

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

MARCH 17, 2022

Mount Vernon Trail and Parkway Improvements are Underway

Efforts from Rep. Don Beyer and National Park Service are proceeding near Waynewood Boulevard.

By MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

The Mount Vernon Parkway is scheduled for some TLC under a \$5,431,227 funding request Rep. Don Beyer (D-VA) secured recently for ten infrastructure and other local projects in Northern Virginia. The funding came from Beyer's Community Project Funding Requests, all of which were fully realized in the Omnibus spending bill which passed on a broad bipartisan vote in the House and Senate and is expected to be signed into law by the President soon.

The \$300,000 of the funding would be used for safety improvements along the Parkway between Belle Haven Park to the City of Alexandria border. The project focuses on elements that were identified in a 2020 study which includes drainage repairs, striping, and sealing along the parkway from the City of Alexandria to Belle Haven Park.

"I am proud to announce that bipartisan legislation passed by Congress this week and headed to President Biden's desk for signature includes funding I secured for important Northern Virginia initiatives. This funding will translate to significant, beneficial projects in Arlington, Alexandria, Falls Church, and Fairfax County," Beyer said in a release.

The Southern George Washington Memorial Parkway Safety Study focused on nine key inter-

sections on 6.3 miles of road between the City of Alexandria and George Washington's estate Mount Vernon. The study identifies context sensitive solutions that make the road safer and protect the scenic and historic values that justify the parkway's inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. This project would advance the goals of the study by implementing new lane markings and pilot access management options. The project will improve safety for motorists as well as vulnerable road users utilizing and crossing the Parkway by ensuring that lane markings are clearly distinguishable and degraded drainage surfaces and grates are stabilized.

Bridge 12 Moving

>It's not the only place along the parkway that's getting attention. The National Park Service

is beginning a project to replace Bridge 12 and realign the Mount Vernon Trail to improve safety near Fort Hunt Park. The NPS will straighten trail curves that lead to Bridge 12, located approximately 400 yards north of Fort Hunt Park. The bridge will be relocated, allowing for a straighter alignment and a reduced grade leading to and from the bridge.

John Graumann is a local resident that grew up biking on the trail. "I like the winding trail but if it's raining, it gets a little bit slick," he said.

Another cyclist, a frequent user of Bridge 12, knows the danger with a wet surface or leaves as well. "I wiped out there, but it was my fault, I was going too fast," he said.

The NPS will also upgrade the bridge railings and replace more than 350 tons of asphalt on the trail. Realigning the trail, replacing the bridge and laying new trail asphalt will reduce the severity and frequency of bike crashes on this section of trail, NPS said.

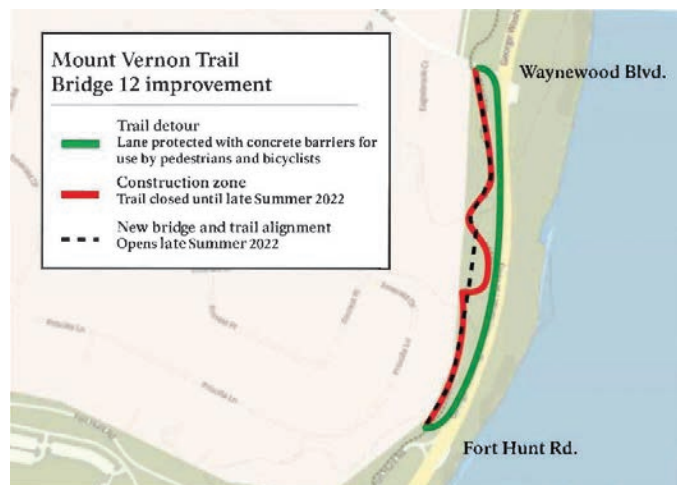
"The Mount Vernon Trail is a
SEE MOUNT VERNON, PAGE 5



Looking south towards Bridge 12, the hill makes it easy to pick up speed.



The trees in the valley of the new bridge venue have been cut down.



This map shows where the work is being done.



John Graumann knows to pick up speed on the bridge to make it up the hill on the other side.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/GAZETTE

Mount Vernon Artists Shine at Gallery Opening

Nepenthe Gallery borrowed a Greek term for "a place of no sorrow."

By MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

Mount Vernon art lovers flocked to the second floor in Hollin Hall recently for the grand opening of the Nepenthe Gallery that features artwork by 38 artists who specialize in everything from

watercolors, oils, sculptures and glasswork.

Of the 38 artists, 6-8 of them are from the immediate area and gallery owner Carrie Garland noted the talent that lives in Mount Vernon. "The turnout shows us there's lots of art enthusiasts here," she said, pointing out that it will be a place to take arts classes as well as a gallery.

Judy Heiser was one of the local artists that lives around the corner and teaches art at the Torpedo Factory. She had four abstract paintings on display, including one called "Unstructured," and another called "Roads to Everywhere," that she described as "almost kind of a city but it's not there, it's a wild ride," she said. The Unstructured paint-

ing was her impression of water, sunlight and environment. "I just let it go, it becomes more of a mood," she said.

Around the corner, Kim Carmichael painted a lion, which was named "Pride," and a jaguar she called "Alone." She's loves ani-

SEE MOUNT VERNON ARTIST, PAGE 5

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#WeAreAlexandria



OPEN SUN 3/20, 1-4PM

Dyes Oakcrest | \$1,125,000

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www.DonnaCramer.com



Braddock Heights | \$1,067,000

Great brick and cedar sided Colonial home with 3 bedrooms, 1 full & 2 half baths on a quiet, lightly traveled street. Living room with fireplace & light-filled family room off the large eat-in kitchen, adjoining dining room and office/den. Lots of updates! 310 W Alexandria Ave
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www.BettyMallon.com



OPEN SUN 3/20, 2-4PM

Del Ray | \$739,000

Charming all-brick townhome in a prime location. Remodeled kitchen opens to the dining room with peninsula. Third bedroom has been converted to a fabulous walk-in closet. Partially finished basement with access to fully-fenced back yard. 420 E Nelson Ave
Robin Arnold 703.966.5457
www.RobinArnoldSells.com



OPEN SUN 3/20, 1-4PM

Bucknell Manor | \$699,999

This 4 bedroom, 3 full bath home is beautifully renovated and move-in ready. Open kitchen, gorgeous bathrooms, private guest room with an en-suite. Rare walk-out basement is fully finished & boasts a wet bar for entertaining & plenty of storage. 6719 Quander Rd
Kristy Crombie or Erika Olsen 571.969.1774
www.CrombieAndOlsen.com



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Peter Crouch 703.244.4024
www.CrouchRealtyGroup.com



OPEN SAT 3/19 & SUN 3/20, 12-2PM

Old Town | \$649,900

2-bedroom 1.5-bath townhome a short walk from King St, restaurants, & dog parks. Recently remodeled in 2020 with new appliances, this property includes an open floor plan on the main level, an upper level with a loft space, and an enclosed patio. 231 N Henry St
Jillian Keck Hogan 703.951.7655
www.JillianKeckHogan.com

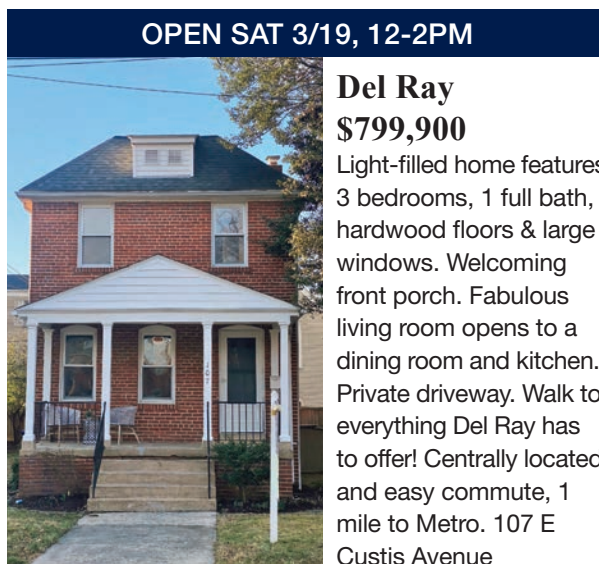


OPEN SAT 3/19, 1-3PM

Potomac Greens \$1,125,000

Unique features and upgrades galore throughout this stunning home. Kitchen is a chef's dream with large center-island that seats six and door to rare side deck for grilling. Two upper levels feature 3 bedrooms and a rooftop deck. Entry level with bedroom/office. 2-car garage & storage. 1824 Potomac Greens Dr

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OPEN SAT 3/19, 12-2PM

Del Ray \$799,900

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OPEN SUN 3/20, 2-4PM

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A Government Divided

Lawmakers end session with little to show and no budget.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Members of the General Assembly session ended their legislative session last week without passing a budget or any marquee legislation, an indication that divided government is less effective now than it's ever been.

