Alount Pernon Gazette

Mount Vernon's Hometown Newspaper • A Connection Newspaper

March 14. 2024

100 Turn Out for Groundbreaking

Construction Starting for Snack Bar And Restrooms at Woodlawn Ball Field.

> By Mike Salmon The Gazette

or years the Woodlawn Little League relied on parents to mow the ball fields and bring coolers full of ice and sodas for the baseball games their children played on McNaughton Fields Park near Pole Road in Mount Vernon. Now they shifted gears with Fairfax County Park Authority support and broke ground Saturday, March 9, for the construction of a restroom and concession stand at McNaughton Fields Park.

Despite Saturday's rain, nearly 100 people came out with their children, or their children's children, so it was a multi-generational event, said Karen Olmstead, a parent and active member of Woodlawn Little League.

"It went really well," she said, noting that former team board members from years ago came out to the event. "It didn't start pouring until the end," she said.

Construction is scheduled to continue through the summer and be completed sometime around September.

According to Fairfax County, it



Officials break ground on the summer project to provide rest rooms and a concession stand for the field.



The rainfall didn't dampen the enthusiasm for Woodlawn Little League.

took perseverance from members of the Woodlawn Little League to get these amenities at the park. "A community organization that has

adopted the park and spearheaded community support and fundraising to help make this project possible," the county said. Making it possible came in the form of \$200,000 the parents raised by establishing a GO FUND ME page, and reaching out to

golden shovel.

donors, like the local Knights of Columbus chapter, Jim's Electric Motors, Big Steve's Landscaping and a nearby "Five Guys" burger restaurant.

Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck is in the middle with the

Olmstead is the president of Woodlawn Little League and helped with the fundraising efforts and sees how players on a youth baseball team gain from this experience. "They learn being part of a team and build friendships from there," she said.

They have a mission statement too: "The objective of Woodlawn Little League shall be to implant firmly in the children of the community the ideals of good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, courage and respect of authority so that they may be well adjusted, stronger and happier children and will grow up to be good, decent, healthy and trustworthy citizens," it read.

Over \$5 Million in New Funds for Gunston Hall

he Virginia General Assembly agreed upon a budget dedicating over \$5 million in additional resources to Gunston Hall as part of the overall state budget. These funds allow Gunston Hall to continue expanding its mission in educating the community about the historical significance of George Mason's home.

"We are truly honored and deeply appreciative of the General Assembly's meaningful support of Gunston Hall," said Virginia Nicholson, First Regent of the Board of Regents of Gunston Hall. "The increased investments in preserving George Mason's home and telling the stories of everyone who lived at Gunston Hall will expand our ability to educate and inspire school children, families, and all those who visit our campus. These investments will also help us prepare for the upcoming 250th anniversary of American Independence in 2026."

Budget amendments in the General Assembly's agreed upon budget include:

✤ Increased Staffing - Item 223 #1c provides \$300,000 in both FY25 and FY26 to fund two additional staff positions at Gunston Hall. This amendment was proposed by Sen. Jennifer Carroll Foy and Del. Mark Sickles. ✤ Funding for New Archaeology Center and Maintenance Facility - Item C-22.20 #1c provides \$5 million in FY25 to construct a new Archaeology Center and Maintenance Facility at Gunston Hall. This amendment was proposed by Sen. Jennifer Carroll Foy and Del. Rozia Henson.

◆Increased Maintenance Reserve Funds - Item C-46 #1c increases Gunston Hall's maintenance

See Gunston Hall, Page 11

Restored gardens at Gunston Hall opened to the public last October.



The Spring Market isOff & Running!

As the weather warms up, so does the real estate market. It's the perfect time to buy or sell your home, with properties blossoming onto the market and eager buyers ready to make their move. If you're considering entering the market this spring, now is the time to act. Contact me today to take advantage of this vibrant and bustling season in real estate!



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News

Upcoming Shows:

Saturday, April 6
at the Electric Palm in Woodbridge
Saturday, April 27,

at the Vanish Farmwoods Brewery, Leesburg



Headlining on Saturday night at the Electric Palm is big for "Something Country."



Dan Futrell leads the band.

Something Country Band Grows As the Headliner on Area Stages

Singer out of Mount Vernon sees the band and popularity growing.

> By Mike Salmon The Gazette

here's a couple of signs that a country band is doing well in the area and one is the amount of time "regulars" spend on the dance floor and another is earning a place as the main feature on a Saturday night. "Something Country," are seeing both of these signs as they go into their third year on the country circuit.

On an upcoming Saturday night, this Alexandria-based band is the main show at the Electric Palm in Occoquan and singer Dan Futrell sees that as a good sign.

"Saturday night is big stuff," he said.

Futrell is a Mount Vernon resident and welcomes the band into his basement in the Wessynton community every Monday night for practice and to touch base with the other guys in the band. Although the music is the basis of their practices and concerts, he also thinks the connection between band members is important. "I try to do things the right way and treating these guys well is part of it, we're a band of brothers," he said. In fact, the drummer Tad Ferris was the best man at Futrell's wedding.

This is important on the dance floor too. Line dancing is the thing for country music and the longer they're out on the floor is a good sign. If the dancers are regulars, that's even better. They aren't trying to reinvent www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



Dancing is a big part of the country music experience.

the songs either. There's a bunch of familiar country songs and dances that go with them, so Something Country gives the audience what they want. This includes familiar names like Keith Urban, Toby Keith, Johnny Cash, Garth Brooks, Willie Nelson and other big names. In the beginning, back in 2021, they had one lead guitar but things have changed with country music and the band noticed they needed another guitarist so they brought on Brad Dietz to play bass and rhythm guitar. "We added a fifth band member because country music requires two guitars," Futrell

said.

