

Green Rollback May Hit Blue Wall

Republican efforts to undo environmental laws to face opposition in Democratic-led Senate.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

The goal of dumping fossil fuels by 2050 may be on the chopping block. The mandate that 8 percent of all new car sales must be zero-emission vehicles may be hitting a speed bump. And the Air Pollution Control Board might soon find itself without the ability to regulate air pollution. Plus a former coal lobbyist might end up leading the state's environmental agency.

These are some of the environmental debates shaping up in the General Assembly this year as the new Republican majority is now in control of the House of Delegates.

"Some of them are really gunning for these laws," said Mike Town, executive director of the Virginia League of Conservation Voters "And we're going to have to do everything we can to defend them."

When the Democrats were in power, they passed a sweeping environmental law known as the Clean Economy Act that set a deadline to end carbon emissions from utilities by 2050. It was a major triumph for environmentalists, who praised the new law as putting Virginia ahead of most states. Now that law has become a target for Del. Nick Freitas (R-30), who has a bill that would repeal the Clean Economy Act. Environmentalists warn of the economic consequences to rolling back energy efficiency measures and efforts to develop renewable sources of energy.

"The average family in Dominion's service territory should save almost \$34 a year," said Harry Godfrey, executive director at Virginia Advanced Energy Econ-



Former EPA chief Andrew Wheeler testifies before a Senate panel.

omy. "So rolling back the VCEA would do economic harm to those ratepayers."

"Some of them are really gunning for these laws. And we're going to have to do everything we can to defend them."

— Mike Town, executive director of the Virginia League of Conservation Voters

THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL of the new governor's appointments to fill out his Cab-

net is his choice for Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources, Andrew Wheeler. A former coal lobbyist and Senate staffer, Wheeler led the rollback of Obama-era environmental regulations when he led the Environmental Protection Agency during the Trump administration. Appearing before members of the General Assembly this week, Wheeler presented himself as a champion for reducing air pollution and cleaning up superfund sites.

"The governor believes that with my unique background of having run the EPA and working in a senior leadership position in the U.S. Senate that I know how to access federal funding and assistance to make a difference for the state,"

said Wheeler in testimony to the Senate. "I have a long career in trying to bridge differences on these issues and protect the resources we all share."

Senate Democrats are hopeful they'll be able to deny Wheeler the nomination if it gets to the Senate floor, although they have no room for error. Democrats have a one-vote majority, so they'll need every member of the Senate Democratic Caucus to vote together. But when Wheeler appeared before the Senate Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources Committee, Sen. Joe Morrissey (D-16) signaled he would be open to voting in favor of the nomination. That alarmed advocates who are concerned about Wheeler's past actions.

"Andrew Wheeler has a record of undermining science and environmental protections that are meant to keep people safe," said Tim Cywinski, communications manager for the Sierra Club of Virginia. "Virginia has made an awful lot of progress in environmental justice and climate action over the last two years, and Andrew Wheeler is a threat against the progress we've made."

VIRGINIA IS CURRENTLY a member of a multi-state compact known as the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, although Republicans are hoping to force a divorce. Opponents of the initiative warn of higher power bills, and one estimate pegs that amount at \$52 a year for the average customer. Ultimately, opponents say, participating in the initiative won't accomplish anything that wouldn't happen anyway considering recent trends in the energy sector.

"Power companies are moving in this direction anyway," said Stephen Haner, a senior fellow at the Thomas Jefferson Insti-

SEE GREEN ROLLBACK, PAGE 4

New Kid on the Block

IDA opens in Potomac Yard.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Nearly 10 years after the site was first selected, the Institute for Defense Analyses celebrated the opening of its new 370,000 square foot headquarters in Potomac Yard with a Jan. 25 ribbon cutting ceremony.

"Our primary criteria for this location was that we could build the

size of the facility that we needed and that we were in close proximity to the Pentagon," said Dean Graves, IDA Director of Special Projects. "We looked at a number of locations throughout the region but felt that Potomac Yard would provide the ideal research environment for the next 20-30 years."

He added tongue-in-cheek, "We want to remind the City of Alexandria that it wasn't long after we announced our move that Amazon decided to come to the area along with Virginia Tech so you should be thankful to IDA for that."

Founded in 1956, IDA is a non-profit corporation that operates three Federally Funded Research and Development Centers in the public interest. It has been headquartered in Alexandria since 1986 when it moved to the Mark Center in the city's West End. IDA purchased the Potomac Yard site in 2016 for \$10.1 million and officially broke ground in August of 2019.

"We were able to complete this project on time and under budget during the pandemic," noted IDA Board of Trustees Chair Preston

SEE NEW KID ON, PAGE 4



Mayor Justin Wilson, left, joins Institute for Defense Analyses President Norty Schwartz in cutting the ribbon celebrating the opening of the new IDA headquarters Jan. 25 in Potomac Yard.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

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NEWS

On the Move

Old Town Shop relocates to 104 S. Union.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The Old Town Shop, a locally owned gift shop celebrating the historic heritage of Alexandria, is relocating across the street from its present location on S. Union Street.

"We were in 105 S. Union St. for five years and the business has been extremely successful," said owner Valerie Ianieri. "Last year was a record-setting year and the community continues to embrace us. We had a slight downturn during COVID but we stayed open, took all precautions and our business was status quo for 2020."

Ianieri is relocating the business across the street to 104 S. Union St., the former home of Old Town Books, and will open her doors on Jan. 31.

"I searched for a new location for over one year, knowing that with destination retail location is critical," Ianieri said. "Any open spaces are being redeveloped for restaurants, or in the case of 105, the landlord sold the building and the new owners will move in."

The new location is a 600-square-foot space in a building that dates back to the 1700s.

"I rehabbed the space and we will be consolidating our product while redeveloping our online shopping experience," Ianieri said. "Our top sellers are local ornaments,



JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

The Old Town Shop owner Valerie Ianieri, left, poses for a photo with Romanian tourists Lulia and Anca Teodoru in March of 2019. Ianieri announced that the popular gift shop will be relocating across the street to the former home of Old Town Books.

local foods and farmers market items, custom apparel and pineapple-themed houseware items."

Ianieri, a longtime Alexandria resident, opened the shop in March of 2017. Her de-

sire has been to feature local artisan products and celebrate the city's maritime heritage. She commissioned custom designed "OTX" and Old Town Alexandria branded merchandise to promote the history and cul-

"I searched for a new location for over one year, knowing that with destination retail location is critical."

— Old Town Shop owner
Valerie Ianieri

ture of the city.

"While our new space is significantly smaller, it is exciting to be so visible in one of the most historic, prominent buildings in Old Town," Ianieri added. "We are directly across the street from our previous location, so the move was relatively easy."

Other categories of merchandise include children's toys, regional history books and custom nautical themed gifts.

"My focus is to preserve and promote the history, creativity and culture of Alexandria locals and the Commonwealth of Virginia," Ianieri added.

www.theoldtownshop.com

Smedley Announces New Appointments

Doyle, Ruwe slated to join AFD.

Alexandria Fire Chief Corey Smedley announced the appointment of Francis Doyle Jr. as Deputy Fire Chief of Administration effective Feb. 14.

Smedley also announced the appointment of Paul Ruwe as Deputy Fire Chief of Operations. Ruwe's appointment is effective on Feb. 28.

"The Alexandria Fire Department is currently working toward accreditation through the Center for Public Safety Excellence," said Smedley. "Doyle's and Ruwe's extensive backgrounds and knowledge in various aspects of fire and emergency services will support our organization's journey as we continue to improve our workforce and the services we provide to the community."

Doyle currently serves as a Battalion Chief for Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Service. He also serves as an acting Duty Operations Chief responsible for providing county-wide EMS and fire suppression incident direction and management of 37 fire and

rescue stations and more than 300 personnel.

Doyle began his career with Montgomery County as a firefighter in 1994 and has served in various roles including Paramedic, Lieutenant, Captain, Station Commander and Fleet Liaison. Additionally, Doyle has more than 35 years of volunteer fire service experience with departments in Maryland and Pennsylvania.

