

## 'We Are Still Here'

Nonprofits adapt during pandemic with virtual events and services, PPP loans, and ingenuity.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

In the grip of the Covid-19 pandemic, nonprofits have provided a lifeline to Alexandrians across the city. The economic upheaval has created a surge in clients even as organizations are upended from their normal routines.

Yet as the disruption to the non-profit sector continues, organizations have pivoted, navigating social distancing guidelines and altered fundraising tactics to keep revenue flowing while providing critical services to the community. The leaders of several organizations shared the ways they have coped with the changes.

### Jan Buchanan, Executive Director Mount Vernon at Home

"The pandemic was a sucker punch that caught the world off guard. But when the world closed down, area villages opened wider because staying home suddenly became the safest place to be. Pre-pandemic, our village was a thriving center of activity, hosting in-person events and gatherings each week and providing transportation to medical appointments, grocery stores and more every day. All of that came to a halt. We quickly pivoted, taking our activities online using Zoom and setting up a grocery shopping and delivery service using volunteers who were able to get out. Now, more than 10 months in, MVAH has increased its participation in online events almost two-fold. The hard work to ramp up and quickly adapt has paid off. Our annual fundraising event became an online event that was a resounding success, raising nearly as much as the in-person events in years past with much less cost. Seniors have shown their strength and resilience in the face of this pandemic. They have adapted brilliantly and shifted to a new world of technology. And villages like Mount Vernon At Home have demonstrated the vital role these organizations play in helping people thrive in the community."

### Shannon Steene, Executive Director Carpenter's Shelter

"The pandemic has been one lesson after another in contingency planning, in trying to figure out



Jan Buchanan,  
Executive Director At Home in Mount Vernon.

how to deliver on a mission when our classic ways of operating can't happen. The social distance requirement has been the biggest challenge for us – figuring out how to provide shelter without putting anyone's health at risk. In addition, for the first time in our history we did not have volunteers in the shelter. Still, we have seen some amazing innovations and resilience from this community.

"Our signature fundraiser is typically one where we gather 450-500 people in a tight space – the antitheses of social distancing. We did a virtual fundraiser in the fall. It did not raise what the classic fundraiser would have but it did fairly well. I think people responded to the mission -- it wasn't about the actual experience it was about a service that they want to see continue. Staff did many things that were outside of their usual duties but they got it done because someone had to. I feel like I have the best seat in the house to see this community's generosity and I wish others could see what we can do when we band together."

### Stella Hanly, Executive Director Animal Welfare League of Alexandria

"I think the biggest challenge for us was to figure out how to still offer all the services that we provide but do it safely for our

staff and our customers. We figured out how to do virtual adoptions, and surrenders are now by appointment only. Our community programs department, which provides services to those who want to keep their animals but are going through some sort of hardship, has grown exponentially because of Covid. Since March we have provided 13,000 pounds of food and supplies to community members, allowing them to keep their animals at home. While it wasn't something we really thought of before, offering more virtual options has proved to be pretty good so we will continue to offer a virtual component. Because of the nature of our business, we cannot work from home so I am very grateful to have staff who have continued to show up during this challenging time and to our loyal supporters that have allowed us to continue to offer our services without slowing down."

### Tammy Mann, President and CEO Campagna Center

"We are a direct service organization so everything we do involves having to work directly with children and families in person. The largest challenge is pivoting and trying to find ways to continue our services. Some families cannot work from home and so making certain our services are accessi-

"The pandemic has been one lesson after another in contingency planning."

— Shannon Steene,  
Executive Director Carpenter's Shelter



Shannon Steene,  
Executive Director Carpenter's Shelter.

ble is a priority. We are one of the ACPS Virtual Plus partners and provide tutoring for students who need to access in-person learning. Our New Neighbors program has been completely online this past semester and we had almost 70 students being supported through virtual English language learning classes. Getting parents more acclimated to technology, getting staff more acclimated to technology – it's been a swift learning curve for us. Fundraising looks very different. We did not have the Scottish Walk this year, which generates over \$250,000 for us. We did a virtual Oktoberfest that was fairly successful but that's been the only virtual fundraising we have done. It would have been a very different reality for us had we not been able to secure a PPP loan to get us through the early months of the pandemic. But we are still here and proud to be doing the work that we are doing in the community."

### Mary Lee Anderson, Executive Director Senior Services of Alexandria

"Our client base has more than doubled since March so we are delivering meals to a whole lot more people with a lot fewer volunteers. Fortunately, we have a mobile app that was put in place a

## 34th Annual Mount Vernon Town Meeting

**When:** Saturday, Feb. 6, 2021

**Where:** Live Virtually on Channel 16, the County's Livestream and Facebook

**Time:** 9 a.m. – noon

**Program:** Speakers, Audience Q&A's and Virtual Tour

Meet your Supervisor and County, state and federal leaders. Have your questions answered, learn about issues important to you and connect with County agencies and community service providers. The highlight of the morning will be taking a "virtual flying tour" of all that is happening in the District with your "pilot," Dan Storck.

Speakers: Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeff McKay, County Executive Bryan Hill, Mount Vernon District School Board Member Karen Corbett Sanders and other community leaders.

Engage in our community in 2021. Watch live on Facebook and Channel 16. There will also be a live, interactive video link coming soon. You can ask questions during the Q & A sessions by emailing us at [mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov), commenting on Facebook or tweeting us @DanStorck. Use #MVTM2021.

The video will remain on Facebook for viewing at your convenience and replay on Channel 16.

### Second Saturday Office Hours for Feb. 13, 2021

Mount Vernon District office 2511 Parkers Lane, Mount Vernon, VA 9am-3pm. Supervisor Dan Storck is available for phone and video calls, as well as in-person meetings with proper social distancing, during his regular Second Saturday office hours. Contact [mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov) or 703-780-7518 for more details and to schedule a meeting.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

SEE 'WE ARE STILL', ON PAGE 7

McEneaney Associates has always had one motto in mind... not to be the biggest, but the best. For more than 40 years, our Associates have lived in and supported Alexandria, helping to build our town into the thriving community it is today. To learn more about our Associates and our firm, visit [www.WeAreAlexandria.com](http://www.WeAreAlexandria.com)

#WeAreAlexandria



**Old Town | \$2,750,000**

A Sophisticated Lifestyle! This stunning home in the newly revitalized north end of Old Town presents lifestyle options rarely found in an urban setting. The grand living and dining rooms are ideal for entertaining while the gourmet kitchen is worthy of any chef. The lower level offers a media room, family room, wine cellar and bar area for casual entertaining. Park the cars in the two-car garage and walk to shops and restaurants just a block away, while the airport and DC are just minutes away! Soon, Metro Stage will be opening as well as the Arts Center nearby! Shown by appointment only.

**Kate Patterson 703.627.2166**  
[www.KatePattersonHomes.com](http://www.KatePattersonHomes.com)



**Belle Haven | \$2,000,000**

Featured in Better Homes and Gardens Decorating this classic center-hall Colonial is located on a rare double lot in premier Belle Haven. With 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths and a two-car garage, this property has been sleekly expanded and curated. It is the total package!

**Janet Catterson Price 703.622.5984**  
[www.JanetPriceHomes.com](http://www.JanetPriceHomes.com)



**Liberty Row | \$835,999**

This 2-bedroom, 2.5-bath condo has hardwood floors, stainless steel appliances, open concept kitchen, gleaming hardwood floors, plenty of storage, a double sided fireplace, and a private, balcony with views of greenery. Premier condo building! 540 Second St #103

**Kristen Jones 703.851.2556**  
[www.KristenJones.com](http://www.KristenJones.com)



**Belle View | \$269,900**

Sun washed & freshly painted! Great location, just steps to the pool, tennis and convenient parking. Updated kitchen and bath, laundry and storage right downstairs! Leave your car at home and enjoy all that this lovely neighborhood has to offer.

**Robin Arnold 703.966.5457**  
[www.RobinArnoldSells.com](http://www.RobinArnoldSells.com)



**Old Town  
\$1,225,000**

This 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath home located in prestigious St. Johns Square offers high-end finishes, lavish in-home amenities, quality construction, a premier location...and 2 deeded parking spaces! Living room features a gas fireplace and French doors to a gorgeous flagstone patio.

