

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

APRIL 15, 2021

Board Approves Historic Zoning for River Farm

Annenberg Foundation reasserts intent on restrictions, requirements of grant.

BY KEN MOORE
THE GAZETTE

Signs have been posted in front of American Horticultural Society headquarters that say the property is closed to the public, said Katherine Ward, of the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Association.

"We find that unacceptable," she told the Board of Supervisors Tuesday, April 13.

Former AHS Executive Director Keister Evans, now a member of the Save the River Farms Committee, reiterated the history of River Farm, including negotiations that gave AHS ownership of the land "once we made it clear we would ... keep the property open to the public."

He called AHS plans to sell River Farm "a violation of the trust."

In fact, The Annenberg Foundation's letter to Terry Hayes, chairwoman of the American Horticultural Society dated April 7, surfaced before the Board of Supervisors meeting Tuesday, April 13.

The letter explains the agreement of the Annenberg Foundation to offer \$1 million for the AHS to purchase the land in 1972 for its "national headquarters and horticultural center for exhibits, meetings and related activities."

"The Grant Agreement and the Sales Contract do not provide for



River Farm.

any alternate use of the Property, nor the right of the Society to sell the Property. The Grant Agreement further provides that, "The Trustee and the Society hereby agree that if title to the Property shall not pass to the Society, [the Grant Agreement] shall be null

and void," according to Cynthia Kennard, executive director of The Annenberg Foundation.

Kennard said Ambassador Walter H. Annenberg would never have made the grant to the American Horticultural Society if it knew AHS would later sell the property.

"The Foundation urges the Society to adhere to the representations and directives in both the Grant Agreement and the Sales Contract, which contain express limitations on the Society's ability to use the Property - specifically for its national headquarters and

as a horticultural center - and the Society cannot use the Property for any other purpose," according to Kennard.

Both Keister Evans and Kennard discussed Enid Annenberg Haupt's passion for horticulture and her devotion to River Farm, which she said "belongs to the American people." Haupt died in 2005.

"The Foundation appreciates the Society's commitment to the conditions of the Grant and Ms. Haupt's philanthropic legacy."

THE BOARD APPROVED a motion Tuesday, April 13, 2021, to rezone River Farm as a historic overlay district, adding a layer of protection for the property, as AHS continues to try to sell the property.

Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck and the Board of Supervisors had asked Planning Staff in November to determine the feasibility of creating the historic overlay district.

"A massive undertaking," said Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeff McKay said Tuesday.

Planning staff recommended approval of the Historic Overlay District on Tuesday, April 13, and the Board approved the measure. Nine Supervisors approved the action Tuesday; Pat Herrity abstained.

"This is a historic treasure, an environmental treasure, it is a once in a lifetime opportunity,"

SEE BOARD, ON PAGE 4

GAZETTE FILE PHOTO

Fairfax County's Streams Are in Trouble

82 percent of Fairfax County's streams were in very poor, poor or fair condition biologically in 2020.

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

Five volunteers spent Friday morning jabbing a long-handled mesh net into a stream bottom, scraping the streambanks, scooping up submerged woody debris and rubbing smooth round rocks in the stream's riffles.

Their mission: determine the habitat quality of an unnamed, intermittent stream flowing through the 80-acre Mount Vernon Park and into west Dyke Marsh. Led by Ashley Palmer and Meredith Kepel of the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District, the group collected material at 20

sites within a 100-meter span and then probed it for critters called benthic macroinvertebrates, one indicator of stream health. Some species are tolerant of pollution and degraded environments and others are very sensitive.

In this the fifth year of monitoring, the Friends of Dyke Marsh group found 66 organisms, the highest recorded count for this site, including multiple truefly larvae and dragonfly nymphs.

SEE FAIRFAX, ON PAGE 4



PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH

John Fagan scoops up sediments as Ashley Palmer gives guidance.

13 Running for Lieutenant Governor

Seven Democrats and six Republicans are trying to secure their parties' nomination to be the candidate for lieutenant governor on the November ballot. Republicans will choose their candidate in a May 8 unassembled caucus, which will take place at 37 locations across Virginia. Democrats will choose their candidate in a June 8 statewide primary. Who are the candidates and why are they running? See page 8.

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Conversion Work is Kicking Off at The Former Mount Vernon Tennis Club

A workforce development and training center is needed in this part of Mount Vernon.

By Mike Salmon
The Connection

Over the front door at 7950 Audubon Drive, the letter impressions from the Mount Vernon Tennis Club can still be seen as a sign from an earlier time, where local tennis enthusiasts were honing their skills.

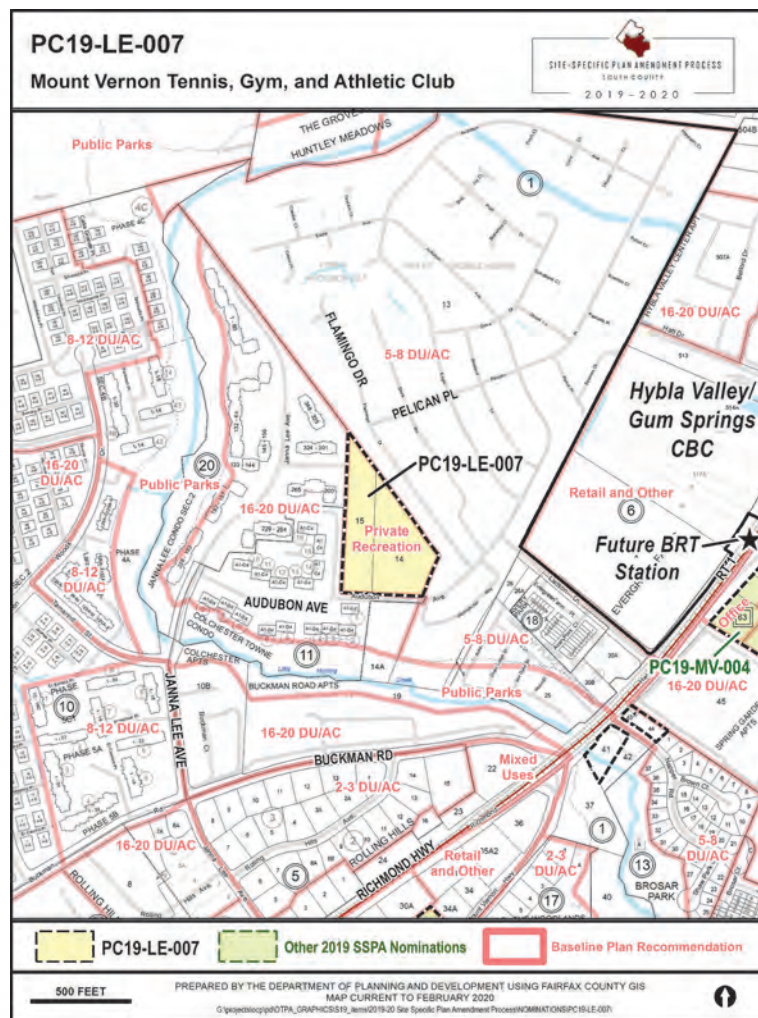
Now workers from Hitt Contracting are on site, converting the former tennis club to a workforce development and training center that is needed in this part of southern Fairfax County. The site is surrounded by the Audubon Trailer Park and the Audubon Apartments.

