Mount Pernon Gazette

Mount Vernon's Hometown Newspaper • A Connection Newspaper

August 4. 2022

VDOT Poised to Put the Brakes On Richmond Highway's Speed

Rush-hour traffic jams or improved roadway safety.

By Mercia Hobson Mount Vernon Gazette

n Fairfax County, a 7.31-mile section of highway from Jeff Todd Way to the I-495/I-95 Capital Beltway ramps could see its speed limit decrease from 45 mph to 35 mph as early as 2023. The Virginia Department of Transportation is nearing completion of the Richmond Highway (Route 1) Speed Limit Study along an approximate eight-mile stretch from Belvoir Road/Meade Road to I-495/I-95. The \$200,000 study, which began in August of 2021, is expected to be completed this summer. Warren Hughes, ATCS, P.L.C. project manager for the study, disclosed the proposals at the second virtual public information meeting to present study recommendations held on July 20, 2022. Hughes said that VDOT would recommend lowering the speed limit to 35 miles per hour from 45 miles per hour on two of the three study sections of Richmond Highway.

THE PUBLIC MEETING incorpo-

Study Location



The area map of the study area by VDOT, presented by Jessica Paris, VDOT project manager for the Richmond Highway Speed Limit Study.

rated multiple recommendations based on the first virtual public information meeting public involvement summary in Study Team's Follow-Up Action. Among the recommendations was one for presenters to use a "more transparent approach to showing calculations," while another suggested presenting "factors other than the

85th percentile speed in developing a recommendation for a speed limit on Richmond Highway," and a final centered on the methodology. "Using real data," would demonstrate how the elements were considered and presented in the study's results.

"Discussions in the study are the core result of the community say-

ing enough deaths, enough harm, enough hurt, if you will, along the corridor, along the highway. We are aware that speed kills," said Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon), who attended the meeting. "We know that this is a way to reduce some of those injuries and some of those deaths by making sure that we have a speed lim-

it that's really proportional to the amount of density and traffic and people and pedestrians and bike riders that are on the road," Storck said.

Supervisor Rodney Lusk (D-Franconia) also attended the meeting. "We want to hear your feedback and make sure we are See Rush-hour, Page 10

Next Steps



Estimated dates for steps 2 through 5 are approximate.

Next steps, as reported from the comment period open through August 1, 2022, until the speed limit goes into effect in early 2023, is reported by Michelle Cavucci, VHB (Vanasse Hangen Brustlin) consultant project manager.



Richmond Highway at the intersection of Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway and Jeff Todd Way.

McEnearney Associates has always had one motto in mind... not to be the biggest, but the best. For more than 40 years, our Associates have lived in and supported Alexandria, helping to build our town into the thriving community it is today. To learn more about our Associates and our firm, visit **www.WeAreAlexandria.com**

#WeAreAlexandria





Villamay | \$1,349,000

With an open floor plan, 3 bedrooms and 2.5 baths, this home boasts unparalleled craftsmanship. Escape to the outside oasis where lounging in the gazebo or taking a dip in the saltwater pool is a relaxing getaway at home! 7210 Burtonwood Drive

Jeffrey Cann 703.717.1932 www.JeffreyCann.com



Virginia Commons | \$538,900

Incredible opportunity for turn-key home with impressive list of updates in highly desirable location. This beautiful, contemporary split-level home boasts the best of traditional and modern living, sitting on 0.23-acre lot backing to trees. 16820 Francis West Ln

Christine Robinson 245.925.7100 www.RobinsonChristine.com



This luxury townhouse features sparkling hardwood flooring and a sun-flooded floor plan emphasize the vast living space. This 4-bedroom, 4.5-bathroom, end unit has gracious space and an enviable location. 1799 Duffield Lane

Janet Caterson Price 703.622.5984 www.JanetPriceHomes.com



The Preston | \$350,000

NEW PRICE! Beautifully maintained, spacious (774-SF), 1-bedroom, 1-bath condo, conveniently located! Open concept floorplan, granite, stainless appliances, garage parking, & fabulous balcony off the bedroom. Amenities include gym & rooftop deck! 181 E Reed Ave #206

Heidi Burkhardt 703.217.6009 www.RealtorHeidiB.com



Old Town | \$819,000

This charming, fully renovated, 2-bedroom plus office/den rowhouse is located in the heart of Old Town Alexandria. The welcoming front porch leads into home featuring a spacious living room, remodeled kitchen and gorgeous patio. 636 N Alfred Street

Lauren Bishop 202.361.5079 www.LaurenBishopHomes.com



Harbor Terrace | \$294,500

Beautifully redone spacious, 1-bedroom residence next to the old Mirant Plant. Updated everything from top-of-the-line black appliances to granite counters to glass backsplash to new light fixtures to custom bath. 1311 Abingdon Drive E #2

Jeffery McGlothlin 703.798.0137 www.Alexandria-Homes.com



River Towers | \$285,000

Boasting amazing parkland views, this rarely available sunny corner unit has 2 bedrooms, 1.5 bathrooms with spacious balcony, a renovated and opened-up kitchen, Pergo floors throughout, refreshed bathrooms and ample storage. 6631 Wakefield Drive #716

Jodie Burns 571.228.5790 www.JodieBurns.com



Serving the Washington, DC Metro Area since 1980. 703.549.9292 | 109 S. Pitt Street | Alexandria, VA 22314 | McEnearney.com











NEWS



PHOTOS COURTESY OF HOLLY SEIBOLD

BRAWS founder Holly Seibold speaking to one of the many subcommittee meetings she's attended over the last six years.



The first year she tried to pass the Dignity Act, lawmakers stripped the word 'dignity' from the title and killed the bill. Later that afternoon she was asked to stand and be recognized from the gallery (upper left) of the House chamber.

Period of Advocacy

Advocates for menstrual equity lost again and again. Until they won.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE GAZETTE PACKET

choolhouse Rock makes it sound so easy. But Holly Seibold knows the reality of getting an idea to become a law is a lot more complicated than the celebrated 1976 song. It took her six years to persuade lawmakers to ditch the sales tax on menstrual products. But finally with a little luck and help from a Republican campaign promise — she was able to achieve her goal.

"It's important to never give up," said Seibold, who says her success offers an object lesson for anyone who has an idea for legislation."Pivot. Tailor it to who is in the majority. Try to get what you can, and don't give up."

It all started back in 2015, she read an article in the Huffington Post about how a New York nonprofit organization provided suits to unemployed women for job interviews. It made her wonder about women who needed bras and menstrual supplies, especially in homeless shelters. So she looked around for an organization in Northern Virginia that could help offer supplies to women in need. She couldn't find one, so she created her

Before long, she had a nonprofit organization called Bringing Resources to Aid Women's Shelters. The name was a "backronym" designed so that BRAWS became the cheeky name of the organization. With the new organizational backing, she was able to scale up the operation receiving more donations and distributing more supplies.

Meanwhile, she started pressing lawmakers to eliminate the 6 percent sales tax on pads and tampons. In January 2017, she took her concerns to the legislative hearing of the Fairfax delegation.

"There was a moment during Seibold's allotted three-minute speech where both audience and delegation seemed a bit taken aback by a public discussion about women's www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



Jennifer Boysko

menstrual cycles and the products they need during those days," wrote Andrea Worker in the Vienna Connection at the time. "Despite any initial discomfort, at the conclusion of her remarks, Siebold returned to her seat to rousing applause."

AFTER THE APPLAUSE died down, Seibold confronted the stark reality of making legislation happen. She met with Del. Mark Keam (D-35), but he told her he had already tried and failed to eliminate the sales tax on menstrual products. Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) told her he was sympathetic, but he added that he disagreed with the approach of eliminating the tax for all taxpayers without some sort of means test to identify people harmed by it. Eventually, she connected with state Sen. Jennifer Boysko (D-33), who was in the House of Delegates at the time.

