Candidates Take the Podium at Lee Mount Vernon Chamber Breakfast

By Mike Salmon
The Connection

Although the Washington Nationals playoff victory at 1 a.m. that morning was still fresh on many minds, the candidates at the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce candidate forum had other things to highlight, ranging from transportation, the minimum wage and abortion when they took the podium early on Oct. 10 at the Belle Haven Country Club.

Del. Paul Krizek (D-44) is running against Richard Hayden in the 44th District, which encompasses most of Mount Vernon. Krizek grew up in the area, went to Goveton High School back when it still existed, and has been in office four years as a delegate. “Our school system is probably the best in the country,” he said, before talking about a bill he’s brought up before the assembly to protect seniors when they are banking.

“I had a successful four years,” he said. “It’s an honor to serve you.”

Richard Hayden took the stand, and talked about potholes, business and the difficulty raising minimum wage. “I’m honored the Republican party has chosen me to be their candidate,” he said. There has been a proposal afloat for the minimum wage to be $15 an hour, but he said that “will break the back of small businesses.”

The wage a business pays should be determined by the market, he said. “Government can’t come in and force that, it has to be the market,” he said. Hayden supported his view that the Commonwealth of Virginia was the result of a Republican effort, Hayden said.

“The wage a business pays should be determined by the market,” he said. “Government can’t come in and force that, it has to be the market.”

Delegate Paul Krizek (D-44) touts his record of accomplishments in the four years at the House.

Republican candidate for House of Delegates District 44, Richard Hayden.

In addition to hitting the books this fall, more Virginia college students may hit the polls next month, according to the Virginia Department of Elections. Virginia Department of Elections data show that 10,923 students in Virginia have applied for absentee ballots this year. That’s more than double the number of absentee ballot applications (4,878) received in 2015, the last year all 140 seats were up for reelection in the General Assembly, according to Christopher Piper, commissioner of the department.

 Residents (including students) have requested 66,219 applications for absentee voting, according to state election data. Records show that 62,605 absentee ballots were filed four years ago. As of today, the state has filed 24,766 absentee ballots; it remains to be seen how many more are returned.

Piper said absentee ballots have increased in popularity. Last year, voters submitted 287,763 absentee ballots, the highest number of votes in the state during a non-presidential election based on the data available since 1976. The 2008 presidential election had the highest rate of absentee voting recorded in Virginia, with 506,672 absentee votes submitted.

“Using absentee voting is a good indicator of potential turnout, and if you look at previous elections and compare it to today there has been an increase in this election and overall,” Piper said.

Traditionally, voter turnout is highest during presidential elections and drops during state elections. For instance, 72% of registered voters participated in the 2016 presidential election, but turnout for the 2017 gubernatorial election fell to 48%. That same year, the second highest number of absentee votes, 496,452, were filed.

Perhaps this election is predicted to spur higher voter turnout in part because it includes over 30 competitive races. Further, redistricting maps gave an advantage to some House Democrats, who hope to wrest back the slim majority Republicans hold — in both chambers.

As of Sept. 30, Virginia had 5,612,769 registered voters. In the 2015 election, nearly 5.2 million residents registered to vote and a little over 1.5 million, or 29%, actually voted.

Erin Burke Brown, the voter registration and turnout chair for VCU Votes, which promotes voter engagement at Virginia Commonwealth University, said it remains to be seen whether young voters will show up to the polls.

“It depends on whether young people are fired up to want things to change and have their voices heard,” Brown said.

The last day to register to vote is Oct. 15. Applications for absentee ballots can be found online or by visiting the local registrar’s office. The deadline to request an absentee ballot by mail is Oct. 29. The deadline to vote in person absentee is Nov. 2.
McEnearney Associates has always had one motto in mind... not to be the biggest, but the best. This year marks our 40th year in Alexandria, and we are celebrating our investment in helping to build our town into the thriving community it is today. To learn more about our Associates and our firm, visit www.WeAreAlexandria.com

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*7112 Snug Harbor Court*

*Sandy McMaster 571.259.2673*  
[www.McMasterRealEstate.com](http://www.McMasterRealEstate.com)

**Beautifully updated 3-level home with large living room addition, fresh paint, refinished hardwoods, updated light fixtures, and new granite counters and stainless appliances in the kitchen. Sunny screened-in porch and spacious fenced back yard.**

*135 N Gladden Street*

*Jen Walker 703.675.1566*  

**Enjoy the benefits of Old Town without paying the price. Less than 1 mile to the Metro, Wholefoods & the shops & restaurants of Old Town. Quick access to I-95. 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath townhouse. Garage plus a second parking space.**

*7009 Lamp Post Lane*

*Hope & Kim Peele 703.244.5852*  
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**NEW PRICE! Completely renovated top to bottom with 3,300 SF of living space. 5 bedrooms, 4.5 bathrooms, an expansive roof-top deck, main level patio, and 2+ off-street parking spaces. One block off of King Street & 5 blocks to the King Street Metro. 108 N Payne St.**

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**Absolutely stunning home with luxury finishes throughout, abundant natural light, high ceilings, hardwood floors, and spectacular views of the Potomac River. Large, open kitchen with Wolfe range and marble counters. Garage parking for two cars.**

*7009 Lamp Post Lane*

*Lauren Bishop 202.361.5079*  
[www.LaurenBishopHomes.com](http://www.LaurenBishopHomes.com)

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**Del Ray | $665,000**

Beautifully renovated home with bright and cheery rear porch and slate patio. Stylishly renovated kitchen with wine fridge and quartz counters. Finished lower level family room with beautiful bar for entertaining and renovated full bath. Walking distance to Metro.

*Kristy Crombie 571.969.1774*  

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**Stoneybrooke | $499,900**

Fantastic investor opportunity. All updated systems. Interior needs to be updated, and then buyer will have instant equity! Great floor plan, eat-in kitchen in wonderful Stoneybrooke. Just 4.5 miles to Old Town and 9 miles to Ft. Belvoir. 7009 Lamp Post Lane

*Hope & Kim Peele 703.244.5852*  
[www.ThePeeleGroup.biz](http://www.ThePeeleGroup.biz)

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**Printers Row | $1,275,000**

Absolutely stunning home with luxury finishes throughout, abundant natural light, high ceilings, hardwood floors, and spectacular views of the Potomac River. Large, open kitchen with Wolfe range and marble counters. Garage parking for two cars.

*108 N Payne St.*

*Jillian Keck Hogan 703.951.7655*  

**Del Ray | $849,900**

4-bedroom, 2.5-bath, detached Cape Cod. Charming screened porch off of living room. Main level office with built-ins. Fully finished lower level with bedroom, full bath & rec room. Large, private yard. Located in the MacArthur school pyramid. 2016 Scroggins Road

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**Old Town | $1,850,000**

NEW PRICE! Completely renovated top to bottom with 3,300 SF of living space. 5 bedrooms, 4.5 bathrooms, an expansive roof-top deck, main level patio, and 2+ off-street parking spaces. One block off of King Street & 5 blocks to the King Street Metro. 108 N Payne St.

