A Few More Efforts Made to Save River Farm

A letter, historic overlay implementation and a 6,000 signature petition are there to keep it the same.

By Mike Salmon
Mount Vernon Gazette

With 6,000 names on a petition, a letter on Governor Northam’s desk, and a vote coming up by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, the sale of the River Farm in Mount Vernon is far from a done deal.

There are many area voices speaking out against development on several fronts, including Virginia Senator Scott Surovell, (D-36) who remembers driving by with his fiancée in 1999, and later having a wedding ceremony on the farm. “It’s a wonderful place for things like that.”

“Our search stopped immediately,” he said, remembering the drive 22 years ago. “It’s a wonderful place for things like that.”

The planning commission is looking at the proposed sale of the farm, and the letter from Chairman Jeff McKay to Governor Northam, called it “a local institution in the Mount Vernon District, full of history, heritage, and natural beauty.” In the letter, McKay asks the Governor to add an emergency clause to SB 1457, that deals with “preservation of historic sites,” allowing the bill to take effect immediately at the April re-convened session, rather than on July 1, 2021. McKay conveyed his sense of urgency. “This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to preserve a piece of our history,” it stated.

Another angle the county is using involves a historic overlay district, which could limit the development of the property, and this goes up to the Board of Supervisors on April 13.

A few weeks ago, the NOVA Parks, Northern Virginia Conservation Trust, and their partners made an offer to buy River Farm, but the American Horticultural Society board of directors has voted to decline their offer, looking for their asking price of $32,900,000 million that they need to keep the society in operation, they said. “Financial distress, was one of the reasons the AHS needed that price for the property.”

Surovell looked at the AHS financial situation, and says that financial distress is at best an exaggeration. “That is not the case if you look at their financial records,” he said.

The American Horticultural Society “is sitting on $2.7M in cash, took a $220K PPP loan, & is not in financial dire straits,” Sur- ovell said in a tweet. “None of their public explanations for selling River Farm hold water.”

“We’ve been making every effort,” to save it, Surovell said. George Washington originally acquired the farm in 1760, as the northernmost of his five family-owned farms. River Farm last went on the market in 1973, when philanthropist and gardener Enid Annenberg Haupt bought it, allowing AHS to move its headquarters from the City of Alexandria to River Farm. There were a couple of historic visitors at that time too - First Lady Pat Nixon joined Mrs. Haupt, at the dedication of the property, and together they planted a ceremonial dogwood tree in the garden. Haupt’s contribution called for River Farm to remain open to the public forever, but that stipulation reportedly did not make it onto the deed.

The offer made a few weeks ago by NOVA Parks, Northern Virginia Conservation Trust, and their partners was substantial, and Surovell remains optimistic. “We’re hoping they’ll come around,” he said. “It’s a hot issue,” he said.

Fairfax County Supervisors to Vote on zMOD

The record is open for written comments; pressure is on to get it right.

By Mercia Hobson
The Connection

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors is scheduled to vote on March 23 at 4:30 p.m. on the new and modernized zoning ordinance (zMOD). A vote in favor would replace in its entirety the current 1978 zoning ordinance amended over 480 times. On March 9, the Board unanimously voted to defer the decision to its next full board meeting. No speakers will be heard on March 23, but the record remains open for written comments.

The Zoning Ordinance is an important document. At the Planning Commission Roundtable: zMOD, available online, Peter Murphy, Chairman of the Planning Commission, called the Zoning Ordinance: “One of the two probably important documents the Planning Commission and the Board use to make judgments on land use applications …This is the law. That’s why it is so important.” The second document, the Comprehensive Plan, is a guide, he said. “The process to bring the zMOD project to this step has been ongoing since 2018. The hope was to update the ordinance and make it an easily navigable document and more understandable. Staff focused on modernizing the permitted uses and regulation and removing gaps and inconsistencies.”

“I have advocated for and strongly support simplifying and modernizing the zoning language to reduce regulations and complexities in the ordinances to make it easier for all residents to access online and understand County government information,” said Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck. “The proposed modernized zoning ordinances provide clear organization, use plain language and reduce the size by almost 40% or 400 pages.”

At the March 9 Board of Supervisors Meeting, Carmen Bishop with Department of Planning and Zoning, presented a detailed description of the...
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The Passing of a Great Man – Colonel Marion “Barney” Barnwell

By Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck with former Supervisor Gerry Hyland

Colonel Marion “Barney” Barnwell, a longtime resident and community activist in the Mount Vernon District, passed suddenly last week and will be missed by the many people that he connected with and whose lives he touched.

