

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

JULY 3, 2025



Liam Sullivan (right) uncovered the marker, as Senator Surovell and Supervisor Storck looked on.

From Mount Vernon to the U.S. Supreme Court

Marker recognizes unconstitutional racial discrimination in Northern Virginia

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
THE GAZETTE

We must tell the whole story, including the disturbing chapters, several speakers urged at the June 29 dedication of a new Virginia marker in Little Hunting Park in Mount Vernon's Bucknell community.

The marker recognizes the dogged efforts of the late Paul Sullivan, a former community member who died in 1987 and who successfully pursued a landmark case all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court that led to the desegregation of recreational associations and facilities across the country.

In 1965, Sullivan rented a house in the Bucknell subdivision to Theodore R. Freeman Jr., and attempted to transfer his Little Hunting Park membership to the Freemans as part of the lease. The park's board denied the transfer in part because the Freeman family was African American. The board revoked Sullivan's membership.

In 1966, the Sullivan and Freeman families filed a lawsuit and lost several appeals. In December 1969, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Sullivan v. Little Hunting Park* that excluding African Americans was a violation of the Civil Rights Act of 1866 and illegal housing discrimination.

HISTORY RIGHT HERE

Welcoming 70 attendees on a sauna-like Sunday morning, Jamie Atala, the park Board's president, said, "History is not just written in textbooks. It's living right here." Today's 10-acre park is 70 years old, has 545 members and is home to the Gators swim team, she noted.

Julie Langan credited Mount Vernon res-

ident and Virginia Senator Scott Surovell for suggesting the marker. "Otherwise, we would never have known about it," she said. Langan, who drove from Richmond, is the Director of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

When the state's marker program began in 1927, "At first, we failed to tell the full story," she said, reporting that before 1930, three out of 700 markers related to African-American history. Today, out of 2,600 markers, 480 or 18 percent do, "still a low number," she contended, adding, "This brings us closer to the marker system we're

"Every pool in America became desegregated because of what happened here."

— Sen. Scott Surovell

trying to achieve."

Surovell related some of Northern Virginia's scarred history. He recalled that when his Surovell grandparents moved from New York City to Northern Virginia, "Fairfax was not very welcoming at times to Jewish people." His grandparents helped abolish the poll tax then required for voting. The *Harper v. Virginia Board of Elections* case decided by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1966 found that the poll tax violated the U.S. Constitution. "That case originated here," he said. Fairfax County Public Schools were not fully desegregated until 1966, but even with that progress, swimming pools still had discriminatory racial admissions policies.



Local youngsters and community members gathered around the new marker.



The Little Hunting Park pool was popular on this hot, humid day.

Surovell learned about the Little Hunting Park case when he read Sullivan's obituary in 2011 and decided to learn more. Sullivan faced threats in the neighborhood, including having his mailbox blown up. Some park members feared that by admitting African Americans, membership would decline. The Fairfax Circuit Court and the Virginia Supreme Court both "threw out the case," Surovell said. Sullivan persisted.

In 1969, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in a five to three vote in favor of the Sullivans and Freemans.

"Every pool in America became desegregated because of what happened here," Surovell said. "It's important to recognize what happened here and honor their struggles."

Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck encouraged people to make a difference. "Things happen because someone took a stand," he said. "It takes steely determination for individuals to stand up. We all are responsible for making a difference and we cannot let past barriers get in the way," he said.

Liam Sullivan, Paul's grandson, came from Bristow, Virginia, and led the unveiling. His son, Luke, age 16, said, "It's awesome to see my great-grandfather recognized." Paul's daughter, Isabelle, who came from Richmond, remembers her father's efforts starting when she was ten. "This is wonderful," she said. "This would make my parents happy."

Jube Shiver, a local resident who grew up nearby, lauded the "symbolism and history" of the marker.

Mount Vernonite Jane Schaffner recalled reading about this case in her first year of law school at Georgetown University.

Despite the oppressively humid heat, spir-

The Marker's Full Text:

Desegregation of Community Clubs

In 1965, Paul Sullivan rented a house to Theodore R. Freeman Jr. and transferred a Little Hunting Park (LHP) membership as part of the lease. The LHP board denied the transfer in part because the Freeman family was African American. After Sullivan mounted a vigorous campaign of protest, the board also revoked his membership. Both families filed a lawsuit in 1966 and lost several appeals. In December 1969, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Sullivan v. LHP* that the exclusion of African Americans was a violation of the Civil Rights Act of 1866 and thus constituted illegal housing discrimination. This case, along with the Fair Housing Act of 1968, desegregated recreational associations across the U.S.

its were high and gratitude was all around.

Virginia's historical highway marker program, the oldest in the United States, began in 1927 with installation of the first markers along U.S. Route 1.

The park and marker are at 7000 Canterbury Lane, near Quander and Beacon Hill Roads.

Note: Writer Glenda Booth is the mother of Sen. Scott Surovell.

corcoran

MCENEARNEY



Mount Ida

3107 Russell Road

\$2,495,000 | This updated 6,000+ sq ft Colonial blends elegance and versatility with three primary suites, an in-law/nanny suite, and luxury features across four levels. Highlights include a grand kitchen, great room, library, wine cellar, and multiple outdoor spaces. With top-tier schools nearby and easy access to D.C. and DCA, this home is ideal for refined living and entertaining.

Janet Caterson Price : 703.622.5984
JanetPriceHomes.com



Eddington Terrace

2929 Eddington Terrace

\$1,699,000 | Stunning 4-bed, 3.5-bath brick Colonial w/ 2-car garage, 3 gas fireplaces, hardwood floors, sprawling primary suite, and walk-out lower level.

Heidi Burkhardt : 703.217.6009
RealtorHeidiB.com



Mason Hill

2014 Mason Hill Drive

\$1,450,000 | Beautiful home with 5 beds, 4.5 baths, and over 5,000 sq ft living area. Beautiful kitchen with island and 2 story windows. Outside you'll find lush gardens and a new deck.

Rebecca McCullough : 571.384.0941
RebeccaMcCullough.com



Villamay

7123 Park Terrace Drive

\$1,299,000 | Raised ranch backing to Parkway with winter river views. 5 beds, 3 baths, freshly painted, inviting kitchen with cherry cabinets, rec room with fireplace, and landscaped yard.

Rebecca McCullough : 571.384.0941
RebeccaMcCullough.com



Southeast Quadrant Old Town

507 S Royal Street

\$1,099,000 | Charming all-brick townhome with 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, hardwood floors, custom built-ins, updated kitchen, and inviting outdoor spaces.

Peter Crouch : 703.244.4024
Katie Crouch : 703.447.1345



Villages of Mount Vernon

8694 Venoy Court

\$499,000 | Spacious 3-bedroom, 2.5-bathroom end-unit townhome in Alexandria. Enjoy a private fenced backyard with new brick patio, bright interiors, and unbeatable location.

Grand Traditions Group : 703.899.2881
GrandTraditionsGroup.com



Del Ray

409 E Raymond Avenue #8

\$379,000 | 1-bed, 1-bath condo with den/office and serene balcony! Beautifully updated. Excellent location, close to Del Ray and Potomac Yard Metro. Off street parking and extra storage!

Lisa Smith : 703.201.3102
LisaLSmith.com



Belle View Condos

6624 Boulevard View C-1

\$325,000 | NEW PRICE! Updated 2-bed unit, ideally located off main road, in a lush courtyard setting. Newer HVAC, windows, LVP flooring, and ample parking. Laundry & storage in same entry!

Heidi Burkhardt : 703.217.6009
RealtorHeidiB.com

live who you are

Proudly Serving Virginia, Washington, DC, Maryland, and West Virginia

Corcoran McEneaney | 109 S. Pitt Street | Alexandria, VA 22314 | 703.549.9292 | corcoranmce.com

©2025 Corcoran Group LLC. All rights reserved. Corcoran® and the Corcoran Logo are registered service marks owned by Corcoran Group LLC. Corcoran Group LLC fully supports the principles of the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Opportunity Act. Each office is independently owned and operated.

ACM ATLANTIC COAST
MORTGAGE

News



US Marine Corps Maj. Jerry File (ret.) salutes at the Alexandria Rotary Club's opening ceremony for Flags for Heroes June 24 at Cedar Knoll Restaurant.



Rotarian Chris Leighton, left, and supporters attend the Alexandria Rotary Club's Flags for Heroes opening ceremony June 24 at Cedar Knoll Restaurant.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Home of the Brave **Flags for Heroes on display at Cedar Knoll.**



Bugler Gil Hoffer plays patriotic tunes at the Alexandria Rotary Club Flags for Heroes opening ceremony June 24 at Cedar Knoll Restaurant.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Hundreds of American flags were unfurled overlooking the Potomac River to kick off the 8th annual Flags for Heroes display June 24 on the grounds of Cedar Knoll Restaurant.