The last time Virginia had a divided government, Republicans and Democrats came together to expand Medicaid. This year, though, partisan tension led to trench warfare in subcommittee meetings that ended in a political stalemate.

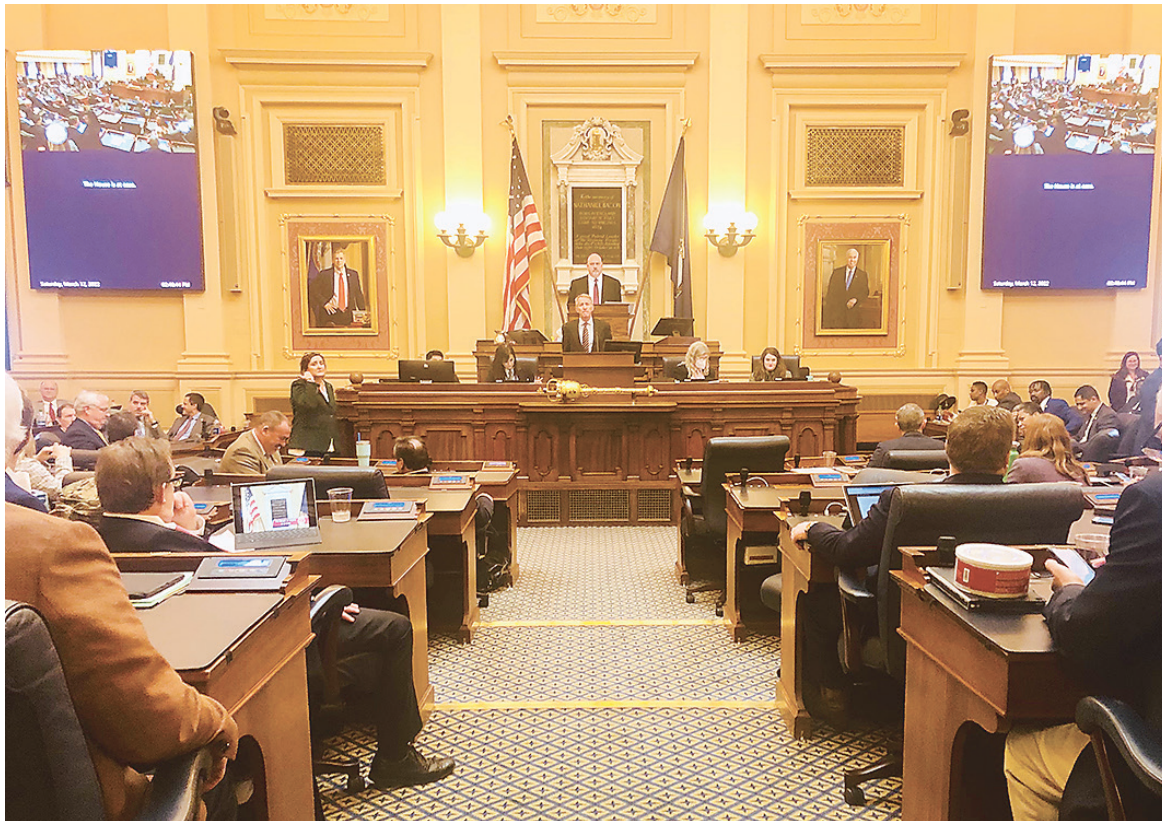
"A generation ago, centrist Republicans and centrist Democrats would get together and basically tell the extremists in both parties how things were going to go in Virginia," said Stephen Farnsworth, director of the Center for Leadership and Media Studies at the University of Mary Washington. "That's not the composition of today's legislature, where you have very few persuadable Democrats and very few persuadable Republicans."

Republicans swept all three statewide offices last year and seized control of the House of Delegates. But Democrats remain in control of the Senate, where they were able to block Republican efforts to roll back environmental and gun control regulations, and block Republican efforts to add restrictions on abortion. Similarly, Democrats' efforts to expand access to voting and ditch Virginia's unconstitutional ban on gay marriage were blocked in the Republican-controlled House.

"Governor Youngkin may have organized himself a bit later than his predecessors, and so he didn't have time to develop a legislative agenda and then work the legislature to accomplish parts of that agenda if he could," said Quentin Kidd, director of the Wason Center for Public Policy at Christopher Newport University. "What Governor Youngkin chose to focus his time and energy on could not get through the Senate, and he was unable to work much with Democrats in the Senate to get compromises."

PERHAPS THE BIGGEST clash was over money. The difference between the Senate budget and the House budget was an unprecedented \$3 billion. House Republicans want to eliminate the grocery tax while Senate Democrats want to keep part of it. House Republicans want to delay an increase in the gas tax while Senate Democrats say that money is needed to finance transportation projects. The biggest budget gap is over the

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House Speaker Todd Gilbert came into office wanting to deliver on the governor's campaign promise of tax cuts. But now those tax cuts are on hold as House Republicans and Senate Democrats remain divided on the budget.

idea of doubling the standard deduction to the state income tax, which would cost \$2 billion. The governor campaigned on the issue, and House Republicans want to move forward with it now. Senate Democrats want to study the idea and possibly move forward later.

"Reducing state revenues by such a large

helping those most in need.

But supporters of doubling the standard deduction say this form of tax relief would help more people because the vast majority of tax filers chose the standard deduction instead of itemizing. Besides, they say, tax relief is needed now and in future budgets.

"Yes, it's a long-term tax cut. That's the

"A generation ago, centrist Republicans and centrist Democrats would get together and basically tell the extremists in both parties how things were going to go in Virginia. That's not the composition of today's legislature, where you have very few persuadable Democrats and very few persuadable Republicans."

— Stephen Farnsworth, director of the Center for Leadership and Media Studies at the University of Mary Washington.

amount in a way that would be ongoing could jeopardize future state budgets because it's unclear what the economy might look like in a future budget," said Chris Wodicka, senior policy analyst at the Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis. "So there are a lot of unknowns."

Critics of doubling the standard deduction argue that it doesn't help those most in need, people at the bottom end of the income spectrum. They say that the Senate approach of creating an earned-income tax credit would be a more effective way of

point. That's the value of it," said Stephen Haner, senior fellow at the Thomas Jefferson Institute. "People will know that year after year after year, there'll be more and more of their income they don't have to pay income tax on. We pay sales taxes. We pay excise taxes. We pay lots of other taxes. So the income tax is one where I think they could do a break this year."

SENATE DEMOCRATS began the session boasting about how they would form a "blue wall" to reject the Republican agenda, and

they were successful up to a point. But there were cracks in the so-called blue wall. The most notable was a bill inspired by Fairfax County parents who were upset about their children reading Toni Morrison's Pulitzer-prize winning book "Beloved." The bill requires school divisions to notify parents when they plan on teaching sexually explicit material. Former Gov. Terry McAuliffe vetoed that bill when he was in the Executive Mansion. Now Gov. Youngkin is poised to sign it.

"This last election proved that parents want a say in their child's education," said Sen. Amanda Chase (R-11). "And we as a General Assembly and the Senate need to respect the wishes of parents instead of pushing what the government thinks is best for their kids."

