

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

JANUARY 19, 2023



Alfonso G. Smith, Principal of John R. Lewis High School.



Ron Chase, Director of the Gum Springs Historical Museum.



Rev. Nick Hull, minister of St. Luke's Episcopal Church.



Michele Togbe, student representative on the Fairfax County School Board and a student at South County High School.



Betty Graves, former Fairfax County teacher, read poetry by Langston Hughes and Maya Angelou.

South County MLK Day Talks, Music and Poetry

A virtual Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration Sunday featuring short inspirational speeches, poems, and choir performances can be viewed on YouTube at https://youtu.be/ZAbV_Cw0BTk. The Fairfax County NAACP and Ventures in Community, and organizations of faith communities and community-serving organizations in the Route 1 corridor held the event. VIC traditionally hosts a live event, but temporarily moved to a

virtual program in 2022. The Fairfax County NAACP joined this year to expand the event countywide.

The program, themed "Can Martin Luther King's strategy of nonviolent civil disobedience still achieve his vision of equality and justice?" featured South County speakers, choirs, and poetry readers. Speakers include Alfonso G. Smith, Principal of John R. Lewis High School (formerly Robert E. Lee High School and recently renamed after the late Congressman

and King disciple); Shirley Ginwright, recently appointed commissioner on the Commonwealth Commission for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and former Fairfax County NAACP president; Rev. Nick Hull, minister of St. Luke's Episcopal Church; and Ron Chase, Director of the Gum Springs Historical Museum.

They discussed the importance of passing Dr. King's goals and methods through his disciples and now to county students; the

importance of voting; the value of exploring the history of racial injustice; and the struggles of our local African American community, Gum Springs, the oldest in the county dating from 1833.

Choirs include Woodlawn Faith UMC Choir, Mount Vernon Unitarian Church Choir, Greater Morning Star Apostolic Church Choir and Harvest Assembly Baptist Church Choir. Poetry by Langston Hughes and Maya Angelou were dramatically read by former Fairfax Coun-

ty teacher Betty Graves. Assistant pastor of Harvest Assembly Baptist recites an original poem.

The event was narrated by Michele Togbe, student representative on the Fairfax County

School Board and a student at South County High School.

VIC has been producing MLK Day events since the early 1990s when they were initiated by Rev. Bob Criswell of Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church, who recently passed away.

Bright New Beginnings for 2023

BY SUPERVISOR
DAN STORCK
MOUNT VERNON DISTRICT

Happy New Year! As I reflect on 2022 and look forward to new beginnings in 2023, I am inspired, energized and thankful for all that the Mount Vernon community means to me and many of you. Together we have made great progress in connecting our community, revitalizing the Richmond Highway corridor, providing lifelong learning opportunities and working to help every resident and business owner reach their full potential. There is still much to do and look forward to our continued success.

We've been busy. This past year we opened the Lorton Community Center, Senior & Teen Centers, Library and Park, with a new home for the Lorton Community Action Center. This first-of-its-kind

in the County co-located facility provides growth opportunities for all ages and abilities in a historically underserved area. The excitement and enthusiasm at the center and in the community is a tremendous affirmation of the critical needs it serves. We also welcomed a host of new businesses from Amazon Fresh in Lorton to a new Ourisman Kia dealership on the highway. Other notable accomplishments include increasing our countywide affordable housing commitment, starting construction for a human development center at Original MVHS, establishing the Hollin Hills Historic Overlay District, continuing to improve our environment and launching the Potomac Banks brand and savings pass to increase tourism spending at our local businesses.

One notable goal we did not accomplish in 2022 was securing



Supervisor Dan Storck

funding for undergrounding utilities on Richmond Highway. While this remains a high priority for our community and me, the challenges and complexities with securing Federal Transit Administration funding and the support needed from the Board for the tens of millions of County dollars needed makes this not possible at this

time. I will continue to make this a funding priority, look for alternatives and expect undergrounding on any new developments.

In 2023, we look forward to launching our Community Ambassador Program to connect our many knowledgeable leaders with even more District residents, completing the Gum Springs heritage resources study and our Lorton 2040 Vision and opening the Mount Vernon Memorial Highway trail to Richmond Highway. The Mount Vernon Rec Center begins its two-year renovation to become a new state-of-the-art facility, several new walkable, livable communities will open and we will welcome Bunnyman Brewery to the Workhouse Campus. Our annual events will continue from the Ides of Bark Dog Festival on March 26 to the Tour de Mount Vernon Community Bike Ride on October 21, which for the first time will

ride on a closed George Washington Memorial Parkway. Most importantly, our 36th Annual Town Meeting will take place on Saturday, February 11 at Mount Vernon High School and virtually on Fairfax County Channel 16 and Facebook. The ever-popular exhibit hall will open at 7:45 a.m., followed by a formal program at 9:30 a.m. featuring guest speakers and answers to your questions, and a virtual tour of the District.

There is much more to tell you about our 2022 accomplishments and 2023 focus and investments, so keep an eye out for our annual mailer – Supervisor Dan Storck's Advisor – coming to your mailbox in the coming weeks to learn more.

Wishing each and every one of you a happy, healthy and prosperous new year filled with hope, kindness, learning and compassion!

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#WeAreAlexandria



OPEN SUN 1/22, 2-4

Old Town | \$1,410,000

Exceptional 3-bedroom, 3.5-bath, end townhouse offers generous natural light from wide windows on 3 sides, hardwood floors, first floor office with handsome millwork, and gracious living and dining rooms. The open stainless/granite kitchen adjoins the breakfast area with custom built-ins and a family room with gas fireplace and a glass door opens to the deck. Dramatic primary suite with 2-story ceiling, gas fireplace, walk-in closets, plus a renovated bath with dual vanities. Attached 2-car garage. 1235 Roundhouse Lane

Babs Beckwith 703.627.5421

www.BabsBeckwith.com



Old Town | \$1,595,000

This 1770s Georgian home was modest to begin with, but as the needs of various owners changed the house was expanded. Today its just under 3,000 finished SF with 3/4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, and 2 gardens which provide abundant natural light. 304 N Pitt Street

Peter Crouch 703.244.4024

Katie Crouch 703.447.1345



Alexandria City | \$1,395,000

NEW PRICE! Located on a coveted cul-de-sac, this large home boasts 6 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, a stunning great room opening onto a gracious covered porch overlooking a lushly landscaped rear garden with stone fountain and magical playhouse. 1305 Chancel Place

Noel Kaupinen 703.200.1165

www.noelk.com



Old Town Crescent | \$875,000

A rare find in Old Town – a true 3-bedroom condo! This sunny and quiet unit offers 1,765-SF of well designed living space including an elegant living room with gas fireplace, TWO primary suites, plus 3rd bedroom/study. 1 assigned parking space. 828 Slaters Ln #104

Annette Hinaman 571.216.4411

www.AnnetteHinaman.com



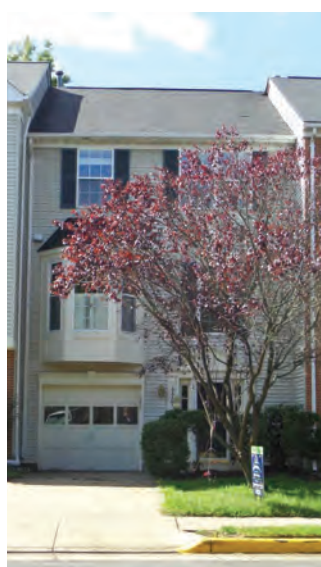
OPEN SAT 1/21, 12-2 & SUN 1/22, 2-4

Del Ray | \$739,000

Historic charm remains in this fully renovated 2-bedroom, 2-bath row home. Open main level with refinished hardwoods. Finished basement. Fenced, leveled, and graded backyard for outdoor entertaining or convert to a parking space. 507 E Duncan Avenue

Selena Alexander 202.983.3930

www.SelenaAlexanderRealtor.com



Kingstowne

\$659,900

Lovely garage townhome with 3 bedrooms, 2.55 baths, family room with access to the fenced back yard and patio, spacious kitchen with a sunny breakfast nook, living and dining area has a gas fireplace and opens to a large sunny deck. 6627 Kelsey Point Circle

Charlene Schaper 703.217.2666

www.cschaper.com



Kingstowne

\$519,000

Don't miss this opportunity! This 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath home sparkles! Deck off dining room and walk-out rec room to patio. Neighborhood with pools, walking paths, tot lots, volleyball & tennis courts, club house, restaurants, shopping, and more! 7414 Gadsby Square

Lisa L. Smith 703.201.3102

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NEWS



Packing Power Packs for Food for Others, Fairfax.