Boysko and Seibold started strategizing about the best way to make an argument before Republicans who control the subcommittees they would need to win over. They determined that they would try to avoid dis-



CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

The Vienna Connection helped Holly Seibold put pressure on lawmakers to take action, in this case in 2017.

"I was determined to keep fighting and not give up."

— Holly Seibold, founder of the nonprofit Bringing Resources to Aid Women's Shelters

cussion of menstruation by calling the bill the "Dignity Act." So finally the day arrived, and Seibold set out for Richmond before sunrise with a copy of her prepared remarks and a sense of hopefulness that lawmakers would see the wisdom in ditching the tam-

"There was one amendment made to that bill. It was to strip the name the Dignity Act from the bill," recalled Boysko. "And then they killed it."

Siebold was bitterly disappointed. But Boysko invited Seibold to the gallery of

the House of Delegates, where members applauded as she stood to be recognized. Despite the setback, she was determined to keep pressing lawmakers, and the next year she was back at it. This time, she decided to take on an additional fight - making sure pads and tampons are available at jails and prisons. Del. Kay Kory (D-38) introduced a bill that shined a spotlight on the lack of access, and the Department of Corrections announced it would start providing pads and tampons to women at no cost.

"Public shaming works sometimes," concluded Kory after the bill passed. "I'll have to do it more often."

Once again, Boysko's bill to eliminate the sales tax was blocked, But Seibold was determined to try again next year. When lawmakers convened for the next General Assembly session, she was also advocating for menstrual supplies to be in public school bathrooms so students wouldn't be forced to miss class because they are menstruating. To help make the case, she brought students to Richmond to testify in subcommittee meetings where lawmakers were considering the

legislation.

"I got my period in the middle of a standardized test in ninth grade, and there wasn't anything I could do because there weren't any products in the bathroom for me to use," said Evie Garces-Foley,

a high school student in Falls Church. "And I couldn't ask a friend because everyone was testing. So I kind of just sat there miserable."

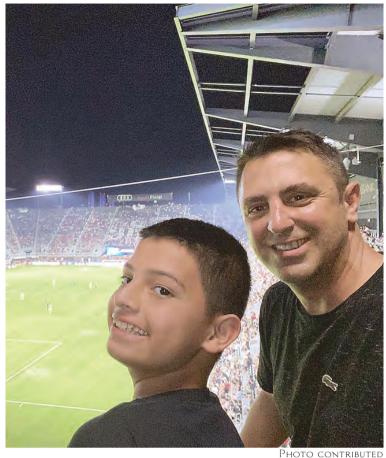
The bill requiring school systems to take action was an unfunded mandate, which meant that lawmakers didn't set any money aside to make it happen. Nevertheless, it was yet another partial victory for the cause. And Seibold was determined to keep trying. And then she received help from an unexpected source. Republican candidate for governor Glenn Youngkin campaigned on a platform of eliminating the grocery tax. After the elec-

SEE ADVOCACY, PAGE 14

News



Kristina Campbell with her daughter she adopted in 2019.



Justin and Russell Barczyk at a game.



Jean, 13, an active leader, says she's very proud of her sister and herself. She says, "I want to be a police officer." Krista, 11, a "girly girl" who "genuinely loves to learn," says, "I am calm, obedient, pretty, and chill." She wants to be a teacher. www. kidsave.org/kids-galleries/

These Children Need You

Colombian orphans vacation locally, dream of connections to their future families.

By Mercia Hobson GAZETTE PACKET

Kidsave changed the names of the children eligible for adoption for security reasons.

rphans from Colombia eight years old and over are frequently ignored and have little chance of growing up in a family. They need champions to change their lives or face aging out of care alone. This summer, eight families from Northern Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia, including Russell Barczyk and his wife Brigitte Miller of Alexandria, are hosting older orphans eligible for adoption from Colombia for five weeks, through Aug. 8.

They are part of the Kidsave Summer Miracles program. The youth and teens are experiencing life in a U.S. family. For some, it will be the connection to their lasting, caring family.

"My wife and I started looking into consultations with different adoption agencies and available options. We heard about Kidsave (and) the program they have with kids in Colombia," Barczyk said. He explained that 43 Colombian children are spending the summer in the United States, primarily in the Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, and Chicago areas. Eight families in the greater Washington, D.C. area care for nine children, including two sisters. The profiles of all 43 children are available on the Kidsave website.

Host families provide children eligible for adoption the opportunity to spend summer vacations in the United States. While some families will adopt the children they are hosting, other families will become lifelong advocates and others will help the children find their permanent, loving families. According to the nonprofit's website, approximately 80 percent of the children who have participated in the Summer Miracles program since its inception were matched for adoption.

The Kidsave DC Summer Miracles Cookie Decorating event was held at the Jane E. Lawton Community Rec Center in Chevy Chase, Md. on Sunday, July 31. Approximately 40 people, including families interested in adoption, future hosts, current hosts, and orphans from Colombia, were present. Most children engaged in the activity, with Spanish words and much laughter filling the room. For others, especially the hosts and families who adopted years ago, and others, it was an opportunity to talk and compare experiences.

Kristina Campbell was there with her teenage daughter from Colombia, who participated in the LA Kidsave program three years ago. When asked what she liked most about her mother, Kristina's daughter said, "It is the fact that she is my mom." According to Campbell, her daughter learned she would be adopted a few days after returning to Colombia from a Kidsave Los Angeles program. Campbell said the adoption process



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE GAZETTE

Summer gallery of the Summer Miracles' Kidsave photolistings of children currently available for adoption visiting the D.C. Metro area. www.kidsave.org/kids-galleries/

takes between nine and twelve months.

Beth Dresing is a 10-year Kidsave volunteer, co-chair of the D.C. Metro Summer Miracles board of trustees, a host, and, most importantly, the mother of a son she adopted in 2011. Dresing said he was short and unable to jump hurdles during high school track and field successfully, so he tried out for dance instead. Her son is now a senior in college, majoring in dance and excelling at it.

Barczyk said Justin, age 12, who he and his wife are hosting, enjoys drawing, reading, cooking, watching movies, and listening to Colombian music. According to his online profile, "Justin loves soccer and dreams of traveling to Brazil, specifically to visit their soccer stadiums.... Until then, he's happy to play soccer with his friends—and potentially with his dream family."

Learn more about becoming a Kidsave Visiting Family this summer or view the Summer Miracles Adoption Gallery with profiles and videos of youth currently available for adoption or hosting at - https://www.kidsave.org/kids-galleries/.

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

News









Shopping around for gas in Mount Vernon saves drivers a few bucks. This is a price check on Sunday, July 31, 2022.

Gas Prices Still Steep; Does It Pay to Shop Around?

Prices down from a few weeks ago.

By Mike Salmon The Gazette

as isn't in the \$6 range like it was a few weeks ago, but the price is still up there making drivers queasy when filling up. Around Mount Vernon, it pays to shop around though.

According to AAA, the national average for a gallon of regular gasoline has fallen eight cents since last week to \$4.27. On Richmond Highway, there were no stations selling it for that low though, but the price was nearly that low at another station in the Mount Vernon District away from Richmond Highway.

It could be like real estate, with location being a big factor. The top price per gallon was at a station at the Belle View Shopping Center, convenient to residents in that area or coming off the George Washington Parkway. Prices along Richmond Highway were a little better, but the best was in the Island Creek area off Telegraph Road.

According to Morgan Dean at AAA Mid-Atlantic, location does make a difference for the price of gas. "Gas prices along the interstates are usually more expensive than gas a few miles away," Dean said. "Part of that can be attributed to the higher price of paying for that real estate (purchased or leased) right at the interstate offering a driver the www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

convenience of off and on service, versus something a few miles away on a secondary road that's less expensive real estate, but a longer drive away from the interstate," Dean said.

