

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

AUGUST 13, 2020

A Life Well-Lived, Not Long-Enough

Dave Evans devoted his time to help schools, athletic associations and needs-based organizations; helping the neediest, youngest and hungriest.

BY MOUNT VERNON DISTRICT SUPERVISOR DAN STORCK

With deep sadness, I have to share the news of the sudden loss of one of our finest community members, Dave Evans. A member of the Mount Vernon community for 30 years, Dave's ethics, leadership, caring, and business skills made our community a better place. He devoted his time to help our schools, athletic associations and needs-based organizations; helping the neediest, youngest and hungriest members of our community. Dave also built La Prima Food Group, one of the largest catering firms in the Metro region, employing almost 200 people. He will be missed for all of those things and especially by his lifelong friend — me.

The loves of Dave's life were his "girls": his partner and wife of 47 years, Teresa; daughters Elizabeth, Margaret and Madeline; and granddaughter Eleanor. He was an over-the-moon, proud #girdlad.

Working with numbers came easily to Dave, who transferred that skill to his early work as a CPA and later as a business owner. He used his financial skills to make things work for other people, as a long-serving

FHYAA Treasurer, a board member of multiple non-profit organizations and an ethical employer. This numerical acumen was a natural accompaniment to his true passion: baseball. A life-long Mets fan, Dave channeled his love of baseball into supporting his girls as a softball coach, groundskeeper and league manager for more than a decade — as well as a regular at Orioles, and later Nationals, games.

Dave's decades-long service to Burgundy Farm Country Day School as a board member and benefactor helped to build on their commitments to the natural world, environmental learning and sustainability. These same values and commitments ran deep in his daily life, from his frequent bicycle commuting to collaboration between La Prima and organic farmers, including daughter Margaret's Groundworks Farm. These business collaborations and other commitments to sustainable business practices earned La Prima the distinction of being the highest rated green caterer in the Metro area.

Affordable housing along the Richmond Highway Corridor is never easy. While serving on the board of Good Shepherd Housing, Dave used his leadership, people, and spreadsheet skills to build relationships with CaptialOne and Fairfax County that

accelerated affordable housing acquisitions. During the past few years, Dave has been a board member and Vice President of United Community (formerly UCM). As Allison DeCoursey, Executive Director, shared with me when she heard the news, "He was a game changer, playing a SIGNIFICANT role in raising up United Community with professionalism, needed expertise, and pragmatism, always focused on best serving our vulnerable community." Yep, that's Dave.

When we met the summer before our first year of high school, our difference in appearance belied the many similarities we shared in our commitments to people and community — and later in our lives to business and public service. Doing things the RIGHT way, with integrity, always mattered and was the central principle of Dave's life and work with others.

My favorite personal memories of Dave will always include his love of football and pride in blocking for the future only two-time Heisman Award winner, Archie Griffin (which made for much bantering over the years); the beat-up 1960 Studebaker which served as the high school class' shuttle; and our shared love of the Grand Canyon, hiking and exercise. It was his inspiration and our collaboration that created the Tour de

Mount Vernon community bike ride, now in its fifth year.

During the past several months, our worlds have turned upside down, but we are grounded by the constant of family and the friends we choose to be our family. Dave's sudden passing has given many of us time to pause and truly reflect on the importance and preciousness of relationships, and that now is the best time to let the people you care about know how much they mean to you and the difference they've made in your life.

So my best friend from adolescence to becoming grandfathers, my brother, my advisor in all of life's living: I will be loving you and missing you forever. Thankfully, I am not alone and will be supported by so many others whose lives you impacted. Thank you for sharing a life rich with integrity and caring with your family, friends, employees and community.

For others who wish to share a public or private message or memory of Dave, please go to the link <https://bit.ly/DHE20>, where his family has set up a message board for the community.



Dave Evans

Moving Schools to Dismantle Systemic Racism

NAACP holds virtual Town Hall.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County NAACP held a virtual Town Hall on Wednesday, Aug. 5. President Sean Perryman moderated discussion between Education Committee Chair Sujatha Hampton, Ph.D., Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent Scott Brabrand Ed. D, and other staff. They focused on Fairfax County NAACP Education Committee Priorities 2020-2021 created to ensure educational equality of rights and eliminate race-based discrimination in the school district.

Throughout the 90-minute conversation, Hampton challenged Brabrand to live up to the school district's ideals, push for change and employ metrics and firm deadlines to goals.

"I'm watching you like a hawk," Hampton said.

Brabrand responded that in partnership, they should "watch together and learn to-



Sean Perryman, president of the Fairfax County NAACP



Sujatha Hampton, Ph.D., Education Committee Chair of the Fairfax County NAACP



Scott Brabrand, Ed.D., Superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools

gether. ... I'm committed to doing the work ... I am serious as the leader of this system, about taking us where we need to go and I want to be a partner with the NAACP in doing that," Brabrand said.

