

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

OCTOBER 28, 2021

To the Rescue 3,000 coats to help kids in need.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE GAZETTE

First responders from throughout Northern Virginia came together Oct. 25 to help distribute more than 3,000 new coats destined for children in need as part of the Firefighters and Friends to the Rescue annual coat drive.

Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck was on hand at Fire Station 11 in the Penn Daw section of the Route 1 corridor helping prepare coats that were distributed to representatives of more than 60 schools, shelters and nonprofits.

"What these firefighters do here each year at Penn Daw is a symphony of support to our community," said Storck as he helped bag and load coats for distribution. "It's not just coats. It's the backpacks and the holiday gifts -- they do it all for those most in need in our community."

This is the second year that the pandemic prevented children from attending in person and choosing their own coats, something Storck said he missed.

"It's a sad thing for us this year and last year that we don't have the kids coming through to see them try on the coats," Storck said. "That gives all of us a chance to connect with them and really see

SEE TO THE RESCUE, ON PAGE 8



Volunteers sort coats prior to distribution as part of the Firefighters and Friends to the Rescue annual coat drive Oct. 25 at Penn Daw Fire Station 11.



Firefighter Ken Savattterri, right, is joined by his twin sons in helping prepare coats for distribution as part of the Firefighters and Friends annual coat drive Oct. 25 at Fire Station 11.



Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck, left, finishes preparing bags of coats for distribution to nonprofit and social service representatives as part of the Firefighters and Friends to the Rescue annual coat drive Oct. 25 at Fire Station 11. He is joined by Karen Corbett Sanders, Mount Vernon District representative to the Fairfax County School Board.

PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/THE GAZETTE



Chairman Jeff McKay talks pre-ride to new Pope-Leighey executive director Shawn Halifax.

300+ Join Tour de Mount Vernon

The grand ride kicks off from Woodlawn's Pope-Leighey house, showing off the sights of Mount Vernon.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

Cyclists gathered at the Pope-Leighey House last Saturday morning for the sixth annual Tour de Mount Vernon community bike ride, pedaling through many of the Mount Vernon District's historic sights that highlight the county's bicycle friendly atmosphere.

Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon) organized the ride, dedicating this year's event to Dave Evans, a friend of Storck's that died recently. Evans owned La Prima Catering, and in the past rides,

Evans would be there at the end with food for everyone. "He was my best friend for more than 50 years," Storck said.

Each rider was registered, and since the ride went onto Fort Belvoir, the riders needed to bring their identification, they were told as they signed up at the main tent. Other entities with tents at the Pope Leighey House were the Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling (FABB), the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce, Bike Fairfax, Spokes and Handy Bikes. "This is the biggest ride we ever had, over 300 riders," Storck said.

In previous years, the tour kicked

off from Fort Hunt Park and the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton, so using the Pope-Leighey parking lot as the launching site was a way of spreading the attention around in Mount Vernon.

Jeff McKay, chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, was one of the riders along with Virginia Sen. Scott Surrovell (D-36). They both grew up in Mount Vernon and knew the route well.

Riders Wayne Thompson and Martine Collin were part of the group. They had just moved

SEE 300+ JOIN, ON PAGE 8

PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/THE GAZETTE

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OPEN SAT 10/30, 2-4

Oakland | \$2,395,000

This exquisite 4/5 bedroom home on a quiet, secluded street, offers a rare opportunity to live in one of Alexandria's most sought-after locations. The mature lushly landscaped property provides a rarely found sense of peace and privacy. Features include an open floor plan that's perfect for entertaining, a chef's gourmet kitchen, gorgeous pegged wood floors, a dramatic sunroom addition spanning the rear of the home, expansive side porch, numerous updates and so much more! 636 Oakland Terrace

Julian Burke 703.867.4219
JulianBurke.com



OPEN 10/30 & 10/31, 12-2

Chatham Square | \$1,199,000

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Jillian Keck Hogan 703.951.7655
JillianKeckHogan.com



OPEN SUN 10/31, 1-3

Olde Belhaven Towne | \$835,000

This updated 4-bedroom, 3.5-bath brick "end" townhome with landscaped yard & charming brick patio is a real treat! Rooms are flooded in light with hickory hardwoods, 2 fireplaces, new HVAC plus 2 parking spaces! 1730 Olde Towne Road

Sue Dickerson 703.380.0153
SueDickersonRealtor.com



OPEN 10/30 & 10/31, 2-4

Fair Haven | \$615,000

Wonderfully updated Cape Cod located blocks from Metro. Inside this charming home is freshly painted with hardwood floors, updated kitchen, 4 bedrooms, 2 full baths, finished basement. Newly fenced yard & covered patio. 6111 Bangor Drive

Rebecca McCullough 571.384.0941
RebeccaMcCullough.com



Hume Springs | \$525,000

Close in a walkable, friendly community on a wide, one-way street with parking on both sides. 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths; the back yard is bordered by the alley and parkland filled with trees, grass and even a creek. No Condo Fee! 3725 Mark Drive

Betty Mallon 703.989.8548
BettyMallon.com



OPEN SUN 10/31, 2-4

Arlington | \$419,000

Spacious 1-bedroom, 1-bath unit at The Park at Courthouse. Large windows and a bright, airy floor plan. Freshly painted with hardwood flooring in the living and dining room. Low condo fee & deeded garage parking space. 2220 Fairfax Dr #702

Sean McEneaney 703.635.8836
Heidi Burkhardt 703.217.6009



Hallmark Building | \$299,900

Wonderful 2-bedroom, 2-bath condo in the desirable Hallmark building in Alexandria! Corner unit boasts tons of natural light, and great square footage of almost 1,300 SF. In unit laundry and garage parking! 200 N Pickett Street #304

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OPEN SUN 10/31, 2-4

Fords Landing \$1,189,000

Fabulous 3-bedroom, 2-bath townhouse offers gracious rooms for entertaining, hardwood floors, 2 gas fireplaces, and custom built-ins. Sunny kitchen with

stainless appliances. Luxurious primary suite with vaulted ceilings, multiple closets, and spa-like bath. Lovely deck and off-street parking for 2 cars. 722 Battery Pl

Babs Beckwith 703.627.5421
BabsBeckwith.com



OPEN SUN 10/31, 2-4

Del Ray \$899,000

End unit townhouse at the corner of Del Ray & Commonwealth. 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, gorgeous kitchen and updated baths. Sunken living

room, wood-burning fireplace, hardwood floors, private patio, and off-street deeded parking. 2301 Commonwealth Avenue

Cindy Clemmer 703.966.0403
ClemmerAndSchuckHomes.com



OPEN SUN 10/31, 2-4

Townes at Cameron Park \$589,000

Lovely end unit garage townhouse in convenient location! Plenty of windows, great family room that walks out to the private back yard.

Upper level has 2 gracious bedrooms with en-suite baths and plenty of closet space, also has 2 half baths. 3823 Watkins Mill Dr. HayesWoodHomes.com

Chris Hayes 703.944.7737
Gordon Wood 703.447.6318



OPEN SAT 10/30, 12-2

Alexandria \$394,500

2 bedroom, 1 bath townhome located on a cul-de-sac in sought after Parkfairfax! Updated kitchen and great natural light. Hardwood floors, large

primary bedroom and upstairs laundry. Easy commute to DC and National Airport. Walk to shops, dining, and entertainment in Shirlington! 3230 Ravensworth Place

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Virginia at a Crossroads

Voters to determine direction of state government.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Two years ago, Democrats seized control of the General Assembly for the first time in a generation. Now Republicans are hoping this is their moment to “Take Back Virginia,” the name of a recent rally in support of the GOP statewide ticket that featured a call-in appearance from former President Donald Trump, who used the opportunity to repeat baseless claims about widespread election fraud.

Ultimately, the decision about all 100 seats in the House of Delegates and all three statewide offices will be in the hands of voters on Tuesday, Nov. 2, and it’s a decision that is likely to be driven by turnout.

