

Attention active-duty family members, military retirees, and their families:  
**TRICARE®** Open Season begins November 9. Let us help you get more.



Call 1-833-396-8183

BelongAtHopkins.com/news

# Mount Vernon Gazette

**WELLBEING**  
 PAGE 9

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

OCTOBER 8, 2020



CONNECTION FILE PHOTO

Fairfax County goes into deer management season, allowing archery experts a chance to get a 10-point buck in the name of preserving the environment. This year's season started on Sept. 12 and will end on Feb. 20, 2021.

## Deer Hunting in Fairfax County Controls Herd Populations

**Bow hunting program nets hundreds of deer each year.**

BY MIKE SALMON  
 THE CONNECTION

Imagine walking through wooded county park and all of a sudden, you see a person armed with a bow and arrow up on a stand in a tree. This could happen as Fairfax County goes into their deer management season, allowing archery experts a chance to get a 10-point buck in the name of preserving the environment.

According to the county, the goal of the program is to manage local deer populations, and hunting is the preferred population management method, their material stated.

"The archery program has an exceptional safety record," said Katherine Edwards, a Wildlife Management Specialist with the Fairfax County Police Department. "There have been zero safety incidents since the program was started."

Ed Foster frequently walks past the orange signs at Accotink Stream in Springfield, which is one urban park that is part of the deer hunting program. "I have not seen anybody hunting or signs of any deer," he said, although he was aware of the pro-

Archery Program Locations	Archery Harvest				Total
	Doe	BB*	Antlered Buck	Antlerless Buck	
Accotink Stream Valley Cluster	24	2	11	0	37
Bull Run Marina Cluster	12	4	1	0	17
Bull Run Regional Park Cluster	29	2	4	0	35
Clifton Cluster	37	4	12	0	53
Colvin Run Cluster	44	4	14	0	62
Cub Run Cluster	41	7	19	2	69
Ellick Cluster	40	9	11	0	60
Fairfax Station Cluster	15	2	6	1	24
Fountainhead Cluster	17	7	10	0	34
Great Falls Cluster	23	3	13	0	39
Huntley Meadows Cluster	70	8	20	0	98
Lake Accotink Cluster	20	2	8	0	30
Laurel Hill Cluster	56	10	26	0	92
Pohick Stream Valley Cluster	36	5	7	0	48
Reston Cluster	23	5	17	0	45
South Run Cluster	17	1	5	0	23
Sugarland Cluster	31	16	14	0	61
Vienna Cluster	20	5	16	0	41
<b>Archery Sex Ratio &amp; Yearly Total</b>	<b>555</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>868</b>

This chart shows the number and classification of deer killed in the county program.

gram. Another trail user did see some hunters in the past though. "They were up in a tree stand," the man who chose not to give his name, said.

There is a map the deer management program follows that ranks the counties. They are categorized as counties that want to increase the amount of deer, stabilize existing numbers, or reduce the number of deer in each county. Fairfax is colored red on that map as a county that wants to reduce that number. The surrounding counties of Arling-

SEE DEER MANAGEMENT, PAGE 14



Approximately 230 riders participated in the 5th Annual Tour de Mount Vernon.

## Tour de Mount Vernon Honors Dave Evans

On Saturday, Oct. 3, approximately 230 riders joined Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck for the 5th Annual Tour de Mount Vernon. Starting with a socially distanced rolling start at the historic Workhouse Arts Center, riders traveled through the southern portion of the Mount Vernon District, visiting many cultural and recreational sites, while enjoying several water vistas and building a sense of community. This year's ride included both 40-mile and 24-

mile routes and featured stops at Mason Neck State Park, George Mason's Gunston Hall, Pohick Regional Park, Accotink Bay on post at Fort Belvoir and the new National Museum of the US Army, before returning to the Workhouse for friendly camaraderie and Dave's Famous Sweet Potato Chili. This year's ride was dedicated to the memory of Dave Evans who was a community champion, business leader and inspiration for Tour de Mount Vernon. Riding over a mix of roads and trails,

SEE TOUR, PAGE 14



Supervisor Dan Storck sees the ride as an opportunity to share the beauty and history of Mount Vernon.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MT. VERNON DISTRICT OFFICE