OPINION CORE and THRIVE Advancing Businesses in Fairfax County

By Supervisor Dan Storck

s one of my first actions as Chair of the County's Economic Initiatives Committee, I was thrilled to announce the launch of Fairfax CORE – Your Ultimate Resource for Entre-

preneurial Success! As a serial entrepreneur with decades of business experience, supporting and advancing small, medium and large businesses, encouraging their growth in the County is one of my highest priorities.

This week, the County proudly introduces Fairfax CORE (Connecting Opportunities and Resources for Entrepreneurs), a groundbreaking online platform designed to empower business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs in Fairfax County, including the towns of Clifton and Vienna and cities of Fairfax and Falls Church. The new web-based platform connects businesses with the resources they need to es-



tablish, expand and evolve. Fairfax CORE's navigator provides:

Access to more than 115 entrepreneur support organizations in and around Fairfax County.

Quick and easy access to a searchable resource database that connects entrepreneurs to the right experts at the right time.

Resources based on type of assistance, industry or stage of business, entrepreneurs can connect to the correct resources to support their journey.

Comprehensive business guides providing useful information for entrepreneurs.

Robust events calendar promoting low and no cost education and networking events.

Translatable into 58 languages and many of the resource partners are focused on supporting diverse communities.

The new Fairfax THRIVE program is offering technical assistance aimed at bolstering the resilience and growth of small businesses in the area. Sign up to be one of the 600 businesses receiving up to \$10,000 in consulting services to help you reach your business goals and continue your post-pandemic recovery. THRIVE is the latest addition to Fairfax County's comprehensive strategy to support small businesses.

Apply now! Applications are being accepted until all 600 slots are filled, or until April 30, 2024.

Since 2020, the County has allocated over \$70 million in funding for community business support. Programs such as the Microloan Program, RISE Small Business Grant Program, PIV-OT Recovery Grant Program and the Economic Recovery Framework have played pivotal roles in the County's pandemic economic recovery efforts.

Join us in shaping the future of business in Fairfax County! Power your business at fairfaxcore.com and fairfaxcounty.gov/economic-initiatives/fairfax-thrive.

Sine Do or Die

By Del. Paul Krizek

n Saturday evening, March 9, the 2024 General Assembly session adjourned sine die. "Sine die" is Latin for "without day," and in legalese, if you will, it

means "indefinitely."

2,390 pieces of legislation were introduced during the legislative session, excluding commending and memorial resolutions, and of those, 1,098 passed. While the percentage of bills that passed trended upwards this year over the recent past, the percentage of bills passing the General Assembly with more than 40% voting in opposition increased to 27%, the highest since 2021. That being said, there were many areas where the General Assembly came together to compromise and tackle the issues that our constituents sent us to Richmond to address.

Our Democratic majority had a very successful session, passing a slate of progressive bills. These bills prioritize public and higher education, expand access to mental healthcare and substance abuse treatment, combat gun violence, revitalize our infrastructure statewide, protect abortion and reproductive healthcare, bolster our economy, and support Virginia's working families. Our majority blocked legislation that sought to restrict voting and reproductive rights, and blocked legislation to give tax breaks to the very wealth-4 🏼 Mount Vernon Gazette 🛠 March 14-20, 2024



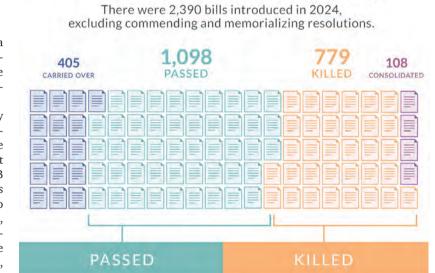
iest, just to name a few measures unpopular with the majority of Virginia's electorate.

There are many democratic priorities that I hope become law and are not

vetoed by the Governor. HB 1 incrementally increases Virginia's minimum wage to \$13.50 by January 1, 2025, and \$15.00 an hour by January 1, 2026. HB 2 bans the sale, purchase, manufacture, transport, or transfer of assault firearms. The bill defines an assault firearm as a

semi-automatic rifle or pistol with a fixed magazine capacity of over 10 rounds or the ability to accept a detachable magazine. HB 570 establishes a Prescription Drug Affordability Board to combat high costs of prescriptions. SB 373 establishes a paid family and medical leave insurance program to ensure that hardworking Virginians do not have to choose between paying their bills and caring for a sick family member.

I am pleased to report that twelve of my bills are headed to the Governor's desk. I am most proud of those bills which passed after multi-year efforts, including HB 1157 which establishes a policy of consultation with Virginia's federally recognized tribal nations on actions and projects with potential impacts on their environmental, cultural, and historic significance.



Outcome of General Assembly Bills

Virginia Public Access Project graphic showing the fate of this year's bills This legislation was the top legislative priority of Virginia's federally recognized tribes, and I was honored to be chosen to carry it.

Another key victory was the pas-

sage of HB 698 and its Senate companion SB 448 carried by Senator Rouse, which creates a legal adult-

See Krizek, Page 5

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OPINION

Sine Die

By Sen. Adam Ebbin

66 C ine die" is the language that marks the end of the regular session of the

Virginia General Assembly. The term, originating from Latin, means "without fixing a day for future action or meeting," and it is the customary phrase uttered by the Clerks of the Senate and House of Delegates at the conclusion of the annual legislative session.

