



Harmony Place Trailer Park residents (left) listen to Chris Ebert, (foreground right) representative of Six Rock Properties, which purchased the property, discuss plans for making repairs and managing the park.



Transition Begins after Purchase of Trailer Park

BY MARY PADEN
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

Despite the efforts of Fairfax County and several nonprofits to secure Harmony Place Trailer Park for the residents, it was sold to a private buyer for nearly \$8 million last month. A representative of the new owner, Six Rock Properties, said they will improve maintenance conditions at the park and keep rents affordable. It owns a dozen other mobile home parks, mainly in North Carolina.

At an outdoor meeting on the eve of the Dec. 22 closing, Six Rock representative Christopher Ebert told park residents that he would not sell the park to a developer, that he would fix the drainage plumbing, repave the roads by spring, and would not raise rents in the first year and then only roughly commensurate with the cost of living.

At that 11th hour meeting called by Tenants and Workers United, tenants told Ebert that they were disappointed that they would not have the opportunity to work with nonprofits to shape their community. One said, "Why don't you go buy a different mobile

home park. There is still time."

Ebert, tall and soft spoken, said several times, "Our interests are aligned. We know we can operate mobile home parks in a way that provides affordable housing as well as turns a profit." However, he insisted that tenants must pay their pad rents and keep their homes up to code.

Tenants had organized with TWU to work with two nonprofits, CFH, which runs a mobile home park in Manassas, and Habitat for Humanity, to make an offer financed by the county to purchase the park and run it for the benefit of residents under a model that has grown in popularity as a form of affordable housing. It would have been the first such arrangement in Fairfax County.

Presented with offers from Six Rock and CFH/Habitat, the park owner chose the Six Rock offer, which had been made in August. State law allows for a counter offer by an entity backed by 25 percent of the residents but does not require that a matching offer receive right of first refusal.

Lee Supervisor Rodney Lusk, who had persuaded the county to back the sale to nonprofits, said, "While I am disappointed that

their offer was not accepted, I am confident that we have laid the groundwork for mobile home communities in the county, including Harmony Place, to be able to advocate for ownership in the future."

Lusk said he and his staff were deeply engaged in supporting the efforts of the Harmony Place community and would "support Six Rock in improving the quality of life for residents and maintaining stability and certainty about their future."

Tenants and Workers United Director Evelin Urrutia said, "We will continue to organize and make sure the new owner does what he has promised to do. We work for the tenants—they set the goals and we will try to hold the owner and the county accountable for meeting these goals."

CFH executive Director George Davies said he was disappointed his bid was not accepted, but he was not surprised since the owner had signed a contract with Six Rock that included a penalty for breaking it. He said the 60-day time period provided in the law for tenants to organize and produce an offer is not enough time. (In this case, more time was granted because the owners did not

provide tenants with timely notice). Davies said he hoped the Virginia Department of Housing could set up a program to provide quick, even temporary loans, to nonprofits to purchase parks, as Fairfax County did.

Lusk articulated a vision for mobile home parks as affordable housing, "Mobile homes are a uniquely vulnerable type of housing stock. Personally, I feel that many of the challenges facing mobile home communities can be addressed by moving away from established models where tenants rent land to place a depreciating asset, and towards a model where residents are true property owners."

A county task force on mobile home parks is meeting through September to advise on new policies for the upkeep and preservation of mobile home communities as affordable housing. On Monday, Ebert, as the new owner of Harmony Place, joined the group which includes mobile home owners and residents plus other community members, and is co-chaired by Eric Maribojoc of George Mason University and Solidad Portilla, who works in the real estate industry and was a member of the county's Affordable Housing Preservation Task Force in 2020-21.

Reconsidering Marijuana

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Virginia is now in a marijuana daze. Pot is legal in small amounts, but nobody has a license to sell it. That has created a gray area for lawmakers, who will be considering next steps during the General Assembly session that starts this week.

When Democrats were in power, they created a complicated licensing system that was designed to benefit people who had been harmed by the so-called "war on drugs," which disproportionately harmed people of color. Those social equity licenses may be in jeopardy now that Republicans are taking control of the House. Republicans are also talking about new criminal misdemeanor charges for possession and forcing local

Pot is still legal, but the plan to regulate its sale is in jeopardy.

governments to hold referendums for voters to decide if they want to allow marijuana licenses in their jurisdiction.

"This is a common consequence in legislatures when majority control flips from one party to another," said Jennifer Victor, associate professor of political science at George Mason University's Schar School Policy and Government. "When partisans don't agree and they wind up trading off control, it

makes it almost impossible to get policy accomplishments done."

