

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

JANUARY 26, 2023



WETA stars John Begeny and Christine Louise touring with local real estate agent Lauren Kolazas.

WETA Cameras Rolling in Three Mount Vernon Neighborhoods

Show highlights homes while the touring team guesses the selling price.

By MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

The WETA cameras were rolling in Mount Vernon recently as the local PBS channel featured three houses in their “If You Lived Here,” series, pointing out several high-points that make this area a great place to live.

The crew enlisted local real estate agent Lauren Kolazas in their search as they stopped in Bucknell Manor, Hollin Hills and central Mount Vernon to show houses at three different expense levels depending on what potential buyers were looking for.

“One of my jobs is to find the homes,” said Kolazas.

This house-hunting series spot-

lights a wide array of neighborhoods and properties throughout the national capital area while celebrating each area’s history, culture, notable places and flavor, according to the show description. The hosts, longtime Washingtonians Christine Louise and John Begeny, tour homes and communities with local realtors, exploring the D.C. Metro region one neigh-



WETA stars John Begeny and Christine Louise are in front of a Mount Vernon colonial with local real estate agent Lauren Kolazas.

PHOTOS BY WETA

borhood at a time. Part of the show is guessing the prices on each of the homes they visit, so in Mount Vernon, John and Christine guess the listing prices on a starter home built in 1950, then a mid-century modern home designed by architect Charles Goodman, and finally a colonial with influences from the 1770s.

House #1 in Bucknell Manor

was a four bedroom, three bath home built in 1950, with an extensive garden. Begeny guessed \$650,000 while Louise priced it at \$700,000, and the actual price was \$695,000. At the second house, a four-bedroom, 2.5 bath mid-century modern house in Hollin Hills, they were both pretty close to the \$1,050,000 selling price. The third

SEE WETA, PAGE 3

What Improvements for Area of Telegraph and Hayfield Roads?

The Virginia Department of Transportation is seeking public feedback on potential improvements in the area of Telegraph Road (Route 611) and Hayfield Road (Route 635). At the intersection, Telegraph Road averages about 20,000 vehicles a day and Hayfield Road averages about 7,900

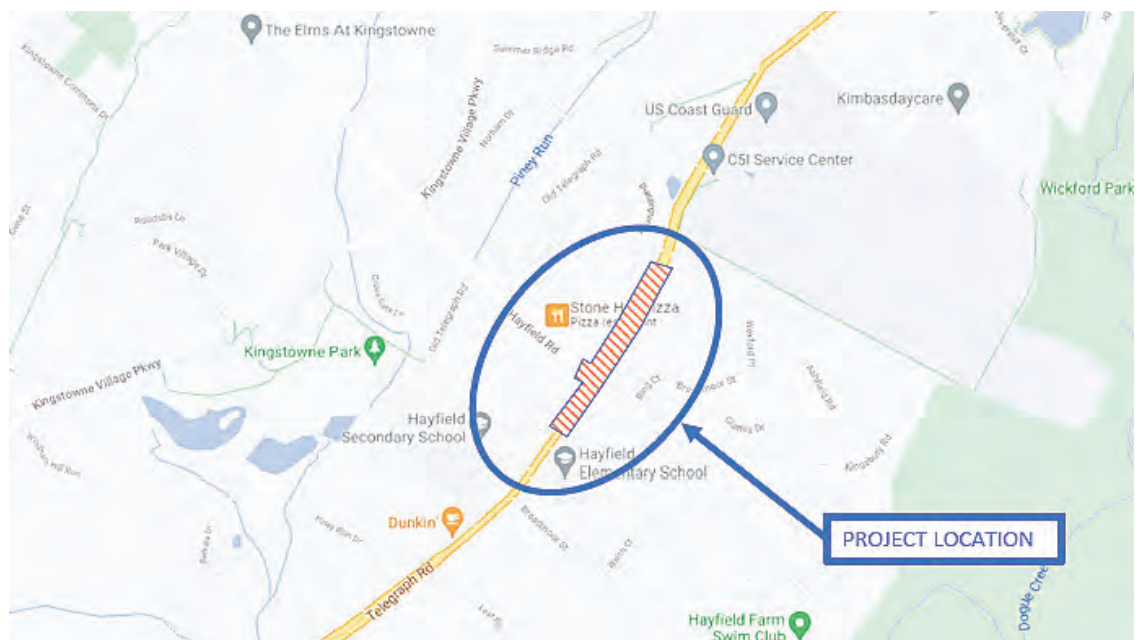
Residents, travelers, pedestrians and bicyclists are asked to take an online survey virginiadot.org/TelegraphatHayfield presenting several design alternatives, including the three congestion-related alternatives previously presented at the January 2022 virtual public information meeting, plus two designs that focus on pedestrian improvements with no road

widening.