The term Sine die refers to the fact that the General Assembly is not scheduled to meet again until next year. The exception being, of course, the single day next month — April 17 — that we will reconvene to act on vetoes and amendments from the governor on legislation that we passed during our 60-day session.

While the words Sine die represent a finish line for this year's session, it marks the beginning of the final chapter of the legislative process. All told, Gov. Glenn Youngkin received 1,046 bills from the General Assembly this year. As of this writing, he has vetoed eight bills, amended 12, and signed 52 bills into law. The governor must act on all legislation by midnight on April 8, which is 30 days after adjournment of the General Assembly.

I was encouraged to see the governor's signature of HB 174 carried by Delegate Rozia Henson Jr. (D-Woodbridge), which codifies the legal right to marriage between two consenting adults in Virginia, regardless of the sex, gender, or race of the parties. I introduced SB 101, the identical Senate version of the legislation, which received bipartisan support in both the Senate and House of Delegates and which awaits gubernatorial action.

Much will be speculated in the coming weeks about

Gov. Youngkin's potential actions on individual bills, and on the state budget. At a hastily-convened press conference outside the Capitol last week, the governor announced

his displeasure with the budget passed by the General Assembly. The governor's chief complaints include: (1) removal from the budget of the proposal to sell statebacked bonds to finance the relocation of two professional sports teams to Alexandria; (2) prohibiting the governor's effort to repeal Virginia's corporate polluter tax, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI); and (3) the blocking of the governor's fiscally irresponsible tax-giveaways to the wealthiest Virginians.

The governor's vetoes thus far present an unfortunate preview of the actions he could take on bills that await his consideration. In particular, I can only express concern and bewilderment with the governor's veto of SB 47, carried by Senator Barbara Favola (D-Arlington), and HB 46, carried by Delegate Elizabeth Bennett-Parker (D-Alexandria), which would better protect family members of individuals who are temporarily prohibited from possessing firearms because they are subject to a protective order or have been convicted of an assault and battery of a family or household member. I hope that the governor will heed the voices of the vast majority of Virginians and not stand in the way of additional state-level protections

I look forward to updating you on the status of the budget and more than 1,000 bills, including 16 of mine, as we advance toward the April 8 deadline for the governor to act on legislation.

It is my continued honor to serve the residents of the 39th Senate District.

Krizek

From Page 4

use cannabis retail market. As you know, in 2021 cannabis was legalized for adult-use, but with no legal framework for sales outside of medical dispensaries. This left open a \$3 billion per-year illicit market with untested and dangerous products on the street. Here's some of what I said on the floor of the House: "The fact of the matter is that drug dealers don't ID. They are not checking

for age. Those products aren't lab tested for purity or potency. They don't accurately label them, and they don't use childproof packaging. This bill mandates all of those things and more. We need to bring this into a regulatory framework that will protect our children and our Commonwealth, and that's what I'm trying to do here."

The very last bill to pass this Session was the budget. A government's budget is a showcase of its values. As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I am proud of the work our body did to produce a fiscally responsible budget that meets the needs of our citizens to keep Virginia moving forward. Our budget provides a 6.75% pay increase for our public school teachers, invests \$500 million in additional support to our most vulnerable students, supports an additional 3,440 DD waiver slots and increase in provider rates, provides \$30 million in funding to combat the opioid epidemic, invests \$110 million for community violence intervention programming, provides \$200 million

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against gun violence in the coming weeks.

TREES



Red maple flowers were bright red

Tree Walk in Dyke Marsh

By Glenda C. Booth Mount Vernon Gazette

rees are not yet sporting their leafy glory, but there's always much to learn about trees. On a blustery March 10 afternoon, Jim McGlone led a tree walk for 17 Friends of Dyke Marsh enthusiasts in the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve. McGlone is a retired forester with the Virginia Department of Forestry.

Red maple flowers shimmered in the sun, sure signs of spring and one of the few bright colors visible on trees. Female American hollies were sporting red berries. Speaking of berries, McGlone said that berries of a typical invasive plant like bush honeysuckle have one to two percent fat content, but native plant berries, like viburnums, typically have 30 to 40 percent fat content. He believes that some bird populations may be declining because birds are "filling up on junk food" which impairs their ability to migrate.

Sweet gums, maples and oaks are common trees in Fairfax County, McGlone told the group. Sweet gums are easily identifiable by the brown "balls" that hang on the tree all winter. Finches feed on gumball seeds. He explained that black locust trees have prickles or briars, but the honey locust has thorns up to four inches long.

McGlone gave a tutorial on bark patterns. The black cherry tree has a scaly bark that looks like "burned potato chips," he said. Green ash tree bark has a diamond pattern. The sycamore has exfoliating bark, a patchy look. As the tree ages, the bark turns white up the tree.

Smooth sumacs looked like nondescript, spindly saplings, but they will have white flowers "that are really good for pollinators," he said. "They don't look very interesting now," he said, but their red berries "will be Christmas in July" and their leaves will turn flaming red in the fall. These trees will "grow in really crappy conditions," like highway medians, he said.

McGlone also discussed invasive insects. Studying a non-native white mulberry tree, he explained that the spongy moth came to North America with this tree because it feeds on the tree. Here, the moth has no natural 6 🛠 Mount Vernon Gazette 🛠 March 14-20, 2024



Photos by Glenda Booth

Spring brings vernal pools and wet swamp forest floors.



predators so unfortunately the moth "has When limbs are cut off a tree, most trees can grow tissue to heal the wound.



he walk leader, Jim McGlone, showed the group what tulip poplar and sycamore seed pods look like in winter.





from Asia that has spread across the United States. It attacks and can kill ash trees. In Dyke Marsh, National Park Service biologists have estimated that as many as 1,000 pumpkin ash trees could be affected by this insect. www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

for American baseball bats. "Practically ev- find alternatives. www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



ger. Ash wood has long been a favorite wood ash borer, bat manufacturers have had to

Why Care about Trees — A Few Reasons

◆ Trees' shade can reduce a home or building's cooling costs by 20-25 percent in the summer.