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Alexandria, the Flags for Heroes project provides community members an opportunity to dedicate a flag to honor a hero in their life. A card attached to each flag bears the name of the hero – a friend, family member, veteran, health-care worker, first responder or other hero -- along with the name of the individual sponsor.

"It is very humbling to see these

flags representing the heroes of our area," said Rotary president Jim Carmalt. "This project is representative of the very model of Rotary – Service Above Self."

Area volunteers joined the Alexandria Rotary Club in positioning the flags at the restaurant's location along the George Washington Memorial Parkway.

More than 200 flags were unfurled to set up the display, which will remain in place through July 12. Donations will also be accepted through that date.

This year's Flags for Heroes program has so far raised \$40,000 which will benefit Alexandria Rotary Club community projects and provide direct financial support to more than 40 local charities and nonprofits.

www.alexandriarotary.org

"This project is representative of the very model of Rotary – Service Above Self."

— Alexandria Rotary president Jim Carmalt

MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE ♦ JULY 3-16, 2025 ♦ 3

Celebrating Juneteenth in Gum Springs

By Glenda C. Booth
Mount Vernon Gazette

Despite the 90-plus-degree heat that felt like 100 degrees, people danced and jived to the Just Us Band's rendition of "What's Going on?" and there was lots going on at the June 21 Gum Springs Community Day Juneteenth Celebration in Martin Luther King Park.

People snarfed up hotdogs and slurped on snow cones. Excited youngsters rode on the Big Country Express

SEE CELEBRATING, PAGE 7



Zari Williams and her mother, Zakiya Williams, sold snazzy sunglasses and other items from Zari's Closet.



Snow cones saved the day and quenched many thirsts.



Lollie Rinehardt described the Virginia Williams High School Career Association, the organization she founded to honor her mother, Virginia Williams (in photo), a guidance counselor in the Fairfax County Public Schools. The Williams family lived in the Mount Vernon community of Tauxemont.



Shelly Saunders (left) and Lynn Phillips (right) promoted the DC Divas, a women's professional football team that has played for 25 years and has 75 members, ages 18 to 53. They will play on June 28 at St. James in Springfield.



The Gum Springs Lady Panthers danced to "Boots on the Ground." The girls, ages five to twelve, cheer for the DC Divas.



Sylvia Byrd, Pres, Gum Springs Youth Athletic Association and member, Gum Springs Community Center Advisory Board, was the announcer.

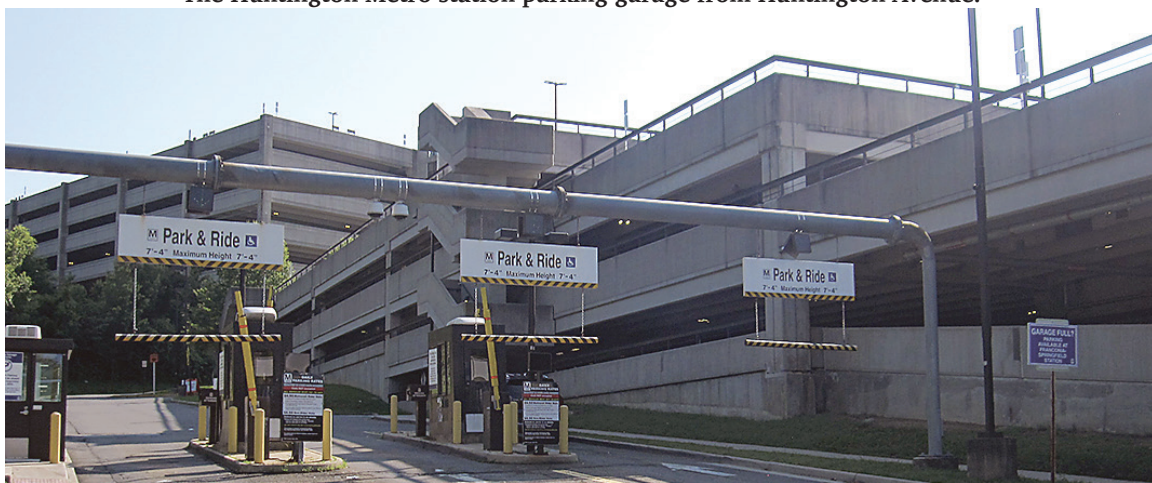


Youngsters enjoyed rides.

PHOTOS BY GLENDA



The Huntington Metro station parking garage from Huntington Avenue.



Huntington Metro Garage Has Re-opened

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

There was no celebratory announcement event, but many Metro riders who use the Huntington Metro subway station's north parking garage, the garage accessed from Huntington Avenue, are celebrating the June 23 re-opening after a four-month closure.

During the closure, many users bemoaned the inconvenience and added time required to use the upper garage, the longer walk to the station and having to navigate a maze of ramps, concrete walls and confusing directions to take the elevator down to the station.

Leslie Overstreet, who commutes daily from the Mount Vernon area into Washington, D. C., said "The closure felt like years. The re-opening has certainly alleviated parking competition and it's easier to access the station."

"Using the upper garage changed my routine in terms of where I sit on the train, in the front or the back of the train. In short, 'Hallelujah! At last!'"

Plumbing Repairs

"The Huntington parking garage re-opened on June 23 after rehabilitation work and repairs to standpipes," emailed Jordon Pascale, Media Relations Manager for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

He clarified, "Standpipes are water supply/plumbing that firefighters can attach fire hoses to in the event of a fire."

The garage is at 2701 Huntington Ave. Many Fairfax Connector and Rex Metro buses service and connect at the Huntington Metro station.

Daily week-day garage parking costs \$4.95. There



Huntington Metro sign at the station's entrance

are some reserved spaces costing \$45 monthly plus the daily rate. Some spaces are allocated for multi-day use for up to 10 days, on a first-come, first-served basis. The station also has 32 bike racks and 12 lockers.

More information:

<https://www.wmata.com/rider-guide/stations/huntington.cfm>

PUBLIC NOTICE

Please be advised that there will be 15-minute firework displays taking place as part of the Independence Fireworks public evening event at George Washington's Mount Vernon on

Friday, June 27, Saturday, June 28 and Friday, July 4, between 9:20pm and 9:40pm.

In addition, a brief 5-minute daytime fireworks display will be held on **Friday, July 4, between 1:00pm and 1:30pm** as part of our annual An American Celebration public event.

The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association thanks you for your tolerance and apologizes for any disruption.

To receive Mount Vernon fireworks notifications via e-mail, write to Events@MountVernon.org

**GEORGE WASHINGTON'S
MOUNT ★ VERNON**

Past issues of

**THE
CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS**

back to 2008
are available at

<http://connectionarchives.com/PDF>

Easing Your Transition
from Hospital to Home.



Alexandria
Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center

AlexandriaHC.com • 571.257.1896
900 Virginia Ave, Alexandria, VA 22302

DECLARATION DAY

PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH



Nell (Rosalyn Gaines), a house servant, George V (Elliott Rauch, left) and George IV (David Keltz, right).



George V (Elliott Rauch, right) stressed that his father is “a good master.”

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

July 25, Garden Party in the historic garden, cocktails and 18th century lawn games
Aug. 31 to Sept. 3, Virginia 250th Mobile Museum, “Out of Many, One,” stories of the Revolutionary War
Sept. 12, Naturalization Ceremony for candidates for citizenship
Later this year, events will celebrate Mason’s 300th birthday.
Visit www.gunstonhall.org.



A portrait of George Mason

Celebrating a Local ‘No Kings’ Champion

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

On June 14, 2025, as military tanks rolled through Washington, D.C. in a parade celebrating the Army’s 250th anniversary and at least five million people staged over 2,000 No Kings rallies across the country, some patriots chose to honor America’s revolutionary quest for freedom by celebrating Declaration Day at Gunston Hall.

Day-long events paid tribute to Gunston Hall’s owner, George Mason IV, author of the 1776 Virginia Declaration of Rights, a treatise of 16 articles that historians say was the first founding document to call for individual liberties such as freedom of religion and freedom of the press.

Gunston Hall displayed for the first time an actual letter that Mason sent to George Washington about a property line dispute in 1768. Washington added a note to the letter saying that they resolved the problem amicably.

The British Oppressed the Colonists

Dylan McCartney from Gunston Hall reminded attendees that colonists protested Britain’s monarchical rule in multiple ways, and that Mason’s Declaration of Rights had far-reaching impacts, including influencing the Declaration of Independence and

the U.S. Constitution’s Bill of Rights. “Mason’s legacy stretched across the world,” he said.

Sarah Osburn Brady recounted the life of Thomas Paine who grew up in England and sang, “God Save George the King” in elementary school. Once in North America, he wrote Common Sense in 1776, a 47-page booklet that advocated a break from England and a different form of government. Accused of being “radical and treasonous,” “He changed peoples’ minds,” she said.

