



Peter Scoma, 10, and Ted E. Bear (or Teddy Bear).

Ted E. Bear

Peter Scoma, 10, Washington Mill Elementary School, age 10, grade 5. I have always known our dog, Ted E. Bear (or Teddy Bear). He is a white rambunctious Pomeranian fluff ball. Sometimes my father tells my brother and I that he is our older brother. I guess, because when we were toddlers we three always played together. He is twelve years old, about two years older than I am. I am ten year old.

He is a lovable dog and he loves to meet new people. He is also very smart, he knows 15 words (commands).

Peter's first word was not mommy or daddy, but "Teddy, Teddy."

Dad Greg Scoma adds to the story:

Teddy has advanced heart failure. Early on, when we didn't know of Teddy's illness

we had to take him to the Vet's Emergency room.

Since his diagnosis, my wife, Rodica, has been really in tune with Teddy, balancing his medicine each day and giving us instruction to care for him while she is at work. Rodica, works for INOVA Mount Vernon. So Teddy making it this far (many months) is really because of her care.

Regardless how ill we know he is, he welcomes us home wagging his tail with a seeming smile on his face. We value each day we have with him.

So, maybe the lesson is to live each day in the moment. Enjoy and let your loved ones know you love them by spending at least a few minutes wholly paying attention to them, don't worry about what you cannot control, and follow the Golden Rule.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/THE GAZETTE

Del. Cia Price (D-95) appears at a press conference to announce a bill creating an advisory panel to suggest legislative districts to the General Assembly, a proposal that may end up torpedoing efforts to pass a constitutional amendment creating a bipartisan commission to draw maps.

Mapmaking Politics

Legislative Black Caucus leads effort to undermine redistricting amendment.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE GAZETTE

Virginia has a horrible history with racial gerrymandering. It started with the ratification of the Constitution, an effort led by Virginians who wanted to count slaves as three-fifths of a person so representation in the south wouldn't suffer because so many of its inhabitants were non-voting enslaved people. It continued all the way to 2011, when the Republican leaders engaged in a scheme of packing black voters into House districts to dilute their influence elsewhere, a plan the United States Supreme Court later determined was unconstitutional. Now members of the Legislative Black Caucus are worried a proposed amendment might enshrine racial

gerrymandering into the Virginia Constitution.

"We have great concerns about having African-American representation in the room for redistricting," said Del. Lamont Bagby (D-74), chairman of the Legislative Black Caucus, when the amendment was first proposed last year. "This doesn't guarantee that."

Now Democrats are in a bind. They overlooked concerns of the Legislative Black Caucus last year, striking a deal with Republicans to support a constitutional amendment that creates a bi-partisan commission to draw legislative districts. Then they campaigned on the issue and won majorities in the House and Senate.

Now the politics have shifted, and members of the Legislative Black Caucus are leading the fight to defeat the amendment. They argue that the language of the

amendment says membership of the mapmaking commission should "consider" race rather than requiring racial diversity. House leadership may end the General Assembly session this year without even bringing the amendment to the floor for a vote, opting instead to create an advisory panel that would make recommendations lawmakers would be free to ignore.

"It's disgraceful. These folks ran on the issue," said Sen. Mark Obenshain (R-26). "They told people across the commonwealth of Virginia that they supported the Constitutional amendment. They got elected on the basis of supporting it, and if they turn their backs on their constituents there's going to be a price to pay."

THE POLITICS of redistricting
SEE MAPMAKING, PAGE 4

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General Assembly Passes Bills to Combat Human Trafficking

BY RODNEY ROBINSON
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE
RICHMOND, VA.

The General Assembly has passed two identical bills intended to help social workers in the fight against minor-involved human trafficking. The bills, introduced by House Majority Leader Charniele L. Herring, D-Alexandria, and Sen. Mark Obenshain, R-Rockingham, were recommended by the Virginia State Crime Commission.

"I am thrilled that this bill passed," Fay Chelmow, president of ImPACT Virginia, an organization that aims to prevent human trafficking, said in an email. "Family controlled human trafficking is so much more common than people think."

The legislation allows local social services departments to interview the reported child victims or their siblings without the consent and presence of a parent or legal guardian, school personnel or an individual standing in place of a parent.

"This bill not only increases a minor's chance to access safety but acknowledges their autonomy, resiliency and capacity for

self-determination," Chelmow said. "A minor's assent is crucially important for their healing from the polyvictimization sustained at the hands of their traffickers and buyers."

Human trafficking, considered modern-day slavery, involves the use of force, fraud or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act, according to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Sex trafficking is when a trafficker exhibits control over the victim in exchange for performing sex acts. Traffickers recruit at locations such as middle and high schools, courthouses, foster care, group homes, bus stations, shelters, bars, restaurants, shopping malls and social media sites, according to the Virginia State Crime Commission. The agency concludes that child sex trafficking intersects with other problems such as drug addiction, runaway youth, child abuse, domestic violence and gang activity.

Human trafficking victims are forced into a wide range of labor sectors, ranging from sweat shops and field work to domestic service, according to ICE. By U.S. law, a person under the age of 18 engaged in prostitution is a victim of traf-

ficking, the agency said.

As of June 30, 2019, there were 98 human trafficking cases reported to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline that mentioned Virginia, according to the organization. In 2018, the hotline received 198 human trafficking reports that referenced Virginia, up from 158 cases that mentioned the commonwealth the previous year. The commonwealth's location along major highways and its international airports make it vulnerable to human trafficking activity, according to Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring. In 2017, Virginia ranked No. 4 in the top 10 of federal court districts where criminal sex trafficking cases were prosecuted involving children.

The legislation also changes the name from sex trafficking assessments to human trafficking assessments. This evaluation helps identify potential and existing victims of human trafficking.

Kristen J. Howard, executive director for the Virginia State Crime Commission said Herring and Obenshain's bills change the classification from sex trafficking to human trafficking, to "more accurately describe the assessments since they also involve labor

trafficking victims and not just victims of sex trafficking."

An assessment is conducted to determine the immediate safety needs of the child, the extent of needed protective and rehabilitative services, and risk of future harm to the child.

Howard said she is "very happy" to see the legislation pass both chambers. In 2018, the commission conducted a large, comprehensive study defining sex trafficking, detailing how victims wind up in the sex industry, and making overall recommendations on how Virginia should change legislation to combat human trafficking.

This study led to a 2019 legislative package of eight bills. Legislators passed a total of seven bills to help tackle sex trafficking. The bills included the establishment of the Virginia Prevention of Sex Trafficking fund, allowed for the use of two-way closed-circuit television in testimony by child victims and witnesses in sex trafficking cases, established class 6 felony charges for sex trafficking offenses involving a minor, and created a sex trafficking response coordinator within the Department of Criminal Justice Services.

General Assembly Snuffs Marijuana Legalization Hopes for Now

Advances marijuana decriminalization proposals by Herring and Ebbin.

BY MAIA STANLEY
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE
RICHMOND, VA.

Going into the 2020 legislative session, advocates say Democratic leaders had an ambitious marijuana reform agenda. By crossover day, several decriminalization bills passed their respective chambers, but hopes of legalization went up in smoke. Lawmakers, who say that the state isn't ready for legalization yet, advanced decriminalization bills, incorporated a bulk of the measures and continued legalization measures to 2021.

House Bill 972, introduced by House Majority Leader Charniele Herring, D-Alexandria, will decriminalize simple possession of marijuana, replacing the current punishment of a maximum \$500 fine and 30 days in jail with a \$25 maximum fine and no criminal charges or jail time. Substance abuse screening and loss of driving privileges for marijuana possession would be enacted for juveniles. Opponents say the bill unfairly punishes juveniles more than adults. Herring's bill incorporates three other decriminalization and possession bills. Police would handle the possession charge much like a summons for motor vehicle law violations, and no court costs would be incurred. The bill also mandates that previous simple possession convictions, charges and arrest records would be sealed.

"To legalize it now would not be good,



Herring



Ebbin

"To legalize it now would not be good."

— House Majority Leader Charniele Herring

but this hopefully would take us one step closer to reducing the arrest and jailing of people for simple possession," Herring said during the third reading of the bill. The legislation passed with a 64-34 vote, garnering Republican support.

Senate Bill 2, introduced by Sen. Adam Ebbin, D-Alexandria, also passed this week. Ebbin's bill would decriminalize simple possession, providing a penalty of no more than \$50 or five hours of community service.

SB 1015, sponsored by Sen. David Marsden, D-Fairfax, would allow a person prescribed cannabidiol oil to avoid possession charges passed the Senate and is currently in a House committee.

The Senate also approved a study to ex-

plore how Virginia should go about legalizing and regulating the growth, sale and possession of marijuana by July 1, 2022.

Advocates were most disappointed by the measures continued to the 2021 session. **HB 87** and **HB 269** proposed eliminating penalties for marijuana possession for persons over the age of 21 and decriminalizing for people under age 21. Those bills also tackled the regulation of marijuana retail.