Last May, the 5.3 acres site was purchased by the Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority as a first step toward enhancing needed programs and services for the communities in the Buckman Road area on the west side of Richmond Highway in the Lee District portion of Mount Vernon. This includes a 50,000 square-foot indoor tennis facility that served as a private health and racquet club for more than 45 years. Currently, officials have been coordinating with the county's Facilities Management Department on a number of improvements and accessibility upgrades before the property is conveyed by late summer 2021 to Fairfax County and the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services for operation.

Phased In

The conversion will be in two phases. Phase I improvements will include minimal renovations and upgrades under the property's current zoning to improve the existing facility's functionality and allow for operations to begin, the county said. This includes basic accessibility improvements, mechanical, electrical and plumbing system upgrades, safety improvements and community use updates, converting the existing tennis courts to multi-surface sports courts. The improvements are expected to be completed by summer 2021.

In Phase II, more comprehensive rehabilitations will be performed after certain zoning activities take place. The Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services will address this in



The county map shows the location.



Work is underway to convert this site to a community workforce development and training center.

coordination with the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services. The scope, dates and schedule for these improvements are yet to be determined, the county said.

Accessing the new facility may be a challenge since it is behind a trailer park, but a planned Bus

Rapid Transit station is not far from the site. Other transportation enhancements for the center will come in this phase, and the center has not been named yet.

Attempts to Save the Courts

Last year, a petition created by Tulip Shah, went around to save



The former Mount Vernon Tennis Club sign can barely be seen here above the doorway.



There is parking around the back of the facility.

ity available to both our existing tennis playing residents and future residents of our county, who cannot afford to play indoor tennis locally elsewhere," the petition stated.

The club's last day was May 5, 2020.

Fairfax County is holding four upcoming community engagement forums to discuss the overall vision for the facility, potential resources, activities and programs.

The forum dates are:

- ❖ Thursday, April 29
- ❖ Thursday, May 13
- ❖ Thursday, May 20
- ❖ Thursday, May 27

All sessions will begin at 7 p.m. and will be hosted virtually with limited options to attend in person as well (based on all appropriate CDC and Virginia Department of Health COVID-19 guidelines). The details of these meetings will be released soon.

For questions about the minor improvements and project schedule, please contact RHA@fairfax-county.gov.

Fairfax County's Streams Are in Trouble

FROM PAGE 1

"We also found three casemaker caddisflies which had not been recorded here previously and are a very uncommon find in our stream monitoring workshops in Fairfax County," exuded Palmer. "These organisms are generally very intolerant of pollution and seeing them was truly a treat!"

The protocols that rate ecological condition consider a score over 14 as acceptable; eight to 14, partially acceptable; and under eight, unacceptable. On April 9, the stream garnered a score of 15. Past scores have ranged from three to nine, but experts urge caution in interpreting scores which can be influenced by many variables.

The Friends of Dyke Marsh started monitoring this stream annually after Fairfax County in 2017 stabilized a failing stormwater outfall and erosion gully 20 feet deep, 50 feet wide and 200 feet long. During storms, so much sediment from the gouged-out streambanks was pouring downstream that west Dyke Marsh turned orange, alarming locals who sent photos to county officials.

Degraded Waterways

Most Fairfax County streams are impaired, county data show. In 2001, 75 percent of the county's streams were in very poor, poor or fair condition biologically. By 2020, that number has risen to 82 percent. While there is annual and seasonal variability, "Overall there has not been much change that is statistically significant," Shan-



Greg Crider and Joan Jaffey sort through the collected material looking for "critters."

non Curtis, Watershed Assessment Branch Chief of Fairfax County's Stormwater Planning Division told March 12 Green Breakfast attendees. "There is more diversity being observed in our streams, but it's occurring with organisms that are pollution tolerant," he added.

The county's population has exploded from 20,000 people in 1900 to 1.2 million today and ever-metastasizing development has replaced what was once farmland and forests. Widespread impervious surfaces, like parking lots, roofs, driveways and roads, block the natural infiltration of precipitation into the soil. Most stormwater today flows off these hard surfaces, carrying pollutants into area waterways. Stormwater runoff is the fastest growing source of pollution to the Potomac River, reported the



A young salamander, an exciting find, but not a benthic macroinvertebrate, one of the organisms that indicates stream health for this project.

Potomac Conservancy in 2020.

Pre-settlement, forests and beavers "managed" stormwater, Curtis said. "Stream health declines with urbanization. The preponderance of our problem is land use impacts." What's happening



Ashley Palmer and Joan Haffey stir up the stream bottom near a thriving skunk cabbage.

PHOTOS BY CLENDIA BOOTH

upstream and coming into the streams is what's causing the problems, he explained.

Salinization of streams is a growing problem and the environment may be actually storing salts from winter deicers and releasing them year round, Curtis said.

Since 1959 when the Board of Supervisors enacted a flood plain ordinance, the Board has initiated several stream protection initia-

tives, like the Chesapeake Bay ordinance, a sediment and erosion control ordinance, a stormwater tax and 11 watershed management plans.

Fairfax County has 400 square miles of land, 30 major watersheds and 1,000 miles of streams. Curtis ended his talk, expressing hope for recovery of stream health and pointedly asking, "How long will it take?"

Board Approves Historic Zoning for River Farm

FROM PAGE 1

said McKay. "It would be foolish of us not to take this opportunity."

Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36) introduced legislation in the General Assembly to give the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors additional authority to protect River Farm under its historic zoning authority. Gov. Ralph Northam offered an amendment adding an emergency clause, so that it goes into effect immediately.

The overlay zoning at the county level, approved Tuesday 9-0-1, also goes into effect immediately.

"IT IS INSPIRING for so many to be advocating for preserving and protecting our history," said Storck.

Katherine Tobin first explored River Farm after seeing signs on the Parkway for AHS years ago.

"I visited and fell in love with the land, the gardens and the wildlife," she testified virtually at the

Board of Supervisors public hearing on Tuesday, April 13. She said the history of the property doesn't just begin with George Washington, but with indigenous people who were the first caretakers and treated it as sacred, as did the founding father.

"River Farm is in serious risk for being lost forever unless we save it," said Tobin, one of the several speakers who testified before the Board on Tuesday.

"Never did we dream AHS would jeopardize... this landscape," said Laura Francis, of the Hunting Creek Garden Club.

"They should support this historic overlay district if they want to maintain the 100-year-legacy," said Katherine Ward, of the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Association.

"A one time chance to save a special place," said Anne Wilson Fafara.

Fafara was one of dozens of AHS volunteers who donated more than 5,000 hours a year of their time because "we loved AHS and we love River Farm and believed in both, the organization and the property."

She and the volunteers asked the AHS Board of Directors a number of questions when they learned of the Board's plan to sell the property, questions which were never answered. Nor did the Board of Directors m

meet with its volunteers, she said. <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2020/sep/26/opinion-commentary-few-questions-about-sale-river/>

"Their promise has fallen by the wayside," said Fafara. AHS wants "to extract \$32 million that they were handed on a silver platter for free."

"AHS has lost the trust of its volunteers and the local community," she said.

THE ATTORNEY FOR AHS, John C. McGranahan, called the Society, "a wonderful steward of the property and a great neighbor."