❖ Baseline concept: Adding a northbound auxiliary through lane on Telegraph Road through the Hayfield Road intersection and upgrading curb ramps on the east side of Telegraph Road

❖ Widening to east concept: Adding a northbound auxiliary through lane on Telegraph Road through the Hayfield Road intersection, and upgrading curb ramps and providing an eight-foot-wide sidewalk on the east side of Telegraph Road

❖ Widening to west concept: Adding a northbound auxiliary through lane on Telegraph Road through the Hayfield Road intersection, reducing crosswalk lengths, upgrading curb ramps,



SEE VDOT, PAGE 11

improvements here? Take an online survey at virginiadot.org/TelegraphatHayfield

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Old Town | \$3,650,000

Circa 1840 Victorian gem has been masterfully reimagined by architect Val Hawkins. The double parlor features high ceilings, a spectacular bay window, and wood-burning fireplace. A spacious dining room also has a wood-burning fireplace plus patio access. The heart of the home showcases a top-of-the-line chef's kitchen and the adjoining family room offers direct access to the brick-walled patio. 500 Duke St
Lauren Bishop 202.361.5079
www.LaurenBishopHomes.com



Old Town | \$3,495,000

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www.JanetPriceHomes.com



OPEN SUN 1/29, 2-4PM

Alexandria City | \$1,395,000

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Noel Kaupinen 703.200.1165
www.noelk.com



Vienna | \$1,100,000

Beautifully situated home with 4 bedrooms plus den/office. The main-level family room with fireplace walks out to a stone patio. Expansive eat-in kitchen. Hardwood floors on two levels. Finished lower level rec room plus additional storage. 1427 Laurel Hill Road
Rick Kicklighter 703.772.9997
www.KicklighterTeam.com



Rosemont | \$829,900

The unique features in this 2-bedroom, 2-bath townhome are unparalleled. The main level offers warm hardwood flooring and a great flow. The kitchen features an incredible floor-to-ceiling picture window overlooking the private backyard. 19 E Linden Street
Jen Walker 703.675.1566
www.JenWalker.com



OPEN SUN 1/29, 2-4PM

Olde Belhaven Towne | \$850,000

Exquisite townhome in sought-after community across from Belle Haven Country Club. 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, light hardwood floors, 2 fireplaces, and updated kitchen. Lower level rec room, sunroom addition, and 2 patios. 6315 Fort Hunt Road
Rebecca McCullough 571.384.0941
www.RebeccaMcCullough.com



OPEN SAT 1/28 & SUN 1/29, 2-4PM

Dumfries | \$789,000

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www.RealtorHeidiB.com



OPEN SUN 1/29, 2-4PM

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Speed a Factor in the Fatal Crash on Lee Chapel Road

Police release more information after further investigation.

By Mike Salmon
The Gazette

After further investigation, the Fairfax County Police Department determined that speed was a major factor in the fatal crash that killed two South County High School students on Tuesday, Jan. 10. One teen remains hospitalized from that crash.

After reviewing the evidence from the crash and the vehicle's

When

Monday, Jan. 30, 2023

7 - 8:30 p.m. Virtual Town Hall on Safety of Lee Chapel Road

Virtual meeting

Event Contact: Dave Foreman, 703-451-8873, TTY 711
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81209224706>

airbag control module, detectives determined the Lexus was traveling 100.7 miles per hour before the crash. Detectives from the scene determined the car was airborne for approximately 130 feet. Detectives continue to investigate the crash, the police said.

The driver and the rear passenger of the Lexus were declared deceased at the scene, according to police reports. The passenger in the backseat was not wearing a seatbelt, police said.

This fatal crash put the spotlight on a hazardous spot along Lee

Chapel Road in Fairfax Station. In response to the fatal accident, officials have stepped up with possible solutions to reduce crashes. The first step last week was the installation of optical speed bars that VDOT put into place to increase the awareness in this area.

These optical speed bars are a safety measure, but the officials and engineers are looking to do more in the near future to prevent fatalities like the one on January 10. To hear more about the road proposals, tune into a virtual town hall on Monday, Jan. 30.



On the approach to the hill, these optical speed bars were installed recently to create awareness.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SPRINGFIELD SUPERVISOR PAT HERITY

Ceremonial Groundbreaking for New Mount Vernon Rec

A groundbreaking ceremony was held on Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2023, for the expansion and renovation of the Mount Vernon Rec Center, one of Fairfax County's oldest and most popular rec centers. The Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) was joined by several elected officials, project partners, staff and members of the community to celebrate the center's more than 40 years of service to the community, comprising countless memories, friendships and experiences.

"Fairfax County Rec Centers are much more than just a gym," said Park Authority Executive Director Jai Cole. "These are places where friends, families and communities come together; where people of all ages enjoy activities that build resilience, confidence and character; and where talents and skills are strengthened, and a sense of community and service are nurtured."

Many of these memories and sentiments of an appreciative



Ceremonial groundbreaking for the renovated and expanded Mount Vernon Rec Center.

community were memorialized on the glass surrounding the ice rink on the facility's final day of operation – a common tradition among the skating community. The tribute represented a strong statement to the importance of the Rec Center for many, both skaters and non-skaters.

"If these walls could talk, we might hear the story of a four-time adult national champion fig-

ure skater Beth Delano, who spent countless hours on the ice developing her talent – remembering fondly her best routine ever on this very ice," said Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck. "You might also hear about a very special aquatics instructor, Laura Nelson-Bolick, who has led water exercise here for more than 30 years – but even more importantly, created an environment of

social engagement that shaped meaningful friendships and activities for participants."

On Dec. 31, 2022, the Mount Vernon Rec Center closed its doors in preparation for the major renovation and expansion expected to last two years. The project will include a complete renovation of the current building and mechanical systems, as well as a 75,000-square-foot expansion. FCPA staff have

been working to transition programs and activities to alternate sites and expand capacity at other nearby Rec Center locations to accommodate community needs and interests during the closure.