“I was incredibly saddened to learn of Barney’s passing. Our community has lost a considerate, kind and true gentleman. Barney was one of the best and finest among us, one that I deeply honored to have known and had the pleasure to work with for many years. His long and deep history of community involvement, volunteering at Inova Mount Vernon Hospital and service on the Fairfax County Human Services Council (to his last day) were well known, greatly valued and appreciated by all of us. Barney was a pillar in our community, volunteering at Inova Mount Vernon Hospital in the Joint Replacement Division, where he has also served as Past President of the Auxiliary Board and as Parliamentarian. For over thirty years, Barney volunteered with Building Together, formerly Christmans in April; and at Fort Belvoir’s Main Chapel, as a Sunday school teacher and usher. He also volunteered with the Capital Area Food Bank for over twenty years, and with New Hope Housing, where he served as a Board Member, Treasurer and Trustee. Barney has continued to serve on the Fairfax County Human Services Council since 2003. He was a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. for over 60 years and was the Third District Representative (VA and DC Areas) for four years.

Former Mount Vernon District Supervisor Gerry Hyland said: “What sad news — a more wonderful spirit would be hard to find. Such an unselfish person who showed his love for everyone in so many ways. Years ago, I appoint ed Colonel Barney to the Fairfax County Human Services Council where he served Mount Vernon conscientiously for many years. At Mount Vernon Hospital he was an extraordinary volunteer who always wore his heart on his sleeve and had a perpetual smile for everyone he met. He was one of the gentlest and kindest persons I ever met. I will sorely miss him.”

In 2018, Barney was recognized as Lord Fairfax for his love of and dedication to our community. Barney had a “pay it forward” mentality every single day of his life. One example of this was the day he came into our office and said, “Every day I buy someone lunch, today it is your day,” smiling and handing one of our staffers lunch money. Wherever Barney volunteered, he put people at ease with his familiar smile and kind face. His passion for helping others was unequivocal and inspiring. Barney’s beloved wife of many years, Jimmi, was a constant companion by his side, especially in later years.

Community leaders and selfless volunteers like Barney Barnwell are hard to come by and his passing has left an irreplaceable hole in our hearts and community. If you want to know more about Barney, see this 2018 Old Town Crier article highlighting his commitment to service and community: https://oldtowncrier.com/2017/11/01/barney-barnwell-is-passin-it-on/.

Joyfully Back in School

Joiny Gates, Principal of Hollin Meadows Elementary captured the mood of being back in school starting last week in an email to parents:

“This past week our school was a joyful place as we welcomed back in-person first and second grade students to the building. Our students and teachers have done a phenomenal job transitioning back to in-person learning and we all are feeling a renewed sense of hope for the days ahead. We appreciate your continued support as we adapt to the concurrent learning model (teaching in-person and online students at the same time).

It is hard to believe that it has been exactly one year since Covid-19 changed our world forever. It would be an huge understatement to say that this past year has been a challenging one for our students, teachers, and families. I know that many things have not been ideal, or what we expected, however, I must personally thank each of you who have persevered through the uncertainties and navigated the choppy waters with us. We appreciate the patience, grace, and understanding you have extended to us during this trying year.

As always, we appreciate the continued support and understanding from our great school community. Please contact me directly if there is anything our school team can do to support your student and family.

Here’s to another fantastic “first” day back for some of our 3rd-6th grade students next Tuesday, March 16 or Thursday, March 18. Jon Gates, Principal
State Legislature’s Recent Session Was Consequential
My legislation abolishing capital punishment was one of the most daunting and rewarding bills I have ever sponsored.

By Sen. Scott Surovell

The 2021 General Assembly session has ended until we reconvene in April to consider any vetoes by Gov. Ralph Northam. This session was a consequential one. In this column, I will report on some of the bills that I passed. In future columns, I will report on other major legislation passed and then the budget.

I introduced 12 bills and 12 budget amendments this session. The Senate passed 10 bills, and eight of my bills are awaiting Gov. Northam’s signature.

My legislation abolishing capital punishment was one of the most daunting and rewarding bills I have ever sponsored. Working with my colleagues to secure 21 votes to pass it in the Senate without having to make compromises was a challenge, but it was necessary to avoid causing additional harm to our system. Through the process, no opponent answered why it is morally justifiable for the government to kill one innocent person for every nine guilty people, which is what most studies show.