— Fairfax County's Urban Forest Management Division

♦ Mature trees can increase property values by 10 percent, on average. Landscaping with trees can increase property values up to 20 percent. — Fairfax County's Urban Forest Management Division

✤ Trees can reduce anxiety and depression.

- The Nature Conservancy

* Forests absorb more carbon dioxide than they release and take carbon out of the atmosphere. Carbon dioxide is a major greenhouse gas pollutant that is warming the planet.

— National Geographic

♦ Trees reduce inland and coastal flooding. A single 10-inch-diameter red oak will intercept more than 1,200 gallons of stormwater per year in Virginia. — Chesapeake Bay Foundation

♦ Forests absorb runoff. A one-inch rainfall on a one-acre parking lot sends 27,154 gallons of water into low-lying areas and streams. One inch of rain falling in a forest releases 750 gallons of runoff.

Near the walk's end, a bald eagle got the group's attention when it landed in a tree on the trail.



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.

JUNERALIZING	Fee Struck	Roble #	Route Name	Cossing	PORIOR D. INC.
PRINCE GEORGE	14124	641	MOODY ROAD	WALLS RUN	2/26/2024
TAZEWELL	18429	19	GOV.G.C.PEERY HWY	BLUESTONE RIVER	2/29/2024
SPOTSYLVANIA	30675	2302	WILLOW RIDGE WAY	STREAM	2/21/2024

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.

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News

Equality Virginia: Finally, Marriage Equality is Codified in Virginia Gov. Youngkin signs HB 174 which updates the Virginia Code to affirm marriage rights.

n March 8, Equality Virginia Advocates, the public policy and advocacy arm of the Commonwealth's leading advocacy organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ+) equality, applauded the signing of HB 174, a bill that updates the Virginia Code with an affirmative right to marriage for same-sex couples. Since marriage equality became the law of the land in 2015, the Virginia Code has not been updated to reflect that change, even though marriages for same-sex couples have been legal in the commonwealth for nearly a decade. Marriage equality is exceedingly popular in Virginia, with more than 70 percent of public support as of 2021. Gov. Glenn Youngkin signed the bill into law Friday, March 8, 2024.

"Two years into his term, Governor Youngkin has shown leadership and inclusivity, and has finally listened to his constituents with his signing of HB 174. The bill passed through the general assembly with support from both parties, at a time when more than 70 percent of Virginians support marriage equality," said Narissa Rahaman, executive director of Equality Virginia Advocates. "This change to the Code is a positive step forward, and shows how effectively LGBTQ+ couples, interracial couples, and our neighbors have been in sharing their stories and experiences relating to marriage in Virginia. Tonight, we honor the couples who never were able to enjoy this right, the currently married couples who can rest easier following this legal update and all those who will be able to get married here in Virginia for generations to come ... "

HB 174 does the following:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 20-13.2 as follows:

§20-13.2. Marriage lawful regardless of sex, gender, or race of parties.

No person authorized by §20-14 to issue a marriage license shall deny the issuance of such license to two parties contemplating a lawful marriage on the basis of the sex, gender, or race of such parties. Such lawful marriages shall be recognized in the Commonwealth regardless of the sex, gender, or race of the parties.

Religious organizations and members of the clergy acting in their religious capacity shall have the right to refuse to perform any marriage.

A 2021 poll from the Public Religion Research Institute found that 71% of Virginians support the right of same-sex couples to marry. This percentage has only increased since the question began being asked of voters. In 2006, 53% of voters supported the marriage ban.

Police Briefs

Fatal Pedestrian Crash, Hit and Run

Detectives from FCPD Crash Reconstruction and Auto Crimes Enforcement Units are investigating a fatal pedestrian crash after the driver of a stolen vehicle hit and killed a pedestrian.

Sunday, March 10, at 12:17 a.m., officers were searching the Hybla Valley area for a vehicle that was stolen overnight on Mar. 9 from the 7900 block of Sausalito Place. An officer saw the stolen black 2015 Hyundai Sonata on to locate the driver. There is no de-Buckman Road near Russell Road. The driver of a stolen Sonata sped away at the sight of the police. Officers did not pursue.

Approximately 15 minutes later, an officer saw the stolen vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed on Janna Lee Avenue towards the

dead end. The driver sideswiped an occupied vehicle near Tamarind Street. Officers followed the direction the driver was traveling and located the stolen vehicle crashed into a dumpster and unoccupied.

Officers then found a struck pedestrian in the grass nearby. James Johnson, 63, of Hybla Valley was taken to the hospital where he succumbed to his injuries. Officers saturated the area but were unable scription of the driver at this time.

Preliminarily, Crash Reconstruction detectives determined the driver of the stolen vehicle sideswiped a vehicle on Janna Lee Avenue and struck Johnson in the roadway on Janna Lee Avenue be-

SEE POLICE BRIEFS, PAGE 10 www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Entertainment

NOW THRU APRIL 15

Exhibit: "Searching for Truth in the Garden" at Freedom House Museum. At Freedom House Museum, 1315 Duke Street, Alexandria. Gonzaga High School's groundbreaking research on slavery, "Searching for Truth in the Garden," found new life at the Freedom House Museum. The traveling exhibition, on view through April 15, 2024, delves into the life of Gabriel, a teenager enslaved at Washington Seminary (now Gonza-ga) in 1829. Gabriel's story offers a poignant lens through which to examine the complexities of slavery and its lasting impact.