**Lauren Bishop 202.361.5079**  
[www.LaurenBishopHomes.com](http://www.LaurenBishopHomes.com)



**VIRTUAL OPEN SAT 1/30, 11AM**

**Warwick Village  
\$679,900**

3-bedroom, 2-bath townhouse. Light-filled home boasts kitchen with stainless steel appliances and granite countertops. Finished lower level with family room and full bath. Large bedrooms. Private, landscaped yard. 2924 Landover Street

**Jen Walker 703.675.1566**  
[www.JenWalker.com](http://www.JenWalker.com)



**OPEN SAT 1/30 & SUN 1/31, 2-4PM**

**Townes at  
Cameron Park  
\$654,900**

Beautifully updated 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath, stone-faced townhouse with 2-car garage. Crisp white kitchen cabinetry with granite and stainless. Refinished hardwoods on main level, new carpet on upper & lower levels, and freshly painted. 3835 Dominion Mill Dr.

**Sean McEneaney 703.635.8836**  
**Heidi Burkhardt 703.217.6009**

**Serving the Washington, DC Metro Area since 1980.**  
703.549.9292 | 109 S. Pitt Street | Alexandria, VA 22314 | [McEneaney.com](http://McEneaney.com)



# Ribbon Cut on Stream 'Restoration' At Little Hunting Creek and Fairchild

Project fights stream erosion and regulates pollution in area waterways.

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he construction on Little Hunting Creek behind an expanding shopping area in Mount Vernon will help the home of deer, fox, squirrels, rabbits, skunks, raccoons, groundhogs and numerous bird varieties, said area naturalist Martin Tillett. Tillett is a nearby resident who has been following the stream construction project that has been underway for a few years.

The ribbon was recently cut on the \$2,790,000 project.

That would be fine with Tillett, who thinks this restoration project will create a useful purpose by preserving open space and controlling stormwater runoff entering the Hunting Creek watershed in this rapidly developing area.

"As a citizen of Fairfax County, in the better interest of good land stewardship and environmental preservation, I recognize the leadership of Fairfax County in establishing a county wide stream preservation and restoration program funded by our local stormwater taxes," Tillett said.

The county finished up plans for this watershed area in March 2017, and presented their findings to the residents in the area, summing everything up in a presentation called "the Hunting Creek at



Ribbon cutting includes Supervisor Storck, middle, surrounded by project officials and Spring Bank Community Association's president Joshua Delmonico and vice president Will Brinley.



Now the plant life is coming back and the water is less polluted.

Fairchild Stream Restoration Project."

Goals:

- ❖ To reduce the sediment and phosphorus loads to Cameron Run, the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay

- ❖ Reduce streambank erosion

- ❖ Protect the infrastructure at risk (sanitary sewers, trails, footbridges)

- ❖ Establish a stable stream and riparian buffer that will be planted with a diverse mix of native vegetation

Engineers came in and reinforced the banks with rocks and plants, and now other plants are sprouting, birds are visiting, and soon it will be home to other wildlife that may have migrated away during construction. The project restored 1200 feet of stormwater outfalls, which are designed to improve the water quality by reducing sediments.

Storck credited all those that were involved with the project.

"The transformation of this area from a washed-out stormwater pipe runoff area to a well-engineered stream valley is a sight to behold. Instead of an ugly blight destroying our community and washing away natural resources, we now have a lovely, park-like area that residents will enjoy for decades to come. Thank you to the County stormwater management team for the excellent planning,

execution and hundreds of plantings to create this new natural area and to preserve the natural springs of Spring Bank," he said.

Cleaner water is part of Tillett's concern, but he also points to trash that comes off Richmond Highway and the shopping area right up the hill from the stream.

"We also need the advocacy and support of our neighboring business community to do their part in helping us to better preserve and maintain our local streams and woodlands. Installing stormwater inlet trash collecting devices will be a major step forward for our business community neighbors to join us in this worthwhile endeavor," Tillett said.

"We are working hand in hand with the Supervisors office to address this issue as well," said Spring Bank HOA president Joshua Delmonico. Storck acknowledged their assistance.

"And, a special thanks to resident Martin Tillett and the Spring Bank Community Association for engaging and working with the County on this project," Storck said.

The project was originally slated to be finished in April, but they finished ahead of schedule, said Sharon North, communications representative at the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services.

There is still some planting to occur in February, she said.

## A Community Conversation about Engleside/Ray's Mobile Homes

BY SUPERVISOR DAN STORCK

**H**ousing security is a critical element of my work in the Mount Vernon District. During this week's Board of Supervisors meeting, we adopted the 2021 Comprehensive Plan Amendment Work Program, including proposed nominations from the South County Site-specific Plan Amendment (SSPA) process. One proposed project has created community apprehension: the Engleside Trailer Park and Ray's Mobile Home community

has been nominated for an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan, combined with surrounding properties. I have read every letter and deeply understand residents' concerns about being able to continue to own their own homes in Fairfax County. As a former mobile home resident, I value their affordability. Homeownership is important to human development, comfort and security, and I am committed to supporting the needs and social bonds of this unique neighborhood and helping them find housing security.

With decades in public service,

protecting affordable housing and helping families, I'm committed to working with Engleside/Ray's residents, engaging with the property owner, listening to the recommendations on mobile home policy by the Affordable Housing Preservation Task Force and looking at all new development considerations through the lens of One Fairfax. We need more affordable and workforce housing in our County and this long-standing County process provides the means to continue our discussions and work to find solutions that work for all. It should be noted that the own-

er of this property has the right to redevelop this land without the approval of the County or engagement with the residents. The County performs this Site-specific Plan Amendment process every five years and anyone can propose a project for any property in the County. The nomination consideration process for Engleside/Ray's, and other proposed projects in the South County area, has been comprehensively reviewed by a community panel over the last year, as were all projects nominated to the SSPA process. I support this process that ensures all stakeholders

are respected, treated equitably, engaged and heard. I also support the inclusion of Engleside/Ray's in the County Work Program at this time, as it allows us the opportunity to continue our discussions with the property owner and residents to find solutions that support the needs of this community and our District. Whether or if any changes in this property were to ever occur, we are very early in any potential redevelopment process and I am committed to continuing this conversation with residents and stakeholders.

# We Still Need Your Help

Thank you to hundreds who have supported us financially, and with warm words of encouragement.

BY MARY KIMM

In 2009, I was diagnosed with breast cancer, and after a year-long journey of surgery, radiation and chemotherapy, I have been fine. Sometimes I will run into someone (well, I haven't actually been out to run into anyone since March) or talk to someone who will ask, "How are you?" with a tone of concern, and I realize they are wondering about my cancer. (Yes, I did go out for my mammogram. More than a decade cancer-free, thank you!).

2009 was also the onset of steep declines in newspaper advertising revenue, and that has been a pernicious and persistent problem.

Right now, when I hear that tone of concern (or something a little more ominous) with the "And how are the papers doing?" this person is asking about the GoFundMe, and whether we anticipate that we will survive the pandemic.

At the end of 2020, the Connection Newspapers shared a Go-

FundMe drive that would help all of our papers, including our flagship, the Alexandria Gazette Packet, publishing since 1784, the Mount Vernon Gazette, the Arlington Connection, Great Falls Connection, McLean-Vienna Connection, Centre View-Chantilly, Reston and Herndon Connection, and the Burke, Springfield, Fairfax, Fairfax Station, Clifton, Lorton Connection plus the Potomac Almanac.

We set a goal of \$50,000, and thanks to community support, in a month we have topped 50 percent of that. Thank you so much.

There is no deadline. <https://www.gofundme.com/f/save-american-oldest-newspaper>

How did we get here (I keep asking myself)?

We are facing an existential threat in the combined crises of a long-running decline in newspaper advertising, plus the onset of the pandemic and the economic shutdown that has come with it. (Newspaper advertising revenue

overall fell more than 60 percent from 2008 to 2018, well before the pandemic.)

In the first week of the shutdown in March, the drop in revenue for us, and everywhere, was breathtaking.

Fortunately, some long time advertisers have stayed the course and kept our revenues from moving actually to zero.