Doyle is a Center for Public Safety Excellence certified Chief Fire Officer and has earned additional certifications as a Fire Service Instructor, Emergency Medical Technician, FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Safety Officer and FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Structural Collapse Technician. He earned an associate degree in fire science from Montgomery College in 1993 before receiving bachelor's and master's de-



Francis Doyle Jr. has been appointed Deputy Fire Chief of Administration effective Feb. 14.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Paul Ruwe has been appointed Deputy Chief of Operations effective Feb. 28.

grees in management from Johns Hopkins University.

Ruwe has been with the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department for more than 28 years, serving at all ranks from Firefighter to Deputy Fire Chief. He currently serves as the Deputy Fire Chief of Special Opera-

tions responsible for directing the day-to-day administrative, readiness, and response activities of the Special Operations Division; establishing strategic goals and priority-based objectives to accomplish the department's mission; and collaborating with regional, state, federal, international and private partners to ensure all programs align with training and performance standards.

Ruwe has received several certifications and training throughout his career including FEMA Virginia Task Force 1; U.S. Agency for International Development's International Operations

Managers; and Technical Rescue Operations and Virginia Department of Emergency Management Advanced Hazardous Materials Control certifications. He has also served as an adjunct instructor and live fire instructor for the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department's Fire Academy.

New Kid on the Block

FROM PAGE 1

Geren. “This building will serve IDA for a long time into the future.”

IDA’s new facility in Potomac Yard consists of two towers that are connected via a skyway. Features include an auditorium that seats 300 people, a conference center with breakout rooms, a green room for speakers to prepare for events and other large conference rooms. The building also has a recording studio, which enables IDA to broadcast events, conduct external interviews and produce external videos.

The IDA facility is located near Virginia Tech’s Innovation Campus, the National Industries for the Blind headquarters and Kaiser Permanente’s Alexandria Medical Center. The long-awaited Potomac Yard Metro Station, located one block east at the foot of E. Glebe Road, is slated to open in the fall.

The new building was designed and constructed to achieve a Gold WELL Building certification and to meet LEED certification standards.

Mayor Justin Wilson was on hand for the ceremony, noting that the city will take over the previous IDA space on the West End.

“The city signed a lease to move into IDA’s former headquarters, which will enable the City’s De-



The new IDA facility is located at 730 E. Glebe Road in Potomac Yard.

partment of Community and Human Services and the Alexandria Health Department to consolidate into a single location,” Wilson said.

Both parties signed the 15-year lease in May of 2020, with the city having the option to purchase. Occupancy is expected in February of 2023.

“IDA’s partnership with the city began nearly 40 years ago,”

Graves said. “With our relocation to Potomac Yard, our longstanding partnership will continue many decades into the future.”

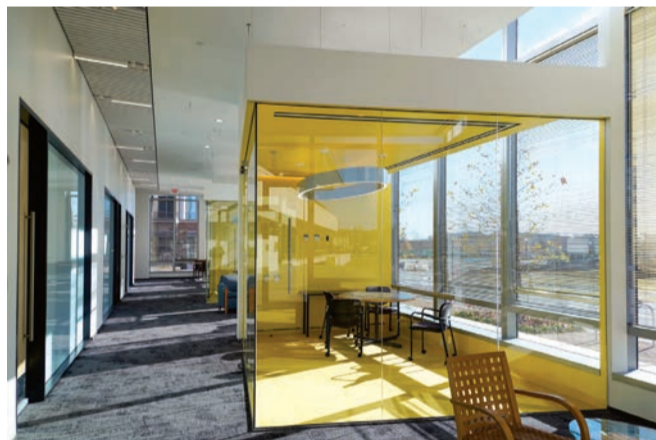
A courtyard on the second floor of the IDA Potomac Yard headquarters.



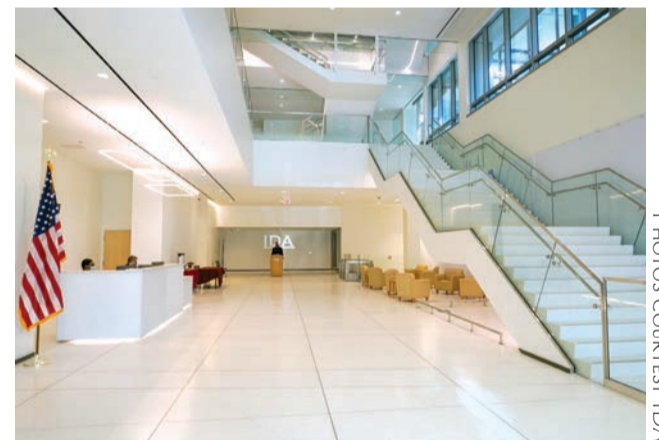
Director of Special Projects Dean Graves welcomes attendees to the new Institute for Defense Analyses headquarters Jan. 25 in Potomac Yard.



A skyway connects the east and west buildings of the IDA headquarters in Potomac Yard.



A breakout room in the conference center of the IDA headquarters.



The main entrance of the Institute for Defense Analyses facility in Potomac Yard.

PHOTOS COURTESY IDA

Green Rollback May Hit Blue Wall

FROM PAGE 1

tute. “They are moving away from coal and they are reducing carbon emissions on their own. So I think it’s virtue signaling to try and basically say well we made them do it even though they are doing it anyway.”

Supporters of the initiative say it provides an important source of revenue. When power companies don’t meet targets for reducing pollution, they have to pay. That money is currently funding

energy efficiency programs for low-income families and coastal resiliency projects. Gov. Glenn Youngkin issued an executive order to review the commonwealth’s participation in the initiative, ostensibly laying the groundwork to navigate a path for exiting the compact. Asked about how Virginia would fund coastal resiliency programs if Virginia leaves the initiative, Wheeler said he would find a way.

“I am committed to working with the legislature to make sure that we have the fund-

ing for that,” said Wheeler. “Coastal resiliency is very important.”

SENATE DEMOCRATS are hopeful they will serve as a “blue wall” to stop Republican efforts to roll back environmental laws that were approved when Democrats were in control.

The Senate committee that would consider that legislation includes Sen. Jennifer McClellan (D-9), who wrote the Clean Economy Act, and Sen. Lynwood Lewis (D-6), who

wrote the bill that entered Virginia into the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. As long as Democrats remain in control of that committee, Republicans will have a hard time accomplishing efforts to roll back laws from McClellan and Lewis.

“As the chairman of this committee, I’m very protective of their accomplishments,” noted Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34), chairman of the Senate Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources Committee.

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The Pace in Richmond Quickens

BY SEN. ADAM P. EBBIN

With the excitement of move-in and the inauguration out of the way, the pace of the General Assembly is rapidly ramping up. New staffers from Gov. Glenn Youngkin's administration are circulating the halls with updated policy and agency contact sheets and committees are just beginning to receive "administration input" on legislation. With a new Speaker and new committee chairs, the House of Delegates took some time to begin hearing legislation, while the Senate began right away. After months of anticipation, the Republican agenda is becoming clear in Richmond.

In the first meeting of the Privileges and Elections Committee, where I serve as Vice-Chair, we headed off and defeated early efforts aimed at limiting access to the ballot box on party line votes. One was a proposal from Sen. Mark Peake (R-Lynchburg) to end same-day voter registration, something that has yet to even go into effect. Another bill introduced by Sen. Mark Obenshain (R-Rockingham) would have reinstated the unnecessary and sometimes onerous voter ID law.

Just last November, due to changes made over the last several years, we held a safe and free gubernatorial election where more Virginians voted than ever, according to the Virginia Department of Elections Post Election Report. This "proved, once again, that elections can be administered in a way that guarantees access to the ballot, all while maintaining secure processes that ensure safe, secure, fair, and free elections."

In the Commerce and Labor

Committee we heard another bill from Sen. Peake (R-Lynchburg) that would have canceled a scheduled increase in the Virginia minimum wage to \$12.00 an hour on January 1, 2023. The minimum wage in 2020 was just \$7.50 an hour, the same as the federal minimum wage. Thanks to legislation passed two years ago, it is now \$11 an hour. Especially in Northern Virginia, the minimum wage has been too low for too long, forcing hard working neighbors into poverty, extended credit, and reducing access to the freedoms that home and vehicle ownership provide. I was glad to make the motion and vote to defeat this misguided piece of legislation.