He pledged that AHS does not intend to sell to a developer for a subdivision, and objected to the historic overlay district classification, saying that the Board of Supervisors has not worked nor included AHS in the process.

"Alarming and unnecessary," McGranahan called the rezoning classification.

"I reiterate my request for you to take a little more time. A historic overlay district should not be necessary," he said. "Work with AHS for 60-90 days. If successful, it certainly will be worth the time."

Jay Spiegel was the lone voice from the public that objected to the historic overlay district. He said AHS has been the steward of the land for the last 50 years and called the Board of Supervisors'

action, "a strange way to show appreciation."

BUT NOVA PARKS, Northern Virginia Conservation Trust, and their partners made an offer to buy River Farm earlier this year, but the AHS Board rejected the offer, looking for their original asking price of \$32.9 million.

"We deeply appreciate the interest of NOVA Parks in River Farm and their proposal to purchase an option on the property, which if exercised, would involve payments to AHS over several years. We deliberated carefully over the proposal and its terms and concluded that their offer as currently written simply does not meet AHS's needs," according to AHS Board Chair Terry Hayes, at the time.

No counter offer was made nor discussion how to keep the proper-

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WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Board Approves Historic Zoning

FROM PAGE 4

ty open to the public.

Local agent Sue Goodhart of Compass Real Estate Group in Alexandria listed the farm for sale, calling it a “once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to own 27 plus acres of riverfront property.”

Bob Brackman, Interim Executive Director of River Farm said, “Once River Farm is sold, AHS will determine the best location for the headquarters to serve and build our national audience.”

McGranahan appeared to convince Pat Herrity to abstain from voting yesterday.

“To move this forward without AHS input today is a mistake and sets a dangerous precedent,” said Herrity. “I can’t vote against this because I support the goals, but I can’t vote for it because I can’t support the process.”

Storck said he had five meetings and phone calls with the AHS Board, members, the attorney and others.

“Many of them support our process,” said Storck.

AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY went public on Sept. 4, 2020 with its plans to sell the property, and continues to defend its decision. The majority of its Board, they said, called the sale, “the most viable option to allow for the continuation of our national nonprofit during very difficult financial times,” said Terry Hayes, AHS Board Chair.

“Like many national, member-based nonprofits, our revenue streams are being reduced by the on-line habits of a population outside our traditional community. ... With the added financial strain caused by COVID-19, we have reevaluated our priorities.”

“The proceeds from the sale of River Farm will be used to create a significant endowment which has been the missing link in our financial viability. And so, the time has come,” said Hayes. “As we prepare to pass on the stewardship of River Farm, we share the community’s hope of finding a new owner who will work to preserve and protect this beautiful and historic property.”

GEORGE WASHINGTON ACQUIRED the 27.57-acre property at 7931 East Boulevard Drive in 1760, when it was called Clifton’s Neck.

After a series of different owners and different names, the Soviet Embassy offered to buy the property in 1971 for use as a retreat for its staff. But during the Cold War, “many across the world objected to the thought of George Washington’s farm becoming the possession of the Soviet Union,” according to Board of Supervisors documents.

Philanthropist Enid Annenberg Haupt, a member of the American Horticultural Society, helped the organization purchase the property and make it the headquarters of the society under the condition that the property remain open to the public and in honor of former president George Washington, of the nation’s first great gardeners and horticulturalists.


The property was named River Farm.

“AHS has long sought to make River Farm a living representation of its principles and organizational vision of raising awareness about and fostering sustainable, earth-friendly gardening and horticultural practices. Thus, we were greatly shocked and saddened by the news on September 4, 2020 that the AHS Board of Directors intended to sell the River Farm property,” Storck said.

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Update on Veto Session

Marijuana in small amounts to be legal in July; more ...

BY SEN. SCOTT SUROVELL

This past week, we returned to Richmond for Reconvened Session or Veto Session to consider Governor Northam's amendments to the state budget and legislation passed during the session. The Governor vetoed no bills.

The bill that received the most attention was marijuana legalization. The bill that passed during the session created a new Virginia Cannabis Control Authority and a series of governing and advisory boards. During the regular session, there were major differences between the chambers. We eventually agreed on legislation that repealed civil penalties on adult possession of small amounts of marijuana ef-

fective Jan. 1, 2024.

After we adjourned, we continued our discussions and eventually Governor Northam's proposed amendments that moved that date up to July 1, 2021. This was approved largely along party lines.

What this means is that after July 1 of this year, adults will be allowed to possess under one ounce of marijuana. Possession by persons under 21 will be illegal. Governor Northam also proposed a series of statutes to treat marijuana like to alcohol which were approved. Marijuana consumption in public places will be illegal and cannot be possessed on school property or in a school bus. No one can operate a vehicle requiring a commercial driver's license with marijuana in their system. Open containers of marijuana in vehicles will be illegal. However, unlike alcohol, we did not pass legislation allowing parents to allow children to consume.

We also approved legislation al-



Surovell

lowing people to grow up to marijuana plants at home but only four per household. Home-grown marijuana must be grown out of sight, must be labelled and the owner must take measures to prevent access by juveniles.

The legislation also will seal all marijuana possession and misdemeanor distribution charges and convictions on July 1, 2025. All convictions for possession of paraphernalia and felony marijuana distribution (excluding distribution to juveniles and kingpins) will be eligible to petition for sealing in the discretion of a judge.

The Governor added money to the budget to enhance training for law enforcement officers in marijuana impairment and also education for juveniles regarding the dangers of marijuana consumption. We were not able to finalize legislation to create a recreational farming, manufacturing and retail system. The discussion over whether to allow "vertical" inte-

gration between marijuana growers, manufacturers, and retailers such as we currently have with alcohol will continue. We also must debate whether to allow "horizontal" integration between the hemp and medical industries and recreational marijuana industries. We also must finalize taxation, distribution of revenues, and social equity programs.

Governor Northam offered an amendment to place an emergency clause on my legislation to give the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors additional authority to protect River Farm under its historic zoning authority. It was approved by large margins.

The Governor also proposed a fix to my legislation to reform our laws regarding the sealing of criminal charges by giving the Virginia State Police the authority to allow the process to begin earlier than July 1, 2025 if software systems can be updated faster. We also approved appropriations for a recent dispute an Investigator Gen-
SEE UPDATE ON VETO, PAGE 13

Krizek Calls for a Change For Attorney General

BY DEL. PAUL KRIZEK (D-44)

In just two weeks, from April 23 to Tuesday, June 8, voting takes place to decide who the next statewide leaders will be, including who the Democratic nominee for Attorney General will be in November. The office of the Attorney General is like the Commonwealth's very own law firm, with the Attorney General the top lawyer of the firm defending the interests of Virginians and the Virginia government. Attorney General is a very important executive position that includes many duties and powers granted by state law including: providing legal advice and representation for the Governor and the state government, defending the state and constitutionality of state laws, collecting money owed to state institutions, and providing official legal opinions to members of the General Assembly and local governmental officials.

To accomplish all of this, the Attorney General has a very big supporting cast — the "law firm of Virginia" with a number of deputies under a chief deputy, 40 or so additional attorneys, and doz-

ens of legal assistants and support staff. It is an office that with the right leader at the helm, will protect consumers, fight against the exploitation of workers, combat the scourge of human trafficking, and critically, lead us in reforming our broken justice system to prevent routine traffic stops turning into egregious police abuse of power, as witnessed once again by the recent court case involving two police officers and an army lieutenant in the small town of Windsor last December.

