

## Parkway Safety Improvements Identified by National Park Service

Four changes will be implemented later this year.

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE CONNECTION

Changes are in store for traffic on the George Washington Memorial Parkway to make it safer in the southern portion between Old Town and the Mount Vernon Plantation. After evaluating a safety study that was done last year, the National Park Service has identified nine “key intersections,” where they will implement several safety solutions over the next few years through education, enforcement and engineering.



Surovell



Beyer

“The changes are intended to make the parkway safer for drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists while maintaining the parkway’s historic character,” the NPS said.

More specifically, the NPS will:

- ❖ Restripe the road to implement a road diet while maintaining driving capacity.

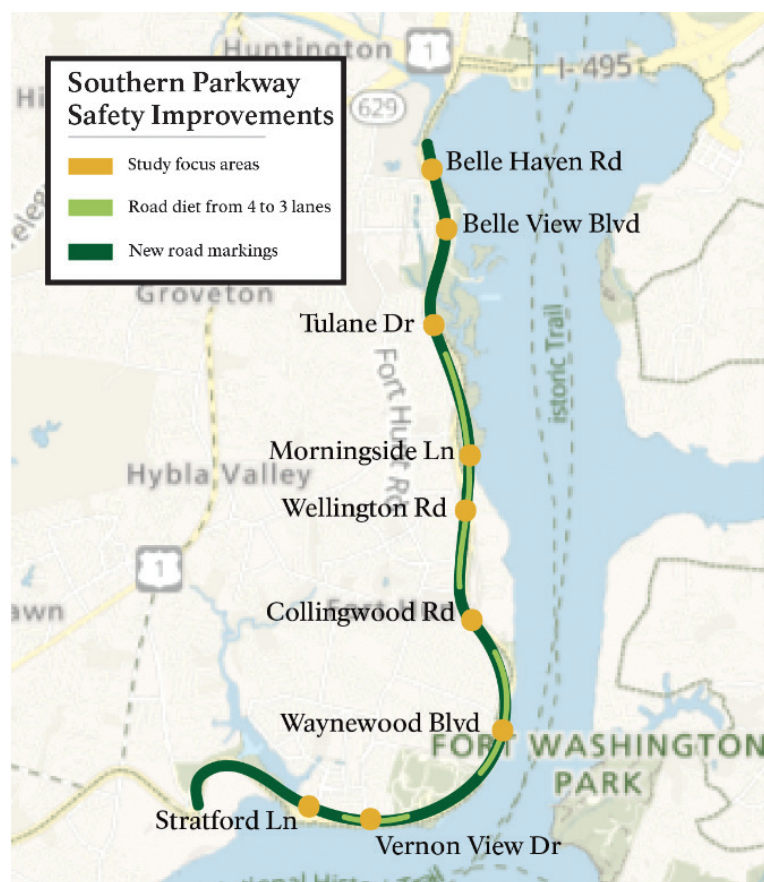
- ❖ On the parkway between Tulane Drive and Stratford Lane, the NPS will change markings so that there will be three travel lanes (2 northbound, 1 southbound) and one turn lane.

- ❖ Increase visibility of lane markings and Mount Vernon Trail crosswalks.

- ❖ Remove vegetation at intersections to improve visibility.

The NPS came up with this list of improvements after there were a series of accidents on the parkway, and then meetings with the surrounding communities on what would be needed to change driver behavior. According to their models, these changes will not impact the capacity of the road, but the NPS will monitor the situation.

“We are being responsive to comments from the public and the expert advice of transportation



These are the spots the National Park Service is looking at to implement some of the measures to slow down traffic.



Street diets and speed enforcement are being implemented for safety on the parkway.

professionals,” Superintendent Charles Cuvelier said. “Whether you are a park visitor or commuter, these changes will make driving, walking and bicycling between Alexandria and Mount Vernon safer and more enjoyable for everyone.”

According to the NPS safety study “George Washington Memorial Parkway: Traffic and Safety Context Sensitive Solutions Assess-

ment,” speed is a big problem. The speed data collected indicated that the median speed is above the posted speed limits, with the 85th percentile speed ranging from 8-to-12 mph above the posted speed limits.

The study is part of a continued effort by Rep. Don Beyer (D-8) and area elected officials Supervisor

SEE PARKWAY, ON PAGE 3



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

More students will be returning to in-person classes spring 2021.

## FCPS To Offer Four Days a Week In-school

Phased plan to start April 20 for most vulnerable students.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

Some students in the Fairfax County Public Schools system could be poised to clean off the family dining room table by April 20.

Fairfax County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Scott Brabrand, in a phone interview the morning of April 6, said that FCPS will offer four days a week in-person school instruction to some students beginning April 20.

“This expansion to four days is really the next to the last step before returning kids to five days of instruction in the fall,” said Brabrand. “It will help us get additional experience with more students that are in buildings and making sure we’re doing our safety measures well.”

FCPS is mindful of the CDC’s most recent guidance related to physical distancing in schools and other measures, Brabrand said. The division will continue to implement mitigation strategies such as monitoring disease data and it will be expanding vaccination opportunities for students and staff.

FCPS will extend the first opportunity to return to four days of in-person learning to its most vulnerable children. Any student struggling now, virtual or in-person as determined by



PHOTO BY FCPS

Dr. Scott Brabrand

school officials, will be offered four days a week of in-person instruction. Brabrand said that school staff is looking through students’ academics, especially third-quarter progress, IEPs, and the 504 processes. That is happening this week and next week.

“By April 20, kids that had selected two days of in-person will have, as school staffing and capacity allow, the opportunity to do four days of in-person. ... All of that will help prepare us to have five days of in-person instruction in the fall,” said Brabrand.

BRABRAND said the expansion is not a pilot program with small numbers of students but a significant expansion across all its schools. “We’re going to have tens of thousands of additional students receiving in-per-

SEE FCPS, ON PAGE 4



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



OPEN SAT 4/10, 11AM-2PM



### Malvern Hill | \$1,049,000

All brick four bedroom colonial on fabulous corner lot in Seminary area! Updated kitchen, paneled library, sunroom and formal dining room, plus rec room and exercise room on lower, walkout level. Garage and driveway parking for 3-4 cars! 501 N Quaker Lane  
**Kate Patterson 703.627.2166**  
[www.katepattersonhomes.com](http://www.katepattersonhomes.com)

OPEN SUN 4/11, 2-4PM



### Southwood | \$789,000

Spacious & gracious 5-bedroom, 4-bath home in Mount Vernon. Plenty of space for living, working, entertaining & relaxing is highlighted by tons of natural light, plenty of storage, thoughtful finishing touches & mature landscaping. 4206 Mt Vernon Memorial Hwy  
**Robin Arnold 703.966.5457**  
[www.robinarnoldsells.com](http://www.robinarnoldsells.com)

COMING SOON



### Alexandria City | \$750,000

3-bedroom, 2-bath home walkable to "The Avenue!" Sunny sitting room off of primary bedroom opens to private brick patio with terraced garden. Hardwood floors. Light-filled lower level boasts entertaining area and full bath. 2718 Hickory Street  
**Jen Walker 703.675.1566**  
[www.JenWalker.com](http://www.JenWalker.com)

VIRTUAL OPEN SAT 4/10, 10-11AM



### Fleetside | \$549,000

Light & Bright! All brick, 3-level end unit! 2,100+ finished SF with 3 bedrooms, 2 full & 2 half baths, wood-burning fireplace, 1-car garage. Private patio, fully-fenced back yard. Ideal cul-de-sac location. Minutes from Springfield Mall & just off Old Franconia Rd. 6419 Fleetside Court  
**Cindy Clemmer 703.966.0403**  
[www.ClemmerAndSchuckHomes.com](http://www.ClemmerAndSchuckHomes.com)

OPEN SAT 4/10 & SUN 4/11, 2-4PM



### Parkfairfax | \$419,205

Superbly renovated & sun-filled 2-story, 2-bedroom, 1-bath condo. Open concept main-level with quartz kitchen island, crisp white cabinetry & white subway tile backsplash. Beautiful hardwoods on the main level. Fully remodeled bathroom. Great location! 3725 Lyons Lane  
**Sean McEneaney 703.635.8836**  
**Heidi Burkhardt 703.217.6009**

COMING SOON



### Old Town

**\$999,000**

3-bedroom, 2.5-bath townhouse! Beautifully renovated gourmet kitchen features island, farmhouse sink, custom cabinetry. Hardwood flooring throughout. Primary bedroom with en-suite bath, separate shower and soaking tub. Guest bedroom with renovated bath and loft area. 410 N Patrick St.

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



### Rosemont

**\$619,000**

2-bedroom, 2-bath stone-front townhome! Home boasts 3 levels. Lower level includes a cozy fireplace and walk out to beautiful private garden. Park in alley out back or in front. Walk to King Street Metro. Enjoy all that Old Town and Del Ray have to offer! 5 E Maple Street

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

McENEARNEY ASSOCIATES  
IS PLEASED TO WELCOME

**JEFF CANN**

TO THE ALEXANDRIA OFFICE

If you are thinking of buying, selling or renting,  
call Jeff today at **703.717.1932**, or email him  
at **JCann@McEneaney.com**.

[JeffreyCann.com](http://JeffreyCann.com)

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





## Biden Visits Local Vaccination Site

**Announces April 19 for expanded eligibility for all.**

JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

President Joe Biden made a visit April 6 to a Neighborhood Health vaccination clinic at Virginia Theological Seminary, using the occasion to announce the expansion of COVID-19 vaccine eligibility.

"You're doing the right thing," Biden said to those waiting to receive the vaccine. "And when you go back, when you go home, get all your friends, tell them, 'Get a shot when they can.' Everyone's going to be able to [get the vaccine] before the month is out. Every age."

Biden announced that every adult will be eligible by April 19 to sign up to be vaccinated, a two-week acceleration from his original May 1 goal.

During a tour of the Immanuel Chapel site, the president spoke with staff and patients, most waiting for their second vaccine dose.



President Joe Biden visits a Neighborhood Health Clinic April 6 at Virginia Theological Seminary.

"That's the way to beat this," Biden said. "Get the vaccination when you can."

Roughly 300 people a day come through the vaccination site, with Neighborhood Health administering about 20,000 doses, or about

5,000 shots a week. Of those who reported their ethnicity and race, more than 85 percent have been people of color.

Neighborhood Health is focused on increasing vaccine equity. It has set up seven vaccination sites in ar-

reas accessible to underserved communities in Alexandria, Arlington and Fairfax County. The sites are located in churches, community centers and retail areas. The vaccine program is not open to the general public. Instead, it is focused on its

**"That's the way to beat this. Get the vaccination when you can."**

**President Joe Biden at Virginia Theological Seminary vaccine clinic.**

WHITE HOUSE COURTESY PHOTO

low-income patient population as well as individuals referred from approximately 100 partner organizations that serve low-income communities and people of color who have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.