Democrats also failed to block an effort to strip the Air Pollution Control Board and the Water Control Board of permitting authority. The effort began after a permit for a compressor station in Chatham was denied last year, leading many to question the idea that citizen-led boards should have the authority to decide who gets a permit and

who doesn't. Now a bill stripping permitting authority from these two citizen-led boards is on the governor's desk, even though rejecting this bill was a top priority for environmentalists.

"You have a board who makes a decision, not necessarily due to the science or the facts as we have seen in the past and they don't have to explain themselves," said Sen. Richard Stuart (R-28). "So this bill actually opens up the transparency of these decisions in my opinion."

The Air Pollution Control Board meets and votes in public, although its members sometimes make controversial decisions. Its decision in December to deny the compressor station in Chatham may end up being the death knell for permitting authority of citizen-led boards. Unfortunately for the Water Control Board, its members were caught in the crossfire. Lawmakers decided to strip them of permitting authority too. The vote in the Senate was 32 to 8.

"The State Water Control Board makes its decisions based on the public record after full public input and full public deliberation, which has been included. But also a public vote," said Shelton Miles, former chairman of the Water Control Board. "All of that happens with transparency in public. That's not going to happen if this bill passes."

ALTHOUGH THERE were no marquee bills that arrived on the governor's desk, lawmakers were able to accomplish some smaller

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MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE ♦ MARCH 17-23, 2022 ♦ 3

The Heart of the Highway

Tribute to Anne
Andrews 1931 - 2021

BY MARY PADEN
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

Fairfax county officials, staff, and activists — current and retired — gave tribute to Anne Andrews Thursday at a zoom meeting of the South County Task Force. Andrews founded the task force in 1975 and ran it for over 40 years before retiring in 2016. During that time Andrews fought for homeless shelters, social services, physical and mental health care, and voting rights. She was also instrumental as head of the Southeast Health Planning Task Force in preventing Inova's plan to close its Mount Vernon INOVA Hospital in 2004.

Andrews, 90, died Dec. 8, 2021, at Alexandria Hospital from pulmonary fibrosis.

Jeff McKay, Chair of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors; Dan Storck, Mount Vernon Supervisor; Gerry Hyland, retired Mt Vernon Supervisor of 28 years; and Del. Paul Krizek spoke at the Zoom tribute along with many past and present Route 1 community advocates.

U.S. Congressman Gerry Connolly, who chaired the board of Supervisors during Anne's term, sent a message saying: "Anne was a fierce advocate and a voice for a community that had too often been overlooked. She made a positive difference in people's lives, and I am honored I was able to work with her. She will be missed."

McKay said Andrews was "the toughest person I ever met" as well as the one with the biggest heart. He and others noted Andrews' combination of direct, sometimes confrontational, demands on public officials with her unwavering dedication to improving services for the area's low-income community. McKay described her as "tough, forceful, aggressive, compassionate, spirited and downright pushy — but in a good way — otherwise she would not have had all the success she had in getting more services to this area."

Andrews had two monikers — General of the Highway and Heart of the Highway. "General" because of her take-charge, take-no-prisoners demeanor and "heart" because of her motivation to help those in need.

Andrews had success "not only because she was relentless, but also because she was right," said Pam Michell, recently retired executive director of New Hope Housing, which was spawned by a committee of Andrews' Route 1 Task Force headed by Eleanor Kennedy, an activist colleague of Andrews'. Pam likened the two to the Steele Magnolia (Kennedy) and the brash New Yorker (Andrews).

Michell and others recalled a more strategic side of Andrews that insisted that county leaders attend Route 1 Task Force meetings to understand the needs of the community and often hosted dinners of leaders such as Hyland, and sequential Health and Human Services Directors Verdia Haywood and Pat Ferguson to discuss issues and possible solutions before the meetings. Harris, now retired, recalled, "You just could not say no to Anne." She recalled advice from Haywood,



Anne Andrews receiving a legislative commendation plaque from Sen. Scott Surovell and Delegates Paul Krizek and Vivian Watts at a South County Task Force meeting in 2016.



Anne Andrews at the United Community 50th Anniversary celebration.

her predecessor: "Whatever you do, don't upset Anne."

Hyland noted that when he began his 28-year run as supervisor, Anne organized her Task Force meetings around his schedule so he would attend and "hear the needs of the people." He described her as "a person with a lot of moxie," defining moxie as "guts, courage, and verge. A person with moxie can do just about anything."

Hyland's successor Dan Storck, said Andrews was a "fierce advocate for the needy, who relentlessly challenged me and others to do more, and her voice is still always with

me."

Sharon Keslo, then Development Director of United Community Ministries (now United Communities) who worked with Andrews, recalled that they followed the three Ps model: Persistence, Patience, and if those didn't work — Pushy. "She grabbed me by the hand the minute I was in a position in which I could be useful and took me on the adventure of a lifetime," Kelso said.

As Mount Vernon representative to the county Health Care Advisory Board for a number of years in the late 1980s to early 90s, Andrews helped establish the Health Department's Community Health Care Network, which focused on health care for low-income and uninsured residents. She also strengthened the citizens' advisory board to the Gartlan Center, which addresses mental health care.

Over the decades, Andrews was honored with appointments such as Lady Fairfax for the Mount Vernon District in 1990, and Fairfax County Citizen of the year in 2008. In 2017, a commending resolution was passed by the Virginia State Senate and House of Delegates and presented to her by Sen. Scott Surovell, along with Del. Paul Krizek and Del. Vivian Watts at a South County Task Force meeting.

Andrews was born on Sept. 29, 1931 in Ashbury Park, New Jersey. She moved to the DC area in 1952 after graduating from Bryn Mawr College with a degree in History. Her professional work was as a Personnel Management Specialist for various Federal agen-

cies, including the Civil Service Commission, now known as the Office of Personnel Management, before retiring as Executive Personnel Policy and Compensation Expert in 1995 at the Department of Defense (DOD).

She is survived by her three children, Walter, Peter (Francie), and Bronwen (Willie Skinner); six grandchildren, Andy, Meg, Kaitlyn, Austin, Isabel, and Evelyn; and one great grandson, Charlie. Anne's husband of 48 years, Richard Andrews died on June 18, 2003.

A memorial service to celebrate her life will be on June 18, 2022, at Greenspring Hunters Crossing Conference Center from 3-5 pm. Andrews moved to Greenspring Senior Living Community, 7410 Spring Village Dr, Springfield, VA 22150, around the time she retired from the Task Force.

The family noted that donations can be made in her name to South County Task Force, c/o Treasurer Matt Dunne, 8701 Camden Street, Alexandria, VA 22308, to carry on her work in the Route 1 community.

The Zoom tribute can be seen at the South County Task Force Your Tube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=poOzOP6R-ul>) as well as a Board of Supervisors tribute to Andrews by Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2wnS65LZC-jo&t=3s>). Her death notice ran in the Washington Post March 9 (<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/washingtonpost/name/anne-andrews-obituary?id=33558497>).

Mount Vernon Artists Shine at Gallery Opening

FROM PAGE 1

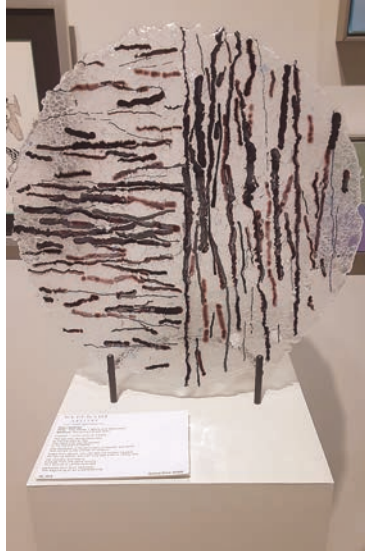
mals and recognizes the danger facing some species. "It breaks my heart, they're a beauty that should be kept alive," she said. It was her first gallery display. "It's so exciting, I'm nervous now," she said.

Garland put it all together this winter keeping in touch with artists she's known through the years, or they are friends of friends.