*Jillian Keck Hogan 703.951.7655*  

**Printers Row | $1,275,000**

Absolutely stunning home with luxury finishes throughout, abundant natural light, high ceilings, hardwood floors, and spectacular views of the Potomac River. Large, open kitchen with Wolfe range and marble counters. Garage parking for two cars.

*108 N Payne St.*

*Jillian Keck Hogan 703.951.7655*  

**Alexandria | $525,000**

Seldom available lakeside townhouse in Lake D’Evereux is light, bright and beautiful! Three levels with an optional 4th bedroom in fully finished basement. Kitchen and baths have been updated. Visit today!

*7112 Snug Harbor Court*

*Sandy McMaster 571.259.2673*  
[www.McMasterRealEstate.com](http://www.McMasterRealEstate.com)

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**Shutters Hill | $749,900**

Enjoy the benefits of Old Town without paying the price. Less than 1 mile to the Metro, Wholefoods & the shops & restaurants of Old Town. Quick access to I-95. 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath townhouse. Garage plus a second parking space. Exceptional condition!

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[www.MargaretBenghauser.com](http://www.MargaretBenghauser.com)

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**Stoneybrooke | $449,900**

Fantastic investor opportunity. All updated systems. Interior needs to be updated, and then buyer will have instant equity! Great floor plan, eat-in kitchen in wonderful Stoneybrooke. Just 4.5 miles to Old Town and 9 miles to Ft. Belvoir. 7009 Lamp Post Lane

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[www.ThePeeleGroup.biz](http://www.ThePeeleGroup.biz)

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**Taste for Giving**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2019

We hope you will join us for this annual Rotary Club of Alexandria fundraiser. This year’s goal is to raise more than $80,000 to benefit charities and non-profit organizations in Alexandria. The evening features food, wine, live music, raffles, and a silent auction.

For more information, visit:  
[www.rotaryclubofalexandria.net](http://www.rotaryclubofalexandria.net)
Burke & Herbert Bank has named Homestretch, a local Falls Church-based non-profit organization, as this season’s recipient of the Bank’s “Hundreds for Homes” donation during the 2019-20 National Hockey League (NHL) season. Through this sponsorship with NBC Sports Washington, Burke & Herbert Bank will donate $100 for every goal scored by the Washington Capitals during the regular season to Homestretch. The 2019-20 season marks the fifth season during which Burke & Herbert Bank has teamed up with NBC Sports Washington to raise awareness and funds to a local non-profit. Homestretch is a non-profit organization that empowers homeless parents with children to attain permanent housing and self-sufficiency by providing the skills, knowledge and hope they need to become productive participants in the community. Along with housing, Homestretch provides a vast array of services to impact the lives of the families it serves.

“We are delighted by the generosity of Burke & Herbert Bank and honored that Homestretch was selected as this year’s donation recipient,” said Christopher Fay, Executive Director. “We are excited about ‘Hundreds for Homes’ bringing more visibility to our work, which depends on a vital network of volunteers and partners — to help local families acquire skills to find productive employment, increase their incomes, repair their credit and restore their health.

“Hundreds for Homes gives all of us at Homestretch another great reason to root for the hometown Caps and makes us even bigger fans of Burke & Herbert Bank.”
YOU DESERVE THE BEST.

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WELCOME!
The Alexandria Office is proud to announce that the following exceptional agents have joined our office.

Alexanderia | 3/2.5 | $1,499,000
UNDER CONTRACT! 323 Duke St
Charles York (703) 408-3068

Alexandria | 4/3.5 | $875,000
COMING SOON! 4569 La Vista Drive,
Donna C. Wintermute (703) 608-8808
https://bit.ly/2hMmZ

Alexandria | 3/2.5 | $1,499,000
UNDER CONTRACT! 523 Duke St
Charles York (703) 408-3068

Fairfax | 6/4 | $849,900
JUST LISTED! OPEN SUN 1-4PM - 10710 Howerton Ave.
Charles York (703) 408-3377
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ALEXANDRIA HOUSE | 2 Condos | $FOR RENT | 400 Madison St - Units 2006 & 2101
Condo 2006 is a 1 bed. 1.5 ba, newly renovated condo with panoramic views of our Nation’s Capitol. $2300, 1 garage parking space. Condo 2101 is a 2 bed. 2.5 ba, freshly updated condo with southern panoramic views of The Potomac. $3500, 2 garage spaces and all utilities included. Each unit includes all the amenities of this luxury condo building including 24/7 concierge. The floor to ceiling windows in each fill the units with unmatched natural light. The private balconies are accessed from every room.
Lib Willey (703) 362-7206

The property information herein is derived from various sources that may include, but not be limited to, county records and the Multiple Listing Service, and it may include approximations. Although the information is believed to be accurate, it is not warranted and you should not rely upon it without personal verification. Real estate agents affiliated with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage are independent contractor agents and are not employees of the Company.
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Tom Lovejoy of PBS Nature Series to Present
“A Wild Solution to Climate Change,” Sunday, Oct. 20

World renowned expert on biodiversity Tom Lovejoy will present “A Wild Solution to Climate Change” at 1 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 20 at Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria.

Lovejoy will discuss the dramatic and damaging effects of climate change on the Earth's biodiversity and offer practical and effective solutions for reducing those impacts, as well as how saving carbon-dioxide-absorbing forests can slow climate change.

Lovejoy, later the founder of the PBS series Nature, introduced the term “biological diversity” in 1980, one of the reasons many consider him the “godfather of biodiversity.” During more than 30 years of work on the interaction between climate and biodiversity, he brought worldwide attention to tropical deforestation and published the first estimate of global extinction rates. He originated the concept of debt-for-nature swaps, produced groundbreaking work on the effects of fragmenting forests, and worked with the United Nations Foundation, the World Bank, and the Global Environment Facility.

Lovejoy is currently a Senior Fellow at the United Nations Foundation and university professor at George Mason University’s Environmental Science and Policy Department.

Rapidly warming global temperatures are putting stress on many species, raising the specter of mass extinctions. Warming oceans put coral reefs at risk; droughts and wildfires severely damage critical habitats and cause billions of dollars of damage to human communities and infrastructure.

Lovejoy’s presentation is hosted by Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church’s Climate Action Team, recently launched by the congregation as a year-long project to increase awareness and action around climate change. Lovejoy’s presentation is hosted by Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church’s Climate Action Team, recently launched by the congregation as a year-long project to increase awareness and action around climate change. Lovejoy’s presentation is hosted by Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church’s Climate Action Team, recently launched by the congregation as a year-long project to increase awareness and action around climate change.

For more information, contact climateaction@mvuc.org.

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George Washington Chapter, Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution, To Honor Three Compatriots

The George Washington Chapter, Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution, will be honoring three chapter compatriots interred at the Pohick Episcopal Church Cemetery, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton, Virginia at 12 Noon on Saturday, Nov. 16, 2019. The three compatriots are Robert Armstrong, Scott Crampton, and Robert Duncan. Robert Duncan was the first President of the George Washington Chapter in 1954 and later served as Virginia Society SAR President in 1960-61. His wife, Marion Moncure Duncan, was the President General of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The public is welcome to this solemn ceremony honoring these men. The Sons of the American Revolution was founded in 1889 which also marked the 100th anniversary of George Washington taking the oath of office of the President of the United States. The charter was established by an Act of Congress and signed on 9 June 1906 by SAR Compatriot President Theodore Roosevelt. It is the largest male lineage society in the U.S. and consists of 50 societies with more than 500 local chapters, several international societies with over 33,000 members. Prominent members have included sixteen U.S Presidents, Winston Churchill, and King Juan Carlos I of Spain. All members have proven descent from either someone who provided military service during the Cause for Independence, or provided material or financial support to the cause. Patriot ancestors are both male and female. The objects of our society are to be patriotic, historical and educational. Contact Paul Walden, George Washington Chapter, Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution, phone 703-346-2091, email PaulWalden@live.com

The Great Pumpkin Patch

Immanuel fundraiser supports local charities.