When complete, the state-of-the-art facility will include two NHL-sized ice rinks, a two-level dedicated fitness area, an elevated indoor track, swimming pool, climbing wall and multi-purpose rooms. Anticipated completion is scheduled in 2025.

The project budget is \$74 million, with funds coming from previous voter-approved Park Bonds and additional funding provided through the American Recovery Plan Act.

For more information about the Mount Vernon Rec Center Renovation and Expansion project, visit the Mt. Vernon Rec Center Renovation and Fitness Addition webpage. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/planning-development/development/mount-vernon-rec-center>

WETA Cameras Rolling in Three Mount Vernon Neighborhoods

FROM PAGE 1

house, a large colonial with an indoor pool, went for \$1.475 million, about \$100,000 beyond their guesses.

"If You Lived Here" started in the summer of 2020 and since then they've covered thirty-six neighborhoods during the first three seasons of the show, including nearby neighborhoods like Old Town Alexandria and Del

Ray. The show has explores all around the DMV. In each area, they work with a real estate agent that knows the area well, like Lauren Kolazas who is a resident of Fort Hunt.

"Realtors like Lauren Kolazas are key to the success of the show," said Begeny. "The realtor is our guide to the homes, and then show producers look for community members and representatives who can really speak to the

experience of living in Mount Vernon." In between house visits, the show highlighted the history of the area and the bike trail.

Shooting part of the episode in Hollin Hills worked out well because Begeny has a passion for mid-century modern homes. In fact, they featured another Charles Goodman house in a North Arlington episode.

Kolazas is an agent, so being in front of

the camera was a different experience for her, but she credited the WETA team who coached her and worked with her to overcome any jitters. Nonetheless, "it was pretty scary if you have no experience doing it," she said. "It was one of the highlights of my professional career," she added.

Next stop for "If You Lived Here," will be Olney/Sandy Spring, Maryland.

Respecting Tribal Sovereignty

BY DEL. PAUL KRIZEK

Here in Richmond, we are in the midst of the second full week of session. In a short session, this is the week where things really kick into high gear. While much of last week was waiting for committee assignments for our bills and prepping testimony, this afternoon alone, I have three of my bills scheduled for hearings at the same time!

As I've mentioned before, one of my bills this year, HB 2004, seeks to require state agencies to consult with tribal nations when evaluating certain permits and reviews with potential impacts on environmental, cultural, or historic resources or that would have tribal implications. This is the Virginia tribes' legislative priority.

Last week, on the evening of Jan. 18, Virginia's federally recognized tribal nations hosted their inaugural reception at the Library of Virginia, which, by the way, is celebrating its 200th anniversary this year. At the reception, I was recognized as a 2022 Tribal Champion with Senator McClellan, Senator Marsden, and Delegate McQuinn. Virginia's tribal chiefs, as well as the Secretary of the Commonwealth Kay Cole James were in attendance. I'd like to thank the Secretary for her attendance at this historic event, as well as her remarks which reinforced her commitment to fulfilling her statutory duty to serve as the Governor's liaison to the Virginia Indian tribes.

Receiving this recognition was a great honor for me, and I do not take it lightly. I accepted



2022 Tribal Champions: Del. Paul Krizek, Sen. Jennifer McClellan, Sen. David Marsden and legislative aide attending for Del. Delores McQuinn.

the honor on behalf of my constituents who recognize that indigenous tribes are often relegated to Virginia's colonial past, rather than seen as essential citizens of today. I thank the Tribal leaders, the Honorable Chief Frank Adams of the Upper Mattaponi, Chief Anne Richardson of the Rappahannock Indian Tribe, Chief Keith Anderson of the Nansemond Indian Nation, Chief Stephen Adkins of the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, Chief Kenneth Branham of the Monacan Indian Nation, and Chief Jerry Stewart of the Chickahominy Indian Tribe Eastern Division. I am grateful to play my very small role here in the General Assembly to support and advance their agenda and be their partner, especially as we move forward in enacting a tribal consulta-

tion law which is critical to how sovereign governments respect each other.

My entire career has been dedicated to supporting America's Indigenous people, from working for Congressman Jim Moran who fought for Congressman Wittman's legislation, the Thomasina Jordan Act (that granted federal recognition to six of Virginia's tribes), to working with the philanthropist Olympic Gold Medalist Billy Mills (Oglala Lakota) for the past 33 years. I am proud that our charitable organization, Running Strong for American Indian Youth, donated to the opening of the Mantle, the Virginia Indian monument here on the Capitol grounds, where Billy Mills came and spoke at the ceremonial groundbreaking back in 2018.

Native people have lived on this land for thousands of years, and they are still here today. Their citizens have suffered untold hardships, discrimination, and loss of land, language, and livelihoods. And yet, they have endured. 13,000 Native Americans died in World War I fighting for the United States, and at the time, they were not even considered US citizens. The sacrifice, patriotism, and culture of Virginia's tribes inspires all of us and are woven into the fabric of our great nation.

I pledge that as long as the good people of Mount Vernon, once the home of the Dogue and Piscataway Indians, keep electing me to return to the General Assembly, I will be a strong supporter of Virginia's tribal nations and will tirelessly fight for their priorities and respect for their sovereignty.