Both houses passed my legislation modernizing Virginia’s criminal records expungement and sealing system. Today, Virginia is one of nine states that does not allow sealing of misdemeanor convictions and one of 14 that does not allow sealing of felony convictions after a period of good behavior. Our reforms will give 1.6 million Virginians the opportunity to move beyond their past and support their families after paying their dues and following the law. I carried two bills specific to the 36th District. One bill will give the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors the ability to prevent subdividing the land at River Farm and require the property owner to continue to provide public access as part of a future historic zoning overlay district. Enda Haidt gave $1 million to the American Horticultural Society to buy River Farm and keep it open to the public. This bill will force the owners to keep their promises.

Senate Bill 1385 enhances Fairfax County’s authority to enact a tax on electricity to raise the funds to under- ground utilities in the U.S. I corridor and the remainder of Fairfax County. Several Board of Supervisors members told me that it is important to prevent utility undergrounding projects from competing with schools and parks for funding. This bill achieves that goal.

One in four residents of the 36th District was born in another country and one in four is Latino. Senate Bill 1181 harmonizes state and federal law regarding Special Immigrant Juvenile Status which gives legal status to abused, abandoned, or neglected children. My bill allows children to obtain findings in state courts up until age 21 instead of age 18, as current law provides.

Another bill, Senate Bill 1468 creates a structure for immigrant crime victims, human trafficking victims and their families to apply for certifications from local law enforcement officials to obtain visas from the federal government.

Some Virginia law enforcement officers refuse to provide these certifications or delay issuing them to leverage victims.

I passed legislation raising Virginia’s auto insurance minimum policy limits for the first time since 1974. Virginia’s limits will match Maryland’s starting January 1, 2022, and then move to $50,000 on January 1, 2025. If these limits had kept up with regular inflation, they would be at $125,000 or $220,000 if you use medical inflation. In Europe, the minimum insurance policy is one million Euros. This legislation will ensure that if someone is in a collision, their property is damaged or if they are hurt, the person at fault will be more likely to pay instead of your own insurance.

Four of my bills did not pass, but I will try again in the next session. I am most disappointed that my legislation to allow class action lawsuits did not succeed. It has now died in the House of Delegate twice. Virginia and Mississippi are the only two states in the US that do not allow class actions.

It is an honor to serve as your state senator.
Beyer Highlights American Rescue Plan Benefits

Last week, Representative Don Beyer (D-VA) voted to pass the landmark American Rescue Plan and send it to President Biden’s desk for signature. Today Beyer highlighted the legislation’s infusion of resources for Virginia families and communities.

“This pandemic and the historic economic crisis it caused inflicted untold hardship, but help is on the way,” said Beyer. “On the day we passed it, I said my vote for the American Rescue Plan was the most consequential vote I ever cast. Now people are beginning to see why we pushed so hard to get a big, ambitious relief bill through Congress.

The pain and suffering of this pandemic have not been evenly distributed, and the American Rescue Plan will get aid to those who need it most as quickly as possible. The assistance in this bill is going to be huge for communities in Northern Virginia, the whole Commonwealth, and across the country.”

The pandemic and economic crisis have had a severe impact on Virginia:

- Since the pandemic began, more than 595,000 Virginians have been infected with COVID-19 and more than 10,000 have died;
- The unemployment rate in Virginia is 5.3%, up from 2.5% before the pandemic, with 300,000 fewer Virginians employed;
- 503,000 adults – 9% of all adults in the state – report not having enough food to eat, including 308,000 adults living with children. 15% of all Virginia adults living with children report that the children in their household do not have enough to eat.
- An estimated 267,000 Virginia renters or 14% of renters are not caught up on rent.
- An estimated 1,290,000 adults – 31% of all adults across the Commonwealth – report having difficulty covering normal household expenses.
- President Biden’s American Rescue Plan will save lives and livelihoods with targeted state and local relief for Virginia families, communities, and small businesses: $4.3 billion in fiscal relief for the Commonwealth of Virginia; $9.2 billion in local fiscal relief to local governments, including an estimated $59.38 million for Alexandria; $45.93 million for Arlington; $13.28 million for Falls Church; $222.56 million for Fairfax County.
- More than $2.187 billion in relief for Virginia K-12 schools.
- Economic impact payments of up to $1,400 per person for more than 5,118,000 Virginia adults and 1,884,700 children. This is 82 percent of all adults in the state and 81 percent of all children in the state.
- Additional relief of up to $1,600 per child through the Child Tax Credit to the families of 1,591,000 children, lifting 85,000 Virginia children out of poverty;
- Additional relief of up to nearly $1,000 to $1,400 to millions of Virginia workers, including many on the frontline; and
- Marketplace health insurance premiums that are $1,503 lower per month for a 60-year-old Virginia couple earning $75,000 per year.