But many restaurants, retailers and others are also facing an economic crisis that could lead to extinction. We are not the only ones. Businesses, families and individuals floundered for months after early federal help, desperately in need of more help. Now we know more federal help is on the way, but is not here yet.

More than 160,000 businesses in the US closed just between March and August of last year due to the pandemic, and that number is likely vastly underreported. While local newspapers were already suffering from advertising declines, the loss of thousands of local businesses as potential advertisers is a setback, and not just for The Connection. Event advertising, a mainstay, has disappeared.

Community support has come, through GoFundMe, and other

means — many have mailed checks payable to their favorite newspaper, to 1606 King Street, Alexandria, Va. 22314, and others have purchased ads as a way to lend financial support. Words of encouragement and appreciation have also meant so much to all of us here.

So what is the plan? Our GoFundMe, as it continues to grow, will allow us to bridge the operational gaps between a deep valley and the arrival of the funds from the Paycheck Protection Program (through local banks). And that will give us time to grapple with the question of how to reinvent ourselves and create an organization and revenue stream that will sustain us. Our writers and others connected to us are full of ideas. I'm sure our readers, advertisers and supporters are also. Please let us know.

We are experts at cost-cutting, and that has been a painful, ongoing process.

Now we will embrace a combination of solutions, because just one source is unlikely to unravel the tough situation that we face.

More thoughts next week.

Mary

# In Virginia: Vaccines & COVID Recovery

BY SEN. ADAM EBBIN (D-30)

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH), health care professionals, and Virginia's Medical Reserve Corps continue to work overtime to care for those afflicted with COVID-19. This work now involves the distribution of vaccines to prevent future cases. Unfortunately even as we grow our capacity to vaccinate, Virginia, like many other states, continues to see an increase in the number of cases and hospitalizations daily.

In the General Assembly we continue to feel the great burden of the deaths, the fears, and the long-term effects of this virus. Our colleague Sen. Ben Chafin (R-Russell County) passed away from COVID-19 complications just days before our session began, and his empty seat is a continual reminder of the loss far too many have experienced over the last year.



Ebbin

While we must take as many steps as possible to mitigate the damage of this pandemic, the key to beginning our recovery is vaccinations. The good news in Virginia is that we are on the way. At the time of writing, close to 420,000 Virginians have received their first dose of either the Moderna or Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine.

While the vaccine is not manda-

tory, I strongly encourage everyone to get vaccinated as soon as you are able, and continue to comply with the recommendations of health experts to wear a mask, maintain social distance, and frequently wash hands to prevent the spread.

Vaccine prioritization is coordinated at a Federal level — through the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Department

SEE VACCINES, PAGE 6

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Grateful for Vaccination

To the Editor:

Having received our first Moderna COVID 19 vaccination on Jan. 14 as part of the "over 75" Phase 1 group and just three days after we submitted our application, Valerie and I were extremely impressed with the professionalism of the process coupled with the personal and friendly attitude of the Fairfax

County Department of Health Staff who are administering the vaccinations.

Although it was very evident that the tremendous number of calls made on the morning of January 11 overwhelmed the telephone system, signing up a few hours later was very easy. We then received an email which confirmed our eligibility and requested time and place preferences. We were then provided an appointment time with complete instructions as to

reporting sequences. The efficient

manner of the Health Department Staff who processed us in and then administered the vaccine was uniformly professional and polite. It was a very positive experience for us.

We are grateful for having received our initial vaccinations and thank the Fairfax County Health Department Staff for making this process possible and so smooth.

William P. and Valerie A. Bock  
Mount Vernon

## Let Us Know Your View

Connection Newspapers welcomes views on any public issue.

Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers; we will only print your name and town name. Letters are routinely edited for length, libel, grammar, good taste, civility and factual errors.

Send letters

Online [www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter)  
By email: [editors@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:editors@connectionnewspapers.com)

By mail to: Letters to the Editor The Connection  
1606 King St., Alexandria VA 22314

You can comment on our Facebook page or find us on Twitter  
[www.facebook.com/connectionnewspapers](https://www.facebook.com/connectionnewspapers)  
<https://twitter.com/alexgazette>  
<https://twitter.com/mtvernongazette>  
<https://twitter.com/followfairfax>

[www.MountVernonGazette.com](http://www.MountVernonGazette.com)

@MtVernonGazette

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

Published by  
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Free digital edition delivered to your email box. Go to [connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe](http://connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe)

NEWS DEPARTMENT:  
[gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com)

Jeanne Theismann  
[jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com)  
@TheismannMedia

Marcia Hobson  
Community Reporter  
[mhobson@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mhobson@connectionnewspapers.com)

Mike Salmon  
Contributing Writer  
[msalmon@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:msalmon@connectionnewspapers.com)

Ken Moore  
Contributing Writer  
[kmoore@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:kmoore@connectionnewspapers.com)

ADVERTISING:  
For advertising information  
[sales@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:sales@connectionnewspapers.com)  
703-778-9431

Debbie Funk  
Display Advertising/National Sales  
703-778-9444  
[debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com)

Helen Walutes  
Display Advertising, 703-778-9410  
[hwalutes@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:hwalutes@connectionnewspapers.com)

David Griffin  
Marketing Assistant  
703-778-9431  
[dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com)

Classified & Employment  
Advertising  
703-778-9431

Publisher  
Jerry Vernon  
703-549-0004  
[jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com)

Editor & Publisher  
Mary Kimm  
[mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com)  
@MaryKimm

Art/Design:  
Laurence Poong, John Heinly,  
Ali Khaligh  
Production Manager:  
Geovani Flores

CIRCULATION  
Circulation Manager:  
Ann Oliver  
[circulation@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:circulation@connectionnewspapers.com)

A Connection Newspaper



# MOUNT VERNON DISTRICT

**This year may look different, but COVID-19 will not stop our annual tradition!  
Are you passionate about your family, home or community?**

If so, join us virtually for the **34th Mount Vernon Town Meeting** to listen to and question your leaders!

**Saturday, February 6, 2021**

**9:00 a.m. – noon**

**Speakers, Q&A's and Virtual Tour**

**Live on Channel 16 & Facebook**

**How to Participate: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon)**

Connect with TEAM MVD and your Mount Vernon neighbors at the 34th Annual Town Meeting! #ConnectMVD

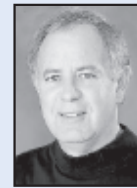
**Join Supervisor Dan Storck for the 34th Annual Town Meeting! Meet your Supervisor and many county, state and federal leaders. Have your questions answered, learn about issues important to you and connect with county agencies and service providers. The highlight of the morning will be taking a "virtual flying tour" of the District with your "pilot" Supervisor Dan Storck.**

**Speakers:** Board of Supervisors Chairman **Jeff McKay**, County Executive **Bryan Hill**, Mount Vernon District School Board Member **Karen Corbett Sanders**, Health Department Director **Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu**, Special Guests Congressmen **Gerry Connolly** and **Don Beyer**, as well as other community leaders.

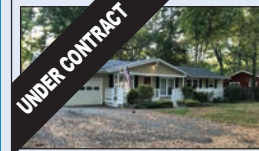
**For more information,** call the Mount Vernon District Office at 703-780-7518, TTY 711, visit the office at 2511 Parkers Lane, or send your questions/comments to [mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov).

To request reasonable ADA accommodations or language translation services, call the Mount Vernon District Office, 703-780-7518 or TTY 711 on or before 2/1/21.

MTVERNON@FAIRFAXCOUNTY.GOV  
WWW.FAIRFAXCOUNTY.GOV/MOUNTVERNON



**Rex Reiley**  
**RE/MAX Allegiance**  
**703-768-7730**  
[rex.reiley@rmxtalk.com](mailto:rex.reiley@rmxtalk.com)



**Alex/Hybla Valley Farm** **614,900**  
**7720 Schellhorn Road**

Are you tired of stairs & longing for 1 level living? A beautiful partially covered front porch that you can sit out & wave to your neighbors as they walk by? How about entertaining on a large deck that overlooks a large, fenced bkyd & watching your children/grandchildren congregate & play? We have that... plus 4BRs, 2BAs, beautiful refinished hwd floors & freshly painted interior. Throw in replacement double pane windows, 6 panel interior doors, a beautifully updated kitchen w/granite counters, SS appliances, that is open to the living & dining areas. Finally, an oversized 1 car garage w/a 12'x10' storage/workshop area on the end, & extensive parking available on a large driveway, brand new roof. Ideal location, less than 1 mile to Mt. Vernon Hospital & Sherwood Hall Library, 10 mins to Ft. Belvoir(S) & Old Town (N), 20 mins to Ntl Airport & 30 mins to D.C. & the Pentagon (N). Come take a look you won't be sorry.