You may ask just who is best suited to lead us into the next decade to meet these challenges during this historic and critical juncture? There is one person who really stands above the rest. I know him well as I serve with him in the General Assembly and am very impressed with his knowledge, experience, and leadership skills. He is outspoken against injustice and
SEE KRIZEK CALLS, PAGE 14



Krizek

Road Diet, Mumble Strips, Speed Enforcement

Proposed safety fixes for GW Parkway, which can be incredibly dangerous for motorists and pedestrians alike.

BY SEN. ADAM EBBIN (D-30)

The George Washington Parkway is a scenic and vital thoroughfare running through the 30th District. The parkway holds a special place in history, specifically on the National Register of Historic Places, and was the first parkway built by the United States government. Today it serves as an access point to parks, neighborhoods, and heavily used routes by commuters and tourists. Unfortunately, due to increased usage rates and design flaws the GW Parkway can be incredibly dangerous for motorists and pedestrians alike. High speed, severe outcome

crashes, especially at intersections below Alexandria occur at unacceptable and all too regular rates.

U.S. Rep. Ebbin (D-Va) was successful in securing necessary funding for the National Park Service (NPS), which maintains and oversees the parkway,
SEE ROAD DIET, PAGE 13



Ebbin

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Running for Second in Command

Thirteen candidates are running for lieutenant governor in Virginia.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

The job of lieutenant governor is often overlooked, but it plays an important role in Virginia politics. Although many people view it as a stepping stone to running for governor, the lieutenant governor has a critical role in the day-to-day proceedings of the General Assembly.

He or she presides over the Senate, which often means making procedural rulings about whether motions can proceed or not. Perhaps more importantly, though, the lieutenant governor gets to break tie votes in a chamber where Democrats hold a two-vote majority. Because the chamber is home to some conservative-leaning Democrats, the lieutenant governor has many opportunities to step in and break a tie vote.

Earlier this month, Lieutenant Governor Justin Fairfax broke a tie vote on legalizing marijuana after two Senate Democrats voted with Republicans. The next election for senators isn't until 2023, so the next lieutenant governor will walk into a Senate chamber where he or she could end up being a tie-breaking vote on almost any issue.

Democratic Candidates for Lieutenant Governor

Democrats will choose their nominee for lieutenant governor in a June 8 statewide primary. (Absentee voting begins April 23.) Seven candidates will be on the ballot. The seat will be open because incumbent Lt. Gov. Justin Fairfax is running for governor.

Del. Sam Rasoul (D-11) was first elected to the House of Delegates in 2013 to fill the seat vacated by On-zlee Ware. He's raised more money than any of the other Democrats in the race, and his campaign contributors include donations from the health-care sector, physicians, pharmacists and dentists. On the campaign trail, he talks about how his experience as a Muslim has informed his view of politics.

"Look, we've all had some vulnerable moments over the past several years," said Rasoul in a candidate forum. "And a big vulnerable moment for me was in December of 2015 when a then-candidate for president said people who worship like me are not wel-

come in this country."

Del. Hala Ayala (D-51) was first elected to the House of Delegates in 2017, defeating incumbent Republican Rich Anderson. Campaign-finance records show she's received \$25,000 from the environmental group Clean Virginia, and she also was able to transfer \$60,000 from her House campaign. On the campaign trail, she talks about how being an Afro-Latina-Lebanese-Irish has informed her view of politics.

"For a long time, I did not feel like politicians looked like me or had a lived experience like mine," said Ayala in a candidate forum. "My family struggled growing up, and I lost my father to gun violence."

Norfolk City Councilwoman Andria McClellan was first elected in 2016, and as an at-large member of the council represents more people than anybody else in the race. Her biggest contributor is the Norfolk-based PAC Access for Virginia. On the campaign trail, she talks about how her experience in local government would inform her performance as lieutenant governor.

"We need a statewide database of affordable housing, where people can search and find opportunities," said McClellan in a candidate forum. "It needs to be searchable and available for all throughout the commonwealth."

Sean Perryman is the former president of the Fairfax NAACP, a role that's put him at the center of the debate on ending qualified immunity and defelonizing drugs. A significant portion of his campaign contributions come from lawyers and lobbyists, and he's taken \$25,000 from Clean Virginia. On the campaign trail, he's called for allowing incarcerated people to vote, abolishing qualified immunity for police and limiting campaign contributions.

"I don't think corporate donations are a problem. I think the problem is contribution limits," said Perryman in a candidate forum. "Whether you're getting \$100,000 from an LLC or from Joe Smith down the block, they are still having influence over you. And so we absolutely need to have limits on our contributions."

Del. Mark Levine (D-45) was first elected in 2015, filling a seat vacated by Democrat Rob Krupicka. Campaign-finance records show his largest donation is \$40,000 from

his House of Delegates campaign, and he also received \$25,000 from Clean Virginia. On the campaign trail, he advocates for banning assault weapons, joining the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact and abolishing mandatory minimum sentences for non-violent crimes.

"I support no prison sentences for people who are addicted to drugs, period," said Levine in a candidate forum. "Because if you're an addict, you need help. You need health care. You don't need to go to prison."

Del. Elizabeth Guzman (D-31) was first elected in 2017, defeating Republican incumbent Scott Lingamfelter. Campaign-finance records show she's taken large campaign contributions from several unions, and she's also taken \$25,000 from Clean Virginia. On the campaign trail, she's styled herself as the Bernie Sanders candidate in the race who will abolish Virginia's so-called right-to-work law.

"I'm ready to go to the Senate and to be the voice to educate the senators on how it's important to repeal the right to work," said Guzman in a candidate forum. "Repealing the right to work is providing workers a voice at the table, to fight for better equipment, to better their salary and for training purposes as well."

Xavier Warren is an NFL player agent and lobbyist for nonprofits. Campaign-finance records show he's taken money from people who work in sports management, and he received a \$10,000 in-kind contribution from communications firm Capture Create Media. On the campaign trail, he advocates for ending the cash-bail system and investing in solar farms.

"Virginia is in a covid crisis, a climate crisis and an economic crisis," said Warren in a candidate forum.

"I want to be the leader in technology, healthcare innovation and also clean energy and helping families to build generational wealth."

Republican Candidates for Lieutenant Governor

Republicans will choose their nominee in an unassembled convention on May 8, which will be at 37 locations throughout Virginia. To vote

in the convention, voters must register as delegates to the convention. Voters will be asked to rank the candidates from first to sixth, and if no one wins a majority on the first round the last-place candidate will be dropped.

Former Del. Tim Hugo (R-40) was first elected in a 2002 special election to fill the seat vacated by Jay O'Brien when he was elected to the state Senate. As a longtime member of the House, he served as chairman of the House Republican Caucus and was able to raise large amounts of money to help candidates across Virginia. On the campaign trail, his pitch to Republican delegates is that he's a Republican who has a history of winning in Northern Virginia, where he was re-elected eight times before being unseated by Dan Helmer in 2019.

