking gene extended generations before Max Brenner. Indeed, his father Louis opened a bakery upon immigrating to the United States in the early 1900s with his wife, Sadie.

"They didn't want to be persecuted, so when they started having children... at least with my dad, he was not exposed to Judaism. They didn't want their children to be persecuted. They didn't know what they were going to find here," Brenner said.

So secretive was the family's religious history that Marcy Brenner didn't learn some key pieces until doing research for her book.

"I discovered my grandfather kept a kosher bakery – but never talked about it," she said. Only through her grandfather's old recipes did Brenner realize that each one

kept kosher.

Through the book, which is structured around key people in Brenner's life (and bakery), readers and bakers alike can enjoy the historical walk-through of a historic Alexandria landmark while also testing out the bakery's recipes to make at home. It's that confluence of memories – both culinary and cultural – that has sparked the most attention.

"What's really resonating is the narrative of the nostalgic sepia tone of memories of people's childhoods, of the birthday cake with the bluebirds on it É the ladies in front who wore the white uniforms," Brenner said. And what also is resonating, Brenner said, is her very own father, Max, and the culinary legacy he has left behind.

"I get to share him with all these people," she said. "He's a special loving guy – and I'm not just saying that because I'm his daughter."

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.

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Plant Clinic. March 17 to Oct. 27, Tuesdays from 7-8:30 p.m. At Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria. Extension Master Gardeners are staffing a plant clinic every Tuesday evening, beginning March 17 and ending October 27. A plant clinic is a place to get lawn and gardening advice, help in dealing with plant diseases and insect pests, soil test kits, and free flower and vegetable seeds.

"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



Readers browse the huge collection of used books for young and older at the annual Used Book and Art Sale at Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church.

Used Book Sale and Art Sale

March 26-28, at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. Book lovers wait all year for this three-day used book and art sale that fills two buildings at the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church. Starts Thursday, March 26 from 1-8 p.m.; and continues Friday, March 27 and Saturday, March 28, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Gently used art, children's books, rare/old books and individually priced books in the church building. Books, puzzles, CDs and DVDs in the Old Mansion are priced at \$2 for hard backs, \$1 for large paperbacks, and 50 cents for small paperbacks. Puzzles, CDs and DVDs are \$1 each. Saturday is half price in the church and \$5 a bag in the mansion. Proceeds help support church activities.

from \$8-\$12. All skill levels are welcome. Visit 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 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.

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



Water Taxi to The Wharf in Washington, D.C.: Cherry Blossom Festival Service

Water Taxi to Cherry Blossoms

Beginning March 1, Departs from the Alexandria Marina, 1 Cameron St., Alexandria. Monday through Sunday, beginning March 1. Cruise from Old Town Alexandria to Washington, D.C., to stroll among the cherry blossoms and take part in events of the National Cherry Blossom Festival, including the Blossom Kite Festival. Potomac Riverboat Company by Hornblower offers a 25-minute direct water taxi from Old Town to The Wharf development in D.C. From the dock at The Wharf, it is a 10-minute walk to the cherry blossoms at the Tidal Basin. The water taxi docks at the Transit Pier, 950 Wharf St. SW, near the Tidal Basin, the National Mall, Hains Point and a Capital Bikeshare station. Departures beginning at 6:40 a.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. weekends; Admission: starting at \$13 one-way; \$21 round-trip for adults. Call 888-809-7109; Visit potomacriverboatco.com

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.

**NOW THRU MARCH 25
Award-Winning Photos Displayed.**

At Huntley Meadows, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. The Audubon Society of Northern Virginia will display award-winning photographs from the National Audubon Society's 2019 photo contest in an exhibition at Huntley Meadows Park this winter. It's a perfect fit, as this year's grand prize-winning photograph was shot at Huntley Meadows. Local amateur photographer Kathrin Swoboda took top honors for her photograph of a red-winged blackbird that appeared to be blowing smoke rings as the

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

Monumental Theatre Presents “Head Over Heels”

Show features music by The Go-Go's and the drama of a 16th-century romance with a queer twist.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE GAZETTE

Monumental Theatre Company is presenting the jukebox musical comedy, “Head Over Heels,” featuring music by The Go-Go's, from now through March 23, 2020. With a book by James Magruder, adaptation by Jeff Whitty and a plot based on Sir Philip Sidney's The Countess of Pembroke's Arcadia, “Head Over Heels” features the all the drama of a 16th-century romance with a queer twist. Set in the fantastical land of Arcadia, a fateful prophecy is delivered to the king which will send each character on a journey of self-discovery in order to save the kingdom and find their true love.

