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Mount Vernon Gazette

SENIOR LIVING
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MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

NOVEMBER 28, 2019

MVCCA Hit's 50, Still on Point with Mission

Council credited with past efforts and future plans at anniversary gala.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

For the past 50 years, the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations has been active in the Mount Vernon community, representing and promoting the interests of its member associations and to further the common good and general welfare of the residents of the Mount Vernon Magisterial District.

The council, known familiarly as MVCCA, was recently recognized on their 50th anniversary by the Virginia House of Delegates and Senate for the council's efforts. They provide a forum for residents and groups to address concerns about land use, transportation, the environment, public safety, education, and housing, as stated on House Joint Resolution 1104.

At the anniversary celebration on Wednesday, Nov. 20, was Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck (D), representatives from Virginia Delegates Mark Sickles (D-43) and Paul Krizek (D-44) and other officials and residents of Mount Vernon, recognized the anniversary. Mount Vernon has come a long way since the late 1960s, and MVCCA co-chair Lynn Pascoe noted that back then the area had inadequate fire protection, no libraries, no bus service, no hospital and no comprehensive plan for development. That's the Mount Vernon that the MVCCA grew up in, and they pushed for change and laid out a plan.

"This was incredibly successful and laid the basis for a revitalization of our community. It also led to the recent EMBARK project," Pascoe said. Co-chair Katherine Ward noted their efforts on EMBARK too. "We look forward to continuing to work with county staff, landowners and developers plus the SFDC and Chamber to create something special along Richmond Highway — our Main Street," she said.



Cochair Lynn Pascoe presents plaques to founding members Gant Redmon and Dr Glenn Fatzinger.



Supervisor Dan Storck recognizes MVCCA at the anniversary gala.

It's one thing to plan, but some plans need a force to see them through, and Pascoe felt the MVCCA was that force back then and now. "We will continue to push for better transit, redevelopment of the Community Business Centers, undergrounding of Richmond Highway utilities, improved housing, and ensuring that new development fits into the plans' long-term goals," she said.

Storck has worked with the MVCCA for 15 years on projects and efforts around Mount Vernon, he noted. "I have seen firsthand the MVCCA's unique ability to successfully influence legislators and mobilize residents on important issues that help make our District and the County a better place to live, work and play," he said.

The MVCCA is composed of 44 civic associations, community as-



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Judy Joyce, member from Riverside Estates Community, left, and Judy Harbeck, the previous co-chair and education committee chair.

sociations, property owners' associations, homeowners' associations, and condominium unit owners' associations in the Mount Vernon area. It is led by three co-chairs Katherine Ward, Lynn Pascoe and John Ribble, and the secretary is Jennifer Molden, and treasurer is Sean McCarthy.

The MVCCA has worked with the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and the Planning Commission help guide informed decisions regarding changes in traffic capacity due to the completion of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project at the Richmond Highway, Huntington Avenue, Old Richmond Highway, and Fort Hunt Road intersection. These are all transportation facilities that impact the businesses and residents of Mount Vernon.

At the anniversary celebration,

"We look forward to continuing to work with county staff, landowners and developers plus the SFDC and Chamber to create something special along Richmond Highway — our Main Street."

there were plaques and credits handed out, recognizing 50 years of MVCCA achievements.

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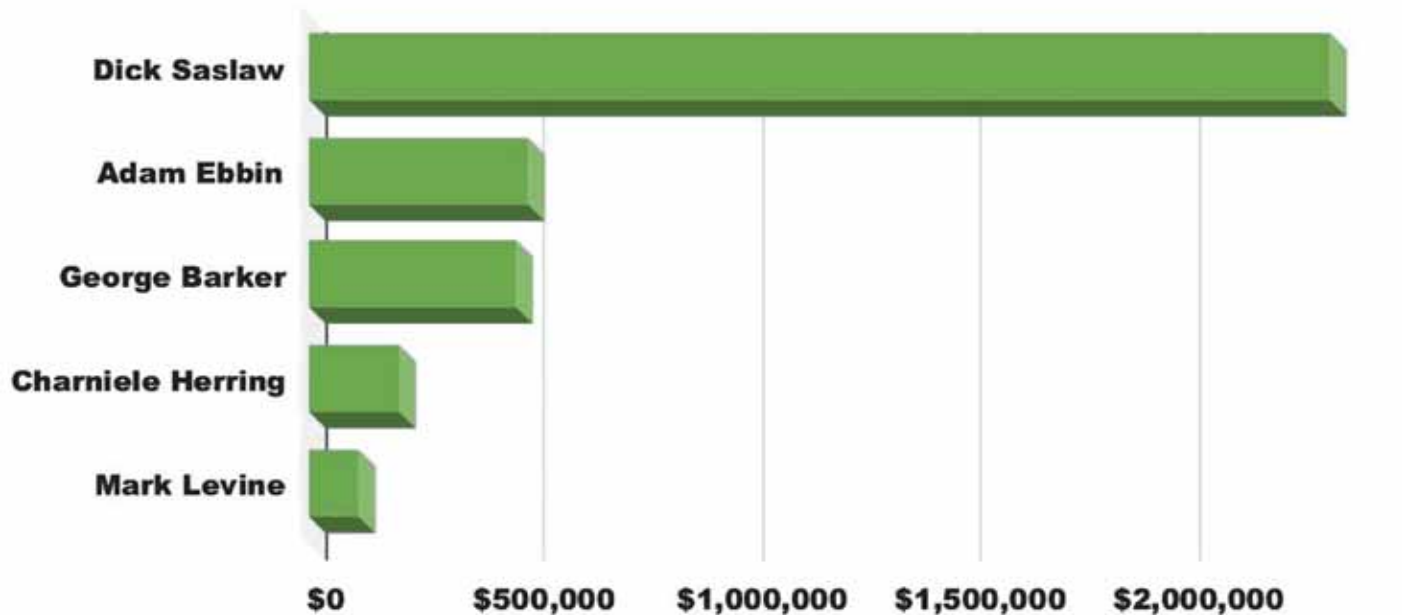
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Campaign Spending 2019



source: Virginia Public Access Project

Following the Money

Special-interest groups seek power and influence.

By MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

A look at campaign-finance documents from the 2019 election cycle reveals an intricate web of special-interest money, everything from Dominion and Verizon to casino developers and car-title lenders. Members of the Alexandria delegation took money from lobbyists and associations who have pending business during the upcoming two-month General Assembly session, when lawmakers will be forbidden from taking campaign cash.

The lion's share went to Senate Democratic Leader Dick Saslaw, the incoming Majority Leader who represents four precincts in the West End. During the primaries, he faced a difficult and expensive challenge from the progressive left. In the process, Saslaw raised almost \$1 million and spent almost \$2 million. The top-ten list of his campaign contributors reads like the invitation list to a chamber of commerce cocktail hour. At the top of the list is Dominion Energy, the utility that corners the market on power and influence in Richmond. When asked about taking money from Dominion and LoanMax during the primary campaign, Saslaw rejected the idea it influences him.

"Do you really think anybody owns me given my financial situation?" he shot back in an interview last spring. "Do you know why I get this money?"

Because I'm the party leader. I'm the person who's supposed to raise money for the caucus, OK? Do you really think that influences my vote?"

Until a few years ago, every member of the General Assembly took money from Dominion Energy. Now it's the trendy new thing new thing to just say no to the utility monopoly. Charlottesville-based Clean Virginia Fund stepped in to offer competing campaign bucks for the other side of the issue, so candidates don't even have to feel the financial pressure. Now almost 50 members refuse money from Dominion.

State Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30) used to take money from the Richmond-based energy utility; now he does not. "I don't think that people who take money from Dominion are corrupt," says Ebbin, whose last contribution from Dominion was for \$1,000 in 2017. "It's just that for some of my constituents, it's a big deal." Another big deal is the royal flush from casino developers in Bristol, who created a political-action committee called Betting on Virginia Jobs to promote the idea to lawmakers. Del. Mark Levine (D-45) is a fan of casinos, and so he sees no problem with taking money from a group because of his long standing support for of gambling, especially poker.

"I might insist they have poker, though," jokes Levine, whose day job is radio talk show host. "If they just have slot machines, you know, what's the purpose?"



Top Donors to Sen. Dick Saslaw (D-35)

- ❖ \$50,000 from Dominion Energy
- ❖ \$40,000 from Baltimore Washington Construction & Public Employees Laborers PAC
- ❖ \$25,000 from Betting on Virginia Jobs, a PAC created by casino developers in Bristol
- ❖ \$20,000 from Altria
- ❖ \$20,000 from Service Distributing Inc
- ❖ \$20,000 from Virginia Beer Wholesalers Association
- ❖ \$20,000 from Virginia Dental Association
- ❖ \$20,000 from Verizon
- ❖ \$16,250 from Virginia Auto Dealers Association
- ❖ \$15,000 from LoanMax



Top Donors to Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30)

- ❖ \$28,000 from attorney Mark Colley at Arnold & Porter LLP
- ❖ \$20,000 from Vienna-based private equity investor Edward Hart Rice
- ❖ \$14,000 from lobbyist John Ashford at the Hawthorn Group
- ❖ \$13,000 from Thomson Hirst, board member of WinVirginia
- ❖ \$11,000 from Leslie Wilkes of Alexandria
- ❖ \$8,000 from Mark Buchholz at Federal Acquisition Strategies
- ❖ \$6,000 from Realtor Gary Dopsloff at TTR Southebys International Realty
- ❖ \$6,000 from Baltimore Washington Construction and Public Employees Laborers PAC
- ❖ \$6,000 from Richard Moore, executive vice president at Nexus Services
- ❖ \$5,800 from Win Virginia



Top Donors to Sen. George Barker (D-39)

- ❖ \$20,000 from George Barker
- ❖ \$19,000 from Dominion Energy
- ❖ \$12,000 from the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association
- ❖ \$6,000 from the Virginia Gasoline Marketers Council
- ❖ \$6,000 from the Virginia Optometric Association
- ❖ \$5,000 from the Medical Society of Virginia
- ❖ \$4,500 from Richmond-based health-insurance provider Anthem
- ❖ \$4,500 from Newport News Shipbuilding
- ❖ \$4,500 from Northern Virginia Association of Realtors
- ❖ \$4,500 from from Richmond-based law firm Williams Mullen



Top Donors to Del. Charniele Herring (D-46)

- ❖ \$36,000 from Dominion Energy
- ❖ \$15,000 from the Virginia Auto Dealers Association
- ❖ \$13,500 from the Virginia Beer Wholesalers Association
- ❖ \$10,000 from the Virginia Cable Telecom Association
- ❖ \$8,000 from the Feminist Majority PAC
- ❖ \$7,500 from Stephani Sion Erkiletian at Erkiletian Construction
- ❖ \$7,035 from Carolyn Mary Grimes at Wade Grimes Friedman Meinken & Lesichner
- ❖ \$7,000 from the Commonwealth Challenge Fund
- ❖ \$7,000 Eva Trig Hardy of Richmond
- ❖ \$7,000 from the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association



Top Donors to Del. Mark Levine (D-45)

- ❖ \$7,540 from Anthony Postert, an economist at the U.S. Department of Justice
- ❖ \$7,250 from Corneila Sheeahan of Alexandria
- ❖ \$5,000 from Clean Virginia Fund
- ❖ \$5,000 from Marc Katz at Custom Ink in McLean
- ❖ \$3,000 from Betting on Virginia Jobs, a PAC created by casino developers in Bristol
- ❖ \$2,000 from attorney Dorathea Peters at Peters-Mullins
- ❖ \$2,000 from Michael Jacobs of Alexandria
- ❖ \$2,000 from Helen Morris of Alexandria
- ❖ \$2,000 from the Virginia Orthopaedic Society
- ❖ \$2,000 from the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association

Fairfax Water

At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 12, 2019, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges. The hearing will be held in Fairfax Water's offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, VA.