There are other factors that could impact the price like the proximity of other stations for one. Does a station own the land? Do they lease it? Are they part of a chain? Are they a station that also has a convenience store in hopes that a driver filling up will come inside the store and buy coffee or a snack and other products that have a higher profit margin?

Since Thursday, July 21, AAA reports that 10 states have seen the largest decreases in their averages: Kansas (-26 cents), Oklahoma (-25 cents), Nebraska (-25 cents), Iowa (-23 cents), Ohio (-23 cents), Wyoming (-21 cents), Indiana (-21 cents), Colorado (-21 cents), Michigan (-21 cents) and South Dakota (-20 cents).

Virginia didn't make the list.

AAA also reported that crude prices have declined as the market continues to worry that weakening demand, which was expected to remain robust throughout the summer, could continue to push prices lower. On the per-state price list, AAA reported the price for a gallon of regular unleaded gas in Virginia is \$3.99 but that low price is in other locations in the state, but not Northern Virginia.

In California, gas was listed as \$5.61 per gallon, but the AAA gas ticker, which changes daily, reported the national average for 7/31/22 was \$4.22.



OVER 40 BOUTIQUES



OPINION

Pride, History for BRT

To the Editor:

What's in a location and name? Pride and History!

Now is the time for Fairfax County to switch locations and slightly rename two BRT stations: Hybla Valley and Gum Springs.

Gum Springs is at both entrances/exits for two proposed BRT stations.

 Hybla Valley BRT station is proposed at Richmond Highway & Fordson Road, which is the most

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

recognized and used main entrance/exit into Gum Springs. Gum Springs was founded 189

years ago during 1833 by a freed slave named West Ford. Fordson Road is named after West Ford. This station should be slightly renamed Hybla Valley/Gum Springs and relocated at Richmond Highway & Sherwood Hall Lane.

❖ Gum Springs BRT station is proposed at Richmond Highway & Sherwood Hall Lane. Sherwood Hall Lane is named after a white family. This station should be slightly renamed Gum Springs/ West Ford and relocated at Richmond Highway and Fordson Road.

The slight renaming of the BRT stations at Gum Springs two entrances/exits are not usual. For example, Falls Church has two stations on the Metro orange line: 1) East Falls Church and 2) West Falls Church.

The switching of locations and slightly renaming supports way-finding navigation. For example, Fairfax County recently renamed an entire magisterial district from Lee to Franconia because that district's name was associated with the confederacy and slavery. Afterwards, the newest Franconia community center was renamed from Lee District Community Center to Hybla Valley Community for the same reasons.

Without the renaming and relocation, visiting the Hybla Valley Community Center, would create confusion for visitors by exiting the Hybla Valley BRT station that is currently proposed at Richmond Highway and Fordson Road and walking an extra mile only to learn that the better exit would have been the BRT station proposed at Richmond Highway & Sherwood Hall Lane, currently named Gum Springs.

Also, a planned marketing walking tour of Gum Springs begins at Richmond Highway and Fordson Road because its historical markers are along Fordson Road — not Sherwood Hall Lane. Current and proposed historic markers along Fordson Road include Annie Harper (approved by Virginia Department of Historic Resources but not yet erected), Woodlawn Methodist Church, Pride of Fairfax, Bethlehem Baptist Church and a newly approved DHR historical marker for West Ford.

The Hybla Valley and Gum Springs BRT station names, and locations are currently misplaced that affects Gum Springs history, cultural and wayfinding navigation.

Likewise, station names are tantamount to its community. So, why is Huntley House attached to the Hybla Valley BRT station, currently proposed at the entrance of the Gum Springs BRT station, when it is more in alignment with the Lockheed Boulevard BRT station that includes Huntley Meadows? Why should the cultural theme at Hybla Valley BRT station, which is the currently proposed theme at the main entrance into Gum Springs about retail and not the history of Gum Springs?

There really should not be a survey on a theme for the BRT stations at the entrances/exits of Gum Springs. As the oldest African American community in Fairfax County, Gum Springs has an established history and its community has a theme!

Queenie Cox esident, NGSCA

President, NGSCA www.ngsca.org Alexandria

Virginia is Blowing in the Wind...with Clean Energy

By Delegates Mark Sickles and Paul Krizek

hat can we do in Virginia to reduce greenhouse gasses and slow the warming of the planet? Imagine almost two hundred structures each one-third taller than the Washington Monument so far from shore that you can only see them on a clear day with binoculars, and in water over a hundred feet

OPINION

deep, using the strong headwinds over the Atlantic Ocean to create enough energy to

power as many homes as we have here in Fairfax County plus another 220,000 homes!

This will soon become reality because the General Assembly passed the Virginia Clean Economy Act (VCEA) in 2020 under Democratic leadership. The current initiative may be only the beginning as there are six more off-shore wind farm sites under review. It won't be long before wind is one of the biggest producers of energy in the Commonwealth, and Hampton Roads could be the clean energy hub for the East Coast.

The two of us, your Mount Vernon and Franconia area Delegates, are committed to this major transition to renewable energy. The VCEA requires Dominion Energy

Virginia and Appalachian Electric Power to completely transition from carbon-emitting carbon fuels to 100 percent renewable energy sources by 2045 and 2050, respec-

Furthermore, in separate legislation, Virginia became a member of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), the first southern state to join. RGGI sets a carbon emissions cap for power companies and charges them for the carbon they emit. The revenue collected is used to address climate change through low-income energy efficiency programs and flood protection efforts, which are especially critical considering the recent horrific floods in Buchanan County in the far southwest of Virginia. These recent General Assembly initiatives are major drivers for the transition to cleaner sources of energy, such as wind and solar. Though Governor Youngkin has threatened to leave RGGI, he has not identified an alternative source of funds to undertake these climate change mitigation investments. His recent anti-RGGI executive order is a statement of intent he cannot act to dismantle the effort without legislation.

In addition to Dominion's plan to reach carbon neutrality in Virginia by 2045, the energy company has promised to reach net-zero carbon and methane emissions in all sixteen states it serves by 2050, meaning that much of it will be accomplished far sooner, which is essential to our survival due to the destruction wrought by climate change.

Currently, there are two smaller test-pilot wind turbines in place which consistently have surpassed capacity factor expectations and can serve up to 3,000 homes at peak. Each turbine's height is 620 feet. The rest of the upcoming project includes 176 wind turbines in about a 113,000-acre matrix, located 27 miles east off the shore of Virginia Beach, far past where almost all birds fly and way beyond

the view shed from Virginia Beach. The matrix location is cost-effective, avoids blocking major sea vessel routes, and minimizes damage to the turbines and the environment through lessons learned with Europe's robust off-shore program. This is an approach to protecting all the aquatic species and essential fish habitat. The plan calls for halting all work on the construction for five months to avoid interference with the migration of right whales. The turbine infrastructure will power up to 660,000 homes after completion providing power to almost 25% of the homes Dominion serves in Virginia. Do-SEE VIRGINIA IS, 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.

Letters are routinely edited for length, libel, grammar,

good taste, civility and factual errors.