Making fleece blankets for Homeward Trails Adoption Center in Fairfax Station.



The reflection station at Volunteer Fairfax's Give Together event creates the bright wall display, "Together We Light up the World."

2023 MLK Weekend of Service

PHOTOS VIA VOLUNTEER FAIRFAX

Supporting Martin Luther King's vision through service.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE GAZETTE

Volunteer Fairfax coordinated the 2023 MLK Jr. Weekend of Service as a "day on, not a day off." The transformative power of volunteerism empowered individuals throughout the county to bridge barriers, address social problems, and strengthen communities. It brought everyone closer to Dr. King's dream of a "beloved community" by having activities for people of all ages to do service work.

Volunteer Fairfax's Weekend of Service included a "Give Together" event for families with school-aged children. The organization had multiple events happening on Monday,

the federal holiday and the national day of service.

"The Valentine's Challenge had over 100 volunteers making cards for elderly community members aging at home — working with partners like the Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke," said Holly Gordon, senior manager of Volunteer Fairfax's Communications and Public Engagement. "Also, we had teen volunteers working on various projects for the area's homeless population with Recovery Program Solutions of Northern Virginia."

By the end of Monday, completed projects included seed packs with Hidden Oaks Nature Center to encourage plants that support butterfly populations; 200 care packages made for Capital Caring Health to support hospice patients; 105 fleece blankets for Homeward Trails Adoption Center; 100 packages along with handmade bookmarks for the English Empowerment Center; and 150 Sunshine Bags for Meals on Wheels, Gordon said.



The completed wall display.



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE GAZETTE

From left, Master Sergeant Manuel Pfaff and Captain Khalid Hashmi of the German Armed Forces Command United States and Canada serve beside local community members in Fairfax County to assist Food for Neighbors with its first distribution event of 2023.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

German Armed Forces Help Fight Hunger Here

Helps fight hunger.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE GAZETTE

In 2016, Karen Joseph saw a need at a Fairfax County Public School, with food insecurity and hunger impacting the high school students. At the time, Joseph envisioned she and her friends would stock a single office drawer of one social worker with pre-packaged food items for her hungry students. That effort grew to become the nonprofit Food for Neighbors, one of the fastest-growing public charity food aid organizations for middle and high school students in Northern Virginia. It is operated and supported by

local donors, volunteers and businesses.

Joseph founded and continues to serve as president of the Herndon-based nonprofit Food for Neighbors. With 500 volunteers, the organization helps students in Fairfax, Arlington, and Loudoun counties. "We are feeding between 4,500 and 4,800 students at 37 middle and high schools weekly and biweekly," Joseph said on Jan. 14 at Herndon Middle School.

On that particular day, the school's cafeteria was one of the eight kickoff collection drop-off and sorting locations the organization had planned for its first distribution in 2023. The signature Red Bag Program is the heart of what they do at Food for Neighbors. People wanting to donate can request a bag, fill it

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CHINESE NEW YEAR

PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH



Before the official performance, the lions danced through the library to attract guests.



The elaborately decorated, oversized lions' heads can weigh up to 15 pounds.

Lion Dances Celebrate the Chinese New Year Across Fairfax County

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

Libraries are usually quiet zones of muffled sounds at best, with patrons calmly searching for books, browsing the Internet or reading in the hush-hush. But on Jan. 14, drums boomed, cymbals clanged and gongs bonged loudly in six libraries. Colorful lions swooped, swayed and dipped their heads, dancers from Herndon's Jow Ga Shaolin Institute who performed traditional southern China lion dances in six libraries to celebrate the Chinese New Year.

At Mount Vernon's Sherwood Regional Library, dancers ages 10 to adult transformed into two glittery, colorful lions that undulated, reared up on their hind legs and twisted their oversized heads back and forth, in a choreographed dance that is thousands of years old. Each lion consisted of two people who coordinated to make the lion come alive. The front dancer was the lion's front limbs and manipulated the head. The other dancer was the lion's back and hind legs. Together, for 15 minutes, they imitated a lion's movements paced to the rhythmic music of a drum, gong and cymbals.

In traditional Chinese culture, lion dances are part of Kung Fu training and performed for many celebrations, including the New Year, this year on Jan. 22, the first day of the Year of the Rabbit. Lion dances are intended to bring good luck, happiness and prosperity.

The Buddha, wearing a full-head mask bearing a bright red smile and a bright



The lions dancing.

yellow robe, swirled around the room and teased the lions with their favorite food, represented Saturday by lettuce, as they chased him. The lions successfully took the prized lettuce, tore it into pieces and flung the bits out to the crowd to bring them good luck.

Colorful Costumes

Attendees were dazzled by the elaborately painted, oversized lions' heads imported from China and made of bamboo and paper maché. The heads can weigh from five to 15 pounds. The front dancer made the lions' eyes move back and forth, the eyelids blink and the mouth open and close. A mirror



The lions at rest.



The lions dancing.

between the eyes is intended to scare away evil spirits and a horn on the top of the head to fight evil. The lions' bodies were made of sparkling, sequin-covered cloth and fake fur. The lions' legs were the dancers' legs, satiny

red pants decorated with sequins and faux fur. Red and gold are traditional Chinese colors which represent good luck.

SEE LION DANCES, PAGE 5
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

CHINESE NEW YEAR

PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH



Musicians played percussion instruments, a gong, drum and cymbals.



The Buddha teased the lions with lettuce.

Lion Dances

FROM PAGE 4

Sarah Parker played the drum, which reached almost to her waist from its stand. Her drumming set the pace for the dancers, including her three daughters. Trinity, age 17, has done Kung Fu for nine years and danced for seven. "I enjoy it," she said, preferring it to the hip-hop favored by many teens.

Instructor Steve Johnson likes to take the dancers "to libraries for cultural outreach," he explained, especially around the Chinese New Year. Dancer Mike Kammer said he grew up watching Kung Fu movies. On the lion dance, he remarked, "It's a lot of fun and good exercise. It builds a team. It's exhausting, but fun."

Local fans of all ages were enthralled. Colleen Walker, who lives in Collingwood, said, "It was intriguing. I always wondered what was under those heads. It's more than pure entertainment." Her friend, Deanna Jones, Williamsburg Manor North resident added, www.connectionnewspapers.com

"It was exciting to learn about the culture and especially see the kids speaking to the crowd." Some of the young dancers did a Kung Fu demonstration before the dance and explained it to the audience.

The Lion Dance and Dragon Dance are the main attractions of many Chinese festivities, like banquets, weddings, birthdays and other events, says Allie Shaw, the Institute's dance coordinator.

In addition to the Sherwood Regional Library, on Saturday, Jow Ga Shaolin Institute dancers performed the Lion Dance at the Thomas Jefferson, Fairfax City Regional, Lorton, Centreville Regional and John Marshall Libraries.

The Jow Ga Shaolin Institute was founded 22 years ago. "We teach anyone who wants to learn," says Shaw. Visit <https://www.jowgashaolin.com/>.

Washington, D.C.'s Chinatown businesses will stage a Chinese New Year's parade on Jan. 22, 2 p.m. Visit <https://dcpardade.com/>.



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First Bill on MLK Day

BY DEL. PAUL KRIZEK

As you know, I am down in Richmond for the 2023 General Assembly Session. On Monday, it was Martin Luther King Jr. Day, marking 40 years since the day was made an official holiday. This day is even more significant in 2023, as this year is also the 60th anniversary of Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial during the March on



Krizek

Washington. As we reflect on the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr., we remember, in addition to his lifelong dedication to civil rights and racial justice, his activism and accomplishments in the area of promoting non-discrimination in housing policy, which culminated in the eventual passage



Krizek constituents who visited Richmond on lobby day.

of the Fair Housing Act of 1968. This landmark piece of legislation prohibited discrimination in housing and housing-related transactions on the basis of race, religion, or national origin, which was later expanded to include sex, familial status, and disability.