We Still Need Your Help
We all need community newspapers; community newspapers need your help.

A year later, Covid continues to be the most compelling, most local issue that we face. Here at the Gazette Packet, Covid has posed an existential threat to continue the community service that has been ongoing since 1784. Every family has faced unprecedented disruption between schools being closed and the advent of distance learning. See We Still Need Help, Page 7.

One year later: Covid and Vaccine Update

Vaccine supply has increased dramatically in the past few weeks, with Fairfax County now receiving over 31,000 doses per week. And, as you read in this newspaper last week, by the end of March, a new mass vaccination site in the City of Alexandria, the Victory Center, will be open to both Alexandria and Fairfax County residents, boasting 50,000 square feet, 64 vaccination tables and vaccinators, 400 waiting room chairs, and 30 pharmacy preparation tables and pharmacists. At maximum capacity, this site could vaccinate up to 12,000 people per day!

This week, the CDC shared new guidance for those who are fully vaccinated:

- People are considered fully vaccinated:
  - Two weeks after their second dose in a two-dose series, like the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines.
  - Two weeks after a single-dose vaccine, like the Johnson & Johnson’s vaccine.

What’s changed:

- You can gather indoors with other fully vaccinated people without wearing a mask.
- You can gather indoors with unvaccinated people from one other household (for example, visiting with relatives who all live together) without masks unless any of those people or anyone they live with has an increased risk for severe illness from Covid-19.

If you live in a group setting (like a correctional or detention facility or group home) and are around someone who has Covid-19, you should still stay away from others for 14 days and get tested, even if you don’t have symptoms.

What hasn’t changed:

- Fully vaccinated people should still wear masks when 6 feet distance cannot be maintained: in public, while gathering with unvaccinated people from more than one other household, and while visiting with an unvaccinated person who is at increased risk of severe illness or death from Covid-19 or who lives with a person at increased risk.

You should still avoid medium or large-sized gatherings.

You should still delay non-essential domestic and international travel. If you do travel, you’ll need to follow CDC requirements and recommendations.

In order to get through this pandemic, build a stronger Virginia and defeat this virus once and for all, we must continue to remain vigilant. This means we must wear a mask, continue to follow safe social distancing guidelines, and practice good hygiene. Together we will get through this, and as the President predicts, by July 4th we will celebrate our independence from this virus!
Fairfax County Supervisors
To Vote on zMOD

FROM PAGE 1

zMOD project scope to modernize land uses and regulations and other revisions. Bishop kicked off her presentation, saying that she heard testimony that people were not aware of the zMOD process. However, staff included a variety of robust outreach methods with the project.

Staff released new draft ordinances in installments to allow for more focus on individual sections. Outreach included 100 public meetings, a zMOD website, videos, newsletters, social media, listservs, and five different workgroups.

The March 9 Board of Supervisors meeting ended with a five-hour-long public hearing with 71 individuals voicing opinions on zMOD.

Residents did not state resistance to all the recommendations in the nearly 700-page proposed ordinance. However, most expressed concern with some of zMOD’s staff recommendations, advertised options, and for issues such as accessory dwelling units, home-based businesses, and flags and flag poles.

Time and again, people weighed in that staff went too far on recommendations, stepping outside of the stated goals for the first phase of zMOD.

Katherine Ward, Co-Chair of the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens’ Associations, spoke on behalf of the organization with a membership of over 10,000 households. “Many of the staff recommended changes simply did not sit well with us,” Ward said. Giving so much authority to the zoning administrator—drastically impacts communities,” Ward said. She mentioned Planning Commission Chairman Murphy’s comment regarding home-based businesses and accessory dwelling units being approved at the zoning administrative level. This “just simply took the citizens out of the process,” Ward said.