Send letters

Online www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter/ By email: editors@connectionnewspapers.com

By mail to: Letters to the Editor The Connection 1606 King St., Alexandria VA 22314

You can comment on our Facebook page or find us on Twitter

www.facebook.com/connectionnewspapers https://twitter.com/alexgazette https://twitter.com/mtvernongazette https://twitter.com/followfairfax

Never miss an issue, get a free digital subscription, http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe/

Mount Vernon Gazette

www.MountVernonGazette.com

Twitter @MtVernonGazette

An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Free digital edition delivered to your email box. Go to connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

NEWS DEPARTMENT: gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Mary Kimm

Editor and Publisher

Jeanne Theismann

 $jthe is mann @ connection new spapers. com \\ @ \textit{The is mann Media} \\$

Mercia Hobson

Staff Reporter mhobson@connectionnewspapers.com

Mike Salmon

Contributing Writer salmon@connectionnewspapers.com

Ken Moore
Contributing Writer
kmoore@connectionnewspapers.com

ADVERTISING:

For advertising information sales@connectionnewspapers.com 703-778-9431

Debbie Funk

Display Advertising/National Sales 703-778-9444 debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

geomeeromewsp

Helen WalutesDisplay Advertising, 703-778-9410
hwalutes@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin

Marketing Assistant 703-778-9431 dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Classified & Employment Advertising

703-778-9431

Publisher

Jerry Vernon 703-549-0004 jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher

Mary Kimm mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com @MaryKimm

Art/Design:

Production Manager:
Geovani Flores

CIRCULATION

Circulation Manager: Ann Oliver

circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

A Connection Newspaper



6 Mount Vernon Gazette August 4-10, 2022

OPINION

Working for a Safer, More Efficient Transportation System

BY SEN. SCOTT SUROVELL

his is an update on several important transportation projects underway in our area, including the U.S. 1 Speed Study, undergrounding utilities on U.S. 1, the I-495 Southside Express Lanes Study, and the Youngkin Administration's reallocation of transit funds.

Since 2017, we have seen the following on U.S. 1 in Fairfax County:

- **❖** 1,785 crashes
- **❖** 1,185 injuries
- ❖ 15 deaths

The per-lane-miles-traveled accident rate between Fort Belvoir and Hybla Valley is 70% higher than the Virginia and Fairfax County averages. From Hybla Valley to Alexandria it is 40% higher. These are troubling numbers. The \$800 million widening of U.S. 1 and construction of bus rapid transit will bring significant safety improvements and is being engineered with lane widths assuming a 35 MPH speed limit.

Last week, the Virginia Depart-



Surovell

Transportation (VDOT) held a public hearing to announce the preliminary results of its study to lower the 1 during the today and the

ment

speed limit on U.S. 1 during the eight years between today and the completion of U.S. 1 construction. VDOT's study showed that a 35 MPH speed limit would significantly improve safety and reduce a driver's travel time on the seven-mile stretch by only 90 seconds. VDOT is taking public comments on its website before finalizing its recommendation.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors recently had their first public discussion on undergrounding utilities on U.S. 1 as part of the widening plans and examined a new utility fee to pay for the undergrounding, an outgrowth of legislation I carried in 2017 and 2019. Over 450 Mount Vernon residents signed the petition

I circulated with Del. Paul Krizek requesting County action. County staff expressed concern that undergrounding utilities could jeopardize funding from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). It is not clear to me why that concern is only now being raised since this discussion has been ongoing for over five years, but I am hopeful that Congressman Don Beyer and Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine can work out a solution with the FTA

VDOT has also begun a study of adding express toll lanes on I-495 from the Springfield "Mixing Bowl" to Prince George's County, Maryland. When the Woodrow Wilson Bridge expansion was finalized in 2005, the extra capacity on the bridge was expressly reserved for transit, including rail. I have serious concerns that toll lanes would permanently eliminate the possibility of rail on the bridge and cannot be accomplished without reducing the current toll-less access on the bridge's existing ten lanes. Additional vehicle capacity creates

SEE WORKING FOR, PAGE 14



ART + WINE + CHEESE

EVERY THURSDAY, 6-7:30 PM

AUGUST 4 - ANNE MEAGHER-COOK

Anne often paints "en plein air" which means she brings all that is required with her outside to paint in the elements. It is a unique and organic art form and Anne will share her gear and delight us with a demo of the "en plein air" process.

AUGUST 11 - STUDENT ART ANTHOLOGY

THE EXHIBIT FEATURES 15 WORKS FROM LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENTS, SELECTED BY OUR NEPENTHE CURATORS. WE RECEIVED DOZENS OF ENTRIES AND WE INVITE YOU TO COME SEE OUR 15 FAVORITES!

AUGUST 18

NEPENTHE GALLERY WILL BE CLOSED FROM AUGUST 14-AUGUST 22.

SEE YOU NEXT WEEK!

AUGUST 25 - DISCOVER OR RE-DISCOVER
THE WORKS OF ANN SKLAR

Ann's modern landscapes are just what you need to stock up on before summer comes to an end.....they will all be on display and one lucky guest this evening will take home Ann's perfectly adorable "Daylight."

DON'T MISS

"Designers and Decorators" Monthly Coffee Tuesday, August 30, 9-11 am

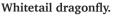
COME "BEFORE HOURS" TO SEE THE LATEST WORKS AT NEPENTHE AND LEARN ABOUT TRADE DISCOUNTS, FRAMING, CUSTOM MIRRORS AND FREE DELIVERY FOR YOU AND/OR YOUR CLIENTS!



NEPENTHE GALLERY

7918 FORT HUNT ROAD, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22308 ART GALLERY & CUSTOM FRAME SHOP

Butterflies Delight Fans on Dyke Marsh Walk





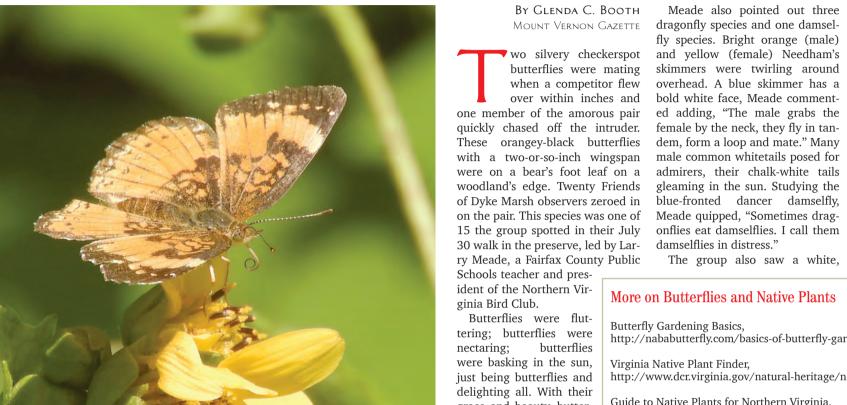
Needham's skimmer dragonfly female.











over within inches and one member of the amorous pair quickly chased off the intruder. female by the neck, they fly in tan-These orangey-black butterflies dem, form a loop and mate." Many from the wind and predators. with a two-or-so-inch wingspan were on a bear's foot leaf on a admirers, their chalk-white tails woodland's edge. Twenty Friends of Dyke Marsh observers zeroed in on the pair. This species was one of Meade quipped, "Sometimes drag-15 the group spotted in their July 30 walk in the preserve, led by Larry Meade, a Fairfax County Public

grace and beauty, butterflies have long fascinated people. In many cultures, they symbolize the human soul.

Zabulon skippers dart around like "little fighter planes," said Meeastern tiger swallowtails, Virginia's state insect. Males are yellow with black stripes. Females can be yellow or black. These are considered to be large butterflies, with a wingspan of three to five-and-ahalf inches. Some soared high into the leafy trees. Their name comes from the tail-like extensions on

each hindwing. One had lost a tail. Among other species, the group saw silver-spotted skippers, gray hairstreaks, a red-spotted purple, dusky wing and a monarch.

MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE dragonfly species and one damselfly species. Bright orange (male) wo silvery checkerspot and yellow (female) Needham's plants on which they lay eggs and butterflies were mating skimmers were twirling around caterpillars feed, plants on which when a competitor flew overhead. A blue skimmer has a adults nectar and for some, like bold white face. Meade comment- mourning cloaks, leaves and wood ed adding, "The male grabs the for overwintering. Trees and shrubs male common whitetails posed for gleaming in the sun. Studying the blue-fronted dancer damselfly, onflies eat damselflies. I call them damselflies in distress."