Today, the fair housing fight is focused in large part on affordability. In this second week in Richmond, my first bill to receive a hearing this session at 7am on Martin Luther King Jr. Day was House Bill (HB) 1578. HB 1578 is a bill to support the residents of manufactured home parks. Manufactured

homes, also known as mobile homes or trailers, are one of the best forms of naturally occurring affordable housing available on the market. They are a valuable component of the solution to the nationwide affordable housing crisis. Manufactured homes make

SEE FIRST BILL, PAGE 12

The 2023 General Assembly Has Started Its Work

The first week of the General Assembly session is in the books. We spent most of it getting organized.

On the day before the session started, we learned that Virginia Beach voters had elected Virginia Beach Councilman Aaron Rouse to the state Senate in a special election to replace now-Congresswoman Jen Kiggans. That changed the party composition of the Senate to 22 Democrats and 18 Republicans. Senator-elect Rouse will be sworn in this week after his election is certified and he will be a welcome addition.

The Governor delivered his State of the Commonwealth Address to a joint session of the legislature during our first week. While it appears the Governor has presidential ambitions, I was disappointed that he used the occasion to blame President Biden and former Governor Northam for national and international trends like inflation and learning loss instead of offering more solutions that we could work together on. The Senate has common ground with him on issues like bolstering investments in mental health.

Governor Youngkin's presidential ambitions appear to have prodded him to focus on China at the expense of his state's needs.

He focused part of his speech on banning Chinese land purchases. The next day, we learned that he had cut off negotiations with Ford Motor Company on the construction of an electric vehicle battery plant in Halifax County. Ford's plan would have created 2,500 jobs in a county that has a median family income of \$45,000 per year – 40 percent of Fairfax County's – because Ford had chosen to partner with a Chinese technology firm to produce the batteries. While China bashing is a popular sport right now with other presidential hopefuls, raising this topic in a speech historically meant to address the state's problems, puts personal, national ambitions ahead of Virginians' needs.

I am carrying 31 bills and about a dozen budget amendments. Among them, I have introduced legislation to expand transparency in our utility policy process. Many people have concerns that Virginia's regulated monopolies, like electricity transmission, have too much influence in making policy by moving billions of dollars around annually through your utility bills.



Surovell

While we have attorneys to help draft legislation, the General Assembly has no permanent policy staff to brief us and provide objective advice on many issues. My legislation would require the Virginia Commission on Utility Regulation to meet regularly, hire permanent policy staff and help better inform legislators. With so few professional, knowledgeable staffers working for the General Assembly, I fear that too many legislators rely too heavily on industry lobbyists. We have made massive changes in our energy laws in the last three years, involving billions of taxpayer and ratepayer dollars, and we need enhanced, professional policy support to transition to a clean energy economy.

I am also carrying legislation to protect Virginia women in the aftermath of the U.S. Supreme Court's Dobbs reproductive choice decision. Several out-of-state attorneys general are targeting those who facilitate abortions. I am concerned that a Virginian could be charged for giving a ride or otherwise helping a friend seeking this medical care. My bill would prevent their extradition.

Today's smartphones can log your every move and it is very easy to purchase data that shows who has visited a reproductive healthcare clinic. Several phone applications also allow women to track their menstrual activity. My bill would allow a person to sue if any information regarding their reproductive health history is sold by a third-party data broker. Senator Barbara Favola is also proposing similar legislation prohibiting Virginia prosecutors from seizing such information by search warrant.

The Virginia 529 Plan has generated a \$1.2 billion surplus due to investment management fees and lower-than-anticipated tuition inflation. I have proposed to create an endowment, fund it with the surplus and create 2,500 full scholarships for Virginia students who agree to remain in Virginia for eight years after graduation.

Finally, I am hosting my Mount Vernon town hall meeting this Saturday, Jan. 21, 9 to 11 a.m. at Walt Whitman Middle School with Senator Adam Ebbin and Delegate Paul Krizek. I will hold meetings in Franconia District the next weekend and South County after that. If you have any feedback, please email me at scott@scottsurovell.org

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A Connection Newspaper



Gun Violence Prevention Priorities

By SEN. ADAM P. EBBIN

Get Involved

Please consider joining my colleagues and me at one of our legislative town halls to share your views on the session.

Saturday, Jan. 21

9 a.m., Walt Whitman Elementary
2500 Parkers Ln, Mount Vernon

Saturday, Jan. 21

1 p.m., Hayfield Elementary
7630 Telegraph Rd, Franconia

Saturday, Jan. 28

10 a.m., Alexandria
City High School
3330 King St., Alexandria

The second week of the 2023 legislative session began with what many groups refer to as “lobby day” – Martin Luther King Jr. Day, when school and work closures allow a wide range of constituencies to visit the Capitol in Richmond. The halls of the Pocohantas building teemed with advocates for education, tenants rights groups, high school students on field trips, and parents with young children, many witnessing the process of representative government for the first time. The diverse viewpoints and perspectives shared throughout the halls of government all day on Monday were a reminder to my colleagues and me of the solemn duty of both representing our constituencies, and the complex interests of our entire Commonwealth here in Richmond.

Much agreement is found during these meetings, but sometimes, civil discourse on contentious topics does not come to a mutual resolution. One such issue, which we hear a great deal about is gun violence. Each year, advocates from the Virginia Citizens Defense League organize in Richmond on MLK Day to discuss their strongly held beliefs of an unlimited right to bear arms. While we disagree, often strongly, I always appreciate meeting with constituents with differing opinions and having robust debate over these issues.

I was glad to stand with a group of my colleagues including Senators Creigh Deeds (D-Bath), Jennifer Boysko (D-Fairfax), Chap Petersen (D-Fairfax), and Dave Marsden (D-Fairfax) to announce the roll out of the Senate Democratic Caucus’s gun violence prevention priorities, which includes two bills I introduced. Our legislative agenda includes bills to ban the sale of assault-style weapons, create penalties for the negligent storage of firearms in homes with minors present; establish civil fines for leaving an unsecured firearm in a vehicle; establish standards of responsible conduct for the firearm industry in Virginia, and enacting clear criteria and parameters for judges to review when filing Extreme Risk Protective Orders, also known as red-flag laws.

My two pieces of legislation ban the sale of “ghost guns” and the open, public carry of assault-style semi-automatic weapons. Ghost



Ebbin

guns are untraceable firearms which can be bought online, assembled from kits with ease, and function precisely like any other firearm. These weapons pose a serious and deliberate problem. Law enforcement report seeing a rise in the use of ghost guns in criminal acts and accidental shootings. The process of converting ghost gun parts — which can be purchased without a background check, license or record of sale, into a functioning firearm — involves just a few steps and can be completed without any special skill. They are particularly enticing to people who cannot pass a background check — domestic abusers, minors, organized crime, and those with a violent felony record. My legislation seeks to fix a loophole: manufacturers are required to put a serial number on finished firearms but not on individual parts. This bill requires manufacturers, dealers, and distributors to add a serial number, which legitimizes a weapon and makes it traceable if used in a crime.

My second bill bans the public carry of assault style weapons, whose definition closely reflects the highly successful 1994 assault weapon ban. Weapons of war have no place in civil society and certainly not on our streets where they frighten our families. Regular issue law enforcement service weapons aren’t a match for these military weapons and their standard issue vests can’t stop a high velocity bullet. This legislation is critical both to preserving safety in public spaces, but also to protect our public servants.

I look forward to a spirited debate on these important bills in the coming weeks.

It is my continued honor to serve the 30th District.