Republicans do well in Virginia when turnout is low. The last time Republicans won statewide election back in 2009, turnout was only 40 percent. Democrats, on the other hand, tend to do well when turnout is high. When Democrat Ralph Northam beat Republican Ed Gillespie four years ago, voters set records for participation in an odd-year election that had 48 percent turnout. Former Gov. Terry McAuliffe beat Republican Ken Cuccinelli with 43 percent of the vote, although his margin of victory was significantly smaller.

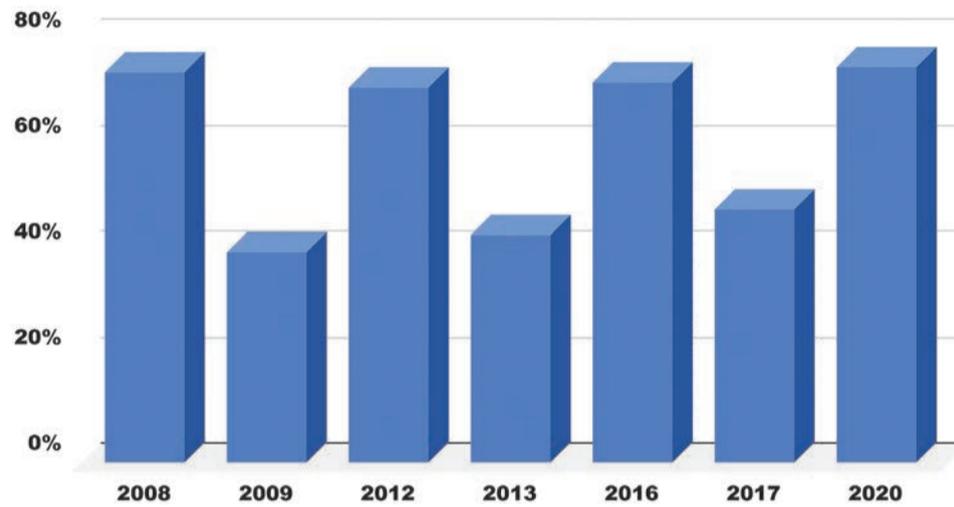
McAuliffe is attempting to do something very rare in Virginia politics: return to the Executive Mansion. Virginia is the only state in the country to have a four-year term limit, a constitutional prohibition on governors running for reelection. Only one former governor has ever been elected twice: Mills Godwin, who ran as an old-school Democrat in the 1960s and then as a Southern Strategy Republican in the 1970s. Back in the 19th century, William “Extra Billy” Smith also had two nonconsecutive terms, once appointed to the job before the Civil War and then a second term elected by voters during the war.

Now McAuliffe is hoping to pull off a similar trick, returning for a second term as governor in a Virginia that has seen a massive shift since he left office in 2018.

“Now you have a Democratic controlled legislature,” said Mark Rozell, dean of the Schar School of Policy and Government. “And the Democratic Party has moved to the move progressive side of the political spectrum.”

His opponent in the race is Republican

Turnout in Virginia Elections



Glenn Youngkin
Republican candidate for governor
raised: \$7.7 million
top contributors
\$6 million from the Republican Governors Association
\$250,000 from Thomas Saunders III of Saunders Karp & Co
\$225,000 from Haulover Creek Development Co of Richmond
\$210,000 from Richard Baxter Gilliam of Keswick, Va.
\$200,000 from Walter Curt of Power Monitors Inc.



Terry McAuliffe
Democratic candidate for governor
raised: \$44.5 million
top contributors
\$5.6 million from DGA Action
\$750,000 from Mid-Atlantic Laborers’ Political Education Fund
\$600,000 from AFSCME
\$500,000 from Priorities USA
\$500,000 from Virginia League of Conservation Voters



Princess Blanding
Liberation Party candidate running for governor
raised: \$30,000
top contributors
\$8,000 from Realtor Chrischa Ives of Sandbridge Realty
\$1,100 from Charles Peters of Water View, Va.
\$1,050 from Anthony Castellano of Angus Dentistry
\$1,050 from Landon Shroder of Virginia Commonwealth University
\$1,000 from Matt Smith of MSE Properties in Henrico



Winsome Sears
Republican candidate for lieutenant governor
raised: \$2 million
top contributors
\$125,000 from the Republican State Leadership Committee
\$32,500 from Black America’s PAC
\$25,000 from Richard Baxter Gilliam of Keswick, Va.
\$25,000 from Haulover Creek Development Co of Richmond
\$25,000 from the Virginia Citizens Defense League



Jason Miyares
Republican candidate for attorney general
raised: \$3.3 million
top contributors
\$500,000 from the Republican Attorneys General Association
\$105,000 from Richard Baxter Gilliam of Keswick, Va.
\$100,000 from Dominion Energy
\$94,500 from Miyares for Delegate
\$55,000 from Haulover Creek Development Co of Richmond



Hala Ayala
Democratic candidate for lieutenant governor
raised: \$4 million
top contributors
\$250,000 from the Democratic Lieutenant Governors Association
\$200,000 from Everytown for Gun Safety
\$165,000 from Dominion Energy
\$160,000 from Emily’s List
\$150,000 from Planned Parenthood



Mark Herring
Democratic candidate for attorney general
raised: \$6.3 million
top contributors
\$1 million from the Democratic Attorney Generals Association
\$200,000 from Everytown for Gun Safety
\$110,000 from Ronald Abramson of Buchanan Ingersoll
\$100,000 from Planned Parenthood Action Fund
\$100,000 from SEIU Committee on Political Education

Glenn Youngkin, a private equity executive who is a former CEO of the Carlyle Group. On the campaign trail, he’s repeatedly refused to take a position on the assault weapons ban or the ultrasound requirement. When a

reporter for the Associated Press started asking about Youngkin’s policy positions in a recent interview, his campaign aides abruptly cut off the interview. So voters are heading into Election Day without much detail about

what he would do if elected.

“The problem is he’s running against a guy who is a former governor who knows the policy issues inside and out in many ways, who’s taken very clear positions on a lot of policy issues,” said Quentin Kidd, dean of the College of Social Sciences at Christopher Newport University. “The contrast is a liability for Youngkin.”

The final days of the campaign have seen McAuliffe trying to emphasize Trump, and Youngkin trying to capitalize on the culture war over schools. Trump once again endorsed Youngkin at that “Take Back Virginia” rally in Glen Allen, which featured a Pledge of Allegiance to a flag carried at the Jan. 6 insurrection. The Youngkin campaign is trying to walk a tightrope of appealing to the MAGA crowd while also not alienating suburban voters they’ll need to win. While Democrats campaigned with President Joe Biden, former President Barack Obama and Vice President Kamala Harris, the Republican ticket has taken a different approach.

“It could be that Youngkin doesn’t feel like his election is in much trouble,” said Jatia Wrighten, political science professor at Virginia Commonwealth University. “He feels pretty confident and comfortable with this backing of Trump as enough to put him over the finish line.”

While McAuliffe has been spending millions of dollars on TV ads tying Youngkin to Trump, the Youngkin campaign has been trying to ride the wave of outrage over controversies surrounding public education. Many parents are angry about what they call “critical race theory” being taught in Virginia classrooms, even though it’s a law school concept that is not taught in Virginia classrooms.

Youngkin says he’ll ban the law school theory from ever being taught in public school classrooms. He also criticized McAuliffe for vetoing a bill inspired by parents who were upset that Toni Morrison’s Pulitzer-prize

winning book “Beloved” was being taught in Fairfax County schools.

“Surveys demonstrate a pretty high level of support for performance of the school boards in the covid crisis at least,” said Stephen Farnsworth, director of the Center for Leadership and Media

Studies at the University of Mary Washington. “That suggests that this really is more about activating the base rather than reaching to moderate voters not engaged otherwise in the gubernatorial campaign.”