Sonia Gadra came from Frederick, Maryland. Gadra is a "copiest" at the National Gallery in Washington, D.C. She displayed her version

of a Van Gogh called "Green Wheat Fields." When she does copies, she gets involved with the history of the painter. "It's difficult to decipher what they had in mind," Gadra said.

Garland's children came in from New York to experience the opening. They saw their mother's determination over the past few weeks. "I knew it was going to be packed, both of our parents are go-getters" said Ellie Garland who was perusing the room with her brother Benjamin, a musician.



PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/GAZETTE PACKET

This piece is called "Tao Verse 1 Name and Nameless," by Staci Katsias, priced at \$1200.

Nepenthe Gallery

7918 Fort Hunt Road
Alexandria, Virginia 22308
(703) 314-5399
Hours: Tuesday-Saturday,
11am - 6 pm



Ellie Garland chats up the gallery experience put on by her mother Carrie Garland, the owner.



Artist Kim Carmichael has a thing for the big cats, pictured behind her.



These rappelling "climbers," are the work of Ancizar Marin.



Mount Vernon resident Judy Heiser is into abstracts which hang behind her.



Ellie Garland and her mother Carrie Garland, the gallery owner.

Mount Vernon Trail and Parkway Improvements are Underway

FROM PAGE 1

popular recreational resource and serves as an important regional transportation connection hosting over one million users annually," Charles Cuvelier, Superintendent of the George Washington Memorial Parkway, said. "This project will improve trail conditions and increase safety for all visitors."

During this project— which is expected to be completed in late summer— trail users will be detoured on the adjacent southbound section of the George Washington Memorial Parkway near Wayneswood Boulevard. To protect trial users on the detour, concrete barriers have been placed on the roadway and drivers merge into one lane through this area.



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Alex/Sedgewick Forest

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OPEN HOUSE
SATURDAY 1-3
SUNDAY 1-4

offering a lovely, private front yard & a spectacular, large bkyd. The bkyd has a lovely deck which is perfect for entertaining while enjoying the multitude of plants & beautiful shrubs & trees.

Inside on the main level you have freshly refinished hardwood floors, double pane windows, a lovely MBR, the second BR & the hall bath w/an inviting Jacuzzi tub. The beautiful kitchen w/ lovely corian counter tops is open to the dining & family rooms. The family room is the center of activity, surrounded by windows & looks out to both the front & back yards. The TV will convey along w/the surround sound speakers. The gas FPL will add character & help warm up the room during the colder months. The living room is spacious w/beautiful hardwood floors along w/a large bay window & also a gas FPL. The upper level is spacious, has 2 large BRs each w/carpet over hardwood floors & a hall bathroom.

A full basement offers a large recreation room w/new carpet along with a large cedar closet. If you are handy & enjoy working with tools, then you'll love the separate workshop w/a large work bench & plenty of shelving. The laundry & utility rooms are spacious, offering plenty of storage.

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UNDEFEATED!

Hayfield Hawks complete their season undefeated at 32-0 after a 67-47 win over Battlefield for the schools first state championship in basketball.



The Hayfield Hawks complete their season undefeated at 32-0 after a 67-47 win over Battlefield for the school's first state championship in basketball

PHOTOGRAPH BY WILL PALENSCAR



Cam Lee #5 elevates to the basket as a Battlefield defender watches.



DJ Holloway #2 tries to avoid Ty Gordon #32.

BY WILL PALENSCAR
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

The Hayfield Hawks made history on March 11, 2022 in the Boys Virginia Class 6 State Championships at the Siegel Center in Richmond, Va. The Hawks came in with an unblemished record of 31-0, facing a battle tested Battlefield Bobcats who just days before defeated conference rival and undefeated Patriot High School; 55-54.

Battlefield would take an early 1st quarter lead 18-16 after 8 minutes of play. However, the Bobcats would be held to 11 points in the 2nd quarter while allowing 17 points. Hayfield would continue the surge forward in the 3rd quarter outscoring Battlefield 21-10, taking a 54-39 advantage going into the final quarter. Again in the 4th quarter the Hawks would outscore the Bobcats 13-8 and take home the schools first State basketball championship with a dominating 67-47 win. Both teams would convert on six three point attempts, but the difference in this game was the free throw shooting as Hayfield made 15 of 20 from the charity stripe while Battlefield made 60% but only made it to the line 5 times. Battlefield also turned the ball over 24

SEE UNDEFEATED, PAGE 7



Battlefield's Hasan Hammad #21 has his shot contested by #2 DJ Holloway of Hayfield



PHOTOGRAPHY BY WILL PALENSCAR

The Hayfield Hawks hold up the school's first basketball State Championship after defeating Battlefield 67-47.



Greg Jones #23 slams the ball in for Hayfield in the closing minute of the game. Jones led all scorers with 23 points.

UNDEFEATED!

FROM PAGE 6

times and many of those converted into points.

Greg Jones led Hayfield with 23 points, 5 rebounds and 4 steals. Teammate David King added 12 points and 7 rebounds, while DJ Holloway had 11 points and Braylon Wheeler added 10.

Battlefield was led by Maddux Tennant with 12 points and 4 steals. Bryce Ham-

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mersley and Hasan Hammad each had 9 points while teammate Chase Nelson added 8 points.

Hayfield Coach Carlos Poindexter credits his team over the season for having really big 3rd quarters, and this game was no different. Poindexter also added that the leadership of Braylon Wheeler helped keep his team together.



SPRING 2022

DAILY
STARTING
MARCH 19

Monuments Cruise or Water Taxi to
The Wharf: Cherry Blossom Festival Service

LATE
MAR-
NOV

I Love You Temporary Public Art
Installation at Waterfront Park

APR
2

ALX Dog Walk
at the Old Town Waterfront

APR
10

Cherry Blossom Jubilee
at the Torpedo Factory Art Center

APR
23

89th Annual Old Town Alexandria
Historic Homes & Garden Tour

APR
24

PNC Parkway Classic 10 Miler,
5K and Kid's Dash

MAY
7

Spring Pop-Up Market
for Mother's Day

MAY
13-15

Spring Wine Festival & Sunset Tour
at Mount Vernon

MAY
14-15

2nd Annual Alexandria Old Town
Springtime Art Festival
at John Carlyle Square

MAY
22

The Old Town Festival of Speed & Style

For more spring events and activities, check out:
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Alexandria
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Property Values Are on the Rise and I Hear You

BY DAN STORCK

I have heard from many of you since the County Executive released his proposed FY 2023 County Budget and received your annual real estate valuations. As you likely know, we live in a very desirable place and many want to move here. This desirability is driving up home prices – if you know anyone who bought or sold a home this year, you know what I mean. Greatly increasing home values are reflected in your 2022 home valuation. County real estate valuations are determined by the market, based on sales of similar homes in your area and not by the Board of Supervisors. State regulations require that properties be annually assessed by the County at 100% fair market value, leaving no flexibility to local governments to adjust valuations.

Later this year when personal property letters go out, you will see that due to an increased demand for new and used cars, those valuations are increasing as well. Generally, if you are a home, vehicle or property owner these higher values represent

a growing investment and are financially a good thing. For those who are not, or for whom your pay is not increasing, these increases can make life harder.

As your representative, I am committed to working with my Board colleagues to continue offering the excellent County services you expect, providing the funding to offer the higher wages needed to fill the many vacant teacher, police, fire, technical and custodial positions, AND lowering your property tax rates. I know we are all proud to live in Fairfax County and enjoy the many services the County and area offer, but we also need it to be affordable.