The proposed changes, to be effective April 1, 2020, include the following:

1. An increase in the Availability Charge from \$4,260 to \$4,320¹.
2. An increase in the Local Facilities Charge from \$15,285 to \$18,030.
3. An increase in the Service Connection Charge from \$1,300 to \$1,370¹.
4. An increase in the Account Charge from \$39 to \$40.
5. An increase in the Quarterly Billing Service Charge from \$12.20 to \$14.40¹.
6. An increase in the base Commodity Charge from \$3.07 to \$3.20 per 1,000 gallons of water.
7. An increase in the Peak Use Charge from \$3.80 to \$3.85.
8. An increase in the Turn Off / Turn On Charge from \$48 to \$49.
9. An increase in the Fees for Use of Fairfax Water Fire Hydrants to include the increase in the Commodity Charge and the Peak Use Charge.
10. A decrease in the Overhead Charge for Labor from 105% to 104% and the Overhead Charge for Materials from 16% to 13%.
11. An increase in the Installation of Sewer Use Meter Charge from \$38 to \$39.

¹Charges reflect fees associated with a standard 5/8" residential meter. Changes in charges for larger residential and commercial meters are reflected in the Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges.

Fairfax Water is also proposing a \$192.5 million budget for calendar year 2020¹. Water sales are expected to provide \$166.2 million and the remaining \$26.3 million is expected from connection charges, investment income and other sources.

The major areas of operation and maintenance expense are:

Category	-- \$1,000s --	
	2019	2020
Personal Services & Employee Benefits	\$ 56,839	\$ 60,020
Power and Utilities	10,890	11,060
Chemicals	7,241	7,878
Purchased Water	7,510	7,812
Supplies and Materials	5,418	5,713
Insurance	991	1,165
Fuel	685	730
Postage	612	622
Contractual Services	12,635	13,103
Professional Services	829	1,290
Other	2,353	2,562
Sub-Total	106,003	111,955
Transfer to Improvement Fund	(10,380)	(10,313)
Total	\$ 95,623	\$ 101,642

Net revenues are expected to be appropriated as follows:

Debt Payment	\$43,000,000
Improvement Fund	\$11,000,000
General Fund	\$36,099,000

¹ Fairfax Water's Board will continue to monitor economic factors and review revenues and expenditures at mid-year to determine if additional action is needed.

A copy of the proposed changes can be viewed on our website at www.fairfaxwater.org/rates. Those wishing to speak at this hearing or desiring a copy of the proposed changes should call Ms. Karen Barnette at 703-289-6029. Interested parties may submit written comments to PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org or mail written comments to:

Fairfax Water
Public Hearing Comments
8570 Executive Park Avenue
Fairfax, VA 22031

All written comments must be received by close of business on **Wednesday, December 11, 2019** to be included in the record of the public hearing.

THANKFUL

What Are You Thankful For?

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



Diego Delgado – “I’m thankful for being at a time and space where I can have all my family together – both mine and my husband’s – that brings me lots of joy.”



Kristen Ward – “I’m thankful for my family and all of my co-workers and how compassionate they are with the people we serve here at Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home.”



Shawn Banks – “I’m thankful to be here in good health and able to spend some time with the people I love.”



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submit your letter to the Editor to editors@connectionnewspapers.com





Irene Blair – “I am very grateful for my blessings that are too many to count — my loving and kind husband, for the internet that allows me to communicate with my loving and gracefully aging parents while they’re still alive, for my siblings, nephews and nieces, and I thank the Lord for the patience and strength He gives me every day to keep on smiling until the sun goes down. I’m grateful for everything.”



Mollie Abraham with 11-month-old great-granddaughter **Mollie Roudik** – “I’m thankful to be alive and well at 93 and still functioning fairly well and that I have a younger person who carries my name. We are a part of a wonderful family.”



Bolivian exchange student Juan Carlos Medina – “This is my first Thanksgiving. I’m thankful to be able to study here, living with a wonderful family and for my friends at T.C. Williams.”



Bill Clayton – “I am thankful for a loving wife and family and my health.”



Heidi Vanessa Long – “I am very thankful for my family and friends.”

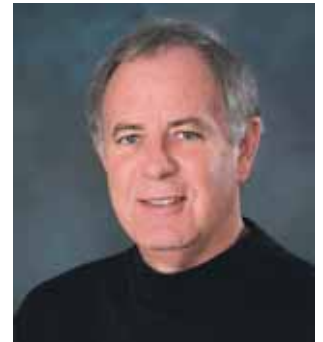
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Rex returned to his roots in Mt. Vernon where he and his wife, Doris, raised their four children, and where Rex embarked on a second career in Real Estate.

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HOLIDAYS

Let There Be Light

Tree lighting kicks off holiday season.

Santa made an early visit to Market Square Nov. 23 to kick off the festivities for the city's annual Tree Lighting Ceremony.

The drizzly skies didn't dampen the spirits of the crowd as Santa was joined by Mayor Justin Wilson in lighting the tree in front of City Hall.

"A little rain has not kept the crowds away," Tweeted Wilson as he prepared to take the stage. "It's amazing to have the T.C. Titans Choir here to help us light the Market Square tree."

In addition to carols performed by the T.C. Williams High School Choir, the program featured a performance of "Santa's Spectacular" by the Metropolitan School of the Arts and a visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

The traditional kick off to the holiday season took place a week earlier than usual due to the timing of the Thanksgiving holiday, giving residents and visi-

tors alike more time to enjoy the holiday season in Old Town, named earlier this month by "O, the Oprah Magazine" as one of the 19 most magical Christmas towns and villages across the world.

Ranked number seven by the magazine, Alexandria bested several European towns and those closer to home including Santa Claus, Indiana, and North Pole, Alaska.

As described by the magazine: "For a traditional American Christmas, head to Alexandria, Virginia, where the Old Town's streets and 18th-century row houses bustle with good cheer each December. Festive-seekers can find carolers, hand bell choirs, ample lights and decorations, while close by there's Mount Vernon, home to Aladdin, a Christmas camel, as well as a Colonial Christmas experience."

—JEANNE THEISMANN



Children gather for a photo with Santa following the annual lighting of the Market Square tree Nov. 23 at City Hall.



Despite the rain, children pose for a photo on Santa's lap Nov. 23 in Market Square.



A young girl smiles for a photo with Santa following the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony Nov. 23 in Market Square.



A trio of friends pose in Market Square following the annual tree lighting ceremony Nov. 23 at City Hall.



A family gathers for a photo in front of the Market Square tree Nov. 23 at City Hall.

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RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

OPINION

Q&A

State Sen. Scott Suovell (D-36) on expectations from new General Assembly.

Q: What changes do the 2019 election results bring to the General Assembly?

A: Nov. 5, 2019 results will bring unified Democratic control to the House of Delegates, Senate of Virginia and Governor's Mansion for the first time since 1991. This will end partisan roadblocks that have prevented progress on common sense firearm violence prevention, women's rights, worker's rights, and other measures that will bring Virginia up to speed with the rest of the United States.

Q: What are your personal legislative priorities in the next session, and what are their prospects to pass in General Assembly?

A: My top legislative priority is funding transit improvements in the U.S. 1 and I-95 Corridor. We need to finalize funding for the U.S. 1 bus rapid transit, Yellow Line extension to Hybla Valley, start planning to extend the Blue Line to Potomac Mills Mall, and fund the construction of a new Long Bridge over the Potomac River to expand both VRE and higher speed rail service from D.C. to Richmond, Norfolk and Charlotte. I hope to finally pass hands free legislation, driver's permits for all Virginians, create a Prince William County Public Defender's Office, lead on criminal justice reform, and



Scott Suovell

lay the groundwork for clean energy in Virginia.

Q: What do you see as the top five legislative priorities in the next session: What do you think can be achieved, and

what is the timeline?

A: Increasing funding for free preschool, K-12, and higher education are top priorities. Virginia's teachers' salaries have dropped exponentially from the top third in the country to the bottom third in the last three decades. This is detrimental to teacher recruitment and retention, which ultimately impacts the quality of education for our youth. We will work for progress in implementing universal preschool along with lowering tuition rates at Virginia's state-supported colleges.

I hope to expand access to voting including no excuse early voting for 45 days before any election.

We will become the 38th and final state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment in the first two weeks.

I also hope we can codify Roe v Wade to protect against a backwards looking U.S. Supreme Court along with repealing the need for ultrasounds before women can exercise their constitutional reproductive rights.

This will be a big session for predatory lending reform. Online lenders who charge 400 percent interest rates and hide behind out-of-state Native American tribes will face regulation. Car title lenders who currently charge 267 percent interest rates authorized by Virginia law will likely face lower rates.

State legislators are currently preparing for the 2020 General Assembly session which will begin Jan. 8 and end in March. Public support is critical and feedback from constituents is important to make sure the Virginians' voices are heard throughout the legislative process. I look forward to receiving comments and encourage constituents to reach out to my office.

