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Mount Vernon Gazette

SENIOR LIVING

PAGE 11

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

MAY 27, 2021

Developers and the Fairfax County EDA Focus on the Richmond Highway Corridor

Recent county program praised for positive financial impacts.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

During Fairfax County's Economic Development Authority's webinar entitled "Investing in Richmond Highway," it was mentioned more than once that the county and state policies were in place to improve the corridor, but change doesn't happen overnight.

Participants in the call referred to the recent study, "Richmond Highway Market Assessment Study," dated Feb. 8, 2021 by DC-based "Partners for Economic Solutions," along with the Embark plan for revitalization. Buzzwords included walkable areas and needed multi-family housing. The corridor they used was bordered by the future Amazon complex in the north, and Fort Belvoir in the south.

The study described the corridor as a collection of auto-oriented shopping centers, freestanding



Progress continues on these Penn Daw apartments that had a fire last year.

retail and service businesses and multiple apartment complexes taking advantage of the corridor's bus network. As a result, the corridor faces a set of issues common to many older highway corridors – congestion exacerbated by too

many curb cuts, visual clutter from signage and parking lots lining the street, fragmented property ownership and obsolete facilities, it said.

A county program that is helping development is the Fairfax Coun-

ty Economic Incentive Program. This program was launched by the county on Sept. 15, 2020, to provide economic incentives to the private sector for the revitalization and redevelopment of properties in select commercial areas. It en-

courages economic growth by providing multiple financial and regulatory incentives including a ten percent reduction of site plan fees and a partial abatement of the real estate taxes on the difference between the base value of a property and its post-development value, including any increase or decrease in the annual assessed value of the tax-exempt portion of the property.

To qualify for the county Economic Incentive Program, the development must be in one of six areas around the county, their information stated. These six are: the Commercial Revitalization Districts (CRDs) of Annandale, Baileys Crossroads/Seven Corners, and McLean; the Lincolnia Commercial Revitalization Area (CRA); the Richmond Highway CRD and Suburban Neighborhood Areas, and a portion of the Huntington Transit Station Area (TSA); and, the Springfield CRD and TSA

SEE RECENT, ON PAGE 3

PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

Local Bridge Repair Signals Need for Infrastructure Investments

In the bigger picture, roads and bridges need help on a larger scale.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

According to the American Society of Civil Engineers, the nation's infrastructure gets a C-minus for a grade, and that includes bridges and roads around Mount Vernon.

A good example of this low grade is the decrepit bridge that carries Old Colchester Road over Pohick Creek in the Lorton area. According to the Virginia Department of Transportation, the Old Colchester Road bridge over Pohick Creek was closed on March 19, due to the results of the latest safety inspection that revealed it is falling apart. An 80-



The bridge will be outfitted with a temporary bridge while the replacement is being built.

foot by 24-foot Acrow temporary bridge is being procured and installed with a goal of reopening Old Colchester Road by early summer 2021, VDOT says. Crews are installing the temporary bridge now to safely reopen the road as soon as possible, while long-term plans are explored for the permanent replacement bridge in coming years through State of Good Repair funds.

This project caught the eye of Virginia Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36), who put it on his list of local infrastructure needs in the southern Fairfax County area.

"This bridge is an example of the problems we're going to continue to see be-

SEE LOCAL, ON PAGE 9

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www.MargotLynnRealtor.com



OPEN SAT 5/29 & SUN 5/30, 2-4PM

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Buttigieg Visits National Airport to Discuss Immigration

On the heels of the Biden administration's decision to redesignate Haiti for Temporary Protected Status (TPS), U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg and Mary Kay Henry, International President of the two million-member Service Employees International Union (SEIU) held an immigration roundtable discussion on Tuesday with 32BJ SEIU's airport workers at National Airport (DCA).

Many of the workers from Washington D.C., Philadelphia, New York City, Fort Lauderdale, and Newark, NJ, have TPS, which allows immigrants fleeing civil strife and natural disaster to live and work in the U.S. legally without fear of deportation. SEIU may have as many as 20,000 members with TPS, many of whom have lived here for decades.

Kwaku Agyeman is a 64-year-

old green card holder who came from Ghana eight years ago and lives in Alexandria with his wife and daughter who just graduated college.

Since then, Kwaku has worked as a contracted wheelchair agent at D.C. National Airport. He's a 32BJ SEIU member leader who helped his coworkers win their first-ever living wage through the airport authority (MWAA) in April of 2017.

Kwaku hopes to be able to retire and buy a home. However, the pandemic reduced his hours so dramatically that he worried about his family becoming homeless. Kwaku and his family had to cut back in order to focus on paying rent and making sure they had food to eat. He's now leading an effort to help his coworkers push MWAA to adopt a paid sick leave policy.

"Ten years ago, we started our



Kwaku Agyeman, an Alexandria resident, talked to U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg about airport workers' fight for paid sick leave and health care from MWAA.

organizing efforts at the airports with a big dream: for every worker to have a living wage, benefits, and the vital protections that come with a union," said Kyle Bragg, 32BJ SEIU President. "At airports up and down the east coast, we met workers who were drowning in medical debt. We met men who were working three jobs and were still homeless. We met mothers who were trying to feed two kids on \$7-8 per hour."

"Our airport members are overwhelmingly immigrants from Africa, Haiti and Latin American, many with Temporary Protected Status (TPS). ... That's why we're fighting for benefits like sick days and healthcare here at DCA and at Dulles to truly keep workers and our airports safe."

Bragg added that it is critical for these workers to have a path to citizenship.

Recent County Program Praised for Positive Financial Impacts

FROM PAGE 1

(non-single-family portion of the TSA). Two of these are in this corridor.

"This program would make many new projects feasible," said Elizabeth Hagg at the Fairfax County Planning and Development office.

Penn Daw at the Center

Dan Fulton of Zanda noted that the Penn Daw intersection was the "rock solid location," that development hovered around. Huntington, the Riverside apartment buildings and a few projects that are underway were mentioned as well.

"Our goal is to transform these centers from car-centric to walkable communities," said Hagg.

Development time is now, they agreed, and Victor Hoskins, the Fairfax County EDA president, called it a "window of opportunity opening up." On the panel were developers Mark Viani of Bean, Kinney and Korman; Ed Murn of Washington REIT; Christine Robertson of Pennrose Development, and Andrew McIntyre of Combined Properties. They all had a role in community development and were enthusiastic about the potential the area has. They all remembered the fire of February 2020 at a new development right in the heart of Penn Daw. McIntyre's company has a presence in that development "The rebuild cost is north of \$85 million," he said, "about a 16-month delay but we're back and couldn't do it without county support," McIntyre said. On the Embark map, there are several centers of concentration, and Fulton said the residential will work with retail. "Create demand you have to build the excitement around these nodes," he said.

The nodes are set to be connected by a bus rapid transit line, which is a big part of Embark, and the panel pointed out that trans-

portation is one factor, as well as walkable communities. They compared the potential in the corridor to a situation that is already working along Wilson Boulevard in Arlington. "Everybody gets the vision, that doesn't happen everywhere," said McIntyre.

When it came to the question of "next steps?", there were mentions of streamlining the approval process with the county so the developers would have a "certainty of timing," McIntyre said, and threw out the suggestion that the county did a survey of users to see what they thought.

Supervisor Rodney Lusk (D-Lee) was part of the discussion, and pointed at his past experience with the FCEDA. He grew up in the area and said the study "represents an important first step."



Looking south, there are signs that redevelopment would improve this stretch of Richmond Highway.