The group also saw a white, eggs and creating a new generation

More on Butterflies and Native Plants

Butterfly Gardening Basics, http://nababutterfly.com/basics-of-butterfly-gardening/

Virginia Native Plant Finder, http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/native-plants-finder

Guide to Native Plants for Northern Virginia, https://www.plantnovanatives.org/

Pollinator Gardening, www.xerces.org/bringbackthepollinators

cottony tussock moth caterpillar. as "butterfly-friendly," experts rec-Butterflies have a knob or rounded ade. Especially dramatic were the club on their antennae, Meade, explained. Moths do not. Both are in the order Lepidoptera.

Supporting Butterflies

A butterfly goes through four stages: egg, caterpillar, pupa and adult. They need what are called their eggs on specific plants so that their caterpillars can eat the plant before forming its chrysalis. A wellknown example is the monarch butterfly. The monarch's caterpilan Appalachian brown, a Horace's lar feeds exclusively on milkweed

"host plants." Many species lay to a multi-acre field. NABA has

your goal," advises the North American Butterfly Association's (NABA) website. Because

of butterflies, is

Different species need different

plants. People can help butterflies

Regionally native plants are by

far more supportive of insects than

non-natives because the insects

co-evolved with these plants. "Se-

lecting plants that will feed butter-

flies while also encouraging them

to stick around for a while, laying

by providing what they need -

most retailers do not label plants as native or non-native and may mislabel plants

ommend researching plants before shopping. "You will find very few species of butterflies on large, manicured lawns - these are essentially biological deserts," says Jeffrey Glassberg in Butterflies through

A butterfly-friendly garden can be any size, from a window box regional garden guides to help people choose suitable plants. The Friends of Dyke Marsh prepared a butterfly checklist that also provides the host plant for each species. Visit https://www.fodm.org/ images/Butterfly.pdf.





Zabulon skipper. 8 Mount Vernon Gazette August 4-10, 2022



Mating Pearl Crescent butterflies.



www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Silver spotted skipper.



Horace's duskywing butterfly. www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



Gray hairstreak butterfly



Appalachian brown butterfly.

Rush-hour Traffic Jams or Improved Roadway Safety

From Page

weighing that in our final decisions," Lusk said. In the ten days following the meeting and through Aug. 1, VDOT sought additional feedback via email and mail. According to reports, the proposed changes would increase highway, pedestrian, and bicycle safety and make existing traffic operations more transit friendly.

Personnel from VDOT and the Fairfax County Department of Transportation and consulting team members presented. Neil Freschman, chief of the FCDOT's traffic engineering section, examined corridor improvement topics outside the scope of the Speed Limit Study.

Freschman said that restructuring the Embark Richmond Highway Comprehensive Plan resulted in significant urbanization-related changes to the Richmond Highway Comprehensive Plan. According to Freschman, they collaborated with all communities, particularly underserved ones, to increase safety. In the past two decades, a total of \$500 million has been invested in pedestrian improvements along Richmond Highway. They include signal timing, crosswalk marking, and signage upgrades at 20 intersections. A "Leading Pedestrian Interval" gives pedestrians a 3-7-second head start at certain intersections. It increases the visibility of pedestrians at the intersection and makes it clear that pedestrians have priority over turning vehicles. "The treatment has demonstrated a 14 percent reduction in pedestrian-vehicle crashes at intersections," Freschman said. "This speed limit study will complement those improvements by confirming we have the optimal speed limit in place that considers the needs of all users on the corridor," he added.

According to Freschman, two major corridor projects are in the design phase for Richmond Highway. Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), a high-quality public transportation system, will be in the designated center median width of Richmond Highway. It will operate similarly to rail service but will utilize buses and is expected to launch in 2023. The second project, the VDOT "Richmond Highway Improvements Project," is scheduled to be completed in 2029.It focuses on Richmond Highway between Jeff Todd Way/Mount Vernon Memorial Highway and Sherwood Hall Lane. It will increase the number of lanes on Richmond Highway from four to six, improve crossings, make cycling and walking more accessible, and maintain the width of the median so it can be

Richmond Highway between Jeff Todd Way & Buckman Road/Mt. Vernon Highway



used for future bus rapid transit.

According to Jessica Paris, proj-

ect manager for VDOT, the speed

limit study's recommendations are

based on current conditions rath-

er than on anticipated or planned

projects along the corridor. Nu-

merous issues have been brought

up, including the number of colli-

sions, how development is chang-

ing, and how simple it is to access

this corridor section. The analysis

of the study was based on current

conditions and 2019 VDOT statis-

tics, which indicate that within the

study's boundaries, the Richmond

Highway (Route 1) is used by

BASED ON 2016-2020 CRASH

DATA, Hughes discussed speed

limit study recommendations for

three adjacent sections of Rich-

mond Highway. The study focused

on seven data collection locations.

The maximum speed at which fifty

percent of vehicles travel was dis-

played. At all points except one,

the majority of drivers were below

Hughes noted that VDOT is like-

ly to recommend maintaining the

current 45 mile per hour speed

limit on the portion of Richmond

Highway between Belvoir Road

and Jeff Todd Way. It has three

lanes in each direction, a grass me-

dian, limited signal access points,

and a shared-use path, all consti-

tuting a "good design." Its 78 per

100,000,000 vehicle miles accident

VDOT WILL RECOMMEND low-

ering the speed limit on the sec-

rate was deemed "relatively low."

the 45 mph speed limit.

about 55,000 vehicles daily.

Two travel lanes in each directionVarying median:

None

Painted transitions for turn lanes

Two-way center left-turn only lane
Observed speeds:

50th percentile: 42.4, 38.8 & 40.8 mph

85th percentile = 49.1, 45.7 & 48.8 mph
 High crash rate (216.6 crashes / 100

Million Vehicle Miles)

Statewide Primary Highway

Average Crash Rate = 124.2

VDOT NoVA District Average

Crash Rate = 125.9

Richmond Highway between Jeff Todd Way and Buckman Road/Mt. Vernon Highway reports a high crash rate and could see a 35 mph speed limit as early as 2023



Richmond Highway's existing posted speed limit is 45 mph

Speed Limit Study - Speed Data

Data Collection Location	50th % Speed (MPH)	85th % Speed (MPH)	AADT (Veh/Day)
Site 1 – Adjacent to Spring Hill Suites	40.8	48.8	47,069
Site 2 – Adjacent to Wingstop Driveway	38.5	46.8	52,319
Site 3 – 150' South of Belvoir Drive	37.7	44.8	50,299
Site 4 – 300' East of Radford Avenue	39.5	46.8	35,910
Site 5 – Between Highland Lane and Engleside Street	38.8	45.7	36,504
Site 6 – 1,000' East of Jeff Todd Way	42.4	49.1	34,028
Site 7 - 1,000' West of Jeff Todd Way	45.1	52.2	43,545

Warren Hughes presents Speed Limit Study, Speed Data on U.S. Route 1. The annual average daily traffic, the total volume of vehicle traffic on a highway or road for a year divided by 365 days, is abbreviated as AADT.

Speed Limit Study - Recommendations

Section	Length (miles)	Current Speed Limit (mph)	Recommended Speed Limit (mph)
From Belvoir Road to Jeff Todd Way	0.72	45	45
From Jeff Todd Way to I-495 / I-95 (Capital Beltway)	7.31	45	35

Highway south of Belvoir Road would be maintained at 45 mph

Speed limit on Richmond

Maintain 45 MPH

MEADE RO

RICHMOND HWY

RICHMOND HWY

MEADE RO

MEMORIAL INT

Speed limit recommendations along the Richmond Highway Study Area as reported by Warren Hughes, ATCS, Speed Limit Study Manager.