"You never thought a decade ago or 15 years ago that you would have Democrats talking casually about infanticide," said Hugo in a candidate forum. "You never thought you'd have Beto O'Rourke going door to door against us to talk about taking our guns, and you never thought you'd be talking about defunding the police. But that's what Democrats are doing now."

Del. Glenn Davis (R-84) is a former member of the Virginia Beach City Council who was first elected to the House of Delegates in 2013. Campaign-finance records show he was able to transfer about \$350,000 from his House campaign account, giving him an early edge over other other candidates. As a member of the House, he has a voting record that's a bit more moderate on issues involving gay rights and labor issues. On the campaign trail, he's positioning himself as a moderate alternative to the other candidates who are more closely aligned with former President Donald Trump.

"I want to go to the middle because the middle is where you win elections," said Davis in a candidate forum. "The middle is where a lot of Republicans have gotten way too uncomfortable being, and what's why we lose."

Former Del. Winsome Sears (R-90) served one term in the House of Delegates 20 years ago. Since that time, she waged an unsuccessful campaign in 2004 against Congressman Bobby Scott and an unsuccessful write-in candidacy in 2018 as an alternative to Corey Stewart, whom she called a "charlatan." Sears has the endorsement of state Sen. Amanda Chase (R-11), and on the campaign

trail she accuses Democrats of race baiting. "They're pitting the races against each other," said Sears in a candidate forum. "You're heard the constant Black, white, now it's Asian. They're speaking against Thomas Jefferson kids and their successes, and they want quotas."

Lance Allen is a first-time candidate who is trying to use his lack of political experience as an asset, framing his campaign as an attempt to do something about his frustration with politics. He doesn't have any big name endorsements, and he hasn't raised much money. But on the campaign trail, he's trying to connect with voters by tapping into their frustration with Republican leadership in the General Assembly.

"We caved on issue after issue, and I'm tired of compromising my values just so we can have a little bit of power," said Allen in a candidate forum. "It's time to stand up and say the things we know as Republicans that we need to say."

Puneet Ahluwalia is an activist who has been involved in Northern Virginia politics for years trying to build an immigrant base for the Republican Party. As a first-generation immigrant, he's hoping his personal story might resonate with voters who want to expand the range of the party. On the campaign trail, he talks about how critical race theory is a threat to Virginia schools.

"All it does is teach children to divide, to hate, to see themselves as victims of oppressors," said Ahluwalia in a video posted to YouTube. "It leads to lower achievement and more quotas. America can't lead when we don't even believe in our own values."

Maeve Rigler is a lawyer who wanted to run as a Republican candidate against U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8) but she was unsuccessful in securing the nomination in the convention. She's now positioning herself as the candidate who will fight for election security, arguing that she'll fight against voter fraud.

"We need a candidate who will stand up against voter fraud," said Rigler in a YouTube video.

"The Democrats stole the election from the Republicans. I've been expecting Virginia Republicans to stand up and speak out while the Democrats keep spewing their socialist agenda, I've heard nothing but silence from Republicans."

CALENDAR

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

NOW THRU MAY 2
Cherry Blossom Exhibition. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Art lovers are encouraged to stop by the Torpedo Factory Art Center throughout April to view floral art displayed on all three floors. Participating artists will display their most colorful spring and cherry-blossom-inspired works in their studios. Torpedo Factory Art Center is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Visit www.torpedofactory.org

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 23
Those Spaces Between Us. At Target Gallery, Studio 2 of the Art Center, 105 N. Union Street, in Alexandria. The show is a hybrid digital and in-person exhibition that explores transition, ambiguity, and being on the threshold of change. Those Spaces Between Us considers the distances between people and their surroundings and how that divide becomes its own character in art, history, memories, and the stories people tell about themselves. Virtual Reception: Friday, May 14, 2021 at 7 p.m. Visit facebook.com/torpedofactory

NOW THRU APRIL 26
Recyclable Design Competition. Using recyclable materials make fantastic creations and submit them for real architects and artists to review and to win prizes. Grades K-12. Sponsored by Alexandria Library, AIA NOVA Chapter, and the Torpedo Factory Art Center. Visit the website: <http://alexliblibraryva.org/build-it>

NOW THRU MAY 16
Trees/Humans: Life in the Balance. By Patricia Underwood. At the Athenaeum. In this exhibition Patricia Underwood employs photo images of ancient trees taken on her travels. Stop in the gallery for socially-distanced 'meet and greets' with Patricia Underwood on Saturday, April 10th, 2 — 4 p.m. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

APRIL 15-27
Outdoor Science Lab. At Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Explore the exciting world of science with fun, hands-on experiments, activities and challenges. Enrich your understanding of various science and engineering topics using scientific investigations, observations and lab skills with the guidance of a park naturalist. Each outdoor class will focus on a different science theme, and all supplies are included. These outdoor labs are designed for participants age 6 to adult. The program times and topics are: April 15 — 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., Chemistry-Slime Science



Miss Fluffy Souffle will perform Virtual '80s Music Drag Bingo on Thursday, April 15 at the Alden.

April 16 -- noon to 1:30 p.m., Engineering-Shelter Building
April 27 -- 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., Meteorology-Extreme Weather
The cost is \$10 per person for each session. No indoor restrooms will be available, but there are portable restrooms. Call 703-768-2525; or visit Huntley Meadows Park.

SATURDAY/APRIL 17
Plein Air Art Show & Sale. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At 128 South Royal Street, Alexandria, under the Boxwood Tent. A group of local artists have come together to display and sell their art with proceeds to be donated to the Save River Farm campaign. Enjoy a walk through Old Town. See marvelous artwork inspired by the community. Purchase a painting to take home.

SATURDAY/APRIL 17
Virtual Ball. Sponsored by Gadsby's Tavern Museum. 7 p.m. Building on the success of the virtual Birthnight Ball, Gadsby's Tavern Museum will host a virtual Ball. It is April of 1775 and in solidarity with our brethren in the Boston who have been under great distress at the hands of the British, we hold a ball in their honor. Dance from home to 10 English Country Dances selected for this occasion. Throughout the evening, also enjoy timely trivia on the 1770s period and pop-culture it has inspired. Price is \$15 per person. Visit AlexandriaVa.Gov/Shop.

SATURDAY/APRIL 17
Sketchy Workshop. 10 a.m. to noon. At Del Ray Artisans gallery in the Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Instructor Margaret Wohler will lead participants through a series of short, fast, drawing techniques that will enhance observational skills and focus on natural subjects. In conjunction with the Unfinished/Finished exhibit. Visit <https://delrayartisans.org/event/unfinished-finished/>

SATURDAY/APRIL 17
Mastering Weeds in Your Garden. 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. (Adults) Learn how to identify common weeds and invasive plants in your garden and natural areas on this walk with horticulturist Brenda Skarphol. Learn about weed life cycles and how weeds end up in your yard. Come away with some weed management techniques with a special emphasis on organic strategies. \$18 per person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes (008, NTV) or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

SATURDAY/APRIL 17
Springtime Stroll In Old Town Alexandria. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. This delightful walking tour offers exterior views of more than a dozen homes with notable history and is anchored by four historical properties: the Lee-Fendall House garden, the Ramsay House garden, the Athenaeum, and St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Along the route, homes will be adorned with blue-ribbon worthy wreaths, planters and window boxes created by members of the Garden Club of Alexandria and the Hunting Creek Garden Club. Ticket holders will have exclusive access to the Lee-Fendall House garden, where experts will be on hand to discuss native and medicinal plants and will also have access to the garden at the Athenaeum, which will be decorated for an afternoon luncheon. Visit <https://www.vagardenweek.org/>