The Town Hall began with a discussion on COVID-19 and how to protect vulnerable FCPS students, faculty and staff. Perryman said they couldn't talk about systemic racism

without talking about COVID and the shutdown of schools. It was going to impact Black students as well as students of color disproportionately.

Brabrand said Covid exposed many inequities in the school system. "We are going to do everything we can to have a very strong virtual start and have all of our kids connected. And we will have metrics to begin

the conversation with the community about how we can deliberately, carefully, safely ease back into school," he said.

Hampton said she and others in health and science fields were not comfortable with information the County's Health Department shared.

As a solution, Brabrand said he was working with the Virginia Department of Health and County Health Department for guidelines and metrics. They would establish decision-making policies on how to dial-up or, if necessary, dial-down students attending in-person school. The district would make certain health conditions were as low risk as possible. Brabrand announced the public would see the "first draft at our August 18 Work Session."

HAMPTON voiced concern that the majority of County support staff who worked with vulnerable school populations had not been reached to participate in earlier district surveys. According to Hampton, unions repre-

SEE NAACP, PAGE 10

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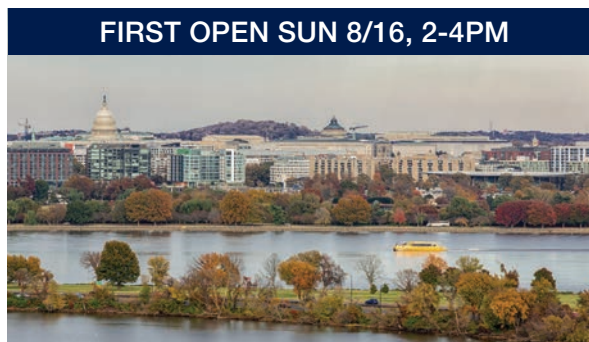
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PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

Judges in courthouses across Virginia may soon need to be on call at night to consider search warrants.

Night Court

Lawmakers to consider eliminating no-knock warrants and creating new hurdles for nighttime search warrants.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

The sad and tragic case of how a police department in Kentucky mishandled the execution of a warrant after midnight has prompted soul-searching among police agencies and law-enforcement officers across the country. Now lawmakers in Virginia are about to consider banning no-knock warrants and creating a new requirement that judges — not magistrates — sign off on search warrants executed at night.

“Kicking down people’s doors in the middle of the night is bad,” said Andrew Elders, policy director for an advocacy group known as Justice Forward Virginia pressing lawmakers for reform. “It creates volatile situations where people are more likely to feel threatened, and someone is more likely to get hurt in the end.”

Members of the General Assembly will be returning to Richmond next week for a special session to rewrite the budget in the wake of COVID and consider a host of criminal-justice reforms. Although the special session on criminal justice reform was called in response to the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis, the death of Breonna Taylor in Louisville has sparked calls for reforming how no-knock warrants are executed, especially in the dead of night. Last week, Senate Democrats introduced a bill to eliminate no-knock warrants and require a judge to sign off on nighttime search warrants.

“All that does is allow a criminal to hang up a shield to say they’re in business at night,” said Herndon Po-

lice Chief Maggie DeBoard. “Criminals with full rein to run their sex trafficking and all the things they do at night without us having the ability to quickly get into a residence or an establishment anywhere where we don’t have the legal right to be without a search warrant.”

HERE IN ALEXANDRIA, police executed six no-knock warrants in 2018 and five in 2019. For far this year, according to Alexandria Police Department spokesman Courtney Ballantine, one no-knock warrant has been issued so far this year in the city. He says the police department views these kinds of warrants as a necessary way to handle difficult situations a handful of times each year.

“Banning them concerns us because there is a reason for them,” said Ballantine. “It’s either to take somebody into custody who’s very violent or has the potential to be violent or to protect evidence.”

The Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police opposes the effort to ban no-knock warrants, setting up a clash next week in Richmond between law-enforcement agencies and the Democrat majorities in the House and Senate. When Democrats finally seized power earlier this year after a generation out of power, they considered several criminal justice reform efforts but ended up delaying most of them while the Virginia Crime Commission studied various proposals. Now that the issue is red hot because of nationwide protests in reaction to the deaths of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, House and Senate Democrats are feeling the heat to take action now.

“It would be my preference that we not say the police can enter your home without announcing themselves,” said Claire Gastanaga, executive director of the ACLU of Virginia. “I want to be sure that when warrants are served on people, they are done with probable cause and that they are done in a way that’s respectful of the person’s inherent right against search and seizure, particularly in their own home.”