The problem with abruptly halting the policy debate is that policy changes are already in motion. Last summer, public possession of up to one ounce of marijuana was legalized. See POT IS STILL, PAGE 4



Sen. Adam Ebbin (D)

People Over Platform

A SAMPLING OF TESTIMONIALS FROM MY 2021 BUYERS & SELLERS



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PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION



When a neighbor's tree falls from the weight of the snow, does it make a sound?



Charlie Chadbourn helps clear the path between his house and the Hollin Meadows School.

January Snows Topple Trees Across Fairfax County

Days of cutting and chopping finally makes a dent.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

When Hollin Hills resident Charlie Chadbourn looked out his window, the path to Hollin Meadows School next door was blocked by bamboo bent over by the snow, so he went into action.

"This bamboo came down, you could not have walked on the pathway," Chadbourn said. "Me and the crew with the school," cleared it, he added. Chadbourn was among many people addressing downed trees after the latest spell of wintry weather that struck last week. The heavy, wet snow brought trees down, blocking sidewalks and streets throughout the area. That goes for bamboo groves as well. "The tree companies hadn't been through here yet," he added.

They were right around the corner though, near Devonshire Road and Paul Spring Road across from White Oaks Park where Chavez Landscaping workers were feeding branches in a portable chipper. "We're going through the whole neighborhood," said the crew chief.

The storm left some nearby homeowners without electricity for 36 hours last week.

There were similar situations across the county, but the responsibility for the trees in Northern Virginia is split in several directions. If a tree falls across a road, the responsibility to remove it falls on the Virginia Department of Transportation, but that doesn't mean they are the only entity that can remove it. Other emergency entities remove trees as well, including the fire department as in the case when a tree blocked Mount Vernon Highway a few days before. Dominion Power has responsibility for trees on their power line properties.

During snow season, especially those storms with heavy winds expected, VDOT has crews and contractors ready to assist



The crews from Chavez Landscaping work on debris along Devonshire Road in Hollin Hills.



Charlie Chadbourn of Hollin Hills.

with tree removal and clearing debris from public roads. Residents can help report unsafe conditions, including downed trees and debris, to the VDOT Customer Service Center at 800-367-7623.

If the trees are on private property, it is the responsibility of the owner to remove it, but if it falls from the neighbor's yard, it's the neighbor's responsibility.

"Keep in mind, the county only manages trees on county property," said Sharon North of the Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services.

On the county website, there is a "Who to Call," option for homeowners with downed tree questions. "If a tree presents an immediate life-threatening hazard, including falling

onto electric wires or it is blocking a public road, call or text 9-1-1," North said. Fairfax County has no legal authority to require the removal of hazardous trees that are located on private property unless the trees threaten the public at large, it says on the county website.

When there is a dispute between neighbors about a potentially hazardous tree, this is a civil issue and Fairfax County will not take action in these situations, the website said.

CHAMPION TREES

There are some trees the county doesn't want to fall due to snow or lightning, and these are known as the "Champion Trees." Fairfax County has a "big tree map," to keep

track of these biggest and oldest trees in the county. This map was developed by the Fairfax County Tree Commission and the Fairfax County Urban Forest Management Division to promote public awareness and appreciation of these trees. The trees are rated by size, including circumference (in inches), height (in feet), and 25% of the average crown spread (also in feet).

The map has an icon for each big tree, and most of the big trees are located in the Great Falls area with a few in Fairfax and only two inside the Beltway. There is one in Mount Vernon near the Mount Vernon Plantation and it is a "Cedar of Lebanon," tree, 88 feet tall, 176 inches around and it was nominated by Richard Salzer, the listing said.

FCPS Faces Staff Shortages With the Rise of Omicron

Superintendent pledges to keep students in the classroom, but it will “not be business as usual.”

BY MERCIA HOBSON
GAZETTE PACKET

Fairfax County Public Schools is immediately switching to a new operational plan as the area is being slammed by the size and speed of the Omicron wave.

“We will follow this operational plan for the next two-to-three weeks,” said Superintendent Scott S. Brabrand, on Friday, Jan. 6. “During this time, we must adjust our expectations about instruction and give our staff the space needed to make adjustments and on-the-spot decisions needed to combat this Covid spike.”

FCPS plans to deploy its central office and management staff to school operations.

“It will not be business as usual,” Brabrand said. “These shortages will impact us in every way, from classroom instruction to operations.” Brabrand outlined the plan and asked for patience. “There will be some things that simply cannot happen as we move central office staff to supporting school operations,” Brabrand said.

Brabrand outlined the division’s five-point plan beginning with classroom coverage.

He reminded teachers to upload materials to Schoology and said that FCPS may not always be able to provide StreamIN/CheckIN, the plan for for students who are paused, quarantined, or isolated due to Covid. FCPS will seek a substitute teacher from the sub pool, another teacher or staff member, and Central Office volunteer subs who have instructional experience when a classroom teacher is absent. FCPS could combine two classes with one teacher and group multiple classes together, to provide supervision.