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ RE-ELECT ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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Paul led the way in eliminating barriers to voting accessibility, spearheading early voting expansion and mail-in voting.

✓ **For Workers**

As the House Democratic Caucus Labor Liaison, Paul delivered a raise in the minimum wage and voted to allow localities to provide collective bargaining for their workforce.

✓ **For Our Health**

Paul voted to expand Medicaid, providing over 500,000 Virginians with access to quality, affordable health care. He worked collaboratively with local leaders to protect us from COVID-19.

✓ **For Students and Teachers**

Paul invested in our students with a historic pay raise for Virginia teachers, new HVAC systems for schools, and funding to address pandemic-related learning loss, so that our students receive the highest quality education.

✓ **For The Environment**

Paul passed legislation to cut down on litter in our community, protect pollinators from dangerous pesticides, and preserve public lands.

✓ **For Safety and Justice**

Paul strengthened seat belt laws and passed common-sense gun safety legislation. He also voted to abolish the death penalty, grew the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, and purged the code of racist Jim Crow-era laws.

A Strong Voice in Richmond

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For our economy
For our health
For our schools
For our environment

ENDORSEMENTS



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Alternatives to Police Intervention

Behavioral specialists deescalate mental health crisis calls without the need for arrest or hospitalization about half the time.

BY KEN MOORE
THE GAZETTE

“It’s critical to have the right intervention at the right time by the right person,” when responding to a person in a mental health crisis, said Abbey May, Director, Emergency and Crisis Services, Community Services Board.

The county received 9,081 mental health related calls for service in 2021 and 6,638 in 2020 and 5,189 in 2019. There were 231 calls for service for mental health crisis in the last week, Oct. 15-21, 2021, alone.

“What we don’t have is real time primary response to 911 behavioral health calls,” May said to the Board of Supervisors during a Public Safety Committee meeting last month. To address this need, the county, in a “micropilot responder program,” has added a field team that includes a Crisis Intervention Specialist to respond to calls with police, sometimes even taking the lead in de-escalating crises.

The initial effort “demonstrated that this approach was effective in responding to and de-escalating behavioral health crises,” said Lisa Potter, Director, Division Initiatives.

About half the calls were deescalated in the com-

munity, and 40 percent were diverted from potential arrest or hospitalization, according to county reports. The response time to such calls averaged 11 minutes and specialists were able to de-escalate and divert with an average of 40 minutes of intervention on the scene.

The county began the second part of its study the day after the Sept. 28, 2021 meeting, and teams across the county will work seven days a week, pairing a crisis intervention specialist with an officer, and a crisis intervention specialist with an emergency dispatcher.

“It’s really just a start, a starting point for us,” said Captain James Krause, Fairfax County Police Department.

“This is certainly a priority for many,” said Rodney Lusk, chair of the Public Safety committee.

“If the call doesn’t have criminality and there’s no risk of harm, at least from the assessment of the 911 dispatcher, or a threat to self or a threat to others, do we have the behavioral health person lead and have the police officer stay back?” Lusk asked.

“Yes, that’s exactly what we are talking about, that’s what happened in the responder pilot,” said May. “Where we didn’t really need law enforcement, they were there as security and kind of stepped back and let the behavioral staff take the lead.”

About \$4 million will fund the 26 positions needed, including 10 crisis intervention specialists, two behavioral health liaisons, one behavioral health supervisor, eight officers, one police supervisor and four peer recovery specialists.

“I think this is something very easy to support. What you’ve recommended makes a lot of sense,” said Chairman Jeff McKay.

By July 2022, the county expects to have a 9-8-8 number ready for people to call with mental health emergencies as an alternative to 9-1-1.

Advancing Trust Between Police and Community

Police Civilian Review Panel seeks more authority, set to get an executive director.

BY KEN MOORE
THE GAZETTE

The Police Civilian Review Panel asked the Board of Supervisors to enhance its ability to investigate complaints against the police.

“There probably should be a way for the panel to look at more than simply the information provided by the Internal Affairs Bureau [of the Fairfax County Police Department.] Currently, the IAB is the sole gatekeeper for an investigation and that is not a recipe for independence,” said James N. Bierman Jr., chair of the Police Civilian Review Panel, at a Public Safety Meeting last month.

“The Civilian Review Panel cannot simply be seen as another arm of FCPD. and in order to be successful we need to be seen as a fair arbiter,” he said.

The all-volunteer panel reviewed 67 complaints about the police the last two years, 32 in 2019-2020 and 35 in 2020-2021. Some 38 cases were brought to the Civilian Review Panel directly (18 in 2019-2020 and 20 in 2020-2021). “The point is to make sure the police department and the community trust each other and can work well together so we have enhanced public safety,” said Bierman.

a position that is currently advertised, see the complete job listing. <https://www.governmentjobs.com/jobs/3274483-0/executive-director-police-civilian-review-panel>

“Let me tell you why I’m so excited about having an Executive Director. The new executive director will have the ability to review investigations and draft reports. It’s going to help professionalize the experience,” said Bierman.

According to county documents, “The Executive Director directs, manages, and coordinates the activities of the Fairfax County Police Civilian Review Panel (Panel). This position provides an accessible, safe, impartial and transparent intake process for complaints against officers and employees of the Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD). Advises and supports the panel on all matters pertaining to the independent review of FCPD investigations.”

Bierman presented the panel’s annual report as well as a comprehensive four-year review of the panel’s work since its origin in 2017.

“The panel’s work can be placed squarely in the context of a national conversation on race and police reform, happening during the middle of a global pandemic.”

Following the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis on May 25, 2020, a car rally for justice was held outside the Board of Supervisors building. The police officer who killed Floyd was sentenced to 22 and ½ years in prison for murder.

“Chief Roessler at that time pointed out in Fairfax County we do our best to have accountability and there’s even a police civilian review panel that you

SEE ADVANCING TRUST, PAGE 7

BOS RECENTLY APPROVED the hiring of an Executive Director for the Police Civilian Review Panel,

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



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OPEN SUNDAY 1-4



Alex/Riverside Estates **\$699,500**

8342 Wagon Wheel Road

This stunning, meticulously updated & maintained Split in popular Riverside Estates is NOW Available! 4BRs, 2.5BAs, carport, screened porch--loads of upgrades. The main level offers 3BRs, 2BAs, beautiful hwd floors, double pane windows, kitchen, living & dining rooms & screened porch. The updated kitchen will take your breath away w/its granite counters, dazzling white cabinets & marble tiled floor. The living rm has a large, brilliant bay window and opens to the dining rm that provides access to a spectacular screened porch, perfect for chilling or entertaining. The lower level offers a charming family rm w/a gorgeous FPL, 4th BR, remodeled half bath, & approximately 600sf of storage/utility/workshop space. The backyard is a perfect blend of hardscaping, (stone patios, & walls) & beautiful landscaping-Ideal for entertaining. If you desire a fabulous, turn-key home...Here it is!! Great location: 1 mile (S) to Mt. Vernon Plantation, 5 mins (S) to Ft. Belvoir, 15 mins (N) to Alex, 27 mins (N) to National Airport, 27-35 mins (N) to Pentagon/D.C.



Alex/ Mt. Zephyr **\$679,900**

8521 Richmond Avenue

Tired of dealing with the stairs in a 3-level Colonial? Come see this stunning 2 level Rambler w/walkout lower level to a large stone patio & beautiful backyard. The main level offers 3BRs, & 2BAs, large open kitchen remodeled in 2007, sparkling finished hwd floors, a living room w/wood burning FPL, & finally a stunning 3 season screened porch off the dining room, a perfect place to unwind after a hard day at the office. The lower level has 4th, & 5th BRs, a third bath & a huge family room w/2nd FPL, & lovely bar/kitchenette. This is a perfect area for entertaining. Storage a concern, check out the 26 x 13 storage room & the added storage in the attic over the screened porch, accessed by pull down stairs. Throw in a large beautiful backyard & you have a total winner! Some additional updates: New Shed 2010-New Well McLain Boiler 2006 w/20-year warranty-New Roof 2012 w/25-year warranty- A/C 2015-Granite Countertop lower level kitchenette 2016- Washer & Dryer 2016. 5 minutes to Ft. Belvoir (S), 15 minutes (N) to Old Town Alex, 27 minutes (N) to National Airport, all along the George Washington Parkway.