Staffers from the Fairfax Circuit Court Historic Records Center described documents they preserve dating from 1742 through the early 1900s. One land tax record shows that George Mason IV paid 45 pounds, seven shillings and 10 pence in taxes on his 7,649 acres, an amount estimated today to be between \$120 and \$150. The center has 17 pew deeds, one for pews in Pohick Church with the original signatures of George Mason, George Washington and Daniel McCarty.

The Colonists Oppressed the Enslaved

In the mansion, visitors watched two dramatic scenes in a dual track format with three historic interpreters portraying Nell, a house servant; George Mason IV and his adult son, George Mason V. George senior is struggling to decide whether to participate

“That all men are by nature equally free and independent and have certain inherent rights ...”
— George Mason, Virginia Declaration of Rights

in the Continental Congress. The son tells his father, “You have one of the best legal minds in Virginia.”

George says that “slavery is a slow poison.” His son insists his father is a “good master” and asks Nell her opinion. In private, she says that slavery is despicable, that the enslaved people live in shacks, work long hours and have little time with their families.

In the 1787 scene, Mason has returned from the Constitutional Convention, unhappy with the new Constitution which he views as a “flawed document” because it had no Bill of Rights and did not ban the slave trade. “We fought to not be enslaved by the British,” he says.

The son proposes to ask Nell if she agrees that his father treats his slaves well. In her private aside, Nell says, “I will answer his question the way he wants,” and pleads, “I just want to be free.”

The Mansion’s Conflicting Messages

The 1780s mansion in some ways symbolizes the conflicting currents of the era, like the reproduction wallpaper replicating a pattern from England and whist and loo cards, classic English games. In Mason’s study, papers on his desk like the Virginia Gazette and the British Parliament’s 1765 Stamp Act hint at Mason’s internal deliberations. And the house of a man who fervently

believed in individual rights and supported a revolution to gain freedom was built by the people he enslaved. He never freed his slaves.

A five-person ensemble or wind band called Music of the Regiment performed 18th and 19th century military music using period instruments – two wooden clarinets, two horns and a bassoon. Dominic Giardino explained that bands were used to recruit soldiers and inspire patriotism. And though the day’s program emphasized the colonies’ rebellion against the British, the bands of Mason’s day played music connected to the British, like “Washington’s March.”

“They took from what they knew,” he explained.

Jasmine Carr, Fairfax NAACP membership chair, told attendees that reinforcing individual rights “is more necessary than ever” in today’s political climate. Her organization champions “equality and justice for all,” she said.



Music of the Regiment played 18th century pieces.



Rosalyn Gaines portrayed Nell, a house servant, and described the life of enslaved people.



Sarah Osburn Brady talked about Thomas Paine’s booklet, Common Sense.



Youngsters enjoyed rides



Dr. Kay Johnson and Anis Saccoh with the Community Services Board offered free medicine deactivation kits for disposing unused drugs and gun locks.



Luis Mata, with Fairfax County Fire and Rescue recruited potential firefighters and emergency medical technicians over age 18. He said that no experience is required and new hires get six months of training.

FROM PAGE 4

train and a six-horse carousel.

People perused the wares of 35 vendors, from clothing to jewelry to scented car dif-

fusers. Government agencies touted their services, like foster care, public safety and mental health support – even gun locks.

Gum Springs is the oldest African-Amer-

ican community in Fairfax County, founded in 1833 by West Ford, a freed enslaved man who had worked on George Washington's plantation.

Celebrating Juneteenth in Gum Springs



Festival-goers had many vendors to choose from.



Many vendors sold clothing.

Virginians Protest as 'Big Beautiful Bill' Advances

Highlights of key actions and implications.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Wednesday, July 2, a Town of Herndon resident, seeing this reporter, stops his car and gets out to talk. The man says he's fed up with Republicans who

believe President Trump. The U.S. House of Representatives is about to vote on the president's so-called "One Big Beautiful Bill," the final step before sending it to the president's desk. The craftsman recounts his recent conversation with his wife. "I'm going to put a big sign in the front yard, paint it,

trim it out nicely, and write, 'The emperor has no clothes.'"

The phrase originates from a fairy tale by Hans Christian Andersen. It is popular in politics and used when a truth is denied by the many, even though it is before their eyes.

House Republicans are seeking to approve the Senate-passed reconciliation bill. The tax and domestic policy bill includes deep cuts to Medicaid, nutrition assistance, and other government programs to off-

set the lost tax revenue by extending and expanding tax cuts for the wealthy and new spending for the Pentagon and ICE. The bill is projected to add at least \$3 trillion to the national debt.

Medicaid is a federal program that enables states to provide health insurance to their low-income or disabled residents. According to Fairfax County, over 2 million Virginians currently participate in Medicaid, largely low-income adults and families, people

with disabilities, older adults, and pregnant women. In Fairfax County, over 150,000 people participate in Medicaid.

On Tuesday, July 1, a coalition of Virginia care workers, doctors, union members, veterans, retirees, and concerned Virginians led by Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Virginia, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Virginia, New Virginia Majority, Women's

SEE VIRGINIANS, PAGE 14

Solar on the Landfill

A Step toward Less-Polluting Energy.

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
THE GAZETTE

With trash trucks rumbling in the background, Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck called the Lorton/I-95 landfill “the backyard that I love,” when officials figuratively raised a glass to a new 12,000-panel solar project on a closed, 37-acre section of the landfill. The June 18 groundbreaking celebrated a five-megawatt solar array project that will generate enough electricity to power about 1,000 homes when completed in 2026.

“It’s a big, big, big day, “a major milestone,” Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeff McKay told the gathering. Fairfax County is the first locality in Virginia to begin construction of a solar array on the grounds of a landfill. Generating electricity from the sun is a “no brainer,” McKay enthused, “the right thing to do environmentally and economically.”

The panels will reduce planet-warming carbon dioxide emissions by 136,000 metric tons, officials contend, and save the county \$12 million over 30 years. It will help the county reach carbon neutrality in government operations by 2040.

Braddock Supervisor James Walkinshaw said, “We should treat this as the beginning to meet our carbon neutrality goals,” stressing that the county must “double down.” He lauded his former boss, the late Congressman Gerry Connolly who as a Board of Supervisors Chairman “put the county on a sustainable path” with his Cool Counties initiative. Connolly died on May 21, 2025. Walkinshaw last week won a 10-way primary to be the Democratic nominee to fill Connolly’s seat in Congress with nearly 60 percent of the total vote.

Storck recalled that Lorton “looked very different” 25 years ago and cited the Lorton Visioning 2040 effort that is planning the community’s future. He too reminded,



Jeff McKay, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, touted cost savings and carbon reductions.



Braddock Supervisor James Walkinshaw urged that the county “double down” to reduce carbon emissions.



Chris Herrington and Wendy Henley, President, South County Federation.



Supervisor Dan Storck, Eric Forbes, former Delegate Mark Keam and Chris Herrington.

“We’ve got a lot of work to do to get to carbon neutral.”

County officials Chris Herrington and Eric Forbes see the solar panels as a step toward a sustainable community. Herrington heads the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services and Forbes is the Department’s Deputy Director overseeing solid

waste management. John Morrill, Director of the Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination, called the project one that can “displace carbon emissions and other pollutants.”

Wendy Henley, President of the South County Federation, attended and in an email commended the county. “By repurposing a

closed landfill into a renewable energy hub, the project illustrates the potential to convert environmental challenges into meaningful opportunities. This solar array project, which aligns with Fairfax County’s commitment to reducing its carbon footprint and fostering resilience for future generations, is

SEE A STEP TOWARD, PAGE 9



Michael Fahey represented Madison Energy Infrastructure, the county’s partner.

PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH

Attendees applauded the project. The Reworld waste-to-energy plant in the background processes 1.1 million tons of solid waste per year.

Solar Energy in Virginia

Fairfax County's use growing.

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE GAZETTE

Fairfax County has moved closer to adding more new renewable solar energy to credit against energy use in selected county facilities; the power equivalent of about 1,000 homes usage. Breaking ground for its first solar array field project on June 18, at the I-95 landfill, this project will add a 5-megawatt solar field production installation when completed in Spring 2026. Its production will offset energy consumed in about 20 of the county's nearly 500 buildings through net metering virtual credits. Fairfax County is the first locality in Virginia to begin such a project on the grounds of a closed landfill. The project, the county's first solar array field, and its largest solar project, adds to rooftop installations at several government facilities, to reduce energy costs and move the county toward its 2050 zero carbon emission goal.

The project joins Virginia's growing number of solar array fields. As of June 2025, Virginia has over 130 utility-scale solar farms, totaling 4,861 mega-watts of operating capacity. In 2024, 26 solar farms were built in the Commonwealth. Several projects are under construction or proposed, showing continued movement toward expansion of solar energy in the state. According to the Virginia Department of Energy, the state has seen a significant increase in solar energy generation, now reaching 13 percent of its total power

generated from solar plants. This ranks Virginia ninth in the country for solar panel installation.