"We are grateful to our dedicated staff, volunteers and partners in the faith community, nonprofits, and local government who are working together to vaccinate the communities that have been most impacted by COVID-19," said Neighborhood Health's Executive Director Dr. Basim Khan. "We are honored that President Biden chose to visit one of our vaccine sites."

## Parkway Safety Improvements

FROM PAGE 1

Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon), State Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36), State Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30) and Del. Paul Krizek (D-44), and U.S. Senators Mark Warner (D-VA) and Tim Kaine (D-VA) to improve safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists on the Parkway.

Surovell looked at the success of the road diets on King Street and Seminary Road in

Alexandria, and on the George Washington Parkway, the left turns pose a danger in a number of places so the steps the NPS is taking may be an answer.

"There's no question we need to do something," he said.

"Traffic volume and higher speeds on the Parkway have been a longstanding concern," added Beyer. "I commend the work of the

National Park Service for the report's thoroughness and am pleased to see the commitment to immediately implement safety improvements like restriping pavement and enhancing signage. I look forward to working with the community to evaluate and, where practicable, implement the study's recommendations and to secure Federal funding that supports further safety im-

provements."

The parkway serves an estimated 25,000 vehicles a day in the southern portion, and it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, which was a factor in considering any park changes so they are "context sensitive," the NPS said.

Parkway users will see the initial improvements later this year.

### 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.

#### SATURDAY/APRIL 10

Potomac River Cleanup. 9-11 a.m. At Jones Point Park, 100 Jones Point Dr, Alexandria. Join in collecting trash and plastics from Jones Point Park. Visit [www.eventbrite.com/e/potomac-conservancy-clean-up-at-jones-point-park-tickets-147847492831](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/potomac-conservancy-clean-up-at-jones-point-park-tickets-147847492831)

#### TUESDAY/APRIL 20

Arriving in America. 1-3 p.m. Via Zoom. The Mount Vernon Genealogical Society presents Genealogist Sharon Hodges discussing Arriving in America in the Early 19th Century. Nonmembers are welcome to attend one event each year free of charge. Register no later than April 12 at <https://mvgenealogy.org/cpage.php?pt=111>.

Visit [www.mvgenealogy.org](http://www.mvgenealogy.org) and link to the Events Page for more information on this and other upcoming events.

#### FARMERS MARKET

##### VENDORS STILL DELIVERING

The McCutcheon/Mt. Vernon Farmers Market won't reopen until April 21, but in the meantime some of the market's vendors are taking orders online and delivering them to the Sherwood Hall Library parking lot on Wednesdays. Note that you must order in advance and that not all the vendors deliver every week. The vendors making deliveries are: Arnest Seafood - crab cakes, scallops, shrimp, rockfish, oysters and more; Honey Brook Farms - meats and vegetables raised with no chemicals, gluten-free baked goods; Misty Meadow Farm Creamery - milk,

ice cream, cheese, eggs and meats; Twin Springs Orchard - fruits, vegetables, cheese and more; Valentine's Bakery & Meats - meats and baked goods.

The Fairfax County Park Authority, which operates the Mt. Vernon Farmers Market, has no connection to the deliveries. The market, with a full array of vendors, will resume on April 21 and take place every Wednesday from 8 a.m. to noon at the Sherwood Hall Regional Library through December 22.

#### COVID UPDATES

Quick Facts for Older Adults about COVID-19 Vaccine Appointments Vaccine eligibility is occurring in phases per the CDC and Virginia Department of Health. More information about vaccine rollout in Fairfax can be found at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/covid19](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/covid19).

As more vaccine becomes available, there will be more options where to access it. In the future, you will likely be able to access vaccine via your doctor, a health clinic or pharmacy. It takes two doses. Follow the directions of your vaccine provider to schedule your second dose. One caregiver can attend a vaccine appointment with their loved one. Vaccine-eligible people can register for appointments online or over the phone (no need to do both). Online: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/covid19](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/covid19). Click on "Vaccination" at the top of the page and you will see registration information. After your registration is accepted, a scheduling link will be sent to you as vaccine becomes available. Call: 703-324-7404 to register for a

vaccine via phone. Vaccine Appointment Tips After you receive your first vaccine, you should take a picture of your vaccination card that you will receive. That way you won't have to worry about misplacing it. Wear a mask to the appointment. Download and use v-Safe, an app that helps you report any reactions you are having to the vaccine. Learn more: [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/vsafe.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/vsafe.html)

#### ADULT ENGLISH LANGUAGE CLASSES

The Literacy Council of Northern Virginia (LCNV) is hosting beginning-level adult English

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 4



# FCPS To Offer Four Days a Week In-school

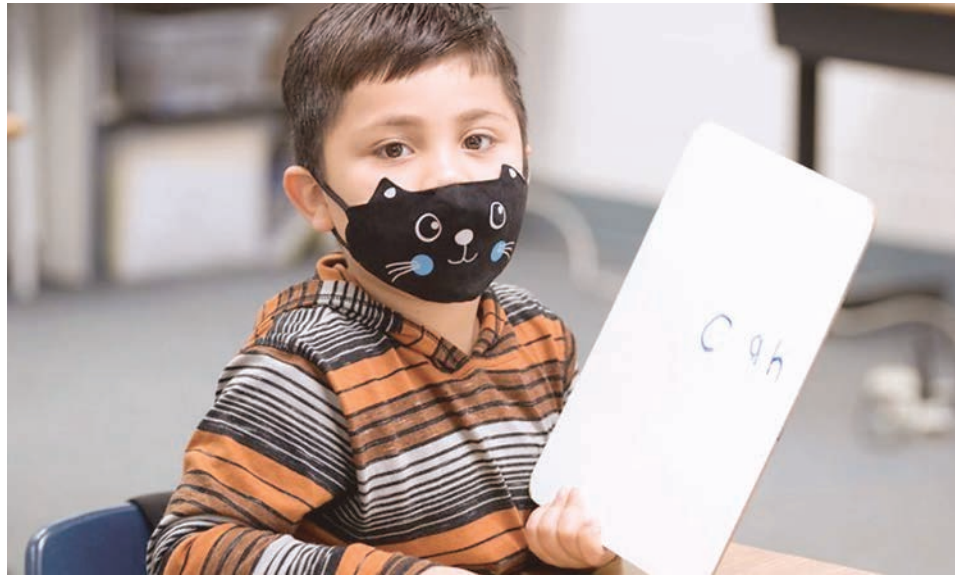
FROM PAGE 1

son instruction. This is a major step forward and the last step before going to five days of in-person instruction.”

Brabrand said that the in-person acceptance rates per school have varied from 20 percent of students being in-person to 80 percent. That variability means in-person learning will look different at each school. Variability is one of the nuances in the expansion. The plan, though, is dependent upon staff availability. Staff “really stepped up,” according to Brabrand.

Meanwhile, FCPS is working closely with the health department and monitoring additional opportunities for younger students to get access to the vaccine. Currently no one younger than 16 can be vaccinated but trials are underway for younger children, and vaccination could be expanded before the start of school in the fall.

“We may get authorization for kids even younger than 16, to have an aggressive campaign ... to vaccinate as many of our kids who are eligible to receive the vaccine before school starts in the fall. That’ll be another layer of safety and security for students



A young FCPS student is back in school for in-person learning.

“We’re going to have tens of thousands of additional students receiving in-person instruction. This is a major step forward and the last step before going to five days of in-person instruction.”

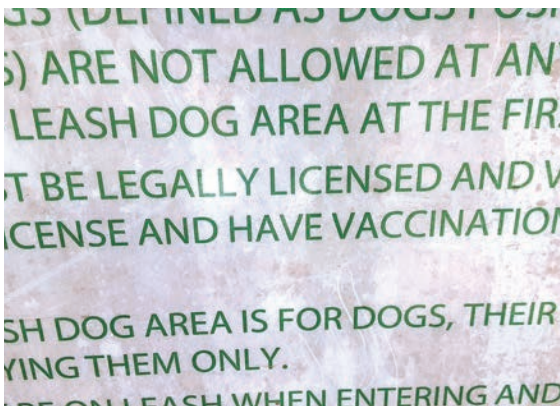
— Scott Brabrand, superintendent

and staff.”

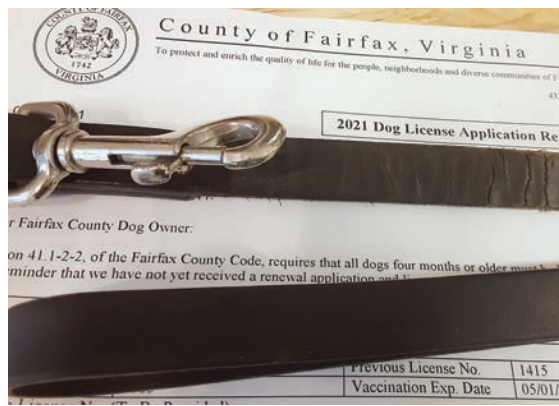
**LOOKING BACK** on the past 13 months of the pandemic, Brabrand said he would have appreciated receiving CDC guidance

“sooner and clearer.” “The confusion at the beginning of the pandemic set the course for a lot of confusion and mixed messages throughout the pandemic. Our first priority was keeping students and staff safe. We’ve

gotten more clarity. We’ve gotten the guidance we’ve needed. And we’re using that guidance to move our schools back to normal operations as quickly as possible and as safely as possible.”



At the Mount Vernon dog park, rule #3 talks about the dog license and vaccination.



The county bill sent to dog owners resembles the personal property tax bill.



PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/CAZETTE

Milo the American Foxhound was wearing his tag.

## County Dog License Fee Acts as Tracker for Vaccinations

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE CONNECTION

**I**t’s a numbers game in the world these days, and even dogs in Fairfax County get a registration number with the annual payment of \$10 as a license fee, which ends up in the county General Fund, covering lots of things including the animal shelter program and rabies vaccination records. According to the county, the Department of Tax Administration administers the dog licensing program and col-

lected \$798,452 from the license fee in 2020. At a county dog park in Mount Vernon, most dog owners didn’t seem to mind paying \$10. “It’s only \$10, no big deal,” said Roxanne Parks, a Mount Vernon resident who was walking her dog, Milo, an American Foxhound that was wearing the county tag. Same with David Carver who was with “Trapper,” an Airedale. “Sure, anything to make sure they have their vaccinations,” he said. Another dog owner wasn’t concerned but “my fiancée had an issue about it,” he

said. At the dog park, the registration rule was reiterated on the sign. Rule #3 states dogs must be legally licensed and vaccinated.