Chelsea Higgs Wise, co-founder and executive director of Marijuana Justice, is disappointed that the General Assembly only advanced decriminalization measures, wishing that they had opted instead for **HB 1507**, which would make it illegal to possess a controlled substance other than marijuana unless the substance was prescribed. That bill, introduced by Del. Jennifer Carroll Foy, D-Prince William, was continued to the 2021 session.

Higgs Wise believes that arrests may decrease, but people of color will continue to disproportionately suffer from penalties and fines.

"We know that these penalties will be enforced more heavily on black and brown people and looking across the nation, decriminalization has only called for an increase in racial disparities," Higgs Wise said.

Herring said her bill will not eliminate racial disparities surrounding marijuana. The bill aims to prevent low-level offenders from receiving jail time for simple possession as the commonwealth moves toward legalization.

"This is an important step in improving the criminal justice system," Herring said in a statement released after the bill passed. "While marijuana arrests across the nation

have decreased, arrests in Virginia have increased."

The Virginia chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union has frequently pressed for legalization, and spoken out against decriminalization measures, saying that communities of color across the commonwealth are more than three times more likely to be arrested for marijuana possession than white people, despite similar usage rates.

"Lawmakers cannot claim progress on marijuana reform while still knowing that this legislation will only lead to greater racial disparities," said Ashna Khanna, legislative director of the state chapter.

Decriminalization has gained traction in the commonwealth since Gov. Ralph Northam and Attorney General Mark Herring voiced their support. Northam's criminal justice reform included a proposal to clear the records of individuals previously convicted of simple marijuana possession.

According to the state attorney general's office, arrests for marijuana possession have increased from 9,000 in 1999 to 29,000 in 2018, with marijuana criminal enforcement costing the commonwealth over \$81 million every year.

Attorney General Mark Herring believes that passing decriminalization bills is an important first step to moving Virginia toward legalized and regulated use.

"We must keep going because the work is not done," the attorney general said in a statement after the bills advanced. "For too long, Virginia's approach to cannabis has needlessly saddled Virginians, especially African Americans and people of color, with criminal records but with these votes that is finally coming to an end."

Mapmaking Politics

FROM PAGE 1
have been a bugaboo in Virginia politics since the creation of the House of Burgesses in 1619, when 22 members represented four cities and five slave plantations. Two centuries later, members of the House of Delegates are still trying to draw the line between urban and rural, although these days the technology of mapmaking can fine tune the art of packing and cracking — gerrymandering districts with scientific precision. That’s one of the reasons groups like Virginia 2021 was created, to take that power out of the hands of the party in power and instead put it into a 16-member commission composed of eight lawmakers and eight citizens.

“It would be the most comprehensive redistricting reform legislation ever passed through a state legislature in this country,” says Brian Cannon, executive director of Virginia 2021. “Citizen initiatives have kind of gone around their legislature, whether it’s in Utah or Missouri or Colorado or Arizona or others. But this would be the most comprehensive reform



The New Democratic majority in the House of Delegates may end the General Assembly session this year without even taking a vote on a constitutional amendment many members supported during the campaign that brought them to power.

ever passed through a state legislature.”

The bipartisan compromise was struck in the closing days of the 2019 General Assembly session, an agreement that was negotiated in a secret closed-door conference

committee. Those negotiations took place out of the glare of public scrutiny, and the lack of transparency didn’t help the process. One provision that emerged out of that conference committee was a feature that was not in the House



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/THE GAZETTE

Del. Mark Levine (D-45) voted for the constitutional amendment last year, although now he’s become one of its chief critics. He worries Republicans can exploit the rules to have the GOP-dominated Virginia Supreme Court draw legislative districts that would hurt Democrats.

version or the Senate version, the ability of the Republican-led Virginia Supreme Court to step in and make a final determination. If Republicans decide they want to object to the commission’s maps, they can shift responsibility for mapmaking to the Republican-led court.

“I can’t trust judges to be fair on the basis of the facts and the law anymore,” says Del. Mark Levine (D-45). “Those days, if they ever existed, they’re certainly gone now.”

Levine and other critics of the amendment are supporting a bill introduced by Del. Cia Price (D-95) that would create an advisory panel to suggest legislative districts to the General Assembly. Its basic structure is almost identical to the commission outlined in the amendment, but there’s an important distinction. Racial diversity on the panel of mapmakers would be required, a stipulation that’s not in the language of the amendment. Price announced her bill at a press conference the first week of session.

“We wanted to make sure that the diversity of the commission was in the language,” she said. “We wanted to make sure that the drawing process of the maps that would protect communities of color and communities of interest are in the amendment.”

SUPPORTERS OF THE amendment are still trying to salvage the process. They argue enabling legislation for the amendment can solve some of the flaws. For example, they say, a special master can be appointed to keep mapmaking out of the hands of the

Republican-dominated Supreme Court.

And the language of the amendment does call for consideration of racial diversity, even if it’s not a requirement. Furthermore, they say, Price’s bill does not take power to draw maps out of the hands of lawmakers. Instead it creates an advisory panel that would make suggestions lawmakers would be free to ignore.

“Because the enabling legislation can tell the commission how to operate and it can tell a court who gets it how to operate. But a stand-alone bill can’t tell the legislature how to operate,” says Cannon, leader of the advocacy group pushing the amendment. “The legislature could amend a map at any time, and this is what we would be changing in ours.”

Critics of the amendment say it’s simply too flawed a proposal to be enshrined into the Constitution. They worry about racial diversity on the commission, and they are concerned Republicans might exploit the rules to have the GOP-dominated Supreme Court draw maps to benefit Republicans. For now, Democrats are leaving the door open to considering the amendment, but it’s telling that it has not yet come to the House floor for a vote. Democratic leadership has until the end of the session to make that happen, but House leaders don’t seem to be in much of a hurry to make that happen.

“I don’t know if it’s on the calendar,” said House Majority Whip Alfonso Lopez (D-49) when asked if the House would vote on the amendment.

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News

C-PACE Comes to Fairfax County

Commercial property owners can make energy and resiliency improvements to their buildings and sites with little or no up-front cost in Fairfax County.

BY KAMBIZ AGAZI

All around Fairfax County, businesses are thriving. With more business activity in the area, the demand for commercial real estate is high and property owners are seeking ways to stand out in the crowd. Now, commercial property owners can take advantage of private financing to make substantial energy and resiliency improvements to their buildings and sites with very little or no up-front cost, courtesy of the county's new Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy and Resiliency program, or C-PACE.

An innovative financing tool, C-PACE combines the power of private lending with the support of the county government, allowing property owners to secure long-term loans with only minimal initial outlays. The loans are administered and guaranteed by private lenders, but repaid via a special assessment, and they carry with the property from one owner to the next. This arrangement sets borrowers up for success as they seek to make their properties more efficient, resilient and attractive to tenants.

While other jurisdictions in the state have also launched C-PACE programs, ours is the first to include resiliency improvements in addition to energy-

and water-saving projects. Property owners can reduce risks to their buildings and sites associated with flooding, high winds and extreme temperatures using C-PACE funding. Making these improvements now will ensure their assets are in working order for decades to come and are prepared to withstand the worst impacts of climate change.

C-PACE is great for businesses but it's also useful for nonprofits on tight budgets. The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax is planning to use C-PACE to finance the wholesale replacement of their HVAC systems, a hefty project that would otherwise need to be completed in stages. Empowering local businesses and organizations to protect and enhance their investments is an important piece of a larger effort Fairfax County is making to address community resiliency and climate change.

All told, county government and school operations account for only three percent of the greenhouse gas emissions in Fairfax County. The other 97 percent come from the community – residents, businesses, and organizations based here. With the development of a Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP) underway, the county is leading a col-

SEE C-PACE, PAGE 13



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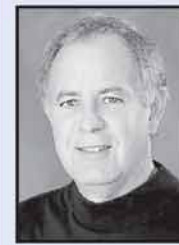
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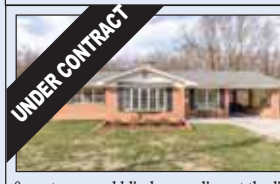
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OPINION

We Both Deserve \$15. Why Don't Our Senators Think So?

BY NICK RIVIERE AND
TONY HEDGEPEETH

Like millions of Virginians, we work hard. As home care providers, we work every day to help older adults and people with disabilities live independently at home and in the community. By keeping people out of costly nursing homes and institutions, we save taxpayers money and deliver quality care.

We do the same work but in different parts of Virginia – Fairfax County and City of Richmond – and have different backgrounds. One of us is a 21-year-old assisting young adults with developmental disabilities and one of us is a 61-year-old Army veteran helping his fellow vets who suffer from PTSD.

However, we both love what we do. It's a blessing to be able to help others live with dignity.