THE ROLE OF JUDGES is a central part of the debate

SEE NIGHT COURT, PAGE 9

You can read any of this week’s 15 papers digital editions here:

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VDOT Virginia Department of Transportation

Richmond Highway Corridor Improvements Fairfax County

Environmental Document Available for Review

This project will make improvements along three miles of Richmond Highway (Route 1). The project is being done in two phases: Jeff Todd Way to just north of Frye Road (Phase 1), and then just north of Frye Road to Sherwood Hall Lane (Phase 2). Due to additional analysis and design refinements over the last several months, the project team is working on a phased approach that will allow the right of way process and construction to happen concurrently.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and 23 CFR Part 771, an Environmental Assessment (EA) was approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for review and comment at a NEPA public hearing held on October 29, 2018. Due to project design refinements since the public hearing, additional environmental analysis was required.

Pursuant to 23 CFR 771.119(f), a Revised EA has been prepared to address what potential effects or new circumstances of these changes in the project design. The revised environmental document along with the revised Socio-Economic Technical Report are both available for public review on the project website (www.virginiadot.org/richmondhighway) or during business hours at VDOT’s Northern Virginia District Office, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030. Please call ahead at 703-259-3358 or TTY/TDD 711 to make an appointment with appropriate personnel.

Submit your written comments by August 31, 2020 to Ms. Anissa Brown at the address above or by e-mail to Anissa.Brown@VDOT.virginia.gov. Please reference “Richmond Highway Corridor Improvements Environmental Document” in the subject line.

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State Project: 0001-029-205, P101, R201, C501, B617, B650, B651, B618, B649

UPC: 107187

Federal: STP-5A01 (686)





PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Adrian with Captain Johnson at the Penn Daw Station in Mount Vernon.

Emergencies with Autistic People Now Have 'Adrian's Resource Care Kits'

Alexandria teen's Eagle Scout project now part of Fairfax County Rescue squads' toolkit.

By Mike Salmon
The Connection

A large part of 17-year-old Adrian Allred's life has been immersing himself in the Boy Scouts, and recently Adrian created "Adrian's Resource Care Kits," to earn his Eagle Scout Badge. Adrian's kits are full of materials that are described as anxiety and autism comfort items, and as a part of his eagle badge requirements, Adrian supplied the kit to the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department to use as a tool when they are responding to calls that involve autistic people or people in extreme anxiety.

But more than that, it's a way for him, a teen who is high functioning autistic, to help others with all levels of autism. Completing the steps for the badge was another way to work out of his comfort zone, while achieving a goal, helping rescue squads responding to autistic individuals.

"It's been great for him," said his mother Jennifer Allred. "This has helped him work with his communication skills."

The kit contains headphones, sensory balls, fidget spinners, pipe cleaners, stretchy men and flavored tongue depressors, which are Adrian's favorite. These kits are now carried by 42 medic units in Fairfax County, and when they are working with an individual with autism or calls involving mental health crises, the kit might be just the thing they need to help induce calm while the rescue workers tend to the task at hand.

The resource kit, called the "ARC," was used recently when Medic 421 was responding to a situation in the Fair Oaks area where a nonverbal child was found alone



The "Draken 818," Sea Scout troop at Belle Haven Marina.

near the station. They introduced the ARC kit, and this kept the child's attention while the rescue squad investigated the situation. Officials said this was a success.

There is a video on the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department website about ARC, and at the end, letters flash up on the screen, "Thank You Adrian!"

Adrian's pretty humble about all the attention.

"It's interesting," Adrian said.

From Cub Scout to Seascouts

The Boy Scouts of America have been an ideal organization for Adrian, since his days of Cub Scouting in Pack 1509 in Fort Hunt. Although the family now lives in the Virginia Hills area of Alexandria, Adrian is affiliated with the Sea Scout program at Belle Haven Marina off the George Washington Memorial Parkway. There he is part of "Draken 818," a Sea Scout Troop. "He enjoys the Sea Scout program," said Jennifer Allred. "Boy Scouts has been fantastic for him," she said.

Last year, at the jamboree in Summit, West Virginia, Adrian was there for 10 days, interacting with 45,000 scouts from all over the world, and his mother could see this was helping Adrian. "It changes your focus," to be at an event like this, she said.

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Celebrate Women's Suffrage Month at Workhouse Arts Center

With the upcoming Centennial of the Ratification of the 19th Amendment guaranteeing women the right to vote in the United States, the Workhouse Arts Center is holding special Thursday evening Drive-In movies, a Girl Scout Gold Award Project virtual event and a suffrage-related art exhibit, all planned for the month of August.

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th amendment in 2020 the museum presents the story of the imprisonment of the 72 Suffragists at the Occoquan Workhouse in 1917, and an event on these grounds that marked a turning point in the Women's suffrage movement. The Lucy Burns Museum will honor 91 years of prison history on the site. The Workhouse Arts Center funded, designed, and renovated a new museum, restoring a decrepit prison building vacated in 2001. Peeling paint and rusting cell bars gave way to a space to tell the story of the women imprisoned at the Workhouse a century ago for demanding the right to vote. The sacrifices of these heroic suffragists are honored in the museum.