By Jeanne Theismann
Gazette Packet

Charlie Brown would be impressed. The legendary pumpkin patch sponsored by Immanuel-Church-on-the-Hill opened for business Oct. 6 with a volunteer bucket brigade unloading thousands of pumpkins ready for sale to benefit local and international charities.

Now in its 26th year, the Pumpkin Patch fundraiser features pumpkins sustainably grown on a Navajo Indian Reservation near Farmington, N.M., and trucked across the country for sale in Alexandria.

“The pumpkin patch is a wonderful ministry for many reasons,” said the Rev. Randy Alexander, Rector of Immanuel. “The entire parish is involved. It’s our welcoming door to the community and it gives us the resources to do God’s charitable work.”

All net profits from the pumpkin patch support the church’s outreach activities at the community, regional and international levels.

Last year, over 25 charities received support ranging from Alexandria charities working with homelessness and education, to regional anti-poverty programs, to international work including a children’s ministry in Haiti, nurses training in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and a hospital in Gaza.

Local charities benefitting from the sale include ALIVE!, Carpenter’s Shelter, Inova Alexandria Hospital, Senior Services of Alexandria, Christ House and Community Lodgings.

All sizes of pumpkins are available, from small hand-held “spookies” to large pumpkins for jack-o-lanterns. Also for sale are homemade soups, baked goods and knitwear.

The Immanuel-Church-on-the-Hill Pumpkin Patch is located at 3606 Seminary Road and open seven days a week through Oct. 31.

Photo by Janet Barnett/Gazette Packet

Airman Christopher Thorne with his wife Kiara and son Camden choose the perfect pumpkin Oct. 13 at Immanuel-Church-on-the-Hill’s annual Pumpkin Patch. The pumpkin patch is open seven days a week through Oct. 31 and sales help benefit local charities.

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Photo by Janet Barnett/Gazette Packet

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7300 Admiral Drive, Alexandria, VA
$1,899,000


7112 Marine Drive, Alexandria, VA
$1,599,000
*Expanded, Open Design with Three Finished Levels *Extensive Hardwood Flooring *Custom Doors *Gourmet Island Kitchen with Every Bell and Whistle *Five Bedrooms/Five EnSuite Bathrooms *Main and Upper Level Master Suites *Lower Level Recreation Room w/Expanded Wet Bar and Fifth Bedroom Suite for AuPair/InLaw *Two Full Masonry Fireplaces with Gas Logs *Landscape Lighting and Irrigation System *Huge Rear Slate Patio *Generator


1915 Sword Lane, Alexandria, VA 22308
$699,900
*Superior Lot & Location *Beautiful 4-Bedroom Center Hall Colonial in Stratford on the Potomac *Light & Bright throughout *Formal Living & Dining Rms. *Remodeled Kitchen w/Custom Breakfast Bar/Desk area *Family Rm. w/Raised-hearth Brick Gas Log Fireplace & Custom Mantle flanked by Built-ins *Rear Deck *Master Suite w/WIC, Dressing/ Vanity area & en suite Bath *Huge Lower Level Recreation Room. *Large concrete Patio with swing *Second Slate Patio *Historically protected common area at the rear guarantees privacy *Carpert w/Storage & Maintenance-Free Concrete Driveway *All Windows & Doors have been replaced along with a New Roof & HVAC *Dir: GW Pkwy to R on Collingwood Rd, L on Fort Hunt, R on Elkins, L on Linton, R on Sword.

8504 Chils Lane, Alexandria, VA 22308
$540,000
*Spacious Nathaniel Model in Stratford Landing *Four Bedrooms *Three Full Baths *Main Level Hardwoods throughout *Master Suite features Shower Bath & large Walk-in Closet *Updated Appliances & Generous Counters in bright, light Kitchen *Great Lower Level Recreation Room with Fireplace & 10' Wet Bar and Walk-up exits to the Rear *Two additional Bedrooms (one with Walk-in Closet) on Lower Level *This home is ready for your personal touches! *Walk to Stratford Landing Elementary! *Dir: From Old Town, S. GW Pkwy, R Collingwood, L Fort Hunt, R Elkins, R Riverside, L Cavendish, R Camden, L Chilbd.

Opinion

Vote: Deadlines and Candidates

❖ On or About Sept. 20: Absentee Voting begins at the Office of Elections, 12000 Government Center Pkwy, Conference Rooms 2/3, Fairfax
❖ Oct. 15: Voter Registration Deadline. In-person: 5 p.m., online: 11:59 p.m.
❖ Oct. 29: Deadline to request an absentee ballot by mail, 5 p.m.
❖ Nov. 2: Final day to vote absentee in-person, 5 p.m.
❖ Nov. 5: Deadline to return your ballot to the Office of Elections, 7 p.m.
❖ Nov. 5: Election Day; Polling Places open 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Fairfax County Office of Elections,
Hours: Monday-Wednesday, Friday 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Thursday, 8 a.m.-7 p.m.
12000 Government Center Parkway Suite 323
Fairfax, VA 22035
703-222-0776 TTY 711
voting@fairfaxcounty.gov
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/

When you register to vote in Virginia, you do not register to vote by party. Virginia is an Open Primary state which means that any registered voter in Virginia can vote in either a Democratic or Republican primary. When both parties are holding a primary election, you will be asked which primary you want to vote in when you check in to vote with your photo ID. Note, you may only vote in one primary.

Voter ID Requirements:
Per Virginia law effective July 1, 2014, all residents must provide valid photo identification when they vote in-person. Please consult the Virginia Department of Elections for the most up to date information regarding acceptable forms of voter photo ID.

Many types of photo ID are acceptable for voting in Virginia. You only need to show ONE acceptable photo ID to vote. Photo IDs can be used to vote up to one year after the ID has expired. Acceptable forms of valid identification: Virginia driver’s license, Virginia DMV-issued photo ID, United States passport, Employer-issued photo ID, Student photo ID issued by a school, college, or university located in Virginia, Other U.S. or Virginia government-issued photo ID, Tribal enrollment or other tribal photo ID, Virginia Voter Photo ID card

If you get to your polling place without a acceptable photo ID, you can vote a provisional ballot. You will be given instructions on what to do so your vote can count.

OFFICES ON THE BALLOT, Fairfax County
❖ Member Virginia Senate, vote for one in your district
❖ Member House of Delegates, vote for one in your district
❖ Commonwealth’s Attorney, vote for one
❖ Sheriff, vote for one
❖ Chairman Board of Supervisors, vote for one
❖ Member School Board at Large
❖ Member Board of Supervisors, vote for one in your district
❖ Soil and Water Conservation Director Northern Virginia District
❖ School Bonds Referenda

Voter Registration and Voter Photo ID Opportunities:
The Office of Elections is open during normal business hours to provide residents the opportunity to register to vote or obtain a free voter photo ID if needed. The Office of Elections also provides residents opportunities to attend offsite events throughout the year.