Department of Tax Administration is required to obtain a current certificate of rabies vaccination before issuing a dog license, pursuant to County Ordinance Section 41.1-2-3 titled “Certificate of vaccination prerequisite to issuance of dog licenses.” It states that no license tag shall be issued for any dog unless the Director of Tax Administration receives either a certificate of rabies

vaccination, or a rabies vaccination exemption certificate. The objective is to ensure that all owners of dogs four months or older get their dogs vaccinated against rabies by a licensed veterinarian or veterinary technician under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

All licensed veterinarians in Virginia are to provide the county with rabies certificate information, and they compare that information with official records, and mail license applications to dog owners that have not yet registered their dogs.

For dog owners that don’t register and eventually pay the \$10, the county will find the scofflaws. Code of Virginia 3.2-6536 allows for summons to be issued to dog owners for failure to pay the required license fee, and owners are liable for payment of all associated costs (including court costs).

New licenses must be purchased by Feb. 1 each year and license tags are issued free of charge for service dogs that assist residents who are visually impaired, deaf, or need mobility assistance.

### BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 3

language classes from February to May. Due to the continued situation of COVID-19, classes for the spring semester will be held on virtual platforms only, which require students to have a computer, tablet, or

smartphone and internet access to participate. Registration runs through February 5, with options to register via text message, phone calls, or in-person at certain locations and times.

Classes offered this spring include:  
❖ Beginning English Class: provides adult English language learners

the fundamental skills to understand and communicate in English, helping them to better engage in the community and advance their careers.

❖ Family Learning Programs (FLP): provides English language instruction for parents or caregivers, so that they can better communicate

with their children and support their education. Classes are \$85 with books and assessment included. Registration is required for enrollment. Please understand that no children are allowed at in-person registrations. If possible, please bring your interpreter for the process. Strict

social distancing precautions will be enforced. Face masks will be provided. Registration times and dates are available at LCNV’s distance learning page (<https://lcnv.org/distance-learning-session/lcnv-classes/>), or call 703-237-0866.



# Bicycling in Fairfax County Looking to Expand

## Meetings planned this month to develop the 'Active Fairfax Plan.'

By MIKE SALMON  
THE CONNECTION

With the warm weather approaching, Fairfax County is holding a series of meetings to hear thoughts about active transportation in the county, and this input will be used in their Active Fairfax Transportation Plan to integrate the existing Bicycle Master and Trails Plans. Throughout April, every Supervisor's district will have virtual public meetings to find out how county residents travel by biking, walking, rolling, hiking, running and riding in and around the local communities.

Bruce Wright, the President of the Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling (FABB) supports the county's trail network, and is looking at linking certain parts of the network to improve ride-ability. While much work has been done in this area, there are a few spots that are unclear for a cyclist connection. "I hope that the county puts more emphasis on making these connections," he said.

Officials are looking to work with transportation partners to develop a vision to help shape the future of active transportation in Fairfax County by consolidating previous active transportation planning efforts into one cohesive document that is easy-to-digest and track performance, the county officials said. Using this document, officials want to encourage livable street design and transportation network that connects and encourages people to take transit. Eventually this plan will be used to update the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan.

On the bike riders level, this is local riders' chance to advocate for more funding, actions to curb speeding by motorists, more signage, lighting, bike parking, and other ideas to make Fairfax County more bicycle-friendly.

### More Bike Options

According to the Capital Trails Coalition, the region already has 469 miles of existing trails but there are 152 projects, making up 408 miles of trails that need to be



Bicycling picked up with the pandemic.



Commuting by bike is part of the picture.

## Meetings

### Schedule

#### District Meetings on Active Fairfax Plan

Braddock - Mon.,	April 26	7 p.m.
Dranesville - Tues.,	April 20	7 p.m.
Hunter Mill - Mon.,	April 19	7 p.m.
Lee - Mon.,	April 12	6:30 p.m.
Mason - Thurs.,	April 8	7 p.m.
Mount Vernon - Thurs.,	April 22	6:30 p.m.
Providence - Wed.,	April 28	7 p.m.
Springfield - Tues.,	April 27	7 p.m.
Sully - Wed.,	April 21	7 p.m.

#### Conversacion comunitaria de transporte activo en espanol

Thurs.,	April 15, 2021	7 p.m.
Lunch & Learn - Tues.,	April 13	12 p.m.
Lunch & Learn - Fri.,	April 23	12 p.m.

built or connected to complete the network. In Fairfax County, there is the Backlick Run Trail near Springfield, the Fox Mill sidepath, the Mount Vernon Memorial Highway Trail, the Reston Parkway sidepath, the Richmond Highway Trail, the Route 7 sidepath, the VRE Trail, and the West Ox Road sidepath. The "sidepaths," are bike talk for a trail parallel to the road.

While most of these extensions are under one mile, some are significant like the Virginia Railroad Express Trail, which is a path 16.48 miles long, or the Route 7 sidepath that is 11.89 miles long.

For those who cannot make the virtual meetings, the survey can be taken online at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/bike-walk/activefairfax>

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



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

OPEN  
SUNDAY 1-4



**Vienna/Acadia Condo** \$404,900  
9480 Virginia Center Blvd. Unit 120

Beautiful 2BR,2BA Condo located in South Vienna. Good Sized Bedrooms each with their own walk-in closet and bath. Kitchen is open to the eating area and family room and has beautiful corian countertops. Attractive laminated flooring through the kitchen, family room and hallways. Don't miss the office station and the lovely balcony off the family room. 2 convenient garage spaces below are reserved for this unit. Tremendous community amenities highlighted by a wonderful swimming pool, gym, recreational room and office room. Finally, a perfect location with quick and easy access to Rt. 66, 495 and Rt. 50. If you want to leave your car behind, a quick 2 block walk will put you at the Vienna Metro Station. This wonderful property can be yours to enjoy!!

COMING  
SOON



**Alex/Mt. Vernon Manor** \$560s  
8804 Falkstone Lane

Great Opportunity for a young family to invest in this lovely 4BR, 2.5BA Colonial in a wonderful neighborhood and to add their own taste and design to the kitchen and baths. The interior and exterior have been freshly painted, and the hwd floors have been refinished and look great. The yard is large, fenced in the back to allow little ones and a dog or two to romp. Both the front and rear have been overseeded and should start coming to life in a couple of weeks. Similar model, but with a 2-car garage and totally remodeled, recently sold for \$721,250. Great location- to the South: Ft. Belvoir, 5 minutes - to the North: Old Town Alexandria, 15 minutes, National Airport, 27 minutes, Pentagon and D.C.- 30-35 minutes. Tough to find a home and good-sized lot in this area <\$600,000.

UNDER  
CONTRACT



**Alex/Riverside Estates** \$749,900  
8314 Orange Court

Gorgeous, newly renovated three level colonial with garage in sought after Mt. Vernon community. 4 bedrooms 2 1/2 baths. Newly screened in back porch and new deck. Spectacular kitchen opened up to dining room with high-end stainless steel Samsung appliances including "smart" refrigerator, quartz counters and tiled backslash. Nicely updated bathrooms. Two fireplaces, both with new liners. New windows, new roof, new perimeter french drain, new 200-amp electrical panel. Refinished hardwood floors. This popular model also has a family room on the main level (in addition to the kitchen, dining and living rooms). Workshop room off of garage. Attractive shed. The work has been done for you - just move in and enjoy this beautiful home and its wonderful location.



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

Each Office Independently Owned and Operated



## Inside or out...



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



Serving:  
VA  
DC  
MD  
OBX

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





# OPINION

## Proposed County Facilities at Former Hybla Valley Nursery Site

BY DAN STORCK

Please join me on April 24 at 10 a.m. or April 26 at 7 p.m. for virtual community meetings on the Penn Daw Fire Station, Emergency and Supportive Housing project. County staff has proposed building new public safety and housing facilities at the former Hybla Valley Nursery site at 2801 Beacon Hill Road. At the meeting, staff will present information about the project and we all will be answering questions.

As you know, our Fairfax community is varied and diverse, from ethnicity to income levels, we have it all.

Our County is focused on ensuring that the housing options in the County are just as varied and diverse as our residents. That means single family homes, townhomes or high rises for those who want them, affordable homes for those who need them and emergency homes for those who need an extra hand up. Importantly, our One Fairfax County policy means these options must be available throughout the County, not just in one area.

In support of this concept, residents overwhelmingly approved funding to renovate or replace four emergency housing facilities

or shelters through a 2016 Human Services and Community Development Bond Referendum. One facility has been completed and the remaining three are in various stages of development, including our area's facility.

Bond funding was also approved to replace the Penn Daw Fire Station which was built in 1967 as a volunteer station and is one of the oldest and busiest in the county.

While planning for the replacement of the Penn Daw Fire Station, and after years of searching for a new location, the former Hybla Valley Nursery site became available and was found to be an advantageous location for a new state-of-the-art fire station. The location on Beacon Hill Road allows first responders direct access to emergencies in the community and eliminates the need and million-dollar cost for construction of a temporary fire station. Due to the larger than needed size of the property and ideal location near Richmond Highway, it also provided the opportunity for co-location of additional facilities, which saves the County money and resources, while providing better services. Since 2016, County staff has spent significant time reviewing and considering twelve potential sites for this relocation and this is the only

viable site that has been identified in the area.

With this in mind, County staff began looking at a continuum of housing that could be co-located with the fire station and the need to replace the existing Eleanor Kennedy Shelter, located in a 100-year-old worn-out converted pump house on Fort Belvoir land with no options for additional supportive housing. In addition, renovating this dilapidated shelter is not practical due to its age and poor design. Best practice calls for having emergency housing be a part of a crisis response system that provides safety, service connections, and individual and family connections to permanent housing.

To consider what might be co-located on this site, I convened the Penn Daw Fire Station and Supportive Housing Committee. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/sites/publicworks/files/assets/documents/projects/penn-daw-fire-station-and-supportive-housing-committee-member-list.pdf>

The advisory committee, comprised of members from nearby communities, public safety representatives, faith community and affordable/emergency housing providers, the Mount Vernon

Council of Citizens Association, the Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce, Fort Belvoir and County staff serve as liaisons between you, the community, this project and my office.

As a next step in the consideration process, information is being shared with you through two community meetings planned for April 24 and 26. At these meetings, County staff will provide an overview of the project under consideration, including the fire station, emergency and supportive housing and ample time for you to ask questions of them and me. In the meantime, you can learn more about the plans for the fire station and the current conditions and renovation challenges at the Kennedy Shelter on the project website: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/capital-projects/penn-daw-fire-station-and-supportive-housing>.

The virtual community meeting information will also be posted at this link soon. As this planning process continues, there will be additional community meetings and public hearings. Please join me on April 24 at 10 a.m. or April 26 at 7 p.m. for virtual community meetings on the Penn Daw Fire Station, Emergency and Supportive Housing project.

Olivia Johnson  
Burke

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Making a Path to Acceptance a Bit Easier

To the Editor:

I'm a parent to a transgender daughter in fifth grade in FCPS.