We both deserve to make at least \$15 per hour and live with dignity ourselves.

Unfortunately, our Virginia state Senators seem to disagree.

Earlier this month, the Virginia House of Delegates passed a bill to raise the minimum wage to \$15 for all workers by 2025. They recognized that working families are falling behind no matter how hard we work, and that we need to build an economy that works for everyone.

The Senate, however, passed a bill which would create different minimum wages in different regions, even for workers who do the exact same jobs like us. Their bill also forces workers to wait even longer to get a raise.

If the Senate bill becomes law, people working in Fairfax won't make \$15 until 2027, while those in Richmond won't make \$15 until 2032. Our fellow homecare providers and others working in Hampton Roads won't make \$15 until 2034.

Delaying the minimum wage increase for 14 years, and paying different wages for the same work, is not only unfair; it's unacceptable.

Every person who works hard and plays by the rules in Virginia deserves equal respect. We deserve living wages, paid sick days, affordable health care, a secure retirement, and the right to join together in a union.

While the cost of living varies in different parts of Virginia, we all feel the same pain when we struggle to pay rent, buy groceries and pay utilities. Housing costs are skyrocketing in both Richmond and Northern Virginia. Health care costs, food costs and transportation costs are all increasing. We need a statewide \$15 minimum wage to ensure that no one gets left behind.

To our Senators, we ask: why should a home care worker in Richmond or Roanoke make less than a home care worker in Fairfax when we make the same contribution to Virginia's families? We elected Democratic majorities to the House and Senate because they promised to deliver a brighter future for working Virginians. It's time that our Senators delivered on that promise.

Assault Weapons Ban – Getting It Right

BY SEN. SCOTT SUROVELL

Last week the Senate Judiciary Committee considered a House of Delegates' bill to regulate assault rifles and other firearm attachments. I have always supported stronger regulation of assault rifles.

I lived through the 2002 D.C. sniper attacks while crouching in my car getting gas to avoid being shot. In 2016, three police officers including one of my constituents were shot with an AR-15. Officer Ashley Guindon was killed on her first day on the job. I do not support civilian ownership of weapons of war that are unnecessary for hunting or self-protection.

Experts estimate that there are five to ten million assault weapons in the U.S., including at least 100,000 in Virginia. The proposed House bill felonized the sale or transfer of assault weapons, certain magazines and silencers, and had no buyback program for assault rifles. It felonized the possession of certain magazines and silencers after two years. We repeatedly advised the House that the votes did not exist in the Senate, but the House chose to send the bill over by a one vote margin with three House Democrats voting "no" and one not voting.

In our chamber, multiple Senators were concerned that the House bill did not "grandfather" guns owned by existing owners, specific legal disposal rules, and questioned the absence of an explicit, funded gun buyback program which could turn a ban into a constitutional taking requiring government compensation. They also pointed out that many of the

assault weapon features described in the ban bill are also on other types of weapons, therefore likely creating confusion for law enforcement officers and civilians and making it unclear exactly which guns were banned. They were clear they would not support passage this session.

The bill was also not endorsed or a priority for Moms Demand Action, Giffords: Courage to Fight Gun Violence, or Everytown for Gun Safety.

I joined three Democratic Senators on the Judiciary Committee to continue the bill to the 2021 session and refer it to the Crime Commission so experts can refine and clarify the bill. That will also give us time to hold fuller public hearings over the summer or fall. We expect the Crime Commission to fully analyze and clarify the bill to carry out our intent. I am wholly committed to seeing this through and we did not "kill the assault weapons bill."

We have made significant progress on firearm violence prevention. We have passed (1) universal background checks, (2) reinstating Virginia's "one-gun-a-month" purchase limit, (3) emergency risk protection or "red flag" orders, (4) authorizing local governments to regulate guns in public buildings, parks and events, (5) allowing firearm forfeiture during protective order proceedings, (6) banned bump stocks, and (7) increased penalties for child access. Legislation to broaden the crimes that surrender firearms rights to misdemeanor stalking and sexual battery is pending along with my voluntary Do Not Sell List legislation. Passage of these bills is unprecedented and

historic.

Many Other Bills Advance

With three weeks left, we have two dozen major bills on education, transportation, energy, environment, labor, criminal justice reform, equity and a \$110 billion budget to consider. The legislature has sent at least 15 of my bills to Gov. Ralph Northam, including my legislation prohibiting holding a phone while driving and a bill banning "conversion therapy." My legislation to tighten up Virginia's loose predatory lending laws awaits the Governor's signature and predatory lending establishments, like those dotting the U.S. 1 Corridor, must stop charging 120-400 percent interest rates on six-month loans and will likely pack up and leave. Both the House and Senate budgets included my initiative to conduct a study to extend the Blue Line Metro to Prince William County.

The Senate also approved over \$1.2 billion in new funding for K-12, a three percent pay raise for teachers, 200 new school counselors, \$81 million for subsidized preschool and \$96 million for free community college for some disadvantaged students. We voted to create Medicaid-funded adult dental coverage, a five percent pay increase for home health care workers and increased mental health care funding. We proposed the largest contribution ever to the Water Quality Improvement Fund. A joint House-Senate committee will now resolve the differences in the two budget bills.

This is an historic session. I hope you will email your comments to me at scott@scottsuovell.org.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Potential Progress?

Dear Editor:

I read with interest the front

page story in last week's Gazette concerning a proposal to replace the Belle View Shopping Center with a mixed use development including retail as well as nearly 1,000 dwelling units. While poten-

tial progress is always worth considering, from my perspective, this proposal looks to be likely dead on arrival.

In considering proposals for redevelopment, numerous factors

are considered. In this case, the proposal could not be "by right." This is because virtually the entirety of the property is in the floodplain, built prior to establish-
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Mount Vernon Gazette

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A Connection Newspaper



LETTERS

Semiquincentennial Commemoration

BY DEL. PAUL KRIZEK

2026 is quickly approaching, which is the 250th anniversary of our great nation. This upcoming semiquincentennial celebration could prove to be even bigger and more impactful than the bicentennial was in 1976. As Virginians, we are privileged to not only live in the birthplace of American democracy, as we commemorated last year, but also in the birthplace of our country.

My bill HB 1424 recently passed the House and is working its way through the Senate. Along with its companion bill, SB 407, patroned by Sen. Ghazala Hashmi, these bills seek to establish the Virginia Revolutionary 250 Commission to plan, develop, and perform programs and activities to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, the Revolutionary War, and the independence of the United States.

This role will include the establishment of exhibitions, arranging public ceremonies, creating a comprehensive marketing and tourism campaign encompassing calendar year 2025-2026, and providing civic, cultural, and historical education and scholarship concerning the ideals of the American Revolution and their contemporary relevance. This commission aims to celebrate the contributions of the Commonwealth of Virginia and its citizens who played a critical role in the Revolutionary War and the founding of the United States.

This commission will be led by the Jamestown-

Yorktown Foundation, the Virginia Museum of History and Culture, Gunston Hall, the American Battlefield Trust, and the Virginia Bar Association. An advisory council will be led by a representative from Gunston Hall, composed of nonlegislative citizen members with a knowledge of history or expertise in areas relevant to the work of the Commission, including a representative of the Sons of the Revolution in the Commonwealth of Virginia, a representative of the Virginia Daughters of the American Revolution, and a representative of the National Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route Association.

Virginia was the most populous colony of the original thirteen in the 1770s, and played an influential role in the Revolutionary War. The colony expressed early dissent against the British government. When the House of Burgesses began to urge resistance to Britain, Governor Dunmore dissolved it. From the dissolution of the House of Burgesses, the General Assembly was created during the First Virginia Convention. The convention approved a boycott of British goods and expressed solidarity with Massachusetts. Additionally, the First Virginia Convention elected delegates to the Continental Congress where Virginian Peyton Randolph was selected as president of the First and Second Continental Congress. Resistance to the Crown strengthened and Patrick Henry introduced resolutions challenging the British government's authority. These resolutions, the Stamp

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 6
ment of the current floodplain elevation. In that area of the County, the floodplain elevation is 10 feet above sea level and one may not develop a habitable space lower than 18 inches above the floodplain elevation or within 15 feet of the edge of the floodplain. In other words, in a redevelopment, the lowest habitable floor would have to be at 11'6" above sea level. Currently, the parking lot level is at somewhere between 6 and 8 feet above sea level. Raising the property level as much as 6 feet in spots could result in flooding all surrounding neighbors. Building the entire project on stilts would still require significant storm wa-

ter controls.

Then there are the numerous environmental considerations with creating such a large impervious area. Again, storm water issues would have to be addressed. Then there are the transportation considerations resulting from adding almost 1,000 dwelling units in a confined area. Could Belle View Boulevard and Fort Hunt Road withstand significant increase in traffic pressure without significant widening? If widening is required (likely), who is going to pay for it, developers or taxpayers? Interesting question.