Vienna/Acadia Condo **\$382,500**

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703-768-7732

K-8 ADMISSIONS TIMELINE

November 1

Online portal opens for application submissions

December 1

Priority deadline: sibling and St. Louis parishioner applicants

February 1

Deadline: all applicants for first round consideration

Last Chance to Vote!

BY DELEGATE PAUL KRIZEK

We are officially one week away from Election Day on Nov. 2nd. As of this writing, 15.72% of all registered voters in the 44th district have already turned out to cast their ballots -- making our district 4th in all of Fairfax County in early absentee voting.



We are fortunate to have two early voting precincts conveniently located right here in Mount Vernon, at the Mount Vernon Governmental Center on Parkers Lane, and the Gerry Hyland Government Center on Richmond Highway. However, a Fairfax County voter can cast their ballot at any of the satellite voting locations across the county, regardless of where they live.

Hours of operation for all early voting locations on weekdays will be 12 p.m. - 7 p.m., except for the Fairfax County Government Center which operates from 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. On Saturday, Oct. 30, all locations will operate from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

If you have chosen to vote absentee by mail-in ballot, make sure to have your ballot completed, signed (don't forget the witness signa-

ture), and postmarked by Nov. 2 (Election Day). Or, you may return it by ballot drop box at any satellite voting location or at your home voting precinct before 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 2.

If you would like to vote in person on Election Day, polls will be open on Tuesday, Nov. 2nd from 6 a.m. - 7 p.m. If you are unsure of your polling location, visit <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/polling-place-lookup/>. This site will also share what you can expect to see on your ballot on Election Day.

Should you encounter any problems at the polls, please remain at the poll and contact the Voter Protection Hotline for assistance at (844) 482-8683.

AS FOR WHO I am supporting this Election Day, I am proud to cast my vote to elect Terry McAuliffe as Governor, Hala Ayala as Lieutenant Governor, and Mark Herring as our Attorney General. During these unprecedented times, it is critical that we have experienced and proven leaders at the helm. While serving as our 72nd Governor, Terry McAuliffe led the way in restoration of rights, giving those who

have served their time the right to vote again. Indeed, on the biggest threat facing the planet he has a proven track record of leading on climate change and advancing clean energy solutions. He was a stonewall against harmful legislation, exercising his veto powers. As our Attorney General, Mark Herring has served extremely well, defending affordable healthcare for Virginians before the Supreme Court twice. He has been a staunch supporter of equality and LGBTQ rights in Virginia. As Delegate, Hala Ayala has proven herself an effective leader during her time in the General Assembly. 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. 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. Along with her unique experience in cybersecurity, Hala will be critical in her role as Lieutenant Governor, serving as a tie-breaker as President of the Senate to block harmful legislation or ensure that an important bill passes the Chamber. I trust these leaders to guide Virginia as we emerge and rebuild from the COVID-19 pandemic and to continue the historic progress we have made in the last two years in the General Assembly.

Principals Work to Have No Kid Hungry

Dear editor,

Every day in Virginia, principals prioritize the success, safety and health of their students. They also know that with proper nutrition, kids are more likely to reach their full potential both inside and outside of the classroom.

LETTER

October is National Principals Month, an opportunity to celebrate our school leaders for their ongoing visionary leadership. I'd like to recognize the important work of Dr. Clint Mitchell, principal at Mount Vernon Woods Elementary School in Fairfax County.

Principal Mitchell never misses an opportunity to praise local school nutrition professionals for their innovative spirit and relentless dedication. Today I want to applaud him.

Principal Mitchell is committed to maximizing food access in his building, from incorporating breakfast into the classroom, establishing a school pantry, serving meals in the summer months, and using his voice to highlight the important link between educational equity and nutrition security. Under leadership like Principal Mitchell's, schools can feed more children, boosting access for Black and brown

students—a population disproportionately impacted by the hunger crisis.

Despite the obstacles they face, principals like Dr. Mitchell continue to collaborate with school nutrition departments, teachers and other school staff to get kids the food they need, providing critical support in this ever-changing school year.

This October and beyond, we recognize Principal Clint Mitchell, and leaders like him, who are making decisions to help staff and students stay safe, healthy, and nourished.

We see you. We thank you.

Sarah Steely
No Kid Hungry Virginia

Vote Now

EARLY IN-PERSON voting locations are open through Oct. 30 at three government center sites: Fairfax County, Mount Vernon, and North County.

Any registered Fairfax County voter may vote early at any Fairfax County early voting location.

Early in-person absentee voting is available for the November 2021 General & Special Elections at the following three locations from now through Oct. 30.

- ❖ Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Pkwy, Conference Rooms 2/3, Fairfax 22035

- ❖ Mt. Vernon Governmental Center, 2511 Parkers Ln, Alexandria 22306

- ❖ North County Governmental Center, 1801 Cameron Glen Dr, Reston 20190

Thirteen additional early in-person voting sites are open through Oct. 30.

- ❖ Burke Centre Library

- 5935 Freds Oak Rd, Burke

- ❖ Centreville Regional Library

- 14200 St. Germain Dr, Centreville

- ❖ Franconia Governmental Center

- 6121 Franconia Rd, 22310

- ❖ Gerry Hyland Government Center

- 8350 Richmond Hwy, 22309

- ❖ Great Falls Library

- 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls

- ❖ Herndon Fortnightly Library

- 768 Center St, Herndon

- ❖ Mason Governmental Center

- 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale

- ❖ McLean Governmental Center

- 1437 Balls Hill Rd, McLean

- ❖ Providence Community Center

- 3001 Vaden Dr, Fairfax

- ❖ Sully Governmental Center

- 4900 Stonecroft Blvd, Chantilly

- ❖ Thomas Jefferson Library

- 7415 Arlington Blvd, Falls Church

- ❖ Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library

- 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church

- ❖ West Springfield Govern-

- mental Center

- 6140 Rolling Rd, Springfield

The list of early voting sites, their addresses, and days/hours of operation, links to sample ballots and more can be found on the Board of Elections website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections.

ELECTION DAY: Voters can vote in their regular polling places on Election Day, Nov. 2. On Election Day polls are open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Voters who are in line by 7 p.m. will be able to vote. Visit <https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation> to find your polling place.

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A Connection Newspaper



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.

THURSDAY/NOV. 25

CAN the Bird 5K. 8 a.m. CAN the Bird 5K Turkey Trot will begin and end in the Walmart parking lot, 5885 Kingstowne Boulevard, Alexandria. All ages can enjoy a run around Kingstowne Center and the Kingstowne Lake. Medals will be awarded for first, second and third places for overall men and women runners, plus best runner with a dog, and best runner with a stroller. First, second and third place medals will also be awarded for these categories: 12 years and under; 13-18 years; and master runners 50 years and older. Donations of canned goods will be accepted for local food banks. Bring the family for a fun Thanksgiving Day morning run. Register for early bird prices at www.MountVernon-LeeChamber.org

WALKING GROUP

Let's Walk! Let's Walk! is a community walking initiative whose goal is to achieve and maintain optimal health through walking. The members consist of women who are retired or work from home and want to connect with others who share common interests, life experiences and fitness goals. The group meets at 2 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at a central location on Fort Hunt Road and walks for approximately 1 hour weather permitting. Contact information: 703-780-1145 or email; ecenglish@cox.net.