I'm disappointed but not surprised by the Family Foundation's lawsuit. While I ruffle at the perpetuation of myths surrounding trans and gender-expansive youths (along with continued arguments based on "biological sex"), there is a part of me that wants their concerns aired out and examined. I've personally tried to have these conversations with concerned citizens, including faith leaders because I think there is common ground in protecting students from trauma. The piece they are missing is that all children want to feel safe in shared

spaces such as locker rooms and bathrooms, and casting transgender students as the cause of this trauma is misplaced.

As to privacy concerns, I look to Gavin Grimm and the invasions he faced at the hands of "concerned citizens," and I want to agree that children and students, cis and trans deserve privacy, which means not classifying them by the body parts they possess. I think the Model Guidelines are important to start these conversations and listen to each other. But I absolutely stand behind trans students first and foremost, particularly those living in abusive home situations that necessitate the school's delicate handling of their gender identity and to whom that information is disclosed.

These policies will save lives, but I hope they also serve to educate people who have never sat in a room with a transgender person and listened to their experiences with an open heart. When I hear

a fearful speech about including trans students with their cis peers, I hear echoes of those arguments some white folks made to protest desegregation and integration in schools. That's the lens through which I view this vital step forward.

What I hope comes out of these policies is increased awareness about the experiences of our transgender students. To keep their needs in mind just as we keep other diverse students in mind. As a parent to a child who socially transitioned in elementary school, my wish was that her transition had not been the first time her school administration had sat with these questions about what is equitable and right.

FCPS has been very accepting, but we still faced challenges when it came to explaining pronouns to teachers and administrators and advocating for my daughter to use the bathroom that made her comfortable. (She never used the

restroom at school, which was very concerning to me as a parent.

In part, this is because her principal voiced concerns in front of my daughter about her using the girls' restroom.) The public's education on trans issues should not be resting on the shoulders of trans students alone. These policies lighten the load and make their difficult path toward acceptance a bit easier.

FCPS has been amazing at listening to the guidance and beginning the process of training faculty and staff about the issues trans students face. I hold them to a high standard, and they have really shown up for my student. Even when there are bumps in the road, my daughter has been overwhelmingly supported and accepted.

## Mount Vernon Gazette

[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 Foong, John Heinly,  
Ali Khaligh  
Production Manager:  
Geovani Flores

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

A Connection Newspaper





# Two Lawsuits Threaten Virginia Public Schools

Appellants ask courts to halt implementation of Student Transgender Policies; local FCPS Pride reacts.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

The outcome of two lawsuits filed in Circuit Courts the last week in March threatens the treatment of transgender students in all Virginia school divisions, including Fairfax County Public Schools.

On Monday, March 29, Christian Action Network filed a Motion for Intermediate Relief pursuant to Va. Code § 2.2-4028 in the Circuit Court for the City of Lynchburg, Va., asking the court to postpone implementation of “Model Policies for the Treatment of Transgender Students in Virginia’s Public Schools.”

On Tuesday, March 30, the Founding Freedom Law Center (FFLC), along with The Family Foundation and Sarah Via, a parent from Hanover County, filed as appellants in the Circuit Court of the City of Richmond a Petition for Appeal From State Department of Education Guidance Document against appellees Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) and Atif Qarni, in his official capacity as Virginia Secretary of Education over its recently adopted Model Policies for the Treatment of Transgender Students in Virginia’s Public Schools.

**ACCORDING TO THE MODEL POLICIES,** the fundamental guiding principle is that all children have a right to learn, free from discrimination and harassment. The policies will, among other things, allow students to use bathrooms, locker rooms, and changing facilities that conform to their gender identity or expression, as well as use pronouns and a name so reflective. The policies also address bullying, dress codes, and school record-keeping, holding educators and administrators accountable.

Jim Davids is Chief Counsel of the Founding Freedoms Law Center. He argued that the 30-page suit with exhibits seeks to stop the effective date of these policies to enable VDOE, as well as school boards, to have more time to study the effects of policies on transgender students and students “who have no gender dysphoria.”

But Virginia law approved March 4, 2020, requires each school board to adopt policies relating to the treatment of transgender students; policies pursuant to subsection B of § 22.1-23.3, Treatment of transgender students policies, no later than the beginning of the 2021–2022 school year.

Davids urged prudence, saying they were asking the court to send the document back to VDOE. He alleged legal errors and the need to remove constitutional violations of the guidance document. “Sit back; let’s walk through this together...We want to work with the Department and school boards to frankly avoid the injury that accompanies

poorly thought out governmental policies.” He referenced Japanese Americans’ internment during World War II and that it took thirty years for an apology. Davids claimed in his statement, “Most of these students (transgender) revert to their biological sex anyway before leaving adolescence.”

VDOE developed the document in response to House Bill 145 and Senate Bill 161, enacted by the 2020 Virginia General Assembly last March. Thirty-four stakeholders throughout the Commonwealth provided input and offered expertise.

Local FCPS Pride, a community and network for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Allied employees and families in Fairfax County Public Schools, posted on its Facebook account, it was “appalled.” The group supports the newly released model policies regulating safeguards and treatment of transgender Virginia public school children K-12.

FCPS Pride has fought for years for regulations. In May of 2015, Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) added gender identity to its nondiscrimination policy. In July of 2016, FCPS finalized and made immediately effective regulations on how the school system responded to transgender and gender non-conforming students, choice of names, bathrooms, and other concerns.

Plaintiff Family Foundation of Virginia is a conservative nonprofit, faith-based organization. It lobbies against same-sex marriages, funding of abortions and holds a core principle that “Gender (is), beautifully expressed as either male or female according to God’s immutable design,” as cited on its Family Foundation website.

Victoria Cobb, President of The Family Foundation of Virginia alleged during the March 30 filmed FFLC news conference published to Facebook that the guidelines replace fundamental parental rights and protection of bodily privacy and safety rights for their youngest students.

Kristen Allen represented a group of parents in Arlington called The Arlington Parent Coalition. She, too, spoke at the news conference on March 30 in opposition to the guidelines. Allen said that parents could no longer protect their children in public schools and were concerned about children who struggle with gender dysphoria. “Current policies lead to damaging outcomes for these students while demanding transgender ideology indoctrination of all children,” Allen said.

“The members of FCPS Pride, including LGBTQIA staff, parents of LGBTQIA+ students, and LGBTQIA+ families in Fairfax County Public Schools, are shocked that these organizations would try to foster such an unfriendly and unwelcoming atmosphere

SEE TWO LAWSUITS, PAGE 13

## GOING BACK TO SCHOOL IS A REASON TO CELEBRATE — AND DESPAIR

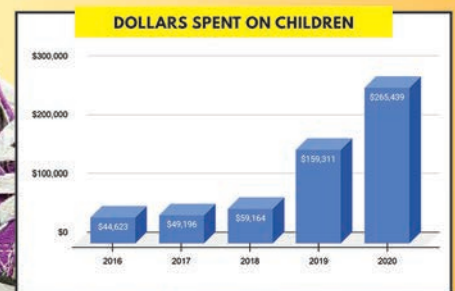


The notion of children going back to school is cause for great celebration but, for a child living in poverty, it means once again facing the pressure of being “different” from their more fortunate peers. With virtual learning, these children could disguise the holes in their shoes or how they were wearing the same clothes every day. Now, when they attend school, they will not be able to hide and that means once again being the target of ridicule and bullying.

Ten years ago, we formed Alice’s Kids to give children living in poverty the ability to blend into the crowd by providing them targeted financial assistance. We help children across the country who cannot afford not just new sneakers but prom tickets, field trip fees, summer camps, glasses and other items that others take for granted.

Our process is simple: when a teacher or social worker identifies a child with a specific need, they send us a request for help. We respond by either sending them a gift card or a check, which they pass on to the parent or guardian. This system is designed to preserve the dignity of the child as they do not know they are receiving charity. In addition, the adult has a chance to proudly announce to the child that they are going shopping!

We want to reach even more children, so if you know a professional who works with children in need, refer them to our Request Form at [aliceskids.org](http://aliceskids.org). And, if you are so inclined to help us financially, please note the Donate button on the same page.



To donate, go to [aliceskids.org](http://aliceskids.org)  
or mail contribution to P.O. Box 60, Mount Vernon, VA 22121

Alice’s Kids is a 501C3 non-profit charity registered in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Let us know about an upcoming event  
[www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar)

**MOUNT VERNON ★ LEE**  
**Chamber**  
**OF COMMERCE**



**celebrate  
spring  
locally**

- Create local jobs
- Get better service
- Keep your \$\$ local
- Help the environment

**Thank You for  
Supporting Local  
Businesses**

[MountVernonLeeChamber.org](http://MountVernonLeeChamber.org)



# Earl Lloyd Statue Unveiled

Trailblazer broke the color barrier of the NBA.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

Under the glare of a national spotlight, Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier for Major League Baseball in 1947. Three years later, on a snowy evening in 1950, a similar but quieter revolution took place when a black man stepped onto a court in Rochester, N.Y., marking the first time an African American played for an NBA team.

That man was Earl Lloyd and on April 3, what would have been Lloyd's 93rd birthday, a statue of the basketball trailblazer was unveiled at a virtual dedication ceremony at the Charles Houston Recreation Center.

"Earl Lloyd's legacy goes much deeper than his success as a player on the court or coaching on the sidelines," said Ted Leonsis, owner of the Washington Wizards and Washington Mystics professional basketball teams. "Earl's perseverance paved the way for countless young African American men and women across the country to see for the first time that they, too, could play professionally. This statue will help ensure that all of his life lessons will never be forgotten and those who see it will be reminded of what they can accomplish."

Lloyd's NBA debut passed without fanfare. The Rochester Democrat and Chronicle didn't mention Lloyd, playing for the Washington Capitols, in its game story of the Caps' 78-70 loss to the Rochester Royals. But it was a watershed moment in American history.

Just four years earlier, in 1946, the Alexandria native had graduated from the segregated Parker-Gray High School, now the site of the Charles Houston Rec Center, where athletic teams had to travel to cities such as Roanoke, Charlottesville or Petersburg in an open-bed canvas truck filled with hay because there were no hotels or eating establishments available to African Americans.

Nicknamed "Big Cat," Lloyd would go on to become the first African American to play on an NBA championship team when his Syracuse Nationals defeated the Fort Wayne Pistons in 1955. In 1960, the Detroit Pistons took him on as the NBA's first black assistant coach and, later, he would be hired as the league's first African American bench coach. In 1971, he became the NBA's fourth black head coach.

Tony Dungy, the first African American head coach to win a Super Bowl, grew up in the Detroit area when Lloyd was named head



Alexandria African American Hall of Fame committee members Julian "Butch" Haley Jr., Robert Dawkins and Jimmy Lewis stand in front of the Earl Lloyd statue April 3 at the Charles Houston Recreation Center.



Earl Lloyd made history as the first African American to play in the NBA when he took to the court for the Washington Capitols on Oct. 31, 1950, in Rochester, N.Y.

coach of the Pistons.