WEDNESDAYS THROUGH SATURDAYS

Tours Aboard Tall Ship Providence and Sen. John Warner Maritime Heritage Center. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Alexandria's Waterfront Park, 1A Prince Street, Alexandria. Guests of all ages are recruited into the Continental Navy aboard Tall Ship Providence with legendary Captain John Paul Jones. Recruits are assigned jobs on the ship, learn where they will work and live, how to load a cannon, etc... Tours conclude in the Naval History Theatre with a film about the ship. The Heritage center is a floating museum on the Alexandria waterfront. Visit https://tallshipprovidence. org/

NOW THRU MARCH 31

Christine Ruksenas-Burton Exhibit. At The Athenaeum, Alexandria. Christine Ruksenas-Burton's body of work is composed of hard-edge color field linear abstractions, a style rooted in a movement that began in New York City in the 1940s and pioneered by Mark Rothko, Josef Albers, Carmen Herrera, Fanny Sanin, Barnett Newman, Ellsworth Kelly and Clyfford Still.

MARCH 1-30

March Luck. At Van Landingham Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, Alexandria. March Luck explores the serendipitous forces that drive artistic expression. Join us to reflect on the role of luck in shaping both art and life in the Van Landingham Gallery. The Torpedo Factory Artists' Association presents a group exhibition including jewelry, paintings, photography, mixed media work, hand pulled prints, and more during the month of March.

MARCH 1-31

Woodlawn Needlework Show. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Woodlawn Plantation.

- Tuesday, February 27th at 10:00am -1:00pm - Lotus Leaf Mat Workshop with Youngmin Lee (Fee \$165, includes materials)
- Learn traditional Korean needlework techniques at this in-person workshop conducted by renowned textile artist, Youngmin Lee. This workshop will teach you how to construct a lotus leaf shape Sangbo (covering bojagi) that you can use in daily life. Gamchimjil and Kkojipgi techniques and the Yeonbong (Lotus Bud Knot) technique will finish this simple and organically-shaped bojagi with raised line composition.

Every Wednesday and Friday at 2:30pm in March - Special Tours of 61st Anniversary Woodlawn Needlework Show (Fee: \$18, includes www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Needlework Show Admission) Join the special tour for a brief history of Woodlawn while discovering the unique stories behind many pieces of the Needlework Show as a Woodlawn guide and Nelly's Needlers expert lead visitors through the house.

- Saturday March 16th, Monday March 25th, and Wednesday March 27th
- at 3:30pm Beginners Needlework Techniques (Fee: \$25 per class or \$65 for all three, includes Needlework Show Admission and supplies)
- Join members of Nelly's Needlers to learn the basics of three fundamental needlework techniques; counted cross-stitch, canvaswork (needlepoint), and surface embroidery.

March 16- canvaswork coasters March 25 - cross-stitch towel March 27 - embroidered hat Virtual Programs

- (All virtual programs are free, with a suggested donation to support Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey
- House) Saturday, March 23rd at 4:00pm ET -What Linens Know with Ruth
- Tabancay Enjoy a fascinating virtual presentation by multi-disciplinary artist Ruth Tabancay as she discusses "What Linens Know" on exhibit at the Woodlawn Needlework Show. Ruth's exhibit is an unique spin on this year's theme, "Needlework in Everyday Life" as she examines the uses of vintage linens in everyday living and embroiders a lasting memory of the remains.

MARCH 1-30

"The Power of Two" Exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernonn Ave., Alexandria. Features art that showcases two related items in one piece of art; for example, two-of-a-kind, complementary items, double-exposures, duos, twins, or multiple generations. "Double your pleasure, double your fun." Opening Reception: Friday, March 1, 7-9 p.m. Open Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays 12-6 p.m. (Closed Sunday, March 31). Details: DelRayArtisans.org/ exhibits

MARCH 5 THRU APRIL 28 Mosaics by Nina Tisara and Photographs by Steven Halperson. At Green Spring Gardens, 4601 Green Spring Road, Alexandria.

The Opening Rocal, Alexandral The Opening Rocal, Alexandral March 10, 1-3 p.m. The mother-son team had worked together at Tisara Photography in Old Town for three decades. Steven now manages the Alexandria portrait studio as well as creating painterly photographic images and unique etched copper art. Nina creates intricate mosaics of unglazed porcelain tile which are widely exhibited and collected. Their work may also be seen by appointment at Serenity Place Gallery, Nina's in-home gallery,

MARCH 12-18

Spring Book Sale – At Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria. The Friends of Beatley Central Library will hold their Spring Book Sale from Tuesday, March 12 through Monday, March 18. Members' Preview on Tuesday, March 12, 3:00 -7:30 p.m. (\$15 memberships available at the door); Wednesday, March 13,



The Woodlawn Needlework Shop takes place March 1-31, 2024 at Woodlawn Plantation in Alexandria.