Holding the Line on Green Energy Progress

BY SEN. ADAM EBBIN

Despite the season, it has been a balmy fifty degrees most days here in Richmond. The usually sagging coat racks have remained empty, Capitol Square has been bustling with government employees and medi-

cal professionals from the nearby VCU Hospital enjoying their lunch breaks, and the usually high-demand cold-weather shuttle to parking decks has been shirked by legislators in favor of pleasant strolls to their rental units. While this unseasonable warm snap is not, in and of itself, proof of a

changing climate, it is an indicator of a well accepted scientific fact: our earth is warming, altering, due to human activity.

Unfortunately, neither the gentle reminder brought on by the warmer days or the rather stark realities of our rapidly declining environment have convinced our current gubernatorial administration or my Republican colleagues that we must take meaningful action

to transition to a renewable energy future. In fact, GOP legislators have introduced a wide swath of bills to roll back our progress on clean energy and climate action laws.

The three central tenets of Virginia's clean energy transition — Virginia's Clean Car standards, our participation in the Regional

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Prevent Suicides, Lock Up Guns

I applaud Delegate Paul Krizek's Opinion piece in the Dec.

15-21 Mount Vernon Gazette on Suicide Prevention.

However, in my opinion it fell short in the paragraph "what can we do to prevent suicide across the spectrum."

One of the nine signs listed was, "collecting pills or buying a weapon."

Use of the word weapon in this warning sign is the only mention of guns in the entire Opinion piece.

Clearly one of the things we can do to prevent suicide is to lock up all guns in the home. Only the gun owner should have access to the secured gun cabinet.

Consider firearms are used in

half of all suicide deaths and suicides make up three of every five gun deaths. Suicide by firearm is almost always deadly — 9 out of 10 firearm suicide attempts result in death. Every day 64 Americans die from firearm suicide, one every 22 minutes. In 2019, 23,941 Americans died by firearm suicide.

I believe suicide is a rash, emotional, spur of the moment decision, in many cases.

If there is no gun available, I believe the suicide rate would plummet.

Gun owners, LOCK UP YOUR GUNS.

John Bergen
Alexandria

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'Free the Trees'

Volunteers Take on English Ivy.

BY GLENDA BOOTH
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

Get ready to applaud brown, dying English ivy clinging to many of the George Washington Memorial Parkway's trees, many people hope. At a Jan. 21 National Park Service training for 45 anti-ivy crusaders in Fort Hunt Park, park service employees Mireya Stirzaker and Trudy Roth conducted a hands-on training on ivy's harm, how to remove it and save trees.

NPS partnered with the Mount Vernon Council of Citizen Associations (MVCCA), a civic organization that has many neighborhoods bordering the parkway. The response to the recruiting email was so enthusiastic that the Park Service had to close the registration when RSVPs hit 50 because they did not have enough trainers or tools for a larger group.

"English ivy forms a monoculture, crowds out valuable native plants and takes nutrients, water and light from native plants," Stirzaker explained. She said that the plant is rampant in the entire parkway's 7,600 acres and commended the group for wanting "to take care of the places that you love."

"I hate English ivy. It's evil," said Tauxemonter Alyssa Pease, as she clipped it off a tree.

Her neighbor, Joan Ullman, said she went to the training because "I'm really bothered when I see it up and down the parkway."

Stirzaker and Roth gave a tutorial on what they called "the window treatment." Using hand pruners, loppers and handsaws, they cut a "window" or gap in the ivy vine by snipping near the tree's base and



A tree on the GW Memorial South Parkway strangled by English ivy.

again at knee or waist height and removing the cut vine from the tree. "This technique helps eliminate 'ladders' for new vine growth and makes it easy to see which trees have been cleared," said Stirzaker. The ivy eventually dies.

She also explained that mature English ivy has berries that birds eat and then spread. "We are one bird poop away from disaster," she said, once the birds eat the berries, adding that the berries have minimal nutritional value. "It's like sending birds to McDonalds," she quipped.

Jim McGlone, a state forester, added native plants' berries generally have a higher fat content than ivy's.

By becoming trained, the volunteers were "deputized" to adopt an area along the parkway and work on their own. NPS staff hope vol-

unteers will help long term. Riverside residents Tom Myers and Kathy Davis said they are pleased that they can now go after ivy on the parkway whenever they want and help "the trees, the poor things," Kathy said. "Our mantra is 'free the trees,'" urged Stirzaker. George Washington Memorial Parkway Superintendent Charles Cuvelier emailed, "These volunteer events are so important in helping the National Park Service remove harmful invasive species like English ivy. It also allows members of the community an opportunity to give back and help the park preserve its natural resources."

Ivy's Harm

English ivy (Hedera helix) is a perennial, aggressive plant. Its aerial rootlets attach to the object it climbs and when mature, it flow-

Volunteer

To volunteer, visit <https://www.nps.gov/gwmp/getinvolved/volunteer.html>.

Resources

Native plants: Plant NOVA Natives, <https://www.plantnovanatives.org/>; Virginia Native Plant Society at <https://vnps.org/>. Invasive plants: <https://www.invasive.org/eastern/midatlantic/>.



Kathy David and Tom Myers "liberated" a tree.



Mireya Stirzaker, NPS natural resource specialist, explained ivy's harm.



Mireya Stirzaker showed the group mature ivy with fruit or berries.



NPS volunteer coordinator Trudy Roth covered safety and other rules.