"Earl was a pioneer and a trailblazer and had an impact on so many lives, including mine," Dungy said. "When Earl became head coach of the Pistons, that was a landmark occasion that told me as a young athlete I could strive not only to be a player but someday to be a coach. And as I sat

there in Super Bowl 41 as the first African American coach to win a Super Bowl, I thought back to Earl Lloyd and what he did to blaze the trail for us."

As a high school basketball star, Lloyd was named to the All-South Atlantic Conference three times and the All-State Virginia Interscholastic Conference twice. Following his graduation from Parker-Gray, the 6'6" Lloyd attended West Virginia State College, where he led the school to two Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association Conference and Tournament Championships in 1948 and 1949. Lloyd was named All-Conference three times and was All-American twice.

Following his college graduation in 1950, Lloyd was drafted into the NBA by the Washington Capitols. After seven games, he was drafted into the Army during the Korean War.

He returned to basketball in 1952 with the Syracuse Nationals.

In 1958, Lloyd moved to Detroit, where he played two seasons with the Pistons before retiring as a player and moving into coaching. In 2003, he was enshrined in the Basketball Hall



Karen Lloyd and Cornelius Lloyd, the niece and nephew of Earl Lloyd, unveil the statue of their uncle at the April 3 dedication at the Charles Houston Recreation Center. Earl Lloyd was the first African American to play in the NBA, breaking the color barrier in 1950.



Earl Lloyd, serving as the 2006 George Washington Birthday Parade grand marshal, talks with members of the T.C. Williams JROTC program before the start of the parade.

of Fame. Lloyd was inducted into the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame in 1993 and the CIAA Hall of fame in 1998. In 2001, Alexandria celebrated Earl Lloyd Day and in 2007,

the new basketball court at T.C. Williams High School was named in his honor.

Additional speakers for the ceremony featured sports and political notables, including CBS broadcaster James Brown, NBA Commissioner Adam Silver, NBA Hall of Famers Dave Bing and Sonny Hill, Detroit Pistons coach Ray Scott, Sen. Mark Warner, Gov. Ralph Northam, Mayor Justin Wilson and Lloyd's sons Kenneth, Kevin and David.

Dr. Frank Enty was

**"This statue will help ensure that all of [Earl's] life lessons will never be forgotten and those who see it will be reminded of what they can accomplish."**

—Ted Leonsis, owner of the Washington Wizards and Washington Mystics basketball teams





PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Playing for the Syracuse Nationals, Earl Lloyd (11), battles Fort Wayne's Mel Hutchins (9) for a rebound during an NBA championship game on April 5, 1955. With the series victory, Lloyd and teammate Jim Tucker became the first African Americans to become NBA champions.

## Earl Lloyd Statue Unveiled

FROM PAGE 8

a teammate of Lloyd's in college.

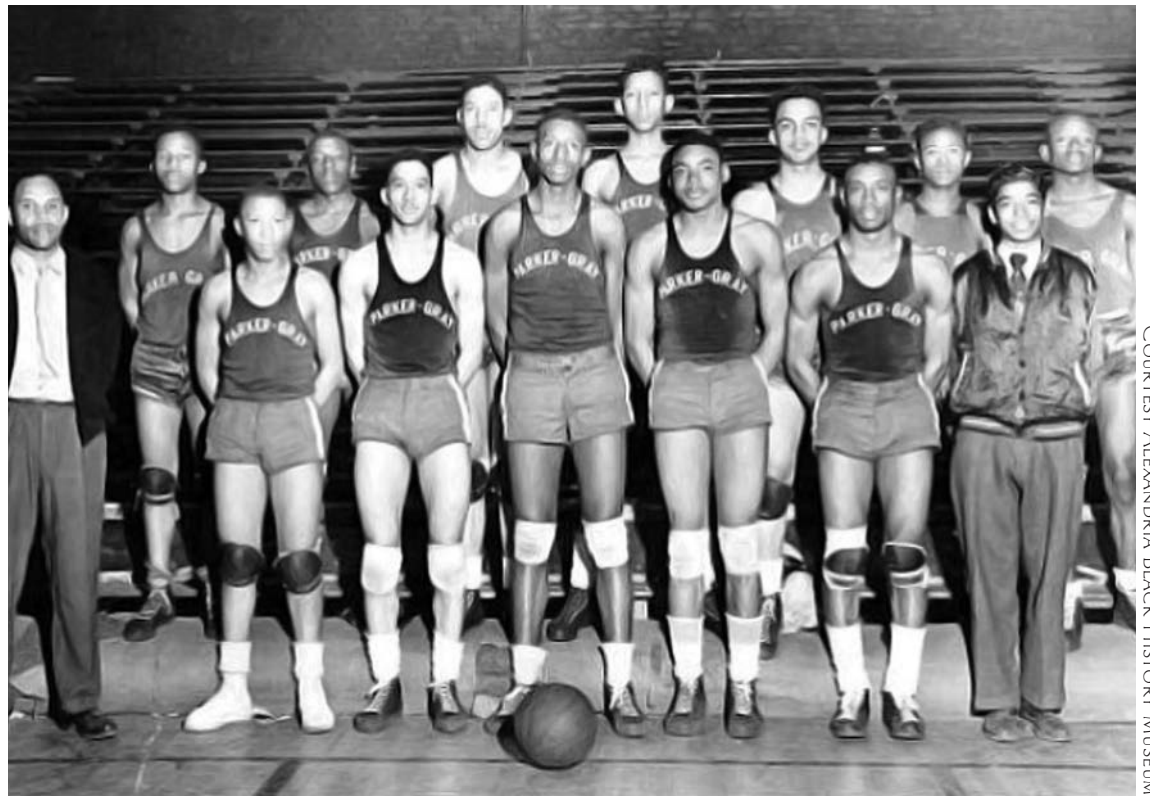
"This means more than just a statue," Enty said. "It shows that someone coming from humble beginnings, from a segregated school in Alexandria, could rise and become a notable figure in the history of athletics."

It means that any youngster who has the ambition, the determination, the stick-to-itiveness can also rise to great heights. That is what the statue really represents."



JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

The West Virginia State College collegiate letter sweater of Earl Lloyd on display at the Charles Houston Recreation Center.



COURTESY ALEXANDRIA BLACK HISTORY MUSEUM

Earl Lloyd, front row center, graduated from the segregated Parker-Gray High School in 1946. With him in front: Coach Louis Johnson, William "Red" Jackson, Rozier Ware, Horace Burton, Oliver Ellis and Henry Brooks. Back: Lee McCoy, Albert Burts, Robert "Tex" Matthews, Francis McGee, Louis Napper and Willie Rice.

The 8-foot statue of Lloyd, who died in 2015, was crafted by Brian Hanlon, the official sculptor for the NBA's Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. It is on display

as part of the Alexandria African American Hall of Fame located at the Charles Houston Recreation Center.

Said NBA Commissioner Silver:

"More than 70 years after his debut, Earl Lloyd's impact is still being felt around the league."

[www.alexandriaafricanamericanhalloffame.org](http://www.alexandriaafricanamericanhalloffame.org)

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

[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.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



# Cicada Stroll Bingo!

This spring, Fairfax County and parts of Northern Virginia will be among the regions of the Mid-Atlantic states that see millions of

Brood X cicadas emerge from 17 years of living underground. These periodical cicadas rise to the surface to shed their shells, find a mate, lay eggs, and die, after fulfilling their mission in life. And since Virginia is for Lovers, Fairfax County is celebrating this season of love by encouraging curious visitors to witness this rare event with a fun-filled Cicada Stroll Bingo adventure and giveaway.

The Brood X cicadas are expected to begin emerging from the ground in early May, with peak emergence in the Northern Virginia area happening towards late May and early June. While the greatest concentration of cicadas may be found in natural settings, they will be visible in enormous numbers throughout the region as this particular brood is one of the largest insect emergences in the world.

Visit Fairfax, the official tourism organization of Fairfax County, has created a fun-filled Cicada Stroll Bingo Card that encourages visitors and locals to look for and snap photos of cicadas in various settings around Fairfax County.

A sampling of these spots include:

Cicadas Near the Water, where cicadas may be trying to cool down at one of Fairfax County's waterfront parks like Great Falls, Burke Lake, or Pohick Bay.

Cicadas on Public Art, where cicadas may be posing at the colorful murals at Mosaic or taking in the sculptures along Reston's splendid public art trail.

**"While some may view the arrival of the Brood X cicadas as a nuisance, we here at Visit Fairfax choose to look at it as an exceptional opportunity for visitors and residents to witness one of Earth's most remarkable natural occurrences – and have fun at the same time."**

— Barry Biggar,  
President & CEO of Visit Fairfax

Cicadas at Historic Sites, where cicadas may be soaking up some culture learning about George Washington at his Mount Ver-

non estate or checking out Sully Historic Site.

Cicadas at a Brewery or Winery, where cicadas may be looking for the perfect mate to flirt with over a locally poured beer or a crisp glass of Virginia wine.

Bingo players can upload at least two photos from their completed Bingo Card to Visit Fairfax's image library for a chance to win a Cicada Care Package filled with fun items, including a custom cicada facemask. Winners will be randomly selected beginning in May. The bingo card and more information can be found at [FXVA.com/cicadas](http://FXVA.com/cicadas).

"While some may view the arrival of the Brood X cicadas as a nuisance, we here at Visit Fairfax choose to look at it as an exceptional opportunity for visitors and residents to witness one of Earth's most remarkable natural occurrences – and have fun at the same time," said Barry Biggar, President & CEO of Visit Fairfax.

Whether visitors are curious onlookers, cicada enthusiasts, or science and insect aficionados, this periodical cicada brood emergence offers a memorable way to take a get-



**Cicadas return in 2021: Play Visit Fairfax's Cicada Stroll Bingo Card & win prizes! Details here: [FXVA.com/cicadas](http://FXVA.com/cicadas)**

away this spring. Fairfax County's 100-plus hotels, hundreds of restaurants featuring spacious and safe indoor and outdoor dining experiences, and the region's incredible swath of cultural attractions and parks are ready to welcome travelers to the area. For more travel tips and trip planning resources, visit [FXVA.com](http://FXVA.com). To learn more about Fairfax County's COVID-19 precautions and travel tips, please visit [FXVA.com/covid](http://FXVA.com/covid).

## Fairfax Water Announces Retirement of General Manager and Introduces New Executive Team

Steven T. Edgemon has announced his retirement from Fairfax Water after 18 years of service at Fairfax Water and 40 years in the drinking water industry. His retirement will be effective June 30, 2021. Edgemon has served as General Manager since 2019 after 15 years as Deputy General Manager. Before joining Fairfax Water, Edgemon was Vice-President and General Manager of Virginia American Water Company, based in Alexandria, Virginia. Edgemon leaves behind a legacy of excellent financial leadership and successful acquisition of the Vulcan Quarry as a future water supply for our customers.