In comparison to other array efforts, the I-95, five megawatt field, covering 37 acres of closed landfill with 12,000 solar panels, is relatively small. The largest, in California, a 579 megawatt site, covers five square miles with 1.7 million panels. The largest in Virginia, a private enterprise in Spotsylvania, and the largest east of the Rockies, covers 6,350 acres to power about 111,000 homes with a 340,000 ton carbon offset.

So why not go larger in the I-95 landfill's open expanse? County director of the Office of Environment and Energy Coordination (OEEC), John Morrill, explains that the same legislation that allowed this kind of solar installation for localities, and provided for net metering, also limits that capacity. Virginia's Solar Freedom Act of 2020, HB 572, increased and enabled distributed solar energy through several changes to utility regulations. Sponsored by former Delegate Mark Keam, of Vienna, the bill allowed localities to install solar or wind facilities of up to five megawatts on government-owned property and use the electricity for government-owned buildings. The bill raised the cap on the total amount of renewable energy that can be net metered in a utility's service territory from one percent to six percent.

That provision of the Act also made net metering available to more residential customers, and increased residential customers' cap on generation capacity to 150 percent of expected annual consumption.

Even with the legislated capacity



Lorton's solar array field will consist of 12,000 panels covering 37 acres of closed landfill.

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

Director John Morrill speaks about benefits of the I-95 solar array project.



limits, Morrill says of the project, "This is big." It represents about five percent of the County's energy use, and is larger than a dozen other efforts scattered throughout the county. Morrill expects a disproportionately positive impact from the installation.

His office touts converting previously unusable closed landfill space into beneficial acreage as a win for county residents. Of note, the county has no upfront development costs nor any anticipated staff increases.

The project is constructed, funded and managed by Madison Energy Infrastructure, a company with the experience of constructing 400 such solar projects in 25 states. The project will include creating an interconnection with the Dominion Energy system. Madison will operate the installation over a 30-year partnership contract period, during which the county

will buy the energy produced for ten cents per kWh; a considerable savings over current commercial rates.

Says Morrill, "The project could save the county \$12 million dollars over the 30-year partnership and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 136,000 metric tons over the same period."

The array on the landfill, a Department of Public Works and Environmental Services Solid Waste Management operation, will join two already completed DPWDES solar arrays. In 2024, DPWES unveiled a rooftop solar system at the Newington Solid Waste Facility in Lorton. This year, a solar system was installed on the roof at DPWES's I-66 Transfer Station. Another solar array is currently under construction on the nearby I-95 Landfill Complex administrative building. (See Connection, Lorton, June 5-18, pg 12)

Solar farms are being developed on both agricultural and previously forested land. Some areas in Virginia have seen increased restrictions on solar development, with several localities placing caps on the amount of land that can be devoted to solar farms. Dozens of closed landfills are finding new uses, having been successfully converted into parks, golf courses, and nature preserves. Mount Trashmore Park, in Virginia Beach, is a 165-acre park that was formerly a landfill. Fairfax County will open Overlook Ridge Park in 2026 on a section of landfill that closed in 2018.

Although use of solar power is rising, other power sources continue to lead Virginia's energy production, with about 55 percent from natural gas, 32 percent nuclear, 4 percent coal, and 5 percent wind, hydroelectric, biomass and geothermal.

A Step Toward Less-Polluting Energy

FROM PAGE 8

a testament to the power of community collaboration. It would be great if our schools could leverage this capability."

Solar Specifics

Fairfax County is partnering with Madison Energy Infrastructure (MEI) to build the complex and leasing landfill land to the company. MEI Vice President Michael Fahey told the group, "It will offer rate certainty, be clean and cost efficient."

In a follow-up email, Fahey explained that one solar panel is 44 by 89 inches, with a maximum electrical output of 545 watts. Each solar panel has four main components: the frame, solar cells, glass layers and encapsulant. The manufacturers are ZNShine Solar, Vsun Solar and Risen Energy.

The energy from the solar installation will

go to Dominion Energy which will meter the kilowatt hours at the point of connection and then credit the county for the energy produced. He termed it "virtual metering."

His company will plant a meadow using pollinator-friendly seed mix under the panels, seeds approved by county officials.

MEI owns and operates energy assets across the U.S. and collaborates with schools and communities "to lower their costs and enhance operational sustainability," Fahey reported.

Legislature Gave Authority

Several speakers commended the Virginia General Assembly, especially former delegate Mark Keam who attended, and local advocates who persuaded the legislature to enable the project.

"The concept for the project initially began in 2020 with the enactment of the Solar Freedom Act, a law that focuses on renewable energy," said Ivy Main, Renewable Energy Co-Chair, Virginia Sierra Club. "It allows residents and businesses to purchase electricity through renewable sources, such as solar. It also allows for virtual net metering for this project, in which power generated at the site can be credited to other county facility energy accounts."

"Among Solar Freedom's provisions was municipal net metering, which would allow a locality to build a solar array on a closed landfill or vacant land and attribute the electricity to buildings not located at the site. Without this legislation, only buildings that could take electricity directly from a solar array would be legally entitled to use

it under Virginia's net metering statute, and the size of the projects would be much more limited," Main said.

Main added, "We hope to work with the county again to expand the ability of both Fairfax and other localities to put solar on their closed landfills and other lands that aren't suitable for other purposes."

"This solar array helps cement Fairfax County's leadership in renewable energy, a point of pride for those of us who call this county home."

How will the average person benefit from this project? Fahey answered, that in addition to county cost savings, "The installed capacity is capacity that the utility doesn't need to provide, which enables the utility to avoid adding costs to ratepayers to fund costs for such capacity."

Walkinshaw Wins Democratic Nomination

Dems final vote total was almost 40,000 — record turnout for a firehouse primary in Virginia; Stewart Whitson is GOP nominee in CD11.

By Mercia Hobson
The Gazette

Party winners emerged shortly after the June 28 11th Congressional District Republican Canvass by GOP 11 closed at 4 p.m. and the Democratic Special Election for the Eleventh Congressional District of Virginia by VADEMS closed at 7 p.m.

Stewart Whitson, of Great Falls, Va., a former FBI agent and U.S. Army combat veteran, is the Republican nominee. He received a total of 1,019 votes. Whitson was among the seven candidates who received a total of 2,601 votes, according to Rosie Oakley, chair of the 11th Congressional District Republican Committee.

James Walkinshaw, Braddock District representative on Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, is the Democratic nominee for the 11th Congressional District. He served as Chief of Staff to Congressman Gerry Connolly for more than 10 years, and Connolly endorsed Walkinshaw to succeed him. Walkinshaw is currently serving his second term representing the Braddock District on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. Walkinshaw, his wife Yvette, and their son Mateo live in the Truro neighborhood.

According to the VADEMS release, Walkinshaw received 23,537 votes out of more than 39,000 total votes cast in the Democratic primary, with a total of 10 candidates running. Walkinshaw won nearly 60 percent of the votes cast.

The difference between the number of Democrats who turned out and voted in the firehouse primary (39,444) and the number of Republicans who turned out to vote in their canvass (2,601) is 36,843 voters. Registered voters in VA's 11th district could cast ballots in only one party's primary, either the Democratic or Republican, but not both, in the heavily Democratic-leaning district, which encompasses most of Fairfax County and the entirety of the City of Fairfax.

"I'm honored and humbled to have earned the Democratic nomination for the district I've spent my career serving. This victory was powered by neighbors, volunteers, and supporters who believe in protecting our democracy, defending our freedoms, and delivering for working families," Walkinshaw said at <https://jameswalkinshaw.org/>. "I also want to thank the nine amazing Democrats who stepped up to run. Putting yourself out there to run for office is not easy, and they each brought real strengths to the race."

"Big WIN tonight for Team Whitson," Whitson posted. "I'm ready to fight for the people in Virginia's 11th District, fight for our families, and fight to help @realDonaldTrump advance the America First agenda."



SCREENSHOT
[HTTPS://JAMESWALKINSHAW.ORG/](https://jameswalkinshaw.org/)

James Walkinshaw won the Democratic nomination in the special election for Virginia's 11th Congressional District.



SCREENSHOT X.COM/
STEW

Stewart Whitson is the Republican nominee for the special election for Virginia's 11th Congressional District.

11th Congressional District Republican Canvass Results

Candidate	Early Voting	Primary Day	Total
Stewart Whitson	285	734	1,019
Karina Lipsman	155	465	620
Mike Van Meter	182	404	586
Lucas Rand	44	154	198
Sam Wong	26	73	99
Nathan Headrick	4	36	40
Arthur Purves	10	29	39

Rosie



IMAGE COURTESY OF ROSIE OAKLEY,
11TH DISTRICT CHAIR GOP11

11 Congressional District Republican Canvass Results, June 28 primary; vote total 2,601.

da!" A reported 2,600 voters cast ballots in the Republican primary, with a total of seven candidates running.