Mount Vernon Council of Citizens’ Associations encouraged the Board to deny staff zMOD recommendations, and for the Board to support their recommended changes in the zMOD ordinance. “We believe that this will ensure Fairfax County remains a vibrant place for all of us to live and ensure that all our citizens have affordable, comfortable places to call home,” Ward said.

Resident Eric Jones said the zMOD changes could exacerbate streets crowded with cars and homes built too near the edges of lot lines.

“This is going to be a very significant change and way of life for us as homeowners, renters, or otherwise in Fairfax County,” Jones said. Staff at the code enforcement office is already overworked, he added.

The Board can review each item in zMOD Advertised Options for Consideration. For example, staff recommends that the size space for interior accessory dwelling units may be up to 800 square feet or 40% of the principle dwelling’s gross floor area (whichever is less). Still, the Board can adopt any size of 500-1200sf and remain within the scope of Advertised Options.

The meeting ended with Chairman McKay letting supervisors know that they could submit more questions to staff.

Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield), said, “I don’t think in my 13 years on the board, I’ve ever heard such opposition to proposed changes.”

Supervisor Walter Alcorn (D-Hunter Mill) said, “I think we have a lot of work to do on this.”

Storck said there are aspects of the proposal he does not endorse.

“I do not support some of the staff proposed changes, including...”

See Fairfax, PAGE 7

Creating Healthy Mother-Daughter Relationships

Local authors and therapists offer thoughts and guidance.

By Marilyn Campbell

A s a middle school student, Sofie Jacobs was at times mocked by other girls for her fastidious study habits and the good grades she received in school. She joined an after-school cheerleading and dance class, but was taunted because of her lack of talent. At the time she didn’t want to discuss the pain she felt from the rejection by peers, who she now labels as “mean girls.” Initially, Sofie rebuffed her mother Meredith’s efforts to console her. There was one place, however, where she felt comfortable expressing her feelings without the shame or humiliation: her journals.

“I remember so clearly the night she came home, ran to her room, and slammed the door,” said her mother, Meredith. “I could hear her crying, but she didn’t want to open the door or talk to me. Finally, she opened the door and handed me the journal where she had poured everything onto the page. After I read it, we were able to talk about it.”

“Writing in my journal took away any worries about my mom’s immediate reactions,” said Sofie, now 24. “It also let me work out my thoughts and have space for myself. I’ve always thought the most important thing in writing is the eraser. You rarely risk saying something you wish you hadn’t said when you’re writing.”

Journaling became part of the foundation of Meredith’s relationship with Sofie. To help others, they created an interactive journal called, “Just Between Us: Mother & Daughter Journal” that is designed to inspire conversations and healthy communication. It will be released next month and is an updated version of their first book, which they published ten years ago.

MOTHER-DAUGHTER relationships can be among the most difficult to navigate and maintain, say mental health professionals. Patterns range from an unhealthy closeness to a distant connection that is devoid of emotional intimacy, affecting mental and emotional health.

Enmeshed, is the way that Springfield psychotherapist Joyce Marter describes relationships that lack boundaries. “This is when the mother and daughter have a symbiotic relationship that doesn’t allow for healthy separation and independence,” she said. “They simply are too close. This can make it difficult for the daughter to develop a healthy sense of self as her own individual person or to separate and individuate into an independent adult.”

At the opposite end of the relationship spectrum is a relationship that is characterized by control and disconnection. “The mother and daughter are not emotionally close,” said Marter. “This can happen when they haven’t had a proper bonding experience, haven’t spent enough time together, or don’t relate or connect on a deeper emotional level. It can also happen when a mother is too authoritarian and controlling and there isn’t a sense of respect or trust for the daughter as a capable person.”

An ideal relationship has a healthy balance of attachment and healthy separation, advises Marter. “The daughter feels loved, understood, respected, valued and supported by the mother and also feels free to be her own person with her own life and dreams,” she said.

It is possible to repair what is broken, cultivate what doesn’t exist and maintain what is working, says Torti Stone, PhD, Assistant Professor, Counseling at George Mason University. Stone said there are many ways to develop healthy mother-daughter relationships, particularly at an early age.

“Try to be emotionally present when you are with your daughter and listen when she is ready to talk,” she said. “Resist the impulse to provide advice or solutions. You can ask, ‘Is there anything I can do to help?’”