Trees sequester carbon, reduce other pollution, stem stormwater runoff, reduce cooling costs and provide habitat for birds and other wildlife. The parkway is losing many ash trees because of the invasive emerald ash borer. Many oaks are suffering too regionwide. Overabundant deer eat young saplings which alters forest succession and prevents regeneration of plants.

The Park Service will hold another training in the spring on controlling ivy and other invasives.

A Historic Road

Congress authorized the construction of the Mount Vernon Memorial Parkway as a grand gateway to George Washington's home, Mount Vernon. The south section opened in 1932 to honor the bicentennial of Washington's birth. It is on the National Register of Historic Places.

The designers intended it to be a slow-speed, scenic road combining the natural, historic and recreational sites along its route.

The landscape design emphasizes scenic vistas and natural areas and integrates the road with the undulating terrain following natural contours.

It has minimal signs and lights. Healthy, native trees are an integral part of that design and consistent with Congress's intent.

The Virginia section of the Parkway runs 25 miles from Mount Vernon Estate north to I-495 in Maryland, generally paralleling the Potomac River.



The NPS staffers showed volunteers a "shaggy" English ivy vine as it can look in the winter.



Trudy Roth demonstrated how to cut a "window" in an ivy vine.



Kathy Davis and Tom Myers put their new skills to work in Fort Hunt Park.



Tom Myers, Riverside resident, used loppers to sever an ivy vine.

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OPINION

31 Bills Plus

Keeping sex offenders out of schools, protecting homes from foreclosure, and more.

BY SEN. SCOTT SUROVELL

The second week of the General Assembly is in the books and I am carrying thirty-one bills and over a dozen budget amendments. Several saw movement this week.

Earlier this year, it was discovered that a guidance counselor was working in Glasgow Middle School two years after having been convicted of soliciting prostitution from a minor. It is not clear whether the Chesterfield County Sheriff failed to notify Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) or whether FCPS failed to take action after receiving notice. His employment was discovered after he was charged with solicitation a second time and discovered at that time.

My legislation requires the Secretary of Education to publish a written list with fax, email, and postal addresses for notification, requires notification of all arrests and convictions in writing by certified first class mail or fax and email so that there is a paper trail. The Fairfax County guidance counselor also lied about his employment so the legislation requires law enforcement to run an employment check with the Virginia Employment

Commission. Hopefully, with these changes no further sex offender notifications will be lost in the system. My bill passed out of committee unanimously and will be on the floor this week.

Fort Belvoir also came to me because Virginia Law restricts their law enforcement's ability to investigate crimes that cross the boundary from the military base like stalking. My legislation to allow Army and Air Force Police to investigate crimes that cross lines passed out unanimously.

Two years ago, we passed legislation that prohibited foreclosing on someone's home if a judgment does not exceed \$25,000. However, there is an exception for Homeowner and Condominium Associations who can initiate a foreclosure proceeding if you own as little as \$1. Attorneys have made me aware of associations and law firms who have initiated foreclosure proceedings over amounts as small as a few hundred dollars while demanding thousands in attorney's fees to terminate foreclosure sales. The homeowners associations complained that they needed to be able to threaten to take people's homes to make them pay their assessments and my bill was referred to the Virginia Hous-

ing Commission to be studied over the next year.

The Fairfax County Circuit Court also asked me to carry legislation to assist with the procurement of interpreters for people who are deaf and hard of hearing. The Fairfax County Circuit Court has seen a shortage of these interpreters post-pandemic and would like to procure them from a larger pool. The bill passed unanimously.

I am also carrying a bill that expands Virginia's Lemon Law to a business that has less than five vehicles. A malfunctioning vehicle can be destructive to a small business owner. Manufacturers are in a much better position to deal with lemons than our local car dealerships. My legislation was reported by the Transportation Committee and will be voted on this week.

I am also carrying several budget amendments to help our area including appropriations to help the Gum Springs Museum, the Wish Center in Hybla Valley, the Ecumenical Community Helping Others organization in Springfield, and the Lorton Community Action Center. I am also carrying legislation to appropriate funds to provide body cameras to the Virginia State Police which have already been deployed for all of our local police departments.

If you have any questions or feedback on the session, please email me at scott@scottsurovell.org.

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.

FOSTER PARENTS NEEDED

Interested in becoming a foster parent? There is always a need for caring foster parents looking to open their homes to foster youth. Get in touch to learn more. Visit fcsvanow@gmail.com or www.FCSVA.org. Or call 703-817-9890.

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 volun-

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11

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ENTERTAINMENT

JAN. 2-29

New Horizons Exhibit. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. At Van Landingham Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, Gallery 311, 105 North Union Street, Alexandria. The Torpedo Factory Artists' Association's (TFAA) Van Landingham Gallery presents New Horizons, a juried membership show, featuring artworks that emphasize new beginnings, adventure, and exploration. Participating artists include Diana Papazian, Joyce Zipperer, Samantha Shelton, Guido Zanni, Veronica Barker-Barzel, Hernan Murno, Abol Bahadori, and Karine Sapondjian. Artworks include original hand pulled prints, original paintings, and multimedia works. To check out the TFAA website, visit <https://www.torpedofactoryartists.com>

JAN. 6-28

"Putting A Face To A Name" Art Exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. A clever showcase where local artists reimagine fictional characters from books, movies, plays, poetry, television, and more. Open Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays 12-6 p.m. (Closed on January 29). Details at [DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits](https://delrayartisans.org/exhibits)

JAN. 12-FEB. 5

"In and Between." At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Reception: Sunday, January 15, 4 - 6 p.m. Artist Talk: Sunday, February 5, 2 p.m. In and Between is an all-sculpture show, featuring floor and wall-mounted art as well as site-specific installations that take advantage of the gallery's unique light-filled space. Eight artists were invited to explore the concept of a threshold. In architecture, thresholds can connect spaces in deliberate and inventive ways, but they are often mere afterthoughts resolved by things like a simple door. Featuring: Lynda Andrews-Barry, Jacqui Crocetta, Pierre Davis, Zofie King, Kirsty Little, Sarah Stefana Smith, Ira Tattelman, and Gloria Chapa Vasquez.