Q: Any additional thoughts you would like to share?

A: As always, my staff is available for your constituent service, to help you navigate state agencies, and access services. Please make an appointment to visit us in Richmond. If you are coming, we can schedule a tour of your historic State Capitol. Please reach out to us at 571-249-4484 or

district36@senate.virginia.gov. Please also keep an eye out for information about the Puller Institute. As I have in the past, I will bring high school students to Richmond to learn about state government. In the coming weeks, I will also announce our town hall schedule for the 2019 legislative session. Please plan to come share your opinions on legislative issues and make your voice heard!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Season to Go Back to Basics

To the Editor:

In just a couple of days, me and my family will join together to share a meal and eat some pumpkin pie. I'll get a couple of days off school to sleep in and relax. But Thanksgiving is not just about food, but gratitude. These days, it seems like we don't appreciate each other enough. But I hope this holiday season, we go back to basics.

Aumena Choudhry

12th Grade, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology.

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OPINION

Jump into the Children's (and Teens') Gazette

Please send all submissions no later than Friday, Dec. 13, 2019. Earlier is better!

During the last weeks of each year, this newspaper devotes its pages to the creativity of local students and children. The results are always remarkable. It is a keepsake edition for many families. Even readers without children of that age spend time admiring and chuckling over the issue.

The annual Children's Gazette (also Children's Connection, Children's Almanac and Children's Centre View) is a tradition of well over a decade.

We welcome contributions from public and private schools, art classes, individuals and homeschoolers. We publish artwork, poetry, essays, creative writing, opinion pieces, short stories, photography, photos of sculpture or gardens or other creative efforts.

We ask that all submissions be digital so they can be sent through email or delivered on flash drive. Writing should be submitted in text format. Artwork should be photographed or scanned and provided in jpeg format.

Some suggestions, but don't be limited by these:

- ❖ Drawings or paintings or photographs of

your family, friends, pets or some favorite activity. These should be photographed or scanned and submitted in jpeg format. Photos of sculpture or larger art projects are also welcome.

- ❖ Art of any type created by local young people.

- ❖ Short answers to some of the following questions: If you could give your parents, family or friends any gift that didn't cost money what would that gift be? What are you most looking forward to in the upcoming year? What is one thing that you would change about school? What do you want to be when you grow up? What is your favorite animal? What is your favorite toy? What makes a good parent? What makes a good friend? Describe one of the best or worst things that ever happened to you? What is the best gift you've ever given? Ever received?

- ❖ Your opinion (100 words) about traffic, sports, restaurants, video games, toys, trends, politics, etc.

- ❖ Poetry or other creative writing.

- ❖ Your gratitude list.

- ❖ News stories from school newspapers.

- ❖ Photos and text about activities or events.

- ❖ Were you involved in November's elections? What did you think?

To be published, we must have the full first and last name of the student artist/writer.

Identify each piece of writing or art, including the student's full name, age, grade and town of residence, plus the name of the school, name of teacher and town of school location.



Home schoolers' contributions are welcomed.

To send flash drives containing artwork and typed, electronic submissions, mark them clearly by school and hometown and mail the flash drive to: Children's Connection (including Children's Gazette, Children's Almanac and Children's Centre View), 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Please send all submissions by Friday, Dec. 13, 2019.

You can see last year's editions by visiting www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/ and scroll down to Children's Edition.

Email submissions for the Children's Gazette clearly marked to mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Conflict of Interest

Dear Editor:

Last week, I testified before the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors at their public hearing concerning their wish list of State legislation they wish to see enacted by the General Assembly. I brought to their attention an ethical issue that needs to be addressed by legislation. Here is the written version of my testimony, edited for clarity:

The population of the Commonwealth of Virginia is well over 8 million people.

There are 50,000 members of the Virginia State Bar. The General Assembly has 140 members and approximately 1/4 of them are members of the Virginia State Bar, and practicing attorneys. Virginia is one of only two States in which State Court judges are actually appointed and re-appointed by votes of members of the legislature, in Virginia's case, the General Assembly. A newspaper article published in 2016 found that approximately one dozen of the lawyer members of the General Assembly actually practice law at-

tending hearings in our State Courts representing clients before judges they vote to appoint. In fact, on the law firm websites of two of our local State Senators, they tout their status as State Senators and describe the kinds of cases they handle which require appearances before those judges in State Courts. This doesn't pass the ethical smell test - it constitutes a clear conflict of interest. As such, I have prepared a proposed amendment to Section 30-100 of the Virginia Code for members of the Board and General Assembly to consider.

Section 30-100 et seq. of the Virginia Code is the General Assembly Conflicts of Interest Act. I request that this section be amended to forbid any member of the General Assembly from appearing in any Virginia State Court as an attorney on behalf of a client before a judge appointed or re-appointed by votes of members of the General Assembly.

My proposed amendment also would forbid any law firm employing any member of the General Assembly to permit any employed lawyer to appear in any Virginia State Court on behalf of a client before a judge appointed or re-

appointed by vote of the General Assembly. This latter provision is included because a law firm should not be able to profit from attending Court hearings where its employed lawyer member of the General Assembly stands to profit from such activities, since this raises, at minimum, an appearance of a conflict of interest. Proposed penalties include referral to the Virginia State Bar for consideration of ethics proceedings. This isn't a political issue. It's an ethics issue. (End of testimony)

I've spoken to dozens of friends and colleagues about this issue, lawyers and non-lawyers. The verdict is unanimous — this conflict of interest is offensive and must not occur.

As a practicing attorney, I don't want to enter a courtroom in the Circuit Court of Fairfax County with my client only to discover my opposing counsel is a member of the General Assembly who played a role in appointing our judge. My client would be at an automatic and inherent disadvantage. Our elected officials should be held to the highest standard of ethics — even an appearance of an ethical issue must be avoided. No one forces anyone to become a politi-

cian and become elected to the General Assembly. However, if someone takes that choice, they must adhere to the highest ethical standards. My proposed legislation should be enacted in the 2020 legislative session to prevent our General Assembly from being categorized as an old-time good old boys (and girls) network.

H. Jay Spiegel
Mount Vernon

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue.

Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for length, civility, libel, grammar, good taste and accuracy.

Send to:

Letters to the Editor
The Connection
1606 King St.
Alexandria VA 22314
By email:
editors@connectionnewspapers.com
Online:
www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter

Mount Vernon Gazette

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Jean Card
Production Editor
jcard@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Worker
Contributing Writer
aworker@connectionnewspapers.com

Jeanne Theismann
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com
@TheismannMedia

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
sales@connectionnewspapers.com
703-778-9431

Debbie Funk
Display Advertising/National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

Julie Ferrill
Real Estate, 703-927-1364
jferrill@connectionnewspapers.com

Helen Walutes
Display Advertising, 703-778-9410
hwalutes@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin
Marketing Assistant
703-778-9431
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Classified & Employment
Advertising
703-778-9431

Publisher
Jerry Vernon
703-549-0004
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

Art/Design:
Laurence Foong, John Heinly,
Ali Khaligh
Production Manager:
Geovani Flores

CIRCULATION
Circulation Manager:
Ann Oliver
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

A Connection Newspaper



SENIOR LIVING

Who's at the Door? It's Your Doctor

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

Dr. Vivek Sinha is on the phone in his office on S. West Street talking to Protective Services about a woman who is taking 15 medications, has no doctor and needs an assessment. She has nowhere to live. Sinha has already had two what he calls "patient encounters" that morning which can be e-mails, phone calls, office visits or house calls. He averages 8-10 a day. He says his practice is low volume by design.

Later this afternoon he has scheduled a meeting with an Alexandria business owner who is interested in Sinha's healthy employee business plan as an incentive to retain employees. "It is unlimited visits for employees and family for a monthly fee."

Sinha is on his way to Saint Asaph Street to do a regular patient house call visit. Sinha says, "My population is almost 100 percent 65-years and older with a large percent with cognitive decline." Many are truly home bound but for others, such the patient he will be seeing this morning, it is just easier to stay at home. Many of the patients have relatives who do not live locally so it takes a lot of coordination with the relatives so that everyone feels comfortable with the treatment. "Communication is 80 percent of what I do."

Sinha climbs into his SUV and heads to Bruce's house. He has been seeing this patient since October 2017 and visits him about four times a year for regular check ups.

"Bruce is very fiercely independent; I mean that in a good way. He used to be a journalist for the National Geographic." He says, "It's all about establishing a



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE



Dr. Sinha checks Bruce's pulse, blood pressure and ears in the comfort of Bruce's living room in Alexandria.

baseline so you know what's normal and recognize if someone suddenly has an altered mental state. SEE WHO'S AT. PAGE 11

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Who's at the Door? It's Your Doctor

FROM PAGE 10

tus, isn't eating or urinating."

Sinha knocks and waits a moment while Bruce pushes his walker toward the front door. Sinha explains Bruce has some fluid in his legs and is also treated by a wound nurse who is usually there at the same time.

"How have you been? Got enough groceries? Legs doing ok?"

Bruce has been fine although Sinha did interrupt him in the middle of watching War Games.

Sinha perches on a footstool and checks the chart, which he has brought along from the office. "We have done the lab work; it's not time to do it again."

Bruce chats about his years working at National Geographic. "I was trained as a photographer in Ohio but my friend steered me to an editing job in D.C., and I spent the next 30 years here." Bruce says he recently saw the film about Dian Fossey, and recalls having lunch with her. "She was a character to say the least." Fossey studied mountain gorilla groups.

Sinha pronounces Bruce's oxygen level to be good. He takes out the stethoscope and checks Bruce's heart rate. "You have a really good heart rate." Bruce laughs, "It usually goes up when you come in the door." Sinha says, "Your blood pressure is 140/88; not too bad. Let me see what it was last time."

"Take a deep breath." Your lungs sound good."

Bruce says, "Maybe I can start smoking again... I'm just kidding."

Sinha says, "Mind if I take a look at your medication? I suggest that you find a way to start taking it again regularly. I keep mine next to my toothbrush as a reminder."

Bruce comments, "Maybe I could keep it next to my martini."

Sinha grins. "Just not with your martini."

"Open your mouth." Sinha moves on to check Bruce's ears. "You have some ear wax but it's best not to use Q-tips that just push the wax further in. Try over the counter wax removal drops instead."