Thursday evening Drive-In Movies: Bold Women in History Film Series will be held every Thursday evening in August. This partnership between the Workhouse and the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission is just one of dozens of programs and virtual events throughout the month.

Anna Layman, Executive Director of the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission said, "This year



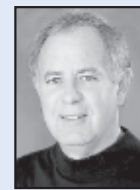
PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The Lucy Burns Museum will commemorate 91 years of prison history on the site — the Workhouse Arts Center funded, designed, and renovated a new museum, restoring a decrepit prison building vacated in 2001.

during the 100th Anniversary of the Amendment, we remember these courageous suffragists who never gave up the fight for equality."

"We are honored that the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission approached us to feature movies about powerful and bold women in history at our Drive-In theater," said Workhouse Board Member Lura Bovee.

SEE SUFFRAGE MONTH, PAGE 7



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NEW LISTING

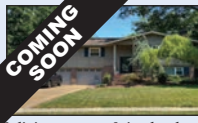
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Mount Vernon Get-a-Way Huntley Meadows Park offers solitude from the pandemic and rhetoric.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

When social distancing is in order, Huntley Meadows Park is the perfect spot to escape from the pandemic rumors, social media finger pointing, and quarantining that is driving some of us crazy.

Huntley Meadows is a park dominated by wetlands and forests that occupies a space from Telegraph Road to Lockheed Boulevard in southeast Fairfax County. It is a great place for bird watching and hiking, with a half-mile boardwalk portion of the trail that goes out over the wetlands. Left alone, silt would fill in and the wetlands would disappear and it would eventually return to a forest like other parts of the county in this area.

Huntley Meadows Park contains 1,261 acres of diverse habitats including meadows, wetlands, and forest. To date, 321 species of wildflowers have been identified in the park and more than 200 bird species have been identified in the wetlands of Huntley Meadows Park.

In addition to the wetlands area, Huntley Meadows is home to the Historic Hunt-



Birds, insects, amphibians and reptiles are the full-time residents at Huntley Meadows.

ley mansion, a Federal period villa built for Thomson Francis Mason in 1825 as a summer retreat. This house is located near the main entrance to Huntley Meadows Park. Historic Huntley is on the National Register of Historic Places, the Virginia Landmarks Register and the Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites. Over the years, Historic Huntley was used as a summer retreat, a grain farm, encampment for Civil War troops of the 3rd Michigan Infantry, and eventually

was converted to a dairy farm. Ownership changed several times, and in later years, after being abandoned, the house endured considerable vandalism, before the county bought it in 1989.

Throughout the year, Huntley Meadows is home to many county-sponsored activities such as nature photography, art classes, nature walks and historic presentations. The following activities are scheduled at Huntley Meadows in August:



Sometimes nature needs a helping hand so the land doesn't take over.

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

08/14/2020 10:00 am
(Adults) Learn how to use a DSLR and tripod to capture images of the natural world around us.

WETLAND AT DUSK WALK

08/15/2020 7:45 pm
(Adults) Join park naturalists for a relaxing stroll through Huntley Meadow Park's forest and wetland paths.

NATURE DRAWING LEAVES

08/22/2020 10:00 am
(Adults) Leaves come in many shapes, sizes and colors and are important parts that allow plants to thrive. Drawing leaves is a fun way to improve your observational skills. Join Huntley Meadows

Park naturalists as we develop our drawing skills practicing with various leaf shapes.

SECRETS, SPIES, SPUTNIK AND HUNTLEY

08/23/2020 10:00 am
(Adults) Take a stroll on the less visited side of Huntley Meadows Park to uncover a history of spies and espionage,

SEE HUNTLEY MEADOW, PAGE 9

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To our doctors, nurses, EMTs and all the heroes in the medical profession. Thank you to our frontline businesses working long hours stocking shelves, cashiering, bagging and cleaning. Thank you to our government officials and leaders who are making decisions to keep us safe. We appreciate all of you!



Here's how you can help support small businesses during the Covid-19 outbreak

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FAIRFAX COUNTY INFORMATION: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/covid19/information-businesses-impacted-coronavirus/
VIRGINIA INFORMATION: www.virginia.gov/coronavirus-updates/

Another Mount Vernon Gazette Community Partnership

NEWS

Suffrage Month

FROM PAGE 5

Movies begin on Thursday, Aug. 13 and include Harriet, Moana, Suffragette and A League of Their Own. Tickets and more information here <https://www.workhousearts.org/drive-in-movies/>.

In addition, South County High School student and Girl Scout, Emma Skog, will host a virtual Girl Scout Gold Award project called "100 Years Later: How Women Got the Right to Vote." For her project, she developed children's educational materials for the Lucy Burns Museum.