The shortage of school bus drivers is causing delays in bus routes, double-back runs, and students arriving at school after the bell.

“Schools will adjust instruction to ensure that no child is missing important classroom time,” Brabrand said. Check the Bus Delay App <https://bus-delay.fcps.edu/>.

Food Services continues to provide breakfast and lunch, but bag lunches may be offered instead of the regular meals given more significant staff shortages

Brabrand asked families to help beginning with their health and safety:

- ❖ Keep sick children home;
- ❖ Get students vaccinated;
- ❖ Enroll students in optional screening testing



FCPS is resolved to keep schools open.



FCPS is urging families to get their children vaccinated as the best protection against Covid-19.

❖ Use FCPS’ diagnostic testing if a student has symptoms.

❖ Help students use layered prevention strategies: proper masks, wash hands, and use hand sanitizer; and be sure students bring home their laptops and chargers every night.

❖ Finally, he urged parents to apply to be substitute teachers.

“Please know that while things will not be perfect, we are all doing our best. We are all in this together as a community, and it will take all of us to keep our schools open,” Brabrand said, Read Dr. Brabrand’s January 6 Letter to Families

<https://www.fcps.edu/blog/message-families-navigating-january-2022-covid-surge>

The Fairfax County Health Department explained a more specific approach to vaccination for the coronavirus for children and teens.



“There are now expanded vaccination opportunities for teens and children effective this week. Following recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Virginia Department of Health, the Fairfax County Health Department immediately adopts the following recommendations:

❖ individuals ages 12–17 years should get a Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine booster dose five months after finishing their two-dose primary series;

❖ individuals ages 18 years and older should get any COVID-19 Vaccine booster dose five months, rather than six months, after finishing their two-dose primary series of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine; and

❖ 5–11-year-old vaccine recipients who are moderately or severely immunocompromised are eligible to receive a third dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine 28 days after the second dose.



Students return to in person learning in Fairfax County Public Schools.

Return to School 2022

After a week of weather closures, FCPS opens with Covid-19 surging.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
GAZETTE PACKET

Regardless of where one lives in Fairfax County or the surrounding jurisdictions, the highly infectious Covid-19 variant omicron is setting records.

Fairfax County Public Schools, the nation’s eleventh largest school district, remains committed to in-person learning. But schools were closed the week of Jan. 3-7 because of weather.

What do you think? Send your thoughts to mhobson@connectionnewspapers.com. You can submit your comments as a letter to the editor at <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter/>

Dawn Stuvland Crosson is a teacher in Herndon and resides in Reston. “As a teacher and a parent, I am very happy to be back in person. The idea of going virtual again is a terrible one. I’m glad the superintendent is clear that we’re in it for the long haul. Omicron is not a threat to children; no healthy child has died from Omicron -- and most have probably already had it. In contrast, virtual school was terrible for our kids. I still see such tragic repercussions from last year in my classroom, and with my own children. If parents are uncomfortable with sending their kids because of media hype surrounding a new variant of a virus that is harmless to children, they can keep them home, but life should go on as normal. Kids need to be in school.”

Erin Lobato of Great Falls is a parent of a Langley 10th grader and recent 2021 grad. “Quite frankly, given the shocking drop in academic achievement from 2019 to 2020, the incredibly low risk of Omicron to healthy people - especially children - and FCPS’s tendency to focus on style over substance, I’m more worried about their ability to provide our children with a solid education this year.”

Julia Malakoff, Herndon, children in Oakton High School: “Two of my four kids are currently in the Fairfax County School system. (Oakton High School) They both experienced extreme depression, isolation and difficulties learning online last year. My junior, whose grades were barely passing last year, is now making straight As as an in person student. And my freshman has come out of his depression now that he can socialize, have personal attention and be on the track team.

“We are 100 percent for in person learning no matter what.” One parent said that she was keeping her child home out of concerns about an environment safe from Covid infection, but did not want to use her name because of possible backlash.



College Students as Substitutes

In a colorful rug inside a classroom at Mount Eagle Elementary, a group of students sit quietly in a circle around Mr. Consolla as he reads aloud from a book. The students are attentive and hanging on to his every word as he finishes the chapter.

"All right it's time for recess!" he says. "It's not too cold outside but you might want a jacket."

Mr. Consolla helps the students get their coats and line up by the door. The smooth transition to the playground appears to be the work of a seasoned professional teacher. But Mr. Consolla is actually a college student making some extra money as a substitute teacher for FCPS.