A knock on the door and CT has arrived to check Bruce's legs and provide a new dressing. Sinha likes to coordinate with him and stays a bit longer to take a look at Bruce's legs. There is a specific regimen to check for open wounds and about how the legs should be wrapped. He tells Bruce he will be back later this afternoon to give him a flu shot and they arrange for about 4 p.m. "I'll let your son

know about today's visit."

Back in the SUV Sinha gets two phone messages from the same hospice number. "Doesn't sound good," he says. Sinha says he works with hospice as well as home care companies which provide skilled and non-skilled services. He is at Silverado every Thursday. "I go wherever patients call home."

After his residency and teaching in Chicago, Sinha worked in an outpatient clinic in Maryland where he saw an average of 20 patients a day. "I was not enjoying what I was doing. It was not what I had envisioned."

He started Belleview Medical Partners 5 years ago where he practices family medicine in Alexandria.

About 60 percent of his practice is house calls. "One of my goals is to keep seeing patients but not accept new patients so I can set up a medical clinic for patients who don't normally have access to health care. That is part of the plan."



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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

4 Restaurants for a Thanksgiving Feast

BY HOPE NELSON

Alongside the gratitude for the day, Thanksgiving is known for its feast. But sometimes, it's more fun to enjoy the comforts of home with none of the cleanup. Alexandria's restaurant scene offers up a multitude of options for families to enjoy with no muss, no fuss (and, let's face it, more creative offerings than you'd have going at home). Here are some of your best bets for this Thursday.

Joe Theismann's, 1800A Diagonal Road

The newly renovated sports pub across from the King Street Metro is keeping its Thanksgiving traditions alive for another year. With a three-course **APPETITE** menu that has multiple offerings, Theismann's provides everything from tried-and-true favorites to some new takes on the holiday. Start off with crab and roasted corn fritters or chilled fall spinach dip, then dig into turkey breast, pan-roasted trout or sorghum-glazed roasted pork loin. Finish things off with – what else? – pumpkin pie or apple crumble. \$29 per person.

The Majestic, 911 King St.

The restaurant known for its family-style Sunday Supper is pulling out all the stops for Thanksgiving. Kick things off with a rel-



Thanksgiving at Theismann's: Start off with crab and roasted corn fritters or chilled fall spinach dip, then dig into turkey breast, pan-roasted trout or sorghum-glazed roasted pork loin. Finish things off with – what else? – pumpkin pie or apple crumble. \$29 per person.

ish tray to share and then dive straight into a first course of butternut squash soup or salad; then, for an entrée, take your pick of five options, ranging from seared halibut to autumn carbonara. The table will share two sides (pick from cornbread stuffing, truffled mac and cheese, sweet potato mash and braised mustard greens) before head-

ing into dessert (the cajeta ice cream sounds divine, but some more traditional options are in place too). \$59 per adult; \$25 for children 10 and under.

Carlyle Club, 2050 Ballenger Ave.

The jazz and supper club located smack-dab in the middle of the Carlyle neighbor-

hood is offering two seatings for the holiday – with musical accompaniment by the Satin Doll Trio to provide some extra flair to the day. At 1 and 4 p.m., guests can sit down to dinner and feast on lobster bisque or salad to start; turkey with all the fixings or sea bass with potato cake and green beans; and pumpkin or apple pie for dessert. \$55 for adults; \$14.95 for children 12 and under. Reserve tickets online at thecarlyleclub.com.

Blackwall Hitch, 5 Cameron St.

Take in some lovely views with your Thanksgiving menu at Blackwall Hitch on the waterfront. Unlike many other area restaurants offering prix-fixe menus, Blackwall Hitch is opening up a buffet for the occasion, giving diners a multitude of choices all in one place. Oven-roasted turkey, roast beef and ham round out the main events, but they're accompanied by a bevy of sides ranging from stuffing to crispy salt and pepper Brussels sprouts; from butter-whipped mashed potatoes to creamy macaroni and cheese. A passel of pies and cakes rounds out the proceedings – followed, perhaps, by a nice long walk along the Potomac to burn off some of those calories. \$42 for adults; \$18 for children 12 and under. 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

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

CALENDAR

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

Mount Vernon Farmers Market. Wednesdays (through Dec. 18), 8 a.m.-noon at Sherwood Hall Regional Library, 2501 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!). 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. 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, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road. No auditions. All instruments needed. Contact Eric Leighty directly 703-768-4172 or visit www.mvbands.com/join-us/.

Creature Comforts Art Exhibit. Now thru Jan. 26, 2020. At VCA Alexandria, 2660 Duke Street, Alexandria. The "Creature Comforts" art exhibit at VCA Alexandria through the Gallery Without Walls program features artwork of the animals in our lives by Del Ray

Artisans members. Showcasing animals that lift and fill our hearts is a popular theme at VCA Alexandria and coincides with the winter holiday season in which creature comforts of all types are appreciated. Visit DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits/gww

Holidays and Christmas

FRIDAY/NOV. 29

Plaid Friday (Black Friday). Join Old Town boutiques the day after Thanksgiving and enjoy great discounts, merriment, and good cheer, all while shopping small and supporting local businesses and to celebrate plaid vibes. In Old Town, the sales start at 6 a.m. and continues all day. After you shop with our neighbors, stop by area restaurants and cafes for special deals. On this day, shoppers can receive a limited edition custom plaid tote when you spend \$100 or more at participating retailers (while supplies last), with a minimum \$50 purchase, receive free special plaid themed gift-wrapping services in the front courtyard of Izalia Spa (114 South Patrick Street), the 'plaid police' will hit the streets handing out gift cards to people dressed in their best plaid. Visit OldTownBusiness.org or OldTownBoutiqueDistrict.com.

Black Friday Alexandria. Held in Old Town Alexandria and Del Ray. Alexandria's alternative Black Friday experience features more than 40 independent boutiques kicking off the holiday shopping season with

one-of-a-kind deals on designer and coveted merchandise, including home décor, chic fashions, gourmet food, classic toys and gifts for dogs. Store offers vary, with special discounts throughout the day and more than 10 boutiques opening by 7 a.m., including fibre space, Pacers, The Shoe Hive, Red Barn Mercantile and Bloomers. Visit the website: visitalexandria.com/blackfriday or visit www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/holidays.

NOV. 29 TO DEC. 31

Winter Wonderland at The Alexandrian. 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. At The Alexandrian, 480 King Street, Alexandria. New this year, the Alexandrian and Jackson 20 will convert their central courtyard into a Winter Wonderland. The Winter Wonderland will be a destination for festive cocktails and small bites by a fire pit as well as holiday programming working with local community partners throughout the season. A percentage of all proceeds will be donated to Children's National. Visit the website: thealexandrian.com.

Christmas at Mount Vernon. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. At George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy., Mount Vernon. Holiday programs and tours fill each day with delight at George Washington's Mount Vernon. Visitors of all ages can tour the Mansion, watch 18th-century demonstrations and hear stories of Christmases past from costumed characters. Admission: \$20 for adults; \$12 for youth (ages 6-11); free for children

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 13



LAURA MAE SUDDER

Holiday Preparations

Courtney and Frances Elwood carrying Holiday Readiness Garland for the House

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT



The 25th Anniversary First Night in Old Town Alexandria takes place Tuesday, Dec. 31.

First Night in Alexandria

Tuesday/Dec. 31. 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. At venues throughout Old Town Alexandria. This 25th Anniversary Celebration is the largest New Year's Eve party in the D.C. region that is safe and fun for the entire family and culminates with a fantastic fireworks finale over the Potomac River at midnight. Kids Karnivals: 6 to 9 p.m. at four warm indoor venues in Old Town, Del Ray and the West End. Live Entertainment: 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. at warm indoor venues throughout Old Town Alexandria. Rockin' on the River: 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Waterfront Park, 1 King St., Alexandria. Midnight fireworks: Potomac River at the foot of King St., Alexandria. All Access Admission: \$25 through November 30, 2019; \$30 December 1-30, 2019; \$35 December 31, 2019; Kids Karnival is \$5 for children ages 2-12 and free for parents and infants. Call 703-963-3755 or visit firstnightalexandria.org.

FROM PAGE 12
age 5 and below; extra cost for some activities. Visit the website: mountvernon.org/christmas

SATURDAY/NOV. 30

Small Business Saturday Scavenger Hunt. 11 a.m. Old Town Business presents the first-ever Small Business Saturday Scavenger Hunt. Shop and dine in Old Town on November 30 starting at 11 a.m. until close and get your map stamped to win the grand prize. Visit 10 of your favorite businesses to be entered to win. No purchase is necessary. Every stamp after your first 10 is another entry into the raffle. Shoppers can download their map on the Old Town Business website.

DEC. 1-6

Holiday Market at Carlyle. Dec. 1 from 6-8 p.m.; Dec. 2-6 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. At John Carlyle Square Park, 300 John Carlyle St., Alexandria. Alexandria's Holiday Market is an annual signature event that transforms John Carlyle Square into a lively open-air festival, perfect for children young and old. On Dec. 1, Santa and Mrs. Claus and the town crier will ring in the season with a live appearance. The holiday market and festivities are sponsored by The Carlyle Vitality Initiative. Visit the website: thecarlylecommunity.com

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 5-7

"The Nutcracker." At West Potomac High School, 6500 Quander Road, Alexandria. Now in its 11th year, the West Potomac Academy Dance Program and Alexandria Community Nutcracker will present four performances of "The Nutcracker." Performances are scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 5; 6:30 p.m.; on Friday, December 6; and 2:30 and 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 7. Led by a team of directors, including Gennifer Difilippo (Alexandria Community Dance), Courtney Betzel (West Potomac Academy), and Adrienne Taylor (Above the Barre), this unique

adaptation includes music that incorporates traditional ballet dances, as well as jazz, contemporary, Hip Hop, Irish dancing, tap and gymnastics. The cast ranges from three-year olds to adult dancers performing ballet, pointe, lyrical, tap, jazz, modern, and gymnastics. Visit <https://www.alexandrianutcracker.com/>

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 6-7

The Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend. At various Old Town Alexandria locations. The Campagna Center presents the 49th Annual Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend and Parade. The parade is Dec. 7 at 11 a.m. and begins at St. Asaph and Wolfe Streets and concludes at Market Square with a massed band concert. Admission: Free for parade and Heather and Greens Sales; \$180-\$290 for Taste of Scotland; \$40 for Holiday Home Tours. In 1749, the City of Alexandria was officially established by three Scottish merchants and named after its original founder, John Alexander, also of Scottish descent. Through your support of the events of The Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend, you provide vital support to Campagna Center programs that serve more than 2,000 children, teens, and adults throughout the year. Visit the website: <https://www.campagnacenter.org/scottishwalkweekend>