COMMUNITY MARKET ON SATURDAYS

Workhouse Arts Center hosts its

Community Market Every Saturday from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. through October 30, 2021. Located at 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton.

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.

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FROM PAGE 5

can go to and a police auditor in such situations," said Bierman. "The recommendations matrix, the creation of a dialogue that is open and public between the panel and the FCPD, I think, is leading to better practices and better investigations. The quality of investigation from the IAB is improving," said Bierman.

THE PANEL MADE 11 major recommendations, including the need for an executive director, an increase in its outreach efforts to the community and to the police,

"Racial bias and racial profiling complaints still present a challenge to the FCPD and the panel. It's obvious why these cases present a challenge. These cases are hard," he said. "Let me step back a moment. These cases could be easy but they often aren't. They often don't involve something that is outward or very clear and we need to find ways to investigate allegations of racial bias and systematize such investigations."

For more on the panel, see <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policecivilianreviewpanel/>

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

NEW DATA REVEALS MASSIVE LEARNING LOSSES IN FCPS (SCHOOLQUALITY.VIRGINIA.GOV)

READING

↓ 8 POINTS

SCIENCE

↓ 19 POINTS

MATH

↓ 25 POINTS

Meanwhile, Democrats are focused on pushing their divisive "woke" ideology on kids.

Had enough? Vote Republican.

SOL SCORES EXPOSE THE TRAGEDY OF A LOST YEAR
(SUN GAZETTE, 09/02/21)

Fairfax Students Back to School Amid COVID-19 Chaos, CRT Protests
(Washington Examiner, 08/23/21)

Fairfax Schools Pay New York Consultants for Critical Race Theory Curricula
(The Federalist, 05/07/21)



SCAN ME

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300+ Join Tour de Mount Vernon



New Mount Vernon residents Wayne Thompson and Martine Collin were ready to brave the Mount Vernon district's trails.

Rick Shaver on his recumbent bike is followed closely by relative Mike Shaver, towing son Calvin, age 4.



A derailleur tune-up by Tyler Worosello, of Handy Bikes, is vital before the rider leaves the parking lot.

FROM PAGE 1

here from Montreal where they rode in an island tour, which was similar to the day's ride.

"We're new to the area so we thought it would be a great opportunity to see the sights," Martine said.

Rick Shaver rode a recumbent bike that he had ridden previously on a 1,800 mile trip from Canada to Southern California. The recumbent allowed him to sit back in a chair while pedaling. "I like it uphill better," he said, "I use different muscles," he added.

The tour was divided into a shorter route of 21.2 miles, and the longer ride of 41.4 miles. Both rides went by George Washington's Mount Vernon and along the river but the shorter ride went inland, along Collingwood Road, through Gum Springs, down Pole Road and Jeff Todd Way, back to the Pope Leighey House. The longer ride went all the way along the George Washington Parkway to Old Town, Alexandria on the north end, and through Fort Belvoir to Gunston Road on the south end. Those riders went past the National Museum of the United States Army.

The riders went past the

River Farm, which Storck mentioned before leaving the parking lot. "For those of you that don't know, we saved the River Farm this year, we'll go riding past that too," he said.

The riders ended at the Pope-Leighey House where there was music, food and beverages.

Shawn Halifax, the new executive director at Pope-Leighey, was on hand to see the riders off that morning. "It's a great opportunity this year to showcase Pope-Leighey. Supervisor Storck has done a great job of showcasing the cultural resources here," he said.

The Pope-Leighey House was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright in 1940 as part of Usonia, a term used by Wright to refer to the United States.

There were about 100 of these homes designed as affordable middle-class residences. Commissioned in 1939 by Loren Pope, a journalist in Falls Church, the residence was sold to Robert and Marjorie Leighey in 1946. It was moved twice — once because of highway expansion, and the second move due to instability of the clay soil so it was relocated about 30 feet up the hill in 1995.

To the Rescue

FROM PAGE 1

the joy and the excitement in their eyes when they try on that coat and find the color that they want. We have to do that vicariously this year."

Adult representatives from more than 60 schools, shelters and nonprofits instead picked up coats by the dozens as part of a drive-through distribution system.

"A new coat means so much to a child," said Deputy Fire Chief Willie Bailey, founder of the nonprofit Firefighters and Friends to the Rescue.

"It provides a child both physical and emotional warmth. It helps a student attend school, socialize with their peers and play outside with pride. And it reminds them that there are those in their community that care about their well-being and future."

Coats are obtained through the national nonprofit Operation Warm with local volunteers sorting and distributing to those in need throughout the region.

"Though the event was held in



Volunteers load bags of coats destined for local nonprofits as part of the Oct. 25 Firefighters and Friends coat drive distribution at Fire Station 11.

Fairfax County we were able to also help schools in Alexandria City, Prince George's County, and a few groups in Prince William County," Bailey said. "It takes a village to raise a child and today the

village showed up in full force."

Sponsors of the coat drive include: Operation Warm; Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department; Ken & Kelly Savittiere Family Fund; Apple Federal Credit Union;



PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/THE GAZETTE

Mount Vernon District representative to the Fairfax County School Board Karen Corbett Sanders, second from left, is joined by State Senator Scott Surovell, Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeff McKay and Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck in thanking the volunteers at the Firefighters and Friends to the Rescue annual coat drive distribution Oct. 25 at Fire Station 11.

Progressive Firefighters of Fairfax; Fire & Rescue Retirement Asso.; Local 2068; Medocracy, Inc.; PRO-MAX Management, Inc; Nationwide Credit Corporation; Fairfax County Police Department; SEIU-

512; Communities of Trust; Primo Family Restaurant

"People may not realize it but this has been going on for decades," Storck noted, "and we are very thankful."



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PAUL KRIZEK

SCHOOLS

- Parental involvement in child's education
- Oppose CRT
- Support school choice and a voucher system
- Ban boys in girl's bathrooms and girl's sports
- Report school crime (Repeal HB 257*)

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

- Support conscience rights of Catholic adoption agencies

PUBLIC SAFETY

- Fund the police**
- Retain qualified immunity
- Oppose parole for violent offenders

TAXES

- Eliminate the grocery tax
- Cut gasoline tax

ABORTION

- Oppose taxpayer funded abortion***

* This is a Democratic bill. KRIZEK VOTED FOR IT AND WILL NOT DISAVOW IT!!! This dangerous legislation, allowing non-reporting of serious crimes by admin people, enabled two recent violent sexual assaults in a Loudoun school. Want to stop the school to prison pipeline? Provide a better education with more life and job skills.

** Salary increases and retention bonuses for law enforcement; pay hikes for regional jail personnel. Krizek wants community policing, "equity" and removal of qualified immunity for all law enforcement, all buzz words for his woke "Defund The Police" mentality.

*** Krizek supports Medicaid paying for all abortions, even if baby born alive. (HB 2491) This is infanticide.



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Public Notice

Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

In accord with state and federal law, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has imposed new or changed existing weight restrictions and installed new signage indicating the updated weight restrictions on the following bridges and culverts (structures) in Virginia within the last 30 days.

Jurisdiction	Fed Struc Id	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Posted Date
GRAYSON	8891	687	ROCKHOUSE RD.	ROCK CREEK	9/28/2021
MONTGOMERY	12293	669	PATTERSON DR. /ROUTE 669	BOTTOM CREEK	9/28/2021
BOTETOURT	3136	0F054	FRONTAGE RD. F054	PURGATORY CREEK	9/23/2021
MONTGOMERY	12271	643	YELL SULPH RD./ROUTE 643	MILL BRANCH	9/23/2021
BEDFORD	2754	644	LANGFORD MILL/ROUTE 644	NORTH OTTER CREEK	9/21/2021
SCOTT	16694	622	SINKS RD.	COX BRANCH	9/21/2021
ROANOKE	15082	696	APPLE GROVE LANE/ROUTE 696	BACK CREEK	9/15/2021
ROANOKE (M)	21650	0	ROUTE 0000	LICK RUN	9/15/2021
CHARLOTTE	4890	618	TURNIP CREEK RD.	TURNIP CREEK	9/13/2021
RICHMOND (M)	21280	0	BELLEVUE AVE.	ROUTE I-95	9/2/2021

The list above is not a comprehensive list of all structures with weight restrictions in the Commonwealth, but shows only structures that have new or changed weight restrictions within the last 30 days. The list contains only basic structure identification and location information and the date the new or changed weight restriction and signage became effective.