Jimmy Mavrikes, Director and Co-Artistic Director of Monumental Theatre Company, said he saw the show during closing week on Broadway and absolutely loved it.



PHOTO BY RJ PAVE/ THE GAZETTE

“Head Over Heels” will be performed by the Monumental Theatre Company now thru March 23, 2020 at the Ainslie Arts Center at Episcopal High School in Alexandria.

“I was really intrigued by what the show stood for. ‘HoH’ features the first out non-binary character in a lead role. The original production

featured Peppermint, the first trans person to originate a role in a Broadway musical. We wanted to continue this celebration in the

DMV and have talented cast members and designers from many facets of the LGBTQ+ community work on the production.”

He continued: “Head Over Heels’ is also a unique combination of 1980s pop and 16th century literature, which doesn’t seem like it goes together, but in its own exciting way, absolutely does.

“The story follows the king of Arcadia and his family on a mission to save their precious ‘beat.’ For us, the beat represents tradition, and Pythio, our resident non-binary oracle, sees that Arcadia’s beat will be lost if four instances occur. I want people to see that the breaking of tradition is OK, and ultimately necessary for us to grow. You can’t really get to know people until you are accepting, and that acceptance is important for the whole community.”

He said he hopes that the audience walks away feeling lighter and more comfortable with who they are. “They should have so much fun during this show and will be bopping to the music the whole time. The Go-Go's music plus this amazing cast of performers should make the audience feel like they’re walking on air,” he added.

Lauren Farnell is playing the role of Philoclea, which comes from the Greek “Lover of praise.”

“Aptly named, she spends a lot of her life hoping to be liked, and really maintaining her role as the people-pleaser of the family. She

puts nearly everyone else before herself, and always aims to do the right thing for the benefit of all. There’s a lot of kindness, and selflessness in that, but one of the most satisfying, and I think earned, transformations for her is when she finally learns to put herself first, and be selfish! She learns her happiness is just as valuable as that of others,” she said.

She said the dancing was very challenging to learn. “Our choreographer, Ahmad Maaty has worked so hard to create this amazingly intricate choreography that’s a really neat blend of old and new. Imagine if Shakespeare’s company of actors was transported to a club in NYC in the ‘80s. It’s really challenging, but when you nail it, it looks awesome, and feels like a great accomplishment,” she said. She added: “The text in its own way was also challenging, because it was adapted from a story written in 1580. However, this writing stands the test of time, because even though the words and syntax are not in our 2020 lexicon, the sentiments and relationships between characters are very real, even today.”

“Head Over Heels” runs from now through March 23, 2020, at the Ainslie Arts Center on the campus of Episcopal High School — located at 3900 West Braddock Road, Alexandria. Tickets can be purchased online at <https://www.monumentaltheatre.org/shows-events>.

CALENDAR

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rising sun backlit the vapor that formed while the bird sang out on a cold day. There will be an opening reception on Sunday, March 8, from 1 to 3 p.m. Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows

NOW THRU MARCH 30

Woodlawn Needlework Show. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. The Woodlawn Needlework Show and Sale runs for the entire month of March, and is open every day except Tuesdays. Come see hundreds of amazing needlework pieces, daily demonstrations, special exhibits, and more. Cost is \$15. Visit the website: <http://www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org/annualneedleworkshow>.