DEC. 6-22

DRA Holiday Market. The Market is Dec. 6-8; Dec. 13-15; and Dec. 20-22. Hours are Fridays 6-9 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays 11 a.m.-6 p.m. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, Nicholas A. Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Del Ray Artisans Holiday Market offers unique handmade fine arts and crafts from local artists. The artists are presenting a variety of media, including botanical drawings, fiber/textiles, glass, jewelry, mixed media, mosaics, painting, paper crafting, photography, pottery/ceramics,

sculpture, watercolor, wood turning, and more. Different artists each weekend. Free admission. Visit the website: DelRayArtisans.org/event/holiday-market-2019

SATURDAY/DEC. 7

Cookie Walk. Noon to 3 p.m. At the Old Presbyterian Meeting House, 323 S. Fairfax Street, Alexandria. Walk around tables brimming with homemade cookies and fill a box (or 2) with goodies. Great for holiday parties. Cost is \$10/pound of cookies. Visit the website: <http://www.opmh.org/events/6th-annual-cookie-walk/>

Torpedo Factory Art Center

Holiday Festival. 2-8 p.m. At Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union Street, Alexandria. The Art Center joins in the fun on Alexandria's most festive holiday weekend of the year. Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive at 3:30 p.m. Music and singing fill the halls all evening. After sundown, the Holiday Boat Parade of Lights passes by The Art Center's doors. Visit artists on all three floors to find the perfect gift of art. Visit www.torpedofactory.org

Boat Parade of Lights. Parade begins at 5:30 p.m.; Dockside festivities 2 to 8 p.m. At Waterfront Park, 1 King Street, Alexandria. Parade viewing areas: Founders Park (351 N. Union St.), Alexandria City Marina (0 Cameron St.), Waterfront Park (1 King St. and 1A Prince St.), Point Lumley Park (1 Duke St.), Shipyard/Harborside Park (1 Wilkes St.), Windmill Hill Park (501 S. Union St.) and Ford's Landing Park (99 Franklin St.). Admission: Free; \$ for food/drink and some activities. Visit AlexandriaVA.com/boatparade Schedule in Old Town (2 to 8 p.m.)

- ❖ Holiday music and giveaways from 97.1 WASH-FM
- ❖ Letters to Santa postcard station from Penny Post
- ❖ Holiday ornament activity from AR Workshop Alexandria (2 to 4 p.m.)
- ❖ Bookmark making station from Old Town Books (4:30 to 8 p.m.)

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 14

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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center Creepy Carnival, Trunk or Treat Halloween Block Party



On Oct. 31, the Department of Recreation, Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center hosted their Creepy Carnival, Trunk or Treat Halloween Block party for the Alexandria community. This annual event continues to grow in numbers every year and even with the rainy forecast threatening to steal everyone's joy, it went off with a spooky bang.

Staff were dressed in their creepy carnival attire to bring the event to life and greet all their tiny guests dressed in so many different and creative costumes. From superheroes to characters from everyone's favorite Disney movies as well as the most original costumes, such as a toddler dressed like an old man with a walker and mustache.

The kids truly embraced their costumes to the fullest. There were

tons of delectable treats and creepy fun activities for everyone to enjoy.

One station taught tiny witches and warlocks how to make their own slime brew, other ninjas and princesses danced with glowing ghost, while many jumped around in our moon bounces and ran through our haunted bus screaming.

A creepy crawler show went on throughout the night and gave everyone a good and scary fright.

The children were so delighted to dance the night away to the DJ's monster mash and favorite tunes such as Thriller and Old Town Road.

For more information on programs and services offered through the Department of Recreation, please go to our website at <https://www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation>.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 13

- ❖ Torpedo Factory Art Center Holiday Festival
- ❖ Santa arrives by fireboat at the Alexandria City Marina (3:30 p.m.)
- ❖ Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights begins (5:30 p.m.)

SUNDAY/DEC. 8

Holidays on the Avenue in Del Ray. 6 p.m. At Pat Miller Neighborhood Square at Mount Vernon Avenue and E. Oxford Avenue, Alexandria. Kick off the holidays with a visit to Del Ray for the annual holiday tree and menorah lighting, featuring a special appearance by Santa Claus, who will lead carols and sit for photos with children. Continue the celebration and start your holiday shopping with a stroll down Mount Vernon Avenue, which will be illuminated by thousands of luminarias and feature storefront windows hand-painted for the holidays. Pick your favorite in the neighborhood business association's annual Christmas tree decorating contest. Visit the website: visitdelray.com

FRIDAY/DEC. 13

Holiday Sing-Along. 7:30 p.m. At Del Ray United Methodist Church, 100 E. Windsor Ave., Alexandria. Experience a jolly good time at the always popular – and free — Alexandria Holiday Sing-Along. You'll join in song with your neighbors as Conductor Mike Evans and the hometown Alexandria Citizens Band play your holiday favorites. Elisa Ravas will lead the singing. And to make it easy for everyone, we'll have the lyrics in brand new song books. Free tickets are available on eventbrite at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/alexandrias-annual-holiday-sing-along-free-tickets-79959949361>

TUESDAY/DEC. 31

First Night Alexandria. 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. At venues throughout Old Town Alexandria. This 25th Anniversary Celebration is the largest New Year's Eve party in the D.C. region that is

safe and fun for the entire family and culminates with a fantastic fireworks finale over the Potomac River at midnight. Kids Karnivals: 6 to 9 p.m. at four warm indoor venues in Old Town, Del Ray and the West End. Live Entertainment: 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. at warm indoor venues throughout Old Town Alexandria. Rockin' on the River: 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Waterfront Park, 1 King St., Alexandria. Midnight fireworks: Potomac River at the foot of King St., Alexandria. All Access Admission: \$25 through November 30, 2019; \$30 December 1-30, 2019; \$35 December 31, 2019; Kids Karnival is \$5 for children ages 2-12 and free for parents and infants. Call 703-963-3755 or visit firstnightalexandria.org.

Calendar

THURSDAY/NOV. 28

Thanksgiving Turkey Trot. 9 a.m. This fast, flat, USATF-certified course runs through the heart of Del Ray, and is the Mid-Atlantic's premiere Turkey Trot, featuring over 5,000 runners. The 5-mile run/walk goes through the heart of Del Ray, starting and ending at George Washington Middle School at the corner of Braddock Road and Mount Vernon Avenue. In recognition of his service to the City of Alexandria and the Del Ray community, Jack Taylor has been selected as the Grand Marshal. In the spirit of the holiday, runners and spectators are encouraged to bring two nonperishable food items on race day to support ALIVE!, a nonprofit serving Alexandria's needy. Visit www.alexandriaturkeytrot.com.

FRIDAY/NOV. 29

Christmas Tree Sale. At St. Aidan's Episcopal Church. At 8531 Riverside Road, Fort Hunt. St Aidan's begins its annual Christmas Tree Sale on Nov. 29. This event has become a community favorite. Proceeds from the sale go to support the underserved in the community as well as to local schools. In addition, the Tree Sale has become a fun event for local

families. While families casually browse our beautiful Fraser and Balsam Firs, they enjoy cookies and hot cider and the beautiful tree lot setup on Riverside Road.

SATURDAY/NOV. 30

Small Business Saturday. Celebrate Small Business Saturday in Old Town Alexandria with free parking at meters and several independently owned boutiques offering special in-store activities and promotions. Over 80 percent of businesses on King Street and throughout Old Town are independently owned. For every \$100 consumers spend at locally owned businesses, \$68 will stay in the community. Get to know local shop owners that offer personalized customer service with curated gift suggestions ranging from home décor, chic fashions, and gourmet food to classic toys and gifts for dogs.

Small Business Scavenger Hunt. 11 a.m. At select participating businesses in Old Town Alexandria. Shop and dine in Old Town starting at 11 a.m. until close and get your map stamped to win the grand prize. Visit 10 of your favorite businesses to be entered to win. No purchase is necessary. Every stamp after your first 10 is another entry into the raffle. Shoppers can download their map on the Old Town Business website at OldTownBoutiqueDistrict.com or OldTownBusiness.com.

SUNDAY/DEC. 1

Museum Store Sunday. 1 to 5 p.m. At Alexandria History Museum at the Lyceum; Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum; Gadsby's Tavern Museum; Alexandria Black History Museum; and Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site. The Museum Store Association has partnered with 1,200 museum stores representing all 50 states and 18 countries to promote this initiative. The items offered are expertly curated and tailored to the museum's experience. These include books, jewelry, children's products, home

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 15

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



A Watercolor Exhibition and Sale will be held Dec. 7-8 at Hollin Hall Senior Center in Alexandria.

Watercolor Exhibition

Dec. 7-8, **Sale.** Saturday 4-7 p.m.; Sunday noon to 4 p.m. At Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Local artists exhibit and offer for sale original watercolors. Many of the artists have displayed their work in venues throughout the District, Maryland and Virginia.

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT



The Boat Parade of Lights will be held Saturday, Dec. 7 in Old Town Alexandria.

Boat Parade of Lights

Saturday/Dec. 7. Parade begins at 5:30 p.m.; Dockside festivities 2 to 8 p.m. At Waterfront Park, 1 King Street, Alexandria. Parade viewing areas: Founders Park (351 N. Union St.), Alexandria City Marina (0 Cameron St.), Waterfront Park (1 King St. and 1A Prince St.), Point Lumley Park (1 Duke St.), Shipyard/Harborside Park (1 Wilkes St.), Windmill Hill Park (501 S. Union St.) and Ford's Landing Park (99 Franklin St.). Admission: Free; \$ for food/drink and some activities. Visit AlexandriaVA.com/boatparade

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 14

accessories, and gourmet food, which are inspired by collections or exhibits at the museum. Enjoy 20% off your purchase and a free gift at each location.

George Washington's Alexandria. 2-3:30 p.m. At the Torpedo Factory, 101 N. Union Street, Alexandria. Explore historic Old Town Alexandria as George Washington knew it. This 90-minute guided walking tour explores sites associated with Washington and his closest colleagues. The tour begins behind the Torpedo Factory's south entrance, in front of Vola's Dockside Grill. Free. No reservations required. Offered by the Office of Historic Alexandria. Contact 703-379-7460 or suej020924@gmail.com

Handel's Messiah. 3 p.m. Old Presbyterian Meeting House, 323 South Fairfax Street, Alexandria. The Meeting House Choir and Period-Instrument Orchestra will present Handel's immortal 1743 oratorio "Messiah" under the direction of Music Director Dr. Steven Seigart as part of the 2019-20 Concerts with a Cause series. Free. Visit the website: www.opmh.org.