Public Notice

Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

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

Structure	North Station	South Station	Route Name	Structure Name	Posted Date
DANVILLE	20190	293	RTE 293	DAN RIVER	12/31/2022
MECKLENBURG	12001	660	OLD COX RD	BUCKHORN CREEK	12/30/2022
CHARLOTTE	4833	40	PATRICK HENRY HWY	TERRY'S CREEK	12/29/2022
HALIFAX	9158	58	PHILPOTT RD (58 WBL)	DAN RIVER	12/29/2022
PITTSYLVANIA	13425	29	MAIN STREET	SYCAMORE CREEK	12/29/2022
AMHERST	1382	130	ELON RD	NS RAILWAY	12/28/2022
APPOMATTOX	1587	608	STONEWALL RD	WRECK ISLAND CREEK	12/28/2022
CAMPBELL	4236	630	CHELLIS FORD RD	GOOSE CREEK	12/28/2022
SCOTT	16832	681	RTE 681	CRACKERS NECK BRANCH	12/21/2022
RUSSELL	16529	770	OLD HWY 19	INDIAN CREEK	12/20/2022
PATRICK	13232	58	JEB STUART HWY/RTE 58	QUAKERFIELD BRANCH	12/19/2022
MECKLENBURG	11942	92	HWY 92	JOLLY HOLLOW CREEK	12/16/2022
NEW KENT	12740	631	SOUTH GARDEN RD	BEARS HILL SWAMP	12/16/2022
CARROLL	4612	221	FLOYD PIKE/RTE 221	BIG REED ISLAND CREEK	12/16/2022
PATRICK	13242	103	DRY POND HWY/RTE 103	LONG BRANCH	12/16/2022
PATRICK	13243	103	DRY POND RD/RTE 103	ELK CREEK	12/16/2022
PATRICK	13198	8	SALEM HWY /RTE 8	NOEL CREEK	12/16/2022
LEE	10857	640	RTE 640	LONG HOLLOW BRANCH	12/15/2022
BUCHANAN	3833	602	INDIAN CREEK RD	INDIAN CREEK	12/14/2022
FRANKLIN	7817	602	CALLAWAY RD/RTE 602	ROARING RUN	12/14/2022
FRANKLIN	7828	608	FORK MTN RD/RTE 608	BIG CHESTNUT CREEK	12/14/2022
FRANKLIN	7974	768	LIGHTHAVEN RD/RTE 768	TOWNE CREEK	12/14/2022
FRANKLIN	7978	778	NICHOLAS CK RD/RTE 778	NICHOLAS CREEK	12/14/2022
FRANKLIN	7897	684	BOONE MILL RD/RTE 684	MAGGODEE CREEK	12/13/2022
FRANKLIN	7930	721	PATTI RD/RTE 721	LITTLE DOE RUN	12/13/2022
PATRICK	13209	40	CHARITY HWY/RTE 40	ROCK CASTLE CREEK	12/13/2022
PATRICK	13196	8	SALEM HWY/RTE 8	ROCKY BRANCH	12/13/2022
BEDFORD	2705	620	BATEMAN BRIDGE RD	NS RAILWAY	12/12/2022
BEDFORD	2779	664	GOSHEN RD/RTE 664	ELK CREEK	12/12/2022
BEDFORD	2740	643	JOPLING RD/RTE 643	STONY CREEK	12/12/2022
CRAIG	5474	311	RTE 311	BRANCH OF CRAIG CREEK	12/12/2022
FLOYD	7505	221	FLOYD HWY S/RTE 221	BR OF W F LITTLE RIVER	12/12/2022
PATRICK	13199	8	WOOLWINE HWY/RTE 8	PUDDING CREEK	12/12/2022
FRANKLIN	7914	703	AYERS RD/RTE 703	POPLAR CAMP CREEK	12/9/2022
FRANKLIN	7858	635	EDWARDSVILLE RD/RTE 635	LYNVILLE CREEK	12/9/2022
FRANKLIN	7877	643	DILLONS MILL RD/RTE 643	N FORK BLACKWATER RIVER	12/8/2022
FRANKLIN	7839	623	FAIRY STN P RD/RTE 623	BEARDS CREEK	12/8/2022
FRANKLIN	7991	798	KNOB CHURCH RD/RTE 798	MILL CREEK	12/8/2022
PATRICK	13221	58	JEB STUART HWY/RTE 58	DAN RIVER	12/8/2022
PATRICK	13200	8	WOOLWINE HWY/RTE 8	SYCAMORE CREEK	12/8/2022
BEDFORD	2670	600	PETERS CREEK RD/RTE 600	BATTERY CREEK	12/7/2022
BEDFORD	2774	657	ROCKY MTN RD/RTE 657	IVY CREEK	12/7/2022
FRANKLIN	7861	637	BRANDY OAK RD/RTE 637	THARP CREEK	12/6/2022
FRANKLIN	7862	637	GRIFFIT HILL RD/RTE 637	OTTER CREEK	12/6/2022
FRANKLIN	7988	792	LAUREL BLUFF/RTE 792	RENNET BAG CREEK	12/6/2022
FRANKLIN	7987	792	LAUREL BLUFF RD/RTE 792	RENNET BAG CREEK	12/6/2022
BEDFORD	2874	737	AYERS RD/RTE 737	NS RAILWAY	12/5/2022
BLACKSBURG	28885	314	DUCK POND DR	STROUBLES CREEK	12/5/2022
FLOYD	7500	221	FLOYD HWY S/RTE 221	BRANCH GREASY CREEK	12/5/2022
FLOYD	7503	221	FLOYD HWY S/RTE 222	BRANCH HOWELL CREEK	12/5/2022
ROANOKE	14946	221	BENT MTN RD/RTE 221	BR BACK CREEK	12/5/2022
NEW KENT	12639	60	WBL POCHONTAS TR	SCHIMMOE CREEK	12/2/2022
BEDFORD	2897	755	MORGANS MILL RD/RTE 775	NS RAILWAY	12/2/2022
BEDFORD	2697	619	PENDLETON RD/RTE 619	SHOCKOE CREEK	12/2/2022
PATRICK	13245	103	DRY POND HWY/RTE 103	SANDY CREEK	12/2/2022
PATRICK	13220	58	RTE 58	N.FORKOF POORHOUSE CREEK	12/1/2022
ROANOKE	14809	F880	BRETHERN RD/RTE F880	BRANCH OF BACK CREEK	12/1/2022
PATRICK	13372	699	HUGHES BROWN RD/RTE 699	WHITE MUD CREEK	11/30/2022
ORANGE	13030	666	HAWFIELD RD	MOUNTAIN RUN	11/29/2022
FLOYD	7506	221	FLOYD HWY S/RTE 221	BR OF DODD CREEK	11/29/2022
MONTGOMERY	12131	11	ROANOKE RD NBL/RTE 11	POPLAR BRANCH	11/29/2022
MONTGOMERY	12115	11	ROANOKE RD WBL/RTE 460	BR SOUTHFORKROANOKERIVER	11/29/2022
FRANKLIN	8023	919	GRASSY HILL RD/RTE 919	TEELS CREEK	11/28/2022
FRANKLIN	7866	640	TURNER CREEK RD/RTE 640	PIGG RIVER	11/28/2022

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

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

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

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

TREES

Champions of the County's Fragile Urban Forest

Winners of the 2022 Friends of Trees Awards recognized.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE GAZETTE

Trees in Fairfax County are constantly in danger from strangling vines, development, pollution, and a lack of basic tree maintenance. Fortunately, there are people in the county who've undertaken this work with a passion and effort to support tree regeneration, ensure it, and raise the standard of tree coverage.

On Jan. 5, the Fairfax County Tree Commission recognized twelve winners of the 2022 Friends of Trees awards during a ceremony at the commission's virtual meeting. Cindy Speas, chair of the Tree Commission, praised the winners for exemplifying the local residents' passion for trees. "The winning projects are perfect examples of what all of us — individuals, government agencies, groups, and businesses — can do together to save trees and improve our green spaces."

The winners fulfilled one or more of the following criteria: protecting and preserving existing trees and their associated habitats; increasing Fairfax County's tree canopy and their associated habitats; educating and inspiring people to plant more trees and take care of them properly; going above and beyond Fairfax County's requirements for developers to either protect or preserve trees and their associated habitats; and educating and inspiring people to plant more trees and take care of them properly.

"You all have shared a passion with me for not only trees, of course, but for the environment of Fairfax County and how we can make a difference," said Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon).

Friends of Trees Award Winners for 2022

- ❖ Margaret Fisher and Heidi Allen from the Plant Nova Trees "Tree Rescuers" program
- ❖ Cathy Ledec, Friends of Huntley Meadows Park, former Tree Commissioner, Northern Virginia Audubon Society, and Mount Vernon District Environmental Committee
- ❖ Great Falls Citizens Association
- ❖ Loft Ridge Homeowners Association
- ❖ Megan McCullough and Dan Malone of Stantec Consulting for Hollin Hills Stream restoration
- ❖ Fairfax County Public Schools and Fairfax County's Urban Forest Management Division for joint projects at Fort Hunt Elementary School, Greenbriar West Elementary School, Irving Middle School, together with Girl Scout Troop #5532, Justice High School and Whitman Middle School.