10:00 a.m.-7:30 p.m., Thursday, March 14, 10:00 a.m.-7:30 p.m.; Friday, March 15, 10:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Saturday, March 16, 10:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sunday, March 17, Half Price Day, 1-4:30 p.m.; Monday, March 18, \$10 Bag Sale, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. \$4 or less, unless specifically marked: hardbacks, paperbacks, children's books, and media. All genres. Visit www.beatleyfriends.org

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 13

Potomac Harmony Chorus Concert. 7:30 p.m. At The View Alexandria (formerly The Hermitage), 5000 Fairbanks Avenue, Alexandria. The Potomac Harmony Chorus invites you to their upcoming free performance as they prepare for regional competition. This will be the first competition for Potomac Harmony following the hiring of their new director, Allison Lynskey. As part of their preparation, they will host a Friends & Family night to hone their skills in full costume and make up in front of a live audience. Contact Jackie Bottash, backrowlead@aol.com

THURSDAY/MARCH 14

Alexandria Baroque. 7 p.m. At the Athenaeum, Alexandria. Join Alexandria Baroque for an intimate evening of beautiful chamber music. Playing on period instruments of the Baroque era, Michael De Sapio (violin) and John Armato (lute) bring to life music of refinement, grace, and humor--including works by Vivaldi, Uccellini, Hagen, some English country dances, and Biber's Sonata representativa (in which the violin imitates a whole menagerie of birds and animals).

TUESDAY/MARCH 19

March Madness at Lena's Wood Fired Pizza & Tap: Hoops Hour Happy Hour. In Del Ray/Alexandria. Lena's is kicking off Hoops Hour Happy Hour on March 19 with Happy Hour prices all day. Lena's Wood-Fired Pizza & Tap located in the heart of the Del Ray section of Alexandria has your March Madness watching covered. With 7 TVs and Happy Hour prices extended 4 - 9 p.m. on game days, Lena's Tap Room is your college hoops headquarters! \$6 Select Beers, \$6 Lena's House Wines, Great Prices on Snacks and Small Plates. For more information, visit https://www.lenaswoodfire.com.

BEGINNING MARCH 20 Water Taxi to The Wharf to See

Cherry Blossoms. Departs from the Alexandria Marina, 1 Cameron St., Alexandria. Cruise from Old Town Alexandria to Washington, D.C., to enjoy the famous cherry blossoms. City Cruises Potomac Water Taxi offers a 25-minute direct water taxi from Old Town to The Wharf in D.C. From the dock at The Wharf, it is a 10-minute walk to the cherry blossoms at the Tidal Basin. The water taxi docks at the Transit Pier, 950 Wharf St. SW, near the Tidal Basin, the National Mall, Hains Point and a Capital Bikeshare station.

THURSDAY/MARCH 21

2024 General Assembly Breakfast. 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. At The Hilton Alexandria Old Town, 1767 King Street, Alexandria. Join in a timely conversation with our General Assembly delegation where they will discuss the 2024 session and the opportunities and challenges currently facing the Commonwealth. Sen. Adam Ebbin and Del. Elizabeth Bennett-Parker will attend.

FRIDAY/MARCH 22

The Four Seasons with Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 5. At 7:30 p.m. At St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 South Pitt Street, Alexandria. With Alexandria Symphony conductor James Ross.

MARCH 16 THRU APRIL 21 Cherry Blossom Cruises with City

Cruises. Departs from the Alexandria Marina, 1 Cameron St., Alexandria. Traverse the Potomac River from Old Town Alexandria and cruise past the cherry blossoms in Washington, D.C. on the Monuments Sightseeing Cruise from City Cruises. View and listen to the history of the iconic monuments, memorials and bridges as the D.C. region awakens to spring. See beautiful cherry blossom trees as you glide past the Tidal Basin and head onward to Georgetown. The cruise is 45 minutes one-way and approximately 90 minutes roundtrip. Riders also have the option to explore Georgetown and return on a later boat. City Cruises is a proud sponsor of the National Cherry Blossom Festival

MARCH 23 TO APRIL 14

Pink Torpedoes: Cherry Blossom Art in An Old Munitions Factory. At Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N Union St., Alexandria. Explore all three floors of Torpedo Factory Art Center, home to the nation's largest

collection of working artists' open studios under one roof, to view a building-wide exhibition of art inspired by the iconic cherry blossoms. Participating artists will exhibit one or more unique artworks in their studio or gallery. Each artist will explore their interpretations of the cherry blossomsculturally, colorfully and viscerally-and visitors will discover new ways of thinking about the region's seasonal pink event. Visitors will receive a "Pink Torpedoes" building map with locations of the artwork to discover. Each studio artist in the Art Center is selected by art experts and rank among the best in the region. Artists work in front of the visitor and discuss their work on view. Visitors may shop for oneof-a-kind art inspired by the cherry blossoms, plus more. Can't visit the exhibition? A select exhibition of artwork will be on view at torp

SUNDAY/MARCH 24

Ides of Bark Dog Festival. 1-4 p.m. At Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria. The day features treats from local canine businesses, playtime in the dog park, pet care and delicious food from local Mount Vernon District business, Chalkboard Wings & BBQ. The Festival is a paw-sitively wonderful way to connect with our community, meet new friends (4-legged and 2-legged) and enjoy a day in the park. Activities:

Meet & Greet with the FCPD K9 Section in the field: 2:00 p.m. PetTech demos: 1:30, 2:30, 3:30 p.m.

THURSDAY/MARCH 28

Jane Franklin Dance Presents Prime. 7 p.m. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Prime journeys through the visual art of exhibiting artist Christine Ruksensas-Burton whose "paintings are conversations of colors inspired by her homeland (Australia) as well as modern art, minimalism, modernist architecture, and design." Jane Franklin's work positions solo dancers in conversation with color, duets in conjunction with line, and trios in hard edge abstractions of color and mood.

SATURDAY/APRIL 6

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

the nation's largest SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 11 Mount Vernon Gazette & March 14-20, 2024 & 9



Entertainment

From Page 9

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.