MONDAY/DEC. 2

Garden Sprouts Playgroup. 10-11:30 a.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Preschoolers age 3 to 5 enjoy nature-themed toys and puzzles while their grown-ups have a chance to meet other playgroup parents. Different topics are explored through games, songs, activities and a garden walk. Cost is \$8 per child. Call 703-642-5173 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring.

Nature for Tiny Tots. 10-11 a.m. At Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Children age 2 to 3 1/2 work with their parents to learn about plants, animals, and nature habitats through songs, crafts, and activities. Cost is \$10 per child. Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 4

Wine and Art. 6:30 p.m. At Sonoma Cellar, 207 King Street, Alexandria. Featuring local artist and fine oil painter Lynn Mehta. Featuring five wines and five food pairs. Tickets are \$80. Get tickets at the website: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wine-tasting-and-artist-talk-to-benefit-the-alexandria-seaport-foundation-tickets-77901891655>

Children's Holiday Magic Show. 6:45-8 p.m. At Carlyle Club, 2050 Ballenger Ave., Alexandria. Presented by Danny Selnick of Ring 50 of the International Brotherhood of Magicians. This is a free event but children and attending adults are asked to bring a new toy or non-perishable food item.

THURSDAY/DEC. 5

Gadsby's Tavern Fundraiser. 6 p.m. At The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe Street, Alexandria. Gadsby's Tavern Museum Society is hosting a special performance of "A Christmas Carol." Enjoy a lovely family evening including a silent auction, appetizers and sweets, beverages including a champagne punch. Tickets are \$25. Reception at 6 p.m. with a Silent Auction and "A Christmas Carol" from 8-9:15 p.m. Free photo opportunities with Father Christmas. Visit the website <http://www.gadsbystavernmuseum.us/> or at 703-549-6242.

Kissing Ball Workshop. 6:30-8 p.m. At Lee-Fendall House Museum, 614 Oronoco St., Alexandria. Learn how to create your own traditional holiday kissing ball using fresh boxwood from the Lee-Fendall's own garden. The cost is \$20 per person. All materials are provided. Cost is \$20. A second Holiday Kissing Ball Workshop will take place on Sunday, Dec. 8 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Visit the website: www.leefendallhouse.org

DEC 5-21

"Squeakers & Mr. Gumdrop." At the Lab Theatre at Convergence, 1819 N.

Quaker Lane, Alexandria. One snowy morning, Mr. Gumdrop prepares for his annual holiday party. When an unexpected and curious mouse appears, Mr. Gumdrop's routine is thrown for a loop. Can these two wildly different characters work together to get the holiday preparations done in time? This nonverbal production captures the magic of making new friends and sharing ideas to accomplish big goals. Created for an audience of children ages 2-5. Show times are Dec. 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 13, 17, 18, 19, and 20 at 10:30 a.m.; Dec. 7, 14 and 21 at 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Tickets are \$10 for children and adults <http://www.artsonthehorizon.org> or at the door on the day of the performance.

DEC. 6-7

Holiday Pops Concert. Dec. 6-7 at 7:30 p.m.; and 2 p.m. Saturday. At Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Alexandria Singers 'Celebrate!' Holiday Pops Concert. Join the Alexandria Singers for their annual holiday pops concert weekend as they weave pop and jazz arrangements of traditional holiday classics with new tunes that will instantly become your holiday favorites. Admission: \$25 premium reserved seating; \$20 general admission; \$15 for groups of 10+, seniors, military and students; free for children 5 and under. alexandriasingers.com

DEC. 6-8

Holiday Ceramics Sale. Pop-up Shop Hours: Friday, noon - 8 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Sunday, noon - 5 p.m. At 722 King Street (formerly Geranio's), Old Town Alexandria. This highly anticipated pop-up shop features hundreds of original works by new and experienced artists in the ceramics program. Some stained glass and jewelry items will also be on offer. Visit www.theartleague.org or call 703-683-1780.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MSA

Frosty at the Santa Spectacular by the Metropolitan School of Arts.

Metropolitan School of the Arts Spreads Holiday Cheer

BY DENISE LEW
THE CONNECTION

Upcoming Performances

The Metropolitan School of the Arts rings in the holiday season with "Santa Spectacular" shows in Alexandria, Springfield and the National Harbor in the next few weeks until Christmas. A full production of The Nutcracker Ballet will be held at the Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center in Annandale on Saturday, Dec. 7 and Sunday, Dec. 8. The "Santa Spectacular" features popular holiday characters including Santa, Rudolph, Frosty and friends in a 25-minute show, with a brand new number called "Peppermint Stick Parade." The school will perform at charities and communities during the holiday season. Founder of the college preparatory performing arts school, Melissa Dobbs, says she hopes that audience members will "leave performances feeling uplifted, inspired and full of joy."

Now in its 15th year, The Nutcracker production will feature professional guest artist Stephen Hannah, former principal dancer from the New York

Santa Spectacular shows (free): Nov. 30, 11:30 a.m. at National Harbor in Washington, D.C.; Dec. 20 at 6:30 p.m. at the Springfield Town Center; and Dec. 22 at 12 and 1 p.m. at the Kingstowne Town Center.

The Nutcracker Ballet: Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center, 8333 Little River Turnpike on Sat., Dec. 7 and Sun., Dec. 8; 12:00 p.m. and 5 p.m. both days. Tickets at www.metropolitanarts.org

City Ballet, and nearly 130 young dancers. A number of participants are from Fairfax County, including Anya Jones and Danielle Jones, who both play Clara, and Jacqueline Doherty, who is the artistic director.

Dobbs founded the school 20 years ago while trying to find a quality dance program for her daughter. "I hope that Metropolitan brings joy to the lives of our community through the arts. Whether by way of taking a dance class, learning to sing or play piano or watching The Nutcracker, my goal is for anyone and everyone who encounters MSA to leave with a heart full of light and joy," said Dobbs.

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Promises of a Blue VA: 'A House for all Virginians'

Democrats continue to focus on education, transportation and economic equality issues.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE GAZETTE

On the evening of Nov. 5, 2019, voters in Virginia paved the way for a historic legislative shift from red to blue in January 2020 when the Virginia General Assembly convenes. Democrats had turned the tables resulting in Democratic State House and Democratic State Senate whirlwinds as members selected their leaders, sensitive to culture, gender and geographic diversity in Virginia. Democrats have pre-filed priority bills and a resolution for the January Session, to create an early voting system, universal background checks/gun safety, housing nondiscrimination for LGBTQ+ and ratification for the Equal Rights Amendment. They pledged to work on current critical needs in education, transportation and economic equality issues.

"We will be walking our own new path moving forward, of (a) Virginia that represents & listens to all people no matter what they look like, the color of their skin, the language they speak at home, the religion they practice or not, or who they love," tweeted House Speaker-designee Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41).

All 40 seats in the Virginia State Senate and all 100 seats in the Virginia House of Delegates had been up for grabs in the 161st Virginia General Assembly and Virginia Democrats picked up four House District seats, 40 (in Fairfax County), 76, 83 and 94 defeating the four Republican incumbents. Democrats won two other House seats, 28 and 91 in open races. They also picked up two State Senate seats, 10 and 13.

The Democrats would have full control of the state legislature when the Virginia General Assembly session convened on Jan. 8, 2020. All three arms of the state's government would be theirs. With the newfound power of a blue-controlled lower chamber of the Virginia Assembly alongside the Virginia State Senate coupled with a blue Governor's mansion, Democrats could pass their agenda Republicans blocked for years including gun safety, higher minimum



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Lisa Sales, Equal Rights Amendment activist, State Sen. Jennifer Boyoko (D-33), Kathy Stewart Shupe, Virginia Equal Right Coalition and activist Sonia Ballinger focus on Virginia ratification of the ERA.

wage and ratification of the Equal Right Amendment.

This also allows Democrats to wrest back control of the redistricting process after the 2020 Census, the shifting and drawing of the new maps for congressional and state legislative districts.

Democratic Agenda

The day after the election with new Democratic power base on the horizon in the state legislature, Governor Northam (D) told CNN's John Berman on "New Day" he planned to reintroduce a slate of "common-sense pieces of legislation" for gun control. "Getting rid of bump stocks, high volume magazines, red flag laws (extreme risk protective orders). I will reintroduce those in January, and I'm convinced with the majority now in the House and the Senate, they will become law. And because of that, Virginia will be safer... Another issue that is very important is women's reproductive health care and stopping the discrimination against the LGBTQ community," Governor Northam said.

Later that day, Governor Northam met with his cabinet and reporters. "Virginia is blue, and I want everyone to know that," he said. Northam stated he wanted to bring back eight bills in January, including decriminalizing marijuana, increasing support for early childhood education, more training for high schoolers to enter the

workforce, and reducing the recidivism rate. In addition, Northam said he hoped the Equal Rights Amendment would be brought to a floor vote and thought progress could be made with raising the minimum wage.

Caucus Leadership Elected

On Saturday, Nov. 9, the new House Democratic Majority Leadership announced the election of Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41) as Speaker-designee. The full House of Delegates would officially vote the first day of the 2020 legislative session. The House also announced Del. Charniele Herring (D-46) as Majority Leader. She became the first woman and the first African American to serve as Majority Leader. And they elected Del. Rip Sullivan (D-48) as Caucus Chair.

"Not only did Virginia just elect the most diverse House of Delegates in its 400-year history, but House Democrats have made history again by nominating a diverse leadership slate to truly represent Virginia," said House Democratic Caucus Executive Director Trevor Southerland. "Finally, we will be able to move forward with a House for All Virginians."

"We are a unified caucus with the shared priority to move our Commonwealth forward, address our most critical challenges, and ensure transparency for all Virginians," said Speaker-designee Filler-Corn. "We are stepping up to lead and understand the value of making our schools better, our communities stronger, our economy fairer, and our Commonwealth the envy of all the states. The firsts are not lost on me - the first woman and the first Jewish person elected Speaker designee in our 400-year

Legislators on Expectations, Priorities

The Connection asked local Virginia State Senators and Delegates:

- ❖ What changes do the 2019 election results bring to the General Assembly?
- ❖ What do you see as the top five legislative priorities in the next session?
- ❖ What are your personal legislative priorities in the next session, and what are their prospects to pass in General Assembly?