**Alex/Riverside Estates** **\$584,000**  
**8402 Bound Brook**

Come check out this beautiful "Virginia" model, offering a 5BR, 3BA Split w/large 2 car garage & a lovely deck off the kitchen overlooking a private & fully fenced bkyd. Many updates including roof 2020, vinyl siding, & double pane replacement windows in '04, furnace & A/C replaced in '19, HWH in '12. Beautiful refinished hwd floors on the main level which offers 4 spacious BRs, & 2 full BAs. The lower level offers a 5th BR, 3rd full bath & spacious family room w/a cozy gas FPL & walkout to the bkyd, all perfect for an in-law suite. This wonderful community is a short walk to Mt. Vernon Estate, 5 min drive (S) to Ft. Belvoir, 15 mins (N) to Old Town, 25 mins (N) to Reagan National Airport, 30-35 mins to D.C. and the Pentagon.



**Alex/ Riverside Estates** **\$736,000**  
**8503 Cherry Valley**

Riverside Estates' largest split foyer model (Concord) w/2 car garage & lots of updates, i.e., roof 2001, HVAC 2012, baths 2010, furnace 2001, updated double pane windows 2019. Kitchen was opened to the dining & living rooms & is absolutely stunning: granite & quartz counters, large island w/seating capacity & beautiful hwd floors. Oversized MBR & MBA share a lovely gas FPL to add charm to the master suite. A large lower level offers a family rm which also has a gas FPL, a 4th BR & 3rd full bath. Plenty of storage behind the 2-car garage. Large lovely fenced bkyd, perfect for entertaining. 5-minute drive to Ft. Belvoir (S), 15 minutes to Alexandria, (N), 25 mins to National Airport (N) and 33 mins to the Pentagon (N).



**For more information: [www.RexReiley.com](http://www.RexReiley.com)**

Each Office Independently Owned and Operated



## What's NEXT for the greater good of the region

Join fellow residents and businesses by showing your support for economic development, reduced traffic and safer commuting with the I-495 NEXT project.

Dozens of regional business leaders and organizations have already said **YES** to **495 NEXT**. Join them at **[Support495NEXT.com](http://Support495NEXT.com)**

Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce  
McLean Chamber of Commerce  
Tysons Chamber of Commerce  
Virginia Transit Association  
Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance  
Arlington Chamber of Commerce  
Alexandria Chamber of Commerce  
Dulles Area Transportation Association  
Reston Chamber of Commerce  
Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce  
Springfield Chamber of Commerce  
Virginia Transportation Construction Alliance  
Prince William Chamber of Commerce  
Northern Virginia Building Industry Association  
Apartment and Office Building Association  
Virginia Self Storage Association  
Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association  
And many more...



# Fully Baked

## Alexandria senator leads effort to legalize marijuana in Virginia.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

The so-called “war on drugs” was a failure, locking up generations of Black men and tearing Black families apart. Now lawmakers in Richmond are finally coming around to realizing the damage that the prohibition against marijuana caused in minority communities. Last year members of the General Assembly approved legislation decriminalizing marijuana. This year, they may be on the verge of legalizing recreational use of marijuana — ending the failed war on drugs and adopting new equity measures to address some of the damage it caused.

“The prohibition on marijuana has failed both in this commonwealth and in this country,” said Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30), who introduced the bill now being considered in the Senate. “The question is what is the role of government in telling people what they can and can’t use.”

Lawmakers are working their way through a number of issues, a measure of complexity reflected in the size of the mammoth 500-page bill. The legislation touches on everything from which government agency will regulate marijuana to how the tax revenue is spent and under what circumstances local governments can opt out of legalization. In his State of the Commonwealth Address, Gov. Ralph Northam explained the effort to legalize marijuana was an effort to combat systemic racism in Virginia.

“One of the early leaders of the federal Drug Enforcement Agency was clear that marijuana laws should be written explicitly to target people of color. And so they were, and they’ve been targeting people for years,” said Northam. “It’s time to join 16 other states and make marijuana legal, and end the current system rooted in inequity.”

**THE MOVE FROM** controlled illegal substance to regulated agricultural product will require a government agency to issue licenses and oversee a newly created industry. The governor initially wanted that job to be

assigned to the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority, an organization created when the failed prohibition against alcohol ended a century ago. Northam argued that using an existing agency would take less time and cost less money than standing up a new agency.

“ABC is the only state agency in the commonwealth that has the experience of regulating a product that is as controlled and also a product that was formerly totally prohibited,” said Brad Copenhaver, deputy secretary for the Department of Agriculture and Forestry. “So we know that we can gain a lot of efficiencies and a lot of knowledge working with ABC.”

When Ebbin’s bill was considered by the Senate Rehabilitation and Social Services Committee, senators took issue with the governor’s approach. Several senators pointed out that the main goal for ABC is enforcing the state’s monopoly on liquor, and that law-enforcement experience wouldn’t translate well to helping a new industry regulate and market an agricultural crop. The agency’s lack of diversity was also a problem for a legislative effort guided by equity.

“I think this is too much for ABC to handle,” said Sen. Lionell Spruill (D-5). “We need another agency that has the time and the know-how to put all the staff together to make this thing work for us.”

**THE EXPERIENCE** legalizing alcohol is informing how marijuana will be legalized when the governor signs the legislation. Local governments that want to prohibit the sale of marijuana at the local level would need to go through some difficult and expensive steps in order to opt out of legalization. They would not be able to do it with a vote of a city council or board of supervisors. Instead, they would need to conduct a ref-

erendum and have a majority of voters approve a new local prohibition against retail locations.

“It will be legal in jurisdictions for a period of time before a referendum could even be held by the locality to determine whether they want to opt out,” said Sen. Ryan McDougale (R-4).

**“It’s time to join 16 other states and make marijuana legal, and end the current system rooted in inequity.”**

— Gov. Ralph Northam

“I have some concerns about whether a jurisdiction can take away that right without it being a taking once it’s vested and someone has established a shop.”

Supporters of the legislation point out that local governments must conduct a referendum to implement a local prohibition against commercial sale of alcohol. One of the principles guiding the discussion is that the marijuana legalization effort should mirror the alcohol legalization effort a century ago, although nobody is making the case that the newly created Virginia Cannabis Control Authority should hold a monopoly on the product the way ABC controls the liquor market.

“Choosing an opt-out process is just about shifting the process burden to make the default, yes, you can have a business here,” said Ngiste Abebe, a member of the governor’s task force on legalization. “There will be time before the retail shops are allowed to open, so communities that are passionate about not having retail cannabis locations can organize and conduct a referendum before the retail shops open.”

**LICENSES FOR SELLING** marijuana will be extremely valuable, and lawmakers are keenly aware of the danger posed by creating an industry where Richmond-based Altria would be able to corner the market and exclude Black communities that were devastated by the war on drugs. That’s why the bill includes language created social-equity licenses, making sure the gold rush for Virginia kush won’t go to fat-cat corporate titans who make millions selling cigarettes to teenagers.

“I grew up in an area where we have a

lot of minority farmers, and quite frankly they’re pretty good at growing pot,” said Sen. Richard Stuart (R-28). “Do those folks have the opportunity to get into this? Or is this just a corporate giveaway?”

This is the part of the legislative debate that’s causing the most concern for lawmakers and advocates. The bill now under consideration attempts to thread the needle between providing a business carveout for communities that were the target of the failed war on drugs while also creating a market that allows capitalism to thrive and tax revenue to flow. People who follow the industry expect Altria to be waiting for federal legalization, so Virginia could have an opportunity to help small and minority businesses to establish themselves before they face that corporate competition.