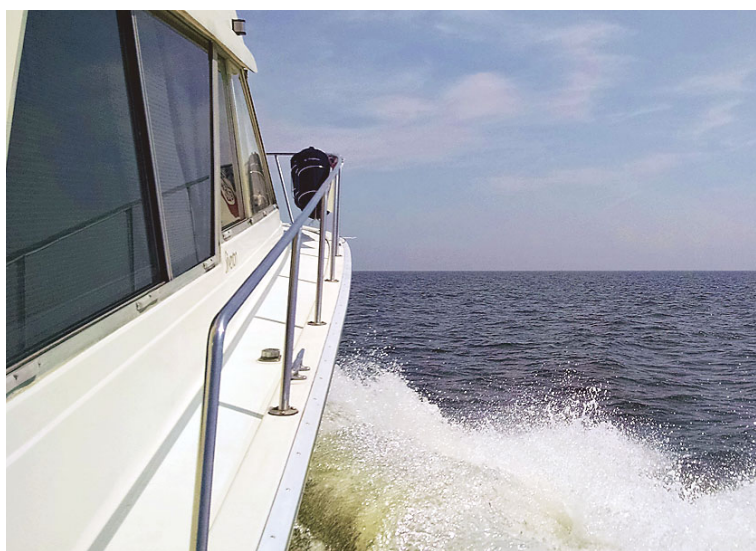
NOW THRU MARCH 23

“Head Over Heels.” 8 p.m. At Ainslie Arts Center | 3900 West Braddock Road, Alexandria. “Head Over Heels” is a celebration of love set to the music of the Go-Go's. Based on Sir Philip Sidney's Arcadia, the royal family risks losing their “beat” and must journey to discover the key to their realm's survival. Like in most musicals, it may have been in them the whole time. With hits like, “We

Got The Beat,” “Mad About You,” “Vacation,” and “Our Lips are Sealed,” you'll be dancing along in your seat. Tickets \$30/\$40. For tickets, visit <https://www.monumentaltheatre.org/shows-events>

NOW THRU APRIL 5

March Flora/Fauna Exhibition. At The Art League Gallery, 105 N. Union Street, Alexandria. Meet the artists and art patrons at the opening reception March 12 from 6:30 – 8 p.m. The Art League is ushering in Spring with two nature-themed exhibits guaranteed to delight the senses and inspire creative fun. March Flora/Fauna features artwork from members that explores plant and animal life, and the delicate balance of the natural world. They are thrilled to be partnering with The Enchanted Florist, who will be creating floral arrangements to compliment the exhibit and fill the gallery with a hint of spring. The arrangements will be available for sale, with 10 percent of the proceeds going to support Outreach programming. Outside the Lines is a dynamic, interactive exhibit created by illustrator and Art League instructor Chris Bonnell. For it, he reimagines popular D.C. and Alexandria landmarks taken over by lush plants and fantastical animals. Visit the website:



Boating Safety Classes will take place Saturday, March 21 in Alexandria.

Boating Safety Classes

Saturday/March 21, 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 April 18, May 16, June 20, and July 18. To enroll in a class contact Ted Caliga at 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.

<https://www.theartleague.org/blog/2020/01/16/march-flora-fauna-exhibit/>

THURSDAY/MARCH 12

Virginia's Impact on French and Indian War. 7-9 p.m. At The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington Street, Alexandria. After 150 years of rivalry between Great Britain and France in North America, the prosperous colony of Virginia is caught up in world events beyond its control and frontiers. Local historian Tom Schultz will explore life in Virginia in the 1750s and how its citizens responded to the latest clash between world powers. Cost is \$10. Tickets available onsite or online at <https://shop.alexandriava.gov>

THURSDAY/MARCH 12 AND 26

Sensory Playtime. 4:30 p.m. At Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St., Alexandria. Special playtime geared towards children with sensory processing disorders and intellectual and physical disabilities. Ages 2-12 with adult.

FRIDAY/MARCH 13

Come Play with Us. 8-10 p.m. At Del Ray United Methodist Church, 100 E. Windsor Ave., Alexandria. Alexandria Citizens Band is recruiting new

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ENTERTAINMENT

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volunteer musicians in all instruments. Join them at Come Play with Us rehearsals at Del Ray United Methodist Church. The band plays music people love to hear, and band members love to play – Broadway, movies, jazz, pop, marches, patriotic, and classic band music. They have one of the largest music libraries of any community band in the country. The program is generously funded with a grant from the City of Alexandria, Office of the Arts' Arts Grant Program. Send them an e-mail at AlexandriaCitizensBand@gmail.com. Call 703-920-8675.

SATURDAY/MARCH 14

Civil War Women's Day. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Fort Ward Museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria. Learn about the dress, skills, and contributions of women during the Civil War from historical interpreters who will present on-going talks, displays, and demonstrations. Women's roles on the home front, in camp, and on the battlefield will be explored. Among the featured topics will be soldiers' aid societies and relief efforts that were typically launched by women to support both armies during the war. Call 703-746-4848.

