

Reforming the Police

Lawmakers consider sweeping set of proposals to change policing in Virginia.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Only a few hours into a special session of the General Assembly earlier this week, members of a Senate panel passed a sweeping bill on policing reform that does everything from banning no-knock warrants and limiting chokeholds to creating use-of-force standards and requiring de-escalation training.

The special session was called partially in reaction to the killing of an unarmed Black man by a white police officer in Minnesota, which set off protests across the country against police brutality. Now lawmakers in Richmond are poised to pass landmark legislation that has the support of associations representing police chiefs and sheriff's offices across Virginia.

"It raises the bar for professionalism in the state," said Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36), who is leading the criminal-justice reform effort in the Senate. "And I think that's why they supported all this."

The way Virginia law currently works, officers can resign in the middle of a decertification process as a way to terminate the proceeding. Not only does that undermine accountability for bad cops, it also opens the door for them to get new jobs at other police departments that don't have access to disciplinary records outlining their actions. Police agencies in Virginia say launching a decertification process is difficult, and the rules for how they work allow bad cops to slip through the cracks.

"If they couldn't perform up to standards in my agency, they shouldn't be allowed to work at another agency doing the same job," said Herndon Police Chief Maggie DeBoard, a vice president of the Virginia Chiefs of Police Association who worked with senators to craft the legislation. "We would conduct the investigation to sustain a finding, which would then allow the state to decertify that officer so that they could not work anywhere in the

"It raises the bar for professionalism in the state."

— Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36)



Police agencies in Virginia want to make it more difficult for bad cops to move from department to department without facing consequences for bad behavior.

state as a sworn law-enforcement officer."

THE POLICING REFORM BILL now heads to the Senate Finance Committee, where lawmakers will determine if they can find the money to pay for the new hearing officers that will be needed at the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services to handle the increase in decertification proceedings.

The Senate bill also requires the department to create a new code of conduct for police, and the department will need to dedicate staffers to develop the code over the next two years.

"We understand it's a lot, but we also believe that this is what's necessary in order to get the transformational change that we've all been seeking," said Kofi Annan, former president of the Fairfax NAACP and founder of an advocacy group known as The Activated People. "People have been marching through the streets for months literally risking their lives, and they didn't do it in order to just get one piecemeal kind of bill."

House members are taking a different approach to policing reform, splitting the issue into its compo-



Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36) is overseeing the Senate's package of criminal justice reform bills.

nent parts that can be debated individually rather than as part of an omnibus package. One of the advantages of the Senate's approach is that the omnibus bill has the support of law enforcement agencies because it has several provisions that they've been asking for on decertification, among other things. But if the prohibition on no-knock warrants is separated from the rest of the bill, as the House plans to do next week, it might be opposed by police agencies who feel no-knock warrants are required in some circumstances.

"You don't throw 100 bills into one omnibus bill. We're not going to do that. I think that's ridiculous," said Del. Mark Levine (D-

45). "We're going to have many of the same reforms, but we're going to have it in 25 bills or maybe 30 bills."

IN THE WEEKS leading up to the special session, senators have been working with law enforcement agencies for peace in the valley. Language banning chokeholds was softened to allow them in certain life-threatening situations. Provisions requiring judges to sign off on nighttime search warrants allows magistrates to approve them if judges aren't available. And a ban on military equipment was softened to allow for police agencies to receive some items through the Pentagon's 1033 Program. Law

enforcement agencies say they should be able to receive some of the military surplus items available through the program, including camouflage uniforms.

"Sheriffs do use that for rescue and protection," said John Jones, executive director of the Virginia Sheriffs' Association. "As far as we're concerned, you fixed the concerns we had about military equipment."

Senators also worked with law enforcement agencies to address their concerns on data collection. The compromise language requires the collection of information about the race and ethnicity of drivers who are stopped and searched. But it also provides some flexibility for departments to avoid detailing a list of everyone they questioned at a checkpoint.

The bill that got out of the Senate Judiciary Committee also includes a way for officers to shield statements they make during some internal investigations from prosecutors.

"We should always work well with our commonwealth's attorneys in the best interest in criminal justice," said Ashland Police Chief Douglas Goodman, who worked with senators to craft the legislation. "But we're just concerned about statements officers may provide that are compelled."

QUALIFIED IMMUNITY may end up being a sticking point between the House and the Senate as the special session moves forward. House members say they want to move forward with finding a way for police officers to be sued individually, which is currently prohibited under a legal doctrine that has its roots in English common law.

Senators did not include the issue of qualified immunity in their policing reform bill, and Gov. Ralph Northam did not include the issue in his agenda for the special session.

"You're less likely to misbehave if you know there's going to be adverse consequences to you if you misbehave," said Victor Glasberg, attorney in Alexandria.

"If there's all the reason in the world to believe that if somebody hauls you into court you're going to get off on qualified immunity, it just makes it easier for you to misbehave."

PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

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Trailer Park Residents Speak Out About Being Priced Out

Hybla Valley residents oppose mixed use plans.