The way North Kings Highway intersects with Richmond Highway is awkward.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

School Board Member's Post Fosters Heated Reactions

Amid division, voices seek to be heard.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
GAZETTE PACKET

With Ramadan's ending on May 13 and on May 14, Fairfax County School Board Member Abrar Omeish posted what some considered controversial statements on her Twitter and Facebook accounts. Her posts coincided with airstrikes and rocket attacks. Civilian casualties mounted on the Gaza Strip, and Hamas launched rockets into Israel.

On May 13, Omeish, a Muslim Libyan-American, posted: "Eid Mubarak! Congrats on 30 days of worship! Hurts my heart to celebrate while Israel kills Palestinians & desecrates the Holy Land right now. Apartheid & colonization were wrong yesterday and will be today, here and there. May justice + truth prevail. #EidWith Palestine." twitter.com/AbrarOmeish

The following day, Omeish posted: "War is terrible for everyone. I hear those hurting. I continue to be here for each of you. People of all faiths deserve Holy Land peace. All forms of hate are unacceptable. Ensuring justice & honoring the humanity of everyone remains as urgent as ever. I look ahead to robust & empathetic engagement with Jewish leaders and all allies. Let's build together." www.facebook.com/AbrarforSchoolBoard

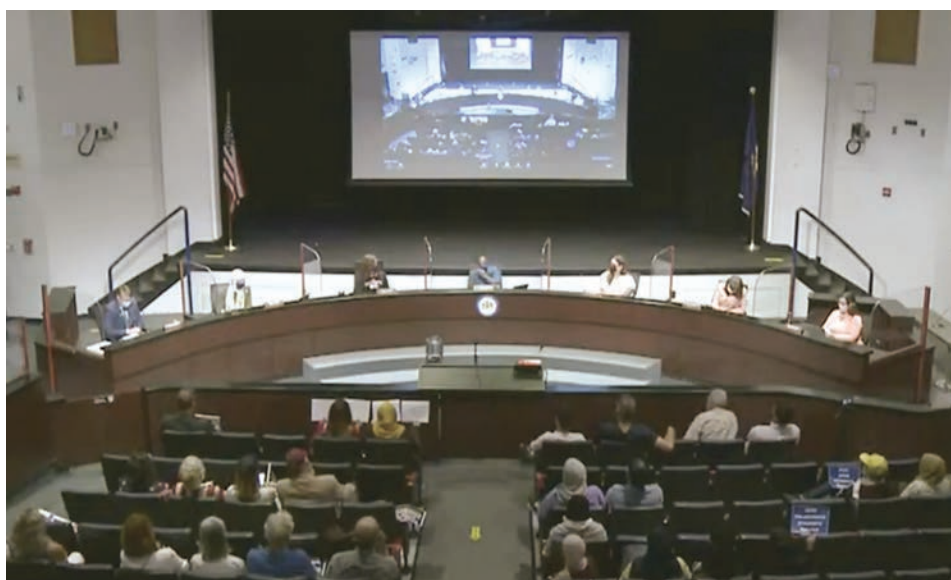
In the eight days after Omeish's posts, she received death threats and calls for her resignation.

On May 20, during the FCPS School Board Hybrid Meeting held at Jackson Middle School, in Falls Church, about 100 people rallied in support of Omeish, while about 30 people demonstrated objecting to her statements.

SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR Dr. Ricardy Anderson (Mason) opened by reading a statement: "The School Board understands that the increased violence in the Middle East over the past weeks causes a range of emotions, including grief, anger, and fear. ... The Fairfax County School Board does not have a role in resolving geopolitical conflicts. However, we recognize that our students and families are hurting and are fearful of what is happening abroad and locally with increased acts of aggression against our Jewish and Muslim communities. ... In this, and every moment, it is important that we reject Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, and xenophobia."

Omeish is one of the 12 School Board members elected for the four-year term 2020-2024. Out of the 12 members, she is one of three elected county-wide who serve at large, representing all 1.2 million residents of the County. Omeish is a 2013 FCPS graduate; Yale 2017 graduate; Georgetown Law Juris Doctorate/Master of Public Policy candidate, and Blume fellow.

Omeish's social media posts resulted in a barrage of daily reactionary posts, live media interviews, and press releases by individuals and organizations who called for her to apologize, resign from her position as



FCPS School Board Hybrid Meeting May 20, 2021.



Demonstrators in support and those against Abrar Omeish, FCBS School Board Member At Large.



Omar Elbaba, 15, of Vienna said, "The Fairfax GOP is trying to remove [Omeish] from office. That is affecting the entire community and not just her."

a school board member, or be recalled. Re-posting these statements occurred, including speakers' interpretations and perspectives of Omeish's views, ultimately resulting in death threats against her.

May 14, fellow school board member Melanie Meren (D-Hunter Mill) twitter.com/



Abrar Omeish, Fairfax County School Board Member (At Large) speaks without notes during the FCPS School Board Meeting on May 20, 2021, saying, "I want to listen...because that is how we move forward, and that is how we grow."



Chairman Dr. Ricardy Anderson (Mason District) Fairfax County School Board says, "Our students and families are hurting and are fearful of what is happening abroad and locally with increased acts of aggression against our Jewish and Muslim communities."

On May 15, the Fairfax GOP released a statement "blasting the 'hateful screeds' of Abrar Omeish — and calling for the school board member's resignation," attributing the statements to Fairfax GOP Chairman Steve Knotts.

On May 17, Fairfax County Board Supervisor Pat Herry (R-Springfield), said, "I don't necessarily support recall efforts unless there's something egregious, and I think in this case there is ...and I will share it publicly," in an interview on The Larry O'Connor Show.

"The focus seems to be on everything but [core education] ... You know, anti-racism, equity agenda ... We need to take [Fairfax County Public Schools] back and get them going in the right direction," said Herry.

While posts and media attention resulted in calls for Omeish to resign, they also triggered support, including the May 20 demonstration outside Jackson Middle School. Starting at 5 p.m. the school board held a closed meeting inside the school, part of its Hybrid Regular Meeting. Two polarized protest groups formed outdoors in front of the school.

Earlier that day, a cease-fire took effect to end the violent 11-day conflict. Associated Press reported: "At least 230 Palestinians were killed, including 65 children and 39 women, with 1,710 people wounded, according to the Gaza Health Ministry. ... Twelve people in Israel, including a 5-year-old boy and 16-year-old girl, were killed."

UNDER THE EYES of Fairfax County police officers, protesters occupied the dual-walled

SEE SCHOOL MEMBERS, PAGE 11

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

SCREENSHOT

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON / THE CONNECTION



Leslie Sandler of Fairfax Station says that Fairfax County Public Schools is not the place to have political rhetoric.

HunterMillFCPS, posted: "As a S.B. Member I'm aghast at the alienation @AbrarOmeish's sentiment has cast on many in our community, including myself, & am appalled at the setback this puts in @FCPSEquity work. Rebuilding of relationships will need to happen."



PHOTOS COURTESY OF TISARA PHOTOGRAPHY

(Left to right) Mark Murray, Chamber Chairman, Fort Belvoir Swim Team; Gershon Price, Lewis High School; George Ksenics, Mount Vernon Lee Education Partnership; Marcos Montoya, Mount Vernon High School; Julie Wu, West Potomac High School; Jayden Brown, Edison High School; General Robert Jorgensen, Army Retirement Residence Foundation – Potomac; Bemente Abegaz, Lewis High School; Craig Kalkwarf, South County High School; Tim Mayo, Covanta Fairfax; Sara West, South County High School; Alison Ross Tompkins, Chamber Vice Chair, The Fairfax; Dina Cazun-Moreno, Hayfield Secondary School.