Equal Rights Amendment

Explained. 3 p.m. At Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St., Alexandria. Learn more about the newly ratified Equal Rights Amendment! Registration preferred.

Magic and Illusion Show. 6:30-8:30 p.m. At the Schlesinger Center For The Arts, 4915 E Campus Drive, Alexandria. An evening of magic and illusion with five of the very best magicians. Strolling magicians before the show. Tickets are \$20. Visit the website: www.magi-whirl.org.

We Have a Dream Concert. 6:30-11 p.m. At the Carlyle Club, 2050 Ballenger Ave., Alexandria. A benefit for the Carpenter's Shelter. The show's lineup includes regional, national and international artists: Phil Wiggins, Gaye Adegbalola & Lisa Lim, Area 301, Cargo, AshCats, and the Timeless Vision Band, something for everyone, Blues, R&B, Jazz, Fusion, Hip Hop and good old Rock & Roll. General admission tickets cost \$35. Tickets are available at www.thecarlyleclub.com/upcoming.shows.html.

St. Patrick's Day Benefit Concert. 7:30 p.m. At St. Luke's Church, 8009 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. St. Patrick's Day Benefit concert featuring The MollyHawks who play both traditional Irish and Celtic Maritime music. Beverages and Snacks will be available. All proceeds benefit United Community, Rising Hope, Good Shepherd Housing and other local charities. Cost: \$15 (Adults) \$10 (students) Free for children under 10.

MARCH 13 TO 31

March150 Special Exhibition and Art Sale. At Target Gallery, the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union Street, Alexandria. Sneak Peek: Friday, March 13 – Saturday, March 14 until 5 p.m. Opening & Art Party: Saturday, March 14; 7 – 10 p.m. with VIP access beginning at 6 p.m. Torpedo Factory Art Center's annual exhibition and art sale, March150, returns to Target Gallery for the 10th year. Proceeds benefit future exhibitions and programs at Target Gallery and the Art Center. All work in the exhibition is created on gallery-supplied 10" x 10" panels and is priced at \$150. About 200 original works are created by artists of every ability from the greater metropolitan area. Professional, emerging and



'Henry the Fifth' will be performed March 14 to April 19 at the Lab at Convergence in Alexandria.

"Henry the Fifth"

March 14 to April 19, Presented by Brave Spirits Theatre at the Lab at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. The final chapter of The King's Shadow is about to begin. "Henry the Fifth" completes the first season in Brave Spirits Theatre's two-year project to stage Shakespeare's eight history plays about the Wars of the Roses. During a tumultuous period of less than 100 years, England experienced civil war and political upheaval as the throne switched hands nine times. Shakespeare dramatized these events over the course of his career in eight remarkable plays: Richard the Second, Henry the Fourth Part 1, Henry the Fourth Part 2, Henry the Sixth Part 1, Henry the Sixth Part 2, Henry the Sixth Part 3, and Richard the Third. From March 14 through April 19, audiences can see these first four plays, The King's Shadow, in repertory. Richard the Second, Henry the Fourth Part 1, Henry the Fourth Part 2, and Henry the Fifth 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. Visit www.bravespiritstheatre.com

amateur artists participate with artworks featuring a diversity of topics and media, including painting, photography, etching, mixed-media, fiber and more.

MARCH 14 TO APRIL 19

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SUNDAY/MARCH 15

Materials Exploration Day. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. At Durants Art Center, 1605 Cameron Street, Alexandria. Children ages 0-4 and their families are invited for a special Exploration Day at the Durant Center to celebrate Arts on the Horizon's production, By the Seashore. Enjoy a morning filled with tactile and sensory-based activities, creative play, and visual art. Engage with sail boats in the community room, create your own beach scene at our Craft Station, and visit the Calm Room to listen to ocean sounds as well as participate in some shadow play. They will also be offering three mini workshops 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.upcyclecrrc.org/kids-workshops.html>

Men's Barbershop Chorus

Concert. 3-4 p.m. At Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill



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

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 now thru 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.

Lane, Alexandria. Concert of traditional and popular music by the Harmony Heritage Singers. With songs like Lida Rose, This Little Light, and America, the Beautiful, the chorus preserves the great American tradition of barbershop harmony. No tickets; offering taken for Alice's Kids. Information from Ron Brandt, 703-765-4779, grronbrandt@gmail.com.