By Mike Salmon
Gazette Packet

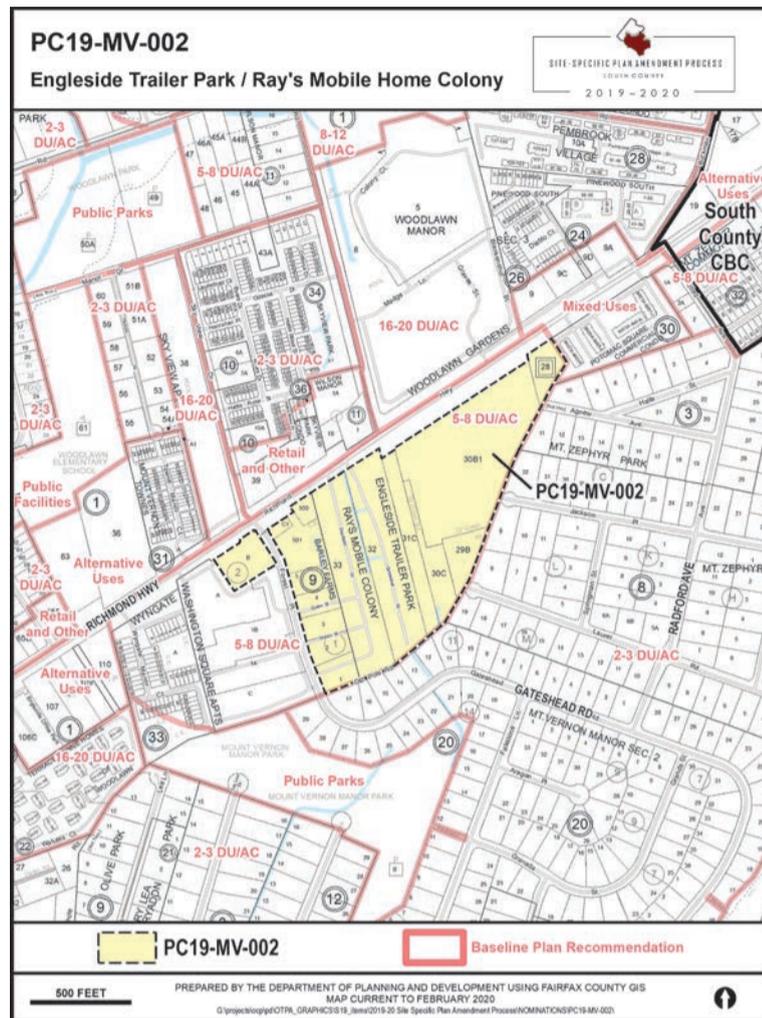
To the county planners, the Engleside Trailer Park is an opportunity for redevelopment that would bring a needed boost to this section of Richmond Highway and be in harmony with Embark Richmond Highway project that is slowly coming to fruition. To the residents of Engleside Trailer Park, it is home. Residents got a small group together to discuss the plan, via Zoom, with county planners at a recent Site-Specific Plan Amendment Process meeting.

"These are homes, not just trailers," said one Engleside resident.

A handful gathered in a room and communicated with the planners via Zoom, and were represented by Leah Tenorio, who translated when necessary since many were Spanish speaking residents. Tenorio is the social justice chair at Good Shepherd Catholic Church and works with the Latino community on Route 1.

"These residents were not notified," Tenorio said.

Proposals like this go through the county process, and this proposal has been announced in Supervisor Dan Storck's (D-Mount



This is PC19-MV-002.

Vernon) newsletters, social media, Nextdoor and several newspaper articles, Storck's office said. This is the consideration stage, and step two in about a nine-step process, so there will be several more op-

portunities for residents to be part of the discussion.

The plan, PC19-MV-002 in planner lingo, was to replace the trailer park at a 1:1 ratio with other housing, which could be apartments,



The residents of Engleside spoke out about the plan.

the planners said. Engleside is being looked at along with Ray's Mobile Colony, which is next door.

According to the proposal, the illustrative concept plan depicts possible redevelopment options to include mid-rise multifamily, retail and office uses along Richmond Highway, and stacked towns in the southern portion of the site, with green buffer/open space as a transition to the neighborhoods to the south.

The plan anticipates completion of a full movement intersection at Richmond Highway and Frye Road. It sounds more expensive than living in a trailer park, and the attendees were worried about being priced out of this location.

The Site-Specific Plan Amendment Process is an opportunity to participate in Fairfax County's land use planning process by submitting proposals to amend the Area Plan volumes of the Comprehensive Plan and/or the Comprehensive Land Use Plan Map through the Plan Amendment Work, county information stated.

In the end, the land use committee thought it was necessary to delay the process so the residents in Engleside and Ray's trailer parks can submit their comments to coincide with the county process. This will require translations in some cases.

Other Planning Parcels

Other areas that were looked at during the meeting included the Beacon Hill Apartments off South Kings Highway. The height of the proposed buildings was a point of discussion for this 37-acre site. A potential Metro stop is part of this plan, though it's a long way off in the future.

The staff did not recommend adding this to the plan amendment work program at this time by a vote of 11 to 8.

Another parcel of land that was examined at this meeting was a parcel in Lee District, near the Springfield Interchange, that was looked at for a storage facility. The staff did not recommend moving forward with this either.

Groundbreaking Scheduled for Lorton Library Renovation

Library will be co-located with the Lorton Community Action Center.

By Mike Salmon
The Connection

On Saturday, Aug. 22, officials are breaking ground on the Lorton Library renovation project, modernizing a community facility and creating a catalyst for community improvement to this section of Fairfax County.

The Lorton Library is located on Richmond Highway, and shares a space with the Lorton Community Action Center, so a new and improved library will also provide a well-needed county resource to this part of Lorton.