Speed-Related Crashes

Speed Limit Study – Crash Data (2016 – 2020)

Crash Type

○ Pedes trian Accide

△ Bicy cle Accident

Crash types

Pedestrian & Bicycle Crashes

Crash Type

♦ Speeding Accident W

Fatal Injury Crash
Severe Injury Crash
Visible Injury Crash
Non-Visible Injury Crash
Property Damage Only Crash

ond and third study sections of Richmond Highway to 35 miles per hour. The second segment is

per hour. The second segment is between Jeff Todd Way and Buckman Road/Mount Vernon Highway. Hughes said its 216.6 crashes per 100 million vehicle miles is a "relatively high" crash rate. There are two lanes in each direction, nu-

merous driveways, bus stops, and SEE RUSH-HOUR, PAGE 13

BULLETIN BOARD

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

GrandInvolve Seeks Volunteers. Would you like a unique and interesting volunteer experience to make a difference in a school, classroom, or in one child's life? GrandInvolve.org facilitates rewarding, flexible adult volunteer opportunities at Fairfax County Title I elementary schools, providing classroom assistance with math, reading, and other simple educational tasks. Visit www.GrandInvolve.org/volunteer-with-us for details and to complete an interest form. Or email info@grandinvolve.

CELEBRATE NATIONAL FARM-ERS MARKET WEEK, AUG. 7-13

Fairfax County Farmers Markets will join farmers markets across the nation in celebration of National Farmers Market Week, August 7-13. Farmers Market Week highlights the role of farmers markets in supporting healthy communities, stimulating local economies, and supporting local farmers. The mission of the Fairfax County Farmers Markets is to provide residents access to locally grown products and create market opportunities for area farmers and food producers.

Visit each of the 10 farmers markets August 7-13 to support local farmers and businesses, learn how to prepare fresh ingredients at our cooking demonstrations, participate in fun and educational activities, listen to live music, and enjoy delicious foods from local producers. Farmers Market Week is also Bike to Market Week in Fairfax County. We invite you to bike to your local Fairfax County farmers market. To find a safe route, see the Fairfax County Bicycle Map. While you're at the market, stop by the Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling (FABB) table to learn about safe biking strategies and more.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) EBT cards can be used at select Fairfax County Farmers Markets. Thanks to partnerships with Virginia Fresh Match, FRESH-FARM, Cornerstones, Arcadia and Britepaths, you can use your EBT card at the McCutcheon/Mount Vernon, Annandale, Reston and Lorton Farmers Markets.

Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ farmersmarkets/farmers-market-week for the Farmers Market Week schedule and list of activities.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

STEM VOLUNTEERS. The American 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.





www.connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

Same Company, Same Employees, Same Great Value - Now Celebrating 20 Years!

TWO POOR TEACHERS

Kitchen and Bathroom Remodeling





- Electrical (ELE)
- Gas Fitting (GFC)
- Heating Ventilation and Air **Conditioning (HVA)**
- Plumbing (PLB)
- Residential Building (RBC)

Fully Insured & Class A Licensed Since 1999





Free Estimates

703-999-2929

Check if your contractor is licensed at the state level http://www.DPOR.virginia.gov

Visit our website: www.twopoorteachers.com

We Reach Your Markets! Email Blasts • Digital Billboards • Website Videos clusive Front Page Shoutout • Digital Edition Subscribers • Print Edition Readers • Sponsored Content ALMANAC



For Advertising:

PRINT

Call: 703-778-9431

Email: advertising@connectionnewspapers.com

🥁 DIGITAL 🛮 😉 SOCIAL

ENTERTAINMENT

4 Dates to Circle in August

BY HOPE NELSON GAZETTE PACKET

appy hours, dumpling-making, international cuisine and a favorite annual tradition: August is packed with dates any foodie will love. Here are some of your best bets for the month.

Happy Hour on the Plaza, Aug. 12

Kick off the weekend at Canal Center Plaza with live music, food trucks, lawn games and of course some frosty bever-

APPETITE

ages. Featuring live music by Eli Cook and beers from One Family Brewing, the evening will certainly have

a festive tone. Eat, drink, maybe dance a bit and celebrate the start of a new weekend. 4-9 p.m. Canal Center Plaza.

Asian Dumpling Cooking Class, Aug. 17

Port City Brewing: It's not just for beer anymore! This month the brewery plays host to "Become an Asian Dumpling Artisan," a class that walks students through the ins and outs of a good dumpling. Learn how to make a good dumpling dough, how to prepare the vegetable filling and how to sear and pan-fry in this two-hour course. 7 p.m. 3950 Wheeler Ave. \$55.



Happy Hour on the Plaza

Alexandria Summer Restaurant Week, Aug. 19-28

It's back! One of the cornerstones of the city's culinary calendar, Alexandria Summer Restaurant Week has returned for another season. For 10 days in August, diners can choose from \$25, \$35 and \$45 prix-fixe menus at restaurants across all the city's neighborhoods, with cuisines ranging from Cajun to steak, Italian to sushi. Pro tip: Make reservations to your favorite spots early; seats often fill up.

Around the World Cultural Food Festival, Aug. 27

Leave your passport at home while you sample food and drink from far-flung international lands. Oronoco Bay Park plays host to the event this year, which will include restaurant representatives from Laos, Italy, Turkey, Jamaica, Ecuador and many more countries. Nosh on some international delicacies and then take a break to watch the featured dance and musical performances take the stage. Vendors will be on hand to sell their crafts and gifts (holiday shopping, anyone?). 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Oronoco Bay Park. Free.

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

CALENDAR

PHOTO CONTEST

Green Spring Gardens Photo Contest. Calling all photography and garden lovers! Green Spring Gardens is hosting its first judged photography contest this summer, sponsored by the Friends of Green Spring (FROGS). The contest is open to non-professional photographers at least age 18 as of 2022.

Photographs must have been taken between July 2020 and June 2022. Up to 95 contest entry photographs will be judged, awarded prizes (1st - \$200; 2nd - \$100; and 3rd - \$75), and will be on public display from Aug. 23 through Oct. 15, 2022. A reception and awards ceremony will be held Sunday Aug. 28, 2022.

will be held Sunday, Aug. 28, 2022. Photographs can depict any season of the year but must be recognizable as having been taken at Green Spring Gardens. They may contain wildlife and garden buildings, and if they include people, their identities must either not be recognizable or the photographer will need permission from all in the photograph.

To download the entry form and complete contest rules, go to the Photo Contest webpage; or visit the Friends of Green Spring website.

Green Spring Gardens is located at 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria, Virginia. For more information, visit Green Spring Gardens or call 703-642-5173.

NOW THRU AUG. 31

Creative Summer Programs. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery in Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Learn techniques in drawing, mixed media, mosaic, jewelry, watercolor, and more from



The Alexandria Summer Sidewalk Sale will take place Saturday, Aug. 13 in Old Town Alexandria.

local artists. Delve into creative exploration solo or with friends. Sign up for the programs that inspire you and make your own "stay-cation" art experience. Visit the website: https://DelRayArtisansorg/programs/creative-summer/

NOW THRU OCT. 17

Hummingbird Photo Exhibition.
At the Historic House at Green
Spring Gardens, Alexandria. For
those who can't get enough of
the beauty of hummingbirds, a

group of local photographers are mounting an exhibition this summer. The title of the show is "A Bouquet of Hummingbirds," and it will feature works from more than 20 area artists and include hummingbirds from all over the Western Hemisphere. All profits from the sale of photos will be donated to the Friends of Green Spring, a non-profit organization devoted to maintaining the gardens and furthering public education and outreach.