Mount Vernon Lee Chamber Awards \$20,000 in Scholarships

Ten scholarships were awarded to local high school students by Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce to recognize outstanding achievement of 2021 graduating seniors planning to continue their study in a business-related field.

The 2021 Distinguished Business Scholarship recipients are Bemente Abegaz, Lewis High School; Ryan Bowers, West Potomac High School; Jayden Brown, Edison High School; Dina Cazun-Moreno, Hayfield Secondary School; Elizabeth Hutchison, Bishop Ireton High School; Craig Kalkwarf, South County High School; Gershon Price, Lewis High School; Marcos Montoya, Mount Vernon High School; Sara West, South County High School; Julie Wu, West Potomac High School.

Brigadier General Retired Robert Jorgensen, president of the Army Retirement Residence Foundation – Potomac at The Fairfax Retirement Community spoke to the awardees about his education and career encouraging them to “never give up.”

“What an honor to have General Jorgensen share his wisdom with the students,” said Mark Murray, Chamber Chairman.

“The Fairfax provided a lovely venue to present the scholarships and meet the fami-

lies,” said Murray. “We saw how excited the parents were for their children to receive these awards.”

Many scholarship recipients will be the first generation of college students in their families and expressed their appreciation to the businesses that provided scholarships to help them achieve their dream of attending college.

“The commitment the chamber makes to ensure scholarships each year is extraordinary,” said Holly Dougherty, president of the Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce. “Our youth are the future, and these scholarships are an investment in the future of our community.”

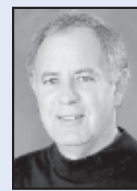
Scholarships are made possible by the generous donations of local businesses. Businesses that provided complete scholarships are Covanta Fairfax Inc., Clearpath Solutions Group, Cisco and Ourisman Automotive dealerships.

This continues the Chamber’s annual tradition of providing scholarships to students planning to study business. The Chamber has awarded scholarships for more than 20 years and these scholarships totaling \$20,000 brings the Chamber’s cumulative scholarship giving to more than \$250,000.



Elizabeth Hutchison, Bishop Ireton High School is awarded her scholarship by Michael Bennett, CFO of Ourisman Automotive Group, and a member of the Mount Vernon Lee Education Partnership board of directors.

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Supporting Hala Ayala for Lieutenant Governor

BY DEL. PAUL KRIZEK

June begins next week, which means that the Democratic primary elections are right around the corner. Indeed, early voting is already well underway. And, in less than two weeks, polls will close at 7 p.m. on June 8, and we will have the Democratic nominees for the offices of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Attorney General, to join the three Republicans chosen last month for the General Election on November 2nd, when I will be running again too. Over the last several weeks in this newspaper, I have shared with you my choices for the next Governor (Sen. Jennifer McClellan) and Attorney General (Del. Jay Jones). This week, I would like to share my pick for our next Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia—Hala Ayala.

So what is a Lieutenant Governor's role, anyway? Under the Constitution of Virginia, the Lieutenant Governor is first in the line of succession to Governor. If the Governor is unable to serve due to death, disqualification, or resignation, the Lieutenant Governor then becomes Governor. But the official

role of the Lieutenant Governor is to serve as the President of the Senate and preside over the Senate during legislative sessions. Every day during the legislative session, the Lieutenant Governor can be seen on the dais running the procedures of the daily session, calling on Senators to speak, and initiating voting—much like the Speaker's responsibilities on the House side. In a closely divided Senate, where one party or the other maintains a slim majority, the role of the Lieutenant Governor as a tie-breaker is crucial to blocking harmful legislation or ensuring that an important bill passes the Chamber. That is why we need an effective leader in this critical position.

My choice for who should pick up the baton as our next Lieutenant Governor is Delegate Hala Ayala. Hala is part of the ambitious and historic 2018 House of Delegates class, coming in after defeating her opponent, a four-term Republican, to represent the people of the 51st District in Richmond.

Hala's very diverse ethnic background as an Afro-Latina, a single



Krizek

mother and daughter of a Salvadoran and North African immigrant father and an Irish and Lebanese mother, reflects the growing diversity of the Commonwealth and the people that call Virginia home. With Del. Elizabeth Guzman, Hala shares

the distinction of being one of the first Latinas ever elected to the House of Delegates.

Hala is a longtime activist, having worked on the local PTA in Prince William County, organizing Democratic campaigns, serving on Governor McAuliffe's Council on Women, and helping to organize the first annual Women's March on Washington in 2017.

As a cybersecurity specialist at the Department of Homeland Security for 20 years, Hala worked to protect our nation's information systems and prevent attacks on our national security. Her expertise in this field lends a unique perspective to issues facing our Commonwealth, and she serves well as the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Technology and Innovation and Vice Chair of the Communications, Technology and Innovation Com-

mittee. She has put forth much legislation during her two terms in office to protect the privacy and security of our information online, especially to protect vulnerable minors from exploitation. As our world becomes more and more digital and automated, it is crucial to ensure that our leaders not only understand the vulnerabilities of our systems, but also have the expertise to create solutions.

Delegate Ayala is a wonderful collaborator, always willing to work with her colleagues to compromise and pass meaningful, well-thought-out legislation. In fact, 100% of her introduced legislation passed during the 2021 session.

Hala is a proud member of the Virginia Legislative Black Caucus, and serves in our caucus leadership as the Chief Deputy Whip. While I will miss her in the House of Delegates, I know that she will serve our Commonwealth with compassion and integrity as our Lieutenant Governor.

Hala Ayala is committed to our Democratic values, and in my view, she is the best candidate to take on the Republican nominee, Winsome Sears, in the November General Election.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Supporting New Kennedy Shelter on Beacon Hill Alongside the Penn Daw Fire Department

Dear Supervisor Storck,

This is a letter of support for placing the new Kennedy Shelter on Beacon Hill at the old Hybla Valley Nursery site alongside the Penn Daw Fire Department. We can hardly think of a better site. Here is why it meets all the criteria necessary:

1. It is an easy walking distance to multiple transportation lines. This is needed for a population that rarely owns a vehicle.
2. It is an easy walking distance to entry level jobs, especially in the retail industry. This can make the difference in moving someone out of homelessness and into housing.
3. Healthcare and community services are easily accessible from this location.
4. It will be a new build and not a remodel, which is necessary to design a facility that optimizes the factors to move someone back on their feet.
5. Completion of the project will

be sooner than if the search continues.

6. It is the morally right thing to do. We are One Fairfax. Because someone has fallen upon hard times and ended up homeless is no reason to keep them out of the community and deny them the access to the benefits offered to everyone else. In fact, we have a moral obligation to help them get back on their feet. Most who find themselves homeless move through the shelter and into housing in about 75 days.

7. Placing the shelter alongside the fire department, rather than two separate locations, will save the taxpayer money.

At Rising Hope we interact with homeless individuals every day. We know them to be trying hard to make the choices that will lead to them back into a job or stable housing.

For the most part, people's fear of the homeless is unfounded. The thousands of people that support

the work of Rising Hope and volunteer in our mission will be delighted to see you support a new shelter at Beacon Hill.

We encourage a swift decision.

Grace and Peace,

Keary Kincannon,
Founding Pastor
Kameron Wilds, Pastor

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A Connection Newspaper



Mental Health: A Home for Healing

BY LORRAINE JOHNSON
VOLUNTEER, ARTIST,
PATHWAY HOMES' CLIENT



It's Mental Health Awareness Month — a time when we work to remove stigmas around discussing mental illness. Putting a face on mental health is part of helping create acceptance. That's why I want to share my story.