School Bond Ballot Question
This is the text of the public school bond question that will be on the Nov. 5, 2019, general election ballot:
Shall Fairfax County, Virginia, contract a debt, borrow money, and issue capital improvement bonds in the maximum aggregate principal amount of $360,000,000 for the purposes of providing funds, in addition to funds from school bonds previously authorized, to finance, including reimbursement to the County for temporary financing for, the costs of school improvements, including acquiring, building, expanding and renovating properties, including new sites, new buildings or additions, renovations and improvements to existing buildings, and furnishing and equipment, for the Fairfax County public school system?

Candidates, Fairfax County
Chairman, Board of Supervisors
Jeffrey C. McKay (D)
Joseph F. Galdo (R)

Commonwealth’s Attorney
Steve T. Descano (D)
Jonathan L. Fahey (I)

Sheriff
Stacey Ann Kincaid (D)
Christopher F. DeCurtis (I)

Board of Supervisors, District Representatives
Braddock District
James R. Walkinshaw (D)
S. Jason Reem (R)
Carey Chet Campbell (I)

Dranesville District
Johann W. Fouot (D) incumbent Ed. R. Martin (R)

Hunter Mill District
Walter L. Aorn (D) unopposed

Lee District
Rodney L. Lusk (D) unopposed

Mason District
Pereopele A. “Penny” Gross (D) incumbent
Gary N. Aiken (R)

Mount Vernon District
Daniel G. “Dan” Storck (D) incumbent, unopposed

Providence District
Dalia A. Polich (D), unopposed

Springfield District
Linda D. Sperling (D)
Patrick S. “Pat” Herry (R) incumbent

Sully District
Kathy L. Smith (D) incumbent

School Board
School Board At-Large (vote for three)
Abhrar E. Omeish (endorsed by Democratics)
Cheryl A. Buford (endorsed by Republicans)
Precilla M. DeStefano (endorsed by Republicans)
Rachael Sizemore Heizer (endorsed by Democrats)
Vinson Palathingal (endorsed by Republicans)
Ilyong Moon, incumbent (withdrawn)
Karen A. Keys-Gambar, incumbent (endorsed by Democrats)
Braddock District, School Board
Zia Tompkins (endorsed by Republicans)
Megan O. McLaughlin, incumbent (endorsed by Republicans)
Dranesville District, School Board
Anastasia S. Karloutsos (endorsed by Republicans)
Ardavan Mobasher
Elaine V. Tholen (endorsed by Democrats)
Hunter Mill District, School Board
Lauren Ramirez Drain (endorsed by Republicans)
Melanie K. Meren (endorsed by Democrats)
Lee District, School Board
Tamara J. Derenak Kaufman, incumbent (endorsed by Republicans)
Mason District, School Board
Richy D. Anderson (endorsed by Democrats)
Tom L. Pafford
Mount Vernon District, School Board
Pamela C. Onnivi
Steve D. Mosley (endorsed by Republicans)
Karen L. Corbett Sanders, incumbent (endorsed by Democrats)
Providence District, School Board
Andrea L. “Andi” Bayer (endorsed by Republicans)
Jung Byun
Karl V. Frisch (endorsed by Democrats)
Springfield District, School Board
Laura Jane H. Cohen (endorsed by Republicans)
R. Kyle McDaniel
Elizabeth L. Schultz, incumbent (endorsed by Republicans)
Sully District, School Board
Stella G. Pekarsky (endorsed by Democrats)
Tom A. Wilson, incumbent (endorsed by Republicans)
Soil and Water Conservation Director Northern Virginia District
Vote for Three
C. Jane Dudik (endorsed by Republicans)
Chris E. Koerner (endorsed by Democrats)
Karl V. Frisch (endorsed by Democrats)

General Assembly
House of Delegates
District 34
Kathleen J. Murphy (D), incumbent
Gary G. Pan (R)

District 35
Mark L. Keam (D), incumbent, unopposed

District 36
Kenneth R. “Ken” Plum, incumbent, unopposed

District 37
David R. Bulova (D), incumbent, unopposed

District 38
L. Kaye Kory (D), incumbent, unopposed

See Election Day, Page II
Moving Back: Moving Forward

Bottles of Beaujolais Nouveau for the last 36 years sit on shelves on the walls of Le Refuge on Washington Street. They are interspersed with pictures from World War II donated by customers, a wood carving from the grandfather in France and lids from boxes of cheese “that you used to be able to bring back from France.” Anne-claire Fregnan, now full time manager of Le Refuge, points to a wooden lid on the wall; here was my mother’s favorite cheese.”

Anne-claire says her parents came to America in 1976 and worked in other places, her father at Le Gaulois in D.C. and her mother in the French restaurant that previously occupied the space where Le Refuge is located today. Back then they were wedged between an establishment advertising facials on the corner and a shoe store next door. But Anne-claire and her father think many things in Alexandria seem the same today.

In 1983 Jean Francois Chaufour and his wife Francoise opened Le Refuge. Anne-claire was born two months later. Her father remembers they opened on a Friday night and had 30 covers. “It was crazy because he didn’t know what to expect the first night.” He quickly turned Le Refuge into his concept of “fine dining but in a casual atmosphere.”

But Anne-claire explains her father deviated from the traditional French dining experience because he thought you shouldn’t have to wait between courses. “He thought you should sit down and order a drink and get it right away.” You should be able to have a good dining experience in an hour and a half so you could have a nice meal and then go to the Kennedy Center or Little Theatre of Alexandria. “And he believed your glass of Sancerre or Côtes de Rhône should be priced appropriately.”

Also Chaufour believed in consistency. The menu has changed little since the restaurant opened. Anne-claire says they had boulillaise (her mother’s favorite), Dover sole, frog legs and Beef Wellington along with onion soup on the original menu. “We are very well known for our onion soup.” She says, “There is a couple who moved to Ashburn over 10 years ago who still return once a month for the onion soup. … And you know it can take two hours to get here on a Friday night.”

Anne-claire started coming to the restaurant on Friday and Saturday nights when she was about seven years old. “Oh my gosh. I lived in here. I remember the garlic smell hit when you walked in. And people were happy. My mother walked in with a huge smile.” She says, “My parents wanted to create an atmosphere for people who had worked so hard, a place where you could be with your friends. It was so comforting to so many people.”

“We would all have dinner together at table 30 over there in the corner.” Her favorite dinner was hearts of palm and veal brandy. “I would fall asleep on the banquette and my parents would sit chit chatting with the customers. They all lit cigarettes and had a glass and regional craft brewers, including Old Ox, Devil’s Backbone, 2 Silos and Fair Winds, will be on hand to pour their wares for guests. The Meggrolls food truck will also be on hand for some non-oyster fare. Shucktoberfest operates on a ticket system. While entrance to the festival is free for passersby, in order to try the food and drink, guests need to belly up to the cash register. Each ticket is $35, which earns guests 10 tasting tickets. Each ticket is good for a 5-ounce tasting of beer or two oysters.