Pressure on our school system is another important consideration. We are in the process of

spending millions of dollars to refurbish Belle View Elementary School close to the shopping center. Would this proposed project result in new overcrowding? Likely.

These are but some of the issues that would have to be addressed in order for such a project to get beyond square one. From my perspective, the elevation of a property currently several feet below the floodplain elevation may be a deal breaker, particularly if adjacent property owners can't be assured that the new development won't create stormwater runoff issues.

Legal precedent says that the
SEE LETTERS, PAGE 9



Join us for this funny and affectionate comic romp that takes us behind the scenes of the iconic story of "Gone with the Wind."

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A Perfect Friend

County Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeff McKay: “I have an adopted retired racing Greyhound named Pascal. Despite their reputation as fast dogs that can run 45 mph, they also live up to their nickname as the ‘40 mph couch potato.’ Greyhounds are loving, calm, and relaxed; a perfect friend for me and my kids Aidan and Leann. Adopting older pets from places like the Fairfax County Animal Shelter is great too.”



Pascal with Aidan.



Pascal with Leann.



Peter Scoma, Washington Mill ES, age 10, grade 5, with Whiskers

Whiskers

I have always known our dog, Ted E. Bear (or Teddy Bear). He is a white rambunctious Pomeranian fluffball. Sometimes my father tells my brother and I that he is our older brother. I guess, because when we were toddlers we three always played together. Teddy is twelve years old, about two years older than I am. I am ten years old. I have always loved animals. About two years ago, I wanted a cat to add to our family and to add more excitement. So, this story is about our cat, Whiskers.

Whiskers, is almost 5 years old. His birthday is March 15.

Two years ago in 2018, my brother and I were looking at the cats and kittens in the Cat Rescue area of PetSmart. We left the area, but in walking by again one of the older cats bumped his head against the glass, as if to get our attention. However, we were interested in the two orange kittens.

The next day we brought our dog, Teddy. The two orange kittens were gone; adopted by the next day. A young cat hissed at him from behind the glass. But the older cat, who had banded his

head on the glass the day before was relatively calm near Teddy and purred. That day we brought him home and named our rescued cat, Whiskers.

We think Whiskers may have had a bad experience or was mistreated, because he was very skittish around us and any noises for months. He and Teddy would near each other but kept their distance. In a few months of my petting and talking to him he became comfortable with me.

After a week's vacation where Teddy stayed at my grandma's and Whiskers at home, Whiskers was very happy to see Teddy again!

In the two years since he likes to be around everyone in the family and both he and Teddy eat and nap during the day right next to each other.

He loves to go inside his cardboard log cabin that he got for Christmas.

Inside he has a cardboard floor that he sometimes likes to scratch.

He likes chin scratches, loves to purr and when you give him head to tail pets he kneads the ground beneath him to show his pleasure

That is my story about my cat, Whiskers.



Vizsla “Love” Letters by Susan Laume

They were, literally, all about “LOVE” when “Vizsla Go” (VGO) members met to celebrate the Feb. 14th holiday. The new permanent home of the “LOVE” sign at the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton provided a perfect backdrop for heart-themed pictures.

Valentine’s Day or Vizslantine’s Day, as it’s referred to in the group, is a natural time to celebrate this affectionate, beautiful, and energetic red dog. A pointing breed, originating in Hungary, the Vizsla has risen in popularity in the United States to 42nd in the national registry. Known for its versatility in dog sports, and its increasing use in bomb and drug detection, the dogs also are happy to be family dogs, as



long as significant daily exercise is provided.

VGO is a small group of active Vizsla enthusiasts who meet regularly to exercise, socialize, and train their beloved animals. Several VGO members serve the community as therapy dog teams and

can be found at the library reading with children, at the airport, schools, colleges, and retirement communities.... after a long run.

Susan Laume
Springfield

Semiquincentennial Commemoration

FROM PAGE 7

Act Resolves, addressed taxation without representation and Patrick Henry delivered his famous "Give me liberty or give me death" speech in Richmond, Virginia, to encourage passage of these resolutions.

A day after the Battle of Lexington and Concord, Governor

Dunmore ordered British marines to remove gunpowder from the Magazine in Williamsburg. The colonists recognized the Gunpowder Incident as the British government taking action to disarm them. Patrick Henry led a militia from Hanover to Williamsburg. However, Peyton Randolph advised against violence and a com-

promise was found in the form of a payment for the value of the gunpowder. But King George III declared the American colonies in rebellion, and the rest is history!

The Continental Army was created on June 14, 1775. George Washington was unanimously elected as commander-in-chief for his military experience and belief that a Virginian would better unite

the colonies. By the following year the Fifth Virginia Convention met on May 6 and declared Virginia a free and independent state on May 15, 1776.

The Virginia Convention chose Patrick Henry to be the first governor of the Commonwealth. Governor Patrick Henry was inaugurated on June 29, 1776. Thus, Virginia had a functioning republican

constitution even before July 4, 1776.

The 250th anniversary of the Revolutionary War provides an opportunity for all Virginians and Americans to commemorate together the principles of independence, individual liberty, representative government and the attainment of equal rights which unite us all.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 7

views of adjacent property owners carry the most weight in the public hearing process. If they oppose the development, it is unlikely to come to fruition.

H. Jay Spiegel
Mount Vernon

'Terrible' Proposal for Belle View

The concept of a high density, mixed use center in Belle View is terrible. It is flawed on numerous counts. South Alexandria is NOT a high density area. We are not Arlington. There are no inherent job

opportunities to handle a thousand housing units. Few, if any, people will be walking to work, shop and live. There is no mass transit to handle such a huge influx of people. No one will be walking to Huntington Station.

Second, the road grid in South Alexandria is already overcrowded. GW Parkway, has for years been identified as overused and at times dangerous as more and more people use it as a commuter route to the expanded Ft. Belvoir. Ft. Hunt Road is a single lane road with long backups at every traffic light between Rt. 1 and Collingwood Road for every rush hour and on weekends. Belle View Blvd/Beacon Hill Road are

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ENTERTAINMENT

Handroll Sushi, Cocktails Take Over King Street Corner

BY HOPE NELSON
GAZETTE PACKET

It's a well-known corner in Old Town Alexandria, home to many a variety of themes and pubs over the years. Scotland Yard took up residence for decades at 728 King St., and then came Eamonn's fish-and-chips shop with the beloved PX speakeasy on the top floor. Now, the corner has changed hands again, as well as cuisines. Gone are

the British pub staples, and in their place arrive a passel of options with a Japanese flair. And upstairs, while the lush cocktails remain, the hush-hush speakeasy nature has departed. Call it building upon the previous tenants; call it striking out in a different direction. Call it the Handover and King's Ransom, whatever you do.

"Growing up in the area, this has always been an iconic corner. It's right in the heart of King Street," said co-owner Teddy Kim. "... We loved the building, loved location, so we brought in an architect, measured the space, and started to play around with concepts."

It wasn't long before the concept became clear – a handroll sushi restaurant, faster than a traditional sit-down experience, but not quite fast-casual, either.

"We thought (the handroll concept) was a perfect fit for downstairs, the dimensions of the space," taking advantage of the



The shrimp tempura roll is one of the highlights of The Handover.

long, narrow area, Kim said.

From avocado to bulgogi, the Handover's menu is small but mighty. The options, chosen by Chef Melvin Urrutia, cover the gamut of familiar favorites and further-flung items, hewing to a minimalist theme rather than a kitchen-sink approach.

"You might have a spicy tuna roll, which is not the one that's all filled up with sriracha mayonnaise and all that," said co-owner Ian McGrath. Rather, the roll sports tuna, sesame chili oil and Japanese spice blend – with no fillers.

The same goes for the oshinko roll, featuring pickled daikon radish: "It's sitting there on its own with a little bit of chiffonade shiso leaf," McGrath said.

And then there's King's Ransom, the upstairs space formerly occu-

IF YOU GO

The Handover and King's Ransom, 728 King St.
Hours for the Handover: 11 a.m.-10 p.m. daily.

Hours for the King's Ransom: 5 p.m.-midnight Sunday-Thursday; 5 p.m.-1 a.m. Friday-Saturday.

Try this: "If you want the inside scoop, I'd strongly recommend the shrimp tempura (roll), but in the soy wrapper instead. That gives it a creaminess that's unique to the soy paper," said Teddy Kim.

pied by Todd Thrasher's PX. Gone are the days of secret passwords and limited customers; in its place is a more accessible space that eschews formality but maintains high standards.

"I've just found that it was my experience at People's Drug and with Old Town Alexandria that it's a great city and town to be able to put things out because people re-



Upstairs, the King's Ransom offers a posh bar with innovative cocktails.

ally appreciate if you put the time into something," said beverage director Jon Schott. And Schott and his team are putting a great deal of time into their cocktail program.