Julian Lawson Consolla is a junior at the University of Louisville in Kentucky. Like many college students, he returns home for winter break and has several weeks with a wide open schedule. His mom, Jean Consolla, who is also the principal of Mount Eagle, encouraged him to apply to be a substitute teacher. He was drawn to the flexible schedule and good pay, which ranges from \$17.79 to \$23.91 an hour, depending on level of commitment. "The hours here are 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.," Julian says. "After about 3:45, I'm done for the day and I can relax. And I get weekends off. The schedule is similar to college. So for me, it works well."

As the son of a principal, Julian was already familiar with his mom's school and has always enjoyed working with kids. For him, it was an easy decision to apply. But he knows other college students may not be as comfortable working with young children. Still, he encourages everyone to give it a try.

"It can be a little intimidating at first," Julian said. "You're the only adult in the classroom and you have to learn to command the room. But you quickly realize, even though you're new, the students respect you. The teachers leave notes about how to get the students' attention. I have a little bell I can ring. And once you learn their names it's much easier to communicate with them." Principal Jean Consolla says it's the perfect opportunity for college students. Her school is struggling to



"It can be a little intimidating at first. You're the only adult in the classroom and you have to learn to command the room."

— Julian Lawson Consolla

find subs, as are all FCPS schools. This job opportunity helps college students make good money on their own schedule, while also alleviating the substitute teacher shortage. "My son is calculating how he can make over \$1,000 in 11 days, and still have time to see friends at night and on the weekends," Principal Consolla said. "It's a win-win for us."

Julian is continuing to sub until he goes back to Kentucky in mid-January. He also plans to sub after he is finished with finals in May (the last day of school for FCPS is June 10). Spring break is also a great time for college students to make some extra cash. For college students who live in the area full-time, subbing is an excellent part time job. Students can decide the days they want to work, and even do half days.

The application process usually takes one to two weeks to complete. It requires a background check, a tuberculosis test, and a training session. College students must have at least 30 credits to be a substitute at FCPS.

FCPS is holding a Substitute Interview Day on January 18 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Learn more and register. <https://app.brazenconnect.com/a/FCPS/e/Le1vjTD>

Learn more about the application process and requirements.

<https://www.fcps.edu/careers/career-opportunities/substitute-teaching-opportunities/new-applicants>

See Substitute Pay Schedule for the 2021-22 school year.

<https://www.fcps.edu/sites/default/files/media/pdf/FY22-substitute-and-homebound-rates.pdf>



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Pot is Still Legal, But the Plan to Regulate its Sale is in Jeopardy

FROM PAGE 1

juana became legal for adults. The Cannabis Control Authority has already been stood up, and the wheels of government are already in motion preparing to regulate the new market. So far, lawmakers are not talking about re-criminalizing marijuana for less than an ounce.

“The question in 2022 is not should Virginia legalize cannabis,” said Jenn Michelle Pedini, executive director of Virginia NORML. “That was asked and answered in 2021, and is a policy favored by a supermajority of Virginia voters.”

But some are concerned about a gap in the law between a civil penalty and a felony with no criminal misdemeanor in between. Under current law, if someone is caught with amounts between one ounce and one pound, they can be charged with a civil penalty of \$25. But possession of more than a pound is a felony, creating no middle ground between the civil penalty and the felony. That’s why some lawmakers are considering a plan that would create a new criminal misdemeanor for amounts between 4 ounces and a pound.

“Whether or not it has to be one that carries a criminal record I haven’t made a final conclusion,” said Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30), adding that perhaps increasing the dollar amount of the civil penalty might be a way to address this concern. “I think the idea of discouraging larger amounts is worthwhile, and we have to decide the best way to do that.”

WHEN DEMOCRATS were in pow-



As of July 1, possession of less than an ounce of marijuana is legal in Virginia.

er, they created a system of social equity licenses designed to counteract some of the damage done by the failed war on drugs. For example, people who have been convicted of possession of marijuana might end up receiving preferential treatment for licenses. Family members of people who have been convicted of possession could also get priority. Residents of neighborhoods that have been disproportionately policed may also end up getting preferential treatment.

“I never realized the way to get ahead in life was to break the law,” cracked Del. Glenn Davis (R-84) in a tweet about the social equity li-

censes last year.

Democrats were able to secure a victory for the social equity licens-

“The question in 2022 is not should Virginia legalize cannabis. That was asked and answered in 2021, and is a policy favored by a supermajority of Virginia voters.”

— Jenn Michelle Pedini,
executive director of Virginia NORML

es in the House and Senate, but lingering concerns over the complexities of standing up the new Cannabis Control Authority led to a “reenactment clause.” That means that none of the rules around social equity licenses passed by Dem-

ocrats will be enacted unless the new Republican majority decides to put their stamp of approval on it. Considering the opposition among Republicans to this part of the plan, a reenactment of social equity clauses seems unlikely.

“You cannot provide preferential treatment lifting up one class or group of citizens without diminishing the rights of another,” said Sen. Bill DeSteph (R-8).