While there are legitimate policy debates to be had about the above proposals, we have also seen some truly off the wall bills. Sen. Amanda Chase (R-Chesterfield) offered a slew of anti-mask, anti-vaccine, anti-public health proposals. These bills, drawn from the darkest corners of the internet, would fine small business owners \$10,000 if they required their employees to get the safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine or wear a face-mask to prevent the transmission of COVID-19. In a time of spiking infections especially among healthcare workers, children, and the unvaccinated, I was glad to vote down these proposals. I asked Sen. Chase directly, "If I'm a parent of an immunocompromised child, and I don't want them to come into contact with COVID, would this allow another child who's COVID-positive to possibly come in to school and sneeze on them



Sen. Adam Ebbin

Town Meeting on Zoom

Del. Elizabeth Bennett Parker, Del. Alfonzo Lopez, and Sen. Adam Ebbin will hold a virtual Alexandria and Arlington Town Meeting on this Saturday, Jan. 29 at 10 am via this zoom link: <https://bit.ly/3551bcF>

without a mask?" Sen. Chase responded with a hemming non-answer, but the text of the bill was clear — it absolute-

ly would.

Two of my 25 bills have already passed out of the Senate. SB278 preserves electric vehicle charging stations for electric vehicles to ensure and expand access to charging infrastructure. SB286, which I introduced at the request of Alexandria City, allows localities to require homes purchased in local historic districts to have their properties surveyed to ensure homeowners know their exact property lines and reduce disputes with neighbors or the local government when additions or alterations are made to properties.

With divided control among the two houses of the legislature, major policy actions will be more challenging to advance. However, an area where I look forward to making real wins for the 30th Senate District is through the budget. With a surplus of \$2.6 billion — the largest in Virginia's history, and \$800 million in American Rescue Plan Dollars still to be allocated, there are rare opportunities for historic investments. I have proposed amendments to former Gov. Ralph Northam's introduced budget to alleviate economic strain on businesses and workers, preserve and maintain historic resources, and invest in outdated government infrastructure.

I am working to include a tranche of federal relief dollars to

create a hospitality and tourism industry COVID-relief program which would especially be of benefit to the hotels and restaurants which make up a large portion of the economic and social engine of the 30th District. I have also requested an additional forty million dollars for the Virginia Housing Trust Fund which supports the development and preservation of affordable housing. It is my hope that with these additional dollars we can invest more in the development of deeply affordable housing for the poorest and most at risk Virginians. Additionally, I requested \$500,000 in state dollars to restore and preserve Douglass Memorial Cemetery in Alexandria — a historic African American cemetery in need of major restoration. I have also proposed funding to update ten Department of Corrections facilities across the state to install air conditioning. In this era of extreme weather events 5,600 inmates are currently without air conditioning.

While there is a notable air of contention on many legislative proposals in the Capitol, I am hopeful that with a carefully cultivated budget surplus, there will still be a plethora of opportunities for bipartisan wins for Virginians.

Please join Delegate Elizabeth Bennett Parker, Delegate Alfonzo Lopez, and me for a virtual Alexandria and Arlington Town Meeting on this Saturday, Jan. 29 at 10 am via this zoom link: <https://bit.ly/3551bcF>.

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

Update from Session Week 2

BY SEN. SCOTT SUROVELL



Surovell

In the second week of this year's General Assembly, Governor Youngkin gave his State of the Commonwealth speech to a joint session of the House of Delegates and Senate, and we began serious work on over 2,000 bills.

While I was pleased that Governor Youngkin said he wants all Virginians to get vaccinated for COVID-19, supports a Chesapeake

Bay cleanup and ending raw sewage discharges into the James River, he also advocated for many policies that many people of the 36th Senate District do not support, policies like charter schools and funding cuts to schools and our transportation.

Senate committees advanced several of my bills recently.

The Transportation Committee approved my legislation to require police officers to advise drivers

SEE HELPING, PAGE 8

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No Middle Ground on Masks in Schools

BY SHIRLEY RUHE

Tempers are flaring as parents decide whether to send their children to school with or without face masks. No one is without an opinion. Some parents are threatening to send their kids to school without masks declaring a “Mask Off Monday.”

Frank Bellavaria, spokesperson for ACPS says, “If a student is not wearing a mask, our schools are advised to speak to the student and provide them a mask to wear. Administrators work directly with any students who do not comply by explaining our requirement, and they notify parents/guardians as necessary. Our priority is to ensure every student can continue learning in person without disruption, and that we protect the health and wellbeing of our school communities.”

Gov. Glenn Youngkin issued an Executive order on the day of his inauguration Jan. 15 giving parents the option to choose whether their children continue to wear masks in public schools, effective Jan. 24. Less than 24 hours after Youngkin’s declaration, Arlington Public School Superintendent Francisco Duran reaffirmed the current requirement for students to wear masks in school. “Universal mask use has proven effective in keeping COVID-19 transmission rates low in our schools and ensuring schools remain safe and open.”

The Kaetzels: Connor (17), Sydney (15), and Logan (12), were masked and ready for school on Monday. Connor and Sydney attend Yorktown High School, and Logan attends Williamsburg Middle School in Arlington.

All nod affirmatively to the question of whether they expect some kids to arrive at school on Monday without masks. Connor speculates the kids who don’t wear a mask will be sent home. Sydney says it would be embarrassing to have your parents make a fuss at school about the issue. “I’d rather wear a mask.” Connor said he just wears the blue one, and Sydney wears whichever one she can find. Their mother is director of a private preschool in Arlington of over 100 students where the mask requirement for Arlington County Public Schools (ACPS) doesn’t apply. But she says she requires the children to wear an N95 mask with their cloth mask, even outside. “They are little and unvaccinated.” She says that she issued a notice to parents about the continued mask requirement, and most of them were grateful.

Alexandria City Public School Superintendent Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings Jr. issued a Dear ACPS Families letter affirming the continuation of the requirement that all individuals wear facial masks that cover the nose and mouth while in school facilities, schools and buses to help reduce the transmission of COVID-19. “Any student or staff who arrives without a mask will be provided one by the school.”

On Thursday Jan. 20 both the Alexandria and the Arlington County School Boards voted to support continued wearing of masks in schools. Alexandria City schools released a statement on Friday indicating the School Board had voted to reaffirm its commitment to health and safety measures first adopted for ACPS in August 2020, including a universal mask requirement, temperature screenings and visitor limits for school facilities.

The Arlington School Board voted to support the Superintendent’s recommendation to continue the current mask requirement within Arlington Public Schools as part of a layered strategy to help prevent COVID-19 transmission in the schools. It cited the

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PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE GAZETTE PACKET

The first day of the Governor’s order relaxing the school mask mandate is over but these Williamsburg Middle School students are walking home after school still wearing their masks.

Virginia Assembly adoption of Senate Bill 1303 in March 2021 directing school boards to offer and prioritize in-person instruction requiring school boards to adhere to mitigation procedures, like mask wearing, to the extent practicable as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control.

Meanwhile other school districts around the region will keep masks on including Fairfax County Public Schools, Fredericksburg City Schools, Manassas City Schools, Prince William County Public Schools, Loudoun County Public Schools. Other schools have lifted mask mandates and will make masks optional including Spotsylvania County Public Schools, Culpeper County Public Schools, and Fauquier County Public Schools.

The Catholic Diocese of Arlington announced on Friday, Jan. 21 that it would “implement guidelines affecting 17,000 students in parochial schools that allow parents to choose whether their children wear masks in school or opt out, following a Jan. 15 executive order by Governor Glenn Youngkin that rescinds a statewide mask mandate in schools.”

At the heart of the debate is the question of what is best for the health of children. Does lengthy mask wearing breed bacteria inside the mask, does it hinder social interaction and cause mental distress, or is mask wearing critical to controlling the spread of COVID-19 as stated by the CDC?

In addition, there is the issue of who is in charge. There are those who argue that Executive orders are not law and that local school boards don’t work for the Governor. They point to the March 2021 law requiring wearing masks as per CDC guidelines as the definitive answer. Arlington County School Board Chair Barbara Kanninen says, “It is my understanding that the Governor has overstepped his authority with this executive order. Both local school boards and the general assembly have authorities that the governor has ignored.”