The cocktail menu offers something for everyone, from tiki-style drinks to a reformed classic Manhattan. The King's Ransom also brought in a Toki highball machine that creates filtered sparkling water that's three times as carbonated as champagne, Schott says. The combination of an innovative menu and such tricks of the trade as that highball machine leads to some interesting results.

For instance, "if you want a vodka soda, we have one, but it's purple and the bubbles are flying through it, and it has lychee in it," Schott said.

"We'd been working with Jon at People's Drug and his talent is just mind-blowing what he can do with the flavors, the artistic element of it, so we gave him a lot of free range to come up with the program for upstairs," Kim said.

And upstairs or downstairs, whether touting a handroll or a glass or both, both concepts aim to shine. "I feel like this is one of those cases where that classic Old Town long skinny townhouse feel can come into its own and give each of these guys a stage that they can show off their talents in," McGrath said.

Hope Nelson is the author of "Classic Restaurants of Alexandria" and owns the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at www.kitchenrecessionista.com.

Email her any time at hope@kitchenrecessionista.com.

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Life Drawing Sessions. Now thru Dec. 9. At Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Looking for a chance to hone your figure drawing skills? Del Ray Artisans offers a range of open life drawing sessions for just this purpose. Just drop in for the session and bring your supplies to draw or paint the live models. Fee ranges from \$8-\$12. All skill levels are welcome. Visit DelRayArtisans.org/life-drawing

Tell Me a Story Art Exhibit. March 6-29. Opening reception Friday, March 6 from 7-9 p.m. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Have you ever looked at a piece of art and your imagination immediately starts to wander? Narrative art tells a story, either as a moment in an ongoing story or as a sequence of events unfolding over time. A picture is worth a thousand words; Tell Me a Story will take you on an imaginative journey. Gallery hours are: Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m.,



The St. Patrick's Day Parade will take place Saturday, March 7 in Old Town Alexandria.

St. Patrick's Day Parade

Saturday/March 7, 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. Parade starts at King and Alfred Streets and ends at Lee and Cameron Streets in Old Town Alexandria. Presented by the Ballyshaners, a nonprofit group that aims to promote and preserve Irish heritage. More than 2,000 participants will march in this year's parade, including the Notre Dame Alumni Band, dog rescue groups, pipe and drum bands, historical re-enactors, Shriners and Kena cars, and Irish dancers. Visit www.ballyshaners.org

Saturdays 12-9 p.m., and Sundays 12-6 p.m. The gallery is free, open to the public, and accessible. Visit www.DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits.

Architecture in Fiber. Now thru March 15. At Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, Torpedo Factory, Studio 29, 105 North Union Street, Alexandria. Here, in Alexandria, we are surrounded by beautiful and exciting buildings, bridges, parks, and monuments. Both our local and worldwide architecture serve as inspiration for the pieces in this show. Themed work will be eligible for recognition by the jurors. Non-themed work will also be exhibited. Hours: 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily and weekends, and 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month.

THURSDAY/FEB. 27

Materials Playgroup Thursdays. 10-11:30 a.m. At Durants Art Center, 1605 Cameron Street, Alexandria. Dates: Thursdays Feb 27; March 5, 12, 19, 26; and April 2. During each 1.5 hour session, kids and their caregivers will get the chance to explore at least 6 different centers, from clay to painting to sensory, and more. They will have the opportunity to build, experiment, and play with

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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 10
open-ended, repurposed objects.
Visit the website: <https://www.upcyclecra.org/materials-playgroup.html>

SCSC & RSVP. 1:30-2:30 p.m. At Gerry Hyland Government Center, 8350 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Shepherd's Center of South County, SCSC and Retired Seniors Volunteer Program, RSVP will host a seminar on volunteer opportunities in South County. Join us to learn about fun, convenient and meaningful ways to contribute to your community. Free. Visit the website: <https://www.scsca.org/>

Family Movie Night. 6:30 p.m. At Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Wonder tells the heartwarming story of August Pullman, a boy with facial differences who enters the fifth grade, going to elementary school for the first time. Rated PG.

Struggles of African-American Soldiers. 7 p.m. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. In celebration of Black History Month, the Proprietor of Manumission Tour Company, John Chapman, will lead a conversation on the struggles of African-American soldiers as they fought for their rights to be buried in the soldier's cemetery. When the Alexandria National Cemetery was begun in 1862, only white soldiers were eligible to be buried there, even though it was yards away from L'Ouverture Hospital, a Civil War hospital for African-American soldiers. By the end of the Civil War, there were over 200 graves of U.S. Colored Troops that had integrated into the cemetery.

CAC-GALA. 7-10 p.m. At Old Dominion Boat Club, 200 Strand Street, Alexandria. The 11th Annual CAC GALA benefits the Center for Alexandria's Children, the City's one safe place for the prevention, investigation and treatment of child abuse. Its Learn & PlayGroups for children ages 0-5 years utilizes a curriculum designed to circumvent abuse by helping parents, children and caregivers build connections within the community. The Center supports abused children on their path to healing, while promoting strong, stable families. It serves more than 1,000 children and families annually. Honorees include Mary Hale, Inova Health System FACT Director, who will receive The Outstanding Dedication to Alexandria's Children Award for her commitment to the safety and well-being of Alexandria's children and



A Fun Dog Show will be held Saturday, March 7 at Old Town's Market Square.

Fun Dog Show

Saturday/March, 11 a.m. At Old Town's Market Square, Alexandria. The AWLA invites the area's spirited pups to don their favorite costumes on-stage for the titles of "Most St. Paddy's Spirit," "Best Human/Canine Look-Alike" and "Most Creative Costume." The Fun Dog Show precedes the Ballyshanners' St. Patrick's Day parade, an annual event that brings thousands of spectators to Old Town Alexandria. March participants will meet at the intersection of King and St. Asaph streets at 12 p.m. to start the parade. This year's Dog Show will be hosted by McEanearney Realtor Bobby Mahoney. Registration is open at AlexandriaAnimals.org/DogShow2020 and will also be available on-site on March 7 for \$30. For information about the St. Patrick's Day Parade, visit ballyshanners.org.

Brooke Sydnor Curran, Founder and CEO of RunningBrooke, who will receive The Champion for Children Award for her dedication to the empowerment and wellness of Alexandria's children and families. Tickets are \$175/person. Visit the website: <http://bit.ly/34nQlsJ> For more information, go to www.centerforalexandriaschildren.org

NOVA Children's Concert. 7:30-9:30 p.m. At The Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, 4915 East Campus Road, Alexandria. The NOVA Alexandria Music Department presents its free Annual Children's Concert featuring the NOVA band and students from local elementary and middle schools. Program selections will include: March of the Resistance from Star Wars: The Force Awakens by John Williams, Excursions for Trumpet and Band by Bruce Broughton, Concerto for Clarinet by Artie Shaw and the world

premiere of Le'oria, the City of Music by NOVA student Nathan Pereda. Visit the website: blogs.nvcc.edu/almusic/

FRIDAY/FEB. 28

Beau Soir Ensemble Concert. 7 p.m. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Tickets \$15. Welcome to the Beau Soir Ensemble to the Athenaeum! Known for their exciting performance style and diverse programming, their concert will feature "Serenade" by Ludwig Beethoven in honor of his 250th birthday. This piece was originally written for flute, violin and viola, but has been expertly transcribed to work for flute, viola and harp. The Beau Soir Ensemble will also play a Trio Sonate by J.S. Bach that was transcribed for their trio by Alex Jacobsen of the National Symphony Orchestra, a local premiere by Miguel del Aguila, and add some Irish music to lead the way for St. Patrick's day.

SATURDAY/FEB. 29

Winter Pruning for Woody Plants. 10 - 11:30 a.m. At American Horticultural Society River Farm, 7931 E. Boulevard Drive, Alexandria. Winter is the best time to prune many trees and shrubs. Come for hands-on training on the how, when, and why to prune hedges, multi-stem shrubs, small trees, and large branches. The results will be healthier and fuller growth, better flowers and fruit, and attractive landscaping. Bring your own tools, and remember to dress for the weather! Entire class is held outdoors. This class is offered by Extension Master Gardeners. Free. Advance registration required by Feb. 26 at mgvnv.org. Space is limited. Call 703-228-6414 or email mgarlalex@gmail.com.

Citizen Science for Gardeners and Nature Lovers. 10-11 a.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (16-Adult) Explore the concept of data gathering. Gardeners, naturalists and entomologists are recording the world around them through web-based social media applications. Bird



The Opal Music Studio faculty gather for their showcase concert.