For years, I was chronically in and out of hospitals. It was a struggle to be on my own or stay in one place for long. I was also homeless for periods of time. When I was homeless, I had a heightened sense of panic and overwhelming

fear especially because I could have been harmed. I had to worry about the weather, where I would bathe, what I would eat and where I would sleep. When you are on

the streets, you feel like nobody cares about you — that you are a nobody.

That all changed 20 years ago when a woman told me about four housing programs, so I applied. Pathway Homes, a behavioral healthcare nonprofit, offered me housing. That's when my life stabilized. Having a home is the greatest thing that has ever happened to me. I wake up every day full of hope. I feel a sense of community and my neighbors are respectful of my privacy. I feel safe in my apartment as opposed to being out on the street.

Now that I have a home, I do

not have that intense terror. Since I have my own home, I can shut the door and be safe in my surroundings.

I can play music, read, watch TV, cook food and sleep in a comfortable bed. With the security of a home, I am able to create art, journal, write songs, read, and study my Bible. Having a home also enables me to concentrate on my mental health treatment. When I wake up in the morning, I am excited about my life and have a sense of optimism. Even though I have challenges with schizophrenia, I still feel hopeful and am not suicidal anymore.

Having a home makes me feel like somebody. I walk around with my head held high and my shoulders back.

My confidence has led to incredible opportunities. Since I am an artist, I sent several pieces of art to President Obama. The White House sent me a commemorative picture of the White House dogs, Sunny and Bo, on the White House lawn balcony. Additionally, President Obama sent me a Humanitarian Award because I volunteered to many nonprofits. I also speak for several nonprofits that have helped me.

Pathway Homes has been a blessing, helping me heal. My desire is that everybody living with a mental illness have a home and feel like a somebody. After all, my name is Lorraine. I am a someone with mental health challenges, and I am a somebody. It started with having a home.

John Warner, Former Secretary of the Navy, United States Senator from Virginia, Dies

Sharing official statements on the life of John Warner.

MARK WARNER

U.S. Sen. Mark R. Warner (D-VA), Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, released the following statement regarding the passing of former Secretary of the Navy and United States Senator from Virginia John Warner (no relation), who held the seat Warner now holds from 1979 to 2009:

"John Warner was a consummate statesman and a public servant who always put Virginia before politics; who put the nation's security before partisanship; who put the country's needs above his own.

"John Warner and I ran against each other back in 1996. I've often said since that the right Warner won that race. And one way that I know that is that even though we came from different political parties — even though we ran spirited, albeit respectful, campaigns that year — as soon as the election was called, it was over. And even though John Warner was already a towering institution in Virginia politics, and I was just some young upstart, he allowed me to become his friend. I felt then, as I do today, incredibly privileged.

"Later, when I became Governor of Virginia, anytime I had to ask folks to take a tough stand in order to do what was right for Virginia, John Warner was always right there, volunteering to put his name and his credibility on the line, because that's who he was.

"When John retired from the Senate in 2009, he was able to do so with satisfaction at a job well

done, and I was blessed to take his place in the Senate. But truthfully, John's service to our country never ended; he remained an active participant in public affairs. He was always available with a keen ear, sound judgment, good humor and a few words of encouragement and advice. The last time I saw him just a few weeks ago, he was full of questions about the latest in the Senate and in Virginia.

"In Virginia, we expect a lot of our elected officials. We expect them to lead, yet remain humble. We expect them to serve, but with dignity. We expect them to fight for what they believe in, but without making it personal. John Warner was the embodiment of all that and more. I firmly believe that we could use more role models like him today.

There's little I'm prouder of than the fact that he twice endorsed me for re-election.

"I will dearly miss having John's counsel and wisdom to call upon in the years ahead. But more than that, I will miss his friendship, because I loved him. My deepest condolences go out to his children and his entire family, especially his devoted wife of many years, Jeanne."

TIM Kaine

U.S. Senator Tim Kaine released the following statement today on the passing of former U.S. Senator John Warner:

"I am stunned at the loss of John Warner. Virginia has lost an unmatched leader, and my family has lost a dear friend.

"John Warner and my father-in-law, Linwood Holton, interrupted

their college studies to join the Navy during World War II. Each served in the Pacific theatre, and they met when they returned to Washington and Lee at the close of the war. Their fraternity brother days started a friendship that lasted 75 years. Lin and John worked together, built the Virginia Republican Party from irrelevance into a formidable force, competed against one another in the 1978 Virginia Senate race, and always found time for new projects and humorous reminiscence.

"When I married Anne in 1984, I entered the large circle of John's friends. From his thirty-year post in the Senate, he helped me as Mayor and Governor again and again. In particular, I will never forget his advocacy that helped save the Metro Silver Line from the brink of extinction. His advice on matters large and small (mostly solicited but occasionally offered even though I hadn't asked!) was always farsighted, patriotic, and delivered in pithy and memorable phrases.

"Once I came to the Senate, I understood even more deeply the influence of John Warner. I came to know John McCain, Carl Levin, and so many others who served with him and attested to his integrity and outsized influence in a body he loved so dearly. In particular, John's service in the Navy during World War II, as a Marine during the Korean War, and as Secretary of the Navy, made him a steady hand as Chair and Ranking Member of the Senate Armed Services Committee. And in this new chapter in my life, John's advice

again became essential.

"I consider it a deep honor to represent Virginia on the Armed Services Committee as John did, and I often think of him during Armed Services deliberations, wondering how he would handle the dilemmas of the day. Shortly after I was elected to my first term, I asked John to lunch in the Senate Dining Room.

He hadn't been in many years. When he walked into the room, the place absolutely lit up, and a steady stream of Senators and Senate staff made a path to the table to visit with a person they loved so much.

"John and I once talked about how the Senate of today was more partisan and less relationship-based than during his years of service. But at the end of our conversation, he told me: 'But Tim, it's not in the water supply or sick building syndrome. It's in the character and priorities of the people who walk into the building every day.

So you have a chance to walk into the Capitol and make it better each day.'

"Not having John Warner to go to for advice leaves a big hole in my life. But we can all celebrate a public servant who stood on principle, made us proud, and exemplified the best of what politics can be.

"My condolences go out to Jeanne and the entire Warner family."

DON BEYER

U.S. Representative Don Beyer (D-VA) issued the following state-

ment today on the passing of former U.S. Senator John Warner:

"John Warner was a great American who served his country in World War II, the Korean War, and as Navy Secretary, and served Virginia in the Senate for thirty years. I am proud to have been his friend, and he was instrumental in my career and in those of so many others. John's bipartisan spirit that put country and Commonwealth over party epitomizes what Virginians want in their leaders, and his fair mindedness and generosity were legend. He was a lovely man, and I will miss him."

Rep. Don Beyer (D-VA) served as Virginia's Lieutenant Governor from 1990-1998.

RALPH NORTHAM

Today Governor Ralph Northam released the following statement on the passing of former U.S. Senator John Warner:

"Virginia, and America, have lost a giant.

As a sailor, a senator, a statesman, and a gentleman, former U.S. Senator John Warner spent his life in public service. A World War II veteran of the Navy, he served as Secretary of the Navy, led the Senate Armed Services Committee, and was a respected voice in Washington on military affairs.

John helped build up his political party and always remained an independent voice.

He used that voice in the Senate to forge bipartisan compromise, knowing how and when to reach across the aisle. And he always put Virginia first.

SEE JOHN WARNER, PAGE 13

Steve Gresham

Noted architect, community leader dies at 70.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Steve Gresham was known for many things: his intellect, his wit, his love of classic rock and the vast collection of his trademark bow ties. But the renowned architect and community leader was also a private man, rarely letting on to even his closest friends that he had his pilot's license, was a member of Mensa, and in the midst of the pandemic, that he had been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. On April 29, Gresham died following a year-long battle with the disease. He was 70 years old.