Phil Allin, Chairman of the Fairfax Water Board, states, "We are so grateful for the dedication and experience Mr. Edgemon has brought to Fairfax Water. We will miss his leadership and guidance and wish him a very happy retirement."

On July 1, 2021, Jamie Bain Hedges will become the General Manager, and John W. Kingsbury III will become Deputy General Manager. Hedges and Kingsbury have a combined experience of almost 70 years in the drinking water industry. According to Chairman Allin, "Ms. Hedges and Mr. Kingsbury have the knowledge

and talent needed to build on the current success of Fairfax Water."

Hedges currently serves as the Deputy General Manager and has been with Fairfax Water for over 31 years. Prior to her appointment to Deputy General Manager in 2019, she served as Director of the Planning and Engineering Division and Manager of Planning. Hedges has a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering and a Master of Business Administration degree, both from Virginia Tech. She is a licensed Professional Engineer and a member of the American Water Works Association.

Kingsbury joined Fairfax Water in 2000 after serving 15 years with American Water. Prior to his appointment to Director of Transmission and Distribution in 2005, he was Manager of Mechanical and Distribution Maintenance. Kingsbury has a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from Marshall University and a Master's degree in Environmental Sciences and Engineering from Virginia Tech. He is a licensed Waterworks Operator, Licensed Professional Engineer, and a member of the American Water Works Association, where he has served on committees at the local and national levels.

## Mount Vernon Chamber Highlights Crazy Good Masks

**Webinar hosts science experts that tout the high-tech masks, screens and sanitizers that are available locally.**

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE CONNECTION

With all that's changing as a result of the pandemic, Mount Vernon now has a scientific mask company called Crazy Good Masks, and they are an offshoot of Castle Bio Security that does all the scientific development and testing. More of the population has been vaccinated, but wearing a mask is still recommended by the CDC, so Crazy Good Masks has the "mPACTAIR 99," to fight the spread of germs, possibly including COVID-19.

"The coronavirus became a catalyst for innovation," said Rob Newbold, who represented Castle with Chip McIntyre on a webinar recently hosted by the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce. "Because of the pandemic, we've evolved into bio security," he added.

The buzz word with their high-tech mask material is "nanofiber technology."

The nanofibers are woven so small, Crazy Good Masks says, it is tough to see with the

naked eye, and helps protect against bacteria and viruses.

They claim it does not fog glasses either, which is a problem for many mask wearers.

Mary Ann Settlemyre is the local owner at Crazy Good Mask, a woman-owned company that has the mPACTAIR VIRUSGUARD, non-medical Nanosheer FACEMASK, as well as other products to fend off the virus. Settlemyre is originally from Niagara Falls, and has been in the Mount Vernon area for 20 years. She is an elementary school teacher, business owner and member of the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce.

Crazy Good Mask offers products to make businesses as safe as possible: Nanosheer masks (made with 3 layers of nanofibers which filters particles), a Six-Hour Hand Sanitizer, Detergent that keeps your clothes free of contamination for 30 days with just one wash, they say, and "Sanifog," a revolutionary way to sanitize a business in min-

SEE MOUNT VERNON, PAGE 11  
[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)



## SENIOR LIVING

# When It's Time to Downsize

Suggestions for transitioning to a new living community.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he decision to trade the comfort of home where you've lived for years and transition to retirement can evoke a range of emotions. From leaving behind a place that holds memories of having raised an active family to sorting feelings around a perceived loss of freedom can be overwhelming.

"One of the hardest things to do is embrace change," said therapist Carol Barnaby, LCSW. The older we get the harder it is to embrace change. It takes about three to six months to adjust to new changes and routines."

"That space between ending what was and becoming what will be can be a dark and scary place," added Carolyn Lorente, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology at Northern Virginia Community College.

Finding a retirement community where one feels comfortable can help make the transition easier. Virginia was ranked number one in the country for having the best resources for seniors by SeniorAdvice.com, an independent, non-profit organization that offers free information and guidance.

Touring a community before selecting one or deciding to move can allay fears of the

sterile living conditions and sedentary lifestyles that are often associated with retirement communities, advises Barnaby. "Find activities to join in the care facility," said Barnaby. "Joining groups allows people to form connections."

One such community is Sunrise of Old Town, which is scheduled to open later this spring. "We have activities going all day long to keep our seniors active and moving so that they have a sense of purpose," said Maggie McElroy of Sunrise. "Residents can bring their furnishings to help make their suites feel more like home."

Creating a sense of the familiarity of one's old home can make the transition less jarring. "We can bring items like photos and decorations that help recreate the familiar home environment," said Jerome Short, Ph.D., professor of psychology at George Mason University. "Then think about good aspects of the move for our health and safety."

"Take time to actively think about memories in your home and reminisce," said psychologist Stacie Isenberg, Psy.D. "You can do this while packing up. Take photos of each room before you pack up and consider making a video where you walk through it and narrate events that happened in the room. It will be a nice keepsake to reflect on ... and a way to get closure and say goodbye to your home."



PHOTO COURTESY

An abundance of options for luxury retirement communities in Northern Virginia including Sunrise of Old Town. Virginia is ranked number one in the country for quality or resources for seniors.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Crazy Good Masks was born out of a tech company.

## Mount Vernon Chamber Highlights Crazy Good Masks

FROM PAGE 10

utes, without missing one surface, all the while, cutting the need for extra manpower, the chamber introduction stated.

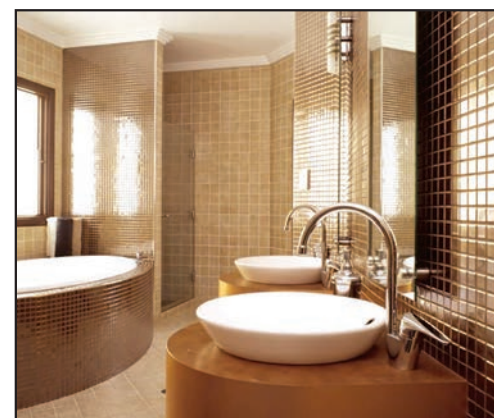
The parent company is based in Hillside, New Jersey, and they specialize in other products that seem to be focused on fighting germs, although they do not men-

tion COVID-19 for all the products. Other items include a mini car air purifier (\$19.95), a Smart Automatic Wireless Charger for cell phones (\$28.99) or the Personal Protection Equipment Door Caddy (\$224.95).

The cell phone is a spot where the germs can gather, so "clean your phones," added McIntyre.

**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)**



## ENTERTAINMENT

# Restaurants, Breweries Bloom With New Growth This Springtime

BY HOPE NELSON  
GAZETTE PACKET

As the weather warms up and the dogwoods begin to blossom, it seems a perfect time to celebrate spring – and all the outdoor dining it entails. From new waterfront wine bars to refreshed loft décor to expanded brewery offerings, there's so much going on in Alexandria's food scene. Here are some of your best bets.

### Barca Opens on Alexandria Waterfront

Just in time for glorious spring weather, Barca has opened its doors in Old Town. The Spanish tapas and wine bar has taken up residence both directly over the water with its Pier concept and in a more brick-and-mortar style restaurant via the Wine Bar. Either way, diners can soak up some sunshine and fresh air (or air-conditioning, in the indoor dining room) while they sip on wine, beer and cocktails and nosh on the likes of pan con tomate, a variety of cheeses, salads, sandwiches and more.

### Lena's Celebrates Spring with Full Bloom

Since early in the COVID-19 pandemic, Lena's Pizzeria and Tap has sought to find ways to spice up outdoor dining via its Loft at

Lena's, celebrating each season with themed décor and menu items as the calendar continues to turn. Now it's springtime again, and Lena's is embracing all the weather has to offer with its Full Bloom concept.

"With the seasons changing so are we! Our incredible team has really outdone themselves to bring the community an exciting and bold, completely original, new spring concept," Lena's owner, Jason Yates, said in a statement. "The Yates Family and our entire team look forward to welcoming you and after this past year; it's time we all live life in full bloom."

### Port City Expands Outdoor Space, Hours

Get ready to lift a pint of Optimal Wit for this: Port City Brewing Company is celebrating the dawn of spring with longer outdoor seating hours – as well as additional seating space. The new hours are 3-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday, noon-10 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and noon-8 p.m. on Sunday. Further, the brewery is retiring its reservation system, so plan for first-come, first-served service.

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



## CALENDAR

### NOW THRU MAY 15

"MEG Spring Show 2021." at Multiple Exposures Gallery, Alexandria. An exhibition of photography by MEG member artists at the gallery in the Torpedo Factory Art Center in Alexandria. The spring exhibition features two signature pieces by each MEG member artist.

### NOW THRU MAY 1

The "Unfinished/Finished." At Del Ray Artisans explores when and how art is "finished." Every artwork in this exhibit has a "starting" artist and "finishing" artist. The exhibit features the work of local artists and high school students, plus offered an avenue for collaboration to combat the isolation we have all experienced during the pandemic. View at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria VA. Details: [www.DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits](http://www.DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits)

### IN-PERSON CLASSES RESUME AT THE ART LEAGUE

The Art League is welcoming students back into the studio just in time for the spring term. In-person classes start Monday, April 5, at The Art League Madison Annex located at 305 Madison Street in Alexandria. Over 40 classes are being offered in an array of disciplines from drawing, painting, ceramics, and sculpture to metal jewelry design, stained glass, and steel furniture design and construction. Visit [www.artleague.org](http://www.artleague.org).



A Classical Movements Concert will be held Saturday, April 10 at The Rectory in Alexandria.

[theartleague.org](http://theartleague.org).

### THURSDAY/APRIL 8

The Enslaved Community At Woodlawn. Noon to 1 p.m. Virtual Presentation. In her upcoming presentation, Cassandra Good will reveal findings from her research of previously unknown names and stories of the enslaved people who lived and labored on the former plantation at Woodlawn. She will also talk about the Washington, Lewis, and Custis families and their roles in slavery in the 1800s. Visit the website: <http://www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org/events/the-enslaved-community-at-woodlawn>

### FRIDAY/APRIL 9

The Late Shift Online: Cherry Blossom Jubilee. 7-8:30 p.m. By the Tor-

pedo Factory Art Center. Torpedo Factory Art Center welcomes the start of spring with The Late Shift Online: Cherry Blossom Jubilee. This family-friendly celebration is a free virtual satellite event for D.C.'s National Cherry Blossom Festival. The program will be live on the Art Center's Facebook page and archived on YouTube.