“Not only do we have Altria in our backyard, but we have the burgeoning cannabis industry that will be knocking at Virginia’s doors,” said Jenn Michelle Pedini, executive director of Virginia NORML.

**RETAIL SALES** won’t be the only way people can get marijuana. People will be able to grow plants at home. The current bill allows a total of four plants per household, two mature plants and two immature plants. Republicans tried to strip this provision from the bill last week, but that effort failed as Democrats passed the bill out of the Senate Rehabilitation and Social Services Committee.

“This should be viewed the same as alcohol in terms of you can home-brew alcohol like my grandfather did back in Franklin County,” said Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36). “There’s consequences for selling alcohol if you make it at home and don’t tax it, and I view it akin to that.”

One of the potential pitfalls with the four-plant limit is that it would apply to a household, not an individual. So if two or more roommates want to grow marijuana plants, they would need to figure out a way to distribute the household limit among themselves. Critics say the limitations create the possibility for a new war on plants.

“The whole four plant thing is a bit far-fetched for home growing,” said Mike Thomas of Grow Your Own RVA. “Cannabis is a medicine, and a lot of clients or patients have more than one medicine, so they would need a plant for pain, a plant for sleep, maybe a plant for appetite.”

## In Virginia: Vaccines & COVID Recovery

FROM PAGE 4

of Defense, in collaboration with state health officials. There is, obviously, high demand for the vaccine and many groups merit early vaccination. To complicate matters, there is only so much of the vaccine available for each state. That said, I am confident that the CDC and VDH are following the science and working hard to ensure that vaccinations are equitably distributed as efficiently as possible based on the schedule developed with

the Federal Government. Let me be clear: everyone deserves an opportunity to be vaccinated, and eventually everyone who wants to be will be vaccinated. With the whole world seeking and competing for doses, we are faced with the difficult decision of prioritizing people by definable groupings. In Virginia, this does not speak to any person’s merits, but rather to the risk posed to the majority of that pool for contracting and dying from the novel Coronavirus. You can

determine when you will get vaccinated by checking your local Department of Health website’s phase schedule.

Only thirteen other states have vaccinated more people than Virginia, the twelfth largest state. But the reality is that every state is struggling to meet the demand for vaccines due to the expansiveness of this undertaking and the former administration’s handling of the vaccine distribution. The needed stockpile of vaccine doses from the federal

government, promised by former President Trump’s administration, has failed to materialize. This failure means every state is undersupplied. Right now shot-giving in Virginia is outpacing the supply we’re receiving from the federal government. We are administering an average of 19,000 shots per day -- 5,000 more than we’re receiving.

I am glad that Governor Northam has responded to this curveball by assigning Dr.

SEE VACCINES, PAGE 9

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

# 'We Are Still Here'

FROM PAGE 1

couple of years ago that has helped get us through this and provide a much higher level of service than we would have been able to do otherwise. We did have to cancel our gala last year but our sponsors and people who bought tickets let us treat the money as donations so that helped us get through the first few months of the pandemic. We have been active in securing PPP loans and are constantly looking for new ways of getting support from the community. People know the work that we do, so it isn't difficult to justify our need for additional funds. Virtual fundraising is different but it has been successful. We had a very good Oktoberfest and are now planning our virtual gala for March 13.

In addition to Gene Steuerle, Barbara Anderson and Bill Euille, we will also be honoring Kate Garvey and DCHS for the work they have done in the community. I don't think Alexandria would have responded nearly as effectively to the pandemic without Kate's leadership.



## The Rotary Club of Mount Vernon, VA

The Mount Vernon Rotary Club is initiating the "You Make a Difference Award" to support community service by organizations in the Mount Vernon area.

Specifically, the purpose of the Mount Vernon Rotary "You Make A Difference" Award is to:

- 1) Recognize individuals and organizations who support service to others
- 2) Support community service within the Mount Vernon area

This local support is consistent with the Rotary International Motto: "Service Above Self."

A single award and associated grant of \$1000 will be presented once a year. The goal is to recognize a single individual who sustains community service and to contribute financial support to keep that service continuing.

Nominations will be accepted until noon on March 31, 2021. To receive a nomination form or more information, email [rcmvva@gmail.com](mailto:rcmvva@gmail.com)

Rotary is where neighbors, friends, and problem-solvers share ideas, join leaders, and take action to create lasting change. Visit [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) for more information.

**The Rotary Club of Mount Vernon meets via Zoom on Wednesday evening from 6:30 to 7:30. To request an invitation link email [mikej1013@verizon.net](mailto:mikej1013@verizon.net)**

## Inside or out...



## ...Tech Painting's got you covered!



Serving:  
VA  
DC  
MD  
OBX

**703-684-7702**  
[www.techpainting.com](http://www.techpainting.com)



## VARIETY STORE

Est. 1958



**Experience the Nostalgia of an old-time Five & Dime Store**

*"If we don't have it, you don't need it."*

**Hollin Hall Shopping Center  
7902 Fort Hunt Rd.,  
Alexandria, VA 22308**

**703-765-4110**

**[hhvs@vacoxmail.com](mailto:hhvs@vacoxmail.com)**

ENRICHING  
LIFE'S  
JOURNEY



## LIVE ON YOUR OWN TERMS

**HERMITAGE NORTHERN VIRGINIA**, a tree-lined senior living community in the heart of Alexandria, provides our residents with the tools necessary to live life on your own terms. We connect residents, families, and loved ones through a person-centered approach to senior living, ensuring support and services are tailored to your individual needs. Our emphasis on togetherness creates a dynamic and engaging retirement community that lets you thrive! Whether you live independently or require more assistance, Hermitage Northern Virginia is ready to help you enjoy a journey that you create.

**HERMITAGE**  
NORTHERN VIRGINIA



LET'S TALK TODAY TO CONTINUE **YOUR** JOURNEY!

703 797 3800 | [HERMITAGENOVA.ORG](http://HERMITAGENOVA.ORG) | 5000 FAIRBANKS AVENUE | ALEXANDRIA, VA 22311

Same Company, Same Employees,  
Same Great Value - Now Celebrating 20 Years!

## TWO POOR TEACHERS

### Kitchen and Bathroom Remodeling



- Electrical (ELE)
- Gas Fitting (GFC)
- Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVA)
- Plumbing (PLB)
- Residential Building (RBC)

Fully Insured & Class A Licensed  
Since 1999



**Free Estimates 703-999-2928**

Check if your contractor is licensed at the state level  
<http://www.DPOR.virginia.gov>

Visit our website: [www.twopoorteachers.com](http://www.twopoorteachers.com)

## NEWS

# Current Teacher Arrested for Sexual Assault of a Student More Than 20 Years Ago

A Fairfax County Public Schools teacher is in custody, arrested for sexually assaulting a student more than twenty years ago. According to police reports, detectives assigned to the Major Crimes Bureau Child Abuse Squad recently learned of the unlawful sexual contact and began an investigation.

Detectives arrested Marc Damon Cheatham, 51, of Woodbridge on Jan. 20, 2021. He was charged with two counts of forcible sodomy (victim under 12), aggravated sexual assault (victim under 13), and producing obscene materials involving a minor. At the time of the assaults, Cheatham was a teacher at Barden Elementary School on Fort Belvoir. He taught at Barden Elementary School between 1993-1998. He is currently being held at the County's Adult Detention Center without bond.

Cheatham has been a teacher with FCPS for 29 years. At the time of his arrest, he was employed at Holmes Middle School since 2017. While employed with FCPS, he also taught at Mount Eagle Elementary School (1992-1993), Fort Belvoir Elementary School (1998-2000), Groveton Elementary School (2000-2004), Lorton Station Elementary School (2004-2006), Terra Centre Elementary School (2006-2010), and Newington Forest Elementary School (2010-2017).

Detectives are seeking anyone who has information about this investigation or may have had inappropriate contact with Cheatham

to call Major Crimes Bureau detectives at 703-246-7800, option 3.

Victim specialists from our Major Crimes Bureau's Victim Services Division have been assigned to ensure that the victim is receiving appropriate resources and assistance.

Holmes Middle School Principal Margaret Barnes sent the following letter to the school community there:

"Fairfax County Public Schools has been informed that police have filed criminal charges against a Holmes Middle School staff member. Marc D. Cheatham, a sixth-grade history and social studies teacher, is accused of crimes against a student who attended FCPS in the mid 1990s. At that time, Mr. Cheatham was teaching at Barden Elementary School. ...