The event will take place on Aug. 18, 2020, the actual centennial of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, and will include an introduction to Lucy Burns, a time travel puppet show, an interview with Laura McKie, Lucy Burns Museum director, and a game about women's firsts. There will also be fun activities and prizes.

"I selected this project because I feel it's important to learn about injustices and understand our history, and many kids in my area don't know that a significant his-

toric event happened right near us. Many of us take our rights for granted, so it's important to see what efforts and struggles these women went through," said Emma Skog, creator of the project.

To register for the event please visit <https://www.workhousearts.org/lucyburnsmuseum/>

Workhouse Arches Gallery and award winning artist Julia Dzikiewicz is displaying her Suffrage related mixed media art in the Workhouse Muse Gallery in Building W-16. When Julia realized that she was creating art in the same place that suffragists engaged in protest that swayed national opinion and eventually won women the right to vote, she began a series of large and small paintings honoring the suffragists.

"The power of art is only partially held in what viewers see on the canvas. The true power is in changing how viewers see the rest of their lives. In my encaustic paintings, layering wax like the accumulation of history, I seek to remind women and girls of their potential to change the world," said artist Julia Dzikiewicz.



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OPINION

August COVID-19 Update

Cases here in Northern Virginia have remained steady on a downward trend; the same cannot be said about the rest of the country.

BY DELEGATE PAUL KRIZEK

As we head deeper into summer, I wanted to provide you with the latest news with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our cases here in Northern Virginia have remained steady on a downward trend, even a month into our Phase 3 reopening, which means that our community has been diligent in following the facial covering regulations, staying home as much as possible, and have maintained physical distancing wherever possible. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said about the rest of the country.

COVIDWISE APP: Last week, Governor Northam and the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) announced that the Commonwealth is launching a new free app that will notify users if they may have come into contact with another app user who has tested positive for COVID-19. Virginia is the first state in the nation to use this technology. The roll-out of this revolutionary app will give Virginia a significant leg up with contact tracing, and will hopefully help to continue flattening the curve and controlling the spread of COVID-19.

According to Virginia Department of Health, the app is designed to protect each users' privacy. The app does not collect, use, or store any of your personal information or location data. It does not ask for your name, address, email, etcetera. Your device will not share your identity or personal information. Instead, the exposure notification system is based on Bluetooth Low Energy and uses anonymous tokens. On a daily basis, your phone downloads a list of all the anonymous tokens associated with positive COVID-19 cases and checks them against the list of anonymous tokens it has encountered in the last 14 days. If there's a match, the app will notify you with further instructions on how to get yourself tested.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No to Belle View Shopping Center Redevelopment Proposal

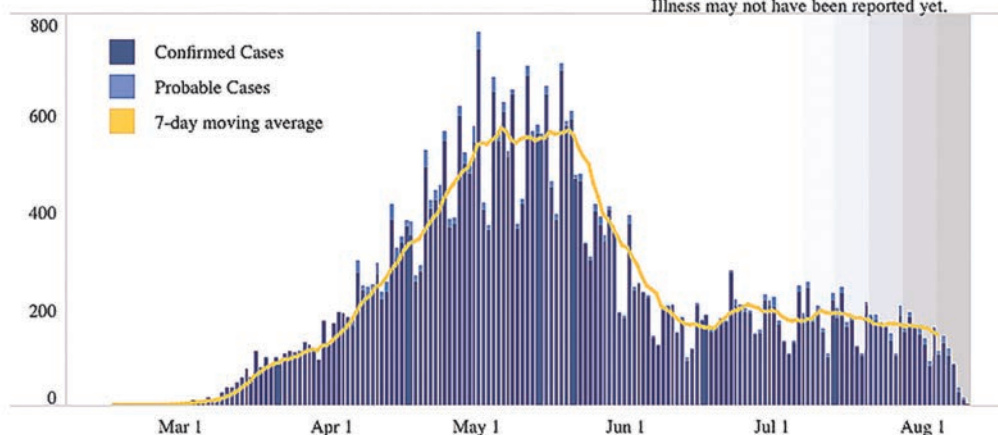
To the Editor:

The Belle View Shopping Center is located in a Community Planning Sector, a Suburban Neighborhood, according to Fairfax County.

Suburban Neighborhoods, according to the County, are planned for little to no change in land use. The County also recommends that that infill development be of compatible use, type, and intensity with the surrounding areas. The Shopping Center plan fails badly on compatible intensity.

The Belle View Shopping Center plan is more suitable for a commercial area along Richmond Highway, not in the middle of a completely

Number of Cases by Date of Symptom Onset
Number of cases by the day closest to when symptoms began.



If you test positive for COVID-19, the app makes it easy to report your positive test. The app would then notify any individuals you have been in contact with during the last 14 days who also use the app, so that they can take precautionary measures. I encourage everyone to download this free app, available through iOS and Android, as the app is designed to be more effective as app users increase. I hope that this app can help give Virginians some more peace of mind as we go about our days while wearing our masks and physical distancing because I know it has done so for my staff and family.