SATURDAY/APRIL 17
Savory Soiree: "The Food of Love" – An Earth Day Celebration of Shakespeare. 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. At The Rectory, 711 Princess Street, Alexandria. A musical birthday feast for William Shakespeare, featuring musical works by John Dowland and anonymous popular tunes from the Elizabethan era, performed by Grammy-nominated lutenist Ronn McFarlane – and accompanied by an Earth Day-inspired farm-to-table dinner and wine pairings. Visit the website: <https://www.classicalmovements.com/secretgardenconcerts/>

APRIL 17-25
Alexandria Wedding Showcase. At multiple venues across Alexandria and online. Couples will be able to access a fun Alexandria Wedding Showcase mobile-friendly website that will include a directory of businesses, venues and services, guiding them from place to place. For those who want to stay virtual, each participating company will have an option for a virtual tour, video or scheduled appointment. As they visit (in person or online) each venue or set appointments to talk to wedding professionals, they will "check in" through the Alexandria Wedding Showcase website. Visit AlexandriaWeddingShowcase.com.

APRIL 21 TO JUNE 21
Taste of Old Town North. At various locations throughout Old Town North, Alexandria. Enjoy a two-month stroll through the neighborhood with this year's reimagined Taste of Old Town North. Passport holders will be able to use their Passport to receive discounts at small businesses throughout Old Town North: The Arts and Cultural District, Parker-Gray and Braddock Road West. Passports may only be used once at each participating business; if 75% of a Passport has been used by June 21, the Passport holder will be entered into a drawing to receive prizes. Passports may be purchased online at oldtownnorth.org or at the Community Table at the Old Town North Thursday Farmer's Market. Proceeds will support the work of the Old Town North Community Partnership and ALIVE-inc.org. Visit www.oldtownnorth.org.

THE BIRCHMERE
Fri. Apr. 16: The Seldom Scene. Tickets \$35. Shannon Bielski & Moonlight Drive to open.
Sat./Sun. Apr. 17-18: Samantha Fish. Tickets \$35.
Wed. Apr. 21: Wynonna Judd \$79.50 (Resched from 12/13/20. All 12/13/20 tickets honored.)

An Avian Drama Is Underway

By GLENDA C. BOOTH
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

Most likely, Fort Hunt Softball League players at Whitman Middle School and youngsters romping on the Martin Luther King Park playground nearby don't notice the romance going on overhead. High up on light poles, ospreys are refurbishing last year's nest and they will soon be raising their young.

Every March, ospreys return to Northern Virginia from their southern wintering grounds in Florida, the Caribbean and Central and South America. They may fly 160,000 migration miles in their lifetime.

These chestnut brown and white raptors mate for life and return to the same nest every spring. Historically, they chose trees for nest sites, but today 90 percent of osprey nests are on manmade structures, reports Dr. Bryan Watts, Director of William and Mary College's Center for Conservation Biology. They nest near water on light poles, platforms, channel markers, barges and waterfowl blinds. One year, a pair built a nest on a Belle Haven Marina sailboat, stymying the vessel until late summer.

Since they add materials year after year, a nest can be ten to 13 feet deep, three to six feet across and weigh up to 250 pounds. To humans, the nests can look like unkempt jumbles of sticks lined with grasses, sod, vines and miscellany. People have found bottles, shoes, cans, fabric, fast food debris and even a Barbie doll in osprey nests. Some items, like plastic bags, balloon ribbons and monofilament fishing line, can present dangers if the birds become entangled or choke on them.

Expert Anglers

Known as "fish hawks," ospreys are proficient anglers. The average time spent hunting before making



An osprey pair returns to this platform at the Belle Haven Marina every spring, just south of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge.



Osprey Chick about a week from leaving the nest.

a catch is 12 minutes, say Cornell University's Lab of Ornithology experts. They hover, scan the water and plunge feet first onto a fish. With powerful talons, an opposable toe that can face forward or backward and barbed foot pads, they can grip slippery fish and tear them apart with their strong, curved beak.

Ospreys always fly with the clutched fish's head forward, an aerodynamically favorable position that reduces wind resistance. They take their prey to a tree limb where they perch and eviscerate it or take it to its mate and young in the nest.

Ospreys typically incubate one to

four eggs for 36 to 42 days. Nestlings start as helpless fluff balls but in eight weeks, they fatten up and usually fledge soon after July 4th. In late summer, young and old head south. Next spring, the ritual will resume.

Dyke Marsh has had as many as 11 osprey nests in some years. It is too early to determine nest numbers this year and local observers say the birds seemed to have arrived later than usual. In addition to Dyke Marsh, you can see ospreys along the Potomac, on Little Hunting Creek and at Mason Neck and the Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

For a live osprey camera on Kent



An osprey pair is rebuilding a nest on a light pole at Whitman Middle School. A school contractor removed last year's nest this past winter.

Osprey perched.

PHOTOS BY
RANDY
STREUFERT



Island, Maryland, visit <https://explore.org/livecams/ospreys/osprey-cam-chesapeake-conservancy>.

A Comeback Bird

In the early 1970s, scientists concluded that the eggshells of ospreys, eagles and other birds were so thin that they broke during incubation and birds failed to hatch. They linked the hatching failure to pesticides that moved up the food chain. Numbers plummeted. The U.S. Environmental Protection

Agency banned DDT and populations have rebounded.

Ospreys vs. Bald Eagles

A mature bald eagle has a pure white head and tail. Ospreys also have a white head and a distinctive brown stripe through the eye. Osprey nests are often quite visible. Bald eagle nests are usually high in trees and away from human activity. Bald eagles have a wingspan of over 85 inches; ospreys, around 70 inches.



Photo by Randy Streufert.



Ospreys can clean their talons by dragging them in the water.



Osprey with its catch.

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

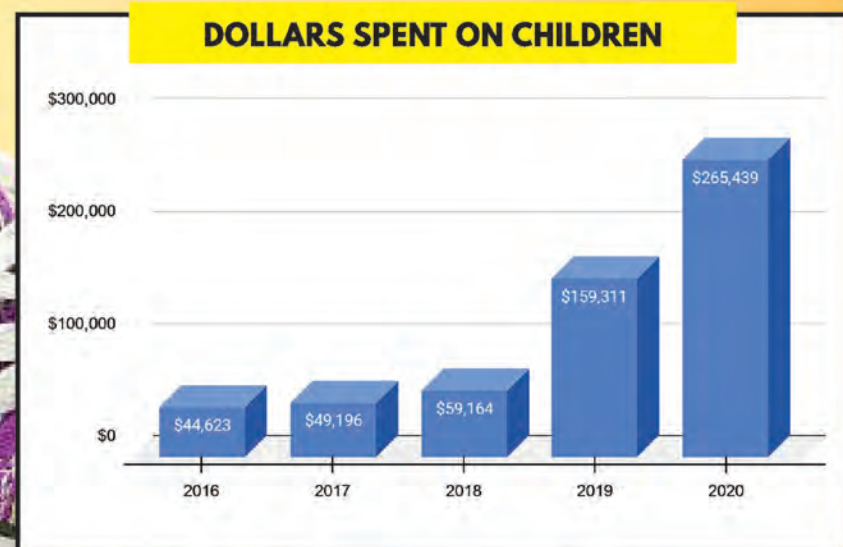


The notion of children going back to school is cause for great celebration but, for a child living in poverty, it means once again facing the pressure of being “different” from their more fortunate peers. With virtual learning, these children could disguise the holes in their shoes or how they were wearing 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. 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
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.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