The renovated branch will be 60 percent larger than its current 10,000 square feet, and the layout will be more efficient for customer use, the county said. The building



In this artist rendering, the new facility will have more windows for natural lighting.

Ground clearing for the new facilities began in July.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

Legislating in the Time of COVID-19

BY DELEGATE PAUL KRIZEK

This week, I returned with my colleagues to Richmond to revise the Commonwealth's budget in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, pass pandemic-related legislation, and to address the twin issues of racial inequity and police reform. For the past couple of months the House Democratic Caucus has worked dutifully and deliberately on an impactful package of laws that will change people's lives in an unprecedented and positive way.

Early Tuesday morning before the beginning of the session that gavelled in at 1 p.m., I attended the joint money committees (Appropriations and Finance) meeting where we heard the official budget re-forecasting data. From this meeting we received full details as to how the pandemic has affected the Virginia economy and how we will need to reshape the budget to compensate for those adverse effects. As you know, any new spending allotted by the budget that the General Assembly passed in March during the regular session was frozen, or "unallotted," due to the pandemic. After receiving the re-forecasting details and later going through the information with a fine tooth comb, it will be clear whether any of the funding can be re-allotted for its original intent, or whether further cuts will need to be made, which is unknown to me at the time I am writing this column. To maintain physical distancing, the House of

Delegates is meeting on the basketball court of Virginia Commonwealth University's Stuart C. Siegel Center with our desks spread out six feet apart from one another and wearing our face masks. While not physically open to the public due to health concerns, the session is live-streamed on the Virginia General Assembly website beginning on Tuesday, Aug. 18 at 1 p.m. The session will probably continue through the end of the month and even into September as we embark on this extraordinary undertaking during this critical period in our Commonwealth.

This will prove to be an historic session for many reasons, but especially given that this is only the third time in the Commonwealth's history that the General Assembly has not met in our traditional chambers. The first time was in 1849 due to a cholera outbreak, and then the second time was during this past April's annual reconvene session. In fact, this will be the first time in 171 years that the House of Delegates will not convene on the Capitol grounds, as the Senate of Virginia chose to meet a few miles away at the Science Museum of Virginia in April, while the House of Delegates met outside the Capitol in a tent.

This special session will stand in stark contrast to the outcome of that 1849 session, where a 17th-century ban on interracial marriage was officially codified, and where it was made a felony



Paul Krizek

to criticize slave ownership, punishable by up to five years imprisonment. It is nice that this time we are moving in a much different direction. While the fact remains that like that 1849 session, we will be legislating and updating our Commonwealth's

budget in the time of a deadly pandemic, our other goals heading into this year's unprecedented special session revolve around improving racial equity and reforming our criminal justice system. Last week, the House Democratic Caucus released our legislative priorities going into this special session. It's a transformative package of legislation to remove much of the inequality in our criminal justice system and provide tools to combat the health crisis. I've included most of it here:

COVID-19 Relief

Requiring businesses to grant paid sick leave for Virginia workers.

Establishing a presumption as to death or disability due to COVID-19 for workers' compensation for first responders, teachers, and other high-risk essential workers.

Providing immunity from civil claims related to COVID-19 for complying with health guidance.

Protecting Virginians from eviction during a public health emergency.

Creating a Commonwealth Marketplace for Personal Protective

Equipment acquisition.

Mandating transparency requirements for congregate-care facilities during a public health emergency.

Criminal Justice and Police Reform

Reforming Virginia's laws related to the expungement of police and court records.

Increasing good behavior sentence credits.

Eliminating qualified immunity for law enforcement officers.

Prohibiting no-knock warrants. Banning the use of chokeholds and other lethal restraints used by law enforcement.

Creating a statewide Marcus Alert system to ensure the presence of mental health professionals for calls related to mental health crises and wellness checks.

Strengthening laws related to Citizen Review Panels.

Eliminating certain pretextual police stops.

Demilitarizing police departments by prohibiting the acquisition and use of certain weapons by law enforcement agencies.

Banning sexual relations between officers and arrestees.

Expanding the definition of hate crimes to include false 911 calls made on the basis of race.

Standardizing and enhancing training for all police academies.

Mandating the duty of one officer to report and intervene during the misconduct of another officer.

Requiring decertification of law enforcement officers who fail to properly perform their duties.

In the Interim Coping with relentless issues: pandemic, eviction crisis, unemployment crisis, boosting tourism and more.

BY SEN. ADAM EBBIN

Normally, the end of the legislative session allows time for legislators, staff, and advocates alike to regroup and catch their breath. However, though the 2020 General Assembly session officially adjourned on March 7th, things are still busy. After adjournment, cases of COVID-19 mounted rapidly, accompanied by tri-weekly calls with the Governor's office, Health Department briefings, and evenings working to stay informed of the constantly-evolving virus and to share information with constituents.

After the deaths of George Floyd,

Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery reignited a call to action to reform our nation's policing practices, I listened to and stood with Black Lives Matter protestors, and worked with Senate colleagues to build a comprehensive framework to end these tragedies and the culture that has made them so devastatingly commonplace.