Walkinshaw said in one of his campaign reels that he was "taking the fight to Trump. ... His people were threatening me with prison for standing up against Trump." Walkinshaw fought beside Congressman Gerry Connolly "to save Obamacare and stand up for federal workers," he said.

Nominees Whitson (R) and Walkinshaw (D) will have a little over two months, 73 days, to campaign for the Sept. 9 special election to replace Connolly (D-VA), who died last May 21 of esophageal cancer. The winner in the Sept. 9 special election will fill the remainder of Connolly's term.

Katie Gorka, chair of the Fairfax GOP, said on X shortly after the GOP polls closed, "So proud of all our VA 11th district congressio-



PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE GAZETTE

Cathy "Smitty" Connolly, wife of the late Congressman Gerry Connolly, with political activists Tilly Blanding and Kelly Price, encouraged Democratic special election primary voters at the West Springfield Government Center polling place.

UNOFFICIAL RESULTS

CD-11 DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS, SAT JUN 28, 2025

	TOTAL	%
James WALKINSHAW	23537	59.67%
Irene SHIN	5613	14.23%
Stella PEKARSKY	5271	13.36%
Amy ROMA	2807	7.12%
Dan LEE	734	1.86%
Leo MARTINEZ	533	1.35%
Amy PAPANU	415	1.05%
PUNNOOSE	241	0.61%
Candice BENNETT	199	0.50%
NO CANDIDATE	69	0.17%
BRANSTETER	25	0.06%
TOTAL	39444	100.00%

SOURCE VADEMS-CD11

nal candidates, especially for the team spirit that prevailed! Now we will all get behind the winner of today's primary, Stewart Whitson, in order [to] help him take back the 11th District."

"We were fortunate to have 10 candidates to choose from in an intense and robust campaign," 11th CDDC chair Manish Singh said after voting locations closed. "Democrats are fired up to elect someone who will fight back against Trump," said Singh. "The high turnout for early voting shows the enthusiasm and energy of the Democratic Party heading into the Sept. 9 special election."

At the Democratic primary, long lines prevailed at many sites. Democratic voters turned out in record numbers.

In the Town of Herndon, one of 17 Democratic voting locations, the line wrapped around the Herndon Library and extended

outside as voters waited to cast their ballots in the 90-degree heat with high humidity. At the Fairfax County Government Center, one voter posted around noon, "Just got in line at Fairfax County Govt Center. This is a heck of a long line! Someone who walked out after voting said he waited an hour and has never seen a line to vote in a primary this long before. ... The man before me joked that he's seen shorter lines at Disney World."

The Sept. 9 special election matters. It's the first time an open seat has been available in the district since the 2008 election, so Republicans see it as an opportunity. Yet, Connolly won the 11th district with 66.68 percent of the vote in 2024, and Kamala Harris won the state of Virginia with 51.83 percent of the vote, carrying the 11th Congressional District with 65.4 percent of the vote.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Placemaking Plans Put in Motion At Mount Vernon Town Hall Meeting

Two blocks that house the hospital, police, fire and supervisors' office are under the microscope.

By MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

Up and down the Mount Vernon corridor, there are needs to update and modernize things to keep the community vibrant and desirable to businesses and residents so it will uphold the living standards that are present all over Fairfax County.

On Monday, June 23, Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon) gathered with planners and residents to look at a couple of blocks in Mount Vernon that could use a dose of "placemaking," to keep up with the times. These two blocks they looked at are bordered by Mount Vernon Hospital, Mount Vernon Police and Fire, Supervisor Storck's office, Walt Whitman Middle School and Sherwood Regional library. It's an area with lots of brick buildings and parking lots, and less community gathering areas with walkable streetscapes that

might be seen in areas like Kingstowne or Reston.

This placemaking idea is in line with the "Embark Richmond Highway," that Storck has been pursuing over the last few years. Providing expertise were Tiya Raju and Jun Li, members of the civil engineering side from the Fairfax County Department of Works and Environmental Services, as well as outside engineers from Grimm Parker Architects and LandDesign.

"It was inspiring to hear from so many neighbors who care deeply about the future of our community," said Storck, noting that for many years, the Governmental Center, Library, Police Station and Fire Station at Sherwood Hall and Parkers Lane have served as essential facilities in the Mount Vernon District. Now he sees the opportunity to reimagine this space as a vibrant, inclusive civic hub where community connections and public services are brought together. "I invite you to take our survey and

help shape the Mount Vernon Center into a space that reflects our shared values and brings everyone together," he added.

Fairfax County described the work of the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services that "builds and maintains safe, reliable infrastructure that improves public health and provides a high quality of life for residents." The Mount Vernon Master Plan is part of a bigger county plan to modernize public facilities, consolidate facilities and free up land for uses such as public space. Over in the Franconia District, this type of placemaking plan is in use as they are finishing up a new building that will house Supervisor Rodney Lusk's (D-Franconia) office, the police and a new library. Grimm-Parker also did the redesign of the West Springfield Governmental Center which included police and fire facilities as well as Springfield Supervisor Pat Herrity's (R) office.

Mount Vernon officials are now



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

This building houses the police and the supervisor's office but they are looking to modernize.

reaching out to the community with a questionnaire to find out what the residents think. This community survey will end on July

22, and the process will go on to the next step. To fill out the survey, go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JQYCRWK>



PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/CONNECTION

Bus riders in Mount Vernon will experience changes which started on June 29.

Bus Routes Get Tweaked with Metro's 'Better Bus Routes'

By MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

Metrobus riders experienced a change on June 29 as the Metrobus routes were tweaked as part of Metro's 2025 Better Bus Network, an updated change in the system to provide more frequent, consistent bus service, enhance access across the region, and make bus service

easier to understand, Metro said.

In Mount Vernon, Metrobus will coordinate efforts with the Fairfax Connector bus system to make "Better Bus," work for everyone. From the Mount Vernon Parkway, bus F19, 101 and 102 are part of this effort, and along Richmond Highway, it works with bus 171, 308, 151 and 159.

In Mount Vernon, the REX bus will become F1X and the 11Y will become F19. Fairfax

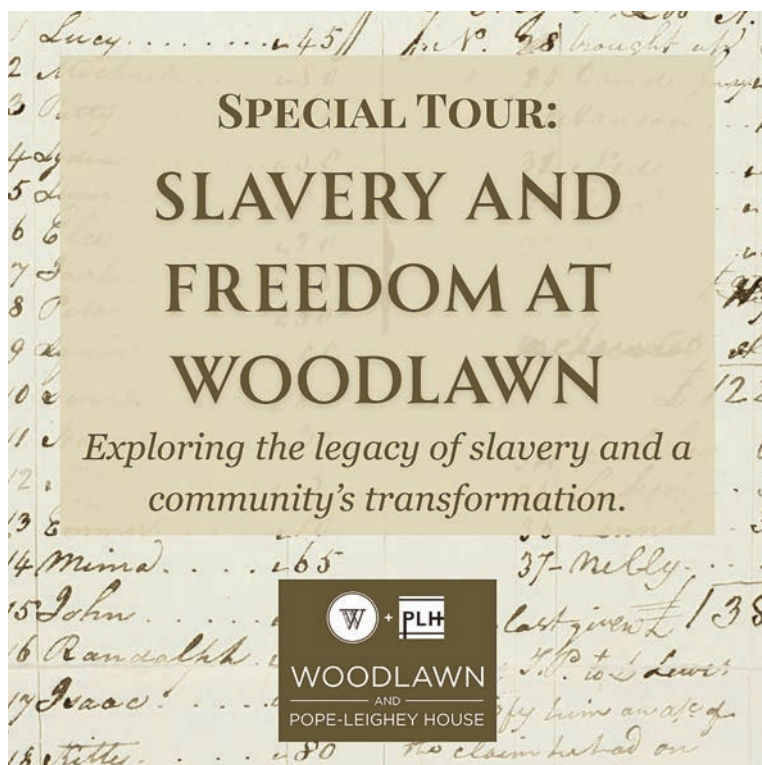
Connector buses did not change. Briefly, the F1X goes from King Street in Old Town to Fort Belvoir and the F19 runs between the K Street business corridor in Washington D.C., through Old Town, down the parkway to Jeff Todd Way and Richmond Highway.

The F19 bus operates during the weekday rush hour between 6-8 a.m. and 4-6:30 p.m.

The F1X runs every 20 to 30 minutes other times.

There were a number of bus stops eliminated but from the WMATA list, most of these Alexandria stops were closer to the city near Seminary Road and Beauregard Street.

Planning for the Better Bus Network began in 2022 and was approved by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in 2024. Al Himes, the director of bus service planning and scheduling, leads the way as project manager of the Better Bus Network.



Learn about Slavery and Freedom on Saturday, July 26, 2025 at Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House in Alexandria.