The employee is currently on unpaid administrative leave.

FCPS and the school are fully cooperating with police. As this remains an ongoing criminal investigation, any additional information will be released by law enforcement.

"This news is very upsetting to all of us. The primary responsibility for FCPS is always the safety and wellbeing of our students. We will continue to be diligent in our efforts to provide a safe learning environment and we commit to swift action any time we are made aware of a potential violation of the trust between our students and staff.

"Counselors are available to provide any support necessary for students and their families."

## BULLETIN BOARD

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

## RICHMOND HIGHWAY BUS TRANSIT

Fairfax County Department of Transportation continues a series of virtual community meetings on the Richmond Highway Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project. Meetings this month will focus on branding concepts for the Richmond Highway BRT system, including a name, logo, colors, and other elements that will bring the service to life. All these elements will help to create an "identity" for the BRT system, building on existing community features to reflect the future of the corridor. FCDOT will hold virtual community input meetings to discuss BRT branding options on Wednesday, Jan. 27 at 7 p.m. (English) and Thursday, Jan. 28 at 7 p.m. (Spanish). The public is invited to ask questions and provide feedback on the various aspects of

the project. To learn more about the Richmond Highway BRT and to register for the online meetings, go to the project website at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/richmond-hwy-brt](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/richmond-hwy-brt) or register.

## THURSDAY/JAN. 28

Encore Learning will host a Spring Course Preview of its classes on Thursday, Jan. 28 at 9 a.m. With 31 classes, including some old favorites and new additions, numerous special events and a variety of clubs, Encore Learning offers plenty of opportunities for people near and far to master interesting topics and socialize with others from the comfort of your couch. For an in-depth look at course offerings for the Spring 2021 semester, join them on Thursday, January 28 at 9:30 a.m. for our Spring Course Preview. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85231610450> Spring 2021 Registration begins Monday, February 1 at 10 a.m. and membership is required in order to register for classes. Visit [www.encorelearning.net](http://www.encorelearning.net).

## 2021 GOALS

## I RESOLVE TO...

## Support Local Businesses

**MountVernonLeeChamber.org**

MOUNT VERNON ★ LEE  
**Chamber**  
OF COMMERCE

# Vaccines & COVID Recovery

FROM PAGE 6

Danny Avula to coordinate the necessary work between state health officials, local health departments, hospitals, private providers, and communities. The Virginia National Guard will provide logistical support and help local health departments in the administration of vaccines. The Virginia Department of Health, the Governor's Administration, and Virginia Hospital Association are coordinating with medical facilities around the Commonwealth to get shots in people's arms. I co-sponsored legislation from Sen. Siobhan Dunnivant (R-Henrico) which will expand locations where vaccines can be distributed and mobilize volunteers to provide vaccines. This emergency legislation has passed the Senate and is headed to the House for their consideration.

The first goal laid out by Governor Northam is to clear all our storage freezers. Medical facilities have been directed to use up everything they have, quickly, to get more. Our immediate target is to move to vaccinating 25,000 people a day. Within a few days, Virginia will meet this goal: by the end of last week, more than 18,000 shots were being given daily. Ultimately, 50,000 people a day will receive a dose. Online tools are being rolled out to answer your questions about the vaccine, to understand your phase of the process, and to register locally.

Beyond vaccinations, the pandemic continues to compound other issues in our society and daily lives. We see this as cases of Covid per 10,000 people are higher for Latinos and other communities of color than among White people. We see this as those without a safety net are evicted or threatened with eviction. We see this as food insecurity rises in our communities

and volunteers at food banks decline. That is why Virginia's vaccine campaign is rooted in health equity, prioritizing those with an elevated risk of severe illness or death from COVID-19, including those in long term care facilities, people sixty-five or older, frontline workers, the homeless, people with underlying conditions, the incarcerated, and migrant workers.

To address these inequities, I am proposing legislation that will expand the statutory damages a tenant can recover when unlawfully evicted, a trend we have seen growing throughout the pandemic. As a member of the Finance and Appropriations Committee, I have also filed several budget amendments to alleviate the strain of this pandemic. These include:

\$500,000 to the Capital Area Food Bank, to assist with their vital food distribution services in northern Virginia.

Funding to expand Medicaid coverage in relation to COVID-19 to currently underserved immigrant populations.

Additional funding to Northern Virginia Family Services for wrap-around services including food, homelessness prevention, and child care.

An amendment to ensure that our Free Clinics are included in new Federally allocated aid dollars.

I acknowledge the frustration many of us feel. We finally have a way to the end of this nightmarish chapter, and that makes any delays, errors, or setbacks all the more exasperating. I would like to thank you for your commitment to protecting one another and for your patience as, one by one, we each receive the protection of a trusted, scientifically proven, preventive medicine.

**CLASSIFIED**  
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM  
TO ADVERTISE IN THIS PAPER, CALL BY MONDAY 11:00 AM 703-778-9411

## Announcements

## Announcements

**American Standard**  
Walk-In Tubs

**WALK-IN BATHTUB SALE! SAVE \$1,500**

**AS SEEN ON TV**

**✓EXPERIENCE YOU CAN TRUST!**  
Only American Standard has OVER 140 years of experience and offers the Liberation Walk-In Bathtub.

**✓SUPERIOR DESIGN!**  
Ultra low easy entry and exit design, wide door, built-in safety bar and textured floor provides a safer bathing experience.

**✓PATENTED QUICK-DRAIN® TECHNOLOGY**

**✓LIFETIME WARRANTY!**  
The ONLY Lifetime Warranty on the bath AND installation, INCLUDING labor backed by American Standard.

**✓44 HYDROTHERAPY JETS!**  
More than any other tub we've seen.

**FREE!**  
Savings include an American Standard Right Height Toilet FREE! (\$500 Value)

**Lifetime Warranty!**  
Finance Options Available\*

**Limited Time Offer! Call Today!**  
**877-691-5591**  
Or visit: [www.walkintubinfo.com/vapa](http://www.walkintubinfo.com/vapa)

**MADE IN USA**  
**ACCREDITED BUSINESS**  
**A+ RATED**

## Announcements

## Announcements

**LeafFilter**  
GUTTER PROTECTION

**✓ INSTALLS ON NEW & EXISTING GUTTERS**

**BEFORE LeafFilter** **AFTER LeafFilter**

**MADE IN THE USA** **ACCREDITED BUSINESS** **LIFETIME WARRANTY** **A COMPANY OF ULHS**

**15% OFF** **AND!** **10% OFF** **+** **5% OFF**  
YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE\* SENIOR & MILITARY DISCOUNTS TO THE FIRST 50 CALLERS!\*\*

**Promo Number: 285**

**CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE** **1-877-614-6667**

Mon-Thurs: 8am-11pm, Fri-Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: 2pm-8pm EST

\*For those who qualify. One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. \*\* Offer valid at estimate only. CSLB# 1035795 DOPL #10783658-5501 License# 7656 License# 50145 License# 41354 License# 99338 License# 128344 License# 218294 License# 603 233 977 License# 2102212986 License# 2106212946 License# 2705132153A License# LEAFNW822JZ License# WV056912 License# WC-29998-H17 Nassau HIC License# H01067000 Registration# 176447 Registration# HIC.0649905 Registration# C127229 Registration# C127230 Registration# 366920918 Registration# PC6475 Registration# IR731804 Registration# 13VH09953900 Registration# PA069383 Suffolk HIC License# S2229-H

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

## Be a part of our:

**Wellbeing** pages, the first week of every month.

Delight in our **HomeLifeStyle** sections, the second week of every month. Peek at the top real estate sales, glimpse over-the-top remodeling projects, get practical suggestions for your home.

Celebrate students, camps, schools, enrichment programs, colleges and more in our **A-plus: Education, Learning, Fun** pages, the third week of every month.