The other side as stated by the Catholic Diocese of Arlington is that the state requirement is primary when there is a conflict between state and local public health directives.

On Tuesday the House and Senate Democratic Caucuses held a press conference responding to the governor’s speech. Del. Rip Sullivan D-48 said in his regular legislative newsletter that there was a lot to talk about, but most urgent was the Governor’s threat to use state resources to defund and punish Virginia schools after school divisions across the commonwealth rejected his illegal order purporting to eliminate mask requirements on schools.

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Session Update: Charitable Gaming Reform

BY DEL. PAUL KRIZEK

Perhaps one of the “heaviest lifts” — as we say in the General Assembly — on my legislative agenda this session is my effort to reform the Charitable Gaming system here in the Commonwealth. In fact, a third of my legislation this year is dedicated to this reform effort.

This is not just bipartisan, but a bicameral endeavor with my colleagues Sen. Bryce Reeves (Spotsylvania), Sen. Adam Ebbin, and Sen. John Bell (Loudoun).

If you are not familiar with Charitable Gaming, you may have heard of churches or fraternal organizations such as the Moose Lodge or Elk Lodge holding bingo games, raffles, or, more recently, Texas Hold ‘Em poker tournaments to raise money for charitable causes in the community. Not only are these games fun to participate in, but they raise money for good

causes, and they’re run by volunteers. At least, that is the intention.

Unfortunately, over the past year that I have served as the Chair of the Joint Subcommittee on Charitable Gaming, my colleagues and I learned that the Charitable Gaming system

we currently have in the Commonwealth is broken. The current leadership of the Charitable Gaming Board has vested interests in charitable gaming in Virginia and makes a profit off of this gaming. As we held numerous hearings over the summer, we heard from various stakeholders around Virginia on the issues and worked with our legislative team to create solutions with the goal of reforming Charitable Gaming in Virginia into a transparent and fair system, free from conflicts of interests, with clear definitions, penalties, a



Krizek

powerful enforcement arm, and with the goal of raising funds for charity as first and foremost in mind.

Our legislative agenda includes the six pieces of legislation that I introduced on the House side to achieve these goals. You can view all

of these and follow their journey this session at lis.virginia.gov:

❖HB 763: This bill would restrict electronic gaming to inside the social quarters of social organizations, and within their home locality.

❖HB 764: This bill requires the registration of landlords that lease premises to a qualified charitable organization. The bill also prohibits an organization from conducting any Texas Hold’em poker game where the game has no predetermined end time and the players wage actual money or poker chips that have cash value.

❖HB 765: This bill changes the Charitable Gaming Board from a policy board to an advisory board.

❖HB 766: Establishes the Charitable Gaming Fund as the receiver of all fees and penalties collected by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services in its administration of charitable gaming laws. This bill also charges the Illegal Gaming Enforcement Coordinator with enforcement of charitable gaming laws and establishes a tip line for members of the public to report concerns about illegal gaming.

A small percentage of funds collected by the Department is given to the problem gambling fund.

❖HB 767: Provides for a civil penalty of not less than \$25,000 and not more than \$50,000 for any person or organization that conducts charitable gaming without a permit, conducts games after suspension of a permit, or violates any other charitable gaming laws.

❖HJ 36 - Charitable Gaming

JLARC study on whether a stand-alone gaming oversight agency would allow for more focused oversight of all types of legal gaming in the Commonwealth and alleviate potential conflicts of interest.

I, along with my Senate colleagues, held a joint press conference on Monday morning announcing our intentions with this year’s legislation and highlighted our concerns with the Charitable Gaming system.

We sent a letter to Speaker Gilbert requesting that he relieve the members of the Charitable Gaming Board who serve at his pleasure, and we plan to send similar letters to the Senate Rules Committee and Governor Youngkin. Ultimately, our goal is to create a Charitable Gaming system that emphasizes charity and not gaming and helps the legitimate charitable gaming organizations, because what they do for the community is important and beneficial.

Update from Session Week 2

FROM PAGE 6

why they have stopped the driver’s vehicle before requesting the driver’s license and registration. When police stop a car, drivers can often become anxious and upset and believe they were not violating any law. This happened to one of my constituents recently and her incident escalated into an arrest for driving while intoxicated. She submitted to a breath test which showed she had no alcohol on her breath and the Commonwealth’s Attorney asked for the charges to be dropped. The entire episode would have been avoided if the officer had told her the basis for her stop. The full Senate will debate this bill this week.

Another bill would allow child accident victims to invest proceeds from injury settlements and use the funds for college, trade school or registered apprenticeship programs in what is called Virginia’s 529 Program.

Under current law, settlements are either invested in certificates of deposit or restrictive annuities approved by a judge.

Another bill I introduced would create a new Circuit Court judgeship in Prince William County. Prince William is now the second largest jurisdiction in Virginia and it takes 18 months to get a hearing date for civil cases like family law matters, business disputes or personal injury. All other jurisdictions in Northern Virginia address these cases in fewer than 12 months.

The Transportation Committee approved my legislation to require police officers to advise drivers why they have stopped the driver’s vehicle before requesting the driver’s license and registration.

The Judiciary Committee approved my legislation that extends the Supreme Court of Virginia’s judicial review program to retired judges who continue to hear cases and allows the legislature to decertify any judges who have problems. Today, retired judges can continue to hear cases and there is no formal program to obtain objective feedback on their performance or initiate their removal.

I also introduced several budget amendments of local interest. I am proposing to repurpose the \$2 million that Sen. Adam Ebbin, Del. Paul Krizek and Del. Mark Sickles secured for River Farm last year to purchase River Farm and use it as a grant program to improve public access to the property. I have requested \$5 million to connect Pohick Bay Regional Park to public water and another \$5.4 million to fund water and sewer lines for permanent outdoor restrooms at all Fairfax County Public School stadiums. One of the wealthiest counties in America should have permanent restrooms at these

community facilities.

I have suggested that we use funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARPA) to eliminate our \$250 million state park maintenance backlog at parks like Mason Neck and general funds to complete the Phase II and Phase III buildout at Widewater State Park in Stafford County. I have also requested \$200,000 to continue Good Shepherd Housing’s services to families receiving government aid that was started this year.

Over 70 constituents attended our Mount Vernon-Lee Town Hall on Saturday and I have town hall meetings scheduled with other delegates and senators for Lorton, Occoquan/Woodbridge and Dumfries/Montclair. Please see www.scottsurovell.org and my Facebook and Twitter pages for more details. I look forward to discussing your concerns and answering your questions.

Please send me any feedback at scott@scottsurovell.org. It is an honor to serve you in the Virginia Senate.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

NOW THRU JAN. 27

Alexandria Beautification Commission is seeking 2022 Architecture Beautification Awards. The Alexandria Beautification Commission is seeking architecture nominations for the 2022 Architecture Beautification Awards. This award will recognize significant building construction, additions, or improvements to private and public historical building property renovations and restorations in the last five years.

Nominations will be accepted through 6 p.m. Thursday, January 27, 2022. Judging will be limited to the property visible from the public right of way. Nominations must be submitted online at Beautification Award Nominations 2022. For additional information on the Beautification Commission and its annual awards program, visit www.alexandriava.gov/Beautification or contact Oscar Mendoza, Division Chief at Oscar.Mendoza@alexandriava.gov.