As so many are painfully aware, an eviction crisis is looming in Virginia. The statewide eviction moratorium ended in July and the weekly \$600 federal stipend for unemployment lapsed at the end of July, leaving many Virginians



Adam Ebbin

at risk of not being able to pay their rent. Although Governor Ralph Northam has implemented a statewide rent relief program, the initiative is not yet scaled up to prevent many Virginians from losing their housing during a public

health crisis. I have been working closely with advocates and legislators to address this. To that end, over the last three weeks, I met with the Virginia Poverty Law Center, Tenants and Workers United of Alexandria and faith leaders from Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement (VOICE) to hear issues and seek

solutions. During a Special Session that Governor Northam has called to begin on Aug. 18, Del. Cia Price (D-Hampton) and I will be introducing legislation to require landlords who plan on evicting tenants to first enter into a payment plan for a missed rent payment, ensuring that one financial crisis will not push tenants out of their housing and ensure landlords do not lose income or go through the costly and unsettling process of evicting a family. I am also working with advocates to extend the eviction moratorium.

I serve on a number of interim Committees and Commissions be-
SEE IN THE INTERIM, PAGE 9

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NEWS

Fort Hunt Flag Football for High School Players

The flag football program for kids 13 years and younger is now joined by a high school 7-vs-7 non-contact league for kids 14-to-18 years of age. Some local high school coaches suggest this will be advantageous in helping keep the kids in shape and their football skills sharp.

Fort Hunt will also be offering skills and drills camps on select Saturdays and Sundays beginning in September, offering position specific training for all positions on the football field led by current high school and college coaches. More info to come. Please check the website frequently for camp days.

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March Saturday

Northern Virginia Community and Friends United march for justice, peace, equality and education and Black Lives Matter, Saturday, Aug. 22.

Parts of Sherwood Hall Lane, Collingwood, Parkers Lane, Holland Road and Fordson Road will be closed to vehicles on Saturday, August 22nd from 8 a.m. until noon for a peaceful march and rally.

The staging location will be in Gum Springs at the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Park and the march will end at the Mount Vernon Police Station. Voter education and registration services will be available prior to the rally. Anyone supporting a march

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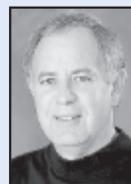


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NEWS

**Mount Vernonite Mary
Thompson Wins Top Book Award**

The Society for Historians of the Early American Republic is proud to announce the following winners of the 2020 book, article, and dissertation prizes.

The James Bradford Best Biography Prize, awarded annually to the author of an original biography, broadly defined, of a person active during the era of the early republic, goes to Mary V. Thompson, for “The Only Unavoidable Subject of Regret”: George Washington, Slavery, and the Enslaved Community at Mount Vernon (University of Virginia Press, 2019). The prize committee, composed of Professors Manisha Sinha, Jeffrey L. Pasley, and Christopher Grasso, offer the following praise of this work:

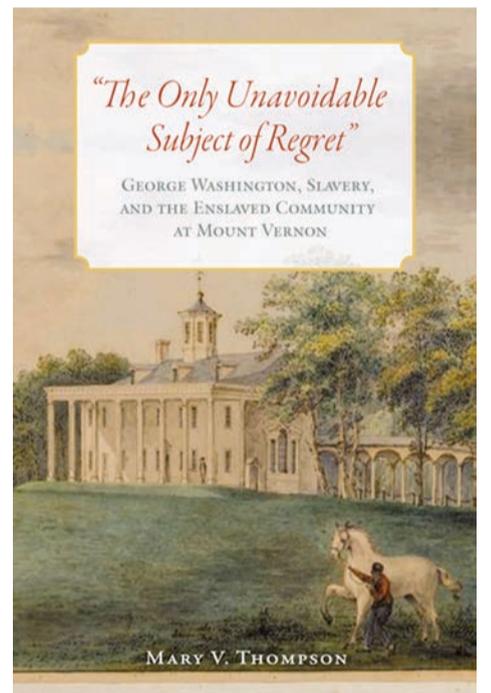
When Mary V. Thompson began working at the Mount Vernon historic site forty years ago, no one spoke of “slaves” — George Washington’s enslaved workers were called “servants.” The decades of pioneering work in the history of slavery that she had learned about in college and graduate school went unacknowledged. As she progressed from tour guide to curator to staff historian, Thompson and other scholars brought the burgeoning historiography of slavery and African American life to Mount Vernon in an effort to tell a truer story of the past to the millions who visited. Their painstaking archival and archeological research transformed the public presentation of Mount Vernon, which (as Thompson points out) provides many of its visitors with their only first-hand experience of a southern plantation.

With this volume, Thompson records and demonstrates their signal contributions to the broader scholarship on slavery and freedom in eighteenth-century Virginia. The product of decades of work, *The Only Unavoidable Subject of Regret* is more than a remarkable synthesis. While not a traditional biography of Washington, the book is an essential contribution to the study of his life, revealing his character through his practice of slavery, the cultural and socio-economic foundation of his identity as an elite eighteenth-century Virginian. The book will be a starting point for all future conventional Washington biographies. The focus of Washington’s attention and passion throughout his life, the management of Mount Vernon and the other plantations tell us as much about him as his military and political careers, and reflect a harsher light back on those, too. Thompson does not let her admiration for Washington in other contexts make her flinch from portraying the everyday and perpetual cruelties of Washington’s slaveholding, which included whipping, shackles, tracing escapees with dogs, and selling people away from their families.

Understanding Washington as a slaveholder requires a comprehensive reconstruction of life at Mount Vernon, and this book provides it as only an author who has spent their career directly immersed in a subject can do. Thompson analyzes the work regimes of the various hired, indentured, and enslaved workers that kept the plantation functioning.