ONGOING

Revolutionary War Exhibit. At the National Museum of the U.S. Army, Alexandria. The National Museum of the United States Army has opened a special exhibition, Call To Arms: The Soldier and the Revolutionary War. The two-year exhibition commemorates this year's 250th Birthday of the U.S. Army and next year's 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. This 5,000 square-foot exhibition features a rare collection, specially curated by the Museum, that includes Revolutionary War artifacts from the original colonies, England, France and Canada. Among the exhibit's highlights are a pair of General George Washington's pistols, the original flag of the 1st Rhode Island Regiment carried by the Army's first African American Soldiers, and a complete Loyalist uniform—one of the rarest items in the collection. The sword of British General Charles Lord Cornwallis, presented to Washington at the surrender at Yorktown, Virginia, will also be displayed for a limited time.

NOW THRU AUG. 31

Creative Summer Programs is a series of workshops exploring the arts. Learn techniques in collage, drawing, mixed media, photography, bead embroidery, and more from local artists. Delve into creative exploration solo or with friends. For children and/or adults, free and paid programs are offered. Sign up for what inspires you! Held at Del Ray Artisans (2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria VA) unless noted. Details: DelRayArtisans.org/creative-summer

NOW THRU AUG. 17

Potomac Valley Watercolorists "The Painted Garden" 2025 Art Exhibition and Sale. At Green Spring Gardens Horticultural Center, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. This annual fine art show spotlights many of our region's most highly-skilled and well-known water media artists, and features more than 100 original framed works on display and available for

purchase. Special Event: Artists Reception – Sunday, July 13 from 1-3 p.m.

JULY 1-31

Mozzarella Fest. At Cheesetique in Del Ray, 2411 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. This month-long homage to Italy's most beloved cheeses, salumi, wine, and spirits, features a limited-time Mozzarella Fest menu, curated tasting events and classes, and an Italian Wine Expo.

Highlights include:

July 10 –Online Guided Tasting Class: Italian Masterpieces: Cheesetique founder Jill Erber leads this interactive, flavor-filled journey through iconic Italian wines and cheeses.

July 13 –Italian Wine Expo: Sample dozens of new Italian summer wines with a cheese & charcuterie sampler in a relaxed, station-style setting.

July 22 – Meet the Wines of Tuscany (in-person): A curated tasting of five Tuscan wines, each paired with a flavorful small bites.

THURSDAY/JULY 3

Art + Wine + Cheese Reception. 6-7:30 p.m. At the Nepenthe Gallery at Hollin Hall, 7918 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Stop in Nepenthe to see a patriotic collection by various outstanding artists including Cey Adams, Norman Rockwell, and Pamela Patrick White.

FRIDAY/JULY 4

Reading of the Declaration of Independence. 1-3 p.m. At Historic Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. The community is invited to a free public reading of the Declaration of Independence in the church by historical re-enactor, the Rev. Dr. Thomas Costa, portraying the Rev. Mr. Massey, the Rector of Pohick Church in 1776. The reading will take place at 1:00 PM, with free docent tours of the colonial church of George Washington and George Mason following the presentation. For additional information, call the church office at 703-339-6572, or visit the church web site at <http://www.pohick.org>.



A reading of the Declaration of Independence will take place on Friday, July 4, 2025 at Historic Pohick Church in Lorton.

SATURDAY/JULY 5

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

SUNDAY/JULY 6

What a Coincidence! 1-3 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (Adult) Mark Twain was born on the day Halley's Comet visited in 1835 and died on the day of its return in 1910. What are the odds? Hear theories on why coincidences happen and what they mean. Discover some of the most remarkable known coincidences and chance events in human history. \$42 (lecture + tea); \$18 (lecture only).

JULY 7-11

Figure Drawing Bootcamp. 6-10 p.m. At Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. Del Ray Artisans invites you to its 5-day Figure Drawing Bootcamp to hone your composition, anatomy, mark making, and portraiture skills. Monday–Friday, July 7–11. Cost for one-day pass is \$55 Del Ray Artisans member / \$65 non-member. The five-day pass is \$200 Del Ray Artisans member / \$250 non-member. The five-day pass is a \$75 discount! Visit DelRayArtisans.org/figure-drawing-bootcamp

THURSDAY/JULY 10

Art + Wine + Cheese Reception. 6-7:30 p.m. At the Nepenthe Gallery at Hollin Hall, 7918 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Matrilin-eal: A Collection of Original Art by Female Artists. Curated exhibit by

Nepenthe Colleague and Emory University Art History Ph.D. Student Julia Weichlein. Featured will be works by Debra Ferrari, Cara Romero, and Ola Rondiak among others. This exhibit will be up until Wednesday, August 6th.

SATURDAY/JULY 12

Creative Lettering Workshop. 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (16-Adult) Have fun learning creative lettering styles including cursive, decorative, free-style, and typographic. Artist Caroline Hottenstein explores lettering throughout history and assists you in making small lettering compositions using pencil, micron pens, colored pencils, and a nib pen. A supply list will be emailed before class. Bring a lunch. \$112 per person. Register online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes> or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code 8E0.05YU

SATURDAY/JULY 12

Top Perennial for the Summer. 10:30 a.m. - noon. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (Adults) Join Green Spring horticulturist Brenda Skarphol for a stroll in the summer gardens to look at some of our top perennial plants. Both native and sustainable non-native perennials will be featured, including some newer cultivars. See perennials thriving in a range of growing conditions, from sun to shade, and in environments that are dry, moist, or periodically wet. Plant combinations and eco-friendly gardening styles will be highlighted. Cost is \$19 per person. Register online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes> or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code VW1.BX08

SATURDAY/JULY 12

Forest Bathing Walk in the Gardens. 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (Adults) Experience Green Spring Gardens with all of your senses. Join Ana

Ka'ahanui, co-founder of local nonprofit Capital Nature for a slow, meditative walk around the gardens. Contemplative, but more active than meditation, this forest bathing walk will help reduce blood pressure, boost immunity, and enhance mood and creativity. Decompress and feel a deeper connection with the natural world. Bring something to sit on the ground, which may be damp, and a water bottle. Dress for the weather. Cost is \$35 per person. Register online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes> or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code Z0Y.ET8C

JULY 14-18 OR JULY 21-25

Art Camp 2025. Del Ray Artisans invites youth ages 8-12 to Art Camp 2025 for a week of professional art instruction! Campers will have an immersive creative journey: painting, sculpting, journaling and more. During nice weather, campers will have outdoor time to get fresh air, unwind, and replenish their creative energy. All supplies are provided. Choose July 14-18 or July 21-25 (9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily). \$350/child; scholarship support available. Registration at delrayartisans.org/art-camp-2025

THURSDAY/JULY 17

Art + Wine + Cheese Reception. 6-7:30 p.m. At the Nepenthe Gallery at Hollin Hall, 7918 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. 4th Annual Student Art Anthology. The favorite evening of the year! High school and college students from all over the DMV area are invited to submit up to three images of original artworks of any medium to our Curators, who select 15 of the submitted works to be featured at this annual event. This exhibit will be up at Nepenthe until Wednesday, July 30th.

FRIDAY/JULY 18

UNC Men's Rugby. 6-8 p.m. At the Nepenthe Gallery at Hollin Hall, 7918 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Whiskey Tasting Reception. Nepenthe Gallery and UNC's Men's Rugby

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

ENTERTAINMENT



The Potomac Valley Watercolorists "The Painted Garden" 2025 Art Exhibition and Sale takes place June 29 to Aug. 17, 2025 at Green Springs Gardens.



faxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-sherwood-regional for information on other days and times for the library's ongoing book sale.

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.

JULY
Sat. 5: Donnell Rawlings \$49.50
Sun. 6: The Milk Carton Kids \$45.00
Wed. 9: Big Bad Voodoo Daddy \$65.00
Fri. 11: LAUREL CANYON: Golden Songs of Los Angeles '66-'72 \$39.50
Sat. 12: Classic Stones Live! \$35.00
Thu. 17: OMAR with special guest Tabi Bonney \$45.00
Sat. 19: Tell Me Lies – The Fleetwood Mac Experience \$35.00
Sun. 20: Hubert Laws \$55.00
Thu. 24: Hiroshima \$59.50

Fri. 25: The Bacon Brothers w/ Pernikoff Brothers \$69.50 SOLD OUT!
Sat. 26: The Bacon Brothers w/ Pernikoff Brothers \$69.50 SOLD OUT!
Sun. 27: Judy Collins \$59.50
Tue. 29: Three Dog Night \$95.00 2nd Night Added! (7/2 is Sold Out!)
Wed. 30: Sheila E. & The E-Train \$69.50
Thu. 31: Dave Koz And Friends Summer Horns 2025 featuring Dave Koz, Marcus Anderson, Jeff Bradshaw, Leo P and Evan Taylor, plus Marcel Anderson \$95.00

are sponsoring an evening of whiskey tasting, fellowship, rugby tales, and special prizes. The USA Men's and Women's Eagles rugby teams play a double-header the following day at Audi Field in Washington, DC—players and visitors will be here from England and Fiji. Donations to the UNC Men's Rugby Club will be accepted!