NOW THRU SEPT. 10

Yoga Sessions. 12-2:15 p.m. Yoga at the National Museum of the United States Army hosted by Honest Soul Yoga, 1775 Liberty Drive, Fort Belvoir. Honest Soul Yoga and The Army Historical Foundation invites you to take a moment to de-stress by enjoying an afternoon of yoga at the Museum. Join trained instructors for an afternoon of flow and sound meditation. After class, grab a coffee and some healthy snacks

in the Museum Café or take some time to explore the exhibits.

FRIDAY/AUG. 5

Sports History Trivia. At Lee-Fendall
House & Gardens, Alexandria. Staff
members at Carlyle House Historic
Park and the Lee-Fendall House
Museum combine their knowledge
to create bi-weekly trivia nights
throughout the summer in the
beautiful gardens of the Lee-Fendall House. Test your knowledge
on everything from pop culture to
history. Registration must be done
in advance. Limited capacity so
register early!

Tickets are \$8 per person and include snacks and one complimentary drink. Additional drinks can be purchased at our bar. Teams are limited to 6 people, ages 21+ only.

SATURDAY/AUG. 6

Friendship Firehouse Festival. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Friendship Firehouse Museum, 107 S Alfred St., Alexandria. Head to the 100 block of South Alfred Street to celebrate Friendship's 248th year. Visit the historic Friendship Firehouse Museum, learn about fire safety today and in centuries past, and see City firefighting equipment up close. There will be displays by community organizations, local vendors, and food and beverages available. Children receive free Friendship fire hats.

SATURDAY/AUG. 6

Used Book Sale: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Selection of over 20,000 gently used children's books, fiction,

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

12 * Mount Vernon Gazette * August 4-10, 2022

News

Rush-hour

From Page 10

pedestrians crossing the street.

In the third section of the Richmond Highway study, between Buckman Road/Mount Vernon Highway and the I-495/I-95 ramps (Capital Beltway), there were between 174.8 and 205.6 collisions per 100 million vehicle miles. Numerous pedestrian-vehicle and vehicle-vehicle crossing conflict points, driveway access points, and signal-controlled intersections were present. Ultimately, there were more pedestrian/bike collisions and speed-related collisions in the third section than in the other two sections.

During the hour-long public comment period following the study team's presentation on July 20, participants' comments indicated persisting concerns. "Reducing the speed limit to 35 miles per hour will create an enormous amount of traffic jam," moderator Carol Sinclair, VDOT Preliminary Engineering, read from one woman's statement. Hughes responded, "We talked about looking into travel times in the Richmond Highway corridor during those peak periods as well as middle of the day and finding that the speeds traveling during that time period are already less than 35 miles an hour." Participant Diane asked if the traffic signalization on Richmond Highway would be synchronized to encourage drivers to maintain the new speed to maintain traffic flow. Hughes said, "Data is collected, and analysis is done to again set the appropriate signal timing." Participant Anthony said, "I'm really confused as to what the major concern is here. Is it vehicle-to-vehicle accidents or vehicle-to-pedestrian accidents because I've traveled this route. Walking and riding my bicycle, it's impossible to safely travel this route because of the lack of sidewalks and crosswalks."

Hughes said that they looked at all crashes and did a thorough job in trying to document what would be the contributing emphasis of the study. "The underlying premise for the study was to look primarily at vehicle-to-pedestrian crashes as a concern, one of the primary motivating factors for this speed limit study," Hughes said.

According to VDOT, the speed limit will be set in the fall of 2022; signs will be ordered, notifications will be sent to the State Traffic Engineer in late 2022, and the State traffic engineer will formally record the speed limit and posts signs in early 2023. To comment on the study through August 1, email meeting-comments@vdot.virginia.gov (and put "Richmond Highway (Route 1) Speed Limit Study in Fairfax County" in the subject line), or visit virginiadot.org/Route1SpeedLimitStudy.





To Advertise in This Paper, Call by Monday 11:00 am 703-778-9411











Model #101, Carolina, \$40,840 Model #203, Georgia, \$49,500 Model #305, Biloxi, \$36,825 Model #403, Augusta, \$42,450

JUST RELEASED: AMERICAN

LOG HOMES is assisting estate &

account settlement on houses

BALANCE OWED \$17,000 BALANCE OWED \$19,950 BALANCE OWED \$14,500 BALANCE OWED \$16,500

NEW HOMES: Serious Inquiries only Call: 704 368-4528

- Never been manufactured
- NO TIME LIMIT FOR DELIVERY
- Comes with complete building blueprints and Construction Manual
- * Windows, Doors and Roofing not included

BBB BBB CCREENTES

Before Calling View House Plans at www.americanloghomesandcabins.com



Dispensing Wisdom, Or Not



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Having spent way too much time visiting in a hospital recently, I only have one question: Were there always this many Purell "healthy soap" and hand sanitizers dispensing their healthful cleanliness before the pandemic? If you hadn't noticed, let me be the one to assure you; whatever supply chain issues exist in the world, there appears to be no shortage of Purell soap and hand sanitizer. They are everywhere. On nearly every wall 'round every corner. Of course, there mounted in every bathroom as well. It seems whatever turn, in whatever direction, you'll find a Purell dispenser; on either side, in front of you and/or behind you. In fact, they're everywhere you can imagine and a few places you can't. So far, the only place I haven't seen a Purell dispenser is on the elevator. Though there's always one on the wall immediately outside the elevator's floor stop, barely a step or two to the

There are so many dispensers on walls throughout the hospital, I'm wondering if there's an employee specifically assigned to monitor their level and to refill their cartridges the moment their level falls below the Mendoza-type line (extremely low). Given how big this hospital is, and how long the corridors are, if the dispenser isn't replenished the moment its levels are low-ish, it might be days before the dedicated Purell-refill employee returns to that wall. It reminds me of the story I heard years ago while tour-boating in San Francisco Bay. As we floated under The Golden Gate Bridge, the guide said the bridge is constantly being painted. That's because the painting process take so long that by the time the painting is finished at one end, it's time to start painting beginning at the other end. Talk about job security. It's a never-ending brush with destiny, especially when you consider the risk, being so high above water and exposed to the elements. Tending to the Purell dispensers feels like that. As long as the hospital remains open, there will be a need for Purell "healthy soap" and hand sanitizer dispensers and the refills that are

For all the proper hygiene reasons, the nurses are constantly touching the dispensers; before they enter the patient's room and again when they leave the patient's room and everywhere in between. There's a seemingly non-stop whir of the motorized apparatus that dispenses the Purell products. In the bathrooms, the "healthy soap" dispensed requires water to finish the task. Outside the bathrooms, the dispenser produces a foamy substance that one is directed to rub their hands until dry. No water required. It has been my observation that of all the things that happen in a hospital, nothing comes close, in its frequency of use or in its sheer numbers than the activity surrounding these Purell dispensers. In second place, a distant second in my opinion, would be the use of the nitrile (not latex) "clean" gloves. They are also mounted on the walls, rarely in the halls, mostly in patient rooms, three boxes: one for small, medium, and large hands. Other than maintenance and food delivery (they were their own gloves), whoever enters a patient's room must glove up. Of course, that only happens after they've waived their hand under the automated Purell dispenser. I certainly haven't been counting, but those boxes, 250 count, are regularly emptied as well, and replaced with new boxes. However, their numbers pale in comparison to the numbers of Purell dispensers and refills.

You'd be surprised what your mind conjures while sitting by yourself in a patient's room, and one who's unable to talk or even squeeze your hand. Comic relief is almost mandatory. And considering the circumstances, wondering is not far from hoping.