The Board of Supervisors relies on the 15-member Commission for advice and support regarding urban forest conservation and preservation. Despite urbanization, tree canopy covers more than 50 percent of Fairfax



Cathy Ledec, Friends of Huntley Meadows Park, former Tree Commissioner, Northern Virginia Audubon Society and Mount Vernon District Environmental Committee implemented many tree planting projects; unceasingly advocated for trees; and provided ongoing educational testimony to elected officials.



Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon), chair of the Board of Supervisors Environmental Committee



Cindy Speas, member-at-large and chair of the Fairfax County Tree Commission

County. The Commission is composed of a representative from each of the magisterial districts plus one At Large member and a representative of the Fairfax County Environmental Quality Advisory Council, Soil and Water Conservation District, Virginia Department of Forestry, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Fairfax County Park Authority and Fairfax County Urban Forest Management Division.



Individual winners included Heidi Allen and Margaret Fisher, co-founders of Tree Rescuers, a tree preservation program supported by Plant Nova Natives and Plant Nova Trees. "They saved more than 6,000 trees and have set a new goal of saving 8,000 more in 2023, and I've learned just today that Heidi has recruited and trained eight folks to work individually in our parks," Cindy Speas, chair of the Tree Commission, said.



The commission recognized Great Falls Citizens Association for its thorough survey of all trees more than 12 inches in diameter at breast height along Georgetown Pike. "More than 12 volunteers measured 129 mature trees within 20 feet of a 12-mile length of the pike, and submitted this data report with the complete GPS coordinates to VDOT. The goals were to show authorities where developers may not remove trees and also to help monitor tree health and safety along the pike," said Cindy Speas of the Tree Commission.



Megan McCullough and Daniel Malone, of Stantec Consulting designed the Street Restoration project. "This was the largest and most comprehensive and complex project submitted for this award, and it offers best management practices for future stream restoration work," said Cindy Speas of the Tree Commission. "It implemented extraordinary tree protections for all the healthy, mature trees that were to be saved."



Loft Ridge Homeowners Association in the Franconia District executed an extensive conservation program, battling invasives to preserve the trees already growing on its property. It also planted 43 native trees and shrubs, implementing best practices. "A terrific model for other HOAs throughout the county to become champions of our urban forest," said Cindy Speas of the Tree Commission.



The commission highlighted the student-hands-on-work of several county schools in partnership with the Urban Forest Management division's tree planting program. Each project was incorporated into the school's curriculum. All five projects, Fort Hunt Elementary, Greenbriar West Elementary, Justice High, Walt Whitman Middle School, and Washington Irving Middle School, that partnered with Girl Scout Nation's Capital Troop 5532 received an award.



PHOTO COURTESY RICHMOND SPCA

Animal champions Senators Jennifer Boysko and Bill Stanley have sponsored several bills to protect research animals, including the Envigo beagles



PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/ THE GAZETTE

Fairfax County Animal Shelter assisted in placing about 30 of the over 4,000 beagles rescued from the Envigo research breeder's facility as a of enabling legislation passed in 2022

Dog & Cat Bills Filed In 2023 General Assembly

Penalties considered for animal testing facility violations.

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE GAZETTE

Last year's Virginia General Assembly 2022 session was a busy one for animal protections. Legislators passed six bills, dubbed "the beagle bills," for companion animals and considered nearly a dozen. Regulation of research animal breeding facilities were at the forefront as lawmakers grappled with how to prevent future violations at the now infamous breeding facility, Envigo in Cumberland County. Envigo bred and sold beagles for use in research in the United States and foreign countries. They were cited with a significant number of on-going cruelty violations during repeat inspections by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The embattled company agreed to close its doors and more than 4,000 beagles were placed in adoptive homes all over the country in a settlement agreement monitored by the U.S. District Court.

Strengthening regulation of research animal testing facilities

Now that Virginia's only research animal breeding facility is closed, legislators have turned an eye toward strengthening animal protections at research facilities which use animals in testing. Animal testing facilities, including private organizations, state agencies, and institutions of higher education that "confine or use animals for research, education, testing or other experimental, scientific or medical purposes," would come under greater scrutiny with penalties for violations under the proposed legislation. Sen. Bill Stanley (R- 20th District), a frequent animal welfare champion, has introduced a



PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/ THE GAZETTE

Legislation would prohibit declawing of cats protecting dainty paws

bill, and along with a companion bill in the House, introduced by Del. Michael Weber (R-18), would require annual registration and fees for entities so engaged with animals, with monetary penalties for violations of animal care regulations. Another pair of bills, by Sen. Jennifer Boysko (D-33), a past sponsor of bills regulating animal research testing and animal cosmetic testing, and Del. Irene Shin (D-86), like bill in the House, seek to require annual reporting of animal use by animal testing organizations and to establish a whistle blowers fund to reward employees who report animal use violations or abuse. A bill sponsored by Del. Kaye Kory (D-38) would require Virginia's public colleges and universities to have potential sources of research animals inspected by the state veterinarian's office prior to acquisition, to assure animals had been raised humanely.

Cat Declawing Prohibition

While dogs enjoyed most of the 2022 session's animal welfare action, this year cats will receive some special consideration as well. Two introduced bills relate to the well being of cats: HB 1382, a prohibition on declawing, and HB1527, a bill establishing

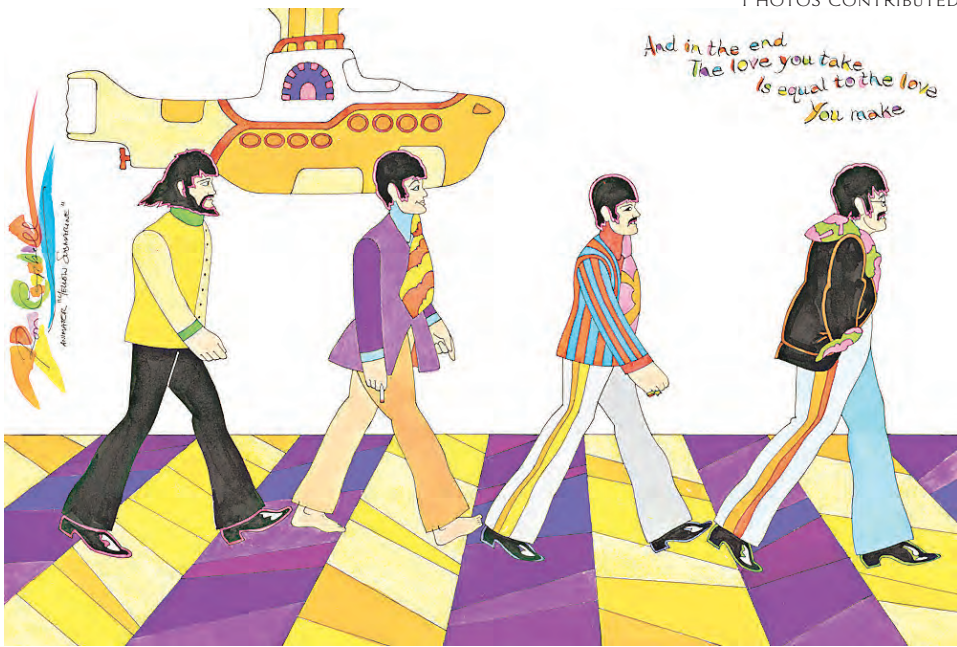
regulations for use of Trap, Neuter, Return (TNR) programs. Del. Wendy Gooditis (D-10) the sponsor of the declaw prohibition bill, and animal advocates, want to see Virginia join Maryland, New York, in preventing the practice of declawing cats. Already considered inhumane and seldom practiced by Virginia veterinarians, rescues, or shelters, the procedure was once a popular elective surgery for cat owners who wished to protect furniture from cat's scratches.

Dr George Coty, of Alexandria, an advocate of the bill, says that "Scratching is a normal, instinctive behavior for cats. They just need to be taught what they can scratch, like posts and pads made of sisal, cardboard, carpet and wood."