Coming with a group? Shucktoberfest also offers VIP packages. A $300 price tag nets guests 80 event tickets to disperse among the group, as well as an eight-person table, eight commemorative beer mugs and a private test. Of five existing packages, two have already been sold, Ryan said. Shucktoberfest aims to be a family-friendly festivity, and along those lines, the Kid Zone will be hopping. Those young and young at heart can play a round of cornhole or giant Connect Four; little friends can also partake of face-painting and balloon art. At its heart, the event runs on volunteers, and this year Shucktoberfest sports 200 volunteers from various civic and sport groups, as well as individuals who just want to pitch in. And pitch in they will: Organizers are expecting 3500 to 4500 people, Shields says.

Oysters Meet Shucktoberfest at Shirlington’s Shucktoberfest

By Hope Nelson

More oysters, more tents, even a food truck: Welcome to the second annual Shucktoberfest, hosted by Copperwood Tavern and taking place in the Village at Shirlington. Saturday, Oct. 19, 2019, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

The event, which has its origins with the longtime Capital City Brewing’s Oktoberfest event, has taken a new angle and gotten a new life over the past couple of years as Copperwood has taken the mantle from the longtime Capital City Brewing’s Oktoberfest and made the event its own.

The main event is obviously the oysters and the beer tent,” said Copperwood Tavern’s Lindsey Shields. And while last year, oysters were in high demand and, thus, shorter supply than intended, this year Shucktoberfest has ensured a plentiful supply of the bivalves.

“Probably double the oyster tents is going to be the largest difference from last year,” said Copperwood marketing director Mackenzie Ryan. “People were really upset that it took so long … to get an oyster, so we made that a top priority this year.”

In terms of raw numbers: That means festival-goers will have their choice of 25,000 oysters this year, served a number of different ways, including champagne shooters. Along with the oysters, breweries will be well-represented at the event. About 50 local and regional craft brewers, including Old Ox, Devil’s Backbone, 2 Silos and Fair Winds, will be on hand to pour their wares for guests. The Meggrolls food truck will also be on hand for some non-oyster fare.

Shucktoberfest operates on a ticket system. While entrance to the festival is free for passersby, in order to try the food and drink, guests need to belly up to the cash register. Each ticket is $35, which earns guests 10 tasting tickets. Each ticket is good for a 5-ounce tasting of beer or two oysters.

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From princesses to superheroes, within the next two weeks, as Halloween approaches, many children will be choosing a costume. As children express their creativity with the help of wigs and light sabers, public safety advocates are encouraging caution both in costume selection and mapping out a Halloween night route.

“There are several components to safety, first make certain the costumes are well-fitted so they aren't a tripping hazard,” said Tammy Franks, senior program manager for Home and Community Safety at the National Safety Council. “Instead of masks that could obstruct their view try using non-toxic face paint.”

It’s possible to use face paint that is free of toxins, but doesn’t sacrifice a creative disguise, says Aieda Turner of costume supply store Total Fright in Arlington. “Mehron face paint is completely safe and it’s made of aloe vera and cucumber and doesn’t have any alcohol which can irritate a child’s skin,” she said. “Almost all children’s costumes made now, even elaborate costumes, are fire resistant.”

When children are trick-or-treating without a parent, says Franks, drivers should be able to see children, especially if they are wearing a dark costume. Adding glow-in-the-dark or reflective tape can help. “Children should carry a flashlight or glow stick so that they can see and be seen,” she said. “Parents should make sure that costume is flame resistant and they should add a reflective component.”

The costume itself shouldn’t have accessories that pose hazards, says Franks. “For example, if your costume includes a sword or knife, make it out of foam or cardboard or something flexible,” she said.

When out-and-about trick-or-treating on Halloween, retired pediatrician Julia Baker, MD, advises parents to accompany children under the age of 12. “Parents know their children best and should use their own judgement when it comes to allowing a child to go trick-or-treating [without an adult],” she said. “Parents should make a plan with their child about the route they’ll take so they’ll know where to find them in an emergency situation. They should also agree on the time when a child should be back at home.”

Children should carry a cell phone so that parents can contact them if necessary, says Baker. “Parents should definitely be able to reach their children on Halloween,” she said. “As hard as it might be these days, parents should stress to their children the danger of texting and keeping their head buried in their phones while trick-or-treating.”

“Staying in well-lit areas and trick-or-treating with a group of friends can help make Halloween activities safer. The same basic rules of pedestrian safety also apply on Halloween,” said Franks. “Cross the street in crosswalks, stay on the sidewalk and walk instead of running when crossing the street so that you don’t trip.”

—Tammy Franks, Home and Community Safety at the National Safety Council

Keeping Children Safe on Halloween

Safety advocates offer tips ranging from costumes to trick-or-treating.

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No one ever visits Hill House, especially not after dark. One of the best ghost stories of our time, this story is a chilling and mystifying study in mounting terror. Come join us – if you dare.
Opinion

Election Day

From Page 8

District 39
Nick O. Bell (R)
Vivian E. Watts (D), incumbent

District 40
Dan I. Helmer (D)
Timothy D. “Tim” Hugo (R), incumbent

District 41
Eileen Filler-Corn (D), incumbent
John M. Wolfe (I)
Rachel D. Mace (L)

District 42
Kathy K. L. Tran (D), incumbent
Steve P. Adragna (R)

District 43
Mark D. Sickles (D), incumbent

District 44
Paul E. Krizek (D), incumbent
Richard T. Hayden (R)

District 45
Mark H. Levine (D), incumbent, unopposed

District 46
Charnicie L. Herring (D), incumbent, unopposed

District 47
Patrick A. Hope (D), incumbent, unopposed

District 48
Richard C. “Rip” Sullivan (D), incumbent, unopposed

District 49
Allison H. Lopez (D), incumbent
Terry W. Modglin (I)

District 53
Marcus B. Simon (D), incumbent, unopposed

District 67
Karrie K. Delaney (D), incumbent, unopposed

District 86
Ibraheem S. Samirah (D), incumbent, unopposed

Virginia State Senate

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District 31
Barbara A. Favola (D), incumbent, unopposed

District 32
Janet D. Howell (D), incumbent
Arthur G. Purves (R)

District 33
Jennifer B. Boysko (D), incumbent
Suzanne D. Fox (R)

District 34
J. C. “Chap” Petersen (D), incumbent, unopposed

District 35
Richard L. “Dick” Saslaw (D), incumbent, unopposed

District 36
Scott A. Surovell (D), incumbent, unopposed

District 37
Dave W. Marsden (D), incumbent, unopposed

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S. W. “Dutch” Hillenburg (R)

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S. W. “Dutch” Hillenburg (R)

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Ongoing

Art Exhibit: “Emotional Support: Animals” Through Oct. 27, daily, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Thursdays until 9 p.m., at Scope Gallery, ground floor Studio 19 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St., Alexandria. This exhibition is titled “Emotional Support: Animals” in the wholehearted exhibition in its petite and domestic visit. Visit www.yourgallery.org or call 703-548-6288.