**Senior Living**, fourth week of every month.

## Questions?

E-mail [sales@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:sales@connectionnewspapers.com) or call 703-778-9431

**THE CONNECTION**  
NEWSPAPERS

## Announcements

## Announcements

**OUTER BANKS, NORTH CAROLINA • VACATION RENTALS**

**500 VACATION HOMES**

*Selling fast for summer 2021 due to need to escape covid*

**Brindley Beach**  
VACATIONS & SALES

**Book now for best selection!**

[www.brindleybeach.com](http://www.brindleybeach.com) **877-642-3224**

## Announcements

## Announcements

**Prepare for unexpected power outages with a Generac home standby generator**

**REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!**  
**844-947-1479**

**FREE** 7-Year Extended Warranty\*  
A \$695 Value!

Offer valid December 15, 2020 - March 1, 2021

**Special Financing Available**  
Subject to Credit Approval

\*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.

**GENERAC**

## Reoriented

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



Or to quote my high school baseball coach: "Reorientated." A cancer diagnosis, especially a "terminal" one, can cause that. However, what I'm addressing this week is money: what to do with what you have when you didn't expect you'd still have it. And by 'have it,' I mean you're still alive and you still have some control over what to do with it.

What this previous paragraph questions is what to do with the money you've accumulated your whole life after you've outlived your original prognosis, which for my non small cell lung cancer, stage IV, was "13 months to two years." The timer began in late February, 2009. I was aged 54 and nearly a half. My widowed mother had just died the previous December after reaching her 86th birthday. My father had died almost exactly two years earlier, at the age 87. Given my parent's at death, I figured/planned on living into my mid-eighties. That all changed when Team Lourie met the oncologist who has now been treating me going on about 12 years.

All my life, pre-cancer and post-cancer, I've paid attention to money: working for it, saving it, spending it and financially-planning it. As I became older, my needs expanded and so too did the sum of money I needed: college, car, wedding, house and then retirement. Now at age 66, 42 as a husband and 12 as a cancer survivor, the future has unexpectedly, given my prognosis, become my present.

During the early years of my diagnosis, I didn't really know how to spend the money I had saved: on the here and now because I was diagnosed as terminal and saw no future in depriving myself or to simply continue living my life spending/saving money as I always had. I chose the former because to me choosing the latter would have been giving into my cancer diagnosis.

Well, almost 12 years have passed since late Feb., 2009. Much has happened. None more significantly as has been my re-diagnosis to papillary thyroid cancer, stage IV, from the previous non small lung cancer, also stage IV. Though my particular type of thyroid cancer is terminal (the sole effective medication has a three-year-ish effective window than there's nothing available), I do have less of a lung cancer diagnosis hanging over my bank account. And yet, the money issue has raised its ugly dilemma once again. Rather than living with death occurring at any time, I now have a bit of a timeline: three years, but with an indeterminate one to follow. Before I had a definite that turned into a maybe. Now I have a maybe that's sort of turned into a definite. As such, once again, do I spend like I'm dying or spend/save like I'm living? The further complication is I'm basically retired and now having to make decisions which have been a lifetime in the making that for many of those years didn't have to factor in cancer and an adjusted, shall we say, life expectancy. It's challenging to determine how much money you're going to need when you can't predict the future. I mean, I'm living proof.

Being the baby of the baby - of the family, I'm pretty much the end of the line dating back approximately 150 years to Russia. And since we have no children, there's no one to pick up my slack. I can't run out of money because I'm responsible for my own slack. I can't presume that I won't outlive my resources any more than I can predict my cancer-affected demise. A demise and a quality of life that could be enhanced if I were to spend a bit of the money I do have, mindful always of the consequences however.

I realize, more than most, that there's no time like the present. Nevertheless, I still want to believe I have a future. After all, it's worked (kept me alive) for nearly 12 years. Perhaps I still have another 12 left to live. If so, I'm going to try and treat myself a bit more often this time. I don't see any future in depriving myself.

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

## BUSINESS DIRECTORY

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

CALL 703-549-0004

FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION

ELECTRICAL	ELECTRICAL
<b>K &amp; D ELECTRIC</b>	
<b>COMMERCIAL / RESIDENTIAL SERVICE</b>	
Family Owned & Operated	
Recessed Lighting Ceiling Fans Phone/CATV Computer Network Cabling Service Upgrades Hot Tubs, etc....	Licensed/Bonded/Insured Office 703-335-0654 Mobile 703-499-0522 lektrkman28@gmail.com

LANDSCAPING	LANDSCAPING
<b>Quality Tree Service &amp; Landscaping</b>	
Reasonable prices. Licensed & insured.	
<b>Summer Cleanup...</b>	
Tree removal, topping & pruning, shrubbery trimming, mulching, leaf removal, planting, hauling, gutter cleaning, retaining walls, drainage problems, etc.	
25 years of experience - Free estimates <b>703-868-5358</b>	
<b>24 Hour Emergency Tree Service</b>	

<b>Patios &amp; Drainage</b>
Your neighborhood company since 1987 <b>703-772-0500</b>
<b>J.E.S. Services</b>
Free Estimates - Fully Licensed & Insured
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planting &amp; Landscaping Design</li> <li>Drainage &amp; Water Problems</li> <li>Concrete Driveways, Replacement or New</li> <li>Patios and Walks • Masonry Work or Dry Laid</li> <li>Paver, Flagstone, Brick, any style you choose</li> <li>Retaining walls of all types</li> </ul>
<b>All work Guaranteed</b>

**Sign up for FREE DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION**  
to any or all of our 15 papers  
[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM/SUBSCRIBE](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM/SUBSCRIBE)

## SENIOR LIVING

# Sorority Sisters Celebrate Vice President Kamala Harris

By MARILYN CAMPBELL  
GAZETTE PACKETT

**W**earing their sorority's signature strand of pearls and clothing in shades of pink and green, Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) sorority members, Martha Coleman and Shirley Dickerson Taylor were filled with awe and jubilation as they watched their sorority sister and fellow Historically Black College and University (HBCU) alum Kamala Harris, sworn in as Vice President of the United States.

Both women are decades-long members of the sorority and are now part of the Zeta Chi Omega Chapter, which is made up of women from Arlington, Alexandria and Fairfax counties. Local members supported Harris' election and say their emotions include pride and optimism, for older members as well as younger.

"As someone who participated in the Civil Rights movement of the 60s, I get emotional just thinking about this huge accomplishment and how far we as a people have come," said Coleman, who has been a member for 53 years. "The idea that a woman of color, who attended an HBCU, and who was raised by a single parent is now our Vice President is mind boggling." "I was overcome with joy and happiness to witness this historical day," added Taylor, who has been a member for 63 years. "The tears flowed as I watched Soror Kamala take the oath and become the Vice President of the United States."

"I witnessed something that I never thought I would witness in my lifetime, said 68-year old Linder Gibson who lives in Montgomery County. "I was overwhelmed. "This lets me know that my little granddaughter can grow up and become anything she wants to be, even President."

Those who joined AKA at Howard University felt a special connection.

"She has been an inspiration for many, said Linda Elaine Newman, who has been an active member for 43 years. "I was doubly proud because I am also a graduate of Howard University. Her positive accomplishments have given good recognition to HBCUs and our beloved sisterhood."

"From the standpoint of being a black and Asian woman it was a monumental moment," added Patricia Wallace, who has been a member for 55 years. It was astounding since, in both these cultures, women were deemed to be on the bottom rung, thought of as property and second-class citizens. Now the glass ceiling has broken."

The Arlington/Alexandria chapter has been in existence for more than 60 years.

"Tears of joy flowed down my face as I watched the first woman, the first woman of color and my sorority sister take the oath of office for the Vice President of the United States of America," said Robin McCoy, who is a 40-year member and serves as the chapter's president.

Many felt a sense of optimism about the possibilities that would be conveyed to the young women and girls in their families.

"The swearing in of my soror Kamala Harris filled me with sadness, joy and delight," said Margarette Peterson, who was initiated

in 1959. "Joy came to my heart to know that my granddaughter would continue to grow up in a better world. ... I was filled with sadness because it has taken so long for a black woman with outstanding qualifications to be recognized. I dried my tears and took a picture ... proudly in my Golden Soror tee shirt."

"I thought of my 10-year-old granddaughter's future in a country that has elected the first woman as

Vice President, who happens to be Black, who happens to have been shaped by our founders at Howard University, and who happens to have been the recipient of the unflinching support from women all over America," said Tia Johnson. "My granddaughter's future was looking brighter. Vice President Harris' election provides the answer that all things are possible."