ANOTHER POTENTIAL change Republicans might end up forcing is a change to what is required of local governments. Under the plan approved by Democrats, licenses would automatically be available in all jurisdictions. If a local government wanted to opt out of having licenses, they would have to hold a referendum in which a majority of voters would have to

agree to prohibit marijuana sales in their community. Some Republicans say that’s backwards.

“It will be legal in jurisdictions for a period of time before a referendum could even be held by the locality to determine whether they want to opt out,” said Sen. Ryan

McDougle (R-4). “I have some concerns about whether a jurisdiction can take away that right without it being a taking once it’s vested and someone has established a shop.”

Now Republicans are now

talking about flipping that and forcing jurisdictions to opt in instead of opt out. If local government leaders wanted licenses for marijuana sales to be issued in their community, they would have to hold a referendum in which a majority of voters would have to approve licenses for marijuana sales.

“At a minimum, we must ensure that localities will get to decide through a local referendum whether they want marijuana retail shops in their communities,” said Family Foundation President Victoria Cobb. “Pushing back against the deep-pocketed marijuana industry will be a tall order, but we’ll do everything we can on behalf of families.”

THE INTERSECTION OF drug laws and labor laws will also be part of the conversation in Richmond this year. One of the features Democrats built into the law was a protection for workers in the newly created marijuana industry. The law Democrats passed ensured workers in the new industry would have the right to collective bargaining.

But along with everything else in the bill, that provision is subject to the reenactment clause that now would require Republicans to agree.

“I’m a realistic person, and I don’t know that there would be support in the House of Delegates for that,” said Ebbin. “So we’ll have to work together to come up with something that we can all live with.”

Tax on Plastic Bags

The new five-cent tax on disposable plastic bags went into effect at certain retailers across Fairfax County on Jan. 1, 2022. Here are five things you need to know about this new tax.

1. ONLY THREE TYPES OF RETAILERS ARE AFFECTED

The tax is only on disposable plastic bags from grocery stores, convenience stores and drug stores. Some bigger box stores, like Walmart, are also included.

2. THE TAX IS COMPLETELY AVOIDABLE

If you bring your own reusable shopping bag and use it at the register, you can avoid paying this tax.

3. THE PURPOSE OF THE TAX IS TO CURB PLASTIC POLLUTION

Unlike some other taxes, this tax does not exist for the purpose of collecting revenue. The entire

goal of the tax is to help encourage change behavior and to reduce the use of disposable plastic bags.

4. ANY REVENUE COLLECTED WILL BE USED FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES

The Virginia Department of Taxation will administer and collect the tax.

Any revenue collected will be provided to Fairfax County periodically and will be used to help stand up environmental programs and services to curb litter and pollution, and to provide reusable bags to those eligible for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) benefits.

5. ARLINGTON AND ALEXANDRIA ALSO HAVE A PLASTIC BAG TAX

The region is moving collectively to address plastic pollution. Both Arlington and Alexandria have implemented a five-cent tax on disposable plastic bags as of Jan. 1, 2022.

Take the FCPS Superintendent Search Survey

Superintendent Scott Brabrand has stated his plan to leave at the end of this school year, and a plan to find a new FCPS superintendent is underway. The Fairfax County School Board says it is committed to hiring the best possible candidate for FCPS’ next superintendent.

With that in mind, the Board has contracted a search firm to conduct a national search for the new superintendent. Community voices are an important part of this effort.

The school board asks the community to weigh in by participating in the Superintendent Search Survey. The survey allows FCPS parents/guardians, staff, high school students, and community members to share their thoughts on the leadership characteristics and qualities of the next superintendent. Information gathered through the survey, focus groups, and upcoming town halls will help inform the selection of FCPS’ new superintendent.

Parents should check email for a survey link from K12 Insight (survey administrator), which was sent on Jan. 4.

High school students received their survey invitation on Jan. 5, via their FCPSSchools.net email accounts.

If you are a FCPS community member and would like to take the survey, click here https://www.fcps.edu/school-board/superintendent-search?utm_campaign+=&utm_medium=email&utm_source=go-vdelivery

Then scroll down the webpage for the link to the Superintendent Search Survey for Community Members.

The survey deadline is Tuesday, Jan. 18.

Veri Peri 2022 Color of the Year

Described blue with red-violet undertones, the hue is expected to be on trend this year.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

Those home accessories or planning a whole-house remodeling project or simply looking to purchase home accessories will have a new color option. Described as a shade of blue with violet-red undertones, Very Peri is Pantone's 2022 Color of the year. The hue, which is expected to be on trend in products that range from home furnishings to runway fashion, is getting mixed reviews from local designers.