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



WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

CALL 703-549-0004 FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION





ach local newspapers mission aspires to provide great-wa community services, and we do know that our commutes are better off it we continue to publish. Last years 'In the shortfall better effected PPP hunding arrived, low the shortfall better effected PPP hunding arrived, low to both made our survivar possible. We now await a time case on the spart some Revisible Virgina in early Februtes and the spart some Revisible Virgina in early Februtes and the spart some Revisible Virgina in early Februde better the spart some time the spart spart some spart some spart sp

Please, help save these historical papers.

All gifts will be used to fund our printed newspapers and websites and to meet obligations to our loyal and patient employees, writers, contractors and suppliers.

The ongoing pandemic continues to crush many news-

Connection Newspapers has been offering these to person person to residents from up with these papers covered person person to residents have grown up with these papers cover and patient significant moments in the leves of family and child news, community events, school activities, and even pany news. I consider the control of the control of any news. I consider the control of the control of person of historical connection that focal papers like Connecti Newspapers and the Nexandia Gazette Packet provide Newspapers and the Nexandia Gazette Packet provide I your child, dog, mother, tather, neighborhood, schilescandra has been featured, you understand the value of the descandra has been featured, you understand the value of the descandra has been featured, you understand the value of the descandra has been featured, you understand the value of the descandra has been featured, you understand the value of the descandra has been featured, you understand the value of the descandra has been featured.

Visit connectionnewspapers.com or or of the work of the complete of the comple

News

Virginia is Blowing in the Wind...with Clean Energy

From Page 6

minion expects to receive approval for the project from the Virginia State Corporation Commission this month and finish construction by the end of 2026. The turbines are expected to have a 30-year life span, but with major advancements being made in the renewable energy field, the turbines will likely live for far longer.

Dominion is partnering with experienced companies to complete construction of the project as it makes this huge commitment toward renewable energy. An in-depth study of the Hampton Roads region took place and included holding various community meetings to gauge feedback for the project. The study found that the only sea life impacted by the construction are conch and black sea bass and they have already coordinated with commercial fishery stakeholders and environmental groups to address any issues that might occur. Once constructed, the wind turbines will be tethered underground to offshore substations. The offshore substation will then connect to an onshore switching station which will transition cables above ground to connect to an onshore substation which delivers the electricity to the grid.

In addition to the tremendously positive impact on the environment, the project will also provide major benefits to the Virginia economy.

During its construction, these windmills will create around 900 good jobs annually, many of which will be important union jobs, which will provide around \$143 million in economic output; during operation, the project will provide 1,100 jobs and \$210 million in economic output each year. VCEA requires Dominion Energy to prioritize hiring veterans, historically disenfranchised people, and Virginia residents for this historic initiative. The act kickstarts our clean energy future by eliminating nearly five million tons of carbon dioxide emissions a year, powering nearly 25% of our homes, and providing substantial job opportunities that will flow through the economy.

If you would like to learn more about the project, visit https://coastalvawind.com/.

Working for a Safer, More Efficient Transportation System

FROM PAGE 2

more vehicle-dependent, sprawling development and adds more vehicle commutes from Prince George's County to Tysons Corner. The Wilson Bridge, which carries heavy interstate traffic, is already clogged almost daily. Rail is a more prudent, forward-looking investment.

The National Park Service instituted traffic calming measures on the south George Washington Memorial Parkway, including a "traffic diet" last year. At the time, VDOT analyzed concerns by several constituents that the traffic diet would gridlock Fort Hunt Road and predicted no impact. This spring, VDOT analyzed new traffic data at my request and found traffic volumes on Fort Hunt Road have not changed since the Parkway traffic diet was implemented.

Finally, many of us are concerned about the Metro system's lack of capital investment due to insufficient government support. The forthcoming closure of the Yellow Line Bridge over the Potomac River for eight months is the latest reminder. Last week, we discovered that the Youngkin Administration reallocated \$71 million of state transit assistance dollars into statewide road maintenance funds. First, this means that area localities will have to make up the difference with local funds (e.g., your real estate or property tax dollars). Second, it means that transit funds will be used to repave roads across the entire state instead of being spent here.

While road paving needs funding, I am shocked the Governor would take this action while simultaneously claiming we have \$2 billion of unanticipated transportation revenues that can support a \$500 million gas tax cut. Many of us view his action as a raid on Northern Virginia transit to benefit other parts of Virginia. We have asked staff to determine if this unilateral reallocation violates the state budget law.

It is an honor to serve as your state senator. Please email me at scott@scottsurovell. org with your suggestions and feedback.

Period of Advocacy

FROM PAGE 3

tion, he was looking for a way to turn his campaign promise into a reality.

"We have seen the price of groceries go through the roof," said Youngkin during an event in Leesburg as lawmakers were meeting in Richmond. "Inflation last year was as high as it's been for four years."

But Youngkin had a problem. He kept running into a brick wall: the Virginia state Senate. Democrats who control the chamber were

reluctant to go along with the idea, although Boysko recognized that it might be the path needed to finally score a win on eliminating the sales tax for menstrual products. They struck a deal. The governor would get an elimination of the state grocery tax and advocates for menstrual equity would get an elimination for the sales tax on pads and tampons.

"I was determined to keep fighting and not give up," said Seibold. "After six years of effort, the tampon tax has finally been eliminated."

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Jacktaylor's

ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA











IS HOURS: MON-FRI 6A-7P & SAT 7A-5P

BATTERY

BATTERY CONDITION. INCLUDES BATTERY CONDITION PRINT OUT. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.

LUBE, OIL & FILTER SPECIAL

AMPS AND VISUAL INSPECTION OF I GENUINE TOYOTA OIL FILTER, INSPECT & ADJUST ALL FLUID LEVELS AND COMPLIMENTARY MULTI-POINT INSPECTION WITH PRINT OUT.

ALIGNMENT SPECIAL

INCLUDES: 4-WHEEL ALIGNMENT INSPECT SUSPENSION, BALL JOINTS STRUTS & SHOCKS, TIRE CONDITION AND SET TIRE PRESSURE.

TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY, COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED A TIME OF WRITE-UP. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL **BRAKE PAD** SPECIAL

_IINSPECT FRONT & REAR ROTORS AND/OR DRUMS, CHECK TIRE 🚹 EXTENDING YOUR TOYOTACARE 🛚 🛚 CONDITION AND INSPECT ALL HARDWARE. TOMC PADS ONLY. COMPLEMENTARY MAINTENANCE

TOYOTACARE PLUS

PLAN TO 4 YEARS/45,000 MILES! TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY, COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT

SERVICE VARIABLE DISCOUNT

THE MORE YOU SPEND THE MORE YOU SAVE!

\$10 OFF... WHEN YOU SPEND \$50-\$99 \$15 OFF... WHEN YOU SPEND \$100-\$199 \$20 OFF... WHEN YOU SPEND \$200-\$499 \$50 OFF... WHEN YOU SPEND \$500+

TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP, TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA, OFFER ENDS 08/31/22

ITO SCHEDULE AN APPOIN TODAY: 703-684-0710



President's Award 34 years in a row!

Se habla español

Jack Taylor

ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA

3750 Richmond Hwy • Alexandria

AlexandriaToyota.com



CHRIS

FAMILY REAL ESTATE
OF LONG & FOSTER
Leading the Area in Real Estate SOLD!!!!









9232 Allwood Dr \$675,000

3129 Battersea Ln \$857,500

4243 Sonia Ct \$710,000

8911 Grist Mill Woods Ct \$1,149,000

72 area homes SOLD to date in 2022!



106 homes SOLD in 2021!

LONG & FOSTER®

Forbes GLOBAL PROPERTIES

703.283.9028

www.chrisandpeggywhite.com chris.white@longandfoster.com Alexandria/Old Town Historic - 400 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 BEST BEST WASHINGTONIAN 2016 2017 2018

BEST BEST BEST BEST WASHINGTONIAN WASHINGTONIA