During teen and preteen years, mother-daughter relationships can be difficult to navigate. “Give choices whenever possible Set expectations [and] reasonable limits that have reasonable end dates,” said Stone. “Let your daughter know the consequence in advance. For example, cell phones are a privilege, if you do not follow through on responsibilities, you will lose your phone privilege.”

Securing and harmonious relationships requires parental guidance, but also space to flourish, says Stone. “Detaching with love does not mean we don’t care about our loved ones,” she said. “Rather, it means having a healthy separation in relationships where you do not try and control. We must separate enough to allow them to make their own mistakes so they can learn. They need to be free to be their authentic selves instead of living as we hope or expect them to be.”

Infusing an element of light-heartedness into a mother-daughter relationship is an important element that the Jacobs express in their books.

“We thought we could help other mothers and daughters have the kind of conversations we had through our journal, but insert the humor that Sofie and I share to make it fun,” said Meredith. “There is a lot of trust that is built through those silly moments that help form the foundation for when it’s time to have harder conversations.”
Daughter Relationships

Creating Healthy Mother-Daughter Relationships can be difficult to navigate. “Give your daughter the freedom to make their own mistakes so they can learn from them,” said Tori Stone, PhD, Assistant Professor, and Director of the Cannabis Science Program at the University of Maryland. “Detaching with love means we need to allow them to make their own mistakes.”

Stone said there are many ways to develop healthy mother-daughter relationships. “Try to be emotionally present when you are with your daughter and listen when she is ready to talk,” she said. “Resist the impulse to provide advice or solutions.”

“If you think your daughter is feeling the same way,” Stone suggested, “it is possible that your daughter is feeling you are too close.”

A recent column by Meredith and Sofie Jacobs of North Potomac, Maryland, about their experience using journaling as a way to maintain a balance of attachment and healthy distance in their mother-daughter relationship is an important element to allow them to make their own mistakes so they can learn from them. “Detaching with love does not mean we don’t lose our phone privilege,” said Sofie. “Go Green, Go Native: Mow less, mow high, grow more, choose native.”

A few other recent stories that you might find of interest:

Murder Victim in Southern Fairfax County Never Identified

Body found in Giles Run creek remains a mystery since 1972 as does the exact location of his burial plot in a Mount Vernon graveyard.

By Mike Salmon
The Connection

On June 13, 1972, Fairfax County Police officers were called to the area of Old Colchester Road and Hassett Street in Lorton for a teenager who discovered a body in a creek. When officers arrived, they saw a young boy's body partially submerged in the Giles Run creek, formerly known as Massey Creek. The boy did not have any clothes on, nor were any found nearby, the police said. The boy was African American and detectives believed he was four to six years old when found. He had obvious signs of trauma to his upper body. The investigation led detectives to believe the child was recently placed in Giles Run at the time of the investigation. Detectives combed through missing children files for anyone matching his description. Cases with a similar description were reviewed but were not a match.

With the help of a local social group, the Charlites, the boy was buried in the Coleman Cemetery in Mount Vernon. The group named him Charles Lee Charlet.

In 2004, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children assisted the FCPD detectives by generating an image of Charles's face based on photographs taken in 1972. The image was widely circulated in the area, but his true identity remains a mystery.

When the Derecho hit Virginia on June 29, 2012, the cemetery where Charles was buried was severely damaged and many headstones were displaced. Sadly, the exact location of his burial plot was lost in the storm, the police said.

When the cold case was posted on the FCPD social media page, the responses poured in. “Beyond sad for this precious little one. Prayers that the case is solved. He needs justice and an identity,” wrote one woman. “This is an absolutely horrible story,” added another. “Happy that he was buried and given a name, but sad that his true identity has never been found and the person(s) responsible haven’t been found either. He deserves justice,” she wrote.

To this day, his identity remains unknown. FCPD detectives are asking for any information related to his identity, the identity of those responsible for his death or anyone involved in the burial, please contact FCPD detectives at 703-246-7511. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by phone – 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477), by text – Type “FCCS” plus tip to 847411, and by web. Anonymous tipsters are eligible for cash rewards of $100 to $1,000 dollars if their information leads to an arrest.

Fatal Motorcycle Crash in Mount Vernon

Motorcycle hits bus, bursts into flames.