THURSDAY/JAN. 27

Northern Virginia Cyber and IT Virtual Career Fair. 1-4 p.m. Microsoft, Amazon, General Dynamics, Leidos and Verisign are among dozens of companies that will participate in the Cyber + IT Career Fair that the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority (FCEDA) is presenting to

build awareness of thousands of open tech jobs in Northern Virginia. Attendees do not need to live in Northern Virginia to interview with hiring companies. Candidates can register for free to attend the fair at www.workinnorthernvirginia.com/virtual-career-fairs/.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 2

Galentine’s Mixology Class. 7-8 p.m. Virtual. Grab your girlfriends and join the Junior League of Northern Virginia for a Galentines Mixology class featuring a variety of drinks perfect for a night with your favorite gal pals. A zoom link and list of ingredients needed will be emailed to you no later than Feb. 1. Tickets are \$25. Visit the website: <https://www.jlrv.org/galentines-mixology-class/>

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

ACPS- Help Provide Meals to Children
Alexandria City Public School (ACPS) will provide two days worth of breakfast and lunch meals with a snack pack free for any enrolled ACPS student on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Friday distribution will include a meal(s) for Saturday. Volunteers will meet at various schools to assist with packing boxes and loading buses with boxed meals. Then, volunteers will ride the bus along to distribute the meals while on site at a few ACPS mobile pop-up locations. Click on each location to sign up: Francis C. Hammond Middle School, TC Williams High School, or Jefferson Houston School. www.volunteeralexandria.org

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 13

SENIOR LIVING

Alexandria Symphony Presents Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini

Pianist Sara Daneshpour will headline with Rachmaninov's masterpiece.

Under the direction of Music Director James Ross, the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra (ASO) will present Rachmaninov's Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini with pianist Sara Daneshpour on Saturday, Feb. 12, 2022, 7:30 p.m., at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center and Sunday, Feb. 13, 2022, 3 p.m., at the George Washington Masonic Memorial.

A native of Washington, D.C., Daneshpour has garnered awards internationally and is a sought-after touring artist.

The program, titled Dark Glow, opens with Finnish composer Jean Sibelius' well-known and beloved tone poem Finlandia. Strings take center stage with Beethoven's Quartet for Strings in C-sharp minor, expanded for orchestra by Maestro Jim Ross. One of his last works composed when he was completely deaf, the piece explores a range of joy and heartbreak. The program also features George Walker's Lyric for Strings,

inspired by his grandmother, who was born into slavery. A trailblazer among composers throughout his life, Walker was the first African American awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Music in 1996. The program culminates with Rachmaninov's Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, a set of 24 variations based on a Paganini's theme for violin.

Audience members, musicians, staff, and volunteers are required to wear a mask while inside the hall and during performances. ASO is also requiring all attendees, musicians, volunteers and staff be fully-vaccinated, including a booster, if applicable. Alexandria Symphony Orchestra is committed to providing a safe concert environment. Schlesinger Concert Hall recently installed a state-of-the-art ventilation system. ASO will communicate with ticket buyers well in advance of each performance to establish what specific safety measures will be required to attend.

Both venues are currently operating at 100%. Seating is very limited at the George Washington Masonic Memorial, so book your tickets early.

Adult tickets start at \$20. Military, senior, student and group discounts are also available. To order tickets and for more information, visit www.alexsym.org or call (703) 548-0885.

Free parking provided by the ASO at both venues.

CALENDAR

NOW THRU JAN. 29

Little Monsters Exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery in the Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. At Del Ray Artisans gallery features artists' interpretation of their own little monsters — from scary to funny. Check out related workshops. Gallery hours are Thursday 12-6 p.m., Friday 12-9 p.m., Saturday 12-6 p.m., and Sunday 12-6 p.m. Details at: <https://DelRayArtisans.org/event/little-monsters>

NOW THRU JAN. 30

Alexandria Restaurant Week. At neighborhoods throughout Alexandria, including Old Town, Del Ray, Carlyle and Eisenhower, and the West End. For 10 days and two weekends, nearly 70 restaurants in Alexandria will offer a \$35 prix fixe dinner for one or two people. Special menus are available in-person at all participating restaurants, many with heated outdoor dining available. Fifty restaurants will also offer to-go options in addition to in-person meals. The online menu book makes it easy to browse delicious selections from dozens of Alexandria eateries and enjoy special menus at some of Alexandria's winterized dining destinations or from the comfort of your own home. Visit AlexandriaRestaurantWeek.com.

NOW THRU JAN. 30

Annual Fooduary Event. At National Harbor, Md. Restaurants will offer pre fixe menus including Succotash, Bond 45, Fiorella Italian Kitchen & Pizzeria, Rosa Mexicano, Grace's Mandarin, and Mason's Famous Lobster Roll. MGM National Harbor's restaurants Voltaggio brothers, Diablo Cantina and TAP Sports Bar. Visitors are invited to

enjoy options via dine-in, carryout or delivery. Visit www.nationalharbor.com/fooduary/.

FRIDAY/JAN. 28

Snowy Trees in Watercolor Workshop. 6-8 p.m. Via Zoom. Learn to use many watercolor techniques such as wet in wet, salt texture, lifting, splattering and more, as you paint a very colorful snowy tree scene. For details and to register: <https://delrayartisans.org/event/snowy-trees>. Cost: \$50 Del Ray Artisans member / \$55 Non-members. Website: <https://delrayartisans.org/event/snowy-trees/>

SATURDAY/JAN. 29

Garden Talk: Easy Garden Makeover Tips. 10:30-11:30 a.m. (16-Adult) Do you have an area of your garden that you want to plan or rework? Are you tired of your current landscape design or lack of one? Does your landscape meet your needs? With a little bit of knowledge, planning and effort you can brighten your garden with dazzling color. Extension Master Gardener docents lead you through this "do-over" class to help you determine your needs and rethink your garden space to better match your style. \$10 per person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code EJO.1DVA.

SUNDAY/JAN. 30

Virtual Winter Lecture: Houseplants by Design. 1:30-2:30 p.m. At Green Springs Gardens, Alexandria. (16-Adult) You want houseplants, you need houseplants—but do you really utilize houseplants to their fullest potential? In this virtual lecture, designer Tovah Martin explores some of the easiest, most rewarding houseplants appropriate for all types of home situations and

varying window exposures. Learn about house-plant design principles and how to pair and profile them with your décor, using containers that really make your houseplants shine with personality. Your habitat needs houseplants—why not do it with panache? A Zoom link will be emailed before the event. \$10 per person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code 4HM.97PV.

FEB. 5-6

Alexandria Warehouse Sale. In Old Town Alexandria. The 18th Annual Alexandria Boutique Warehouse Sale returns in a walkable format once again to maintain social distance while shopping for the best deals. The popular longest-running winter affair featuring 60 boutiques will take place over two days the weekend of February 5-6, 2022 throughout Old Town. Visit the website: www.AlexandriaWarehouseSale.com

RACHMANINOV RHAPSODY – Dark Glow
James Ross, Music Director
Sara Daneshpour, piano

RACHMANINOV: Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini
SIBELIUS: Finlandia
BEETHOVEN: Quartet for Strings in C-sharp minor, Op. 131 (arranged for string orchestra by J. Ross)

WALKER: Lyric for Strings
Saturday, February 12, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.

Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall
Sunday, February 13, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.

George Washington Masonic Memorial
Tickets: Adult tickets start at \$20. Student tickets \$15 (with ID). Youth

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

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CENTRE VIEW

Thank you to the hundreds of supporters who helped to keep all your Connection Newspapers alive throughout Alexandria, Fairfax County Arlington County and Potomac, Md. along with affiliated websites and digital media. Now we need help again in 2022.

Each local newspaper's mission aspires to provide greater community service, and we do know that our communities are better off if we continue to publish. Last year's financial support from readers and supporters like you bridged the shortfall before Federal PPP funding arrived, and both made our survival possible. We now await a decision for a grant from Rebuild Virginia in early February that we hope will help us in 2022 and beyond. But we need help to survive the first quarter, always a brutal time for cash flow in weekly newspapers. Thank you.

Please, help save these historical papers.

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

The ongoing pandemic continues to crush many newspapers across the country, and our newspapers continue to be at risk.

The Northern Virginia area's best read and most trusted source for community news includes the Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette and all Con-

nection Newspapers in the metropolitan region.

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

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

Connection Newspapers has been offering these local newspapers to residents for over 200 years. Countless residents have grown up with these papers covering significant moments in the lives of family and children, news, community events, school activities, and even pictures of your dogs and cats. Internet news and large national newspapers cannot provide the local connection or historical connection that local papers like Connection Newspapers and the Alexandria Gazette Packet provide. If your child, dog, mother, father, neighborhood, school has been featured, you understand the value of local community newspapers.