MARCH 15 AND 29

Martin Smith Forum. 10-11 a.m. At

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 S. Pitt Street, Alexandria. Series with the Rev. Martin Smith, renowned spiritual writer and teacher. In this series, Hope: Heart of the Gospel, Gift of the Spirit, they will explore the core gift of the Spirit that deserves at least as much attention as Faith and Love—even more in these times of anxiety about our future. All are welcome. Free. Visit the website www.stpaulsalexandria.com

TUESDAY/MARCH 17

State Archives Research. 1-3 p.m. At

Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Genealogist John Philip Colletta will speak about conducting genealogical research in state archives. His presentation is called "State Archives: What They Are and How to Use Them." Cost for event: Free, open to public.

THURSDAY/MARCH 19

Celebrate Living Legends. 6:30 p.m.

At George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Meet and congratulate this year's newest Living Legends of Alexandria: Carol and Ryan Bailey, Frank Fannon, Magaly and Tom Hirst, Rosa Landeros, McArthur Myers, Virginia and Richard Obranovich, Bill Reagan, Donald Simpson Jr., Lindsey Swanson and Katey Halasz. Tickets \$65. RSVP at <https://alexandrialivings.org/>

FRIDAY/MARCH 20

ASO Presents: Brandenburgs & Brew. 7:30-9:30 p.m. At St. Paul's

Episcopal Church, 228 S. Pitt Street, Alexandria. Under the direction of Music Director James Ross, members of the Alexandria Symphony present Brandenburg Concertos No. 3 and 6, Handel's Entrance of the Queen of Sheba and Alexander's Feast. Cost is \$40/adults; \$5/youth. Visit the website: www.alexsym.org

MARCH 20 TO APRIL 4

"By the Seashore." 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.

SATURDAY/MARCH 21

Ice Breaker Tournament. 8:30 a.m.

At Greendale Golf Course, 6700 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. Kick off the 2020 Golf Season with this two-man scramble tournament and compete for team prizes. There will also be closest-to-the-pin and longest-drive competitions. The shotgun start for this tournament for adult golfers is 8:30 a.m.

The cost is \$110 per team, which includes the tournament day greens fee and power cart, breakfast, lunch and prizes. The fee is due at time of registration.

Registration begins 30 days before the event; advance registration is required by Sunday, March 15. Call 703-971-6170.

Kids' Culinary Challenge. 7:45 a.m.

to 1 p.m. At Hayfield Secondary School, 7630 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. It's "Chopped" reimagined as a contest to create healthy meals for one of the busiest restaurants in town: the local school cafeteria.

Some 100 students on 21 teams are competing. The chefs are working to fight one of the toughest public health challenges we face: childhood obesity. But here's the twist: The contestants are kids (some as young as 11) and each team has a budget of only \$1.80 per meal.

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National Association of Social Workers and Alice's Kids Team Up

Alice's Kids and the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) announced a new partnership that will result in greater access to short-term financial assistance for thousands of children across the country whose basic needs often go unmet.

Alice's Kids, a charity based in Northern Virginia, works with hundreds of social workers and teachers across the country who identify children with specific needs such as school supplies, clothing, prom tickets and field trips. Upon receiving their request for help, Alice's Kids either sends an electronic gift card or a check to the requestor who then provides the gift to the child's parent or guardian. The assistance is provided anonymously so that the child does not know they are receiving charity. Last year, Alice's Kids provided assistance to more than 2,000 children across the country.

The new partnership will increase the number of children that Alice's Kids can assist. This will provide a valuable resource for social workers who often spend an inordinate amount of time searching for resources for the children they work with.

Last year, gifts purchased for children by Alice's Kids included: prom tickets, summer camps, glasses, art supplies, laptop computers, yearbooks and other relatively minor items that are nonetheless critical to a child's self-esteem. Daily examples of the kind of help Alice's Kids provides can be found on its Twitter feed at twitter.com/alicewillhelp

"The items Alice's Kids pays for are meant to make

that child fit in more with their peers," said Ron Fitzsimmons. Co-Founder and Executive Director of Alice's Kids. "We provide the Assistance anonymously which preserves the child's dignity and helps them retain their self-esteem in a school setting, where so often children in need are victims of shaming and bullying."