Pulling their claws through a resistant surface is a daily routine for cats in order to mark territory, exercise muscles, relieve stress and remove worn nail sheaths. For cats spending time outside, claws are essential for defense and hunting prey. The declaw surgery is major, called onychectomy, a procedure which removes bone, sensory and motor nerves, the nail beds and claws. It requires amputation of the first knuckle of each front claw; akin to removal of a human finger or toe at the first knuckle. Surgical recovery is painful with the potential to result in chronic, life-long pain. That pain may result in a change to the animal's gait and intolerance of some surfaces including litter boxes and carpet, for pain avoidance. Many groups, including the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and the American Society for the Prevention Cruelty to Animals (ASAP-CA) have strongly discouraged declawing,

ART SHOW

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



The iconic Abbey Road scenario.



Yesterday, all their troubles were so far away.

Rock Art Show Splashes Color in Mount Vernon

Nepenthe Gallery is hosting famous artworks from the Scooby Doo and Yellow Submarine days.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

Whether it's the blue moonies wreaking havoc with the Beatles in Yellow Submarine, or "George of the Jungle," smacking into a tree, Ron Campbell was there. His colorful cartoon art spans three generations and is now coming to Mount Vernon's Nepenthe Gallery to lay the groundwork for this nostalgic art.

"I was right there on the leading edge of animation in Australia," Campbell said in an interview a few years ago. "I always enjoyed what I did," he added.

Campbell, who died in early 2021, was an Australian with a knack for the colorful, character art that seems to have a place in everyone's life these days, whether they remember Scooby Doo while eating cereal on Saturday morning in the 1970s or the Smurfs.

"Literally three generations of cartoons, the golden age of cartoons," said Scott Segelbaum, the Rock Art Show host who was with Campbell for years and now

keeps the show alive.

Campbell didn't really know too much about the Beatles even though they are one of the biggest names in rock music, and even thought his agent was talking about the actual insects when he first pitched the idea. Following the Beatles, he drew cartoons of Scooby Doo and the Harlem Globetrotters who got on his nerves because of the amount of dribbling. "Even when they're standing still they're bouncing the ball," he said. His caricature-like interpretations were perfect though, and got another slot for the Saturday morning viewers.

Now the show tours around the country, making stops in Salem, New Jersey; Akron, Ohio; Mexico or across the pond to Liverpool, the birthplace of the Beatles.

Segelbaum wanted to make an appearance in this area and settled on Nepenthe Gallery. Not just anywhere will do for this style of show. "It's a fun, happy kind of place," he said. "They instantly got it," he added, referring to a cultural significance that is needed for Campbell's show.

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Scooby Dooby Doo, where are you?

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.

LOOKING FOR SOFTBALL PLAYERS

The Golden Girls of Northern Virginia, a senior women's softball league, is looking for players. Any woman over the age of 40 is encouraged to join. All skill levels are welcome. They play most Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings in Vienna

from May-July and September-October. For more information, visit the web site www.goldengirls.org.

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.opawshomes.org.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 14

Chronic Wasting Disease Found in Fairfax County

Chronic Wasting Disease has been confirmed for the first time in a white-tailed deer harvested in Fairfax County. An adult male deer that was harvested on private land in Vienna this deer hunting season has tested positive for CWD. The sample was obtained by the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) from a taxidermist participating in statewide CWD surveillance and confirmed positive for CWD through laboratory testing. This deer was harvested and tested independently from the Fairfax County Deer Management Program.

Chronic wasting disease is a fatal neurological disease of deer, elk, and moose. The disease is caused by an abnormal infectious protein called a prion. Prions are transmitted to uninfected deer directly through saliva, feces and urine shed by infected deer and indirectly as a result of soil contaminated with prions. The potential impacts of CWD to the white-tailed deer populations of Virginia are a serious concern. The DWR leads Virginia's CWD surveillance and management efforts and relies on

assistance from hunters, taxidermists, processors, other agencies, and diverse constituent groups to implement surveillance and management strategies.

CWD is fatal to animals and there are no treatments or vaccines.

The CDC reports that to date, there have been no reported cases of CWD infection in people. However, some animal studies suggest CWD poses a risk to certain types of non-human primates, like monkeys, that eat meat from CWD-infected animals or come in contact with brain or body fluids from infected deer or elk. The CDC says these studies raise concerns that there may also be a risk to people. Since 1997, the World Health Organization has recommended that it is important to keep the agents of all known prion diseases from entering the human food chain. www.cdc.gov/prions/cwd/index.html

Fairfax County wildlife management staff, in collaboration with park ecologists and Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources, have been conducting surveillance for Chronic Wasting Disease in Fairfax County since 2019 given the likelihood that

the disease would spread to our area and the implications it poses for deer conservation and management. Over the past 4 years, county staff have sampled and tested over 750 deer harvested through the Fairfax County Deer Management Program. The majority of samples were taken from hunter-harvested deer through the county's archery program.

County staff are working in close partnership with the DWR to determine any new rules or regulatory changes that will occur, testing options for hunters in the county program and on private property, and how this detection might affect local processors, taxidermists, and Hunters for the Hungry donations.

See Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources [https://dwr.vir-](https://dwr.virginia.gov/wildlife/diseases/cwd/webpage)

[ginia.gov/wildlife/diseases/cwd/webpage](https://dwr.virginia.gov/wildlife/diseases/cwd/webpage) for more information

To report a sick deer, call the DWR Wildlife Conflict Line at 1-855-571-9003 to report sick deer showing neurologic signs (loss of coordination, droopy head or ears, lack of fear of humans, excessive drooling, etc.) and extreme emaciation. Accurately document the location of the animal.

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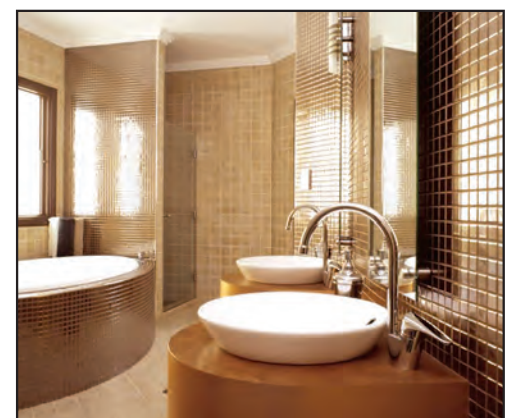
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PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE GAZETTE

Front row from left, Karen Joseph, president of Food for Neighbors; Colonel Jörg Dronia, commander of the German Armed Forces Command; Sheila Olem, mayor of the Town of Herndon; Supervisor John W. Foust; (back row, from left) Master Sergeant Manuel Pfaff; Captain Khalid Hashmi; and Commander Dirk Miesler, German, German Armed Forces Command.

Helps Fight Hunger

FROM PAGE 3

with some of the items listed on the attached tag, and leave it outside their front door on the recorded Saturdays. Volunteer drivers pick up the bags, and other volunteers sort the items to distribute the same day to local schools. “They (the students) check in regularly to pick up food, toiletries, or grocery store gift cards from the social workers and family liaisons at their schools,” said Joseph.

The impact of Food for Neighbor’s distribution helps middle and high school students with basic human needs. “We have an amazing organization here that is helping us meet that need,” said Dranesville District Supervisor John Foust (D), who attended. “We’re fortunate to live in a society where the schools have programs that will feed children and students during the school day, but a big gap needs to be addressed ... We rely on the nonprofit community to help make life bearable and better for so many residents of our community.”

Sheila Olem, the mayor of the Town of Herndon, said, “I was amazed at the local churches and nonprofits that teamed up together and looked after our community because the government can’t do it all.”

Colonel Jörg Dronia is the German Armed Forces Command commander at 11150 Sunrise Valley Drive in Reston. Dronia said that when he assumed the position approximately one and a half years ago, he inquired about their relationship with Reston and Herndon. “No clue,” Dronia discovered. “That can’t be. We have been here for fifty to sixty years,” he said.

Dronia knocked on the local supervisors’ and mayor’s doors. He talked to community members and realized that the United States social system and safety net differ from that of Germany. Dronia said he learned about volunteers in the U.S. and their contributions.

Wanting to be a part of this change team, the colonel said he raised funds for community activities. “That was our strategy. That was our game. That was my game, and it was strongly supported by staff,” Dronia said.