Join me virtually on Wednesday, March 23 at 6 p.m. for the Mount Vernon District Budget Town Meeting to learn more about the County Executive's proposed budget, ask questions and share your comments. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon/mount-vernon-district-virtual-budget-town-meeting>

For more information on the proposed budget and how to comment, visit the County website. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/>

county-executives-fy-2023-proposed-budget-fully-funds-schools-request-employee-compensation

You can also talk to a County appraiser about your home's assessment and how to appeal. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/taxes/real-estate>

I am also pleased that for the first time in over 15 years, we, the Board, are able to expand the real estate tax relief program to benefit more seniors and people with disabilities. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/board-supervisors-expands-real-estate-tax-relief-program>

It is unfortunate that in Virginia, real estate and personal property taxes are one of the few sources of revenue available to pay for our County school, police, fire, park and other services. Currently, the state returns to us only about 23% of what Fairfax County residents contribute in state taxes. (These taxes are principally contributed through the fairest and most progressive form—income taxes.) If the state returned just 1% more of the income tax rate back to us,

we could reduce our real estate tax rate by \$.20! The state also funds only approximately 23% of our schools budget, with the balance coming from the County. In most counties south of us, the state funds schools at close to 50% or higher. Increased state funding for schools, public safety, mental health services, affordable housing and our many other Fairfax priorities would make a big difference in reducing the need to County-fund these services Fairfax County residents expect and need.

I look forward to hearing from you.

More information on the advertised budget plan: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget/advertised-budget-plan>

More information about assessments and how to appeal yours: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/2022-real-estate-assessments-now-available-average-residential-increase-957>

Tax Relief Program for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/taxes/relief/tax-relief-seniors-people-with-disabilities>

Session Ends - Budget Is Pending

BY SEN. SCOTT SUROVELL



Surovell

Last week, state legislators completed the 2022 General Assembly session and 18 of the 27 bills I introduced are now on their way to the Governor. Unfortunately, we were not able to reach an agreement on a state budget, on two state Supreme Court justices or on a commissioner for the State Corporation Commission, and will have a special session.

Last week, I served on 16 conference committees charged with working out compromises on some of our most difficult bills to reconcile.

Unfortunately, the House of Delegates unexpectedly killed one of my bills to generate more bike and pedestrian solutions. We have a massive backlog of unfunded pedestrian and bicycling infrastructure projects in Northern Virginia — especially in eastern Northern Virginia, built before County land use rules required sidewalks or bike lanes on roads. There is also no meaningful funding stream under which these projects are competitive so planners do not even

develop or seek significant projects.

U.S. 1's forthcoming \$1 billion redesign, which will include a median dedicated bus rapid transit lane, dual sidewalks and multiuse paths, will be a bike and pedestrian magnet, but few of the roads connecting to U.S. 1 have the bike or pedestrian infrastructure to serve the project. The Washington Area Bicyclists Association recently predicted that we need to invest \$1 billion in cycling infrastructure in the D.C. metropolitan area over the next 20 years to meet minimum demand.

I introduced SB251 to require the Virginia Department of Transportation to work with Northern Virginia localities to prepare a 20-year bicycle and pedestrian project list. This would help us estimate future needs and develop funding solutions. The House of Delegates defeated the bill, largely because downstate legislators feared the bill would lead to less road funding for rural areas in the state. I will try to accomplish this in other ways.

My legislation to regulate facial recognition technology in law en-

forcement also passed both houses on bipartisan votes. Last year, the General Assembly passed a ban on local police departments using the technology, but the ban did not apply to state police who can still use the technology with no restrictions, when either using it on their own or in coordination with local police.

My legislation restricts usage and creates criminal offenses for misuse. It also prohibits facial recognition results from being stated in affidavits or search warrants and requires law enforcement offi-

cers to develop alternative corroborating evidence to link an individual to a crime. We are fully aware that many people have concerns about this new technology so the bill also requires each law enforcement agency to publish an annual report detailing the use of facial recognition technology. With this information, we will have more information on how it is being used and try to prevent its misuse.

I also served on a conference committee to reconcile a bill to reverse legislation we passed last

SEE SESSION ENDS, PAGE 14

Let Us Know Your View

Connection Newspapers welcomes views on any public issue. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers; we will only print your name and town name.

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OPINION

Sine Die... For now

BY DEL. PAUL KRIZEK

On Saturday, March 12, the General Assembly adjourned sine die. Sine die is Latin for “without any future date being designated (as for resumption).”

Of the 2,141 bills introduced by the House and the Senate this session, 1,096 failed to pass, and 842 are headed to the Governor to either be signed, amended, or vetoed. I am pleased to report that 12 of my bills passed both the House and the Senate, and are headed to the Governor for his consideration.

Session Statistics can be found here <https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?221+oth+STA>

According to G. Paul Nardo, Clerk of the House of Delegates, as of this writing (March 14), the House Clerk’s Office has enrolled 747 bills for the signatures of the presiding officers (Speaker for the House and Lt. Governor for the Senate), and 354 bills have been communicated to the Governor’s Office for his review. The Governor has acted on 30 bills to date; 29 bills have been signed into law (“chapterized”), and one bill has been vetoed. As bills become “chapterized”, you may visit here to view them. <https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?221+lst+CHP>

The Governor’s deadline to recommend amendments or veto legislation from the 2022 Regular Session is Monday, April 11, 2022, at 11:59 p.m. Constitutionally, the Governor has a 30-day window in which he must act on bills sent to him after a Regular Session of the General Assembly concludes.

While I am proud of our accomplishments this session, more work still lies ahead in the coming weeks. As I wrote in my last column, deliberations on the budget continue. As such, the budget bills HB/SB 29 and HB/SB 30 were continued to a 2022 Special Session with HJR 455. The Governor now has the authority to recall the General Assembly to Richmond to complete work on the budget, as well as the bills that remain pending in conference committees, including a measure I oppose which is to help bring the Washington Commanders to Virginia. We also must fill two seats on the Virginia Supreme Court.



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The Rotary Club of Mount Vernon, VA

The Mount Vernon Rotary Club is initiating the “You Make a Difference Award” to support community service by organizations in the Mount Vernon area.

Specifically, the purpose of the Mount Vernon Rotary “You Make A Difference” Award is to:

- 1) Recognize individuals and organizations who support service to others
- 2) Support community service within the Mount Vernon area

This local support is consistent with the Rotary International Motto: “Service Above Self.”

A single award and associated grant of \$1000 will be presented once a year. The goal is to recognize a single individual who sustains community service and to contribute financial support to keep that service continuing.

Nominations will be accepted until noon on March 23, 2022. To receive a nomination form or more information, email rcmvva@gmail.com

Rotary is where neighbors, friends, and problem-solvers share ideas, join leaders, and take action to create lasting change. Visit www.rotary.org for more information.

The Rotary Club of Mount Vernon meets via Zoom on Wednesday evening from 6:30 to 7:30. To request an invitation link email mikej1013@verizon.net



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HISTORY



PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME

Centennial mural "Equality for All" celebrates the leaders of women's suffrage and passage of the 19th Amendment



PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME

Suffragist mural permanently installed at Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton, depicts marching suffragist and yellow roses symbolizing victory of the movement

Recognizing Women's Suffrage

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE GAZETTE

Now, in March each year we recognize Women's History Month; the first enacted by Congress for 1987. Congress called on the President "to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe such month with appropriate ceremonies and activities" in recognition of women's role in history, leadership, and often overlooked contributions. Starting as a weekly recognition, each March since 1987 has been designated to recognize women in history.

Much of women's progress toward equality can be traced to the decades long suffragist movement to win the right to vote for women in the United States. Passed by Congress on June 4, 1919, and ratified on Aug. 18, 1920, the 19th Amendment guarantees all American women the right to vote. Much of the work of that lengthy struggle went on in the nearby District of Columbia, with moments of significance even nearer, at the Workhouse in Lorton.

Known as 'Silent Sentinels' for picketing in front of the White House gates, 91 suffragists were jailed in 1917 in DC and Lorton for simply picketing quietly on the sidewalk. Of historical note, the Silent Sentinels were the first group ever to picket in front of the White House. Thirty-three suffragists from the National Woman's Party, arrested on Nov. 10, 1917, were clubbed, beaten, and tortured by guards while imprisoned at the Lorton Workhouse. Known as the 'Night of Terror', sympathy such treatment generated from the public was

a turning point for the movement.