EVICTIION STAY Governor Northam has also announced that the Supreme Court of Virginia has issued a stay on evictions through Sept. 7, at his request. I applaud this move, as I joined with my colleagues in sending a letter to the Governor earlier this month requesting this action. The new moratorium began on Monday, Aug. 10, and will remain in effect through Monday, Sept. 7. Until that date, all eviction pro-

ceedings related to failure to pay rent will be halted. The reality is that evictions will still be a problem one month from now. The economic ramifications of so many families being forced from their homes in a matter of weeks would be catastrophic. There must be a more permanent and sustainable solution to help families stay in their homes during this pandemic.

HUNGER HELP: It is refreshing to see so many companies and nonprofits throughout Virginia come together with our state government to provide resources to help families affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. One example, Sentara Healthcare and Optima Health, in partnership with Truist, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the Federation of Virginia Food Banks, have kicked off a new statewide initiative to bolster Virginia's emergency food support system. The "We Care" COVID-19 Virginia Emergency Food Support Plan has begun at food banks across the state, and will provide free and accessible meals to families during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Jean Card

Production Editor

jcard@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Worker

Contributing Writer

aworker@connectionnewspapers.com

Jeanne Theismann

jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com

@TheismannMedia

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hwalutes@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin

Marketing Assistant

703-778-9431

dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Classified & Employment Advertising

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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

circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

A Connection Newspaper



Night Court

FROM PAGE 3

over search warrants, and many lawmakers believe they should play a greater role in signing off on search warrants — especially search warrants that are executed at night. Last week, Senate Democrats introduced a bill requiring that search warrants “shall be executed only in the daytime unless a judge authorizes the execution of such search warrant.” It’s a proposal that has the support of the newly formed Progressive Prosecutors for Justice, which includes commonwealth’s attorneys from Alexandria, Arlington and Fairfax County.

“A magistrate is going to look at probable cause, and they’re not going to ask any questions concerning whether there’s a safety issue,” said Hampton Commonwealth’s Attorney Anton Bell, a member of the Progressive Prosecutors for Justice. “The safety aspects of what we are trying to achieve far outweighs anyone’s inconvenience.”

The proposal to require judges to sign off on nighttime search warrants illustrates a divide among prosecutors. While the idea has the support of the Progressive Prosecutors for Justice, the Virginia Association of Commonwealth’s Attorneys had no position on the issue. And several prosecutors across Virginia have criticized the idea. Fluvanna Commonwealth’s Attorney Jeff Haislip is the president of the association, and he says would end up creating more problems than it solves.

“I think having to do them during the daytime hours would be very difficult for law-enforcement officers to do their job,” said Haislip. “They need to act when they can act, and I don’t see any-

thing wrong with serving a search warrant at night.”

THE SPECIAL SESSION this year comes at a time when Democrats are still figuring out how to handle their new role in the majority. It also comes at a time when House Democrats and Senate Democrats are divided over how to approach the issue. Senate Democrats have already released their package on policing reform while House Democrats have yet to outline their proposal. That means police agencies and sheriff’s offices are weighing in on the Senate bill, including some rural parts of Virginia that don’t have as many judges as urban areas.

“We’re talking about amending that to say if a judge isn’t available, then they can go to a magistrate,” said Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36). “We haven’t agreed on that yet. We’re talking about it.”

Judges in Virginia are selected by the General Assembly, a tradition that dates back to the commonwealth’s history with English common-law. South Carolina is the only other state where judges are selected almost exclusively through legislative selection, and every year brings a new round of drama over which judges are installed at courthouses across Virginia. Magistrates, on the other hand, are appointed by the executive secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia.

“We have more oversight over judges, and they tend to be better trained and better informed,” said Del Mark Levine (D-45). “Because of our oversight, I can rail against the ones who make bad decisions. Whereas the magistrates who make bad decisions are kind of nameless and faceless and under our control in any significant way.”

Huntley Meadows

FROM PAGE 5

NATURE DRAWING ANCIENT PLANTS

08/26/2020 10:00 am
(Adults) Huntley Meadows Park’s forests are home to certain plants whose ancestors have been with us since dinosaur times. Join local artist and naturalist Margaret Wohler to learn about and sketch ferns and moss while keeping a complimentary field guide sketch book.

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-Werner Heisenberg

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"Extensive Metastatic Disease"

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



Well I certainly don't like the sound of that and I especially didn't like reading it in the "impressions" part of the radiologist's report I received Friday summarizing the previous Wednesday's PET scan. Though hardly a surprise given a thoracic surgeon's description of my original PET scan 11 and 1/2 years ago: "You lit that thing up like a Christmas tree." Still, I would have rather read something a bit less ominous. But I don't suppose being diagnosed with two types of cancer (non small cell lung stage IV and papillary thyroid, stage II) lends itself to a 'bit less ominous.' Besides, 'less ominous' left the building in late February 2009 when I was first diagnosed with a "terminal" disease: non small cell lung cancer.