### SATURDAY/APRIL 10

Playing with Watercolor Techniques. 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Virtual. (16-Adult) In this class you will paint a series of backgrounds while learning about various watercolor techniques. You will add a drawing to these backgrounds and continue painting as you learn more techniques. Artist Marni Maree will show you how to take a drawing of your own (or one that she will

share with you) and transfer it on to the backgrounds using a grid to enlarge it. \$102 per person. Virtual participants will receive a link to connect via Zoom and a supply list prior to the program. Register online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes) (R3A.VDTX) or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

### SATURDAY/APRIL 10

Cherry Blossom Shop & Sip. At the Old Town Boutique District. Join the Old Town Boutique District for their annual Cherry Blossom Shop & Sip. Participants will be able to purchase an Eventbrite ticket for \$10, which will grant you access to 10% off at all Old Town Boutique District stores. Shop 'till you drop, then head to Fontaine for a complimentary cherry blossom-themed

cocktail or mocktail. Admission: \$10 per ticket. Visit the website: [oldtownboutiquedistrict.com](http://oldtownboutiquedistrict.com)

### SATURDAY/APRIL 10

Del Ray Vintage & Flea Market. The Del Ray Vintage & Flea Market will again be held in two open-air lots at the corner of Mt. Vernon and Bellefontaine Avenues in the Del Ray section of Alexandria. The market provides vendors and shoppers an opportunity to participate safely at an outdoor event on a monthly basis during April-December. There is ample room to offer a wide variety of vendors for shoppers, also including food, live music, and antique appraisals. Visit [delrayvintageflea.com](http://delrayvintageflea.com).

### SATURDAY/APRIL 10

Un Solo Istante -- Opera and Art Song. 2:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. At The Rectory, 711 Princess Street, Alexandria. Returning to DC after captivating audiences in appearances at Washington National Opera and Wolf Trap Opera, award-winning tenor Joshua Blue and soprano Ashley Marie Robillard offer an enchanting program of art songs and operatic excerpts, including arias and duets by Mozart, Verdi, and Donizetti and songs by Claude Debussy, Florence Price, and more. Featuring Joshua Blue, tenor | Ashley Marie Robillard, soprano | Aurelien Eulert, piano. Visit the website: <https://www.classicalmovements.com/secretgardenconcerts/>



# Two Lawsuits

FROM PAGE 7

in our schools for Transgender and Gender-Expansive children,” said Robert Rigby Jr., co-President of FCPS Pride and 22-year veteran teacher in FCPS. “But we acknowledge the ongoing work that FCPS is doing to make our schools welcoming and safe.

We have every confidence that FCPS will continue its efforts to be inclusive of Trans and Gender-Expansive students at all levels, despite the unveiled threats of The Family Foundation.”

ACCORDING TO FCPS PRIDE, The Family Foundation of Virginia sent a letter to all school boards and superintendents in the state to back off whatever they were doing.

“It can’t hurt for us to email our school board members and superintendents (in Fairfax, Dr. Scott Brabrand at ssbrabrand@fcps.edu) with “support for trans and gender expansive children, and a plea not to back off of what it is doing,” FCPS Pride posted.

“These guidelines are long overdue and will save lives. If we are truly committed to fostering a caring and inclusive culture in our schools, transgender and gender-expansive students must be treated with the same dignity and respect as everyone else.

They need to know they are safe and accepted,” said Karl Frisch, Providence District Representative on the Fairfax County School Board. “These lawsuits are little more than a mean-spirited attempt to turn the clock back on equality in Virginia. Our students deserve better than bigotry and hate.”

## 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](http://www.facebook.com/connectionnewspapers)  
<https://twitter.com/alexgazette>  
<https://twitter.com/mtvernongazette>  
<https://twitter.com/followfairfax>



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

### Announcements

TRANSFORM YOUR BATH OR SHOWER  
IN AS LITTLE AS ONE DAY



\*Includes product and labor; bathtub, shower or walk-in tub and wall surround. This promotion cannot be combined with any other offer. Other restrictions may apply. This offer expires June 30, 2021. Each dealership is independently owned and operated. \*\*Third party financing is available for those customers who qualify. See your dealer for details. ©2021 BCI Acrylic Inc.

CALL NOW

FOR \$500 Off  
OR  
NO PAYMENTS &  
NO INTEREST  
UNTIL 2022  
Offer Expires 6.30.2021

BCI BATH & SHOWER Military & Senior Discounts Available  
“We make bathing safer”  
844-945-1631

### 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 February 15 - June 6, 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.



### Announcements

ESTATE SALE - LOG HOMES  
PAY THE BALANCE OWED ONLY!!!

AMERICAN LOG HOMES IS ASSISTING JUST RELEASED OF ESTATE & ACCOUNT SETTLEMENT ON HOUSES.

4 Log Home kits selling for BALANCE OWED, FREE DELIVERY

- 1) Model # 101 Carolina \$40,840...BALANCE OWED \$17,000
- 2) Model # 203 Georgia \$49,500...BALANCE OWED \$19,950
- 3) Model # 305 Biloxi \$36,825...BALANCE OWED \$14,500
- 4) Model # 403 Augusta \$42,450...BALANCE OWED \$16,500

BEFORE CALLING: VIEW at [www.loghomedream.com](http://www.loghomedream.com)  
Click on House Plans

NEW - HOMES HAVE NOT BEEN MANUFACTURED

- Make any plan design changes you desire!
- Comes with Complete Building Blueprints & Construction Manual
- Windows, Doors, and Roofing not included
- NO TIME LIMIT FOR DELIVERY!

BBB  
A+ Rating

\*OFFER NOT AVAILABLE TO AMERICAN LOG HOME DEALERS\*

SERIOUS ONLY REPLY. Call (704) 602-3035 ask for Accounting Dept.

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

### Announcements

AN ORGANIZED HOME  
IS A HAPPY HOME

Add space to your kitchen and time to your busy schedule with ShelfGenie's custom pull-out shelves installed in your existing cabinets



ShelfGenie  
EVERYTHING WITHIN REACH  
a neighborly company

50% OFF  
INSTALLATION\*

\*Limit one offer per household. Must purchase 5+ Classic/Designer Shelves. EXP 6/30/21



Schedule Your FREE Design Consultation:  
(866) 982-2260

Hours: Mon - Fri 9am-9pm, Sat 10am - 4pm EST

Leaf Filter  
GUTTER PROTECTION

BACKED BY A  
YEAR-ROUND  
CLOG-FREE  
GUARANTEE

EXCLUSIVE LIMITED TIME OFFER!

15% OFF & 10% OFF  
YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE  
SENIORS & MILITARY!  
+ 5% OFF TO THE FIRST 50 CALLERS ONLY!  
WE INSTALL YEAR-ROUND!

FINANCING THAT FITS YOUR BUDGET!

Promo Code: 285

\*Subject to credit approval. Call for details.

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 time of estimate only. \*The leading consumer reporting agency conducted a 16 month outdoor test of gutter guards in 2010 and recognized LeafFilter as the #1 rated professionally installed gutter guard system in America. CSLB# 1035795, DOP# 10783658-5501, License# 7656, License# 50145, License# 41354, License# 99338, License# 128344, License# 218294, WA UB# 603 233 977, License# 2102212986, License# 2106212946, License# 2705132153A, License# LEAFFNW822JZ, License# WV056912, License# WC29998-H17, Nassau HIC License# H01067000, Registration# 176447, Registration# HIC.0649905, Registration# C127229, Registration# C127230, Registration# 366920918, Registration# PC6475, Registration# 18731804, Registration# 13VH09953900, Registration# PA059383, Suffolk HIC License# 52229-H, License# 2705169445, License# 262000022, License# 262000403, License# 0086990, Registration# H-19114

Find us on Facebook  
and become a fan!

[www.Facebook.com/connectionnewspapers](http://www.Facebook.com/connectionnewspapers)

THE CONNECTION

Newspapers & Online  
The Connection to Your Community

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



## Being Driven Only Slightly Crazy

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



So this is what it's like to be out of the house and driving around: mask on, surgical gloves in the console, hand sanitizer in the glove box; not so different than before my than before my two covid-19 vaccinations. Today, Sunday, April 4, is my "day of liberation," as I've heard it called, the day two weeks after your final shot when the vaccine is supposed to reach its peak effectiveness. Not that I anticipate acting/living any differently than I have for the past 12 months, nevertheless; the shackles feel like they're off a little bit. I can now go out and about and be less fearful for my life.

Still, I'm not going to throw caution to the wind. Considering I'm a 66-year-old man with cancer, the definition of "comorbidity," which places a covid-19 target squarely on my back, front actually given the location of my chest/lungs, I am unlikely to ever unmask. And underlying that "comorbidity," is that my oncologist thinks that I have non small cell lung cancer, stage IV, and my endocrinologist thinks I have papillary thyroid cancer, stage IV; two for the price of one, you might say. As a result of this dual diagnosis, I tend to envision my future with lingering trepidation. Ergo, I don't see myself footloose and fancy free anytime soon. Presumably, my doctors talk with each other about my "unique" two-cancer status, but I wouldn't know, would I? As the Brits often question the end of their sentences.

I know that I can email them anytime I want though, but the covid-19 norm is that we see each other on video, not in person. And not that I'm overly concerned, but a face-to-face appointment, one that occurs while we're in the same examining room, might one day save my life. In addition, one other day, I'd love to have a Team Loure meeting with both my doctors present in the same examining room at the same time which would allow me to be my own judge and jury to determine a prudent way forward.

Though this kind of meeting would alter my "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" philosophy (since in the 12-plus years since my diagnosis, we've never had a group-think like this) still; to quote my late father, the idea has merit. And even though my father died in early December, 2006, I still hear his parental advisories and invoke them at most every turn, especially when I recycle his jokes. Most notably: "You're very seldom wrong, but this time, you're right." If I heard that once in my life, I've heard it a thousand times, maybe literally.

Thankfully I, along with my brother Richard, inherited our father's sense of humor and positive attitude. Whenever I've contemplated a change in my treatment, whether because of a blip on my radar, or an anomaly in one of my diagnostic scans, generally speaking, I've viewed it all as just another cancer-treatment step that has to be taken. No big deal. And diagnosis to date, fortunately, I've taken more steps forward than backward even with my primary cancer being changed recently to thyroid from lung. For clarity in the midst of this turnabout (which I'm not exactly sure is fair play), I remember asking my oncologist what type of cancer I had now, after being diagnosed originally with non small cell lung cancer in Feb., 2009. He said I still have lung cancer, but I also have thyroid cancer (lucky me). When I followed up by asking him which is better to have, he unequivocally said thyroid cancer which is the only cancer for which I am currently being treated. The immunotherapy that I had been taking to fight the lung cancer has been stopped for almost a year. As far as my current treatment indicates, I have thyroid cancer (though both cancers are stage IV and are considered "termina

In a "Three Stooges" episode entitled "Restless Knights," Curly was asked how he wanted to die: "to be burned at the stake or have his head chopped off." Curly replied: "I'd rather be burned at the stake." His explanation: "a hot steak is better than a cold chop." All cancers/protocols considered, I'd rather be diagnosed with thyroid cancer, so long as there are no covid-19 complications.