"Steve had just one request of me for his memorial," said Sally Gresham, his wife of nearly 47 years. "He wanted people to know that he loved his wife and family dearly and from time to time tried to make the world a better place."

Stephen Wells Gresham was born Jan. 19, 1951, in Norfolk, Va., to Wells Gresham and Jane McMurren Gresham. He attended the University of Virginia, graduating with a Bachelor of Science in

"Steve was loyal to a fault to the people, places and things he cared for. I was blessed to be one of those people."

— Dan Meacham, longtime friend of Steve Gresham

Architecture in 1974. He began his career at Baskervill, one of the nation's oldest architectural firms, in Richmond, before earning a Master of Architecture from Georgia Institute of Technology in 1979. Gresham received his Executive Master of Business Administration from Georgia State University in 1988.

"I last sat with Steve in his home on April 17," said fellow Georgia Tech classmate and friend Kevin Cantley. "We remembered fondly our four decades together and he told me how much he hoped that the places he had the opportunity to touch were left better than before he touched them. I assured him just how many lives had been touched and changed because of him."

Gresham was a partner and



Renowned architect Steve Gresham died April 29 at the age of 70.



Steve and Sally Gresham on their wedding day in July of 1974.



Steve Gresham as a young boy growing up in Norfolk.

PHOTOS
CONTRIBUTED

founder of the Washington, D.C. office of Niles Bolton Associates, where he served for 38 years. As Principal-in-Charge, he led The Blair Towns in Silver Spring, Md., the first LEED Certified multifamily project in the country, and The Trellis House, the first LEED for Homes Multifamily Midrise project to be awarded LEED Platinum Cer-

tification in Washington, D.C.

Gresham lectured on various architectural-related subjects and testified at Congressional subcommittee hearings on the Construction Safety, Health & Education Improvement Acts of 1990 and 1991.

As a community leader, Gresham



Steve Gresham, left, with wife Sally, son Christopher, daughter-in-law Morganne and grandson Emerson.



Steve and Sally Gresham were married for 46 years.

The River Farm Deal, Moving Closer to Reality?

By Mike Salmon
The Connection

During a meeting of The American Horticultural Society (AHS) Board on Friday, May 14, a majority of the nonprofit's 10-member board voted to move forward with negotiations with NOVA Parks regarding their interest in purchasing River Farm, including possible partnership opportunities. NOVA Parks was promptly notified of the Board's decision.

NOVA Parks submitted a second offer last month after the AHS Board determined an initial offer submitted in January did not meet AHS's needs.

AHS Board Chair Terry Hayes says the national nonprofit intends to advance conversations in earnest with NOVA Parks.

On the NOVA Parks end, Paul Gilbert, the executive director, says conversations are ongoing.



River Farm.

"I have had a couple of conversations with the AHS attorney since that release, and there is an

other conversation with some AHS Board members later this week," meaning the end of May, Gilbert

said.

"At this stage, we do not have a clear yes or no based on our last

offer, but there seems to be a new level of interest in moving towards a decision," Gilbert said.



PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

Neighbors were out in full force at the last meeting in front of River Farm.

Local Bridge Repair Signals Need for Infrastructure Investments

FROM PAGE 1

cause of the lack of funding over the last 30 years," Surovell said.

Also on Old Colchester Road is the bridge over Giles Run that seems to flood more often lately due to more intense storms possibly due to climate change, Surovell said. When the bridge floods, there is only one other way to reach the houses in that area, and it is a road with a one-lane underpass that is problematic to fire trucks. There are some fixes that need to be done, but other projects will be a priority with the limited funding.

Other Mount Vernon needs, Surovell said, include undergrounding the utilities on Richmond Highway; bike and pedestrian paths in several locations; George Washington Parkway rehabilitation; Richmond Highway widening; and extending Metro's Yellow Line to Hybla Valley, Fort Belvoir and Quantico. It's a big list, needed by the area's growing population.

Funding is a big point Surovell indicates on his wish list. There is some money for the undergrounding of utilities on Richmond Highway and he's passed legislation to give Fairfax County a new dedicated tax to fund the rest, but they have not taken advantage of that authority yet, Surovell said. For the parkway rehabilitation, there may be funds through U.S. Sen. Mark Warner's Great American Outdoors Act.

The Federal Transit Administration is a likely source for some of the remainder of the funds for the Richmond Highway widening project, and to run the Metro to Belvoir and possibly Quantico, it will involve a DRPT study, and more money. "We will need to come up with a significant funding stream to pay for major transit projects," Surovell noted.



The bridge is closed at Old Colchester Road over Pohick Creek in the Lorton area.

Other Places That Need Attention

The VDOT project list has a few bridge projects that fall under the infrastructure rehabilitation heading and the wheels are in

motion to get these done.

There is the North Glebe Road bridge over Pimmit Run bridge rehabilitation project in Arlington, the King Street bridge over I-395 rehabilitation project in Alexandria, and the

"Growing wear and tear on our nation's roads have left 43% of our public roadways in poor or mediocre condition, a number that has remained stagnant over the past several years."

— American Society of Civil Engineers

John G. Lewis Memorial Bridge rehabilitation project in Loudoun County to name a few.

A couple of rehabilitation projects in the design phase include Route 29 Northbound over Cub Run Bridge Rehabilitation and the Springvale Road over Piney Run Bridge Replacement in Fairfax County.

VDOT has acknowledged the need for road repair in general, and has included this in future funding plans. In the Six-Year Financial Plan adopted by the Commonwealth Transportation Board, they are looking at \$36.9 billion for FY 2019-2024.

The first priority for funding is maintaining existing infrastructure. This comes primarily from the financial plan's Highway Maintenance and Operating Fund. In addition, the "State of Good Repair" program is there to help rehabilitate aging infrastructure based on bridge and paving needs.

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Steve Gresham

FROM PAGE 8

was active in the Rotary Club of Alexandria, where he served as President and Assistant Governor and received numerous chairman and special recognition awards at the club and district levels.

"I first met Steve in the early 1990s," said former Rotary District Governor Sandy Duckworth. "I was blown away by his ability to organize and cooperate with others to achieve a super outcome. It was abundantly clear that Steve believed and lived the Rotary motto of 'Service Above Self.' He was a leader and intricate member of every committee and project with which he was involved."

Gresham's design work ranged from country clubs to condominiums and senior housing projects. He opened the Alexandria office of Niles Bolton Associates in 1987.

"Steve joined the firm in 1982 and was employee number 15," said founder Niles Bolton of his longtime friend and partner. "Today we have more than

1,200 employees and Steve was instrumental in our company's growth. He worked on over 559 projects and assignments and loved being in the role of a counselor to his clients."

During a virtual memorial held May 22, friends and family shared their recollections of Gresham over the years.

"My first mistake with Steve was thinking I could match wits with him," said longtime colleague and friend Dan Meacham. "There was no subject too small, no subject too large, no conversation too short for Steve to contemplate in his studious and sarcastic fashion. Steve was loyal to a fault to the people, places and things he cared for. I was blessed to be one of those people."

Gresham's widow recounted their 67 years together.

"Steve and I have known each other since we were kids growing up in Norfolk," said Sally Gresham. "We have been best friends, cohorts, soul mates, lovers, and incredible life partners in our years together. He was kind, talented, humble, analytic, witty, and a loving husband, father, son, and

grandfather."

Added their son Christopher, who goes by C'Pher, "My dad's dedication to his family was ever flowing and as unstoppable as the tides. He loved my mom so much – an amount that cannot be put into words – and he taught me to be kind, considerate, honorable and to live to the beat of my own drum."