Art Exhibit: Twilight Zone. Through Oct. 27, gallery hours at Dill Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., “Art Inspired by The Twilight Zone” is a collection of work inspired by the classic television series. An opening reception is planned for Friday, Oct. 4, 7-9 p.m. Visit www.DillRayArtisans.com for more.

“Board | out of our minds!” Through Nov. 3, at Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, Studio 20, 105 North Union St. The Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery presents its juried show, Day of the Dead. Neighbors in Mexico and Central America celebrate Day of the Dead. It is a joyful time that helps people remember the deceased and celebrate their memory. The colors and vibrancy of this holiday inspire artists of the Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery. Themed work will be eligible for recognition by the jurors. Non-themed work will also be exhibited. Visit www.potomacfibergallery.com for more.

Mount Vernon Farmers Market. Wednesdays through Dec. 18, 8 a.m.-noon at Sherwood Hall Regional Library, 2511 Sherwood Hall Lane. The McCutcheon/Mount Vernon Farmers Market opened May 1 with an array of farm-fresh produce and local foods, plus some new features (fresh brewed coffee). Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets.

Band Members Needed. Join the Mount Vernon Community Band, a group of players who enjoy playing many styles of band music in a relaxed atmosphere. Rehearsals are Tuesdays 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the Mount Vernon High School Band Room, 5815 Old Mount Vernon Road. No auditions. All instruments needed. Contact Eric Lighty directly 703-768-4172 or visit www.libbands.com/join-us/.

OCT. 1-31

Ghost & Graveyard Tour. Nightly at 7:30 p.m. and Saturdays, second tour at 9 p.m. Departs from Alexandria Visitor Center, 233 King St., Alexandria. Follow an 18th-century costumed guide by lantern light. Guided walking tours through Old Town and the Historic District. See Calendar, Page 13 www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

By Steve Hibbard
The Gazette

Enjoy a gothic horror production just in time for Halloween.

LTA Stages “The Haunting of Hill House”

This show with him and I happily producer (Wray, co-producer Stacey Becker said adaptation too,” she said.

When I was looking for something creepy to submit to LTA, I wondered if there was a play version of the book—and that was exactly what happened. I picked it up in October 2016, looking for something spooky, and I was expecting some page turning pulp. But ‘The Haunting of Hill House’ is a wholehearted exhibition of the exoticism and domestic. Visit www.connexgazette.com or call 703-683-0496 or visit the website at www.thatlittletheatre.com.

The cast of LTA’s “The Haunting of Hill House” in rehearsal.


By Pat Nicklin
The Gazette

Director Maggie Mumford said she is an absolute nerd about all things Shirley Jackson (novelist), and the novel upon which this play is based is what started that fandom. “I picked it up in October 2016, looking for something spooky, and I was expecting some page turning pulp. But ‘The Haunting of Hill House’ is deep and dark and complex and so, so funny.”

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Partners in Art

Join a collegial group of artists to share goals and get feedback on artwork. Monthly meetings include discussions on exhibit opportunities, the creative process and the local art scene. Artist can bring 1-3 works – complete or in progress – for feedback. All skill levels and media welcome. Donations ($1-3) appreciated. Monthly on the second Monday, 2-4 p.m. and fourth Tuesday, 7-9 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans gallery, 2704 Mt Vernon Ave. Visit DelRayArtisans.org/partners-in-art for more.
Mount Vernon Farmers Market

The McCutcheons/Mount Vernon Farmers Market opened May 1 with an array of farm-fresh produce and local foods, plus some new features (fresh brewed coffee!). 17 local farmers and producers will sell fresh, locally grown vegetables and fruits; meats; Chesapeake Bay seafood; breads and pastries; honey, jams and jellies; milk, cheese and eggs; herbs and plants; and more. Wednesdays (through Dec. 18), 8 a.m.-noon at Sherwood Hall Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets.

Sopranessence Fall Concert, 3-4:30 p.m. At Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Sopranessence kicks off its fifth season with “Let’s Start at the Very Beginning….” (Fromo I Blossom) by revisiting our roots and sharing some of our favorite songs from past shows. From dashing Divas to the harmonies of Puccini, your favorites are sure to be here. Cost is pre-sale thru Oct. 18: $20 General Admission; $18 for Seniors/Military; $10 for Youth. At-the-Door: $25 all tickets. Visit the website: www.sopranessence.org.

From Page 13

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Countryside, Page 15

See Calendar. Page 15

This is a 12-point 100% serif font. This font size is the minimum size for readability on the screen. The text is presented in a way that is easy to read and understand.

The text is organized into paragraphs, with each paragraph starting a new line. This makes it easy to follow the flow of the text and understand its structure.

The text is written in a clear and concise style, using simple and straightforward language. This makes it easy to understand and follow.

The text is divided into sections, with each section containing a specific topic or idea. This makes it easy to navigate and find the information you are looking for.

The text is well-organized and easy to read. Each section is clearly marked and separated from the others, making it easy to follow the flow of the text.

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i it’s almost a law: Every renovation project takes longer than expected. In the case of Augie’s Mussel House and Beer Garden, what was intended to be a springtime reopening has become an autumn tale. But now, the indoor dining room has opened anew, and with it the patio has seen a rebirth, too.

“We’ve gotten so many great modern looks while actually adding in a lot of history,” Sparrow said. Such looks include signage from the old Alexandria Marine shop; a bar consisting of crushed glass (mainly from empty Yuengling bottles) formed into an epoxy and lit up; and above the bar, “there’s an old wooden beam that we pulled out of the Potomac River” near Robinson Terminal that’s probably a couple 100 years old, Sparrow said. “We sanded it and sealed it and put some lights into it and put it above the bar. It’s a really cool feature.”

The upstairs dining room has “more of a formal setting,” while still remaining fairly casual, Sparrow said. The downstairs, meanwhile, takes on more of a higher-end sports-pub feel. But what guests really there for are the food and drink. And in those lanes, Augie’s is ready too. The restaurant offers 10 different types of mussels, from the classic (with garlic, onion, tomato and white wine) to the Eastern shore (with corn, sausage, crab broth and Old Bay), “which I think are going to be the biggest sellers,” Sparrow said. Along with mussels, guests can munch on housemade pretzels with beer cheese, five different kinds of wings, “which I think are going to be the biggest sellers,” Sparrow said. Along with mussels, guests can munch on housemade pretzels with beer cheese, five different kinds of wings, and heartier fare like ribeye steak, steak tartar, tuna tartare, and more. Admittedly, a sports-bar feel doesn’t take roof without a robust drink menu. Augie’s is offering up 26 on tap and another 40 bottles and cans, as well as a craft cocktail program and wine.

And though the indoor dining rooms have geared up just in time for the weather to turn cooler, the patio is still poised to be a popular place.

“It’s definitely where everybody first goes,” Sparrow said, even when the cooler temperatures are here. “We’re hoping to be a nine- or 10-month-a-year patio.” Following a soft launch event and a quiet opening on Oct. 7, Augie’s officially opened to the public on Tuesday, Oct. 8, and so far, Sparrow says, the reception has been positive. “We have a great staff and really happy with the feedback we’ve gotten so far,” he said on the eve of Augie’s reopening. “But the true test is coming in a couple days.” Between the mussels, the history-meets-modernity vibe and the thriving bar scene inside and out, there’s a good chance Augie’s will pass the exam.