The Arlington/Alexandria chapter includes older members that range in age from 60 to 90. Many thanked a higher power for the victory. "I was overcome with a flood of emotions and ... a tremendous feeling of gratitude that God allowed me to live long enough to witness this historic moment: the first woman, the first Black, the first Asian American, the first HBCU graduate and the first AKA to become Vice President of the United States of America, a heartbeat away from the most powerful office in the world," said Lula McLain Hicks who was initiated in 1968. "In that moment, Vice President Harris represented every member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated and our 113 years of service to humankind."

Wanda Smith, who joined the sorority 42 years ago, said the swearing-in underscored the lyrics of the official hymn of AKA: "By merit and culture we strive and we do things that are worthwhile. And with a smile we help each other for we know there's no other like our sisterhood," she said. "Yes, I cried and thanked God."

For Aretha Marable Cunningham who was initiated in 1973, the ceremony offered optimism. "I feel extreme joy, relief, excitement, and hope for our country, the United States of America."



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA  
"Golden" members of the Arlington/Alexandria chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha, who joined the sorority before and during the Civil Rights Movement, shed tears of joy as the witnessed the historic swearing-in of Vice President Kamala Harris.

**NEW 2021 TOYOTA  
COROLLA LE SDN**



LEASES STARTING FROM...

**\$159** /MO

MODEL# 1852. MSRP \$21,230. LEASE OFFER FOR QUALIFIED LESSEES. BASED ON 39 MONTHS, 10K MILES/YR & \$2999 DUE AT SIGNING. SECURITY DEPOSIT WAIVED. PLUS TAX, TAGS, FREIGHT AND \$789 PROCESSING FEE. OFFER ENDS 02/01/21.

**NEW 2021 TOYOTA  
CAMRY LE SDN**



LEASES STARTING FROM...

**\$229** /MO

MODEL# 2532. MSRP \$25,965. LEASE OFFER FOR QUALIFIED LESSEES. BASED ON 39 MONTHS, 10K MILES/YR & \$2999 DUE AT SIGNING. SECURITY DEPOSIT WAIVED. PLUS TAX, TAGS, FREIGHT AND \$789 PROCESSING FEE. OFFER ENDS 02/01/21.

**NEW 2021 TOYOTA  
RAV4 LE SUV**



LEASES STARTING FROM...

**\$239** /MO

MODEL# 4430. MSRP \$27,905. LEASE OFFER FOR QUALIFIED LESSEES. BASED ON 39 MONTHS, 10K MILES/YR & \$2999 DUE AT SIGNING. SECURITY DEPOSIT WAIVED. PLUS TAX, TAGS, FREIGHT AND \$789 PROCESSING FEE. OFFER ENDS 02/01/21.

**SERVICE & PARTS HOURS: MON-FRI 6A-7P & SAT 7A-5P**

**BATTERY  
SPECIAL  
FREE**

**BATTERY  
CHECK-UP  
INCLUDES:**  
CHECK COLD CRANKING  
AMPS AND VISUAL  
INSPECTION OF BATTERY  
CONDITION. INCLUDES  
BATTERY CONDITION  
PRINT OUT.

TOYOTA VEHICLES  
ONLY. COUPON MUST BE  
PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-  
UP. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES  
ADDITIONAL. VALID ONLY AT  
ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.  
OFFER ENDS 01/31/21.

**LUBE, OIL &  
FILTER SPECIAL  
\$39.95**

**\$44.95 FOR  
SYNTHETIC OIL CHANGE  
INCLUDES:**  
CHANGE OIL (UP TO 5 QTS.),  
INSTALL GENUINE TOYOTA  
OIL FILTER, INSPECT &  
ADJUST ALL FLUID LEVELS  
AND COMPLIMENTARY  
MULTI-POINT INSPECTION  
WITH PRINT OUT.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER  
OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES  
ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED  
AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. TAX AND  
SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.  
VALID ONLY AT  
ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.  
OFFER ENDS 01/31/21.

**ALIGNMENT  
SPECIAL  
\$89.95**

**4-WHEEL ALIGNMENT  
INCLUDES:**  
4-WHEEL ALIGNMENT,  
INSPECT SUSPENSION,  
BALL JOINTS, STRUTS &  
SHOCKS, TIRE CONDITION  
AND SET TIRE PRESSURE.

TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY.  
COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED  
AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. TAX AND  
SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.  
VALID ONLY AT  
ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.  
OFFER ENDS 01/31/21.

**BRAKE PAD  
SPECIAL  
\$99.95**

**BRAKE PAD  
REPLACEMENT  
INCLUDES:**  
INSTALL GENUINE TOYOTA  
FRONT BRAKE PADS, INSPECT  
FRONT & REAR ROTORS AND/  
OR DRUMS, CHECK TIRE  
CONDITION AND INSPECT  
ALL HARDWARE. TCMC PADS  
ONLY. MACHINE ROTORS AN  
ADDITIONAL \$199.95

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER  
OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA  
VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST  
BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF  
WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEX-  
ANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP  
SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.  
OFFER ENDS 01/31/21.

**TOYOTA  
CARE PLUS  
\$329**

**SPECIAL  
MAINTAINPEACE OF  
MIND BY EXTENDING  
YOUR TOYOTACARE COM-  
PLEMENTARY  
MAINTENANCE  
PLAN TO  
4 YEARS/45,000 MILES!**

TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY.  
COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED  
AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. TAX AND  
SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.  
VALID ONLY AT  
ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA  
OFFER ENDS 01/31/21.

**SERVICE  
VARIABLE  
DISCOUNT  
THE MORE  
YOU SPEND,  
THE MORE  
YOU SAVE!**

**\$10 OFF ... WHEN  
YOU SPEND \$50-\$99  
\$15 OFF ... WHEN  
YOU SPEND \$100-\$199  
\$20 OFF ... WHEN  
YOU SPEND \$200-\$499  
\$50 OFF ... WHEN  
YOU SPEND \$500+**

TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY.  
COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED  
AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. TAX AND  
SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.  
VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA  
TOYOTA. OFFER ENDS 01/31/21.

**CALL TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT TODAY: 703-684-0710**

**3750 RICHMOND HWY, ALEXANDRIA, VA22305 | 703-684-0700 | ALEXANDRIATOYOTA.COM**



**CHRIS WHITE**  
 FAMILY REAL ESTATE  
 OF LONG & FOSTER  
*Leading the Area in Real Estate **SOLD!!!!***

## 64 Alexandria Homes Sold In 2020 & 10 homes sold in January of 2021!



This home was listed by another agent for 60 days until we took it over. We sold it in 2 weeks for MORE than the other agent had it listed for!

- In 2020, the Chris White Family Real Estate group SOLD 9 homes that were previously listed by another agent unsuccessfully. The agent you choose to list with matters!
- "By utilizing our in depth marketing plan as well as our extensive knowledge of the local area real estate market we are able to provide your home maximum visibility. We have been able to successfully sell 9 homes that did not sell with other agents saving sellers time and stress. " - Chris
- Hear it from a recent client:

*"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 real estate process. " - Nathan*



9494 Lynnhall Pl  
 \$1,545,000  
 RESORT LIVING!



9406 Old Mt. Vernon Rd  
 \$998,000  
 PRISTINE CONDITION!



412 Gibbon St  
 \$849,000  
 FULLY UPDATED!



4305 Sheridans Point Ct  
 \$849,000  
 CLASSIC COLONIAL!

## Considering selling in 2021? Call us today!

LONG & FOSTER  
 REAL ESTATE  
 CHRISTIE'S  
 INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE

703.283.9028  
[www.chrisandpeggywhite.com](http://www.chrisandpeggywhite.com)  
[chris.white@longandfooster.com](mailto:chris.white@longandfooster.com)  
 Alexandria/Old Town Historic - 400 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

**BEST**  
 WASHINGTONIAN  
**2020**  
 BEST BEST BEST BEST  
 WASHINGTONIAN WASHINGTONIAN WASHINGTONIAN WASHINGTONIAN  
 2016 2017 2018 2019