JAN. 22 TO APRIL 3

NOVA Plein Air Art Exhibit. At River Farm, 7931 East Blvd. Drive, Alexandria. Nova Plein Air Artists (NPPA) will be presenting "Celebrations of the Land, Inspired by River Farm," an art exhibit of over 50 paintings inspired by nature. Opening reception on Sunday, Jan. 22 at 1 - 3 p.m. Additional receptions will be held from 1 - 3 p.m. on February 12 and March 12. Many of the paintings were created onsite at River Farm, and all are available to purchase. Receptions are free and open to the public.

SATURDAY/JAN. 28

Winter Clearance Sale. At George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate, Mount Vernon. Take advantage of unique Mount Vernon products available at deeply discounted prices as The Shops at Mount Vernon clears out its warehouse.

SUNDAY/JAN. 29

Winter Lecture - Tropicals for Temperate Landscapes. 1:30-2:30 p.m. (Adults) Tropical and subtropical plants can create incredible energy and excitement in temperate landscapes and provide strong design elements through the toughest



Alexandria Restaurant Week will take place Jan. 20-29, 2023 in Alexandria.

Alexandria Restaurant Week

For 10 days and two weekends, more than 70 restaurants in Alexandria, will offer a \$25, \$35 or \$45 prix fixe dinner for one during Alexandria Restaurant Week. Special menus will be available for in-person dining at participating restaurants, many with heated outdoor dining options. Showcases the inventiveness of local chefs in neighborhoods throughout the city, including Old Town, Del Ray, Carlyle and Eisenhower, and the West End. Guests can browse a list of participating restaurants on [AlexandriaRestaurantWeek.com](https://alexandriarestaurantweek.com).

and hottest months of the growing season. Using five memorable categories from her new book "Tropical Plants and How to Love Them" and a host of design tips, Marianne Willburn will focus on incorporating some spectacular examples in containers and beds—many of which are remarkably easy to overwinter. A plant list will be provided. This program will be held in person. Book signing after lecture. \$12 per person. Register online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes> or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code 8LN.YWHJ.

TUESDAY/JAN. 31

NSO Chamber Music Series. At George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate, Mount Vernon. The National Symphony Orchestra plays a three-part chamber music series, including a champagne and a chocolate reception on January 31, February 28, and March 28, 2023. Performer and recording artist David K. Hildebrand will introduce music and instruments General Washington enjoyed, featuring the famed Nelly Parke Custis harpsichord, military music, music in the domestic setting.

FEB. 1 TO MARCH 15

"Mount Vernon" At Nepenthe Gallery. Hollin Hall Shopping Center, 7918 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Nepenthe Gallery, in partnership with Mount Vernon estate and Woodlawn mansion, presents a special "Mount Vernon" exhibit from February 1st through March 15th. This exhibit has been organized in conjunction with Mount Vernon's national birthday celebration of George Washington and Woodlawn's 60th Annual Needlepoint Show. Woodlawn was once part

of George Washington's original extensive Mount Vernon estate. This "Mount Vernon" exhibit will showcase an important work by Thomas Sully – his 19th century "Athenaeum Portrait of George Washington." Other original works by Pamela Patrick White, Bryant White, Gwen Bragg, Debbie Dartez and Renée C. Gage will be included and for sale, as well as several original works by Pamela and Bryant White that will be on loan by local collectors for display in the exhibit. There will also be giclée prints available for sale of important works from the Mount Vernon estate collection.

Nepenthe will host six Thursday night "ART+WINE+CHEESE" events related to this exhibit:

February 2nd: Thomas Sully's "Athenaeum Portrait of George Washington." Patty Owens, Curator of Nepenthe Gallery and former docent at the National Gallery of Art, will lead a discussion of the artist, the portrait and its significance.

February 9th: Important Paintings from Mount Vernon. Adam Erby, Curator at Mount Vernon, and Patty Owens, Nepenthe Curator, will present a lecture on selected significant paintings from Mount Vernon.

February 16th: White Historic Art. Painters and Historians, Pamela Patrick White and Bryant White, of White Historic Art will discuss several of their original, historical American 18th century-based paintings and the stories and context behind them. Their presentation will include several of their original works on loan for this exhibit by private collectors Janice and Dick Crosby, and Neysa and Dan Chandler.

February 23rd: Interesting facts about Mt. Vernon and Whiskey Tasting. Steve Bashore, Distiller, Miller and

Historian, will lead guests through a Whiskey Tasting and describe the process that still takes place today at Mt. Vernon. Jim Woods, historical interpreter at Mount Vernon, will share stories and information about George Washington's home and property.