Hope Nelson owns and operates the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at www.kitchenrecessionista.com. Email her any time at hope@kitchenrecessionista.com.
Domestic Violence Awareness Mont

By Delegate Paul Krizek

The month of October marks Domestic Violence Awareness Month here in the Commonwealth. It was designated as such by the General Assembly in 1989 and is an annual reminder of how important it is for us to continue to work to prevent domestic abuse and to treat and support survivors across the Commonwealth.

Domestic violence is characterized as a pattern of coercive behaviors used by an individual to gain or maintain power and control over another individual in the context of an intimate, dating, or familial relationship. Forms of domestic violence may be criminal (physical assault or stalking) or not (verbal abuse or financial control). Approximately 27% of women and 11% of men in the United States have experienced sexual violence, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner.

Sadly, 31% of all Virginia homicides in 2014 were attributed to Family and Intimate Partner Violence. Thankfully, the number of homicides reported in recent years have decreased since 1999 when data was first collected. This decrease may be attributed to an increase in awareness, which is a step in the right direction. In order to continue combating this crisis, we must promote awareness of domestic violence so that victims know they are not alone and that there are local organizations that will protect their anonymity and ensure they receive the help they need.

In 2016 in Fairfax alone, 1,605 emergency protective orders were issued against family or household members for acts of family abuse involving violence, force or threat, and 268 children were provided with Emergency Shelter with their parent or guardian.

Across Virginia, 5,732 adults and children received 191,759 nights of emergency or temporary shelter to escape domestic violence. Every month in Fairfax County, domestic violence hotlines receive over 240 calls with approximately a quarter of those calls involving family abuse protective orders. Between 2010 and 2015, over 400,000 calls were answered by domestic and sexual violence hotlines in Virginia.

In my day job as the General Counsel for Christian Relief Services here in Alexandria, I work every day to assist domestic violence survivors and their families find safe, stable, and affordable housing while they get back on their feet. Our Safe Places program works with survivors in Fairfax County to help them become self-sufficient through financial planning, counseling, and legal aid. We assist survivors regardless of income, language spoken, or immigration status. Through this work, I have seen what a growing problem domestic violence has become, and have also been exposed to many things we can do legislatively in the Commonwealth to continue fighting against domestic abuse.

During this next session, I plan to put forward a bill that will increase the penalty for any person who deceptively installs or places an electronic tracking device and uses that device to track the location of any person without their consent. With the increased availability of GPS devices, this method of stalking is being used more and more by intimate partners to track and control their victims. This is especially concerning if victims are attempting to leave the relationship and escape to a safer location. Currently, tracking an individual without consent is only a Class 3 misdemeanor, which is on par with unintentional damage to property or a monument and only is punishable by up to a $500 fine. Harsher penalties should be put in place to deter this dangerous behavior. Continuing to allow this in Virginia with minimal punishment puts lives at risk. Something that everyone can do to support life-saving work preventing domestic abuse is to purchase a “KIDS FIRST” or any Family and Children’s Trust Fund (FACT) specialty license plate through the DMV, which I have written about in the past, participate in the tax write-off program, or send tax deductible contributions to FACT’s office in Richmond. FACT was created by the General Assembly in 1986 to serve as a partnership between the public and private sectors to raise funds for the prevention and treatment of a wide spectrum of family violence.

To report a crime, call the Fairfax County Police Department at 703-691-2131 or, for emergencies, please call 911. If you or someone you know is experiencing any form of domestic violence, and you want to talk about options and resources available, call the 24-hour Domestic & Sexual Violence Hotline at 703-360-7273.

Virginia Marie Cooper

June 1,1932-Oct 8, 2019

Virginia Marie Cooper, long time resident of the Mount Vernon area, passed away peacefully at home on Oct. 8, 2019. She was the beloved mother of Cynthia Louise Reiss, and Patti Ann Price; grandmother of Virginia Marie “Gina”, Stephanie May Reiss, and Kristen of Cynthia Louise Reiss, and Patti.

She was preceded in death by parents Oliver Jacob Cooper “Pop” and Mary Elizabeth Gibbons, sisters June Mary Cooper Barco, and Marion Estelle Cooper Burton, and brothers; David Lee Cooper, Gene Wilford Cooper, and Theodore Oliver Cooper, and by her grand-daughter, Marie Faith “Faye” Young Burns along with her un-born infant daughter. Also pre-ceded in death by her beloved Aunts Ruth Helen Gibbons Meagher, Clarine Janet Cooper Belt, Margaret Lauretta Cooper Reagan, and Mildred Marie Cooper Facchina; and cousin, Dorothy “Dot” Clarine Belt and nieces Bonnie Sue Cooper Chumley, and Veronica Lee “Vicky” Cooper Young, and nephew SGT Gene Wilfred Cooper, Jr. And her beloved friend and teacher Martha Mary Dalton.

Virginia leaves behind numerous cousins and nieces and nephews. She was the remaining matriarch of the Cooper family, often sending well wishes and photos to everyone family member and their children. She had great joy in sharing her family history and acknowledging the lives of others.

Virginia was born and raised in the Woodlawn, Mount Vernon area off Richmond Highway and Cooper Road, so named after her father the late Oliver Jacob Cooper.

Virginia Marie Cooper.

Cooper Street was named after her late Grandfather, Frederick Cleve-land Cooper; the Coopers were early developers in the Woodlawn, Mount Vernon area. They built many homes and lodging establish-ments; The Willows and the Old Photographers home in the 30s. The property were sold in the 60s and Cooper Center, along with McDonalds is now where her family home used to be.

She graduated from Mount Vernon High School in 1949, where she said “it Virginia Marie Cooper, leave the answer for getting through Mount Vernon, perseverance, ability, and a seat behind.”

She loved all different kinds of music; and often recalled her childhood being from a “singing” family. She and her sisters would harmonize and sing while doing the dishes. She said June was con-tent, Marrian was alo and she was soprano They often sang as family; and grandma played piano. They would also sing Irish songs; she was proud of her Irish heritage, and the Irish Blessing was one of her favorites.

She got her first job at Fort Belvoir as a clerk typist. She had an honorable long career of 31 years with the Federal Government serving as a procurement professional and retired in 1987 from the Defense Fuel Supply Cen-ter, Cameron Station, Alexandria, VA. She loved our country, and proudly displayed the American flag on every occasion.

She lived in Alexandria for many years, and then moved to Sarasota, Florida, so that she could be near the beach and the gulf of Mexico that she loved dearly. She enjoyed watching the sunsets, the warm Florida sunshine, and the crystal blue waters. She took long walks on the beach. It was her favorite place to sit and meditate. She loved the soft silky sand and collecting seashells.
Le Refuge Tradition from Father to Daughter

Anne-claire points to momentos crowding the walls of La Refuge.

Anne-claire says her father brought his recipes with him to Le Refuge. He had worked in luxury hotels in England and the South of France “and he had almost a gift.” He had baked and cooked all the time as a kid. His own favorite menu item is the liver with caramelized onions with a veal demi glace sauce.