Not to make light of such a heavy dose of reality but, as Tom Sellick says on his recent television commercial for AAG: "This isn't my first rodeo." And neither is this statement of fact from the radiologist the first less-than-encouraging news I've heard and seen. To invoke Jack Palance (Curly) from "City Slickers" (1991): "I **** bigger than that." I've been living with a version of these words for 11 and 1/2 years. Tell me something I don't know.

Nevertheless, I'll find out what it all means soon enough. Though it might be a bit of a re-hash from a few columns ago stating that since all the tumors in my lungs can't be biopsied, practically proceeding, my oncologist will never know for certain exactly how much of what type of cancer I have. And since one medicine - from what I've been told, can't treat both cancers, life expectancy, treatment protocols, etc., are likely unclear at best. Presumably, we'll treat the cancer which is most prevalent, most aggressive and most treatable/curable? I can only hope that as I sit and write this column, two days before my surgical lung biopsy on Monday, seven days, approximately, until I hear from my oncologist, I'll be able to compartmentalize the worst case scenarios - all of which are out of my control anyway, and try to live life as normally as possible and avoid any rabbit holes of gloom and doom.

Right now, this is just another blip on the cancer radar that has been "blipping" for more than 11 years. Generally speaking, the medical feedback we receive almost always sounds mediocre (and I don't mean fair to middling either). And it never sounds worse than it did in February '09 when I initially was diagnosed and given a "13 month to two year" prognosis. Unfortunately, having outlived my oncologist's expectation by upwards of 10-plus years doesn't guarantee me any favorable news. That was yesterday (yesteryear, actually). This is today, 2020. However, much has changed/evolved in the cancer-treatment world. There have been more drugs approved for the treatment of lung cancer in the last few years than in previous multiple decades, including the introduction of an entire new class of medicine: immunotherapy. It's not exactly game and match but it is night and day.

Still, it's premature until I'm re-diagnosed and placed in a new protocol and see the results - in future CT scans. This pending biopsy may be the storm before the calm or vice versa, quite frankly. As I await results, my glass remains half full, as always. I just have to hope that while waiting for the cancer business to become clear, I don't get so thirsty/anxious that I empty my glass. That wouldn't help anybody, especially me.

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

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NEWS

NAACP Holds Virtual Town Hall

FROM PAGE 1

sented only 30 percent of those individuals. "We need you to protect them," she said to Brabrand. Hampton added that the school district must commit "to gathering data, to reviewing the data, to analyzing the data with new metrics that are anti-racist (and) doing follow ups and having deadlines... Otherwise nothing happens, we just keep waiting," she said.

Hampton introduced the second Education Priority of Fairfax NAACP, to create an effective model for the Equity and Cultural Responsiveness Team by the end of the academic year. Brabrand said after hearing concerns voiced by members of NAACP and others regarding the new Chief Equity Academic Officer position, he changed course. He intended to decouple the role and instead create two jobs. One would be Chief Equity Officer with a full range for the entire organization and the other Chief Academic Officer. "I would seek a national consultant to assist us in hiring both those key positions," Brabrand said.

Hampton said they were there to help and might have perspectives not yet considered. "You cannot achieve radical transformation, with exactly the same profile and exactly the same people at the table. It is not possible; and assuming anti-racism is a fairly new thing for systems to be considering, you have to be looking for somebody completely new, a totally different mindset," she said. Hampton offered Brabrand side-by-side "Traditional vs. Anti-Racist" job descriptions.

Brabrand and Hampton turned their attention to racial bias viewed through the lens of the disproportionate number of behavior incidents in the schools involving Black and brown children. Although the district provided School-based Intervention Programs for Behavior with a consulting system of counselors, psychologists, social workers and restorative justice specialists, district data showed an over-representation of Black and brown children with behavior incidences.

According to Hampton, the mostly white teacher workforce "clearly have some issues because Black kids are not so bad." She said, "The problem is that when you only have teachers who are feeling threatened by their students to this degree, and nobody is reviewing whether the systems are put in place before they are disciplined, there's a problem... You should be able to look at the IEP for any child that's there and see their behavior intervention plan. You should be able to see all the things, all the steps the school took before they got there. There are ... just gigantic, gaping holes where people didn't do due diligence. And that is tragic." Hampton described differences between schools. "It's a culture thing," she said.

Brabrand said there would be new behavior codes for the school year. They would, as Brabrand said, "make teachers dive deeper before they're referring a kid to the office."

"And we're going to do a paper review of discipline data... Our issue is solving it systematically... Real-time data tracking for discipline; quarterly follow up with Doctor Ivy... If there's trends that are of concern around disproportionality, we're going to address it, just the same way that we would look at ad-

ressing attendance or grades," he said.