March 2nd: Scenes from Mount Vernon. Alexandria based watercolorist and juried artist, Gwendolyn ("Gwen") Bragg, is an art instructor at both the Art League School in Alexandria and the Workhouse Art Center in Lorton. Gwen will display and discuss many of her watercolor paintings from Mount Vernon.

March 9th: Nelly's Needlers Needlework Group. Established in 1975 to help preserve Woodlawn, the group was named after Martha Washington's granddaughter, Eleanor ("Nelly") Parke Custis, who was raised at Mount Vernon, later lived at Woodlawn, and learned her needlework skills from her cherished grandmother. Nelly's Needlers will be at Nepenthe Gallery to display works from their 60th Annual Needlepoint Show and discuss their organization and needlepointing as an art form.

FEB. 1

World of Extreme Diving. 7-8 p.m. Online. "The Unseen World of Extreme Diving" (Free Zoom Talk). Join technical diving enthusiast Matt Hanson as he describes typically unseen environments in scuba, including diving under ice or deeper than 130 feet. The talk will be online through the Zoom platform. Registered participants will be sent the connection information via email one day in advance and approximately one hour before the talk. You may attend on a computer, tablet, or smartphone.

Register by 6pm on February 1 to receive the connection info. Visit <https://delrayartisans.org/programs/#event=unseen-extreme-diving>

FEB. 3-25

"The Unseen" Exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans gallery in the Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. "The Unseen" exhibit reveals what we typically cannot see: what is hidden, microscopic, imagined, or dreamed. Join the artists for the opening reception: Friday, Feb 3, 2023 from 7-9 p.m. Gallery hours are Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays 12-6 p.m. The gallery is closed the last Sunday of the month (February 26, 2023). Visit <https://delrayartisans.org/exhibits/#event=unseen>

SATURDAY/FEB. 4

Washington Gardener Seed Exchange. 12:30-4:30 p.m. (Adults) Washington Gardener Magazine is co-hosting the annual seed exchange at Green Spring Gardens with lectures and a face-to-face seed swap. Bring your extra seeds to swap and leave with a bag full of seeds, new garden friends, and expert planting advice. \$15 for verified Friends of Green Spring members and Washington Gardener subscribers (use code C1E.OIPQ); \$20 for guests (use code C1E.8Z4K). Register online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes> or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

FEB. 4

Used Book Sale: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Selection of over 20,000 gently used children's books, fiction, history, biography, home and garden, cooking, crafts, sports, religion, travel, CDs, DVDs, and more. Unless specially priced, \$1 for hard backs and large paperbacks, and 25 cents for mass market paperbacks. Visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-sherwood-regional>.

FEB. 4-5

Alexandria Boutique Warehouse Sale. In Old Town Alexandria. The sale, which will be comprised of nearly 50 independent boutiques from Alexandria and the surrounding region will take place in stores, select side streets and other spaces along King Streets, such as the Lorien Hotel & Spa which will be hosting makers. Shoppers are sure to find the best deals from Alexandria and the region's finest retailers, indie brands, clothing, shoes, jewelry, home furnishings, and more. Attendees will get to shop from this wide variety of local brands at up to 80 percent off retail prices. The hours will vary by store. Participating businesses will also have QR code spots where shoppers can download the sale map and plot out their shopping plans or favorite spots to visit. For a full list of Alexandria Warehouse Sale participating businesses, visit www.AlexandriaWarehouseSale.com.

FEB. 7

Life Drawing Session. 7-9 p.m. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery in the Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Drop-in and practice life drawing. Bring

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 10

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Mon. 27: Lalah Hathaway \$99.50
Tue. 28: Lalah Hathaway \$99.50

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OPINION

Ebbin

FROM PAGE 4

Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), and the Virginia Clean Economy Act (VCEA) – face legislative challenges in both chambers and, in RGGI's case, through the regulatory process. If repealed, the brighter future created by the past administrations will grow dim, and our existing investment and progress would be wasted.

RGGI is a regional cap and trade program which provides hundreds of millions of dollars in flood mitigation and energy efficiency investments for low income Virginians. The state's participation in the program currently faces multiple obstacles. Despite GOP talking points, the facts are clear: RGGI is an effective program to help individual states and our nation transition away from carbon polluting energy.

RGGI states had far surpassed Virginia with emissions reductions before we entered the compact in 2021. From 2005 to 2020, RGGI states saw their emissions drop by twice as much as Virginia — 59 percent in RGGI states compared to 30 percent in Virginia. In RGGI's first year alone in Virginia (2021), our statewide pollution decreased by 13 percent.

My 21 Democratic senate colleagues and I are prepared to defeat any legislation attempting to withdraw us from the compact. We are equally prepared to combat current attempts by Gov. Glenn Youngkin to withdraw Virginia from RGGI through the administrative rule making process. Former Attorney General Mark Herring ruled this kind of act would be unlawful. Without statutory authority, it is likely the Governor's ploy to remove us from RGGI will soon be tied up in litigation, further delaying clean energy goals and wasting your tax dollars.

House and Senate Republicans have also attempted to repeal our adoption of the

15-state Clean Car standards, which set stricter vehicle emissions limits than the federal government imposes and gradually increase the availability of EVs on car lots across the Commonwealth, in line with automakers' own goals of going all-electric. Federal law prohibits Virginia from enacting our own regulations on tailpipe emissions. Under the federal Clean Air Act, we are required to adopt emissions standards set by either the EPA or the Clean Cars standard. The GOP proposals would kneecap our ability to reduce personal vehicle emissions, which make up 70% of all carbon pollution in our largest pollution source: transportation. I am glad to report that the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee defeated these proposals.