Opal Faculty Showcase

Sunday/March 1, 6:30 p.m. At The Lyceum: Alexandria's History Museum, 201 S. Washington Street, Alexandria. Come hear the teachers—all professional musicians—play together! This free concert will be a community celebration of music, featuring Opal Music Studio faculty playing a diverse set of musical styles from classical to opera to jazz. Free. Visit opalmusicstudio.com

migration, butterfly numbers, invasive plant spread, and insect populations are just some examples of data collected by an ecologist and citizen-scientist cyber community. Karen Rexrode will introduce you to some applications that will interest you as a gardener and a nature lover. \$18 per person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes (code C4C.7A2A) or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

Leap Day Walk. 10-11:30 a.m. At Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Celebrate the day that only comes around every four years. This Leap Day, go on a guided tour of the forest and wetland habitats at Huntley Meadows Park. Learn about common winter wildlife and where to find critters in the park at this time of year. It's designed for participants age 4 to adult, and the cost is \$8 per person. Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows.

Rethinking Rufus. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. At The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. A lecture with Howard University's Dr. Thomas Foster. "Rethinking Rufus: Sexual Violations of Enslaved Men" is the first study of sexual violence against enslaved men. Scholars have extensively documented the widespread sexual exploitation and abuse suffered by enslaved women, with comparatively little attention paid to the stories of men. However, a careful reading of extant sources reveals that sexual assault of enslaved men also occurred systematically and in a wide variety of forms, including physical assault, sexual coercion, and other intimate violations. Tickets can be purchased at <https://shop.alexandriava.gov/>.

Floral Design Workshop: Heart's Desire. 1:30-3 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (16-Adult) In the month of February, we celebrate love in all its splendid forms. Certified floral designer Betty Ann Galway walks you through a floral project that you are sure to love. Keep this arrangement for yourself or give it to someone you

care about. \$39 per person (plus a \$30 supply fee). Register www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes (code 70D.892E) Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

The Great Escape in Washington, D.C.

3:30 p.m. At Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Learn about the Capital City under the institution of slavery and the people who tried to escape this system. Presented by National Park Service Ranger Kenya Finley in honor of Black History Month.

Virginia Black History Month Association (VaBHMA) Gala.

6-9 p.m. At Hilton Alexandria Mark Center Hotel, Alexandria. The keynote speaker is Dr. Yusef Salaam of the Central Park Five, also known as the Exonerated Five. Guests of Honor include:

- ❖ Ms. Tina Wyatt: Great-Great Grandniece of Harriet Tubman;
- ❖ Ms. Jeri Lacks Whye: Granddaughter of Henrietta Lacks;
- ❖ Ms. Adia Cummings: Daughter of the late Honorable Congressman Elijah Cummings;
- ❖ Ms. Monique Goldring: Mother of Baby Phoenix DaVine.

During the gala, they will identify the winners of the Annual Children's Writing Contest, the James Farmer Scholarship and other scholarships. They will surprise one couple from the audience to rededicate their marriage vows, (officiated by a local Pastor) and then perform the African American wedding tradition of "Jumping the Broom." Visit the website at www.vabhma.com

MARCH 1-30

Woodlawn Needlework Show. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. The Woodlawn Needlework Show and Sale runs for the entire month of March, and is open every day except Tuesdays. Come see hundreds of amazing needlework pieces, daily demonstrations, special exhibits, and more. Cost is \$15. Visit the website: www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org/annualneedleworkshow



The Alexandria All City High School Art Exhibition hosted by the Convergence Arts Initiative returns thru March 28.

Student Art Exhibit

Now thru March 28, at the Gallery at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. The Alexandria All City High School Art Exhibition hosted by the Convergence Arts Initiative returns now thru March 28 for its fifth year. 2020's experience will feature over 90 Alexandria high school students representing six high schools including public, private, and independent spanning over 10 different mediums of art. Returning for 2020's collaborative event are students from Bishop Ireton, Episcopal High School, T.C. Williams, St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School, Commonwealth Academy, and The Howard Gardner School.

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 11

SUNDAY/MARCH 1

Nature Talk on Peregrine Falcons.

2 p.m. At Mount Vernon Government Center, 2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria. Sponsored by Friends of Dyke Marsh, join biologist Rolf Gubler who will discuss restoring Peregrine Falcons to some of their native habitats. Peregrines perch and nest on cliffs, skyscrapers, bridges and other tall structures. In this program, biologists bring at-risk Peregrine Falcon chicks from eastern Virginia bridge nest sites (where fledging is often difficult) to Virginia's mountains, once part of their historic range. Visit the website: www.fodm.org

A British Invasion Concert.

3 p.m. At Carl Sandburg Middle School, 8428 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Featuring the National Concert Band of America. To be directed by Principal Conductor Adrian Holton, the concert will begin with British composer Gustav Holst's "First Suite in E Flat" which has occupied a legendary position in wind band repertoire for over 110 years. "The British Eighth" by Zo Elliott, which is dedicated to General Bernard Montgomery and the Eighth Army after a triumphant sweep across Africa in 1942, remains one of the most popular military marches on both sides of the Atlantic. Other selections include "Song of Hope" by Peter Meechan, "Irish Tune from County Derry" by Australian composer Percy Aldridge Grainger and "Four Scottish Dances" by Malcolm Arnold, trans. John Paynter.

Clarinet Quintet Concert.

3-4 p.m. At Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Come enjoy a variety of musical



Brave Spirits Theatre at the Lab at Convergence presents "The King's Shadow" now through April 19.

"The King's Shadow"

Now thru April 19, 8 p.m. At The Lab at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. In this season, Shakespeare's Histories: "The King's Shadow" runs January 2nd - April 19th, 2020; "Richard the Second" runs January 2 - April 18, 2020; "Henry the Fourth, Part 1" runs January 30 - April 18, 2020; "Henry the Fourth, Part 2" runs now thru April 19, 2020; and "Henry the Fifth" runs March 12 - April 19, 2020. These plays follow the troubled passing of the English crown from the philosopher King Richard II, to the conqueror King Henry IV, to his rogue son, Prince Hal. With his father's deeds looming over him, Hal indulges in a reckless adolescence that tarnishes his reputation. But when the time comes to rule, Hal must take control of how history will remember him, unite his country, and become the legendary King Henry V. Tickets are \$35. Contact boxoffice@bravespiritstheatre.com or www.bravespiritstheatre.com.

styles performed by a group of five clarinets, returning after a well-attended performance at Sherwood in June. The players are all former members of Washington, D.C. military bands (including one of the

librarians). Free. Email: Jeff Snavelly - Jeff.Snavelly@fairfaxcounty.gov

Baroque Music Concert. 5-6 p.m. At Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria. Join FUMC in bringing 17th Century Baroque music to life with a free concert by Charm City Baroque. Since 2008, CCB has been bringing 17th century music to life through the use of period instruments and historical performance techniques. Free. Visit the website: <http://franconiaumc.org>

Opal Faculty Showcase.

6:30 p.m. At The Lyceum: Alexandria's History Museum, 201 S. Washington Street, Alexandria. Come hear the Opal Music Studio teachers — all professional musicians — play together. This free concert will be a community celebration of music, featuring Opal Music Studio faculty playing a diverse set of musical styles from classical to opera to jazz. Free. Visit opalmusicstudio.com

2020 Presidential Straw Poll and Craft Cider Tasting Party. 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. At Lost Boy Cider 317 Hooffs Run Dr, Alexandria. Tickets are \$45 in advance, \$50 at the Door, Alexandria Young Dems \$35. Food and Beverages and Ample Parking Included.

TUESDAY/MARCH 3

AARP Fun Brunch. 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Paradiso Restaurant, 6124 Franconia Road, Alexandria. Meet, greet, and eat lunch with the AARP Fun Bunch. Meet new people, make new friends, connect with neighbors, and enjoy lunch together. No program, no seminar, just casual fun with friends and neighbors. Call 877-926-8300.

Microgreens. 7-8:30 p.m. At Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen Street, Alexandria. Microgreens — You've likely seen them, but what makes them so good for you? Join us to learn their many benefits, and some simple ways to grow these delicious, nutritious and inexpensive baby plants and sprouts in your own home. Plus, we provide supplies for you to plant your own container. So



Arts on the Horizon presents "By the Seashore" from March 20 to April 4.

"By the Seashore"

March 20 to April 4, Wednesdays thru Saturdays, 10 a.m.; 10:30 a.m.; 11:30 a.m. At the Convergence Main Building, 1801 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. "By the Seashore" takes us on a magical journey to a place children love to visit — the beach! Young audience members are invited to explore all the amazing things we find on the shore, in the ocean, and in the sky; from birds and fish, to sand and water, and everything in-between. Using an imaginative mix of puppetry, movement, and sound, this sensory-filled production is specifically designed for babies and young toddlers. Tickets are \$8. Discounts for groups and active duty military families are available. Purchase tickets here: <http://www.artsonthehorizon.org/by-the-seashore-2020> or call 571-549-1270.

come prepared to get a bit dirty while you make your own microgreen garden in class. This event is offered by Extension Master Gardeners. Free. Advance registration requested at mgnv.org. Call 703-228-6414 or email mgarlalex@gmail.com.