Gresham is survived by Sally W. Gresham, his wife of 46 years; son, Christopher "C'Pher" Gresham; daughter-in-law, Morganne Rosenhaus; and grandson, Emerson Gresham. Additional survivors include his mother Jane Gresham, and sister Kathy Dungan. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Rotary Foundation [raise.rotary.org] or the Architecture School at the University of Virginia [givecampus.com].

"Up until the end he was unmovable, unflappable – a foundation of granite in our lives," C'Pher Gresham added. "Remember him as a man of great integrity, a man that left the world a better place than how he found it."

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Just Can't Wait to Get Back on the Road Again

Vaccinated Seniors plan vacations, trips to reunite with family.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

Sifting through photos of rafting trips through Labyrinth Canyon on the tranquil waters of the Green River and hiking in the Needles district of Utah's Canyonlands National Park, Arlene Richter recalls her past travels as she begins planning for new adventures. The adventure-loving Bethesda mother of two adult children is fully vaccinated and ready for her next trip.

"Travel is a great way to explore," said Richter. "I'm always curious and love to learn about the world and people."

Now that nearly 85 percent of those 65 and older in Montgomery County and almost 70 percent in Fairfax County, Arlington County and Alexandria are fully vaccinated against COVID-19, seniors such as Richter have less trepidation about resuming their travels. From trips to visit children and grandchildren to hiking in national parks, after a one year or more of near confinement because of their high risk due to the pandemic, seniors are ready to travel.

Travel advisors and tour companies have seen a dramatic uptick in requests of seniors who are planning to travel.

"When vaccines became available, the number of calls to our call center doubled from February to March. Nearly all of the programs we're operating this summer are filled to capacity," said Chris Hepner, spokesperson for Road Scholar www.roadscholar.org, a not-for-profit educational travel organization for adults. "We require people to be fully vaccinated to participate. We have surveyed our participants and nearly 100 percent either have been vaccinated or plan to be."

One of those seniors is 76-year-old Tanya Levine, a widow from Arlington. She's heading to Chicago in June to visit her daughter and grandchildren.

"It's been so hard not seeing my family in person and missing certain milestones," she said. "We're going to celebrate all of the birthday parties, baptisms and graduations that we missed during the pandemic. The thought of it all is so overwhelming. I'm beyond elated. I know that tears of joy will be flowing the entire trip."

Most vacation requests have tended to be state-side and popular destinations are those that offer



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARLENE RICHTER

Travel enthusiast Arlene Richter, pictured here in the Needles district of Utah's Canyonlands National Park, is fully vaccinated and ready to resume her travels.

outdoor adventure.

"While we wait for the international world to fully open, senior travelers are looking toward domestic travel and exploration of the West in areas like Utah, Colorado, and Wyoming," said Adrienne Saxton, a Falls Church-based travel advisor and curator. "Domestic river cruises exploring the Mississippi, the Pacific Northwest and wine cruises are also high on the requests. These areas have been booking fast and furiously."

"The National Parks are, without doubt, incredibly popular for us," added Frank Marini, president of Amtrak Vacations. "Seniors are incredibly excited and just want to get back out there and make up for lost time."

Vienna couple Barrie and Jane Taylor became fully vaccinated in March and are heading to San Diego to visit their son, daughter-in-law and granddaughter who was born last November. Their family visit will be followed by a trip to Glacier National Park.

"This will be the first time meeting our granddaughter. Zoom calls can in no way make up for being able to hold her in our arms," said Jane. "My husband and I usually take four big trips a year and at least two of those are international. We won't leave the country this year and we'll still wear masks and practice social distancing."

The freedom to travel is one of the best rewards of being vaccinated, said Richter. "I've been all over the place and hope to continue going to new places."

"The National Parks are, without doubt, incredibly popular. Seniors are incredibly excited and just want to get back out there and make up for lost time."

— Frank Marini

School Board Member's Post Ignites Pro & Con Reactions

FROM PAGE 4

entry with a wide staircase leading to the cordoned-off and protected front doors to the school and its adjacent patch of grass.

The larger group in support of Omeish numbered upwards of 100 individuals. Mostly wearing masks for Covid protection, they rallied together with signs that read, "Abrar is an equity champion" and "Melanie Meren, you do not represent us."

They chanted following the lead of Mariam Abou-Ghazala of Fairfax and others who yelled into megaphones, "Freedom of Speech. You cannot impeach."

The smaller group, challenging Omeish and opposing critical race theory, numbered approximately 30 individuals with a handful wearing masks. Waving U.S. flags, they played loud music attempting to drown out the other chanting in support of Omeish. At times, this group advanced in unison up to and into the larger group of Omeish supporters.

"The Fairfax GOP is trying to remove her [Omeish] from office. That is affecting the entire community and not just her. We're trying to create a platform to raise awareness for our issues," said Omar Elbaba, 15, of Vienna.

"This is clearly an Islamophobic smear campaign to delegitimize her [Omeish's] position... and what she brings to the table ... What a world we live in where an elected official cannot pray for her people," said Shayma Al-Hanooti, FCPS graduate and Arlington Public School teacher.

"This is freedom of speech,"

said Hala Abdelaal of Fairfax, class of 2015 Thomas Jefferson High School. "This is our Constitution."

Protesters opposing Omeish almost all refused to comment. Leslie Sandler of Fairfax Station said, "Fairfax County Public Schools is not the place to have political rhetoric. We're here for our children."

OMEISH WAS ONE of the last to comment at the Fairfax County School Board Meeting. Omeish said she took pride in a community where all come to the table and can have a dialogue, a place to "confront courageously the differences that come to the table."

"I understand that for many Jewish families, my constituents, that they share a deep and sacred relationship with Israel ... I've been able to listen and dialogue with, and I want to continue to listen. The loudest thing I want to be heard today is that I want to listen...because that is how we move forward, and that is how we grow."

"Anti-Semitism is a real and growing threat that must be addressed in our schools, our country, and our world. And conflating the criticism with that only harms those of us seeking to advance justice and diverts our focus," said Omeish. "We must choose to step up and to ensure that we don't allow those seeking to sow hate and division to capitalize on our disagreement. ... We can and must fight these things together; anti-Semitism, racism, Islamophobia, and especially that which is couched as a response to oppression of all kinds together."

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/JUNE 15

MV Genealogical Society Meeting. 1-3 p.m. Via Zoom. Legal Scholar Natalie Ram will discuss the legal landscape of consumer genetic data during the June 15 meeting of the Mount Vernon Genealogical Society. Email: contact-us@mvgenealogy.org

PFIZER VACCINATION TO AGES 12 AND UP

The Alexandria Health Department (AHD) and other providers in Alexandria are now offering COVID-19 vaccinations to residents ages 12 and older. The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine was previously approved for use in those aged 16 and older, and the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are currently only available for ages 18 and old-

er. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention approved use of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for ages 12-15 by accepting the recommendation of its Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, which met earlier in the day to review safety data for the vaccine in this age group.

Pfizer Vaccine (First Dose, Ages 12+) Saturday, June 5
Hours: 1-3:30 p.m.
Provider: Alexandria Health Department
Location: Francis Hammond Middle School, 4646 Seminary Rd, Alexandria, VA 22304
Schedule Now -- Appointments and Walk-ins Accepted

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA RESPONSE TO CICADA EMERGENCE

The City of Alexandria will experience the 17-year cycle of the emergence of millions of the Brood X Cicadas from underground to mate and

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 13

4 Restaurants to Supply Your Memorial Day Cookout

By HOPE NELSON
GAZETTE PACKET

Let's face it: It's been a year of cooking at home. Maybe this is one Memorial Day weekend you're looking for someone else to do the heavy lifting while you simply sit and enjoy the results. If so, you're not alone – and plenty of restaurants around town are up to the task.