Now Chaufour has gradually stepped out of the management of the restaurant due to health issues and has turned the reins over to Anne-claire who works with her husband Hugh Fregnan. Hugh’s parents had owned Maison de Crêpes in Georgetown and Alexandria, and he remembers living over the restaurant for years.

Anne-claire now manages the everyday operations, ordering the fresh meat every day and fish, choosing the wines and letting them age “because that’s what he did.” She had started working as a server in the restaurant when she was 18 and then gradually moved into part-time management when her parents would return to France for three months. “I didn’t sink the ship.” But she acknowledges the assistance along the way of Ricardo, an irreplaceable employee, who has been with Le Refuge for 31 years.

Anne-claire says they have a lot of regulars including a woman who has been dining there two-to-three times a week for twenty years. But they also get a lot of new customers, some from France.

With the internet you can stretch your information. You can even see our location from France on Google maps. She adds that Le Refuge is number two out of 900 restaurants on Trip Advisor.

As the restaurant moves forward, Anne-claire says, “I have absorbed a lot of my father’s ideas. I was raised with his concept, and I think he is proud that I embraced it on my own.”

History may be repeating itself. Anne-claire says their seven-year-old daughter, Savanna, now comes to the restaurant on Saturday mornings and puts the fresh flowers on the tables and fills the ice buckets.” She explains, “Ricardo gives her two dollars. Savanna loves it. Maybe a third generation will follow, keep going and not changing it.”

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No Soap, Radio

By KENNETH R. LOUIE

This is a punchline to a joke I heard 50-plus years ago during my adolescence. I never knew what the actual joke was, but somehow it was thought to be funny. And so, as if by habit, the other day when preparing to take a shower at home, I noticed that the bar of soap waiting for me in the shower was run down and insufficient for the task at hand. I then opened the bathroom vanity where I knew I had back up and saw there was one bar, used to the last hold-out of an eight pack I had bought many months ago. As Maurice Chevalier sang in the movie "Gigi:" "Ah. I remember it well."

And remember it well as I remember other similar bulk-type purchases. Sometimes, being diagnosed with cancer interferes in the most unusual way. When I buy things or make arrangements when the diagnosis is the future, I’ll often wonder if I’ll still be alive to actually derive the benefit from this day’s commitment. As involves the very next day, in the supermarket, I was really looking for a two- or three-pack, not an eight-pack, hesitating to own a boy when I may under-use. I suppose if that plenty of money and fewer financial concerns than I do now, I wouldn’t have given this soap purchase any thought at all. But I’m, not somebody else.

And sometimes, I don’t want to be me. I’d rather be somebody else. Somebody else who throws a bit more caution to the wind. Somebody who darns the torpedoes and goes full speed ahead. Somebody who’s bit fast and furious and less slow-witted, if I can invoke metaphorical consonant turtles into the conversation. Nevertheless, at the end of the day (at the beginning, too), I may not be Sammy Davis Jr., but ‘I Gotta Be Me.’ And ‘me’ is someone whose doesn’t throw caution anywhere, has never sworn at a torpedo and loves turtles, especially when they beat bares. My approach to this excruciating cancer ordeal is to keep my glass half full, compartmentalize, be positive about the negative and not "Live Like You Were Dying," as sung by Tim McGraw, but to live like I was living. Which to me has meant to live normally as if I didn’t have stage IV lung cancer, with no bucket list or urgency about anything; and to assimilate having cancer into my life as just another variable, like the weather or the Red Sox bullpen.

Unfortunately, and it might just be me (Oh, really), but this kind of approach and some minuscule does occupy (I’m not saying pre-occupy thought about it. But its doesn’t necessarily occupy it because I have cancer occupies it because I’m more like my mother than I am my father and cancer or not, it’s what I do. And being exactly who I am in spite of my diagnosis is how I’ve rolled through these last 10-plus years. It’s been a living for which I remain extraordinarily grateful and to be honest about it, amazingly lucky.

Moreover, I make the same jokes, with or without punchlines, do the same impressions, invoke the same popular culture references and make decisions as I always have. In addition, I allocate resources, juggle funds and plan for the future while being mindful of the present likewise as I always have. My diagnosis certainly defines me, but I try not to let it control me. Still, its rears into every decision I make, from soap to tea. It’s the elephant in the room and the pebble in my shoe (actually that’s the neuropathy in my feet).

Still I have to take things in strides - or else. When I saw that last remaining bar of soap, I conjured memories of the tightfrogs I have to walk around Russell not withholding. And it gave me pause: Wow, I made it through that entire pack. Now what? Soap. No radio. And so it goes.

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

ThURSDAY/NOV 7

Skilled Workforce Career Fair. 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. At Fairfax County School Academy, 5801 Franconia Road, Alexandria. High school students and adults looking for jobs in construction-related trades, service industries, manufacturing, and information technology are invited to attend the Apprenticeships and Skilled Workforce Career Fair at Edison Academy. The fair encourages interest in the skilled career fields that are attainable through two-year degree or certificate programs, internships or on-the-job training. Fairfax County high school students, recent graduates, and their parents are invited to attend this free event to meet business, education, and industry leaders from Northern Virginia’s workforce employment, education, training, and apprenticeship programs.

Volunteers Needed

In Northern Virginia, a volunteer nonprofit, invites community members to join the organization to participate in its Reading Rocks! Program. Volunteers can provide one-on-one tutoring to first grade students during the school year. To learn more contact VP Membership Mary Gronlund at mary.gronlund@fairfaxcountygov.gov. United Community (formerly UCM), with main office locations at 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, seeks volunteers for Food Pantry assistance. Early Learning Center teacher aides, basic needs counselors, youth tutors and mentors, office administration/data entry, and community outreach. Flexible hours and schedules. Opportunities for all ages to serve, including community service hours. More info at ucmagency.org/volunteer-opportunities or potomacrescue.org.

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

RSVP, a volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older. RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, email Carly Hubicki at chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-532-4000. Learn more about RSVP, visit www.rsvpnova.org.

Line Dance Instructor needed for the Gum Springs Senior Program on either Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. Volunteer Solutions can be reached at 703-324-5406, TTY 711. Volunteer Fairfax makes it easy for individuals and families, youth and seniors, corporate groups and schools to volunteer. Full-time hours, give back, or pay it forward through a variety of service options. Visit www.volunteerfairfax.org or call 703-246-3460.

STEM Volunteers. The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) needs scientists, engineers, mathematicians, and physicians to assist K-12 Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) teachers in the Northern Virginia Area, during the 2016-17 school year. In the 2015-16 school year, the numbers of STEM volunteers in Northern Virginia were: Fairfax County - 40, Arlington - 20, and Alexandria - one. Details of the outreach and planned events work out between the teacher and the volunteer, and may involve giving demonstrations, assisting in lab experiments, preparing special materials, assisting with homework, etc. The hours are flexible, and volunteers attend a one-day training in September before being assigned to school. To join as a volunteer assistant, or for more information, visit www.seniorscientist.org. To volunteer, contact volunteering@aaas.org.

Fairfax County’s Community Services Board is seeking volunteer office assistants. Volunteers are needed to assist CSB staff with greeting guests, making reminder phone calls, data entry, filing, shredding, stockng shelves, and other duties as needed. Hours are flexible, but would be during one business hours. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb/visa/volunteers.htm for more.
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