Visit [connectionnewspapers.com](https://www.connectionnewspapers.com) or

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-keep-your-newspaper-printing>

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NEWS

Black History Month Events

From a self-taught mathematician who mapped out the nation's capital to abolitionist sisters who partnered with Frederick Douglass to the first Black player in the NBA, African Americans have shaped the history of Alexandria.

Explore more ways to celebrate Black history and culture throughout February and year-round on Visit Alexandria's Black History and Culture page. <https://www.visitalexandriava.com/things-to-do/historic-attractions-and-museums/african-american/>

Black History Month Events & Experiences

Manumission Tour Company Virtual Tour of Local Black History: Freedom's Fight in Alexandria
February 3, 2022, from 5 to 7 p.m.

Admission: Free (Registration required) Virtual alexlibraryva.org

Join Manumission Tour Company to (virtually) travel the streets of historic Old Town Alexandria and hear the little-known stories of Africans and African Americans, both enslaved and freemen, at a time when Alexandria was one of America's main centers for the international and domestic slave trade. This program will give participants insight into Alexandria's pre-civil war history of urban slavery, and highlight runaway enslaved individuals, like stepbrothers Oscar and George Ball, free African Americans like Moses Hepburn and early abolitionists, such as pharmacist Edward Stabler, who pushed back against the "Peculiar Institution" of slavery.

Manumission Tour Company curates guided cultural heritage tours designed to highlight Alexandria's extensive African American History. Learn more here. <https://www.manumissiontours.com/>

10% Discount on Manumission Tour Company Bookings Throughout February
Throughout February 2022

Admission: \$15 per adult; \$12 per child (pre-discount)

Tour locations vary within Old Town, Alexandria, VA 22314
manumissiontours.com

Manumission Tour Company curates guided cultural heritage tours designed to highlight Alexandria's extensive African American History.

Owned by a fourth generation Alexandrian, Manumission Tour Company offers weekend guided walking and bus tours February through December. Tour routes include "Freedom's Fight in Alexandria," "Duke Street Black History" and "Still's Underground Railroad." Personalized group tours and step-on services are available by request.

An Afternoon Lecture with the Equal Justice Initiative
February 8, 2022, from 4 to 5 p.m.

Admission: Free (Registration required) Virtual alexandriava.gov/historic

Attend an afternoon with Trey Walk, project manager with the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI). Join the Alexandria Community Remembrance Project (ACRP) to learn more about EJI and the ACRP's work with them to educate Alexandria citizens about Alexandria's two lynchings that occurred in 1897 and 1899.

The Life and Times of Charles Young: Presented by the National Park Service
February 10, 2022, from 7 to 8 p.m.

Admission: Free (Registration required) Virtual alexlibraryva.org

Join Park Ranger Roger Osorio, from the Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers National Monument, to learn the story behind Colonial Young's life and the legacy he created. Charles Young, born to enslaved parents, persevered through racism and prejudice to become one of the first African American graduates from West Point Military Academy and went on to serve in many capacities and missions throughout the United States and the world at a time when opportunities for Black Americans were severely restricted. Please contact mzimmerman@alexlibraryva.org with questions or for more information.

Storytime with the Alexandria Black History Museum
February 12, 2022, at 10 a.m.

Admission: Free Virtual alexlibraryva.org

Educate kids during story time with the Alexandria Black History Museum, a collaboration with the Alexandria Library. Join Mrs. Lillian Patterson for story time and hear about African American history. The event is great for children ages 4 to 8, but all are welcome. Recurring story times occur on the second Saturday of each month.

A White Historian Explores "Race Riots"
February 12, 2022, at 11 a.m.

Admission: Free (Registration required) Virtual alexandriava.gov/historic

Violent clashes between large crowds of different races have disturbed the social order in the United States since long before the Civil War, and the phrase "race riot" has been used to describe such disparate events such as the Tulsa massacre of 1921, the 1968 uprisings following the assassination of Martin Luther King and the anti-Chinese riots of the 1870s. Susan Strasser investigates the term and a history of racially-charged violence that has framed American discussions of race. Register here to receive the Zoom link. https://zoom.us/join/register/WN_VJNkJWGDQOCANEIVjDN4Og

Virtual Film Screening and Discussion of "Odessa's Reign"
February 16, 2022, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Admission: Free (Registration required) Virtual alexandriava.gov/historic

Tune into a film screening and discussion of "Odessa's Reign" with producer Robin Hamilton. Crowned "Queen of the Underworld," a Black female gangster runs the most lucrative gambling ring in D.C. in the 1950s and manages to keep the D.C. police in her back pocket. Runtime is 25 minutes. Robin Hamilton is an Emmy-award winning television host, producer and moderator for town halls and forums. She is the founder and principal of the Around Robin Production Company, where she creates videos for nonprofits to help with fundraising, marketing and messaging.

Washington Revels Jubilee Voices in Concert
February 19, 2022, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Admission: Free (Registration required)

Virtual alexandriava.gov/historic
The Alexandria Black History Museum presents the Washington Revels Jubilee Voices in concert. Join the Rebels as their members explore the rich history of African American music.

Left Behind: Stories from the Underground Railroad
February 22, 2022, from 7 to 8 p.m.

Admission: Free (Registration required)
SEE BLACK HISTORY, PAGE 11
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Local Bird Expert Focuses on Waterfowl Identification

Bill Young, an Arlington resident and well-known expert on birds, will present an online workshop on local waterfowl identification on Jan. 28 from 7-9 p.m. Young is the author of "The Fascination of Birds: From the Albatross to the Yellowthroat." His travels have taken him to birding hotspots around the world and provided the background for his many presentations around the area with upcoming sessions sponsored by the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia, Alexandria Library and Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy.

This includes an upcoming three-part Birds and Words workshop on Feb. 15, 17 and 22. It focuses on such questions as how bird words have infiltrated the

English language and the basis for the common and scientific names of birds. Young is also the co-creator of MPNature.com website which is a comprehensive source of information for those who visit Monticello Park in Alexandria.

Questions on the upcoming presentation contact: info@loudounwildlife.org. Registration is required for his workshops.

— SHIRLEY RUHE



William Young

FILE PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE THE CONNECTION

Black History Month Events

FROM PAGE 10

required)

Virtual alexlibraryva.org Master Storyteller Sheila Arnold looks at what formerly enslaved people left behind when they escaped to freedom. Freedom — it's what we all desire, but if you had to leave something or someone behind, could you do it for the hope of a word called "freedom?" Through story, song and audience interaction, Master Storyteller Sheila Arnold, looks at the fugitive slaves from the Underground Railroad and shares what they left behind — family, clothes, name and even life. There are surprises that were left behind as well, and this presentation brings humor along with thought-provoking moments. The program is historical storytelling at its best. A one-hour program that begins with the audience's thoughts and leads to stories that will stay in your mind long after the presentation has ended. Appropriate for all ages.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 9

tickets \$5 (age 18 & under) with adult purchase. Military, senior and group discounts available. Purchase at www.alexsym.org or call 703-548-0885.

Free parking provided by the ASO at both venues. The Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center is accessible by Metro bus lines 7A, 7B, 7F, 7Y, 25A, 25C and 25E, as well as DASH bus line AT6. The George Washington Masonic Memorial is accessible by the Blue and

Yellow metro line (King Street station), numerous Metro, Dash and Richmond Highway Express bus lines, and the King Street Trolley in Old Town, Alexandria

THE BIRCHMERE

At 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. All 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.