At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Explore the lives of the people enslaved at Woodlawn and the property's transformation from a plantation to an antislavery community. Cost is \$25. Visit the website: <https://www.woodlawn-popeleighey.org/upcomingevents>

Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Del Ray Artisans members explore all the ways in which trees impact our lives and the earth and bring aspects of this natural phenomenon to artistic life. Join them for the Opening Reception on Friday, August 1, 7-9pm. Gallery hours are Thursdays 12-6pm, Fridays 12-9pm, Saturdays & Sundays 12-6pm. Details at [DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits](https://www.fair-)

SATURDAY/AUG. 2
First Saturday Used Book Sale: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Selection of over 20,000 gently used children's books, fiction, history, biography, home and garden, cooking, crafts, sports, religion, travel, CDs, DVDs, and more. Unless specially priced, \$1 for hard backs and large paperbacks, and 25 cents for mass market paperbacks. Visit <https://www.fair->

SATURDAY/JULY 26
Slavery and Freedom. 12-1 p.m.

AUG. 1-30
"Lovely As a Tree" Art Exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704

www.connectionnewspapers.com/advertising

THE CONNECTION Newspapers & Online
Alexandria Gazette Packet
Mount Vernon Gazette
Potomac ALMANAC

Turn to the Connection Newspapers digital and print advertising options to reach customers in your community!

- EMAIL BLASTS
- DIGITAL BILLBOARDS
- FRONT PAGE SHOUTOUT
- SOCIAL MEDIA
- SPONSORED CONTENT

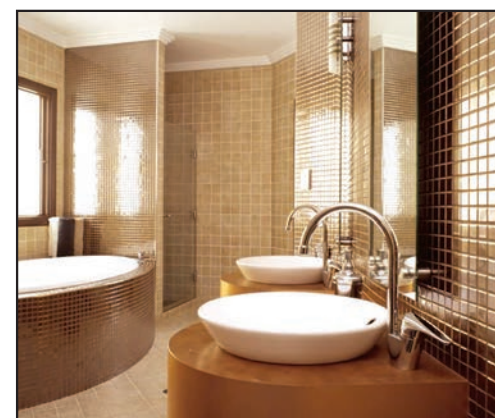
Target the right audience.

For Advertising: Call 703.778.9431 or Email sales@connectionnewspapers.com

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

TWO POOR TEACHERS

Kitchen and Bathroom Remodeling



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

Fully Insured & Class A Licensed
Since 1999



Free Estimates 703-999-2929

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

Visit our website: www.twopoorteachers.com

LeafFilter
GUTTER PROTECTION

Spring showers may bring costly home repairs

Spring rain can overwhelm clogged gutters, leading to overflow causing damage to your home.

CALL 1-877-614-6667 TO SCHEDULE YOUR FREE INSPECTION

Promo Code: 285

*\$250 discount (no cash value) is for same-day signing only. This offer cannot be combined with any other promotion or offer. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. Expires: 6/30/25. See website for all license and registration numbers.

SAVE \$350 when you transform your patio into an outdoor oasis.

SunSetter
America's #1 Awning

- Instant shade—at the touch of a button.
- Enjoy more quality time with family and friends.
- Up to 10-Year Limited Warranty.

Call 1-844-746-2332 now to SAVE \$350 TODAY!

America's #1 Awning!

Be prepared before the next power outage.

It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

Receive a free 5-year warranty with qualifying purchase* - valued at \$535.

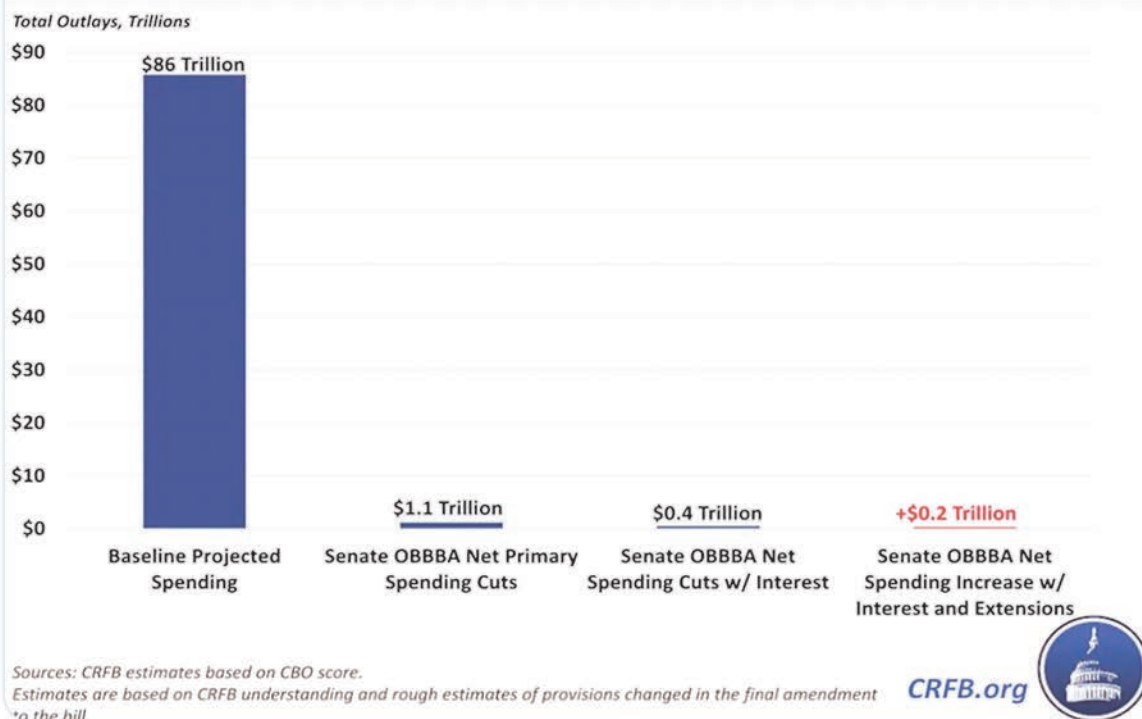
Call 844-947-1479 to schedule your free quote!

*Terms and Conditions apply.

GENERAC

News

Interest & Extensions Would Make Senate Spending Cuts Disappear



SCREENSHOT COMMITTEE FOR A RESPONSIBLE FEDERAL BUDGET.ORG

Graph by Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget.org

Virginians Protest as 'Big Beautiful Bill' Advances

FROM PAGE 7

March, and the Committee to Protect Health Care held a peaceful protest outside the Winsome for Governor event at 400 Center St S., Vienna.

Their purpose was to challenge Winsome Earle-Sears to oppose proposed cuts to Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act that would affect health coverage for Virginians. "Medicaid for 300,000 Virginians is at risk, and Winsome Earle-Sears refuses to oppose the cuts," posts SEIU Virginia 512 on Facebook. Sears is the Republican candidate

for Governor, running against Democrat Abigail Spanberger in the race to be decided this November.

Tuesday, July 1, noon, the 26-hour vote-a-rama, which began around 9:35 a.m. on Monday and continued into Tuesday, results in a tied vote of 50 to 50 in the Senate. U.S. Sens. Thom Tillis (R-NC), Rand Paul (R-KY), and Susan Collins (R-ME) were the three Republicans who voted against the bill. Vice President JD Vance casts the tie-breaking vote, and the reconciliation bill clears the Senate around

noon in a 51-50 vote. It would add over \$4 trillion to the national debt through Fiscal Year (FY) 2034, \$1 trillion more than the House-passed version, according to the Committee for Responsible Federal Budget.

Wednesday, July 2, 9 a.m. - The House convenes and begins discussion before voting on the adoption of the Senate-passed reconciliation bill. The Senate's reconciliation bill, OBBBA, has been returned to the House of Representatives and heads to the House's full chamber for a vote.



SCREENSHOT COURTESY SEIU VIDEO

On Tuesday, July 1, a coalition of care workers, doctors, union members, veterans, retirees and other concerned Virginians led by Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Virginia, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Virginia, New Virginia Majority, Women's March, and the Committee to Protect Health Care hold a peaceful protest outside a Winsome for Governor event at 400 Center St S. Vienna.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

COMMUNITY NEWS AT A GLANCE



PHOTO COURTESY OF PATHWAY HOMES

Rendering of Pathway Homes, Inc.'s Mobile Shower Service to address homelessness in the region.

Mobile Showers for People Experiencing Homelessness

Pathway Homes, based in Fairfax is a charitable organization known for its non-time-limited housing and supportive services to 1,553 adults with serious mental illnesses and other co-occurring disabilities in Northern Virginia and Washington, D.C. The organization recently announced it has received nearly \$300K in grants from Virginia Housing, the Cafritz Foundation, the Poto-

mac Health Foundation, and Amazon.