Mount Vernon Police District – Detectives from the Fairfax County Police Department’s Crash Reconstruction Unit continue to investigate a fatal crash that occurred around 10:15 Saturday morning, March 13, on Jeff Todd Way near Mill Towns Court in Mount Vernon. Preliminarily, detectives believe the operators of a 2018 Ducati sport bike, a 2019 Kawasaki sport bike, and a 2019 Chevrolet Camaro were stopped at the intersection of Jeff Todd Way and Richmond Highway. When the light turned green, the motorcyclists and driver of the Camaro rapidly accelerated continuing westbound.

Both motorcyclists attempted to pass a 2013 Acura TL. The operator of the Ducati, Travis West, 20, of Portsmouth, hit the right side of the Acura and then impacted the rear of a Fairfax County Connector bus that was legally stopped in the right lane at a bus stop. The collision with the bus caused the motorcycle and the rear of the bus to catch fire. The operator of the Kawasaki lost control of the motorcycle which fell on its side and slid to a stop nearby. Both motorcyclists were taken to the hospital where West succumbed to his injuries. The operator of the Kawasaki was treated for injuries that were not life threatening. The bus contained no passengers and the bus driver was not injured. The driver of the Acura and the Chevy were also uninjured.

Detectives believe that speed was a contributing factor for the crash. Details of the investigation will be presented to the Office of the Commonwealth’s Attorney for review.

Anyone with information about this crash is asked to contact our Crash Reconstruction Unit at 703-280-0543. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by phone – 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477), by text – Type “FCCS” plus tip to 847411, and by web. Anonymous tipsters are eligible for cash rewards of $100 to $1,000 dollars if their information leads to an arrest.
Off the Menu: Restaurant News and Notes

By Hope Nelson

The city’s only Yunnan-style noodle house will reopen Saturday after a three-month closure for renovations. While the inside space has gotten a facelift, the outdoor seating area—a hidden gem for al fresco dining in Old Town—will also be open for dining beginning this weekend, weather permitting. Bring some cold hard dollar bills—this soft reopening is cash-only. Not up for an in-person visit? Yunnan by Potomac will also continue offering takeout and delivery service. 814 N. Fairfax St.

Uncle C’s Chicken and Waffles Opens on Richmond Highway

Since its opening several weeks ago, Uncle C’s Chicken and Waffles has taken Richmond Highway by storm. From a multitude of chicken and waffle selections to fried chicken with cornbread to a number of seafood choices, Uncle C’s has you covered. Hankering for something sweet? Try the banana pudding, strawberry cheesecake or peach cobbler to cap off the meal. 6308 Richmond Highway.

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

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
A Shot in the Arm

By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Literally and figuratively. After a year or so living the pandemic life; staying at home quarantining, wearing a mask, social distancing, washing my hands, not thinking of returning to my former life from covid-19 top 500,000 - in the United States alone, I recently became of the lucky ones to have been connected with a vaccine. I have had another two weeks to get my second shot. No worries. I have some protection now, but according to Dr. Fauci, the second follow up shot increases one’s protection “tenfold.” It wouldn’t exactly be foolish to throw caution to the wind - and reintegrate back into society (depending upon where you live), but it seems premature and irresponsible to risk being stupid when in another two weeks, I could be saved.

My wife, Dina, also recently shot, has been very smart all along, especially as it concerns my health. She has had metastatic breast cancer, but has not refused to give me passage out of our house. Victor Lazow had a better chance of leaving Causlanda than I did leaving Rutland.

But soon it appears I will have my own “letters of transit.” However, Dina has already informed me that I will not be returning to my former extraneous running ways. She intends to continue ordering food online from the grocery store and then drive to pick it up contact less in their parking lot. Actually, I might be allowed to go far that since I’m still in the car and still wearing a mask while popping the trunk and keeping my distance as the groceries are loaded into the boot. We’ll see; we’re still negotiating. But definitely not until I receive my second shot. In the meantime, I imagine our lives will change very little. Thanks to the vaccine, though, there is hope that once again, I’ll be able to interact with people, places and things.

But return I shall and relieved I will be. However, having lung cancer, and/or thyroid cancer and the effect of the pandemic with a virus that often locates in the lungs and creates breathing difficulties, even with the two shots, is still as scary and risky as it gets, especially if you’re of a certain age as I am. In two weeks, I’ll have received my booster shot, and I’ll have a lot of hope breathing a little better than as good as it gets. And I suppose I can live with that, live being the operative word.