Delegate Ibraheem Samirah (D-86)

"It's hard to understate how unprecedented the 2019 results are for the General Assembly and the Commonwealth. This could be the first time in modern history, really, when we will have a law-making majority that holds basic progressive values like fairness, inclusion, equity and the pursuit of justice for all. We will also have the most diverse General Assembly in Virginia's history.

For the new majority as a whole, I think ratifying the ERA, strengthening voting rights, raising the minimum wage, preventing gun violence, and fair redistricting are at the top of the list. I hope to also move the conversation around affordable and available housing, workers' rights and the legalization of marijuana, including expungement of records.

As a medical professional, reining in the cost of healthcare and improving public health more broadly are my top priorities. I've already introduced legislation this month that is aimed at improving maternal health and mental health. I have more legislation on the way that will work to make affordable, quality health insurance a possibility for uninsured and underinsured Virginians. I'm also planning to help address the outrageous price of prescription drugs. If these ideas get a fair hearing, and the overwhelming evidence around why the healthcare system is so expensive is heard, I think these bills will be able to move through the General Assembly."

Senator Barbara Favola (D-31)-Incoming Chair of Rehabilitation & Social Services:

"The Democratic majorities will honor Virginia's history as a forebearer to the Bill of Rights and a state that included an equality amendment in its own constitution by ratifying the ERA. This will be a momentous occasion. Gun safety measures such as universal background checks and red-flag bills will pass, a women's constitutional right to privacy as defined in Roe v Wade will be protected, and important criminal justice reform measures will pass.

I will be submitting legislation to require paid sick days. Too many families are struggling because they cannot care for themselves or their sick children. I will also be submitting legislation to protect a patient from high medical care bills if he/she received emergency care from out-of-network providers. In collaboration with the Zero Carbon Virginia group, I will be implementing important actions to address climate change. Voters spoke very strongly in 2019 about the need for a new direction in the criminal justice system. One piece of legislation that I have continually sponsored is the expungement of non-violent felony convictions from the records of juveniles. I am confident that this legislation will now pass.

It is noteworthy that the composition of the General Assembly more closely reflects the diversity of our great state, and women are taking their place in the power structure.

ians," said Speaker-designee Filler-Corn. "We are stepping up to lead and understand the value of making our schools better, our communities stronger, our economy fairer, and our Commonwealth the envy of all the states. The firsts are not lost on me - the first woman and the first Jewish person elected Speaker designee in our 400-year

legislative history. ..We have the most diverse House Caucus in our history, which includes cultural, gender and geographic diversity. It also means diversity of experience and perspectives on issues that affect Virginians in all regions.

SEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.
PAGE 17

Change in the General Assembly

FROM PAGE 16

Our work will not be easy, but I am prepared and eager to serve the people of the Great Commonwealth of Virginia alongside Majority Leader-elect Herring, Democratic Caucus Chair-Elect Sullivan and all of our colleagues," Filler-Corn said.

Del. Mark Levine (D-45) posted, "This is the most diverse caucus that there has ever been in the General Assembly's 400-year history. No General Assembly majority has ever looked more like the people of Virginia than the current House Democratic majority."

Transition Team Announced

As the days after the election rolled forward, on Nov. 14, the blue wave surged. Speaker-designee Filler-Corn announced her transition team, 18 key advisors, to assist as she transitioned into the office of Speaker of the House of Delegates. She selected Wayne Turnage as Chair and Suzette Denslow as Transition Staff Director. She chose other members for her team, including Walter Tejada, a member of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority Board of Directors and Ilryong Moon of Fairfax, the first Asian American elected to a public office in Virginia. "People across the Commonwealth told us they wanted to move our Commonwealth forward, address our most critical challenges and ensure transparency for all Virginians," posted Filler-Corn. "I am truly honored to have guidance from these leaders from across Virginia to develop leadership to make our schools better, our communities stronger and our economy more fair."

Chairs of Key Legislative Committees

House Speaker-designee Filler-Corn announced her picks for the key legislative committees in a news release Thursday, Nov. 14. Choices reflected racial, gender and geographic diversity of the Democratic caucus. She named Del. Luke Torian, (D-52), as chair of the Appropriations Committee; Del. Jeion Ward, (D-92), as chair of the Commerce and Labor Committee; and Del. Roslyn Tyler, (D-75), as chair of the Education Committee. All three are members of the black caucus. House Filler-Corn also announced Del. Vivian Watts, (D-39), as chair of the Finance Committee. "These impressive leaders will be important al-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Senate Democratic Press Conference on ERA, Senate Finance Committee, Harrisonburg, Va., Thursday, Nov. 21.

lies as we shape our policy agenda for the commonwealth in 2020 and beyond."

First Bills and Resolution Filed

Shortly after midnight on Monday, Nov. 18, Democratic lawmakers began to file bills minutes into the opening date of pre-filing for the 2020 General Assembly session. State Sen. Jennifer L. McClellan (D-9) submitted her first legislation moments after filing season opened at midnight, putting passage of the ERA at the symbolic head of the list for that chamber.

The weekend after the filing, Democratic Caucus Chair Rip Sullivan (D-48) shared his thoughts on party's intention for the first three House Bills and resolution, "We tried to send a signal of our highest priorities, in terms of the top," he said.

Democrats filed:

- ❖ HB1: No-excuse in-person and mail absentee voting; Patron: Del. Charniele Herring (D-46).

- ❖ HB2: Universal background checks; Patron: Del. Ken Plum (D-36). This bill would require universal background checks for any firearm sales or transfers.

- ❖ HB3: LGBTQ+ Housing Non-discrimination; Patron: Del. Delores McQuinn (D-70). The bill defined sexual orientation and gender identity.

- ❖ HJ1: Equal Rights Amendment; Patron: Del. Jennifer Carroll Foy (D-2) ratifies the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution of the United States proposed by Congress in 1972. "Today, I filed a resolution to have Virginia be the 38th and final state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution for the upcoming 2020 General Assembly session. It's time to be on the right side of history. It's time to finally ratify the #ERA," Foy tweeted.

VA Senate Democrats Elect leadership

On Nov. 20, VA Senate Democrats elected leadership ahead of the 2020 legislative session.

From the Senate Democratic Caucus:

- Sen. Dick Saslaw (D-Fairfax)- Majority Leader

- Sen. Mamie Locke (D- Hampton)-Caucus Chair

- Sen. Scott Surovell (D-Mount Vernon) Caucus Vice Chair

- Sen. Jeremy McPike (Prince William)- Caucus Vice Chair

- Sen. Barbara Favola (D- Arlington) Caucus Co-Whip

- Sen. Lionell Spruill (D-Chesapeake) Caucus Co-Whip

- Sen. Jennifer McClellan (D-Richmond)- Caucus Secretary

- Sen-elect Ghazala Hashni (D-Chesterfield)- Caucus Treasurer

- Sen. Jennifer Boysko (D-Fairfax)- Caucus Sergeant at Arms

- Sen. Louise Lucas (D-Portsmouth)-President Pro Tempore-designee (first African American and the first woman to serve as President Pro Tempore)

Senate Democrats announced Committee Chairs for the 2020 legislative session:

- Agriculture, Conservation & Natural Resources: Senator Chap Petersen (D-Fairfax City)

- Commerce & Labor Committee: Senator Dick Saslaw (D-Fairfax)

- Courts of Justice: Senator John Edwards (D-Roanoke)

- Education & Health: Senator L. Louise Lucas (D-Portsmouth)

- Finance: Senator Janet Howell (D-Fairfax)

- Rules: Senator Mamie E. Locke (D-Hampton)

- Rehabilitation & Social Services: Senator Barbara Favola (D-Arlington)

- General Laws: Senator George Barker (D-Fairfax)

- Local Government: Senator Lynwood Lewis (D-Accomack)

- Transportation: Senator Dave Marsden (D-Fairfax)

- Privileges & Elections: Senator Creigh Deeds (D-Bath)

With the appointment of State Senator Janet Howell (D- Fairfax) as incoming Chairwoman of the Senate Finance Committee and Del. Luke Torian (D-Prince William) as chair of the House Appropriations Committee, the state's purse strings and its power rested in Northern Virginia.

On Nov. 21, incoming House Speaker Filler-Corn announced decisions for Chairs of two additional committees Del. Mark Sickles (D-43)- Health, Welfare & Institutions Committee and Del. Delores McQuinn (D-70) Transportation Committee.

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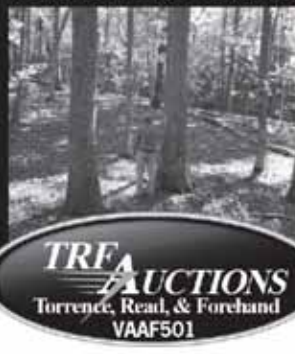
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Lost in the Shuffle



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As difficult as the last few weeks have been, with Chino's at-home hospice-type care and ultimate passing, and the "Catch-22 A" realities of "reverse-mortgaging" my house "perplexed" by the "derelict" stable/shed on my property, my upcoming quarterly CT scan hasn't even "blipped" the radar. Though it will have occurred already by the time this column prints, it's quite possible, due to the Thanksgiving holiday, its results won't be known for much longer, 12 days in fact, than has been customary. And so far, between my wife, Dina and I, none of this has even been discussed. Yet, as I sit and write on Sunday, the scan is on Wednesday, three days away. Close enough to where it should have been front and center instead of where it's been: back and off to the side.

But so what, really? My attitude is, and has always been, to quote John, a close friend: "It is what it is, and it will be what it will be." By the time I slide forth and back under the CT scan's arch, or earlier I imagine, the damage to my body such as it is - or isn't, will have been done. Either the cancer has grown/spread or it hasn't. Certainly hearing and/or reading results from the oncologist will confirm facts at present not in evidence but there is, without being particularly negative about my circumstances, an inevitability to it. One day, my amazing nearly 11-year run is going to come to a walk and eventually to a lie-down. And I will deal with it when the time/results come. In the interim however, this next scan is merely another stop on the less-than Merry Go 'Round.