MARCH 4-25

Award-Winning Photos Displayed.

At Huntley Meadows, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. The Audubon Society of Northern Virginia will display award-winning photographs from the National Audubon Society's 2019 photo contest in an exhibition at Huntley Meadows Park this winter. It's a perfect fit, as this year's grand prize-winning photograph was shot at Huntley Meadows. Local amateur photographer Kathrin Swoboda took top honors for her photograph of a red-winged blackbird that appeared to be blowing smoke rings as the rising sun backlit the vapor that formed while the bird sang out on a cold day. There will be an opening reception on Sunday, March 8, from 1 to 3 p.m. Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows.

THURSDAY/MARCH 5

Yacht Haven Garden Club Meets.

9:30 a.m. At the Mount Vernon Yacht Club at 4818 Tarpon Lane, Alexandria. The program will be on native plants, Amping up the Garden, by Louis Ratchford, Plant Specialist. Contact pmuchello@aol.com Visitors are welcome.

MARCH 5-23

"Head Over Heels." 8 p.m. At Ainslie Arts Center | 3900 West Braddock Road, Alexandria. "Head Over Heels" is a celebration of love set to the music of the Go-Go's. Based on Sir Philip Sidney's Arcadia, the royal family risks losing their "beat" and must journey to discover the key to

their realm's survival. Like in most musicals, it may have been in them the whole time. With hits like, "We Got The Beat," "Mad About You," "Vacation," and "Our Lips are Sealed," you'll be dancing along in your seat. Tickets \$30/\$40. For tickets, visit <https://www.monumentaltheatre.org/shows-events>

FRIDAY/MARCH 6

Preserving African American

Historic Places.

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. At The Alexandria History Museum at the Lyceum, Alexandria. Cost is \$60 for conference. Building on the success of past programs focused on advocating for African American historic resources, including schools, cemeteries and churches, this one-day conference will provide updates on African American historic sites in the state, provide networking opportunities, and offer information on advocacy, documentation and funding to help build capacity and strengthen organizations preserving African American historic sites in the state.

The Thirteen performs Mystic.

7:30 p.m. At Virginia Theological Seminary, Immanuel Chapel, 3737 Seminary Road, Alexandria. The Thirteen, under the direction of Artistic Director Matthew Robertson, explores humanity's search for the divine across time and space in their upcoming concert Mystic. Mystic is organized in a series of vignettes. It begins with the medieval melodies of Hildegard von Bingen then enters the mystical cathedrals of the post-war Europe with the works of Estonian composer Arvo. Tickets may be purchased at www.TheThirteenChoir.org. Tickets will be available at the door of the concert, if the concert is not sold out. Tickets are \$35, \$30 if purchased in advance. Discounts are available at www.TheThirteenChoir.org.

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Big Ideas Wanted for Occoquan Park

NOVA Parks (Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority) is known for its popular parks with a regional draw. For Occoquan Regional Park in southern Fairfax County, the agency has put out a request for proposal (RFP) for bold new ideas. The RFP calls for something that would attract at least 200,000 visitors a year and be unique within at least a 100-mile radius.

Dan Storck, Mt. Vernon District Supervisors, said, "It is exciting that NOVA Parks is actively seeking public/private partnerships that could benefit southern Fairfax County. With the proposed indoor ski facility for the County Landfill, the improvements at the Workhouse Arts Center, and the recent rebuild of the Occoquan Regional Park, this is becoming a premier destination in Fairfax County. This August we will also dedicate the new Suffragist Memorial, that is also at Occoquan Regional Park. I am very excited about how all these new sites and venues are coming together."

In June of 2018, Occoquan Regional Park was re-

dedicated after a major renovation that included the Jean R. Packard Center, with the beautiful River View event venue, and Brickmakers Café. The park also features a 5K rope trail that is extremely popular. Boaters and anglers have known Occoquan for decades as a great place to access the river.

The recent announcement of a new indoor ski facility next to the park has increased interest in this property.

"Fairfax County's economy is diversified by a significant Travel and Tourism economy, driven by our amazing tourism assets. We are so fortunate to have an amazing Parks infrastructure for both residents and visitors alike to enjoy and experience. If NOVA Parks can attract a unique and dynamic new recreational facility that will attract hundreds of thousands of people a year, the benefits will ripple throughout the economy of our area," remarked Barry Biggar, President/CEO of Visit Fairfax.

Proposals for these big ideas are due on April 3, 2020.

League of Women Voters Celebrates 100th Anniversary

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA) celebrated the 100th anniversary of the League of Women Voters on Feb. 23, 2020. More than 100 LWV members attended the afternoon tea, held at the Country Club of Fairfax. The League was founded by Carrie Chapman Catt in 1920, just six months before the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, giving all American women the right to vote after a 72-year fight for women's suffrage.

Vivian Watts, Member, Virginia House of Delegates, was the featured speaker and described her own more than 50 years as a League member, including as President of LWVFA (1975-77). She recounted the strong influence and encouragement of League mentors as she launched her political career and how greatly she benefited as a delegate from the subject-matter expertise she had developed during her years as a League member. Watts described members as "engaged with energy and spirit" as they "not just ensured that people vote but that the voters are informed."

LWVFA Co-President Nancy Roodberg honored the 28 women who have been members of the League for 50 or more years. One of them, Leslie Byrne, former member of the U.S. House of Representatives and LWVFA President (1982-83) described the critical support she had received from Vivian Watts in starting her own political career. She also credited the League in providing her with her first experience in fundraising.

In a congratulatory letter read at the event, United States Senator Mark Warner praised the "extraordinarily important role" the League has played in U.S. democracy. "You have worked to empower citizens by helping them understand policy issues and through your advocacy efforts."

Capital Harmonia, a community women's chorus based in Northern Virginia, dedicated to bringing music written for women's voices, opened the event by performing songs that celebrate and inspire women.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan citizens' organization that has fought since 1920 to improve the government and engage all citizens in the decisions that impact their lives. The League oper-



PHOTO COURTESY OF LWVFA

Del Vivian Watts (D-39) describes her own more than 50 years as a League member.

ates at national, state and local levels through more than 700 state and local Leagues, in all 50 states as well as in DC, the Virgin Islands and Hong Kong. Membership in the League of Women Voters is open to anyone — men and women — age 16 and older. More at <http://www.lwv-fairfax.org/>

C-PACE

FROM PAGE 5

laborative process with a variety of community stakeholders to identify emission reduction targets and strategies for the years to come. Improving the efficiency and resiliency of our commercial property stock is an essential piece of the strategy.

Kambiz Agazi is Director, Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination for Fairfax County Government

Employment

PART TIME POSITION

Local Old Town political advertising firm looking for a part-time person to assist in the finance department. Bookkeeping and some work in Quick Books. Job will run March through November. Weekly hours will vary from 15 to 30 hours a week. Casual working environment. For details please write: aiglesias@srcpmedia.com

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Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE

AT&T proposes to replace an existing 37.6' wood utility pole with a new 47.5' wood utility pole and install a top-mounted antenna at 49' at 7732 Richmond Hwy, Alexandria, VA (20191805). Interested parties may contact Scott Horn (856-809-1202) (1012 Industrial Dr., West Berlin, NJ 08091) with comments regarding potential effects on historic properties.

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Useless Is As Useless Doesn't Have To Do

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



It began years ago when technology enabled many public bathrooms to change to hands-free. Other than the obvious hands-on responsibilities, many of the other elements no longer required any touching. Be it the paper-towel dispenser, the hand dryer, the hot and cold/on and off functions in the sinks, and of course, the urinal and toilet flushing functions. All providing a convenience never before possible. Other than an automatic entry/exit function for the bathroom door, and one as well on the inside for the stalls themselves, using many public bathrooms has become much less involved, shall we say, than ever before. And it has not stopped there. It has gone public in a very big way.

Driving, specifically through tolls, that is. Thanks to EZ-Pass, tolls or rather interacting with them by having to hand money over to a "toll collector," (or even to stop and toss money into a basket) has nearly been eliminated. Due to a device (transponder) attached to my licence plate, as me and my car approach the toll booth, I simply go about my normal driving business with nary a worry in the world. I steer into the dedicated EZ-Pass lane at a bit less than the posted speed, and ding!, as I drive through the toll booth, the toll is paid. No fuss, no muss, no window roll-down and no scrambling for change or digging for dollars. What's done is done so long as the yellow light illuminates and "paid" appears. (Although if what's done isn't done, you'll soon receive a paper bill in the mail at the address on file.)

Metro, our local public conveyor, also provides a hands-free or very nearly hands-free experience. If you have a plastic "Metro card" linked into their system, all you need do as you enter the turnstyle is tap your card and go. No more standing in line at the "Fare"/"Add Fare" kiosks to load your card with money to start or end your journey. As with your EZ-Pass, once you sign up and link your Metro card to a credit/debit card, you are "In Like Flint," as some of us from a certain generation might say. Henceforth, your card is automatically updated to always provide sufficient dollars for this trip and any subsequent trips to make sense.