Having cancer, irrespective of the type, your diagnosis/prognosis, is pretty damn difficult. It impacts every facet of your life. The thought (your reality) is never far from your conscious mind. And once you become a member of this less than exclusive club (more every day, unfortunately), a club that nobody wants to join, there are more risks to your life than you ever imagined, and many more for which you have absolutely no awareness. Having an external complication, like a virus, with variants that seem to spread rapidly, which have now infected over 10,000,000 Americans, and an infection for which there’s no specific cure, and seems to have its greatest negative impact on people exactly like me (age and disease) is about as foreboding as it could possibly be. And with no place to hide, other than in your own home - with no visitors allowed, a prerequisite I was recommended to invoke the sympathy of Hercules Poirot, “the greatest detective in the world” has made many of us isolated and preemptively tense. I can, as many healthcare professionals have said, almost see the light. Hopefully, it will be the light. But this as the President has suggested and not July 4th of next year. I recently became of the lucky ones to have been connected with a vaccine. I have had another two weeks to get my second shot. No worries. I have some protection now, but according to Dr. Fauci, the second follow up shot increases one’s protection “tenfold.” It wouldn’t exactly be foolish to throw caution to the wind - and reintegrate back into society (depending upon where you live), but it seems premature and irresponsible to risk being stupid when in another two weeks, I could be saved.

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The Census data used to draw new districts for the House of Delegates was supposed to arrive by the end of March, providing for enough time for the new Redistricting Commission to draw new maps before an August primary. But delays caused by the pandemic have pushed the data delivery to the end of September, just a few weeks before the November general election. That compressed timeline forced all the House candidates running for statewide office into an unexpected situation of appearing twice on the same ballot in June. "This district deserves someone who is fully focused on them," said Bennett-Parker in a written statement. "I've been serving the residents of the 45th district on City Council and on regional bodies, and I want to keep serving them as delegate."

APPEARING TWICE on the same ballot is not unprecedented in American politics. Connecticut Senator Joe Lieberman ran for re-election to his Senate seat while simultaneously running for vice president in 2000. Here in Virginia, Republican Del. Glenn Davis (R-84) was able to hold on to his House seat while running an unsuccessful campaign for lieutenant governor in 2017, although he did not face a primary opponent in that House election so his name did not appear on the ballot twice. Political strategists say the dynamics of waging a two-front political campaign are a nightmare. "It's a very dangerous situation for them, which is why people haven't done it in the past. I'm not sure that anybody would have done it this year if they had known what the rules were at the start," said Democrat-ic strategist Ben Tribbett. "Who wants to be asked to prom to be the second choice?"

Some House members have solved the problem by focusing on the statewide race and giving up their existing seat. Former Del. Jennifer Carroll Foy (D-2) resigned from her House seat to focus on her campaign for governor, and Del. Hala Ayala (D-51) is not seeking reelection so she can focus on her campaign for lieutenant governor. Del. Sam Rasoul (D-11) lucked out by not having a primary opponent for his House seat so far, which means his name won't appear twice on the ballot twice because of his campaign for lieutenant governor. For those House incumbents who are now forced into a difficult situation, some strategists say the best strategy may be to localize the argument.

"If I were Mark Levine, I would say to voters that it would be good for Alexandria for me to become lieutenant governor," said Trevor Southerland, former executive director of the House Democratic Caucus. "But if I don't win that primary, it would also be good for Alexandria to still have my seniority in the House."

Republicans have chosen against conducting a statewide primary, opting instead for a remote-voting convention on May 8 with three dozen polling locations across the state. As for the rest of the Democratic primary ballot, so far no candidates have stepped forward to challenge the incumbent mayor or the incumbent commonwealth's attorney. So those races will not appear on the ballot. Sean Casey is the only Democratic candidate to announce for sheriff so far, so that race won't be on the ballot either unless another Democratic candidate emerges before the March 25 deadline.
64 Alexandria Homes Sold In 2020 & 26 homes sold so far in 2021!

3433 Ramsgate Terr JUST LISTED
3117 Little Creek Dr JUST LISTED
4408 Tarpon Ln JUST LISTED
606 President Ford Ln $2,195,000

9406 Old Mt. Vernon Rd $998,000
4233 Laurel Dr $755,000
4305 Sheridans Point Ct $835,000
8906 Old Mount Vernon Rd $719,500

9226 Volunteer Dr $650,000
8329 Orange Ct $728,750
3809 Kings Hill Ct $989,250
8525 Bound Brook Pl $625,000

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