"Very Peri isn't a color that I would choose often, or recommend to clients frequently, but I can see why some people would love it," said McLean designer Ashley Hollings,

"I may be in the minority, but I think it's a beautiful color," said North Potomac designer Dana Wiseman of Wiseman Designs. "However, I don't think I'd recommend it to a client. It's a bit too dark for an interior."

"As a purple with a blue edge, Veri Peri is cold and bold," said Annie Elliott of Bossy Color and Annie Elliott Design "It's a strong, impressive color, but it isn't welcoming and that's the number one word my clients use when describing their ideal home."

There are those aren't afraid to embrace it, says Cathy McNamara of Dream Interiors in Alexandria. "I'm seeing an uptick in the number of homeowners and designers who are taking risks. Veri Peri is definitely risky," she said. "This was once a color that was only used as an accent, but more and more of my clients are choosing bold colors for whole rooms."

Those who find the color appealing, but want to use it with caution. Veri Peri can add a burst of vibrancy to a neutral interior.

"As a solid color, it would look great on lamps or a quilt in a crisp white bedroom," said Elliott. "It would be a dramatic accent color in an extremely contemporary home, and the only accent color, possibly. It would be effective as a splash of color on pillows, vases, and art."

Though considered by designers to be a vivid hue, Veri Peri can be paired with colors to increase or subdue its vibrancy. "You can pair it with neutral colors like beige or white to balance the shade and provide a calming, comforting effect," said interior designer

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PHOTO BY ANNIE ELLIOTT

Very Peri, color of the year for 2022, is expected to be prevalent in home furnishings such as the sofa in this room which was designed by Annie Elliott of Annie Elliott Design.



PHOTO BY ANNIE ELLIOTT

Annie Elliott of Bossy Color and Annie Elliott Design says Very Peri, color of the year for 2022, can be integrated into a splash of color on pillows, vases, and art.

"I think Pantone picks wild colors on purpose to spark some conversation. If they picked a boring beige no one would talk about it."

— Ashley Hollings, interior designer

Michelle Zimmerman of Potomac.

"If you want to make more of a statement, pair it with oranges or yellows, which makes the purple hue pop and appear more vivid," continued Zimmerman. "They're complementary and will create a bold statement."

"To tone down the boldness of Veri Peri, I

would pair it with adjacent colors such as red, burgundy, and navy blue," added Elliott. "The cleverest thing about Veri Peri from an interior design perspective is that it will look great with cool gray."

For the past 23 years, experts from the Pantone Color Institute forecasts global color trends and select a Color of the Year.

"I think Pantone picks wild colors on purpose to spark some conversation," said Hollings. "I mean if they picked a boring beige no one would talk about it."

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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
MONTGOMERY	12333	726	GOLD RUSH ROAD/726 ROUTE	BRUSH CREEK	12/16/2021

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.

ENTERTAINMENT

Restaurant Week Is Back



BARCA Pier and Wine Bar.

For 10 days and two weekends, nearly 70 restaurants in Alexandria, Va. will offer a \$35 prix fixe dinner for one or two people during Alexandria Restaurant Week, Jan. 21 to 30, 2022. Special menus are available in-person at all participating restaurants, many with heated outdoor dining available. Fifty restaurants will also offer to-go options in addition to in-person meals. The online menu book makes it easy to browse delicious selections from dozens of Alexandria eateries and enjoy special menus at some of Alexandria's winterized dining destinations or from the comfort of your own home.

New Alexandria Restaurant Week participants include BARCA Pier and Wine Bar, a new riverside eatery which opened in spring 2021 in Old Town featuring Mediterranean tapas, vibrant cocktails and vino galore; Thai Signature, located on King Street and offering dishes inspired by street food in Thailand; The Rub Chicken & Beer, a restaurant pop-up within Hen Quarter in Old Town, specializing in spicy sandwiches and heat-quenching beer; and St. Elmo's Coffee Pub - Old Town North, the Del Ray community hub's newly opened sister shop featuring an industrial-chic layout, lattes and bites in Old Town North. More than 50 restaurants will offer meals both in-person and to-go, including Barkhaus, Del Ray Café, Dishes of India, Rocklands Barbeque and Tempo Restaurant. Others offering in-person dining only include 219 Restaurant, Brabo Brasserie, Elo's Italian and Michael's Little Italy.

Alexandria Restaurant Week showcases the inventiveness of local chefs in neighborhoods throughout the city, including Old Town, Del Ray, Carlyle and Eisenhower, and the West End. Guests will savor the flavors of Alexandria's distinctive collection of eateries, from casual neighborhood favorites to elevated date night destinations and beyond.