Chadwicks, 203 Strand St.

Looking for the all-American burger? Look no further. It's one of the things Chadwicks does best. From beef to turkey to veggie, Chadwicks starts with a strong base and then levels up with toppings such as bacon jam, fried egg, mushroom, pickled onion and more. If you're not in the burger mood, whet your appetite with a crab-cake sandwich, a fried green tomato grilled cheese, a salmon BLT and more.

Hops n Shine, 3410 Mount Vernon Ave.

Hops n Shine is known for its grilled cheese sandwiches, and it would be a shame not to take them up on their specialties on such a festive weekend. For a full-throttle choice, you could do worse than the Holy Cheesus, which features American, pepper-



A Cajun shrimp boil: Smoked Shrimp, andouille sausage, corn, and potatoes. From Hops n Shine.

jack, cheddar and muenster on the inside of the sandwich with a crust encased in shredded cheese. Or go with the meatier steak and cheese.

Don't do cheese? No sweat – Hops n Shine

offers a dairy-free substitute.

PLNT Burger, 1700 Duke St.

Located within Whole Foods, PLNT Burger

can be relatively overlooked by those not already indoctrinated to its ways. But – whether plant-based or not – pop in to take a taste and you'll soon see what all the fuss is about. Go for the standard-issue PLNT Burger – a Beyond meat patty with caramelized onions, lettuce, tomato, pickles and PLNT sauce – or venture further afield with the mushroom bacon burger, the steakhouse burger, the limited-time Baja burger (featuring guacamole and fried jalapenos) and more. Don't forget some herb fries on the side – and maybe a milkshake, because it's hot outside.

Café Pizzaiolo, 1623 Fern St.

And finally, let's finish off with a less conventional choice. Sometimes, the best cookout isn't even a cookout – it's a fiery-hot oven with a piping pizza as the end result. Café Pizzaiolo definitely brings its best to the table.

From the Caprese to the White Tomato to the Spicy Veggie and many more, Café Pizzaiolo is a one-stop shop for any manner of toppings you can dream up. Not feeling like a pie? Calzones work just as well to bring out the Memorial Day spirit.

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

CALENDAR

NOW THRU JUNE 27

Timeless Tradition. 12-4 p.m. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. The copyist program at the National Gallery of Art offers a unique opportunity for artists to study the techniques of old masters through intimate study in the galleries. This exhibit presents the work of members of this program alongside a color photo of the original and an artist's statement explaining why the work was chosen and what was learned through copying. Visit the website: www.nvfaa.org

MAY 25 TO JUNE 27

Birds of a Feather. Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery announces the opening of its juried show "Birds of a Feather, which opens on May 25, 2021 and runs through June 27, 2021. The birds are back, and they are celebrating. Themed work will be eligible for recognition by the jurors. Non-themed work may also be exhibited. Visit the website: <http://torpedofactory.org/visit/>

WEDNESDAY/MAY 26

The Potomac: It's Health and Future. 7 p.m. Via Zoom. The Friends of Dyke Marsh hosts Hedrick Belin of the Potomac Conservancy, who will discuss the Potomac's water quality results from the latest Potomac Report Card (see <https://>

potomacreportcard.org/), the role of tree protection, stormwater pollution, climate change and how citizen activism is opening new opportunities to protect water quality. The program is free and open to the public. Visit www.fodm.org to register.

STARTING MAY 27

Tall Ship Providence River Cruises and Dockside Tours. Dockside ship tours available now Wednesdays through Sundays. Admission: Dockside ship tours - \$16 adults, \$14 military/senior, \$12 children, age 5-12; Cruises between \$45-69 per person. Tall ship Providence, 1 Cameron St., Alexandria. Call 703-772-8483 Tallshipprovidence.org.

THURSDAY/MAY 27

"Off-Stage: Musical Gems from the Opera and Ballet" – Chamber Music. 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. At The Secret Garden of the Rectory, 711 Princess Street, Alexandria. Relive stunning moments from the opera and ballet stages when musicians from the Kennedy Center's other resident orchestra make a special appearance in the Secret Garden with a unique program of excerpts in imaginative arrangements, including favorite selections from Carmen, Don Giovanni, Tosca and Cavalleria Rusticana. Visit the website: <https://www.classicalmovements.com/secretgardenconcerts/>

CYCLEBOATS TO BEGIN OPERATION

Potomac Paddle Club is a pontoon

pedal boat or "Cycleboat" in the nation's capital region that will begin service from Old Town beginning May 28. This social adventure is the perfect way for friends to hop between waterfront locations and take in the sights. Passengers will be able to take a cruise from Old Town to National Harbor and back. Boats will dock at Old Town's Waterfront Park behind the Torpedo Factory. Visit www.PotomacPaddleClub.com.

SATURDAY/MAY 29

Jazz Festival. 4-9 p.m. At Oronoco Bay Park, 100 Madison Street, Alexandria. The City of Alexandria invites the public to the Annual Alexandria Jazz Festival. Admission is free. The Jazz Festival will feature a variety of musicians and styles of jazz throughout the day. Featured artists include: 4 p.m. - Cubano Groove (bossa nova); 5:20 p.m. - VERONNEAU (contemporary); 6:35 p.m. - Eric Byrd Trio (straight); 8 p.m. - Joel Ross 'Good Vibes' (modern). Due to COVID-19 public health guidelines, attendance will be limited and pre-registration for assigned seating will be required in order to maintain physical distance between parties from different households. Parties will be limited to four people or fewer. Masks covering the nose and mouth will be required for all attendees over age 2. Because space is limited, early pre-registration is encouraged. Visit alexandriava.gov/Recreation to

reserve seating.

SUNDAY/MAY 30

Fiesta Asia. Asian Dance at The Athenaeum. 2-3:45 p.m. In conjunction with the Asian Heritage Celebration in May, learn some basic Asian dance styles at the Athenaeum. You will widen your cultural experiences and acquire a new skill set – because you never know when you will be invited to a party where you can show off your dancing talents.

Open to children age 8 and above. (Adults are welcome too.). Session 1 - 2 - 2:45 p.m.; Session 2 - 3 - 3:45 p.m.

MONDAY/MAY 31

Memorial Day Tribute. 12-8 p.m. At Watergate at Landmark, 307 Yorkum Parkway, Alexandria. Military Children's Six Foundation Tribute, Candlelight Vigil and Community Picnic.

Military children paying homage to the fallen heroes on this Memorial Day. This is a free family-friendly event, where food, beverages, entertainment, and lots of activities for children. All are welcome. This is an outdoor free event for families. RSVP is required. Visit the website: www.mc6.foundation

JUNE 1 TO AUG. 31

Creative Summer Programs is a series of workshops exploring the arts. Learn techniques in painting, sculpture, collage, mixed media,

sketching, and more from local artists. Delve into your creative consciousness solo or with friends. Online and in-person, for children and/or adults, free and paid programs are offered. Sign up for what inspires you! Held at Del Ray Artisans (2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria VA) unless noted. Details: DelRayArtisans.org/programs/creative-summer/

THURSDAY/JUNE 3

Secrets of D-Day. 7-9 p.m. Virtual. Dr. Kim Bernard Holien, U.S. Army Historian, retired will discuss D-Day secrets, known and unknown. A 'Rest of the Story' presentation about the secrets that made the Allies victorious on the 'day of days'. Website: https://zoom.us/join/register/WN_c09H1FqN-S8anHYIEwqYrA

FRIDAY/JUNE 4

D-Day's Black Heroes. 12 p.m. Virtual. Linda Hervieux, Paris-based American journalist, photographer, and author of "Forgotten: The Untold Story of D-Day's Black Heroes, at Home and at War," the critically acclaimed story of D-Day's only African-American combat soldiers, who were effectively written out of the history of the Norman invasion. Website: https://zoom.us/join/register/WN_WkYEcl8BRBSfQ-g8EuaHEuA

John Warner

FROM PAGE 7

John Warner truly was the best of what public service and elected leadership should be, and his loss leaves a deep void. Pam and I join the Commonwealth in mourning his death. Our prayers for comfort go out to his wife Jeanne, his three children, grandchildren, scores of friends, and all those who loved him."