"The funds will support the launch of Pathway Home's new program called Mobile Outreach Unit," according to the release. It will use a retrofitted trailer to provide services, including showers, to individuals experiencing homelessness in Northern Virginia, starting in Fairfax and Prince William counties

"Providing a wheeled response to those

facing homelessness will help us meet the needs of the unsheltered and provide interaction with case managers to help people move off the streets," said Sylisa Lambert-Woodard, CEO of Pathway Homes. "We look forward to getting on the road by the fourth quarter."

— MERCIA HOBSON

Bane of my Existence



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Now that I've reached an age, I never thought I'd reach, I have a lingering (now that I'm still here) perspective on life in the cancer lane. It has to do with a subject, make that a decision that anyone diagnosed with a serious, life altering/potentially life-ending disease presumably (I can only speak for myself) has to address/make: how do you plan/allocate resources for the future when you barely have a present? Moreover, what happens if you end up having a future you never really anticipated/expected nor one your doctors gave you much hope of ever having? (Oncologists are like the late Howard Cosell: "They tell it like it is".)

Tim McGraw, the country music super star - and sometimes actor, sang a song about this very dilemma in his "number one country song of the year of 2004," as voted on by Billboard: "Live Like You Were Dying." Even though I wasn't diagnosed yet, I remember it well as its number one status cemented its replayability. And after my diagnosis in 2009, I sure enough heard (occasionally I'd listen to country-music stations) it again. It resonated to say the least. To say the most: it was part discouraging and part reality. Diagnosed with stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer in late Feb. 2009 with a, according to my oncologist, "two-percent survival rate" beyond year five, I was sort of a dead man walking. How I ever managed to drive home the 35 minutes from the medical center after my oncologist lowered this boom on myself/Team Lourie at that initial Team Loure meeting, is beyond me. The word I used then to describe my feelings is a word I've often heard from others experiencing similarly traumatic/devastating news/circumstances: "surreal."

Nevertheless, here I sit, pen in hand, 16+ years later having lived beyond all expectations associated with a "13 month to two years" prognosis. A terminal diagnosis if there ever was one, and there's been plenty, especially if you're diagnosed with lung cancer, the leading cause of cancer deaths in the country, more than the next four categories combined. Still, "Live Like You're Dying" never set well with me. In fact, my philosophy/m.o. was to live like I was living. However, as put forth in my opening paragraph, as a practical matter, as motivation for a thousand decisions that one makes, how does one actually do it?

I mean we don't have an automatic pilot (though some of you might have an automated attendant or a driverless car; there's no real similar option in life). You have to play the hand you dealt (hopefully that hand is not aces and eights). In fact, how does one ignore the medical realities and not die when the best statistics from The American Cancer Society, or U.S. Cancer Statistics report otherwise. They're kind of the big dogs in the cancer world; how do I ignore their reports and stay on the porch? I don't know anything other than as of noon or so on that fateful day in February 2009, I'm no longer buying green bananas.

But I'm alive still. Due to an amazing amount of God-provided good luck no doubt. Moreover, I've made some changes in my life; stopped eating and drinking certain things and incorporated some non-Western ideas into the mix and maintained an attitude that even though I had "terminal" cancer, I was going to live today as any normal, pre-cancer day. Live every day like I was dying? Not me. Then as now, I take the good with the bad, the high with the low and look forward, never backward. In addition, I'll plan for the future, and not at the expense of the present. And the present won't dominate my life. My health status will be considered as part of a bigger picture. As a cancer patient, there's only so much you can control, but I can control my attitude. I'm positive about that.

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

Food for Every Child This Summer



SCREENSHOT SOURCE: FCPS FOOD SERVICES
"No cost. No sign-up. Just show up."
FCPS Food & Nutrition Services is offering summer meals at no charge to all children and teens 18 years old and younger at participating FCPS schools.

The program runs through Aug. 15; closed on July 4. Locations and times vary. Meals are provided on a first-come, first-served basis and must be consumed on-site. See Summer Nutrition Programs for Kids (PDF) or check the FCPS website at https://www.fcps.edu/services/families-and-caregivers/food-and-nutrition/summer-meal-service-program?fbclid=I-wY2xjawLDaXRleHRuA2FlbQ1xMABicmlkETF4R3VkcDNYa1I2ZVc3aFFCAR6Z-JUc4sdEVm_JNP9JqJoWTHUueHu-x2Y4-VkcSYzm_RBlmld7Oe7KuYR9AYQ_aem_W4xSTunByOW-dtt1srZRkA.

— MERCIA HOBSON /THE CONNECTION

FAIRFAX COUNTY
 VIRGINIA

We are here for you.
 Help with mental health or substance use concerns

Help is Available Day or Night

SOMEONE TO TALK TO	SOMEONE TO RESPOND	SOMEWHERE TO GO
<p>Concerns About Self or Loved One:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stress / Anxiety Alcohol / Drug Use Relationship Issues Emotional Distress Thoughts of Suicide <p>Call or Text 988</p> <p>Chat 988lifeline.org</p> <p>Direct line for local Northern VA Crisis Call Center (988): Call 703-527-4077 or Text "CONNECT" to 855-11</p> <p>For Life Threatening Emergencies: Dial 911 Ask For Crisis Intervention Trained Response</p>	<p>Request someone to respond to you:</p> <p>Mobile Crisis Teams (Mental Health Professionals Only)</p> <p>Northern VA Crisis Call Center at 703-527-4077</p> <p>CSB Mobile Crisis Unit at 703-573-5679 TTY 711</p> <p>For Life Threatening Emergencies: Dial 911 Ask For Crisis Intervention Trained Response</p> <p>Co-Responder Teams (Mental Health Professional & Police Officer)</p> <p>Crisis Intervention Police</p>	<p>24/7 Walk-in Services</p> <p>Urgent Care for Mental Health & Substance Use Concerns</p> <p>Sharon Bulova Center for Community Health 8221 Willow Oaks Corporate Drive Fairfax, Virginia 22031</p> <p>Go to Emergency Services Entrance Lower Level 703-573-5679 TTY 711</p>

Specialized Help

Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities Call REACH: 855-897-8278 TTY 711	Veterans Call 988 & press 1 / Text 838-255
Older Adults / Dementia Call RAFT: 703-531-2144 TTY 703-228-1788	Spanish Speaking Call 988 & press 2 / Text 988 & type "Ayuda"
Alcohol / Drug Use Call Fairfax Detox: 703-502-7000 TTY 703-322-9080	LGBTQI+ Call 988 & press 3 / Text 988 & type "Pride"

A Fairfax County, Va., publication May 2025

Fairfax County is committed to nondiscrimination on the basis of disability in all county programs, services and activities. Where a TTY number is not indicated, use 711/Virginia Relay. Reasonable accommodations made upon request; call 703-324-4600.

Community Services Board

SOURCE: SCREENSHOT FAIRFAX COUNTY

Fairfax County continues to offer day and night resources for urgent mental health and substance abuse concerns, including mobile crisis teams of mental health professionals only to respond along with co-responder teams, mental health professionals, and police officer. Specialized help, such as for veterans, LGBTQ+, older adults, those with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and more, is also available.

— MERCIA HOBSON

www.MtVernonSpecialists.com



CHRIS WHITE
FAMILY REAL ESTATE
OF LONG & FOSTER



75 Homes SOLD in 2024 & 46 Homes SOLD in 2025 so far!

A recent review from your neighbors:



"We recently had the pleasure of working with Chris White and the White Family Group to sell our home in Mount Vernon, and we couldn't be more thrilled with the experience and the results. After interviewing several realtors, Chris and his team stood out for numerous reasons.

His impressive track record and profound knowledge of the Mount Vernon area were immediately apparent and incredibly reassuring. We were also highly impressed by the responsiveness and professionalism of the entire White Family Group, which made the process seamless from start to finish.

However, what truly set Chris apart was the remarkable entrepreneurship and intensity he brought to the table. While other realtors we considered seemed earnest and eager, Chris and his team demonstrated the "firepower" needed to deliver exceptional results. They listened to our insights, allowing us to set the price (which we had thoroughly researched on Zillow.com), and expertly managed purchaser expectations, leading to a smooth and successful sale.

We wholeheartedly recommend Chris White and the White Family Group to anyone looking for a realtor who combines deep local expertise with unparalleled drive and effectiveness. They truly delivered!"

-Howard and Mary Frances



4605 Ferry Landing Rd | \$999,500



8813 Bound Brook Ln | \$820,000



9312 Old Mansion Rd | \$1,240,000

LONG & FOSTER
REAL ESTATE

703.283.9028
www.chrisandpeggywhite.com
chris.white@longandfoster.com

Alexandria/Old Town Historic ~ 110 N. Royal St. 3rd Floor Alexandria, VA 22314

BEST OF
WASHINGTONIAN
TOP PRODUCING AGENT 2015 - 2024