Mary V. Thompson



Several chapters reconstruct life in the slave quarters, from the details of their material surroundings and diet to their social relationships and cultural practices. Other sections consider the process through which Washington’s concern for his and the country’s reputation eventually led him to reconsider slavery, despite his avid and successful efforts to profit from it to his last breath.

Along the way, the evidence is weighed and judicious answers are provided for every major question and controversy regarding the Washington family and slavery. Taken as a whole, the book provides a valuable view from Mount Vernon the historical institution that shows just how well academic studies, public history, and material culture can mesh and enrich each other.

In short, Mary V. Thompson’s book amounts to new required reading on the first subject in American biography. Slavery at Mount Vernon was fundamental to George Washington’s character and life, and those in turn have the broadest implications for how we approach the Founders in general. General readers and scholars alike are Thompson’s debt, and her book richly deserves the 2020 SHEAR Bradford Prize.

For a question-and-answer session with the author, see:

<https://www.mountvernon.org/library/author-interviews/the-only-unavoidable-subject-of-regret/>

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Keeping children focused and away from distractions like video games can be challenging for parents of those with ADHD.



Distance Learning for Children with ADHD

Decreasing stress and increasing success in a virtual classroom.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

Voncia Hartley and her 10-year old son Kelvin are dreading the first day of school this year. Remote learning means that this Alexandria mother of three will not only oversee the education of her children, she will also have to help Kelvin stay focused and organized. He has attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

“When we changed to online learning last spring, I almost felt like I needed to duct tape him to the chair so that he could stay still long enough to complete his assignments,” said Hartley. “We both shed a lot of tears and did a lot of screaming.”

While home-schooling or managing distance learning can be challenging for many parents, for those with children who have ADHD, it poses more complex demands. In addition to attending virtual classes and completing assignments, students with ADHD might need help locating lost pencils, notebooks or other supplies, keeping track of and completing homework or staying focused and away from video games during the school day.

“ADHD is a brain disorder that includes difficulty maintaining focus, hasty actions, and excessive body movements that interfere with daily functioning,” said Jerome Short, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychology at George Mason University. “It includes a pattern of inattention, impulsivity, and hyperactivity [and] affects about five to seven percent of children.”

Students with ADHD often need latitude with regard to the pace and method at which they learn. For

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example, children might need to sit in a rocking chair or on an exercise ball while doing schoolwork.

“Homeschooling kids with ADHD can actually have its benefits,” said Carol Barnaby, LCSW-C, a therapist in Bethesda, Md. “ADHD kids often do better with being able to have more freedom and flexibility in their schedules. They can have movement breaks when they need them and can modify their environments.”

Parents can make distance learning less stressful by creating a schedule and helping their child to follow it each school day. Recreating classroom rituals like holding morning meetings with children to discuss the day ahead can create the structure that those with ADHD need. “Parents can help by putting out a consistent schedule for the kids to work around [and] helping kids make a plan for their day to complete work,” said Barnaby. “Finding a distraction free working space; using a computer that doesn’t have distracting apps to lure kids away from work. If that isn’t

possible using a website blocker during school hours.”

Breaking down that schedule into manageable chunks and knowing how long a child can work on a particular task before needing a break can decrease anxiety and create a supportive environment. Once that is determined, Barnaby suggests “setting a kitchen timer so kids are aware of when break time happens. ... This helps them to work on beating the buzzer. If your child becomes stressed then take a break. They can come back to the work when they feel better.”

For students with ADHD, sitting at a desk for long periods of time can be grueling, so Barnaby advises parents to build physical activity into the day and adjust their expectations about their child’s learning for the coming school year.

“Mostly, remember that even if your child isn’t performing great during virtual schooling, things will be okay,” she said. “Kids are resilient. Many kids have missed school because of family crises in the past and have done fine catching up to their peers.”

“Home schooling kids with ADHD can actually have its benefits. They can have movement breaks when they need them and can modify their environments.”

— Carol Barnaby, LCSW-C, therapist

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For (Some) Women, Right to Vote Came 100 Years Ago

City marks centennial of 19th amendment.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Harry Burn was a staunch anti-suffragist. But then the 24-year-old legislator unexpectedly uttered “aye” to break a deadlocked vote at the Tennessee statehouse, leaving his colleagues in stunned silence. The date was Aug. 18, 1920, and with that single syllable a half century of tireless and sometimes violent campaigning had ended. The 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution had passed: Women were granted the right to vote.

Alexandria marked the centennial anniversary of the historic date with an outdoor gathering at the Kate Waller Barrett Library, where Mayor Justin Wilson issued a proclamation in recognition of the ratification. The location also



National Women’s Party activist Dora Lewis (wrapped in blanket) after her release from the Occoquan Workhouse in 1917.

recognized the efforts of Kate Waller Barrett, an Alexandrian and leading social and voting rights activist of her time.

“Alexandria Celebrates Women was founded to recognize the historic achievements of women in Alexandria while celebrating and empowering the modern Alexandria woman,” said Gayle Converse,

co-founder of the organization that sponsored the event. “Going forward we will be looking at becoming a resource for women’s history while doing what we can to empower women.”