Dr. Frances Ivy added they had found all schools were not reporting on the same form.

Perryman introduced the third Education Priority of Fairfax NAACP, to increase hiring and retention of Black and Latinx teachers, accessing it semi-annually in a public forum. Perryman asked, "Don't we have something like 26 schools that don't have anything but white teachers?"

Brabrand confirmed the district had 25-26 schools that had no instructional staff of color. He added, "That is a problem, and that is not acceptable."

Brabrand responded that in the past, some principals used the resources they had better than others. He said, "This year equity is part of every principal's goal... There shouldn't be any discipline disproportionality... There shouldn't be any academic gaps. We have coaches to help us do that... We need to do it at a deeper level and focus it around equity," Brabrand said. He added they would be held accountable. Hampton said, "You need to put the right people in those jobs. I think that you need to reward that sort of attitude."

NEARING THE END of the town hall, Hampton and Brabrand discussed the establishment of curriculum review committees to study current curricula for racial or cultural bias, especially in the areas of Social Studies/History/English, and to identify resources and teaching practices that could promote a more inclusive worldview and a complete study of the United States and World History. Such would be completed by the end of the 2020-21 school year.

Colleen Eddy, Coordinator for Social Studies K-12 at FCPS, said they were auditing existing curriculum to remove biased, harmful and racist resources, creating a transformative curriculum. "That means partnering with the right people across the state, focusing on the design principles for culturally responsive pedagogy, and adopting anti-bias and the anti-racist outcomes for our curriculum... with a mindset to fidelity of doing good work that's responsible and has integrity to history."

Finally, Brabrand and Hampton reviewed the admissions process to Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJ).

"We want to see obviously that TJ reflects the population it serves," Hampton said. She questioned why Black teens chose not to go to TJ.

Brabrand said, "I expect a conversation about TJ with our school board in the coming months to address a lot of the questions and solutions, not 20 years of status quo where we have tried to do something, but we've settled around the edges, and it has not made a major change. I'm sitting with Karen Keys-Gamarra from the School Board, with Marty Smith, our Chief Operating Officer who oversees TJ admissions, myself and the principal of TJ on a Governor's Task Force led by the Secretary of Education... and the Board of Education Chair."

Due to time constraints, not all 2020-2021 priorities as developed by the Education Committee and part of its Advocacy and Legislative Agenda could be discussed at the town hall. A follow-up meeting is planned.

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39 Alexandria homes sold so far in 2020!



3102 Waterside Ln
\$998,000

DOCK ON THE CREEK!



3203 Battersea Ln
\$595,000

REFRESHED INTERIOR!



8326 Wagon Wheel Rd
\$619,000

PRISTINE CONDITION!



3249 Woodland Ln
\$1,050,000

INCREDIBLE GROUNDS



9420 Forest Haven Dr
\$775,000

YACHT HAVEN ESTATES!



9324 Old Mansion Rd
\$1,990,000

POTOMAC VIEWS!



7712 Lookout Ct
\$762,000

JUST LISTED!

Over the past 3 months, four clients of ours switched agents and trusted us through the buying and selling process. During these unique times, the agent you choose matters more than ever. Here are two examples of their experiences!

★★★★★ Highly likely to recommend

The White Family Group is THE DREAM TEAM! They know the Alexandria area better than anyone, and switching realtors to them was the best decision I made in my buying process. They found me an off-market home in Mt. Vernon that checked all my boxes, and more, for a fantastic price. I was a nervous first time home buyer, but they made the entire process painless! They always made themselves available to me and stopped at nothing to find me a home. I will be using them again in the future and would recommend them to anyone who is looking to find their dream home in the Alexandria area!!

★★★★★ Highly likely to recommend

While I had seen Chris Whites name and his listings in our neighborhood for years as well as his number of successful sales, I initially chose another agent to list my house. So we listed our house and I then found a wonderful house. Ironically, Chris was the listing agent for the house we wanted to buy. He was wonderful to work with on that end and even guided my buying agent through the hoops so as to complete the sale. While we're happily the owners of a new home, my old house had not sold even though it had been on the market for 3 months. I wondered why he kept selling houses and my house was just sitting on the market, fairly priced... My husband and I called Chris and his team and immediately hired them. Within 8 days we had a ratified contract! Chris is simply the best there is in real estate. His contacts and wonderful relationships with other realtors, contractors, and the community make him stand out. His knowledge of the area, his marketing, his plan to sell your house or to help you buy a house will not fail. He will make a what could be a stressful situation seem effortless. He will handle all the details; you will feel cared for and reassured that he and his team will make the buying or selling of your home a success story. There is a reason he is a top realtor in the country. I would never recommend any one else when it comes to real estate!

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www.chrisandpeggywhite.com
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