Teaming up with the members of NASW will easily triple the number served in 2020 because of NASW's extensive network members in almost every community in the nation.

"Social workers work with millions of children and their families each day in schools and other settings where children live, learn, and play," said NASW CEO Angelo McClain, PhD, LICSW. "That is why we are thrilled to be working with Alice's Kids. This organization will give social workers a valuable resource they can use to help children get access to the critical extras that help enrich healthy growth and development."

Alice's Kids was founded in 2011 by Ron Fitzsimmons and his sister Laura Fitzsimmons Peters. Mr. Fitzsimmons is a longtime Washington, D.C. policy expert whose own childhood experience growing up poor in Long Island, New York, motivated him to start a project to help kids who have basic needs that go unmet, but are often hiding in plain sight. Alice's Kids is funded by generous donations from individuals across the country.

A child who is raised in poverty suffers both pri
SEE ALICE'S KIDS, PAGE 14

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\$1,085,000**

Meticulously maintained 5 year old home provides rare opportunity to have all the new home amenities and floor plan without having to pay new home prices! Exceptionally spacious home offers over 5,500 sq ft of luxurious appointments and builders custom upgrades. Fabulous special features include: open floor plan, high

ceilings, dramatic two story family room, Chef's kitchen, 5 bedrooms including breathtaking master suite. Finished lower level and oversize 3 car garage. Premier setting with the most amazing fenced rear yard around. Easy walk to nearby private neighborhood park/water access. Combination of features and location that can't be matched at this price!

JUST LISTED: OPEN SUN 1-4PM!



**3249 Woodland Ln
\$1,050,000**

Stunning opportunity! Custom home by Wakefield Homes, the area's leading luxury home builder. No expense was spared in this estate caliber property which was built with numerous upgrades and expanded floor plan. Special features include: stunning bright and open floor plan, 2 story entry foyer and family room,

Chef's kitchen open to family room, huge master suite, gorgeous hardwood floors, finished lower level w/ full walk out, side load 2 car garage. Gorgeous setting on half acre lot in neighborhood with community access to Little Hunting Creek. Same home build today would cost thousands more!

JUST LISTED: OPEN SUN 1-4PM!



**4009 Colonial Ave
\$995,000**

New home opportunity in prime Mt. Vernon location on truly amazing half acre lot! Home to be built by Wakefield Homes, the area's leading custom home builder! This home features: open floor plan, high ceilings, Chef's kitchen, luxury master suite, gorgeous

hardwood floors, upgraded trim detail, & two car garage. Neighboring new home recently sold for \$1,130,000! Typically buyer has to choose old home on large lot or new house on tiny lot. This offering provides the best of both worlds! New home amenities with privacy and spacious half acre grounds! Pre-construction sale allows maximum opportunity to customize to your liking!

NEW BUILD ON GREAT LOT!



**4296 Neitzey Pl
\$1,650,000**

Truly spectacular estate in premier setting near the river in prestigious Oxford on the Potomac. Custom home capitalizes on its location with soaring high ceilings, glass walls and multi-level decks designed to capture sweeping

views of the river & adjoining wooded areas. Special features include: multi-story entry foyer, grand room sizes, elegant interior finishes, elevator, truly breathtaking master suite with dramatic river views, and his & hers private baths. Nothing was spared in creating this unique, one of a kind masterpiece!

POTOMAC RIVER VIEWS!



**3251 Woodland Ln
\$895,000**

Classic Williamsburg Colonial build by Wakefield Homes, the area's leading custom home builder. Premier location on gorgeous half acre lot near the Mt. Vernon Estate. Fabulous home combines classic colonial exterior with bright, open floor plan. Numerous special features include: dramatic two story

entry foyer, custom kitchen open to family room, 4 bedrooms including luxurious master suite, 3.5 baths, full walk out lower level and side load two car garage. Stunning screen porch & deck overlooks gorgeous private back yard. Unique neighborhood with private waterfront access leading to Potomac. Bring your canoe or kayak!

CLASSIC COLONIAL!