Converse and co-founder Pat Miller have coordinated a series of events to mark the ratification

SEE RIGHT TO VOTE, PAGE 9

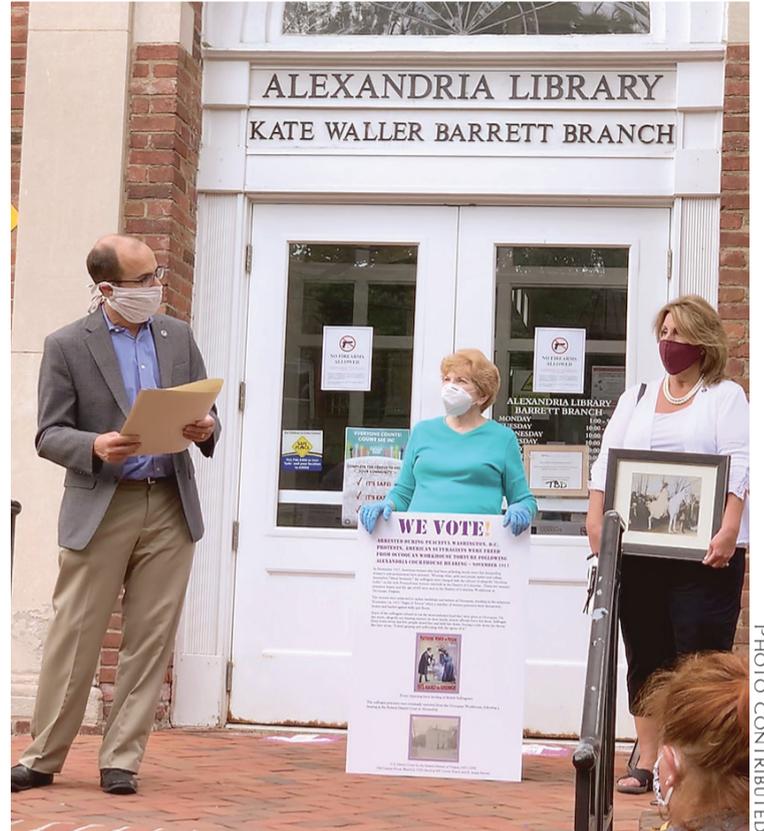


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Mayor Justin Wilson, left, prepares to read a proclamation recognizing the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment Aug. 18 at the Kate Waller Barrett Library. Council members Del Pepper and Amy Jackson joined the ceremony that celebrated the amendment granting women the right to vote.

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Right to Vote Came 100 Years Ago

FROM PAGE 8

of the 19th Amendment, including a special exhibit at the Torpedo Factory Arts Center featuring women's suffrage-inspired art, voting rights history, and voter registration information. The exhibit runs Aug. 19 through Sept. 27.

The group is also spearheading an effort to establish a historical plaque at the site of the old Customs House and Federal Courthouse at the corner of St. Asaph and Prince streets in Old Town. In 1917, the courthouse was the site of a hearing that freed women suffragists being held and tortured at the Occoquan Workhouse prison in Lorton.

"On Nov. 17, Judge Edmund Waddill Jr., in the United States District Court at Richmond, Va., ordered a writ of habeas corpus seeking the release of the suffragists undergoing the rigid disciplinary treatment at Occoquan," said Converse in detailing the series of events. "Judge Waddill set the hearing for Nov. 27 in Alexandria, nine days after the prison's 'Night of Terror' against the women."

The suffragists were transported from Occoquan for the hearing, where their appearance shocked spectators. They were malnourished and had been tortured. Many were over the age of 60.

"Many were so weak they had to lie on the courtroom benches," said Converse.

News of the Night of Terror sparked protests across the country and the hearing in Alexandria made national news. The Lucy Burns Museum at the site of the former prison in Lorton details the historic events.

The ordeal began on Nov. 14, 1917, when 32 suffragists were arrested in Washington, D.C. for blocking traffic on a Pennsylvania Avenue sidewalk. They were sent to the workhouse in Lorton, where the women were subjected to undue hardships and torture, resulting in the infamous Night of Terror.

A number of women prisoners were threatened, beaten and hurled against walls and floors. A few days later, force feedings began. The suffragist prisoners were eventually freed from the Occoquan workhouse



PHOTO/LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Suffragists Helena Hill Weed and Vida Mullholand in the Occoquan prison in 1917. Weed's crime was carrying a banner that read "Governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed."

following their hearing in Alexandria's federal courthouse.

"We are working with The Office of Historic Alexandria to install a historic marker to commemorate the location of this important suffrage movement court case," said Miller. "We need to raise \$4,750 in order to fund this monument in recognition of the women who bravely endured imprisonment and brutality in their efforts to gain the vote for all women."

Added Converse: "To this day no one knows why the women were sent to Occoquan. And while women in Alexandria gained the right to vote in August of 1920 after the 19th Amendment became law, it would be another 32-years before the Virginia General Assembly ratified the amendment on Feb. 21, 1952. And it took the Voting rights act of 1965 for African American women to receive unhindered access to the ballot box." But why exactly did the young Tennessee legislator change his vote at the last minute 100 years ago? Because that morning he received a note from his mother asking him to vote "aye."

Alexandria Celebrates Women is a 501(c)(3) non-profit. For more information or to donate to the memorial, visit www.alexandriacelebrateswomen.com.

In the Interim

FROM PAGE 4

tween sessions which provide oversight of ongoing state programs, review potential legislation, and plan one-time special projects.