As members of the German Armed Forces Command stood with other volunteers awaiting the first drivers to drop off their collected Red Bags, Dronia



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE GAZETTE

From left, Supervisor John W. Foust, Colonel Jörg Dronia, commander of the German Armed Forces Command, Sheila Olem, mayor of the Town of Herndon, and Karen Joseph, president of Food for Neighbors

presented what he called a “small donation” to Joseph. He explained that the funds came from a portion of the German Armed Forces Command’s 2022 Christkindlmarket and Oktoberfest. Dronia provided Food for Neighbors with a \$4,093.60 check.

Food for Neighbors’ mission is to end child hunger in the Northern Virginia area by raising awareness and community involvement. Through awareness comes a desire to help because no one believes a child should struggle with hunger. Interested in engaging your community to help local teens? Find out more at www.FoodforNeighbors.org

First Bill on MLK Day

FROM PAGE 6

up 5.4% of the Virginia housing market, with 184,000 units across the state. Manufactured home parks are unique in that residents typically own their homes and pay rent on the land that the home sits on. I am particularly proud of the parks in my district: Audubon Estates, Harmony Place, Woodley Hills, Rays and Engleside, and Penn Daw Terrace. However, these parks—all located along Richmond Highway—are endangered by coming development. Harmony Place and Rays and Engleside were recently bought by equity investment firms, something that is happening all across the country. In both cases a nonprofit was willing to purchase the park and the residents formed organizations to represent themselves in order to make an offer. But because the park owners had already signed sales contracts with high penalties for backing out, they did not consider other offers. This maneuver pointed out a big loophole in legislation passed a couple years ago requiring park owners to make any sales contract public so nonprofits could make a counter offer.

Clearly park owners needed an incentive to sell to nonprofits. HB 1578 offers a tax credit to owners of manufactured home parks to incentivize selling to nonprofit organizations or resident associations rather than profit-making organizations that may close a park and evict residents, raise rents, or reduce maintenance. The bill would allow park owners to deduct any gain from such a sale from their taxable income. Across the state, a number of parks have been stabilized and improved under the ownership of nonprofit organizations like Habitat for Humanity and Catholics for Housing, who run parks for the benefit of the residents. The choice to sell to these groups is completely optional, but HB 1578 strongly incentivizes that choice. Providing incentives to sell to nonprofits or resident cooperatives is the only way to level the playing field and preserve these valuable sources of market-rate affordable housing. Mobile home park tenants benefit not only from resident-centered management but also because the bill requires the sold property to be maintained as a manufactured home park for at least thirty years after the sale. These parks are not just people’s homes, they are also communities, and those communities deserve to decide how they should be run, with help from outside, not interference.

OPINION

Park residents are standing up to keep their homes. I am proud of the mobile home owners and tenants in four of the parks in my district for forming a residents’ coalition to press for nonprofit or cooperative ownership of their parks as well as improved conditions. The coalition grew out of residents associations formed at several parks to help make counter offers to park owners. Organized by Tenants and Workers United, a couple dozen of these mobile homeowners came to Richmond on MLK Day to lobby for more supportive laws. They are learning how to raise their voices to determine their future.

Last year, I introduced two bills on manufactured housing and passed HB 1065, which established a work group of manufactured home park stakeholders to develop a sample manufactured home lot rental agreement and sample manufactured home park notices regarding the intent to sell. The series of meetings the group had in late 2022 brought together a diverse group of interested parties, including the South County Task Force here in my district, Supervisor Rodney Lusk, landlords, tenants, lawyers, and state representatives, with the goal of keeping these parks accessible while clarifying rights and responsibilities between landlords and tenants. Draft recommendations were compiled by the Virginia Housing Development Authority and are now under review.

Unfortunately, HB 1578, has not been as successful as HB 1065 was last year, as the House Finance Subcommittee #1 was unable to reach a consensus on referring it to the full committee, and it died on a 4-4 vote. This was also due, in part, to a miscalculation by the Department of Taxation on the fiscal analysis of the proposal, which concerned the subcommittee members. Realistically, the portion of park sales that would be impacted by this bill is small, most likely no more than 2% of annual manufactured home park sales. Being in the minority means sometimes watching good bills die, but thankfully the Senate version of this bill, Senate Bill (SB) 922, is progressing through the other chamber. Hopefully SB 922, patroned by Senator Hashmi, will pass the Senate and make it over to the House side to give this legislation a second chance, which would be a win for both the residents of these parks and the owners who want to do the right thing.

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NEWS

Fatal Crash on Lee Chapel Road Claims Two Students' Lives

Steep hills are no stranger to fatalities in Fairfax Station.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

Two teens were killed in a fatal accident on Lee Chapel Road in Fairfax Station on Tuesday, Jan. 10, putting the spotlight on a hazardous spot that's been on area officials' radar for years. The recent crash occurred when a car full of teens from South County High School crested one of the steep hills, lost control and crashed into the woods, killing two girls and putting the driver in the hospital with serious injuries.

This area has been the site of several fatal accidents in the past. There are two sharp hills where a car can actually become airborne, a feature that is well known to drivers in the area. Currently, there are a few makeshift memorials for past accidents, including one big cross with flowers, intended to note an accident years ago that killed a girl named "Allie." A note remains on the cross:

"Dear Allie, today is the 17th and it's been a hard 17 years without you my sweetness, I love you, I miss you," it read.

According to the Fairfax County Police, dispatchers received an emergency notification at 9:26 p.m. on January 10, for a crash in the 7400 block of Lee Chapel Road. Officers searched the area and found a 2019 Lexus IS350 off of the road. Fire and res-



Warning signs indicate the limited visibility in this spot on Lee Chapel Road in Fairfax Station.

cue personnel extricated one victim, who was taken to a nearby hospital with injuries considered life-threatening. Two other occupants of the Lexus were declared deceased at the scene.

Preliminarily, detectives determined the driver was traveling north on Lee Chapel Road. As the sedan crested a hill, the driver lost control, left the roadway and the vehicle came to rest on its roof. Preliminarily, detectives believe speed was a factor in the crash. Alcohol was not a factor in the crash, police said.

This section of Lee Chapel Road is in the Springfield District and Supervisor Pat Herr-

ity has looked at improvements in 2015 and 2017 but it became a budget issue. After this last fatality, he's planned a meeting with the Virginia Department of Transportation and the Fairfax County Department of Transportation. "I'm looking for an interim solution right now," Herrity said.

Speed is a big factor on this road, and recently Herrity worked with the police at the West Springfield station to get a speed enforcement team to address speeding. Lately the FCPD has experienced staff shortages so they eliminated these teams.

In the Springfield District, there have

been other accidents on the rural roads, so Herrity is looking at other places in need of solutions as well. There are places on Popes Head Road, Hampton Road and Clifton Road that need some attention, he said.

On social media, there was a petition to get Lee Chapel Road fixed, as well as several other suggestions including "make that stretch a four lane, taking out the curves and humps," said one responder on Nextdoor. Lowering the speed limit was another option that was discussed. "If they do not follow the speed limit now, what good is lowering it?" asked a responder from Keene Mill Oaks.



This memorial is for another fatality here on Lee Chapel Road.

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Looking west, the dips in the road impact the ride in both directions.

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BULLETIN

FROM PAGE 10

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 of 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 Advisory Board of the Joe and Fredona Gartlan Center for mental health is looking for volunteers. The board meets the second Tuesday of the month from 9-11 a.m. at Gartlan Center 8119 Holland Road.

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Dog & Cat Bills Filed In 2023 General Assembly

FROM PAGE 9

unless medically necessary, for example, due to bone infection or cancer in the nail bed, and then only to affected digits, not all toes. The simplest non-surgical alternative is to regularly trim nails to blunt the tips.

TNR programs

Although a similar bill was filed last year without passage, Trap Neuter Return proponents have re-introduced a bill this year under the sponsorship of Del. Kelly Con-virs-Fowler (D-21). TNR programs, used throughout the Commonwealth, attempt to deal with the overpopulation of feral cats, those living outside on their own, not as household pets. The law would codify the legitimacy of such programs and protect volunteers in the program from charges of animal abandonment. The bill also would set requirements for animal handling, trap identification, record keeping, and set fines for non-compliance.