For a full listing of all bridge and culvert weight restrictions with detailed information about specific structures, including location data and actual weight limits, visit <https://www.virginiadot.org> and navigate to Info Center/Trucking Resources. This page references a posted structures report and a GIS map tool that contain detailed information about restricted structures in Virginia. To receive email notifications regarding new or updated weight restrictions for structures statewide, complete the sign-up form on the web page.

Notices regarding bridges and culverts with new or updated weight restrictions are published monthly by VDOT. For additional information or questions, please contact, haulingpermits@vdot.virginia.gov.

The Virginia Department of Transportation is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any of its programs or activities on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on VDOT's Title VI Program or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Program Specialist at 804-786-2730.

Thanksgiving Day Family Run



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- 10/6/2021.....Wellbeing: Senior Living Focus
- 10/13/2021.....HomeLifeStyle
- 10/20/2021.....A+ Camps & Schools
- 10/27/2021.....Senior Living
- Connection Families: Safe for Halloween
- 10/2/2021.....Election Preview

NOVEMBER

- 11/3/2021.....Wellbeing
- 11/10/20.....HomeLifeStyle
- 11/17/2021.....A+ Camps & Schools
- 11/24/2021.....Senior Living
- Connection Families: Celebration & Gratitude
- Holiday Entertainment & Gift Guide I

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- Mount Vernon Gazette
- Oak Hill/Herndon Connection
- Potomac Almanac
- Reston Connection
- Springfield Connection
- Vienna/Oakton Connection

Mount Vernon Icons Gene and Addy Krizek Remembered

BY MARY PADEN
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

A couple hundred people, including state and county officials, packed St. Luke's Episcopal Church on Oct. 16 to celebrate the lives of Eugene (Gene) and Adeline (Addy) Krizek, humanitarian pillars of the Mount Vernon Community over the past 50 years, and parents of Del. Paul Krizek (D-44).

Following a career in the administrations of President Kennedy and President Johnson, and years in the State Department, Gene Krizek started Christian Relief Services in 1985 as an incubator for numerous charitable organizations, one of which provides homes for domestic violence victims in Fairfax County, with others working on American Indian Reservations, and in Africa.

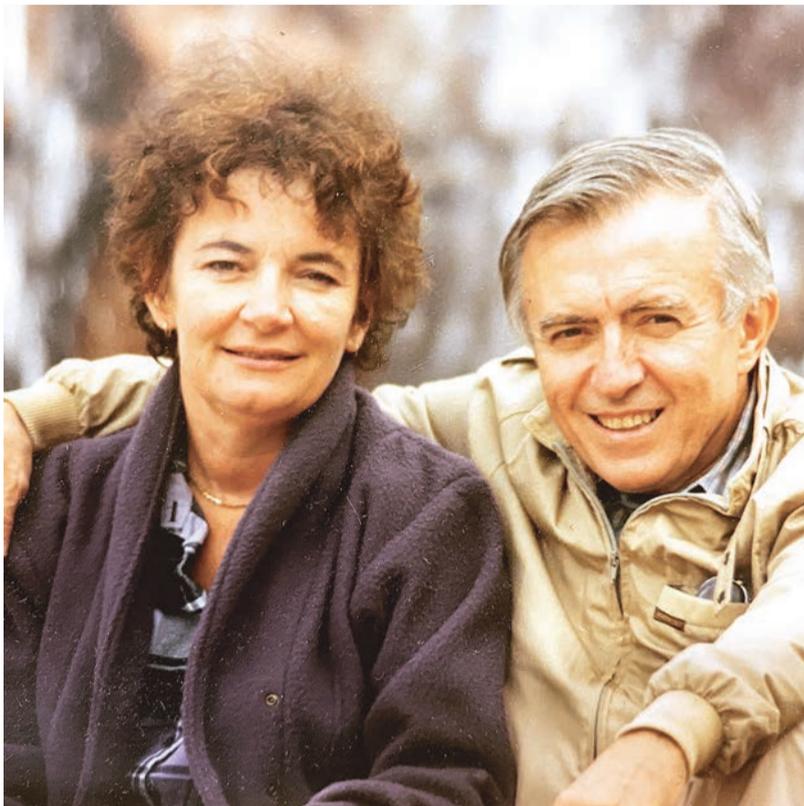
His sons carry on his mission at the charity, which is located on Richmond Highway near the Hyland South County Building. Today, the family of charities are together a \$50 million plus international philanthropic organization that provides safe and affordable housing, organic farming, orphan care, clinics, school construction, and millions of dollars in food, medical supplies, tools, shelter, and educational programs.

Addy was one of the original staff of United Community Ministries, now United Community, the major nonprofit human services organization in this part of the county. She was director of volunteer services and later director of development working with longtime executive director Sharon Kelso. Then, from the mid-1990s through 2000, Addy served on United Community's Board of Directors.

Addy passed on Sept. 5 and Gene followed a month to the day later at their Hollin Hills home where they lived with son Paul and daughter-in-law Tracey. The Oct. 16 service planned for Addy was quickly expanded to include Gene.

After a touching eulogy from granddaughter Khloe and a poem written and read by granddaughter Victoria, former Mount Vernon Supervisor Gerry Hyland eulogized both saying that mourners should remember the date of the service and check back a year later to see if they have been able to make their lives as purposeful and meaningful as those of Gene and Addy.

Sharon Kelso's daughter, Tracy Kelso, who is the current Chief Development officer of United Community (Addy's old job), read a letter at the service from her mother who now lives in Las Vegas. Kelso recalled that Addy "taught me the art of professional begging" for those in need and recalled incidents in which the two scored funds



Addy and Gene Krizek in 1995.



Gene and Addy at a Hawaiian themed fundraiser in 2019.

PHOTOS
CONTRIBUTED

"Gene was always on the look-out for a way to make things better for people with less."

and leftover Christmas Poinsettias for Route 1 families.

"Addy was like a hummingbird. She dove about spreading her good humor, kindness, love, and spirit like pollen everywhere she went," Kelso wrote. "Gene was always on the look-out for a way to make things better for people with less."

Service attendees included State Senators Adam Ebbin, Scott Surovell, and Barbara Favola, and joining Paul Krizek were his colleagues Delegates Dawn Adams, Don Scott, Vivian Watts, Mark Sickles, and Kathy Tran. Also in attendance were Chair of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Jeff McKay, Supervisors Rodney Lusk and Dalia Palchick, and former Congressman Jim Moran.

GENE AND ADDY married in 1955. Gene was the son of Czechoslovak immigrants living in Cleveland Ohio. Addy had immigrated in steerage aboard the Queen Mary after growing up in London during World War II and losing her father, a Royal Army Medical Corpsman, during the war. They met on Capitol Hill where Addy worked for a Representative from California and Gene worked for one from Ohio.



Former Mt Vernon Supervisor Gerry Hyland delivers a eulogy for Gene and Addy Krizek at St. Luke's Episcopal Church.

In the 1970s, they settled in Hollin Hills and raised their three sons. Addy worked for then Mount Vernon Supervisor Warren Cikins and later with nonprofits, including United Community.

In 1995, Addy and Gene were recognized as Lord and Lady Fairfax of Mount Vernon for their outstanding volunteer service to the community. In 2019, Addy, at age 86, was honored by United Community with the Gerald W. Hyland Humanitarian Award for her life's work dedicated to helping people,

especially those who face disadvantage and hardship.