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 and link to the Events Page for more information on this and other upcoming events.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 21

Local, farm-fresh produce – including strawberries and asparagus – and more will be featured at the McCutcheon/Mt. Vernon Farmers Market when it opens on Wednesday, April 21. From 8 a.m. to noon every Wednesday (through December 22), 16 local farmers and food producers will sell fresh, locally grown vegetables and fruits; meats; Chesapeake Bay seafood; breads and pastries; honey, jams and jellies; milk, cheese and eggs; herbs and plants; and more. The market is located at the Sherwood Hall Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. All of the items sold at the market are grown or produced by the vendors and come from within a radius of 125 miles. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) EBT cards can

be used. As a bonus, the market will match up to \$20 per market visit in SNAP dollars for fruits and vegetables.

This year's vendors are:

Arnest Seafood – crab cakes, scallops, shrimp, rockfish, oysters and more
Grace's Pastries – cakes, pastries and breads, with a Caribbean touch
Great Harvest Bread – breads and pastries
Honey Brook Farms – meats and vegetables raised with no chemicals, gluten-free baked goods
House of Empanadas – variety of empanadas
King Mushrooms – variety of locally grown mushrooms
Locust Grove Farm – vegetables and herbs
Misty Meadow Farm Creamery – milk, ice cream, cheese and eggs
No. 1 Sons – pickles, kimchi, sauerkraut and kombucha teas
Ochoa Produce – vegetables, herbs and flowers
Traveling Shepherd Coffee Co. – variety of freshly roasted coffee
Twin Springs Orchard – fruits, vegetables, cheese and more
Valentine's Bakery & Meats – meats and baked goods.

APRIL 24 AND 26

Virtual Community Meeting. April 24 at 10 a.m. or April 26 at 7 p.m. Supervisor Dan Storck will host virtual community meetings on the Penn Daw Fire Station, Emergency and Supportive Housing project. The county 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 answer questions. Visit the project website: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/capital-projects/penn-daw-fire-station-and-supportive-housing>.

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.

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. 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

ADULT ENGLISH LANGUAGE CLASSES

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

DRIVERS NEEDED TO HELP SENIORS

Mount Vernon At Home is a nonprofit organization serving senior citizens in the Mount Vernon and Alexandria areas of Fairfax County. They are in critical need for volunteers to assist members with driving to medical appointments and grocery shopping. Mount Vernon At Home will supply you with necessary personal protective equipment (PPE), and can provide a donation receipt for your mileage. Volunteers can sign up for driving assignments through the online system which makes it easy to see and accept assignments. Give what time you can, there is no minimum or maximum number of hours. If you have some time to give to the community and can spare several hours a month, visit info@mountvernonathome.org, or call 703-303-4060.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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Update on Veto Session

FROM PAGE 6

eral Report the Parole Board. The investigation was requested by minority caucuses and will hopefully bring the dispute to a conclusion.

Governor Northam also proposed giving Prince William County's local government control over the Virginia Health Department branch in the County. I did not support making this decision by governor's amendment versus a publicly vetted bill. I have concerns about the uncoordinated nature of vaccine deployment in our two current independent health districts, and I wanted to see more vetting, discussion and planning before transferring control.

We will likely be going back into special session in June to appropriate several billion dollars Virginia will be receiving under the American Rescue Plan and elect seven new judges to the Court of Appeals of Virginia. We will be vetting and interviewing dozens of candidates over the next two months. There is only one judge on the Court of Appeals from Northern Virginia. We must fight for regional diversity on our statewide courts.

It is an honor to serve as your state senator.

Road Diet, Mumble Strips, Speed Enforcement

FROM PAGE 6

to undertake a traffic and safety assessment. Engineers evaluated crash data, conducted fieldwork, considered potential engineering and traffic safety alterations, and took hours of public input during the process. The study was released April 5.

The assessment focused on nine intersections in the southernmost 6.3 miles of the roadway (From Belle Haven to Mount Vernon) and conducted analysis of crashes, speed, and traffic markings which informed the need for solutions that enhance the safety of drivers, bikers, and pedestrians.

https://beyer.house.gov/uploadedfiles/gw_parkway_traffic_and_safety_context_sensitive_solution_assessment_final.pdf

Narrowed down from 89 proposals, which were evaluated on criteria that included traffic safety benefit, implementation timeline, construction cost, and community support, the study presents both

SEE ROAD DIET, PAGE 14

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Obituary



Tom Bergeron passed away on March 31st, 2021 at the age of 83. He was born in Berwick, LA but settled in Alexandria, VA after his service in the Marine Corps. at Quantico. He met his surviving wife Georgina Bergeron in Washington DC and made the Wessington Community his home where he and his family lived on Doeg Indian Court since 1979. They recently celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary. Tom raised his four daughters Yolanda, Linda, Gina, and Ydalia, and his only son Tommy here in Mount Vernon. After his retirement from Beckman Counter as a senior electronics engineer, Tom spent a lot of his time taking walks in the neighborhood, traveling with his wife Georgina all over the world, and fishing in Little Hunting Creek. Tom was very proud of the snakehead he caught! Tom also loved going to Good Shepherd Catholic Church where he was a parishioner since 1965 and began ushering for the church masses. He was also passionate about watching, coaching, and refereeing soccer.

Obituary

Legals

Legals

Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact Addressing the Proposed Construction of the Maintenance and Supply Facility at Humphreys Engineer Center Alexandria Virginia

Interested parties are hereby notified that Humphreys Engineer Center has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) and a Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, and regulations implementing the procedural provisions of the NEPA, 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1500-1508, and Environmental Analysis of Army Actions, 32 CFR 651. The EA analyzed the potential environmental impacts that may occur as a result of the proposed construction of the Maintenance and Supply Facility at Humphreys Engineer Center in Alexandria, Virginia.

A copy of the EA and Draft FONSI are available for review and comment at the following Fairfax County Public Library locations: Lorton Branch, Sherwood Regional Branch, and Kingstowne Branch. The documents are also available at: <https://www.nab.usace.army.mil/CorpsNotices/>. Comments on the EA and Draft FONSI should be submitted to Mr. Victor H. Stephenson, Victor.H.Stephenson@usace.army.mil. For any questions, please contact Elizabeth Shipley at 410-962-4993. Comments must be received no later than 30 days after publication of this Notice of Availability.

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Hitting The Nail On the Head

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



What are all these "Toe Nail Clipper" emails I receive nearly every day? And how do these senders know that I'm actually the perfect recipient. Toe nail clippers and cuticle trimmers have been the bane of my existence going back as far as I can remember. And as recently as I care to mention, these two accessories have been front and center on my bedside table, in a drawer in my living room coffee table, in my car's console/glove box and in any suitcase/overnight bag I take with me out of town. The fact of what has been the matter with me is that I bit my nails and trimmed my cuticles constantly, not out of appearance but due apparently, to some undiagnosed mental condition, according to family and friends who were subjected to my relentless pursuit of whatever ailed me.