Today, the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial, located on the grounds of the Occoquan Regional Park, 9751 Ox Road, Lorton, honors those who participated in the suffragist movement; providing "a visual symbol and educational tool intended to elevate these women to their proper place in history and recognize this bloodless revolution," as described by the memorial association.

Near the Turning Point Memorial, a museum is sited on the grounds of the former Lorton Workhouse, dedicated to Lucy Burns, a suffragist leader, who served more time in jail than any other suffragist in America. (Library of Congress). The Lucy Burns museum tells the story of the prison, operated for 91 years, and of the suffragists held there. Opened in 2018 as part of the Workhouse Art Center, the museum includes a restored section of the prisoner cells, and provides examples of the work the incarcerated performed to rehabilitate their lives.

Also on the quad at the Arts Center, visitors can view the newly installed mural, "Equality for All," by artist Sunny Mullarkey. Commissioned to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, by the national Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission, "The mural depicts suffrage leaders Carrie Chapman Catt, Mary Church Terrell, Alice Paul, and Ida B. Wells amid silhouettes of marching suffragists.



Lucy Burns, a leader in the suffragist movement, served more jail time than any other suffragist, including time at the Lorton prison where she was handcuffed with her arms above her and left overnight

The portraits of these trailblazing women are surrounded by 36 yellow roses, a symbol of the victory of the movement. At the center of the piece stands a mythological woman,

Thirty-three suffragists from the National Woman's Party, arrested on Nov. 10, 1917, were beaten, and tortured while imprisoned at the Lorton Workhouse.

inspired by historic suffrage artwork, holding a banner with the words, "Equality for All."

The mural can be viewed in building W-16 at the Workhouse Arts Center.

These nearby commemorations of women's struggle for suffrage: the Turning Point Suffragists Memorial, the Lucy Burns Museum, and the Equality for All mural, create an opportunity to steep oneself in the history of the women's movement, appropriate for the March recognition of women.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

BULLETIN

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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

Assistance League of Northern Virginia is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that feeds, clothes and provides reading assistance and books to children in need. Assistance League's programs touch the lives of hundreds of children in Fairfax and Prince William Counties and the City of Alexandria. There are many volunteer opportunities for community members to contribute to helping those in need. To learn more, email info@alnv.org, or visit www.alnv.org.
United Community (formerly UCM), 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria,

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

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

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

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

Volunteer Fairfax makes it easy for individuals and families, youth and seniors, corporate groups and civic clubs to volunteer. Fulfill

hours, give back, or pay it forward through a variety service options. Visit www.volunteerfairfax.org or call 703-246-3460.

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

Yoga Teachers are needed. Help improve a person's well-being by teaching yoga classes to adults who are staying in a residential facility. The day/time is flexible, but would be during the week. Prior yoga instruction is required. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb/viva/volunteers.htm for more.

The Northern Virginia Long Term Care Ombudsman Program needs volunteer advocates for residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Contact Lisa Callahan at 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Respite Care volunteers give family caregivers of a frail older adult a break so they can go shopping, attend a doctor's appointment or just have coffee with a friend. Volunteers visit and oversee the safety of the older adult for a few hours each month. Support and training are provided. Contact Kristin Martin at 703-324-7577, TTY 711, or Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Fairfax County needs volunteers to drive older adults to medical appointments and wellness programs.

For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Gum Springs Senior Program in Alexandria is looking for a Line Dance Instructor. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Kingstowne Center for Active Adults in Alexandria needs Instructors for the following classes: Country-Western Line Dance, Hula Hoop and African Style Dance. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Hollin Hall Senior Center in Alexandria needs instructors for the following classes: Basic Woodworking, Italian and Ballroom Dance. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Mount Vernon Adult Day Health Care Center in Alexandria needs front desk volunteers and patient Card Players. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Advisory Board of the Joe and Fredona Gartlan Center for mental health is looking for volunteers. The board meets the second Tues-

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 14

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4/6/2022.....Wellbeing
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4/27/2022.....Senior Living

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CALENDAR

MARCH 2-31

Woodlawn's 2022 Needlework Show, Common Threads: Connecting People, Families, and Communities, Past and Present, in person. At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. The 59th Annual Woodlawn Needlework Show's theme "Common Threads" focuses on the threads in life that connect us as a community and the commonalities that exist among all people, as demonstrated through the pursuit of craft. Every day except Tuesdays. For more information on the theme and submitting work, www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org. Call 703-780-4000 or email woodlawn@savingplaces.org

MARCH 4-26

Flora & Fauna Exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Features art that explores the interdependence of plants and animals, combining art with science. Exhibit is open at Noon, Thursdays - Sundays, from Friday, March 4 to Saturday, March 26. It closes at 6:00 pm, except Saturdays it is open until 9 p.m. Visit the website: <https://delrayartisans.org/2022/01/flora-fauna/>

MARCH 10-MAY 5

Solo Art Exhibition. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Art & Framing, 694 N. St. Asaph St., Alexandria. Art & Framing will be home to the exhibition "Works from Nature's Jewel Tones: Paintings by Kathleen Callery." The show features 20 of Callery's works. The jewel tones found in nature have been the main inspiration for these paintings--Kathleen Callery.

MARCH 10-APRIL 17

Forces Fleeting. At The Athenaeum Gallery, Alexandria. Opening Reception, Sunday, March 13, 4 — 6 p.m. Artist Talk, Saturday, April 9 at 2 p.m. Forces Fleeting is a mixed-media exhibition of new works by artists Nikki Brugnoli and Anne C. Smith, in the first joint installation by the two longtime friends and collaborators. In very different ways, both women ex-

plore the transformative power of landscape, with Brugnoli's gestural screenprint drawings on mylar and wood panels and Smith's dark pencil drawings on stained linen.

FRIDAY/MARCH 18

The American Civil War's Impact on Modern Medicine. 6 p.m. At Lee-Fendall House Museum, Alexandria. Learn more about how the American Civil War changed the medical field, from life-saving discoveries to the ways in which women participated in the medical profession like never before. Please call 703.548.1789 or email contact@leefendallhouse.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 19

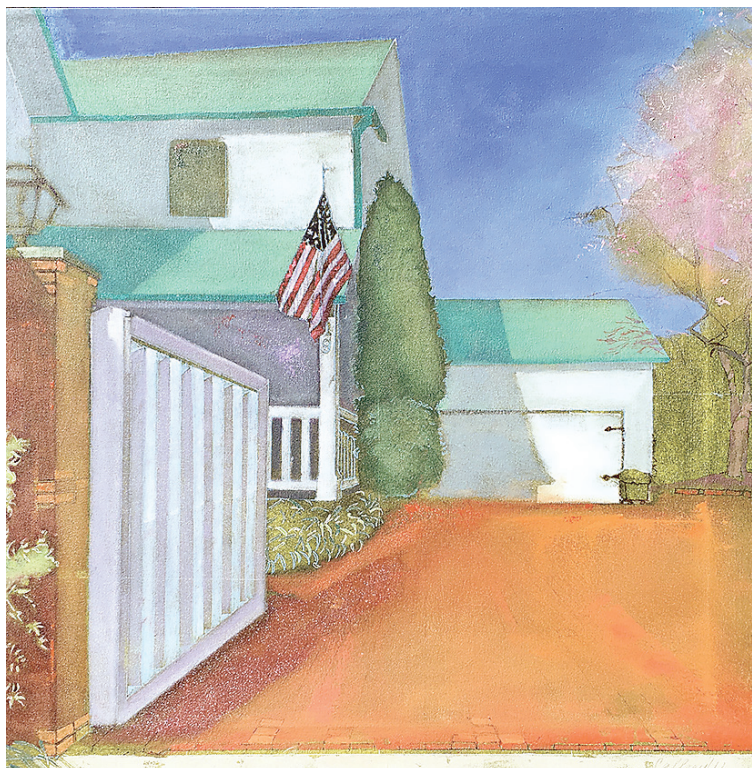
Spring Craft Fair. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Hayfield Secondary School, 7630 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. Indoor Craft Fair and Silent Auction featuring 80 plus artists/vendors selling all handmade crafts. Free kids craft corner hosted by KidsCreate Studio, huge silent auction. Extensive selection of autographed sports, movie and music memorabilia, gift certificates, Capitals and Nationals tickets, artist silent auction. All proceeds go to support the Hayfield Senior class.