Two weeks ago I was elected the Vice-Chair of the Joint Commission on Technology & Science. Later that week the Alexandria General Assembly Delegation spent several hours interviewing and selecting a new Circuit Court Judge to replace retired Judge Nolan Dawkins. We chose Kathleen Uston from a pool of extremely distinguished candidates.

The next week I joined the newly-minted Commission on Unemployment Insurance, where we received reports on the Unemployment Trust Fund balance and projections for the rest of the year. I also attended two meetings of the Senate Privileges and Elections Committee, which I serve on as the Vice-Chair, where we finalized the wording for a pamphlet for voters on a proposed Constitutional Amendment which would create a redistricting commission that will appear on the November ballot.

SEE IN THE INTERIM, PAGE 10

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An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.
-Werner Heisenberg

Narratively Speaking



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

After 11 years and almost exactly six months since being diagnosed with stage IV, non small cell lung cancer, the party is apparently over. Now we're on to the after-party: stage IV, papillary thyroid cancer, the more aggressive version, the one that doesn't respond to the radioiodine therapy/nuclear medicine treatment that yours truly recently completed. What seems to be semi clear, at least according to my endocrinologist, is that I never had non small lung cancer, but rather a very slow growing thyroid cancer. So slow in fact that it wasn't until approximately two years ago, nine years or so after my initial diagnosis, that the mass began to take shape in my neck; my "Adam's Apple tumor" as I called it, as some of you regular readers may recall. In effect, I was thyroid-cancer-treatment-free for nine years until it presented.

And it was during these years that I became my oncologist's "third miracle" a lung cancer patient who didn't succumb to his disease. Originally given a "13 month to two year" prognosis by my oncologist, I was not expected to live. I can still recall when my oncologist responded to Team Lourie's question about what percentage of lung cancer patients live beyond two years: Less than two percent. Could you be the one? Sure." I didn't realize then that his comments were to be taken literally. Yet here I am, a testament to modern medicine or perhaps an anomaly of random proportions. Throughout these years, my oncologist would often bring his students in to see the "amazing Mr. Lourie" ("Kreskin" has nothing on me.) I wasn't exactly the Energizer Bunny, but neither was I/am I chopped liver.

But today's phone call with my endocrinologist changes my story/narrative and puts an end to my previous stature. No longer will I be someone who survived lung cancer, rather I'll be someone who survived "the friendly cancer," as papillary thyroid cancer is anecdotally described. And not that I'll take any of it personally, but I will have to make it part of my resume, if you know what I mean? So I'm not special or lucky or blessed. It simply may be that I was misdiagnosed and survived in spite of my oncologist's efforts to do no harm, even if he was treating a non-existent cancer.

Though from what I heard today, I am hardly out of the woods. In fact, it appears as if I'm in real danger. The type of papillary thyroid cancer that is confirmed that I now have, the type that doesn't respond to radioiodine therapy has been characterized as "aggressive" and "incurable." Treatable of course, but with a list of potential side effects that is hardly endearing to me and doesn't exactly bring joie to my vivre. Quite the opposite if you'll allow me an honest expression of my apprehension treating forward. That being said, right now, those effects are on paper, they're not yet on my person. And until that happens, I will proceed with caution but remain cautiously optimistic. As my oncologist answered in reply to our general question about which cancer is better to have, non small cell lung or papillary thyroid? "Thyroid cancer is better," he said. That's something, I suppose. And even though I can't take it to the bank and invest it in my future, I'd like to think that I'll be able to take it - in pill form as it happens. After all, who has more experience living with the ups and downs and all-arounds - and the side effects that cancer treatment can produce, than yours truly? The patient who survived stage IV non small cell lung cancer for 11 and 1/2 years only to find out that it may have been untreated thyroid cancer all along.

On balance, I suppose it's a good thing that we finally got a more definitive diagnosis. I just hope we haven't totally missed the party because I'm not at all certain that I'll be able to attend next year.

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

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NEWS

Groundbreaking Scheduled For Lorton Library Renovation

FROM PAGE 3

design will meet Fairfax County green building and Americans with Disabilities standards and be completed to achieve LEED Silver certification.

In addition to energy-saving features, the library will have an expanded children's space, a teen room with gaming station, a Wi-Fi/laptop bar and other seating areas for wireless device users, group study rooms, two conference rooms and a meeting room available for before and after-hours use.

The Lorton Library branch will be co-located with the Lorton Community Action Center and the brand-new Lorton Senior Center, which will include a senior center, teen space, sensory room, art room and gymnasium. The Department of Public Works and Environmental Services is managing design and construction of the new shared facility.

The cost estimate for the entire project is \$27,230,000, according to the county. The co-locating plan does create savings, said Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon) "Completing these two projects in coordination will save the County over \$1 million," Storck said.

"I envision the new site to be an inviting and engaging place where all of us will feel a sense of community and wellbeing - the basis for building even stronger connections with our neighbors," added Storck. The Fairfax County Public Library department said that "these adjacent facilities will leverage synergies and provide programs and activities for individuals of all ages and abilities throughout the community."

In the Interim

FROM PAGE 9

In addition to these scheduled duties, I regularly meet with constituents and work to solve day-to-day issues for those in the 30th District. Working with Alexandria Mayor Justin Wilson, I intervened with Dominion Energy to stop power from being cut from 158 customers in Old Town Alexandria overnight on one of the hottest days of the year and joined state and local staff from the Health Department and Alcoholic Beverage Control to help constituents who are seeking to open a "cat cafe" and wine bar in Old Town.