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

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>	

Landscape Drainage	Landscape Drainage
<b>ProDrainage</b>	
A JES Services, Inc. Company	
Eco-Friendly Landscape Drainage Experts	
Drainage, Erosion, Landscaping, Hardscaping, Patios, Retaining Walls & More	
Your Neighborhood Company since 1987	
<b>703-772-0500 www.ProDrainage.com</b>	
VA. Licensed Class A Contractor	

**Sign up for FREE DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION**

**to any or all of our 15 papers**

**WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM/SUBSCRIBE**

## NEWS

### Help Clean Up Little Hunting Creek

Sen. Scott Surovell and Del. Paul Krizek are partnering with the Friends of Little Hunting Creek to sponsor the annual 2021 Little Hunting Creek Cleanup event on Saturday, May 1, 2021.

Little Hunting Creek is one of the most degraded streams in Fairfax County. In 2007, it was named "Fairfax County's Trashiest Stream" by Fairfax County who spent over \$50,000 of taxpayer funds removing trash. The area is impacted by a substandard stormwater system, a significant retail presence, a large concentration of apartments with trash containment problems, which results in significant litter dispersal throughout the watershed.

Over the last 11 years, Sen. Scott Surovell and Friends of Little Hunting Creek and their volunteers have removed over 200 shopping carts, over 500 bags of trash, over a dozen bikes, over 50 tires, multiple car seats and one .22 caliber-hunting rifle.

Additionally, volunteers helped dispose of one large metal jungle gym, one bathtub, one bounce house, one lawn chair, and numerous liquor and beer cans. An extensive cleanup such as this is not possible without the help of the Mount Vernon community who take time from their schedules to help improve the local environment.

Volunteers will spend the day removing trash, litter, and debris from two sites in the uppermost watershed of the creek where it originates in Hybla Valley. Water, trash bags, and cleaning supplies will be provided to all volunteers.

After the cleanup, volunteers are invited to participate in Cinco De Surovell at Fort

Hunt Park.

There are many reasons to volunteer:

- ❖ Gain high school and middle school community service hours
- ❖ Gain education about local ecosystem shortcomings and impairments
- ❖ Raise community awareness of volunteerism and environmental protection with children
- ❖ Make your community a better place

#### Event Details

2021 Little Hunting Creek Cleanup  
Saturday, May 1, 2021  
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

RSVP at <http://bit.ly/CreekCleanup2021>  
The cleanup will be staged from two locations:

❖ Janna Lee Avenue Little Hunting Creek Bridge:

From Route 1 (at the intersection with Mount Vernon Memorial Highway), turn west onto Buckman Rd., right on Janna Lee Ave to the bridge over Little Hunting Creek. GPS Coordinates: 38.741070, -77.095512

❖ Mount Vernon Shopping Plaza Near Sherwin-Williams Paint Store:

From Route 1, turn N on Fordson Rd, the cleanup site is in the concrete channel adjacent to a Sherwin-Williams store in the NE corner of Mount Vernon Plaza. Enter from Fordson Rd., directly across from Mamma's Kitchen (7601 Fordson Rd.) GPS Coordinates: 38.749711, -77.089303

If you can attend, please RSVP at <http://bit.ly/CreekCleanup2021> to ensure that enough clean up supplies and food are provided.

### ASC to Host Sportswriter Shapiro

#### Virtual meeting to be held April 21.

BY JEANNE THEIS-MANN  
GAZETTE PACKET



Len Shapiro

Len Shapiro, the Pulitzer Prize-nominated sportswriter, editor and columnist for more than 40 years for the Washington Post, will be the featured speaker for the April 21st meeting of the Alexandria Sportsman's Club.

Shapiro worked for the Washington Post from 1969 until his retirement in 2010. He covered high school and college sports before being assigned as the beat reporter for the Washington Redskins.

In 1979, he was named assistant sports editor responsible for the day-to-day operation of the sports department. In 1983, he was named deputy sports editor, then sports editor from 1986 to 1991 before he returned to full time reporting and writing. Over the last 20 years of his career, he was the national NFL correspondent, covered professional golf and also wrote a weekly column focusing on sports media.

Shapiro covered every Super Bowl from 1972 until 2012, over 100 major championships of golf since 1991, numerous World Series, NBA and NHL playoff games, major boxing matches and postseason bowl games, Final Fours and covered four Olympics, including the Miracle on Ice U.S. hockey team in 1980 at Lake Placid.

Shapiro is the author of seven books, including biographies of NFL Hall of Famer Sam Huff (Tough Stuff), the late Georgetown basketball coach John Thompson (Big Man on Campus) and an expose on illegal recruiting in college sports (Athletes For Sale). Numerous honors include nominations for the Pulitzer Prize in 1974 and 1996.

Shapiro is currently editor and publisher of County Zest and Style Magazine based in Middleburg, Va. He will share behind-the-scenes insight into the biggest stories he has covered over the years.

The ASC webinar meeting will be held April 21 at 7 p.m. Participation in the meeting is free and open to the public but pre-registration is required. For more information or to register, visit [www.alexandriavasports.org](http://www.alexandriavasports.org).





# Jack Taylor's

## ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA

**START THE  
SPRING RIGHT  
DURING THIS  
EXCLUSIVE  
EVENT!**

### NEW 2021 TOYOTA COROLLA LE SDN

LEASES STARTING FROM...

**\$139**  
/MO



MODEL# 1852. MSRP \$21,470. LEASE OFFER FOR QUALIFIED LESSEES. BASED ON 36 MONTHS, 10K MILES/YR & \$2999 DUE AT SIGNING. SECURITY DEPOSIT WAIVED. PLUS TAX, TAGS, FREIGHT AND \$789 PROCESSING FEE. FACTORY PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

### NEW 2021 TOYOTA CAMRY LE SDN

LEASES STARTING FROM...

**\$239**  
/MO



MODEL# 2532. MSRP \$25,965. LEASE OFFER FOR QUALIFIED LESSEES. BASED ON 36 MONTHS, 10K MILES/YR & \$2999 DUE AT SIGNING. SECURITY DEPOSIT WAIVED. PLUS TAX, TAGS, FREIGHT AND \$789 PROCESSING FEE. FACTORY PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

### NEW 2021 TOYOTA RAV4 LE SUV

LEASES STARTING FROM...

**\$239**  
/MO



MODEL# 4430. MSRP \$28,005. LEASE OFFER FOR QUALIFIED LESSEES. BASED ON 36 MONTHS, 10K MILES/YR & \$2999 DUE AT SIGNING. SECURITY DEPOSIT WAIVED. PLUS TAX, TAGS, FREIGHT AND \$789 PROCESSING FEE. FACTORY PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

### NEW 2021 TOYOTA SIENNA HYBRID LE

LEASES STARTING FROM...

**\$319**  
/MO



MODEL# 5402. MSRP \$35,635. LEASE OFFER FOR QUALIFIED LESSEES. BASED ON 36 MONTHS, 10K MILES/YR & \$2999 DUE AT SIGNING. SECURITY DEPOSIT WAIVED. PLUS TAX, TAGS, FREIGHT AND \$789 PROCESSING FEE. FACTORY PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

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

BATTERY SPECIAL	LUBE, OIL & FILTER SPECIAL	ALIGNMENT SPECIAL	BRAKE PAD SPECIAL	TOYOTACARE PLUS	SERVICE VARIABLE DISCOUNT
<b>FREE</b>	<b>\$39.95</b>	<b>\$89.95</b>	<b>\$99.95</b>	<b>\$329.00</b>	<b>THE MORE YOU SPEND, THE MORE YOU SAVE!</b>
<b>BATTERY CHECK-UP</b>	<b>\$44.95 FOR SYNTHETIC OIL CHANGE</b>	<b>4-WHEEL ALIGNMENT</b>	<b>BRAKE PAD REPLACEMENT</b>	<b>SPECIAL</b>	
INCLUDES: CHECK COLD CRANKING AMPS AND VISUAL INSPECTION OF BATTERY CONDITION. INCLUDES BATTERY CONDITION PRINT OUT.	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.	INCLUDES: 4-WHEEL ALIGNMENT, INSPECT SUSPENSION, BALL JOINTS, STRUTS & SHOCKS, TIRE CONDITION AND SET TIRE PRESSURE.	INCLUDES: INSTALL GENUINE TOYOTA FRONT BRAKE PADS, INSPECT FRONT & REAR ROTORS AND/OR DRUMS, CHECK TIRE CONDITION AND INSPECT ALL HARDWARE. TOYOTA PADS ONLY. MACHINE ROTORS AN ADDITIONAL \$199.95	MAINTAIN PEACE OF MIND BY EXTENDING YOUR TOYOTACARE COMPLEMENTARY MAINTENANCE PLAN TO 4 YEARS/45,000 MILES!	\$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 04/30/21.	NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER ENDS 04/30/21.	TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. OFFER ENDS 04/30/21.	NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER ENDS 04/30/21.	TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. OFFER ENDS 04/30/21.	TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. OFFER ENDS 04/30/21.

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



**Toyota's  
President's Award  
34 years in a row!**

**Se habla español**

# Jack Taylor's

## ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA

3750 Richmond Hwy • Alexandria  
**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 & 38 homes sold so far in 2021!

Two long term Alexandria residents trusted the White Family to sell their family homes. Hear about their experiences directly from them!



**8226 W. Boulevard Dr**  
**\$2,000,000**

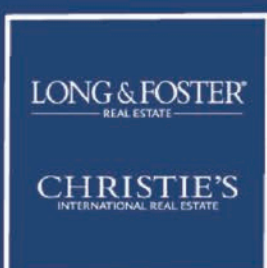
*"Chris white and his office went above and beyond to sell our house. The expertise and ease of the listing and selling of the house was 5 star! The house sold within a month of going on the market. Chris and his associates know the area and they were instrumental in advising us during the process."*



**9226 Volunteer Dr**  
**\$650,000**

*"I have known and worked with many real estate agents and Chris White is, by far, the most expert, full-service agent I've known. What is special about Chris is that he really seems to love his work and he brings loads of joy and ease to those who are lucky enough to work with him. Chris White and his great team not only lived up to their very lofty reputation as "the best real estate agents in the Alexandria area", they also went way beyond the usual guidance and support services we were expecting. With patience, knowledge, efficiency, and some very well-timed humor, we were led through the enormously arduous and stressful task of clearing, repairing, and selling our childhood home of 53 years after the sudden passing of our mother. Somehow, Chris was able to transform this difficult process into a rich and pleasurable journey. We almost hated to see it come to end, except for the fact that in the end, our house sold for much more than our list price and was only on the market for 3 days before receiving a record number of offers. We are so glad we put our faith in Chris from start to finish, and that we followed his excellent guidance to turn our dreaded nightmare into a total business success and unforgettably positive experience."*

## Considering selling in 2021? Call us today!



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