McEneaney Associates has always had one motto in mind... not to be the biggest, but the best. This year marks our 40th year in Alexandria, and we are celebrating our investment in helping to build our town into the thriving community it is today. To learn more about our Associates and our firm, visit [www.WeAreAlexandria.com](http://www.WeAreAlexandria.com)

#WeAreAlexandria



**Gentry Row | \$2,300,000**

Elegant 4-bedroom, 4.5-bath home on historic Gentry Row. Original heart pine floors, spectacular millwork and a gorgeous ballroom, double parlors, 8 fireplaces and a walled garden create a wonderful ambiance for daily living. Shown by appointment. 211 Prince Street  
**Kate Patterson 703.627.2166**  
[www.katepattersonhomes.com](http://www.katepattersonhomes.com)



**Riverview at Mount Vernon | \$1,525,000**

Grand custom brick colonial on a half-acre cul-de-sac lot. Over 6,000 finished SF, super kitchen with breakfast room, lovely family room with vaulted ceiling & fireplace, 5 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 2 offices, walkout lower level, 3-car garage. HayesWoodHomes.com  
**Chris Hayes 703.944.7737**  
**Gordon Wood 703.447.6138**



OPEN SAT 10/10 & SUN 10/11, 2-4PM

**Old Town | \$1,885,000**

Located in a fantastic Old Town location, this 3/4 bedroom property offers a wonderful floor plan for large scale entertaining and ease for everyday living. There is an oversized 2 car garage plus a private elevator to all four levels. Perfection throughout! 723 S Union Street  
**Sissy Zimmerman 703.989.9779**  
[www.BBZGroup.com](http://www.BBZGroup.com)



**Old Town | \$1,450,000**

Gorgeous, expanded Yates Garden townhouse. 3,500+ SF of living space with 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 3 fireplaces, and hardwood floors. Gourmet kitchen & sunny sitting room in addition to formal living & dining rooms. Spectacular owner's suite & finished lower level.  
**Lauren Bishop 202.361.5079**  
[www.LaurenBishopHomes.com](http://www.LaurenBishopHomes.com)



**Mount Ida | \$1,299,000**

Incredible 3-bedroom, 3.5-bath expanded & updated Colonial! Main level offers a formal dining room, large living room with wood-burning fireplace, sunroom/den, and a family room with gas fireplace adjacent to the wonderful custom kitchen. 3001 Russell Road  
**Kim Peele 703.244.5852**  
[www.ThePeeleGroup.biz](http://www.ThePeeleGroup.biz)



OPEN SAT 10/10, 2-4PM

**Belle View | \$269,900**

Move-in ready condo on the top-level. Largest 2 bedroom floorplan with renovated kitchen, freshly painted, refinished hardwoods, adorable window seat in the primary bedroom. Extra storage unit. Incredible green space & parking. 6612 E Wakefield Drive B1.  
**Kathleen Dobbyn 703.946.2238**  
[www.DobbynTeam.com](http://www.DobbynTeam.com)



VIRTUAL OPEN SAT 10/10, 2PM

**Del Ray  
 \$699,900**

2-bedroom, 2-bath, semi-detached, brick home. Bright, open floor plan with gleaming hardwood floors. Kitchen with updated appliances. Finished lower level rec room. Large private yard. Walk to shops, restaurants and entertainment on "The Avenue." 13 Uhler Avenue W #A

**Jen Walker 703.675.1566**  
[www.JenWalker.com](http://www.JenWalker.com)

McENEANEY ASSOCIATES  
IS PLEASED TO WELCOME

MARY KERN

TO THE ALEXANDRIA OFFICE

---

If you are thinking of buying, selling or renting, call Mary today at **703.994.5246**, or email her at **MKern@McEneaney.com**.

MaryKernHomes.com

Serving the Washington, DC Metro Area since 1980.  
 703.549.9292 | 109 S. Pitt Street | Alexandria, VA 22314 | [McEneaney.com](http://McEneaney.com)







Some noisy pipes.



PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

Speeding on the Mount Vernon Parkway gets special attention but noisy mufflers are elusive.

## Mount Vernon Serenity Cut Short By Noisy Tailpipes

Modified mufflers put out sounds that carry through quiet neighborhoods.

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE CONNECTION

Over the last few months, the normal traffic hum that is heard around the Belle Haven community has gone up a few levels with the introduction of loud exhaust systems, which are popular with a particular sect of drivers, but not everyone.