APRIL 12-13

2024 Spring Garden Market at River Farm. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. At 7931 E. Boulevard Dr., Alexandria. Celebrate the start of gardening season with the American Horticultural Soci ety's annual Spring Garden Market at River Farm. This much-anticipated outdoor event, one of River Farm's largest and most popular fundraisers, brings together plant, seed and garden accessory retailers, nature-focused artists and authors, gardening experts, food vendors, and fun for the whole family. Proceeds from the Spring Garden Market directly contribute to the maintenance, beautification and preservation of River Farm, headquarters of the AHS since 1973. Entrance to the Spring Garden Market may be purchased online beginning in March at www.ahsgardening.org/springgardenmarket2024.

SATURDAY, APRIL 20

Historic Garden Week Old Town. Take a behind-the-scenes peek into the spectacular homes and gardens of six historic Old Town Alexandria properties kicking off the Garden Club of Virginia's historic annual statewide tour. Offering a glimpse into the town's storied past, the tour features homes dating from 1785. Expertly updated, tastefully furnished, and filled with spectacular floral arrangements designed by blue ribbon garden club members, each property features lovely, curated gardens filled with bountiful Spring flowers timed to bloom in concert with the tour. Tickets include admission to five private homes and gardens, Lee-Fendall House, a one-time private home with a rich history that now houses a museum and garden, as well as six nearby public properties, including: Mount Vernon, River Farm, Carlyle House, Gunston Hall and Green Spring Gardens. Advance tickets are \$55 online at www. vagardenweek.org and may be purchased tour day at the Alexandria Visitor's Center located at 221 King Street. The Garden Club

Krizek

FROM PAGE 5

to the Community Flood Prevention Fund to support flood mitigation, and sets aside \$1 million to expand the availability of early childcare centers, and much more. I was successful in securing over \$153 million of the \$370 million I requested in the budget that includes important initiatives for the 16th district, including dedicated funding to support WMATA, a Northern Virginia fire-



The 2024 Spring Garden Market at River Farm takes place April 12-13, 2024.

of Virginia's (GCV) eight-day statewide tour from April 20 to 27 includes 170 private properties throughout Virginia. The Old Town Alexandria tour is hosted by the GCV's two local garden clubs, Hunting Creek Garden Club and Garden Club of Alexandria. For more information, visit www.vagardenweek.org

SATURDAY, APRIL 20

Third Annual ALX Dog Walk. 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. A 2-mile dog walk and celebration is back in Old Town Alexandria. Walkers meet at Oronoco Bay Park in Alexandria for an unforgettable experience. Walk and spread awareness about the importance of plastic-free and sustainable living. It's time to educate the community and make a positive impact. Pre-event registration check-in on Wednesday April 17th, from 12 pm to 7 pm to check-in and collect your sustainable Goodie Bag, t-shirt and doggie bandana, treat, and more. Register now! www.alxdogwalk.com/register

THE BIRCHMERE

At 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. All

fighter occupational cancer screening pilot program, and support for an African American Research Fellowship at Mount Vernon requested by the community based charity, Black Women United for Action.

Now, the Governor has the momentous task before him of taking action (or not) on the bills the General Assembly has sent to his desk. The Governor has already taken action on the 84 bills sent to him before shows are at 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Tickets available at Ticketmaster.com. Contact The Birchmere at 703-549-7500 or www.Birchmere.com.

MARCH

Fri. 15: Newmyer Flyer Presents LAUREL CAN-YON. \$35.00. SOLD OUT! Sat. 16: Tom Rush with Matt Nakoa & Cheryl

Wheeler. \$49.50

Sun. 17: WATCH Awards -7pm- \$20.00. SOLD OUT!
Fri. 22: Who's Bad – The Ultimate Michael Jackson

Exp. \$39.50 (Resched from 1/26). SOLD OUT! Sat. 23: Oleta Adams. \$45.00

Sun. 24: Honoring Teddy Pendergrass, with Gladys Knight & Eddie Hendricks Tributes. \$39.50Wed. 27: The Zombies w/ Wendy Colonna.

\$59.50 Thu. 28: Marty Stuart & His Fabulous Superla-

tives w/ Wyatt Ellis. \$76.00. SOLD OUT! Fri. 29: Johnnie Steele & The Steele4Real Band. \$35.00

Sat. 30: Raul Malo (of The Mavericks) with Seth Walker. \$49.50. SOLD OUT!

session ended that were considered "7-Day Bills." Of those, he signed 64, amended 12, and vetoed 8. The deadline for him to sign, amend, or veto all other legislation is April 8 at 11:59 p.m. Alternatively, if a bill has no action taken on it by that time, then it automatically becomes law. On April 17, the General Assembly will reconvene to consider the Governor's actions on these bills as well as his changes to the biennial budget.

New Funds for Gunston Hall

From Page 1

reserve funds to a total of \$500,000 through the biennium budget. This is an increase of over \$329,000 compared to the introduced budget.

✤ Flexibility In Maintenance Funds Use - Language was included in Item C-46 #1c to allow for partial use of Gunston Hall's annual maintenance reserve allocation for any maintenance project associated with the preservation and care of historic resources. This amendment was introduced by Sen. Scott Surovell and Del. Mark Sickles.

"Gunston Hall plays an enormous role in the Mount Vernon community by helping preserve our shared history," said Senate Majority Leader Scott Surovell. "These investments will help strengthen this national www.ConnectionNewspapers.com treasure and allow future generations to appreciate the importance of this historic landmark while enhancing the visitor experience in anticipation of the 250th anniversary of the founding of America."