SATURDAY/MARCH 19

Brandenburg, Vivaldi & Tango. 7:30 p.m. At St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 South Pitt Street, Alexandria. Members of the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, led by Music Director James Ross, present an evening of music by Bach, Vivaldi and Piazzolla in the intimate setting of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Hear Baroque renditions with principals from the ASO featured as soloists. Cost: \$45. Visit the website: <https://alexsym.org/performance/brandenburg/>

SATURDAY/MARCH 19

Plant Swap/Adoption Event. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (16-Adult) Green Spring Gardens is hosting a plant swap/adoption event. Bring your



A Solo Art Exhibition featuring paintings by Kathleen Callery will be held March 10-May 5 at Art & Framing in Alexandria.

unwanted houseplants, cuttings and containers to swap with others or put up for adoption. A lecture, a gardening Help Desk, educational displays, and glasshouse tours are included. Leave with new plants, containers, new garden friends and expert advice. \$15 per person. Code 1AT.DYJT. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

SATURDAY/MARCH 19

Flowers Everywhere! 6:30-8:30 p.m. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery in the Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Have you always wanted to try your hand at floristry? Learn how to level up grocery store arrangements. You'll get to bring home your masterpiece after the workshop. Details: <https://delrayartisans.org/workshops/#event=flowers-everywhere>

SATURDAY/MARCH 19

Alexandria Choral Society. 7:30 p.m.

At George Washington Masonic Memorial, Alexandria. The Alexandria Choral Society will present Dan Forrest's Lux: The Dawn from on High. Experience the hope of dawn and the promises of light during ACS's annual gala and silent auction performance, under the direction of ACS Artistic Director Brian J. Isaac. This program features the Washington Metropolitan Youth Orchestra, directed by David Weigert. Following the performance, ACS will host its annual silent auction. Visit alexandriachoralsociety.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 19

Discovering Alexandria Architecture Walking Tour. 10 a.m. At Carlyle House Historic Park, Alexandria. Alexandria has grown from a small town in the 18th century to a bustling small city in the 21st century. Join in a tour of Alexandria and explore looking at the various Architecture styles that adorn the city streets and make it one of the best places

to live and work. Reservations are required as space is limited. Please wear comfortable shoes for this 1.5 hour guided tour. Tour is held rain or shine unless there is severe weather. Call 703-549-2997 or email carlyle@nrvpa.org.

MARCH 20, 27

Outlander Tours. 11 a.m. to noon. Celebrate the March premiere of Season 6 of Diana Gabaldon's beloved "Outlander" series with an Outlandish Tour of the Apothecary Museum. Tour this historic apothecary and learn about a few of the herbal medicines—such as cascara and dauco seeds—that were featured in Diana Gabaldon's "Outlander" novels. The tour also touches on the roles of apothecaries and women in medicine in the 18th century. These tours are recommended for people ages 18 and older.

TUESDAY/MARCH 22

Concert for Ukraine Musicians. 5 p.m. 6:30 p.m. At The Rectory on Princess Street, 711 Princess Street, Alexandria. Concert for Ukraine Musicians from the National Symphony Orchestra and Washington National Opera/Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra Zino Bogachev, violin | Natasha Bogachev, violin | Eric DeWaardt, violin | Loewi Lin, cello. The spring season opens with the 100th and 101st concerts in the Secret Garden, offered in solidarity with the courage and resistance of the people of Ukraine. An international tribute featuring Ukrainian, Russian, Dutch and Taiwanese-Canadian musicians performing powerful, inspiring repertoire from Central and Eastern Europe.

MARCH 22 TO APRIL 4

Outer Space. 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. At Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, 105 N Union Street, Alexandria. Extraterrestrials, galaxies, planets, and anything else beyond the

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 13

APPETITE

Off the Menu: Restaurant News and Notes All Along King Street

BY HOPE NELSON
GAZETTE PACKET

As warmer weather takes hold, the streets of Alexandria are coming alive with new growth — and new eateries. Here are three that deserve a housewarming party this month.

Bob and Edith's Diner Opens on King Street

Diner fans, rejoice: The newest outpost of legendary local diner chain Bob and Edith's has opened its doors at 1743 King St. From eggs to omelets to pancakes and waffles, the venerable diner has all your breakfast and brunch needs covered, and then some: Come around later in the day and you'll find a lunch and dinner menu teeming with pork chops, country fried steak, fried chicken, liver and onions and more.

Foxtrot Opens in Old Town

Yearning for a cup of coffee, a grab-and-go snack, 12 ♦ MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE ♦ MARCH 17-23, 2022

a gift or even a libation? Foxtrot, which just opened at 701 King St., is just the place. From the District's Vigilante coffee to an array of avocado toasts, from breakfast tacos to hearty lunchtime bowls, the eatery has offerings for almost any palate (and dietary lifestyle). Come a bit later in the day and enjoy a tasty beer or wine to wash everything down.

Fresh Baguette Opens

There's a new baguette in town! The Fresh Baguette has opened for business at 1101 King St. with plenty of carby goodness just waiting to be brought home. From croissants to quiches to, yes, a vast array of baguettes, the Fresh Baguette has everything you need to add a bread boost to your day.

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



Almond croissant at Fresh Baguette.

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 12

sky are fair game for our artists' creativity. Themed work will be eligible for recognition by the jurors. Non-themed work will also be exhibited.

THURSDAY/MARCH 24

Michele Smith Lecture Series. 7 p.m.
At George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy., Mount Vernon. Presents Bruce Ragsdale Washington at the Plow: The Founding Farmer and the Question of Slavery. George Washington spent more of his life farming than he did at war or holding political office. Learn about Washington's agrarian roots, and his grappling with the practice of slavery as the foundation of the traditional Virginia plantation. Cost: \$60 individual lecture/\$175 series. Discount for members. For more information and to register visit mountvernon.org/michellesmith.

THURSDAY/MARCH 24

Dr. LaNitra Beger on Irma Stern and the Paradox of South African Art. Virtual discussion. Join the Alexandria Community Remembrance Project (ACRP) for a lecture with Dr. LaNitra Berger on South African artist Irma Stern's complex life and work. Dr. Berger will discuss her recently published book, "Irma Stern and the Racial Paradox of South African Modern Art: Audacities of Color," which explores how Stern became South Africa's most prolific and controversial painter. Stern depicted the lives of people who are of black, Jewish and mixed race origins, while maintaining a neutral position on apartheid. A discussion with Rabbi David Spinrad, a member of the ACRP Steering Committee, will follow the lecture. Visit alexandriava.gov/Historic.

MARCH 24-26

Used Book Sale. At Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. Book lovers wait all year for this huge used book sale that fills two buildings. The 2022 sale starts Thursday, March 24, 1 - 5 p.m. and continues Friday, March 25, 12 - 8 p.m. and finishes Saturday, March 26, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Gently used children's books, rare/old books and individually priced books will be in the church building. Books, puzzles, CDs and DVDs will be in the Old Mansion and are priced at \$2 for hardback books, \$1 for large paperbacks, and 50 cents for small paperbacks. Puzzles, CDs and DVDs are \$1 each. Saturday is half price in the Church and \$5 a bag in the Mansion.

SATURDAY/MARCH 26

Civil War Women's Day at Fort Ward. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site, 4301 West Braddock Road, Alexandria. Learn about the dress, skills and contributions of women during the Civil War from historical interpreters who will present on-going talks, displays and demonstrations. Women's roles on the home front, in camp, and on the battlefield will be explored. Among the featured topics will be soldiers' aid societies and relief efforts that were typically launched by women to support both armies during the war. Call 703-746-4848.