**7715 Midday Ln
\$799,000**

Stunning opportunity to acquire a home with the stature, floorplan, and location typically found in \$1,000,000+ properties. Stately brick home just minutes from Old Town on elevated lot exuding a prominent presence and overlooking surrounding neighborhood. Former model home features: open floor

plan, stately two story entry foyer, sunroom, main level master suite, large basement with workout room/storage space, custom brick work and expansive deck nestled into private rear yard, huge side load 2 car garage. Priced to provide your own personal touches and to make this estate caliber property truly your own!

GREAT OPPORTUNITY!



**9346 Mt. Vernon Circle
\$800,000**

Excellent opportunity in Mount Vernon on the Potomac, the area's premier waterfront community! Unique three level colonial with stately columned front portico, reminiscent of the neighboring Mt. Vernon Estate. The interior presents exceptionally large room sizes and excellent floor plan. Additional special features include: gorgeous stained

hardwood floors, "Marvin" replacement windows, 2 fireplaces, newer gas heat and hot water heater, true oversize two car garage, large deck off family room overlooks private rear grounds. Walk to nearby marina & community waterfront area which features, tennis courts, large grassy area, fire pit, docks and bathrooms. Mt. Vernon on the Potomac is the only community in the area with these facilities for the exclusive use of its residents!

RIVERFRONT COMMUNITY!



**3111 McGeorge Terr
\$575,000**

Fabulous home, gorgeous lot, and prime location for under \$600k! The one you've been waiting for is finally here! Spacious home with numerous features including: brick front, large room sizes, 4 bedrooms, 3 full updated baths, gorgeous hardwood floors, expanded kitchen, replacement thermal windows, two

finished levels and oversize garage with storage area. Large deck overlooks magnificent fenced yard. Premier location just minutes from the Mt. Vernon Estate, bike path, and scenic GW parkway. Unique opportunity for completely turn key home under \$600k!

CONTRACT IN 1st WEEKEND!



**8807 Teresa Ann Ct
\$725,000**

Exciting opportunity! The most house for the money in Fort Hunt area! Exceptionally spacious 5 bedroom / 3 Bath home in premier location on quiet cul-de-sac just off GW Parkway and steps to bike path. Substantially updated and

meticulously maintained. Special features include: custom updated kitchen, thermal replacement windows, gorgeous hardwood floors, 3 updated baths including master bath with marble tile, two fireplaces, newer HVAC/water heater, and garage parking. Exterior decks overlooks private fenced rear yard with additional storage shed. This property offers a combination of size, condition, & prime location that add up to an incredible value. Don't miss out!

METICULOUSLY MAINTAINED!



**4116 Ferry Landing Rd
\$878,500**

Incredible new price! Truly stunning property! Almost 5,000 luxuriously finished square feet built in 2011 by Brookfield Homes. This ~Waverly Model~ contains virtually every modern amenity and is loaded with custom upgrades. Special features include: 4 finished levels, spectacular open floor plan, high ceilings, custom Chef's

kitchen, upgraded trim details, hardwood floors, 6 Bedrooms with huge master suite, finished lower level with bedroom, full bath, fireplace, bar and walk out stairs. No expense was spared on exterior hardscaping with custom deck & stone patio with fireplace as well as children's playground. Combination of size, custom features and prime location impossible to duplicate for under \$1 Million. One of a kind opportunity!

VIRTUALLY NEW!

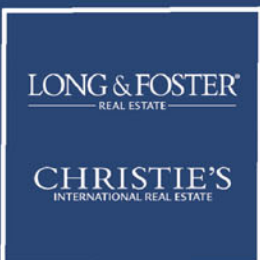


**4416 Dolphin Ln
\$800,000**

Exceptionally open and spacious mid-century modern home on gorgeous fenced, half acre grounds in prestigious Yacht Haven Estates. Home features truly stunning bright open floor plan, enhanced by high ceilings, glass walls, skylights, and gorgeous hardwood floors. Six

bedrooms and three updated baths. The custom master bath was extensively designed to enhance the character of the home. Main living space leads to amazing 4,200 square foot deck and gazebo overlooking yard. The ultimate entertaining spot! Garage plus covered driveway parking. If you are tired of the mundane and have been waiting for a truly unique custom property for a remarkably reasonable price, this is it!

YACHT HAVEN GEM!



703.283.9028
www.chrisandpeggywhite.com
chris.white@longandfoster.com
 Alexandria/Old Town Historic - 400 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