January

Thu. Jan. 27: The Gilmour Project \$35.00

Fri. Jan. 28: Raheem DeVaughn \$69.50
Sat. Jan. 29: Who's Bad – The Ultimate Michael Jackson Experience \$39.50

February

Wed. Feb. 2: MARC COHN \$55.00
Fri/Sat. Feb. 4&5: Will Downing \$79.50
Sun. Feb. 6: Daryl Davis Presents Thanks for the Memories. \$35.00
Fri. Feb. 11: Drew & Ellie Holcomb: The You & Me Tour \$45.00
Sat. Feb. 12: BURLIQUE-A-PADES In Loveland! Hosted by Murray Hill with Live Music from The Brian Newman Band starring Angie Pon-

tani, The Maine Attraction, Mr Gorgeous, Gal Friday, \$29.50
Mon. Feb. 14: Eric Roberson \$69.50
Thu. Feb. 17: Sara Evans \$69.50
Fri. Feb. 18: Corey Smith. \$39.50
Sat/Sun. Feb. 19&20: Atlantic Starr \$49.50
Tue. Feb. 21 and Wed. Feb. 22, 2023: Travis Tritt.
Wed. Feb. 23: MAC McANALLY \$45.00
Thu. Feb. 24: Mother's Finest \$45.00
Fri. Feb. 25: David Sanborn \$49.50
Sat/Sun. Feb. 26 & 27: LYLE LOVETT ACOUSTIC GROUP \$115.00

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ENTERTAINMENT



George Washington Birthday Parade is Feb. 21, 1 to 3 p.m.



George Washington Birthday Parade is Feb. 21, 1 to 3 p.m.

PHOTOS BY STEVE MUTH

Alexandria Celebrates George Washington's Birthday With Events Throughout February

Alexandria the adopted hometown of George Washington, celebrates his birthday each year with events throughout February. The highlight will occur on Feb. 21, 2022, when Alexandria residents and visitors will line the streets of Old Town Alexandria to cheer on the oldest and largest George Washington Birthday parade in the country. The parade features drum corps, color guards, bands, community and fraternal organizations, youth groups, local merchants, city dignitaries, and, of course, General Washington and Martha Washington.

This year, the Celebration will honor Alexandria's health care workers and first responders, who will march as Parade Grand Marshals. All events are subject to change. See washingtonbirthday.com George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee (GWBCC).



George Washington Interpreter Dan Shippey. Celebrate with free admission to George Washington's Mount Vernon Feb. 21, 2022, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Feb. 22, 2022, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

brating Washington's Birthday at the U.S.-Mexico Border, will be available for advance purchase at Gadsby's and the Alexandria History Museum. Cost is \$6 per person. Tickets are available through AlexandriaVA.gov/Shop.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GEORGE WASHINGTON'S MOUNT VERNON

"George Washington's Alexandria" Tours
Feb. 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2022, from 2 to 4 p.m.

On every Sunday in February 2022, beginning at 2 p.m., you can explore historic Old Town Alexandria as George Washington knew it. This popular two-hour guided walking tour will visit sites associated with Washington and his closest colleagues, including Christ Church, Light Horse Harry Lee's house, the Lord Fairfax home, Washington's townhouse, Gadsby's Tavern, Duvall Tavern, Wise's Tavern, the Carlyle House, Market Square, Ramsay House, the Apothecary Shop and Gentry Row. To register, visit eventbrite.com and search George Washington's Alexandria. FREE.

The Restaurant Cherry Challenge

Feb. 1 to 15, 2022

In honor of George Washington's birthday, participating Alexandria restaurants will create unique, cherry-centric dishes. Each restaurant will develop its own cherry cocktail, appetizer, entrée, and/or dessert in honor of our distinguished native son, of course. The competing restaurants and their entries will be listed on the George Washington Birthday Celebration website and Facebook page, and the winners will be announced on Parade Day.

Hunt for Washington

Feb. 1 to 28, 2022

A fun and challenging game to uncover clues about Alexandria and George Washington. The hunt, which should take about 60 to 90 minutes to complete, will take individuals and families to places in Old Town Alexandria associated with the General. Start by printing

a clue sheet from washingtonbirthday.com at home and bring it with you as you traverse the heart of Old Town and then use your sleuthing skills to find answers to the clues. Submit your findings to gwbirthdayevents@gmail.com any time before the end of the day on February 28. There are prizes and mementos associated with this event. FREE.

American Legion Post 24 Run, Walk, n' Roll

Feb. 1 to 28, 2022

This George Washington Birthday Commemorative event is intended to build community and enhance the physical, mental and emotional resiliency of participants—veterans and non-veterans alike. This month-long event during February 2022 encourages participants to run, walk and/or roll on their own for at least 24 miles in increments and routes they choose.

Registration is \$24 and open until February 5, 2022. Visit runsignup.com/Race/VA/Alexandria/GWB24RunWalkRoll for more information.

iViva George! Celebrating Washington in Laredo and Alexandria - Virtual

Feb. 3, 2022, at 7 p.m.

Alexandria has celebrated hometown legend George Washington for hundreds of years with parades and balls. Another city in America that has also celebrated with pomp and parade? Laredo, Texas. Learn from Dr. Elaine Peña, Associate Professor of American Studies at The George Washington University, about her research on these extensive festivities along the border. Afterwards, Tyler Vanice, Chair of Alexandria's George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee, will join Dr. Peña as they explore the similarities and difference between Laredo and Alexandria. Dr. Peña book, *iViva George! Cele-*

Chocolate with General Washington

Feb. 12, 2022, at 2 p.m.

Children (and accompanying adults) are invited to spend an hour with General Washington to talk about the events of the revolution, ask questions of our first citizen, and enjoy hot chocolate and delicious comestibles. Sponsored by First Home Care. Location: George Washington Masonic National Memorial. Masks will be required. FREE.

Join George Washington at Hooray for Books!

Feb. 13, 2022, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Join General Washington as he engages youth with immersive books to children about General Washington, President's Day, and more at Hooray for Books! Recommended age group is 10 and younger. Location: 1555 King Street,

SEE GEORGE WASHINGTON'S, PAGE 14
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

ENTERTAINMENT

Off the Menu: Restaurant News and Notes

By HOPE NELSON
ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE PACKET

It's a rundown of openings, closures and moves this month. From coffee to bagels to piping-hot eggrolls, here's what's new, what's leaving and what's changing.

Turkish Coffee Lady Opens

The choices for caffeine in Alexandria just got wider: the Turkish Coffee Lady is in! Founded in 2009 in Washington, D.C., the new shop is open at 1001 King St. The grand opening event found the shop packed to the gills with visitors, including Mayor Justin Wilson, all eager to taste the eponymous Turkish coffee as well as delights such as baklava, sweets and tea.

APPETITE

Meggrolls Closes

After five years at its spot at 107 N. Fayette St., Meggrolls has closed its doors for good – though its owner, Meghan Barood, has left a glimmer of hope in her parting words via a sign posted on the shop door. “And though the time has come to pack up our wontons and go, I have a funny feeling this won't be goodbye forever. To say that my heart is overwhelm-

ingly full would be an understatement. Plain and simple – we've made it this far because of YOU, and I can't thank you enough for coming along for the ride! No matter where this next chapter may lead, the roots of this tasty little dream will always be firmly planted in my hometown of Alexandria, VA.”

Chewish Deli to Open New Location

Chewish Deli, the uber-popular bagel shop drawing crowds to its Pendleton Street home base, is soon to open a second location at 1640 King St., in the former Dunkin Donuts location.

“In this new location you'll be able to sit down and enjoy your bagel, sandwich and coffee. With much more space in the front area than at Pendleton, we will be expanding out our traditional deli offerings. We will be offering more cold options and a few less hot items than Pendleton since there isn't the option for a grill there,” the shop said on social media.

Chewish Deli aims for the new location to be open early in 2022.

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

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 8

Alexandria Dept. of Community and Human Services-Volunteer Guardian

Looking for individuals who can assure the well-being of an incapacitated Alexandrian living in an Assisted Living Facility or Nursing Facility. Volunteer Guardians are appointed by the Court to make decisions for older

Alexandria residents who have lost the capacity to understand the consequences of their decisions. The volunteer will visit the resident monthly and follow the person's wishes as much as possible. www.volunteeral-alexandria.org

Alexandria Families for Safer Streets - Executive Assistant to AFSS Board of Directors

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Brown v. Board of Education SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

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The Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Program was established by the Virginia General Assembly in 2004 to provide educational opportunities for persons who were denied an education in Virginia between 1954 and 1964 due to the closing of the public schools during Massive Resistance. The program is now open to eligible applicants for the 2022-2023 school year. For applications and information on eligibility, visit:

BROWNSCHOLARSHIP.VIRGINIA.GOV

or contact Lily Jones, Division of
Legislative Services, at (804) 698-1888.