In honor of Senator John Warner, Governor Northam ordered that the Virginia state flag be flown at half-staff over the Virginia Capitol on the day of his funeral.

GERRY CONNOLLY

Congressman Gerald E. Connolly (D-VA), released the following statement on the passing of former Senator John Warner:

"I am deeply saddened to learn of the passing of former Senator John Warner. He was a Gentleman who maintained civility in his politics in an era of rising intolerance. He was the go-to congressional contact to get things done when I was Fairfax County Chairman during the BRAC process and resisted extremist elements in his own party. He is missed."

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 11

lay eggs in trees throughout the City now through mid-summer. The egg laying will be concentrated on smaller diameter twigs and branches. Impacted trees will exhibit clusters of dead leaves and branches that droop and turn brown as their circulation is cut off by the implanted eggs.

For most trees, this damage will be unsightly but superficial. The trees will shed their damaged portions and continue growing. Some trees, particularly young, newly established trees, may succumb to their injuries.

The City is taking the following steps in response to the cicada emergence:

Delay spring tree plantings to be planted alongside fall trees to avoid cicada damage.

Water recently planted trees to improve their health and ability to cope with cicada damage.

The City will not:

Apply pesticides to deter cicadas as they are not considered effective.

Install netting to protect trees. While effective, netting is not economical at the municipal scale. Individual property owners should still consider netting as a potential protective measure for small or newly established trees.

ONGOING

Local, farm-fresh produce – including strawberries and asparagus – and more will be featured at the now-opened McCutcheon/Mt. Vernon Farmers Market. From 8 a.m. to noon every Wednesday (through December 22), 16 local farmers and food producers will sell fresh,

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 14

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Philosophically Meandering

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



As I discussed a few weeks back, having all this time off/apart from cancer-related activities is unsettling in a peculiar way. I'm not in remission. I'm certainly not cured, and I'm still receiving regular treatment: a bone-strengthening shot every four weeks at the Infusion Center and of course, my daily lenvima pill. Given the nature of what symptoms/side effects I experience, it's only after my quarterly CT scan and recently added, a bone scan, followed-up by a post-scan video visit with my oncologist and endocrinologist (combined with my semi annual brain MRI) that I have an accurate/real-time sense of whether I'm coming or going, if you know what I mean?

The result of these intervals and intermittent visits is that I, not the doctors, have my best sense of self. Though I can - and am encouraged to do so, email my doctors and/or call an advice nurse at all hours to discuss whatever ails me, realistically, on a daily, hourly and/or minute-by-minute existence, I'm the one that I have to talk to, and most likely, listen to. And though I think I know myself pretty well, a cancer diagnosis creates a prism through which all of our thoughts are filtered. Sometimes, what initially passes through is not identical to what comes out. Cancer is in control, sort of like the producers of "The Outer Limits" said they were in control of your television during the two years: 1963 and '64, when "The Outer Limits" was nearly must-watch television. They controlled more than just the horizontal on your television. They controlled the information going into your head. What you did with that information was entirely up to you. Only then, you were in control.

Much has changed in the almost 60 years since "The Outer Limits" was controlling television sets. And so too, much has changed for those diagnosed with cancer. However positive and hopeful, and effective the evolution of a cancer diagnosis and treatment has become, when "The cancer" (as "Forrest, Forrest Gump" called it) appears on your scan or marks your blood, you are no longer "the master of your domain." In fact, your domain has shrunk considerably and quite precipitously. Whatever you thought was going to be happening in your life now takes a back seat to everything your oncologist says needs to happen. Integrating into your life all the unexpected, life-changing advisories will be a task unlike any you've previously ever undertaken. Pondering your cancer-patient future will not result in one gulp, it will result in a series of gulps. As a consequence of your diagnosis/prognosis, you'll become an expert in gulps, morning, noon and night, when you're alone or with others.

And as you are gulping, you are forever trying to find your place in the universe. As a diagnosee, you join an immense club, the kind of club Groucho Marx said he "wouldn't join, if they would have me as a member." Ignoring your new reality seems totally irresponsible, but focusing 24-7 on your less-than-ideal circumstances seems like overkill (pardon the double entendre). This focus likely emboldens the cancer while weakening your resolve. I mean, your situation is bad enough, you don't need to make it worse by having it for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Having it once and a while, like a snack is more than enough. The weight of a premature death (any death is premature, right?) is simply too great a burden to bear without making it heavier. I'm not suggesting one ever acquiesce and give into their cancer. Instead, I'm suggesting, find a place for it in your life where it's sort of along for the ride, rather than it being the driver.

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

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FROM PAGE 13

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.

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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Assistance League of Northern Virginia is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that feeds, clothes and provides reading assistance and books to children in need. Assistance League's programs touch the lives of hundreds of children in Fairfax and Prince William Counties and the City of Alexandria. There are many volunteer opportunities for community members to contribute to helping those in need. To learn more, email info@alnv.org, or visit www.alnv.org.

United Community (formerly UCM), 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, seeks volunteers for Food Pantry assistance, Early Learning Center teacher aides, basic needs counselors, youth tutors and mentors, office administration/data entry, and community outreach. Flexible hours and schedules. Opportunities for all ages to serve, including community service hours. More info at ucmagency.org/volunteer-opportunities or email volunteer@ucmagency.org.

Operation Paws for Homes, a Virginia based 501(c)(3) organization seeks volunteers, especially to foster dogs. See www.ophrescue.org for information and all volunteer opportunities.

RSVP, a volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older. RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, email Carly Hubicki at chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-403-5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit www.rsvpnova.org.

Line Dance Instructor needed for the Gum Springs Senior Program once a week on either Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. Volunteer Solutions, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711.

Volunteer Fairfax makes it easy for individuals and families, youth and seniors, corporate groups and civic clubs to volunteer. Fulfill hours, give back, or pay it forward through a variety service options. Visit www.volunteer-fairfax.org or call 703-246-3460.

STEM VOLUNTEERS. The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) needs scientists, engineers, mathematicians, and physicians to assist K-12 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) teachers in the Northern Virginia Area, during the 2016-17 school year. In the 2015-16 school year, the numbers of STEM volunteers in Northern Virginia were: Fairfax County - 40, Arlington - 20, and Alexandria - one. Details of the collaboration are worked out between the teacher and the volunteer, and may involve giving demonstrations, assisting in lab experiments, lecturing on special topics, assisting with homework, etc. The hours are flexible, and volunteers attend a one-day training in September before being assigned to schools. To see how volunteers are assisting their teachers, view the video clips at www.seniorsscintist.org. To volunteer, contact donaaldrea@aol.com.

Fairfax County's Community Services Board is seeking volunteer office assistants. Volunteers are needed to assist CSB staff with greeting guests, making reminder phone calls, data entry, filing, shredding, stocking shelves, and other duties as needed. Hours are flexible, but would be during normal business hours. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb/viva/volunteers.htm for more.

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