Now imagine if I had a "smart phone." How many more functions/people-free interactions might I enjoy with a tap, a scan or a wave? Unfortunately, I have what my wife, Dina calls a "stupid phone." That's a flip phone with no internet access. As such, I am cut off from an evolving world. A world in which I'll likely not have to interact with anybody or reach into my pocket for anything resembling money. All I'll have to reach for is my "smart phone." I've seen its functionality at the airport in lieu of a paper ticket, on Amtrak, at concert venues and of course sports venues. It seems to help speed up the entry process.

I don't really don't want to be the last flip-phone-holding man standing. But neither do I want to get into a life-accident while negotiating the learning curve. At the moment, the road ahead seems full of twists and turns with more curves than I can possibly imagine. How do I negotiate something I can't see? Moreover, how do I negotiate the road less traveled, by me? Where will I draw the experience necessary to acclimate to these ever-changing signposts? I mean, the words may be familiar, but some of the context may be off putting and counterintuitive, to me.

I'm not a complete Bozo. I have partially integrated into this new world. I have had insurance and car payments automatically debited from my bank account for years. I have some over-the-counter medicines, supplements and a variety of cat-related care and feeding products automatically delivered to my home. However, sometimes I feel like a pinball (and I'm no wizard) without the bells and whistles banging around trying to stay on top of what product is debit/paid and when. Now that's a service I could use: an automated weekly reminder of what's happening when. And the beauty of it, I wouldn't need any new devices. I use what I always use: my home computer. Turn it on, click the email, open, read and then close. Even Bozo the clown could do that.

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

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 9

also one lane roads that are equally backed up during rush hour and weekends.

Third, the impact on local schools such as Belle View Elementary and West Potomac cannot be understated. Schools are near capacity and adding 1,000 housing units will obviously add dozens if not a hundred or more kids to an already crowded school system. This must be taken into context with the ongoing development of mixed use housing and retail on Richmond Highway which is causing the same stress on roads and schools. It would be like adding an entire neighborhood the size of Hollin Hall (approximately 700 homes)... plus 300 more!

Fourth, the area is a flood zone. The property has been flooded numerous times. The idea of a multi-level underground parking facility is silly.

I would agree that owners of the property should have fair latitude to redevelop their land and that the Center may be dated to some. But to those who live here, that is what draws us to the area ... a great small town atmosphere. The enormous growth in western Fairfax County has driven many of my friends out of the area because they don't want to live in a high density mixed use area. Some folks love that ... for them, it is wonderful and there are many opportunities to live in such areas in Tyson's Corner, Falls Church, Arlington, and parts of Alexandria. But it is also important to preserve the small town feel of our area. Rehabbing the Center, but keeping the overall general size, look and feel of the Center ought to be the priority. I hope local representatives hear loud and clear from South Alexandria residents about this plan.

Dave Grant
Alexandria

BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar.

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.

RSVP, a volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older. RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, email Carly Hubicki at chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-403- 5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit www.rsvpnova.org.

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Monday - Friday, 6:00am to 7:00pm
Saturday, 7:00am to 5:00pm

**YOU HAVE SATURDAY OFF.
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY WE DON'T!**

ToyotaCare
Customers
Don't Forget Your **FREE** Service.
5,000 • 10,000 • 15,000 • 20,000 • 25,000
Now Available Mile Services
Call your ASM for details
ToyotaCare Plus \$329⁰⁰
Covers up to 4 years/45,000 miles

ALIGNMENT SPECIAL

\$69⁹⁵

Your car's alignment suffers, and can
cause uneven tire wear and steering problems.
INCLUDES: Inspect suspension, ball joints, struts
& shocks, tire condition and set tire pressure.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 2/29/20.

**SIGHT LINE
WIPER BLADES**

**BUY 1
GET 1 FREE**

Sight Line only.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA PARTS CENTER ONLY. GOOD THRU 2/29/20.

**FREE
BATTERY CHECK-UP**

Check cold cranking amps and visual inspection of
battery condition. Includes battery condition print out.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 2/29/20.

BRAKE SPECIAL

\$79⁹⁵

Includes: Install Genuine Toyota front brake pads, inspect front & rear rotors
& drums, check tire condition and inspect all hardware. Pads only.

MACHINE ROTORS ADDITIONAL

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BG VITAL FLUID SERVICE

10% OFF YOUR FIRST SERVICE

15% OFF YOUR SECOND SERVICE

Power Steering • Automatic Transmission • Brake System

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OIL & FILTER CHANGE

\$24⁹⁵

NON-SYNTHETIC

\$34⁹⁵

SYNTHETIC

Includes: Genuine Toyota oil filter, up to 5 qts of conventional oil*,
inspect windshield wipers, check tire condition, check battery (with
print-out), inspect and adjust all fluid levels, inspect air & cabin air filters.

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NEW HOURS SPECIAL!
DROP OFF YOUR VEHICLE BETWEEN 6AM & 7AM
WITH A SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT & RECEIVE
12% OFF ANY ONE REPAIR.

MAXIMUM DISCOUNT, \$150

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER, TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE.
VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA PARTS CENTER ONLY. GOOD THRU 2/29/20.

Jack Taylor's

ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA

TRUESTART™ BATTERIES

**SPECIAL
OFFER**

\$129⁹⁵

INCLUDES BATTERY INSTALLATION

Includes: 84 month warranty, 24 month free replacement,
24 month free roadside assistance.
Does not apply to hybrid batteries.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 2/29/20.

CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT AT 703-684-0710 OR SCHEDULE ONLINE AT ALEXANDRIATOYOTA.COM

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CHRIS WHITE

FAMILY REAL ESTATE

*Leading the Area in Real Estate. **SOLD!!!***



7715 Midday Ln
\$799,000

Stunning opportunity to acquire a home with the stature, floorplan, and location typically found in \$1,000,000+ properties. Stately brick home just minutes from Old Town on elevated lot exuding a prominent presence and overlooking surrounding neighborhood. Former model home features: open floor plan, stately two story entry foyer, sunroom, main level master suite, large basement with workout room/storage space, custom brick work and expansive deck nestled into private rear yard, huge side load 2 car garage. Priced to provide your own personal touches and to make this estate caliber property truly your own!

JUST LISTED: OPEN SUN 1-4PM!



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!



3111 McGeorge Terr
\$575,000

Fabulous home, gorgeous lot, and prime location for under \$600k! The one you've been waiting for is finally here! Spacious home with numerous features including: brick front, large room sizes, 4 bedrooms, 3 full updated baths, gorgeous hardwood floors, expanded kitchen, replacement thermal windows, two finished levels and oversize garage with storage area. Large deck overlooks magnificent fenced yard. Premier location just minutes from the Mt. Vernon Estate, bike path, and scenic GW parkway. Unique opportunity for completely turn key home under \$600k!

CONTRACT IN 1st WEEKEND!



8807 Teresa Ann Ct
\$725,000

Exciting opportunity! The most house for the money in Fort Hunt area! Exceptionally spacious 5 bedroom / 3 Bath home in premier location on quiet cul-de-sac just off GW Parkway and steps to bike path. Substantially updated and meticulously maintained. Special features include: custom updated kitchen, thermal replacement windows, gorgeous hardwood floors, 3 updated baths including master bath with marble tile, two fireplaces, newer HVAC/water heater, and garage parking. Exterior decks overlooks private fenced rear yard with additional storage shed. This property offers a combination of size, condition, & prime location that add up to an incredible value. Don't miss out!

METICULOUSLY MAINTAINED!



4116 Ferry Landing Rd
\$878,500

Incredible new price! 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!



4416 Dolphin Ln
\$800,000

Exceptionally open and spacious mid-century modern home on gorgeous fenced, half acre grounds in prestigious Yacht Haven Estates. Home features truly stunning bright open floor plan, enhanced by high ceilings, glass walls, skylights, and gorgeous hardwood floors. Six bedrooms and three updated baths. The custom master bath was extensively designed to enhance the character of the home. Main living space leads to amazing 4,200 square foot deck and gazebo overlooking yard. The ultimate entertaining spot! Garage plus covered driveway parking. If you are tired of the mundane and have been waiting for a truly unique custom property for a remarkably reasonable price, this is it!

YACHT HAVEN GEM!

71 Homes **SOLD** in 2019!



WHAT'S YOUR HOME WORTH?

Are you considering selling in 2020 or curious about current market conditions? Now is the time to contact us for a no obligation consultation.

Frequently asked questions include:

"What is my house worth?"

"When is the best time to put a house on the market?"

"What repairs and updates make sense and which do not?"

Put our expertise to work for you, call us today!

LONG & FOSTER
REAL ESTATE

CHRISTIE'S
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE

703.283.9028

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