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Not Bad, Considering



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

By the time this column prints, a month or so after I wrote it, I will be approximately one month into my three-month warranty extension. That meaning, as I'm regularly able to joke – THANK GOD!, that my end of December quarterly scans indicated tumor and bone weakness as stable. Not that I have a clue how quickly my fortunes could change but, I figure I have at least until my next quarterly scans in March before there might be a metaphorical fan involved. Since my oncologist is not in the predicting business nor inclined to discuss scenarios either, my life as a stage IV papillary thyroid cancer patient will continue to be one gigantic/on-going wait and see.

Which for the past nearly 13 years – from my initial late Feb., '09 diagnosis to the present has been my m.o. And quite thankfully/amazingly, my 'operandi' continues. And since I'm not, as it concerns my cancer diagnosis/evolution from non-small cell lung cancer to papillary thyroid cancer, a particularly deep thinker, or even much of a researcher into similar case studies, I sort of roll merrily/naively along. Though I wouldn't quite characterize my 'roll' as care-free and unencumbered; nonetheless, I am rarely bogged down or depressed by most of it.

As for the least of it, as a cancer patient I am part of unfortunately a much larger group of similarly disease-impacted people. We all share a mostly unspoken bond and I'd like to think, there is strength in our numbers. Whenever I meet/have met a cancer patient, there is, as you might imagine, an immediate connection of shared experiences. Whether the cancer is the curable variety – as generally speaking, papillary thyroid cancer is supposed to be, or the terminal type – like my original stage IV non-small cell lung cancer diagnosis was "prognosed," ("13 months to two years" I was given), once cancer is added to your everyday vocabulary, life takes on a whole new meaning, dare I say, urgency.

As an example: both my parents lived into their mid-80s, and were mostly healthy, no cancer. Given that we're related by birth, I figured I'd have a similar life expectancy. Then a month or so after my widowed mother died in early Dec. '08 at age 86, I experienced a pain in my left rib cage. A few days later the pain had migrated to my right rib cage. By the weekend, I could barely bend over at the waist and had difficulty inhaling. Even I had to admit there was "something rotten in Denmark." Later that New Year's Day, I went to the Emergency Room and the rest as you regular readers know, is cancer. I was age 54 and not quite six months and about to be diagnosed with a "terminal" form of lung cancer. Age 86? I'd be lucky to reach age 56. Based on the prognosis I received from my oncologist in late February, '09, I just lost 30 years of my life.

Yet here I am, almost 13 years later, and still droning on about being an active cancer patient. Too bad for you. Perfect for me, however. Who would have thought? In talking with my oncologist over the years and living and learning - and processing all the information I've been given; I've managed somehow to survive. I know Lou Gehrig was "the luckiest man on the face of the earth," but given my original diagnosis and subsequent prognosis, to still be alive and reasonably well in 2022 is nothing short of a miracle. I've been pretty lucky, too.

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

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ENTERTAINMENT

George Washington's Birthday

FROM PAGE 12

Alexandria, VA. Masks will be required. FREE.

Friendship Firehouse Museum is Open Feb. 19, 2022, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Friendship Fire Company was established in 1774 as the first volunteer fire company in Alexandria. Younger visitors will receive a free fire hat and a take-away bag of fun activities. Guests must wear masks that cover their mouth and nose while in the building. Admission is \$2 per person and free to Alexandria residents. Location: 107 S. Alfred Street.

Virtual Birthnight Banquet & Ball Feb. 19, 2022, from 7 to 9 p.m.

Join in the celebrations that have been ongoing for hundreds of years—General Washington's Birthnight Ball. Gather your bubble to honor our first President over Zoom. Begin the evening with a video presentation about the history of this event and hear from those that have participated in it for years. Have conversations about your favorite Birthnight experience. Then, the General will be available live for all y

our questions. Lastly, enjoy English Country Dancing called by our expert dance master from the historic Ballroom that you can do with 1, 2, 4, 6 or 8 people at home. Period costumes of the 1790s encouraged. One virtual dance class on February 17th is included. Tickets are \$15 per person. A dinner from Gadsby's Tavern Restaurant and traditional Birthnight Ball cake from Bittersweet are available for pickup with separate purchase of \$50. For more information and to purchase tickets, go to AlexandriaVA.gov/Shop.

Free Admission to George Washington's Mount Vernon Feb. 21, 2022,

from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Feb. 22, 2022,
from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Celebrate the first president of the United States at his beloved home. Admission is free for Presidents Day and George Washington's birthday. Admission tickets must be reserved online in advance. Tickets will be released to Mount Vernon members on February 11 and to the general public on February 15. A limited number of tickets are available.

Washington Symposium Feb. 26, 2022, at 1 p.m.

The George Washington Masonic National Memorial hosts leading scholars of the life and legacy of George Washington. The theme of the 2022 George Washington Symposium is "The Political Education of George Washington, 1758-1774." The George Washington Symposium is held annually to honor Washington's birthday by providing the public with enlightening contemporary research on the life of George Washington. Admission is free and free parking is available.

George Washington Birthday Gala Feb. 26, 2022,

beginning at 5 p.m.

Formal (white tie optional). Reception at 5:00 p.m. Entertainment in the Memorial Theater at 6:30 p.m. Banquet in the Memorial's Grand Masonic Hall at 7:30 p.m. The presentation of the George Washington Memorial Award will take place during the banquet. Tickets are \$200. To purchase tickets, visit gwmemorial.org. Tickets are limited.

George Washington Birthday Parade Day Activities – Feb. 21, 2022

Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association Breakfast

Feb. 21, 9 to 10:30 a.m.

Meet special guests and enjoy a hearty breakfast with members of this historic association. First appearance of the day of General and Martha Washington. Speaker: Mark Jinks, retired Alexandria city manager, relating his "hidden ghost" stories and other anecdotal experiences. Location: The Westin Alexandria Hotel, 400 Courthouse Square, Alexandria. Ticket Price: \$45, table of 10 \$400. For more information and to purchase tickets, contact Bill Kehoe, Secretary, kehoefd@aol.com.

Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the Revolution Feb. 21, 11 a.m.

Join the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Sons of the American Revolution as they honor the soldiers of the Revolution. Location: Old Presbyterian Meeting House, 321 So. Fairfax Street, Alexandria. No registration required. FREE.

Armed Forces Community Covenant Ceremony Feb. 21, 12 to 1 p.m.

Join us as we honor our Nation's Veterans, Active Military, and their families with music and demonstrations. Speakers include Alexandria's Mayor and the commanders of major military installations in the metropolitan area. Sign the Covenant Document and show your support for our Military as we honor our first veteran. Location: Parade reviewing stand at King & Royal Streets. FREE.

George Washington Birthday Parade Feb. 21, 1 to 3 p.m.

The nation's largest George Washington Birthday parade marches a one-mile route through the streets of his chosen hometown. Location: Old Town Alexandria. For more information, including parking, maps, route and status, visit washingtonbirthday.com, email gwbirthdayevents@gmail.com or call 571-384-8170. FREE.

Museums Open on Parade Day Feb. 21

While in Alexandria for the parade, stop by Gadsby's Tavern Museum and the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. Regular admission applies, which means City of Alexandria residents can visit for free. Guests must wear masks that cover their mouth and nose while in the buildings.

Gadsby's Tavern Museum will have costumed guides throughout the museum sharing stories about the many people who worked in and visited the tavern, including George Washington. Location: 134 North Royal Street. For more information, call (703) 746-4242.

The Apothecary Museum will be offering both first-floor admission as well as guided tours at 11:15, 12:15, 1:15, 2:15, 3:15 and 4:15 p.m. Residents interested in reserving space on a guided tour for free can call the museum at 703-746-3852. Location: 105-107 S. Fairfax Street.

Thank you to the 2022 George Washington Birthday Parade Sponsors: Silver Sponsor: Simpson Real Estate Services; Bronze Sponsors: Burke & Herbert Bank, Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association, HBP, Inc., McLaughlin Ryder Investments, Inc., Redmon, Peyton & Braswell and Wayne Valis; Supporting Sponsors: Honorable Frank Fannon IV and Kate Waller Chapter, DAR.

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