I don't mean to make light of an extremely heavy burden that we cancer patients have to carry: the prospect of death. As Lee J. Cobb said in "The Exorcist": "I only mention it in passing." Cancer causes enough internal problems (physically), one doesn't need, if possible - and so far for me, it has been possible, to cause external (emotional) problems as well. Maybe it's a kind of resignation or some kind of accommodation or acceptance of reality that has enabled this one to have lived so long beyond my original "13 month to two-year" prognosis (offered up on Feb. 27, 2009), an accomplishment I am proud to say occasionally has led to my oncologist showing me off to his medical students; his prize cow I call myself.

Honestly, what's the point, really? I'm only in control of so much. Focusing on things I can't control seems a waste of time and energy. Life is precious. Why dwell on things beyond my reach? Grasping at straws, if you can even find one, is likewise counter-productive. And setting oneself up for failure or disappointment is counter-intuitive almost. Why do that? The cancer is already causing enough havoc in your body. Don't let it affect your mind too. "Piling on," as the NFL referees used to call this major infraction. Now I believe its called "Unnecessary Roughness." For cancer patients, doing anything, physically or emotionally to hasten your demise/adversely affect your quality of life is most definitely unnecessary roughness and should be penalized.

Learning to live with what ails you seems a more prudent plan than "woeing" is me or bemoaning the process. Sure we'd all love to be on the President's plan where you're examined in the morning, scanned in the afternoon and operated on in the evening. But none of us are on the plan and wishing we were, to quote Jean Luc Picard from "Star Trek: Next Generation," is not going to "Make it so." But I can live with that. I have lived with that - for almost 11 years now, and counting. I'll learn the results from my scan soon enough. Good or bad, life goes on. To quote my friend John's daughter, Melanie: "Whatever."

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

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

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Meetings in 2019

12000 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, VA 22035
Dec. 3, , 2019 9:30 a.m. - Full Board of Supervisors Meeting
Dec. 10 Committee Meetings
♦ 9:30 a.m. - Health, Housing and Human Services Committee
♦ 11 a.m. - Development Process Committee
♦ 1:30 p.m. - Transportation Committee
♦ 3 p.m. - General Assembly Annual Reception and Work Session

Lee District Playground Renovation to Begin

The Fairfax County Park Authority will soon begin work to install a new playground and shade structure at Lee District ReCenter located at 6601 Telegraph Road, Franconia. The contractor, Southern Asphalt and GameTime, will be mobilizing on site shortly with active construction activities beginning in mid-November. This project includes the demolition and removal of the existing playground and shade structure, installation of new playground equipment and shade structure, sidewalk improvements and related site work. Active construction is anticipated to be completed by the end of March 2020. The project is funded by bond funds and profers and has a budget of \$260,000. For details, contact the Project Manager, Kelly Davis at kelly.davis@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-324-8609.

Holiday Sharing Program

The Alexandria Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) invites the public to make the 2019 holiday season brighter for the most vulnerable members of the community — low-income families, foster children, seniors and residents with disabilities. Through the annual Holiday Sharing Program, coordinated by the Fund for Alexandria's Child, sponsors purchase gifts for eligible families and individuals, which are distributed by DCHS staff and volunteers. Gifts of household necessities, clothing, toys and gift cards help ensure that no Alexandrians are left without during the holidays. Residents can sign up to sponsor at <https://apps.alexandriava.gov/HolidaySharing>. Donation checks can be made payable to The Fund for Alexandria's Child, or to the DCHS Senior Fund, and mail to: Holiday Sharing Program, 2525 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22301. The deadline for sponsoring individuals and families is Nov. 29, 2019. Visit alexandriava.gov/HolidaySharing or call 703-746-5663.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Assistance League of Northern Virginia, a volunteer nonprofit, invites community members to join the organization to participate in its Reading Express program. Volunteers provide one-on-one tutoring to first grade students during the school year. To learn more contact VP Membership Mary Gronlund at gronbiz@aol.com or Program Coordinator Lynn Barron at lynnieb517@verizon.net.

United Community (formerly UCM), with main office located 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 email volunteer@ucmagency.org.

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

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4329 Tarpon Ln | \$635,000

One of Yacht Haven Estates most admired properties is now available! Absolutely gorgeous home and grounds widely regarded as one of the communities most meticulously maintained properties! Features include: gorgeous hardwood floors, thermal replacement windows, heat, hot water, fireplace, and cooking are all natural gas. Recently installed vinyl siding and exterior doors including garage door. Custom 2 tier deck with access from Master Bedroom and main level lead to brick

patio overlooking magnificent large rear grounds. Gigantic rear yard with shed is a gardeners dream. Rare opportunity to find such a meticulously maintained turn key home!

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4PM! JUST LISTED!



9335 Brambly Ln

Spacious updated home on absolutely gorgeous .80 acre grounds. Open floor plan and large windows capitalize on surrounding natural beauty and privacy provided by its magnificent setting. The home has been substantially updated and its special features include: large room sizes, replacement thermal windows, hardwood floors, elegant trim detail, upgraded master suite, and Kitchen with granite counter tops, stainless appliances, and gas cooking True oversize 2 car

garage. Custom brick & stone patios/walk ways to enhance the beautiful private natural setting. Amazing home and grounds locate at the end of a quiet cul-de-sac for exceptionally attractive price!

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4PM! JUST LISTED!



9346 Mt. Vernon Cir | \$849,500

Just listed in Mount Vernon on the Potomac, the area's premier waterfront community! Unique three level colonial with stately columned front portico, reminiscent of the neighboring Mt. Vernon Estate. The interior presents exceptionally large room sizes and excellent floor plan. Amazing opportunity to customize to make this home truly your own! Additional special features include: gorgeous stained hardwood floors, "Marvin" replacement windows, 2 fireplaces, newer gas heat and hot

water heater, true oversize two car garage, large deck off family room overlooks private rear grounds. Walk to nearby marina & community waterfront area. Mt. Vernon on the Potomac is the only community in the area with these facilities for the exclusive use of its residence!

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4PM! JUST LISTED!



4112 Ferry Landing Rd | \$833,900

Absolutely the most house for the money in prime Mt. Vernon location! Exceptionally spacious approx 5,000 sq ft colonial at end of quiet lane in the heart of Mt. Vernon. This home was custom built in 2003 for its only owner and is loaded with upgraded items and amenities. Special features include: dramatic 2 story entry foyer, open floor plan with spacious kitchen/family room combination, spectacular bright main level sun room, 4 BR's and 3 full baths on upper level, huge finished

lower level with rec room, guest room, and full bath. Amazing outdoor scene includes, private back yard with oversize custom stone patio & hot tub. Unique combination of size, custom features, & location compare favorably to properties selling for substantially more!

JUST LISTED!



4296 Neitzey Pl
\$1,776,000

Truly spectacular estate in premier setting near the river in prestigious Oxford on the Potomac. Custom home capitalizes on its location with soaring high ceilings, glass walls and multi-level decks designed to capture sweeping views of the river & adjoining

wooded areas. Special features include: multi-story entry foyer, grand room sizes, elegant interior finishes, elevator, truly breathtaking master suite with dramatic river views, and his & hers private baths. Nothing was spared in creating this unique, one of a kind masterpiece!

POTOMAC RIVER VIEWS!



4116 Ferry Landing Rd
\$910,000

Truly stunning property! Almost 5,000 luxuriously finished square feet built in 2011 by Brookfield Homes. This "Waverly Model" contains virtually every modern amenity and is loaded with custom upgrades. Special features include: 4 finished levels, spectacular open floor plan, high

ceilings, custom Chef's kitchen, upgraded trim details, hardwood floors, 6 Bedrooms with huge master suite, finished lower level with bedroom, full bath, fireplace, bar and walk out stairs. No expense was spared on exterior landscaping with custom deck & stone patio with fireplace as well as children's playground. Combination of size, custom features and prime location impossible to duplicate for under \$1 Million. One of a kind opportunity!

VIRTUALLY NEW!



4313 Neptune Dr
\$645,000

SOLD!

Character abounds in this fabulous new Yacht Haven listing. Premier setting on beautifully landscaped half acre grounds in the heart of one of Mt. Vernon's leading water front communities. The home has been lovingly maintained by long term owner and has many significant updates including replacement thermal windows. Other special features include: gorgeous refinished hardwood floors on two main levels, large sun room and screen porch, master bedroom with private balcony, finished basement, attractive front porch, and garage parking. Amazing outdoor scene with large screen porch and oversize deck overlooking beautiful private grounds. Walk to nearby Mt. Vernon Yacht Club.

CONTRACT IN 1ST WEEKEND!



3717 Carriage House Ct
\$889,000

SOLD

Uniquely spectacular property in prestigious Riverwood community. One of the area's premier communities, bordering Mt. Vernon Estate on one side and the Potomac river on the other! No expense spared in updating & expanding the

residence resulting in an incredibly dramatic property! Major additions include a truly spectacular great room featuring soaring cathedral ceiling, 6 sky lights, floor to ceiling "Andersen" windows, gas fireplace, and custom 8 ft "Andersen" glass doors. Other special features include: sun room, family room off kitchen, four large bedrooms on upper level, finished lower level, and true oversize 2 car garage. Stunning 37 x 25 ft custom deck overlooks beautifully manicured grounds. A truly special property!

RIVERWOOD GEM!



4749 Neptune Dr
\$995,000

SOLD!

Significant price adjustment! A true estate caliber property! Spacious custom home nestled on beautifully manicured 3/4 acre grounds near river in prestigious Yacht Haven Estates! Home was carefully crafted with extensive covered verandas and elevated decks to capitalize on the privacy and serenity provided by

gorgeous large wooded and lush environment. The home's special featured include: 3 beautifully finished levels, 5 Bedrooms, stately living and dining rooms, large family room with fireplace, and stunning custom chef's kitchen. Numerous glass doors lead from major rooms to outside verandas, ideal for entertaining! Lot is large enough to accommodate spacious custom pool + extensive grassy area. Unique property providing character & graciousness that would be very difficult to

INCREDIBLE GROUNDS!



9316 Old Mansion Rd
\$950,000

SOLD!

Totally unique location. One of the few area properties that provides direct Potomac river views. Enjoy the same sweeping river views that George Washington did from Mt. Vernon Estate which is just upriver from this special property! Other special features include:

beautifully manicured grounds backing to private parkland with community path leading to river. The home is an attractive three level colonial featuring 3 levels, 4 bedrooms on upper level, bright white kitchen, two car garage, walk out lower level and large deck providing elevated private views of woods and river. A true natural wonderland!

POTOMAC RIVER VIEWS!



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