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Obituary

Obituary

Orron Eugene Kee December 16, 1935 - March 10, 2022



Orron Eugene Kee, age 86, of Alexandria, VA, passed away on March 10, 2022, after a short battle with cancer. Orron was born on December 16, 1935, in Abilene, Kansas, to Ralph Maynard Kee and Helen Mae Davidson Kee. Orron is survived by his wife of 63 years, Judith Lear Kee (Alexandria, VA), children Brian Kee, Russell Kee (Laurel Janene), Emilie Pade (Bradley) of Springfield, VA, grandchildren Katrina Mueller Liebich (Trent) of Anchorage AK, Jason and Caroline Pade, Edwin and Oscar Lipinskas of Arlington, VA, great-grandchildren McKay and Ragnar Liebich, an aunt and several cousins.

Visitation: Saturday, March 19, 2022, from 4 - 7 pm at Demaine Funeral Home, 520 S. Washington St, Alexandria, VA. Service: Sunday, March 20, 2022 at 1 pm at Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church, 2001 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA, with a commitment at Mount Comfort Cemetery immediately following. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the American Cancer Society, MVPC, or The Little Theatre of Alexandria.

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Nothing Sensational Here

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



Can I admit to a lack of sensation? It might sound a bit odd, but I don't feel like I have cancer. Furthermore, when I go to a medical facility to have one thing or another done, I never feel as if I'm on a slippery slope, health wise. Naively or not, what I most think and feel about whatever procedure or diagnostic scan I'm having or prescription drug I'm ordering, is that I'm at a certain age, over age 65, where some of the parts don't work as well as they used to, and a tune-up, so to speak, is merely the cost of doing business, if you know what I mean? The older one gets, the more difficulties there are getting from here to there – and everywhere in between; with varying hurdles at almost every step (more so if there's a bend-over involved). For some inexplicable reason, I don't see the cancer issue as the extremely serious and complicated problem that it is. I just see it as another day alive and in semi paradise (especially considering my original two-year prognosis).

And though I joke when referring to being in paradise, compared to the "terminal" diagnosis I was initially given by my oncologist, specifically: "13 months to two years," in late February 2009, it's impossible for me to consider any blip on my health radar now as anything but amazing good fortune that I'm still even blipping. As in I'm still alive being able to experience any blips/symptoms. (The presumption being that one doesn't feel symptoms when they're dead, so my thinking is, if I'm still feeling; then I'm still in the game, and it's a game I very much want to continue to play.) Honestly though, none of it really bothers me, too much.

For a while, back in early 2009 when Team Lourie was trying to assimilate the "terminal" diagnosis I received: (stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer), it was difficult to see a future. Heck, it was difficult to see a present – which by the way, had just been taken away. But my attitude then, as it remains so today, is a kind of blissful ignorance while respecting and adhering to the many medical steps I regularly take. I mean it's serious, of course, very serious. Still, I do my best to compartmentalize the bad and try to live my good life going forward; as if nothing has been taken away.

Thinking back, thirteen years ago, when I was initially diagnosed, seems like an eternity, another lifetime, one might say. Considering I'm now living in year 14 after being told I might not make it to year two, and perhaps you can appreciate how little – and even some big things, don't bother me nearly as much as one might imagine. Having dodged a bullet (a hail of bullets, actually), I don't feel as if I'm on shaky ground. Quite the contrary. I feel like I'm on hallowed ground. I've not been to the mountain top or seen a burning bush, but I have lived a life I had no expectation of living.

I may not be "The Iron Horse" (Lou Gehrig), but I feel very fortunate, nonetheless. Life has gone on. Amazing.

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

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NEWS

A Government Divided

FROM PAGE 3

wins. One was from freshman Del. Elizabeth Bennett-Parker (D-45), who successfully passed a bill that expands the ability of local governments to engage in virtual government. Bennett-Parker has been working on this issue since she was vice mayor of the Alexandria City Council, and now she's finally been able to navigate her way through concerns of the Virginia Press Association and the Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council.

"Over the course of the pandemic, when we had virtual meetings, I think we saw a dramatic increase in participation," said Bennett-Parker. "It's important to women and other people who can't be in person all the time."

Her original bill would have allowed city councils and boards of supervisors to meet virtually. But when the bill was under consideration in the Senate, senators stripped out local government bodies that had authority to make binding decisions. So that means boards of zoning appeals or school boards would not be able to meet virtually, but advisory bodies would.

"This does not apply to town councils. This does not apply to school boards," said Sen. Jennifer Boysko (D-33). "This is for boards and commissions that are not elected bodies. And I can tell you from my locality, they've been begging for this. It's hard to get people to agree to serve on some of these boards and commissions and advisory councils."

ANOTHER WIN FOR LAWMAKERS is a bill brought to them by a bipartisan pair of

teenagers. The bill, now on the governor's desk, would create a student advisory board that would present an annual report to the state Board of Education. The legislation was the brainchild of the Virginia Bipartisan Civic Engagement Coalition, a group of high school students who got together and started advocating for the idea.

"We saw decisions made during the covid era where we felt students weren't being very well represented in these discussions, in these conversations," said Matthew Savage, a teenage Democrat who helped create the coalition.

"Therefore you had these people making decisions that impact us more than they do anyone else and we weren't really being involved."

The original idea was to add a non-voting student member to the board of Education. But as the bill moved through the Senate, it changed into a bill creating an advisory body that would make an annual report to the Board of Education.

"We don't want someone to be sitting on the Board of Education just as a resume-builder and not actually represent the students across the commonwealth," said Brady Hillis, a teenage Republican who helped create the coalition. "If there's a group of them that annually report to the Board of Education, the Board of Education is going to hear those concerns and it's going to make more of an impact than just one non-voting student advisor every year that goes to the quarterly meetings of the Board of Education."

Session Ends - Budget Is Pending

FROM PAGE 8

session to subject closed criminal investigations to the Freedom of Information Act. I did not support the underlying bill, but I was put on the conference committee to try to improve it.

I represent many crime victims in my legal practice and can appreciate the sensitivity of opening up closed files to public scrutiny. However, accountability in police shootings and police misconduct can also be achieved with sunlight as we have learned from the Bijan Ghaisar case who was killed in Mount Vernon by the U.S. Park Police. The voices of victims can be heard in record disputes without giving law enforcement complete discretion on

withholding files so I refused to sign the final conference report which passed both chambers on close votes.

The budget is bogged down in a dispute over tax cuts which I do not support. Our February revenue numbers were down compared to 2021 and I am not convinced our rosy economic growth is here to stay, especially with the instability in Ukraine, rising gas prices and inflation. Cutting taxes means fewer revenues to support services people expect from their government. We have many long-ignored needs to fund and reducing revenues will likely continue that neglect. Stay tuned.

I hope you will share your views with me at scott@scottsuovell.org

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 11

day of the month from 9-11 a.m. at Gartlan Center 8119 Holland Road. Mount Vernon At Home is a community Village, providing support, services, and community to seniors in the area. Volunteers are needed for a variety of services, with transportation to medical appointments are greatest need. They can also use help with in-home handyman work and handling IT problems. If you are interested in volunteering, contact us at info@mountvernonathome.org or call 703-303-4060.

Volunteer Advocates for Nursing Home & Assisted Living Residents needed throughout Northern Virginia. Contact the North-

ern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltombudsman/, or email Lisa. Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-324-5861, TTY 711.

Hollin Hall Senior Center is looking for a DJ ballroom and dance instructor. The Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road.

The Mount Vernon Adult Day Health Care Center is looking for social companions for participants on Fridays from 3-5 p.m. and front desk volunteers on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 11 a.m.-noon and 3:30-4:30 p.m. Located at 8350 Richmond Highway. For these and other volunteer opportunities call 703-324-5406 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults.

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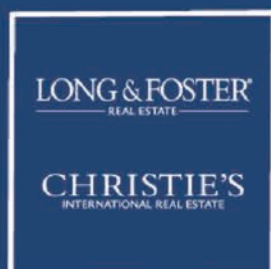


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