Legislative offices have also been helping the Virginia Unemployment Commission triage a previously-unfathomable deluge of unemployment cases. In 2019, 130,000 unemployment claims were made in Virginia. Since March of this year, there have been over one million. My Chief of Staff, Chris Lyeen, personally fielded hundreds of the most complicated cases amid scores of other constituent concerns.

I also joined a number of constituents and interest groups to discuss pressing legislative matters. Along with some Delegates, I gave a report on criminal justice reforms to Social Action Linking Together (SALT) including discussing my work to ban private prisons and the damaging practice of solitary confinement in Virginia.

Nationwide Libraries Transform

Co-locating amenities fits in with a bigger picture the American Libraries Association's programs called "Libraries Transform," which addresses the place a library has in today's community. "Libraries today are less about what they do for and with people," the ALA stated. Libraries Transform program provides an opportunity to position the local library as vital to the people it serves and the community at large. The library is an indispensable resource that transforms people's lives and the community itself, the ALA said.

The Kings Park Library in Fairfax County is co-located with the Braddock District Supervisor's office, and this has been a good arrangement through the years. For example, the library's extra meeting and exhibit spaces are convenient for the supervisor's office to use as well. There are long term library plans in Kingstowne as well, and sometime in the future, the county is planning a new library building that will also house the Franconia Police Station, the Lee District Supervisor's office, the Kingstowne Center for Active Adults, the Franconia Museum, and a child care center.

The Lorton Library renovation will include LEED sustainability features like bio-retention rain garden and an underground stormwater facility, native plants, solar panels, electric vehicle charging stations, and energy efficient systems.

According to Fairfax County, construction began in July 2020, and will be completed in the spring of 2022.

I am working with a constituent and Alexandria Commonwealth's Attorney Bryan Porter to draft enabling legislation for a new nonprofit which would serve as an advocate for inmates within the prison system. The organization would increase oversight of issues from healthcare and safety to access to healthy food.

In late July, I joined Virginia First Lady Pam Northam at the Torpedo Factory for a news conference announcing \$860,000 in funding for Virginia Tourism projects, including the Duke Street Black History Trail.

The next day I joined the governor in Richmond as he signed The Virginia Values Act, my legislation to prohibit discrimination in housing, employment, and public accommodations based on sexual orientation or gender identity, and to expand protections for all protected classes in public accommodations.

In addition to these projects, my office continues to prepare for the special session, keeping our nose to the grindstone reviewing edits to the biennial budget, drafting legislation, and reviewing bills as they are introduced. We are also here to take up your concerns, serve as a liaison with state agencies, and listen to your thoughts on upcoming legislation.

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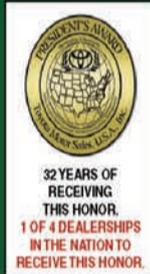
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CHRIS WHITE

FAMILY REAL ESTATE

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

40 Alexandria homes sold so far in 2020!



4206 Sonia Ct
\$619,000

PRISTINE CONDITION!



3203 Battersea Ln
\$595,000

REFRESHED INTERIOR!



9420 Forest Haven Dr
\$775,000

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4PM!



9324 Old Mansion Rd
\$1,990,000

POTOMAC VIEWS!



6000 Walhaven Dr
\$769,000

HISTORY ABOUNDS!



3102 Waterside Ln
\$998,000

PRIVATE DOCK!



8326 Wagon Wheel Rd
\$619,000

GORGEOUS VIEWS!



7712 Lookout Ct
\$762,000

JUST LISTED!

Over the past 3 months, four clients of ours switched agents and trusted us through the buying and selling process. During these unique times, the agent you choose matters more than ever. Here are two examples of their experiences!

★★★★★ Highly likely to recommend

The White Family Group is THE DREAM TEAM! They know the Alexandria area better than anyone, and switching realtors to them was the best decision I made in my buying process. They found me an off-market home in Mt. Vernon that checked all my boxes, and more, for a fantastic price. I was a nervous first time home buyer, but they made the entire process painless! They always made themselves available to me and stopped at nothing to find me a home. I will be using them again in the future and would recommend them to anyone who is looking to find their dream home in the Alexandria area!!

★★★★★ Highly likely to recommend

While I had seen Chris Whites name and his listings in our neighborhood for years as well as his number of successful sales, I initially chose another agent to list my house. So we listed our house and I then found a wonderful house. Ironically, Chris was the listing agent for the house we wanted to buy. He was wonderful to work with on that end and even guided my buying agent through the hoops so as to complete the sale. While we're happily the owners of a new home, my old house had not sold even though it had been on the market for 3 months. I wondered why he kept selling houses and my house was just sitting on the market, fairly priced... My husband and I called Chris and his team and immediately hired them. Within 8 days we had a ratified contract! Chris is simply the best there is in real estate. His contacts and wonderful relationships with other realtors, contractors, and the community make him stand out. His knowledge of the area, his marketing, his plan to sell your house or to help you buy a house will not fail. He will make a what could be a stressful situation seem effortless. He will handle all the details; you will feel cared for and reassured that he and his team will make the buying or selling of your home a success story. There is a reason he is a top realtor in the country. I would never recommend any one else when it comes to real estate!

LONG & FOSTER
REAL ESTATE

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703.283.9028

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