The constant gnawing and "cuticizing" of my nails drove my parents nearly around the bend. Whatever they tried, which was not professional help, couldn't stop the train, so to speak. Unfortunately, they weren't alive to see me stop. What joy they would have felt for this change. Exultation. Unfortunately, the change occurred quite by accident and with no intent of mine. What happened was that I was diagnosed with cancer, rather than make me a nervous wreck about my original "terminal" diagnosis, and bite my nails for a good reason, I just stopped, and it's been over twelve years now. I still haven't been to a manicurist, but I no longer scoff at the suggestion. And though neither of my parents lived to see me stop biting my nails, they also both died before learning about my lung cancer diagnosis, for which I was extremely grateful.

Aside from the obvious reason why my mother would have been upset about her "baby" being diagnosed with lung cancer was the fact that throughout my childhood, my mother smoked four packs of Chesterfield Kings every day. Then suddenly, she stopped, cold turkey, the coldest you can imagine. It happened in the early 60s when the anti-smoking campaign about the association between smoking cigarettes and lung cancer began in earnest in this country. From that point forward, my mother never wavered in her commitment. There were no more cigarettes and she lived to age 87, almost, when she died from natural causes, not cancer.

Oddly enough, it was her non-smoking son, yours truly, who was diagnosed with lung cancer, part of an ever increasing percentage (upwards of 25% most recently) of non-smokers so diagnosed. Whether second hand smoke or environmental exposure to certain chemicals, the numbers of lung cancer patients who were non-smokers has been steadily increasing. And in a fortuitous twist of fate, it was this increase specifically in the number of non-smokers being diagnosed with cancer which led to a huge increase in research funding. Funding which has spawned an increase in the numbers of drugs approved by the FDA which have directly affected my treatment and subsequent survival. Now what percentage of nail-biters are diagnosed with cancer, I can't say.

But this hyper-targeted email campaign - which features almost daily emails from people who are on a first-name basis with me and I them, according to their sender's name, is remarkable in its having reached a prime candidate, and one with a history of having used imperfect and/or failed implements for this very purpose. If anybody would appreciate the possibilities of this product, the relief it might provide, it would be me. If my mother were alive today, I'm sure she'd agree, nobody ever bit their nails more than I did. That's how I learned the meaning of the word "quick": "the soft-tender flesh below the growing part of a fingernail or toenail."

With all the self-consciousness I endured while nail-biting (and the visual condition of my fingers as a result), I wish I could take credit for having figured out the underlying cause, or had found a topical solution and/or a hypnotic suggestion that would help me stop. But I didn't. Apparently, the cancer made me stop, and not even consciously. To quote the late B.B.King: "The thrill is gone."

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

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OPINION

Road Diet, Mumble Strips, Speed Enforcement

FROM PAGE 13

general and concrete suggestions. The resulting 26 proposed improvements range from engineering fixes to driver education and enforcement solutions.

Though a range of alternatives are provided in the study, the authors acknowledge that each intersection will likely require its own custom solution to correctly address the traffic and capacity issues. Some of the specific suggestions include reapplying pavement markings, installing "mumble strips" to keep vehicles on the roadway (mumble strips are a quieter version of rumble strips which alert drivers when they begin to veer out of their lane), developing a tree trimming program, and starting an excessive speed education and enforcement program. Educational campaigns to inform motorists about seasonal increases in pedestrian and bicycle traffic, as well as wildlife signage were also suggested.

Based on the study, The National Park Service (NPS) is planning to implement a "road diet" to reduce the number of lanes in areas most likely to see dangerous speeds

between four intersections (Morningside Lane, Wellington Road, Waynewood Boulevard, and Vernon View Drive) in 2021. The NPS plan provides for signs and striping to keep drivers oriented and create a center turn lane. NPS also plans to improve signs and striping to five intersections (Belle Haven Marina, Wellington Road, Collingwood Road, Waynewood Boulevard, and Fort Hunt Road).

The report provides evidence-based suggestions to the National Park Service as they make decisions and plans for the future of the parkway. I requested another opportunity for community input, details of which will emerge in the coming months. Should you have any questions or concerns about the implications of the report, which you can read here, I hope you will consider attending the event. I'm encouraged by the suggestions for safe alternatives and pleased that NPS is already carefully considering implementation and the potential impacts of the solutions presented.

It is my continued honor to serve the 30th District.

Krizek Calls for a Change

FROM PAGE 6

yet, expresses the empathy and compassion necessary to bring sides together. He is willing to face these challenges and, like Virginia, will rise to the occasion with the urgency that it demands.

I recommend a new, fresh face: Delegate Jay Jones. Right now, in our Commonwealth's history, we are at a turning point. We can move forward and embrace the new Virginia or we can cling to the old way of doing things. Jay Jones is the right candidate for this moment and will bring not just a fresh face, but new progressive ideas, and a new perspective to the Attorney General's office.

Jay, an attorney and Delegate from Norfolk, is making a bid to become Virginia's first Black Attorney General. He is no stranger to politics or the law. His father and mother are both judges and Jay followed in his father's footsteps as a Delegate representing the community he grew up in. In fact, his grandfather overcame systemic racism and discrimination to become a pioneering Black lawyer in Virginia.

His family is not shy about being on the forefront of change and believes in a Commonwealth that embraces everyone, no matter who you are or what you look like. Jay is the embodiment of that spirit of inclusiveness and bold change, representing a new generation of leadership that we need desperately now as we endeavor to become a more equitable and thriving society for everyone. He recognizes that it is time to build true trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve by holding officers who abuse their position accountable.

Join me and vote for Jay Jones for Attorney General in the upcoming Democratic primary. There will be early mail voting as early as Friday, April 23 and ending Saturday, June 5th. The deadline to request a ballot to vote by mail will be on Friday, May 28. You can request a vote by mail ballot at vote.elections.virginia.gov/voter information. Curbside voting is available due to COVID-19 and early voting in person the two Saturdays before the election will be available, on May 29 and June 5.

Wrong Solution on Parkway

U.S. Park Service proposal to improve safety along the southern stretch of George Washington Parkway as described in April 8 Gazette is the wrong solution and will make the Parkway less safe. The problem that causes accidents, besides speeding, is getting onto the Parkway with left hand turns. The "diet" solution creates a left turn lane to help get cars off the Parkway. When the problem is getting on the Parkway safely the Park Service proposes a solution to get off the Parkway. With only a single lane heading south during business times there could be a steady stream of cars making the left hand

turn lane almost useless. It would be easier to turn left off the Parkway if there were two south bound lanes even without a left turn lane. Further I have been to the U.S. Park Service listening sessions and while they proposed many solutions to improve safety, this was never one publicly suggested. Therefore I ask all our neighbors to complain to the U.S. Park Service to relook this unsafe proposal and have another listening session to discuss better ways to improve safety.

Thomas Gerard
Mount Vernon



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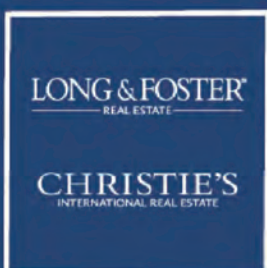
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