The bill is likely to renew the battle of cat people versus bird people. In 2013, “Nature Communications” published a systematic review and quantitative study of mortality caused by cats. The study estimated wild-life kills by free-ranging domestic cats at 1.3 - 4.0 billion birds, and 6.3 - 22.3 billion mammals, annually. Unowned cats, opposed to owned pets, were cited as the cause of the majority of the mortality. Leading bird groups, such as Audubon, oppose allowing house cats to roam and the re-release of feral cats. Cat people argue, however, that TNR programs serve as an aid to the bird kill problem since they stifle feral cat population growth. Groups such as Alley Cat Allies, founded in 1990, cite TNR programs “as the only humane and effective approach for community cat management.”

Defining ‘Adequate Water’ for Dogs/Cats

A bill affecting both dogs and cats is HB1984, requiring continuous access to potable water.

The bill, sponsored by Del. Kaye Kory (D-38), co-chair of the General Assembly Animal Caucus, would update Virginia’s existing code definition of “adequate water” to mirror required water access in the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA). In May 2020 the AWA was changed and has required that potable water be continuously accessible to dogs. For cats, if potable water is not continuously available, it must be offered not less than twice daily for at least one hour each time. Only an attending veterinarian can restrict water from that standard.

No change was made to Virginia’s code language for comprehensive animal care at the time of the federal change in 2020. Kory’s bill will put the federal and state laws in sync again. In addition, Kory’s bill adds guidance on water delivery sourcing based on scientific knowledge of dog and cat natural drinking behaviors. According to university researchers, dogs thrust their tongues with power into water, pulling water behind

the tongue, with three laps moving water toward the back of the throat [Crompton, Alfred; Musinsky, Catherine; and Reis, Pedro; “Ingestion and intramural transport in Canus familiars”, Royal Society Journal Biology Letters, 2011; <http://doi.org/10.1098/rsbl.2011.0336>]. Cats drink a bit differently as explained by Virginia Tech professor Sunghwan Jung who researched drinking behavior in cats. “Cats place their tongue on the water surface and then lift the tongue very rapidly and create the nice column of water. Before the column pinches off ...they bite the column of water and drink it.” With dog’s need to insert the tongue into water, and cat’s need to touch the tongue surface and create a water column, the practice of using small mammal drip bottles for expediency at certain facilities does not meet the definition of providing “adequate water” in a suitable manner to the species and type of each animal” as required by current Virginia code. Kory’s bill provides that guidance.

Other Animal Bills

Kory and Del. Robert Orrock (R-54) have bills relating to pet shops which sell dogs and cats. Their respective bills require annual registration and civil penalties for failure to follow posting, reporting and operational requirements.

Animal advocates will push for passage of a prohibition on animal killing contests for coyotes and other fur-bearing animals. Animal advocates are likely to oppose legislation related to roadside zoos introduced by newly elected Del. Ellen Campbell, who filled the vacancy created by the death of her husband Ronnie Campbell (R-24). Last year Ronnie Campbell sponsored a zoo related bill which was held over during the 2022 session. This year’s bill would make cruelty seizure of animals at road-side zoos more difficult for State inspectors by eliminating animals defined as “livestock” from seizure language.

The roadside zoo in Natural Bridge drew national attention in 2019 for the zoo’s poor treatment of Asha the elephant. The zoo agreed to pay \$41,500 to settle six of nearly 150 violations of the Animal Welfare Act cited by the USDA and was subject to animal seizures related to inadequate care, and even animal bludgeoning as a form of euthanasia. The zoo has only one elephant who has resided there without the company of other elephants for over 30 years. Recently, the animal welfare group In Defense of Animals placed the Natural Bridge Zoo on their list of the ten worst zoos for elephants in North America.

These animal bills will be heard in agriculture subcommittees in both houses in the coming weeks. Those deemed to have merit will proceed for consideration by their full agriculture committees, before moving to the Senate and House floors for vote. Those passed by each body will crossover to the other body and if successful, move to the governor’s desk for final enactment.

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The ongoing pandemic continues to crush many newspapers across the country, and our newspapers continue to be at risk. The Northern Virginia area's best read and most trusted source for community news includes the Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette and all Connection Newspapers in the metropolitan region.

The pandemic has hit small businesses hard, which in turn has reduced advertising revenue that keeps these local newspapers alive to provide hyper local news to residents. It feels like no small miracle to be looking forward into 2022.

The pandemic has been a bear, financially and otherwise. Revenue plummeted at the beginning in 2020. Some beloved advertisers have stayed the course supporting us throughout, and many more have done what they can. In the fall of 2021 we saw the return of some advertising for events and Grand Openings, but now ominous clouds the horizon in so many ways. Revenue still remains short of expenses despite our greatly curtailed costs.

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Still Struggling



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

If any of you regular readers thought one week would be enough content for me to write any wrongs concerning my brother, Richard's premature death, you were mistaken. Given the depth of the loss – for me, and even more so for Richard's wife, Vanessa, one week of literary substance is not nearly enough (your real concern should be that writing forward, this space will become Richard-centric, brotherly driven). Nevertheless, for this week at least, the subject of my brother's death is front and center, again.

Practically speaking, life goes on. Still, when one of your foundational pieces is destroyed (for lack of a better description) and replacing it is completely impossible, where does one go to rudder-the-ship back on track. Unfortunately, I don't think there's any place to go, and that's what scares me. Moreover, being the sole survivor of the Barry Lourie family (neither Richard nor I had natural-born children) carries a certain weight/finality to it that seems awfully heavy.

If either of your parents are living, you feel connected to previous generations. However, when your surviving parent dies, you become – in essence, an orphan, and often your connection with the family is adjusted, sort of. It's just not the same. Combined with the passing of time – and simple geography in many instances, many of these connections don't stand the test of that passing time. I'm not admit, exactly, but I'm something I wasn't prior to my brother's death: lonely. I'm not alone, but the loss/his passing is palpable. It's as if the connection to myself has been severed. And it will be impossible to reconnect. Because for me, being the one surviving sibling, is all it's cracked up to be: lousy. It's not as if there's any accrued benefit in surviving, as in a last-man-standing scenario where assets, associations, memories, et cetera, accrue – to some unspoken benefit. Granted, the memories are priceless, but I'd rather talk to him – in person, not remember him. It's almost an injustice to remember him, as if that's sufficient. It's not. He deserves so much more but there's nothing I can really do to change that. I must accept it. He's gone. Never to be forgotten, for sure. Nevertheless, it seems a hollow testament to a life well lived.

What bothers me as much as anything is the age when he died: 73. I thought that he (and I) would live at least as long as our parents did (presuming the succeeding generations live longer) who were 87 and 86 respectively, and who had minimal health problems until their final years. Yet, Richard has already passed at age 73 and yours truly, who is five years younger, has a “terminal” form of papillary thyroid cancer, which likely makes me mortality challenged as well and unlikely even to reach my brother's age at death. In summary: what a rip!

This column is not at all an admission that only upon my brother's death did I realize how lucky I was to have had Richard as my older brother/caretaker. I knew, very clearly during his life, how fortunate I had been to have Richard in my corner. As a few examples: when I was hospitalized for a week in early August 2015, my brother was at the hospital every day, all day – and I knew it. A few years ago, I was again hospitalized, for nearly another week due to elevated calcium, the aftereffects to a previous month's thyroidectomy. Again, every day, my brother was present at the hospital, advocating, when necessary, but mostly supporting. In the two most significant cancer-related hospital admissions (not to mention all the oncology appointments and infusions where he, as a founding member of Team Lourie, was always present and accounted for) my brother didn't just talk the talk, he walked the walk, on my behalf. When I had the chance, this past summer, to return the favor and commit to his welfare/recovery from sepsis, I was, along with his wife, Vanessa, likewise present and accounted for every day. I had learned from the best how to act in a family crisis.

And it's that commitment which makes his passing difficult to process. Vanessa and I put so much time and effort into his recovery (happily so) that it's hard not to feel cheated by his semi unexpected death. Certainly, we were aware/had been educated as to the severity of septic shock, which precipitated his emergency room visit that mid-July evening, and subsequently left him comatose for almost two weeks; still, his miraculous recovery made us all so proud and hopeful that since he endured the worst of it, perhaps we all might be rewarded with the best of it: his return to a normal-type life. We thought he had dodged a bullet and that his future was bright. When he died that early Dec. morning, we were surprised but not shocked. Still, it's been difficult to process. He was doing so well.

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



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