They are survived by three sons, Paul (Tracey Navratil), Bryan (Rita Krizek), and Neil, all of Mount Vernon; four grandchildren; and three great grandchildren.

Addy's ashes will be dispersed in the Atlantic Ocean which she crossed numerous times. Colonel Krizek will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery because of his service in the Air Force during World War II and the Korean War.

Thank You for Being a Friend

Women find comradery, support and fun though weekly art group.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

First they start with coffee, conversation and perhaps a slice of cake. Then they unzip their canvas tote bags which hold paint brushes, acrylic paint in a rainbow of colors, Mod Podge, a canvas and maybe dried flowers and a few scraps of wrapping paper. The group of six women, who have been friends for more than 50 years, meet every Friday morning at 11:30 to explore their interest in art, maintain their friendship and satisfy their need for relaxation.

"We talk about everything from our grandchildren to what's going on in the world," said Chrystal Pierce, a retired art teacher who lives in Fairfax, who organized the group. "We each work on what inspires us on a particular day. It's different for each of the women. Some paint or make decoupage art on canvas, some sketch or some just doodle. The art is secondary, the main idea is spending time together and having something to look forward to every week."

The women, who are in their early 70s have been close friends since high school and have supported each other through life changes that range from the death of a spouse to the birth of a grandchild. None are aspiring artists, but they use art as a way of maintaining their bond. They take turns hosting their weekly art and social sessions and they believe that their healthy friendships will sustain them as they age. "I know that friend groups like ours can keep you happy and that contributes to your overall wellbeing," said Liz Best, a retired high school guidance counselor who now lives in Potomac. "Coronavirus was a tough time for us when we couldn't get together. We used Zoom, but it was only slightly better than nothing."

As a single mother of five, Dickerson got support from her friends while she was raising her children in Alexandria. "I had one son who used to give me so much trouble," she said. "He would throw these parties and mess up my house when I wasn't there. I can't tell you how many times he was suspended from school for one thing or another. I would



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRYSTAL PIERCE

(from left) Gloria Black, Chrystal Pierce and Alice Dickerson have been close friends since high school. They gather every week for art and conversation.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRYSTAL PIERCE

Creating art is one of the ways that Chrystal Pierce and her friends stay connected.

"Art is secondary, the main idea is spending time together and having something to look forward to every week."

— Chrystal Pierce, Fairfax

call these friends and they would tell me that it was all going to be okay." When Gloria Black was diagnosed with breast cancer the women took turns going with her for her chemo treatments. "I don't think I could've done it without them," she said. "Liz even knitted a cap for me when I lost all of my hair. They made meals and brought them to my house so that I didn't have to cook for my family. When I think about what these women mean to me, I get tears in my eyes."

Pierce says that while she sometimes gives advice and offers ideas to the other women, most of their time together is relaxed. "Nobody judges or comments on anyone else's work," she said. "There have been times when one or the other of us has wanted to create something to hang at our house, but most of the time we just want to relax and enjoy each other's company."



Yellow Door Concert Series musicians and LMP Collective dancers rehearse at The Garden for the Friday, Nov. 12 show at The Garden in Alexandria.

Intersections

Friday/Nov. 12, 6:30-9 p.m. At The Garden at Building Momentum, 5380 Eisenhower Ave Suite C, Alexandria. LMP Collective and Yellow Door Concert Series present an evening of Jazz music and dance at The Garden. Wine and beer available for purchase. Heavy appetizers and soda included with ticket price. Cost is \$35. Visit the website: <https://localmotionproject.org>

NOW THRU OCT. 30

In the "Expanding the Common Ground: Voices of the Global Majority" art exhibit, themes of people of the global majority reflecting, celebrating, and claiming power over oppression are explored, as well as finding common ground and healing divides. View exhibit at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. Open Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays 12-6 p.m., and Sundays 12-6 p.m. Details: DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits.

NOW THRU OCT. 31

Ghost & Graveyard Tour. 7:30 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays additional tours at 8:30 and 9 p.m. Admission: \$15 per adult; \$14 for seniors, military and law enforcement; \$10 per child. Tour departs from Alexandria Visitor Center, 221 King St., Alexandria. Follow an 18th-century costumed guide by lantern light through the charming streets of Alexandria's historic district known as Old Town. On this entertaining tour, you'll hear ghost stories, legends and folklore. You will also hear about unsolved mysteries, tales of romance and angry ghosts looking for revenge. Appropriate for ages 9 and up. Visit alexcolonialtours.com

NOW THRU OCT. 31

St. Luke's Pumpkin Patch. 12 to 5 p.m. At St. Luke's Episcopal, 8009 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Pick up pumpkin bread, soup and pumpkins, and gourds galore. Proceeds support the Navajo Nation who grow our pumpkins and youth and outreach programs. Pumpkins priced by size. Pumpkin bread and soup \$5. Great prices on decorative pumpkins and gourds of all types. Saturdays 10 a.m. - 7 p.m., Sundays Noon - 7 p.m. Mon - Thurs 3 - 7 p.m., Fri 1 - 7 p.m. through Halloween or until they sell out.

NOW THRU NOV. 6

"Wait Until Dark." 8 p.m. At The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St., Alexandria. Set against the socially turbulent 1960s, "Wait Until Dark" follows the story of Suzy, a blind woman who, while left alone in her apartment, becomes embroiled with a group of con

men hatching an elaborate scam. As the tension mounts, Suzy must fend for herself, but the phone line is cut, and the house is plunged into darkness. Can Suzy outwit her murderous visitors? Note: All patrons are required to wear a mask (even if vaccinated) for the duration of the performance. Admission: \$21 to \$24 per person. Visit the website: thelittletheatre.com

OCT. 28 AND 30

Poems and Stories of Edgar Allan Poe at Ivy Hill Cemetery. 7 to 8 p.m. Tour begins at the Ivy Hill Cemetery Office, 2823 King St., Alexandria. "Even in the grave, all is not lost!" The Guillotine Theatre presents "Poe outside the Vault" at Ivy Hill Cemetery. Actors from Guillotine Theatre will read from the works of Edgar Allan Poe. This is a sell-out event in a most suitable atmosphere. Seating is limited. RSVP to info@IHCHPS.org. Admission is \$20. Visit the website: ivyhillcemetery.net

THURSDAY/OCT. 28

Fashion Show Fundraiser. 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. At Mount Vernon Country Club, 5111 Old Mill Road, Alexandria. The Yacht Haven Garden Club is presenting its 37th annual Fashion Show and Luncheon - Bewitched, Bothered and Bedazzled. Fashions will be provided by Bloomingdale's Tysons Corner. Tickets are \$50. Make checks payable to YHGC and mail to Rhea Killinger at 510 Tennessee Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22305. For more information, email: rgkmsbell@hotmail.com.

FRIDAY/OCT. 29

Spirits of Carlyle House. 6-8:30 p.m. At Carlyle House, Alexandria. Carlyle House's long and diverse history is full of truths, myths, and rumours that makes it one of the most visited places on Alexandria's ghost tours. Come and experience a haunting tour of the house and grounds by candlelight, perhaps encounter the departed spirits of notable residents and neighbors, and hear their tales of sadness and triumph. This program is being put on in partnership with the Little Theatre of Alexandria. Reservations required due to limited space. Tours are on the half hour.

NEWS

Northern Virginia Jobs for Veterans, Military Spouses

Virtual and in-person Veteran and Military Career Fair on Nov. 4

The Fairfax County Economic Development Authority (FCEDA) is partnering with the Virginia Employment Commission, the Fairfax County Department of Family Services and the Fairfax County Department of Economic Initiatives to host the Veteran and Military Career Fair at the United States Army Museum at Fort Belvoir, Va.