View the menu flip-book and participating restaurants at Alex-

WHAT: Alexandria Restaurant Week
WHEN: 10 days and 2 weekends, January 21-30, 2022

WHERE: Neighborhoods throughout Alexandria, Virginia, including Old Town, Del Ray, Carlyle and Eisenhower, and the West End

HOW: \$35 prix fixe dinner for one or two people, available in-person or in-person and to-go

INFO: AlexandriaRestaurantWeek.com

andriaRestaurantWeek.com.

Alexandria Restaurant Week Menu Highlights:

❖ First-time participant BARCA Pier and Wine Bar offers heated outdoor riverside seating plus to-go options for their special menu that includes roasted tiger prawns, crispy pork belly and brioche bread pudding.

❖ Barkhaus invites four-legged friends to frolic around the indoor and outdoor off-leash dog park, while owners snack on stuffed dates or fried Brussels sprouts, followed by your choice of flatbread.

❖ Bring date night to Brabo Brasserie for a two-course meal with enticing, French-infused options such as smoked salmon rillettes and moules-frîtes.

❖ Save room for dessert when you dine in or carry out from Del Ray Café, with sweet third-course treats ranging from Belgian chocolate mousse to beignets with crème anglaise to chouquettes served with dipping sauces.

❖ Warm up on the heated patio at Elo's Italian in Del Ray, with three courses rich in Italian specialties such as garlic focaccia bread, lasagna Bolognese and Limoncello bars.

❖ Dig into a mouthwatering medley of meats from Rocklands Barbeque and Grilling Company, plus your choice of sides including Texas corn pudding, barbecued baked beans and minted cucumber salad.

❖ Head to Tempo Restaurant in the West End for New England clam chowder, a decadent gnocchi entrée and extensive dessert options.

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Obituary



On January 4, 2022, **Dorothy Beal Russ-Conley** of Alexandria, Virginia passed away. She is survived by her beloved husband Robert John Conley and son, William (Bill) Raymond Russ of Lorton, Virginia, his wife Jansen Lorraine Russ, their son Braedan Alonsas Zyls, and Dorothy's cousins Carl Bayne of Sarasota, Florida and Carolyn Baker of Falls Church, Virginia.

Dorothy was a native Washingtonian. She attended St Ann's Elementary School, Immaculata High School, and received her Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics from Dunbarton College of Holy Cross, with graduate studies at American University. She was a math teacher at Immaculata High School, and computer science teacher at Northern Virginia Community College. She went on to be a Systems Engineer at IBM and finished her career as a Senior Systems Analyst for SAIC with a 23 year tenure.

Dorothy was a member of the Association for Systems Management, the Hawaii State Society, the International Sacred Dance Guild, the Sigma Phi Gamma Sorority, and the Cameo Club for Ms. Senior America contestants after she was 2nd runner up in Virginia in 1997. She served as a lector at Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Alexandria for 25 years and volunteered at George Washington's Estate for many years.

Viewing and visitation will be on Wednesday, January 12, 2022 from 5-8pm at Demaine Funeral Home in Alexandria, Virginia.

The funeral will be held on January 13, 2022 at 10:30am at Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Alexandria. The funeral will be live streamed at this link, <https://youtu.be/GnSWDYdaExc>. The reception details are TBD as COVID restrictions allow.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation in honor of Dorothy to one of these charities:

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So Long Old Memory



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As of Wednesday, Dec. 8, the 2000 Honda Accord, which I inherited from my widowed mother 13 years ago, nearly to the day, was officially "totaled" by an insurance adjuster. After my mother died in 2008 leaving the Honda ownerless, I took possession. As I recall, on Dec. 24, 2008, I went to the Montgomery County administrative offices in Rockville and paid my dues (taxes, actually). And though I've had miscellaneous car repairs over the years - fortunately, nothing which was too drastic or expensive, I've not had to make one monthly car payment in almost 13 years. For a non-car person like me, not having a car payment for that many years trumps all negative considerations.

As written about in the "Oh Deer" column a few weeks back, the end of our association (the Honda and mine) was unexpected and for my money - literally, quite unnecessary. The Honda was our back-up/second car. Maybe it was driven 5,000 miles a year, almost exclusively local and most often, it sat in the driveway minding its own business. Now, I'll have to upgrade and consequently incur a new monthly car payment. A car payment I don't want and an extra expense I certainly don't need. Though I'll be receiving a settlement check from the insurance company, it won't cover the cost of a new car. In fact, it will barely cover the amount of down payment. And as any of you similarly impacted by a car accident where your car is "totaled" know, the math rarely ends up in your favor, especially if the "totaled" car was old and payment free.