"Gunston Hall has grown under the leadership of Scott Stroh and these budget items will let Gunston expand its programming for another generation," said House Appropriations Vice-Chairman Mark Sickles. "I am thankful to my fellow conferees for understanding the importance of Gunston Hall, not only to Mason Neck, but Virginia."

"Thank you to our conferees for ensuring that increased funding for Gunston Hall is included in the budget," said Sen. Jennifer Carroll Foy. "This funding is vital to ensuring the facility will have the proper full time staff needed, and will equip Gunston Hall with funding consistent with other similar historic facilities throughout the Commonwealth. I also look forward to seeing the construction of the new Archaeology Center and Maintenance Facility progress over the coming months."

"It says a great deal that the General Assembly has decided to make these significant investments in Gunston Hall," said Del. Rozia Henson. "Gunston Hall leadership is committed to telling the full history of this historic landmark. I look forward to seeing how these funds help expand their mission, especially when it comes to sharing the history of the enslaved population who once lived and worked here."

A Shoe Has Dropped



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

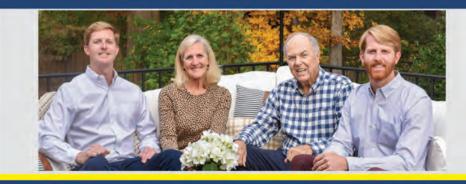
Well, you asked for it. By virtue of reading this column regularly, I am here to tell you that the scan results came in. Indeed, it will be a, as titled on my 2/28/24 column "Rocky Road Ahead" (since I'm between a rock and a hard place), "a spot of bother," as the Brits' say. Treating the thyroid cancer damages the kidney (has damaged the kidney), not treating the cancer sort of stops the damage to the kidneys - which is a huge thing because I am perilously close to becoming a dialysis patient. However, stopping the cancer medicine enables the cancer to then go untreated. (I can't see how that's good thing.) And as of this morning, the immediate future seems to be not to restart my cancer medicine. Which is sort of a problem because the results on the scan indicated some tumors grew while others were stable. (Typically, when on the medication, the tumors have been stable.) Now what? I suppose I might get some answers later this week when I meet with the nephrologist (kidney specialist) for the first time. But I think I know what the outcome/upshot will be. Given the levels on this week's lab work (along with the scan showing simultaneous growth/movement of the tumors in my lungs), which had multiple indicators that my kidneys are suffering (down to 25% of normal - and there's no way to reverse the decline), the immediate future looks bumpy indeed.. There's a famous sports' line that applies here: "You can't stop him/her, you can only hope to contain him/her." I hope I can maintain them (the kidneys) because should the kidneys continue their decline, it will be "Katie bar the door," as we say in New England, which means trouble, and trouble means d, d, d, dialysis.

At least my oncologist and the nephrologist are talking; trying to coordinate a path forward that offers me some hope and quality of life. (My oncologist has always been concerned with my 'quality of life') The problem is, my wife and I have started reading online about my situation: patient being treated for thyroid cancer with side effects damaging the kidney is not unusual. In fact, it reads to be downright predictable. Predictable in that the doctors know the side-effect consequences of treating thyroid cancer. Unfortunately, there may not be much they can do to slow down the negative impact. It doesn't seem likely that the thyroid cancer will go into remission by itself. I guess I'll have to be happy with the knowledge that the doctors know what's happening and why and try not to be miserable that they may not be able to do much about it. To invoke loseph Heller: it's a bit of a "Catch 22." And to invoke Alan Arkin's reply: "That's some catch, that catch 22." (Meaning: Damned if I do, damned if I don't.)

Still, it's probably keeping me alive by stopping the cancer medicine and not making a bad situation worse. And while the medicine is adversely affecting the kidneys, I must hope the slow-moving cancer will be - while not on any medication, as slow-moving as it has been since late Feb. 2009. But, to quote the Brits again: "It's early days." However, I wouldn't say it's a preliminary finding. Hardly. Nor would I say it's cast in stone but it's rocky from where I sit. And though the recliners that I'll likely be sitting in at the dialysis center are themselves comfortable, the reason I'm sitting there is quite uncomfortable: my body is incapable of performing a major bodily function. So much so that I'll need help from a machine multiple hours and days per week. Quality of life? Well, dialysis sure beats the alternative. However, until I'm in that chair for all those hours and days, I will refrain from going down any rabbit holes. Heck, I haven't even been officially diagnosed/referred yet. And not that I believe in miracles, but I remember a very comforting bit of encouragement I regularly received from my late brother, Richard, all those years ago and during various intermittent medical stops along the way while being treated for non-small cell lung cancer - and not dying; when invariably I had to change my regimen for one health reason or another: "Whatever they've tried with you, you've always done better than they expected. You're the exception that proves the rule." And that will be my attitude going forward: to think positive about the negative. As one of The Stooges said years ago: "Rome wasn't built in a day. And neither was Milwaukee." I must be patient (pun intended) and take it one day at a time. As Yogi Berra so famously said: "It ain't over till it's over."

I'm just afraid, quite frankly. I've survived so much longer than the original "13 month to two-years" prognosis (15 years and counting, hopefully still counting) I was given at the beginning. I had no idea treating the cancer would sort of lead me down the garden path so that one day, if I lived long enough, I might have kidney problems - due to the very medicine I was taking to treat the cancer (what I refer to as my underlying disease). But now, at a much older age than I was in 2009 - with a weakened immune system to boot, somehow, I must try to "keep on keepin' on." I suppose it's possible. Not sure if it's probable though. As the doctor in Miles City told Augustus McRay ("Lonesome Dove") when Gus refused to allow the doctor to amputate his leg: "I assure you sir, the alternative is grim."

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





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