Geared toward assisting veterans, active-duty service members and military spouses/partners transitioning out of the military, the hybrid event will take place on Nov. 4, 2021, from 10 a.m. to noon and 1-3 p.m. Eastern Time. Job seekers can also attend virtually from 1-4 p.m. Eastern Time if they are unable to attend the in-person event.

Register to attend the fair at www.workinnorthernvirginia.com/virtual-career-fairs/.

During the hybrid event, candidates can interview with more than 50 companies and organizations in Northern Virginia, from Fortune 500s to small businesses. Regional employers – including Amazon, Microsoft, Verizon, Cox Communications, Inova Health System and the U.S. Department of Justice – are collectively hiring for more than 7,000 positions across sectors ranging from IT to healthcare. All backgrounds and experience levels are welcome, and attendees do not need to live in Northern Virginia to interview with hiring companies.

“Our veterans and active-duty military members transition to civilian life with technical skills, an incredible work ethic and many more qualities that are valuable to our hiring companies in Northern Virginia,” said Victor Hoskins, president and CEO of the FCEDA.

The Veteran and Military Career Fair is the latest effort by the FCEDA initiative to attract, retain, retrain and grow talent in Northern Virginia.

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"No, Thank You"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Really? I'm being polite to an artificially-intelligent computer now? Why, exactly? Do I risk cancelling my transaction if I'm not courteous and respectful when I sign off? This ludicrous thought crossed my eyes the other day when I was transacting some after-hours banking business through my bank's ATM. I put in my debit card, waited for the machine to click/read my details, and then proceeded to conduct my business. Though I was shown multiple/options/buttons to press to advise the computer what I needed to do, I was only making a deposit. "Yes," I was asked, the amount entered is correct. "Yes," I'm selecting my checking account. "Yes," I'd like a receipt with the check image. "Yes," I'd like a paper receipt, not one texted to my cell phone or emailed to the email address on file. Finally, after confirming all these details and completing my transaction, I was asked - via the computer screen, if I wanted another transaction. It's at this exact nearly-final moment at the ATM when I got the inspiration for this column.

If indeed I was finished with my ATM banking business, I needed to sign off (thereby freeing up the machine for the next person). However, signing off was not simply a "yes" or "no" answer. There was of course a box for me to press to end this process. The words in these boxes were my answer as provided by the computer. The box said: "No, Thank You." That's when it hit me. By pressing this box - and tacitly agreeing to its sentiment, I was being forced - indirectly, into being polite to an inanimate object, whether that object was being artificially intelligent or perhaps simply programmed to be insufferably presumptuous. Either way, I felt my humanity compromised as if I had just made the ultimate sacrifice: my independence. I wasn't a man anymore. I was a machine.

Do you mean to say that there's honor-among-thieves-type of courtesy between computer users and the computers themselves? Am I supposed to treat my fellow computer like my fellow man? Like it has feelings? And if I somehow fail to interact with my computer in the proper form/inflection/manner, could I suffer negative consequences for my oversight? What are we talking about here? The movies? The future? Real life? I just wanted to make a deposit through my bank's ATM. I didn't want to start a relationship and I certainly didn't expect to inadvertently incur the wrath of some computer network last night that might now target me as some kind of virus (I've had all my vaccinations, even my booster). In fact, I'm simply a depositor. I'm not a threat. And I definitely don't want to have to pass muster with a computer chip. Can I speak to someone real, PLEASE? Of course not. It's after hours. I guess I'll have to come back tomorrow. But as it turned out 'tomorrow' is a Saturday and the branch is no longer open on Saturdays. If I have any further business to conduct, it will have to be through the ATM. Great. Can you say vicious cycle?

But if I am to believe the computer programmers, the computers are incapable of being vicious. They're simply calculating, without being calculating. They're not being "Hal" from "2001: Space Odyssey." There's no ulterior motivation. They're not making my life miserable because they can. They're tools, like a doorstop, except they're excellent with numbers. They are simply following instructions/programs, very detailed ones for sure, but nothing more. I don't have to worry about them - aside from their computations, do I? And if I don't have to worry about them then why do I have to be nice to them, considerate to them as if they had feelings? I'm the one with feelings. You should be more concerned with being nice to me, not me being nice to computers. It used to be said that "Talk is cheap," now it's computer code that's cheap. Obviously, in today's world, computers are essential, but never more than the customers. We may not always be right but our opinions always matter.

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

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VETERANS

Military in the Arts Initiative, Every Day of the Year

Workhouse Arts Center, honoring military veterans and their families every day of the year

By DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

With its Military in the Arts Initiative (WMAI), the Workhouse Arts Center "is here for our valued and honored veterans," said Leon Scioscia, President and CEO, Workhouse Arts Center.

"The WMAI seeks to increase equity, access, and opportunities for veterans to participate in quality arts programming that is sensitive and responsive to their unique experiences," said Scioscia.

"Our society owes all of our military personnel heartfelt thanks and support for all that they do to keep our Country safe and free. It is our desire to ensure that our Military in the Arts program addresses the needs, and hopefully improves the lives, of our military service members, veterans, their families, and caregivers through the arts," said Scioscia.

Alyssa Goggan, Workhouse, Acting Military in the Arts Director, made clear that the "WMAI's mission is to provide a space to those who have given and sacrificed so much to protect our rights and freedoms." The program offers a large range of activities and options for the participants including fine arts engagement and mental health services in the form of art therapy among many services and activities.

Where and When:

Ongoing, Workhouse Arts Center, Military in the Arts Initiative. All programs and elements of the WMAI program are available and free to veterans, active-duty service members, their families, and caregivers. Workhouse Arts Center is located at 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton, VA 22079. For information, including updated health and safety guidelines for in-person visits go to: www.workhousearts.org or call 703-584-2900.

For Workhouse Military in the Arts Initiative, "success is seeing our program participants come and engage with the arts, their community, and being open to trying or learning something new. ... Being able to reach one individual means we are continuing our mission of providing the space for creativity, self-expression, community engagement, and addressing the needs of that individual and our military community," said Goggan.

Workhouse Military in the Arts's founding Managing Director Debra Balestrer: "The creation, management, and growth of the WMAI program has been the single most gratifying program I have ever had the privilege to be a part of at Workhouse Arts Center."

"I come from a military family and to be able to give back to service members by offering them valuable, healing, experiences in the arts, has brought me such joy over the years. To me, this demographic represents the best of what makes us human beings; selflessness, honor, dedication, and the willingness to take challenges head-on," added Balestreri.

With health and safety a priority during the continuing pandemic, the Workhouse Arts Foundation will salute and honor all Veterans for their service on Veterans Day with a virtual event. The Workhouse Arts Center website will feature a special virtual salute and will share tour links of national monuments, museums, and battlefields.

Splendid Boho

On View: August 6 - November 7, 2021

The Workhouse Arts Center is proud to present Splendid Boho, a solo exhibition by Judith Arnold. Judith Ann Arnold retired from the US Army to pursue her love of art in 2017. Her abstract, mixed media artwork is created by combining oil, acrylic and spray paint to build layers of varying textures and patterns. Arnold's mixed media work explores themes of overcoming struggles and empowerment through resilience, and reflects a positive attitude, and a love of learning.

Workhouse Warrior Way exhibition: Splendid Boho, a solo exhibition by Judith Arnold, who retired from the US Army to pursue her love of art in 2017. Exhibit through Nov. 7. <https://www.workhousearts.org/event/splendid-boho-by-judith-arnold/>

PHOTOS COURTESY OF KRISTOPHER FORREN, WMAI ART THERAPY INTERN

Alyssa Goggan, acting Military in the Arts director and Leon Scioscia, president and CEO, Workhouse Arts Center



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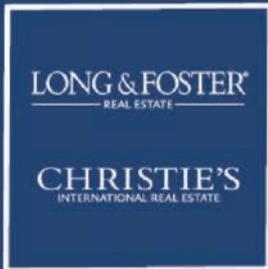
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