It is critical to play effective defense on our environmental goals, at least long enough to provide time for Virginia's utilities to make long term investment in renewables. This strategy is already succeeding – earlier this month Dominion Energy, Virginia's largest regulated utility, announced a slate of projects in their Climate Report 2022 which will make solar energy our main power generator by 2040, phasing out coal by 2030, and steadily reducing the use of fracked gas over a 20-year period. These projects go a long way towards combating global warming and increasing air and water quality across our state.

I'll continue fighting to defend that progress in Richmond, and will fight to make even more in the years ahead.

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

Please consider joining my colleagues and me at a legislative town hall to share your views on the session. Please also fill out our legislative survey at <https://www.adamebbin.com/alexandria-legislative-priorities-survey.html>

to voice your opinion on the issues being debated in Richmond.

VDOT

FROM PAGE 1

and providing an eight-foot-wide sidewalk on the east side of Telegraph Road and a six-foot-wide sidewalk on the west side

The survey also features two new alternatives that focus specifically on pedestrian improvements with no roadway widening:

- ❖ Reducing crosswalk lengths and upgrading curb ramps at the Telegraph Road/Hayfield Road intersection
- ❖ Reducing crosswalk lengths, up-

grading curb ramps, and providing a six-foot-wide sidewalk on the west side and an eight-foot-wide sidewalk on the east side of Telegraph Road

Lastly, residents and travelers can provide feedback on a no-build alternative in which no improvements would be made in the area of Telegraph Road and Hayfield Road.

The survey will be available through Monday, Feb. 13.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 8

teer, 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

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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.

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

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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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Now What?



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

After nearly seven weeks of life since my brother, Richard, died, Dec. 3rd, and after two weeks of Richard-centric columns, I suppose, content-wise, I should try to write about the present and not drone on about the past. I imagine it will be easier for you all to move forward than for me.

Nevertheless, let's call this week's column transitional: one foot still stuck in brotherly loss and the other foot trying to advance the conversation somehow. It's a process (the five stages), I know, and unfortunately there's very little one can do to speed it up. Unlike a DVR, there's no fast forward button. Nor is there a stop or a pause. There's just real time, and time doesn't get any slower than the excruciating minutes and hours waiting for scan results.

And since I have an MRI, this week focused on another part of my body other than my lungs (liver and kidney) due to some troubling lab work results in my most recent monthly blood draw, focusing forward might be prudent given my lung-cancer-changed-to-thyroid-cancer predicament. Scheduled then is an early morning MRI (my wife, Dina insisted on first available) at 7:45, an hour or so away, bed to check-in. Not ideal, exactly, but In addition to its early morning appointment, a Friday scan likely means we won't get results until Mon. or even Tues. This means we'll both have the weekend to stew in our anxiety juices and push back against the familiar demons. The waiting is like having insomnia, with sleepless nights and there's very little you can do about it. Time/getting results is totally out of your control. There's no magic pill, prescription or otherwise, to stop all the conversations that you're having with yourself. The only relief/rescue is receiving results, which I'm fond of saying, with which you can live. And any guarantees went out years ago when we first learned of my diagnosis.

And I'm sure you regular readers can certainly appreciate the anxiety/stress one endures waiting for test results from your doctor. Ordinarily then, for this very reason, I try not scheduling scans on Fridays. Moreover, having been down this rather bumpy road more than a few times in the last 14 years as a cancer patient, I've been there, and done that. And though I'm not particularly agitated by the delay in getting results (the cost of doing business, you might say), still, the experience is hardly for the faint of heart. Unfortunately, this is often the process/timeline for patients having scans, biopsies, lab work, et cetera, to learn/confirm their medical hopes and/or fears.

This week's scan process, now that I think of it, will be the first time having one without my brother being the recipient of my second call (my wife, Dina being the first). And it's this exact kind of circumstance where I feel his loss most deeply. It leads me back to the discomfort I'm feeling even though I'm going through a very familiar process. This time however, I'm going through it without my wingman (think of the difficulties Tom Cruise's character, "Maverick" experienced in the original "Top Gun" after "Goose," his "intercept officer," died in a "flight training accident"). It took Tom Cruise nearly the entire movie to finally "engage". After "Goose" died, "Maverick" (Tom Cruise) just wasn't himself. I'm still myself, but I'm not quite whole. I'm not exactly fragmented. I'm more scared that I'm Humpty Dumpty and I've had a "great fall" and that I won't be able to reassemble all the pieces, specifically the ones that existed in their entirety when my brother was alive and an integral part of Team Lourie. Losing a foundational piece of your emotional wherewithal is sobering, and I don't even drink. And I'm trying very hard not to start. Fighting/surviving cancer requires all hands to the pump. Losing an irreplaceable 'hand,' especially during a possible crisis/transformational moment (possibly more cancer detected) doesn't fill me with confidence. It's not exactly dread that I'm feeling, but it's a long way from business as usual.

And 'business as usual' has kept me alive through my initial "13 months to two years" prognosis and through all the intervening years (nearly 14). My brother's support and encouragement were always the extreme positives amid a major negative (non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV). As a result, I feel a weakness in the force. And weakness in the face of cancer "ain't gonna" cut it.

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



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