But more to the point if this column. The Honda was one of the last remaining physical links to my parents, particularly my father, who died in early December 2006. He was the driver in the family and the Honda was the only car in the family so most images and feelings I have about my father and a car were from this 2000 Honda Accord, the last car he owned/drove. As such, when I sit in the driver's seat, I remember my father. And I also remember the front of one of his birthday cards which said: "When they made you, they broke the mold." Open card: "You should see what they did to the mold maker." We all laughed. I gave him that card on his 65th birthday dinner which we all celebrated at Jimmy's Harborside Restaurant (his favorite) on the wharf in Boston on or about Sept. 23, 1984 (his actual birthday). It was a memorable occasion to be sure, especially when my father opened the card and shook it to see if any money would fall out.

And though I still have lots of enduring memories of my father (I still wear his winter gloves as well as an old collard short-sleeve Polo shirt of his - which amazingly sort of fits), nothing conjures his memory and is so physically enveloping - literally, as the front seat of the car where when driving, he spent the last years of his life. And now that feeling/his presence is gone.

I imagine I'll get reconnected to his memory every month for the next 36 at least, when I make my new car payment. It won't quite be the same as sitting in the Honda payment free. Nevertheless, I'm sure I'll still feel a car connection to my father. After all, I'll be driving a car that he helped me buy.

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

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ENTERTAINMENT



Aldersgate Church Community Theater will present "Once Upon a Mattress (Youth Edition) Jan. 14-23 in the Wesley Hall of Aldersgate United Methodist Church at 1301 Collingwood Road in Alexandria. For tickets visit www.acctonline.org.

Once Upon a Mattress (Youth Edition)

ACCT returns to live performances Jan. 14-23.

By JEANNE THEISMANN
THE GAZETTE

Many moons ago in a far-off place, Queen Aggravain decreed no couples could marry until her son, Prince Dauntless, found a bride. Can Winnifred the Woebegone, a simple swamp princess looking to win the heart of Prince Dauntless, pass the impossible test Queen Aggravain has in store for her?

Such is the tale of Once Upon a Mattress (Youth Edition), an adaptation of the beloved musical designed for young performers and running Jan. 14-23 at Aldersgate Church Community Theater.

"We thought really carefully about what show would work during COVID," said director Julia St.

Pierre. "We wanted a musical but needed to limit it to 21 kids. We needed to find a fun show that had a small ensemble and 'Once Upon a Mattress' really met all the elements we needed. It has great characters and a fun fairy tale theme with a twist that makes the show irresistible."

With music by Mary Rodgers, lyrics by Marshall Barer, and book by Jay Thompson, Dean Fuller and Marshall Barer, the much-acclaimed musical was the right fit for ACCT as the company returned to live performances.

"It was important that we get started after having to be dark since early 2020," said St. Pierre, who also serves as music director. "ACCT is such a community and carrying on the tradition and children's program was so

important to us."

Cody Yeatman plays the role of Prince Dauntless.

"Dauntless is a prince but not really what you would think of when you hear the word 'prince,'" said Yeatman. "He's more of a puppet figure for his mother but he doesn't know that he's a puppet. He's like a little kid in an adult body. Blunt, naive, and very open with his emotions." Maggie Campione takes on her first lead role as Princess Winnifred.

"Princess Winnifred is from the swamps and not what you expect from a fairy tale princess," Campione said. "She is very loud, strong-willed and passionate. But she is also extremely kind and cares about all those around her. Unfortunately, though, the queen despises her."

The show opens Jan. 14 and runs through Jan. 23 in the Wesley Hall of Aldersgate United Methodist Church at 1301 Collingwood Road in Alexandria. Tickets are \$15 and a COVID-19 policy requires a mask at all times while inside the UMC building. Seating will be socially distanced.

"I hope that audiences will have a good laugh and simply enjoy themselves," said Lauren Allen, who plays the Queen. "We have been missing live theater for nearly two years now, so if they leave with half as much of the joy and excitement that we have felt being able to perform onstage in front of a live audience again, then the show will have been a success."

For tickets or more information, visit www.acctonline.org.

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"The Mount Vernon Specialists!" 106 Homes SOLD in 2021!



Chris's comments on our local market:

"The last 18 months have been especially strong for the market in our area. Space, both inside and out, has become a priority. The quest for the home office, extra bedroom, or a yard for the dog has brought a whole new set of buyers attracted to the attributes of our area. While we don't have a crystal ball, our extensive experience derived from just having sold 106 homes in 2021 in the Mt. Vernon/Fort Hunt area, places us in a unique position to provide an educated answer to what the future holds for local real estate.

Looking forward, there are a few unknown factors such as interest rates, inventory, and national/international events that could impact the local market. However, we do know interest rates are still hovering at historic lows and buyer preferences have remained consistent. With the market momentum staying steady, it appears the start of 2022 will pick up right where 2021 left off. Our area is extremely unique in that every neighborhood, street, and house is highly nuanced. If you'd like a custom-tailored evaluation of what your home is worth in today's market, reach out any time!" - *Chris*

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