"These are sounds a normal motorcycle or car doesn't make," said Bryan Jacobs, who sat in the community with other neighbors just listening to the noise with a certain level of disgust.

"Racing and revving their engines, and that's the problem," Jacobs said.

It is a legal problem too, if it breaks the decibel limit for Fairfax County, according to Sergeant Hudson Bull at the Fairfax County Police Department. "Officers can enforce the Virginia Code on exhaust systems," he said, and the code, which is 46.2-1049, entitled "Exhaust system in good working order." It states that "An exhaust system shall not be deemed to prevent excessive or unusual noise if it permits the escape of noise in excess of that permitted by the standard facto-

ry equipment exhaust system of private passenger motor vehicles or trucks of standard make." The code cites the use of "chambered pipes," that fit the description of the exhaust tips available, known as "diversified exhaust tips," on Amazon. They go by names such as "SLP Loud Mouth Exhaust System," or the "Hacker Mayhem."

According to the after-market industry explanation, "when used in combination with an upgraded exhaust system, including wider pipes and/or a performance muffler, exhaust tips can amplify the new tones coming from your exhaust. The shape and width of the exhaust tip can slightly change the sound to be either more throaty (larger tips) or raspy (smaller tips). Double-walled muffler tips tend to add a full-bodied sound." More noise than normal seems to be the objective here.

These loud motorcycles and cars are heard by Jacobs at "all hours of the day and night," he said.

The manager at Belle Haven Shell gas station hears them too, especially in the summer, he said. "I see that a lot, groups, more than four or five," motorcycles, he said.

Jacobs approached Supervisor Dan Storck

with the issue too, and Storck brought it up with police officers at the Mount Vernon station.

"Our office has been working with community members on this issue. We have connected them with the Mount Vernon Police District MPO Marvin Goodley who met with the community to discuss actions community members can take to help the police enforce traffic safety issues. At our request, the Mount Vernon District Traffic Enforcement Officer will increase monitoring in the area and report back with additional actions possible to further respond to these public disturbances," Storck said.

The police can't issue any tickets without witnessing it first hand.

When the Fairfax County Police Department is made aware of large gatherings originating on the interstate or in another jurisdiction (from Virginia State Police, US Park Police, etc.) then they coordinate a plan to ensure the safety of all motorists on the roadway utilizing our patrol officers, Officer Bull said. "The Traffic Division, or in some cases our Helicopter Unit to monitor those groups as they travel through the County," he added.

### Noisy Exhaust Pipes Are Nationwide

Residents of Mount Vernon are not alone when it comes to the noisy exhaust systems. This has been brought up by others and officers on proactive patrol have noticed similar violations. Thus far in 2020, there have been 22 summons issued by FCPD for 46.2-1049 (Traffic Exhaust System Produce Excess Noise).

In California, complaints of these modified exhausts reached officials, and they enacted California State Assembly Bill 1824. The bill changed how police officers can issue tickets for so-called "modified or excessively loud exhaust or muffler systems" In California exhaust modifications are illegal only if noise emitted is over 95 decibels, and the average exhaust is around 70 decibels.

According to California Vehicle Exhaust Noise Laws explanation, 95 decibels is comparable to the sound of a lawn mower, the inside of a subway car, plane flyover at 1,000 feet, a food blender less than 3 feet away or a car horn at 10 feet. Bills like this have not been introduced in Virginia.

There's a group out there, "Concerned Citizens Against Loud Motorcycles," that's taken to social media.

## Behavioral Health Teams To Join Police On Mental Health Calls

Marcus alert bill passes House and Senate, moves to Northam's desk.

BY ANDREW RINGLE  
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

RICHMOND, Va. -- Both chambers of the Virginia General Assembly have approved a proposal to establish a statewide system that pairs teams of mental health professionals and peer recovery specialists with police officers responding to mental health crises.

The Senate approved the measure by a vote of 24-15 on Thursday. The House gave the legislation the green light in September with a vote of 57-39. The

proposal now needs a signature from Gov. Ralph Northam to become law.

House Bill 5043 is sponsored by Del. Jeff Bourne, D-Richmond. Dubbed the mental health awareness response and community understanding services, or Marcus alert system, the bill honors the life of Marcus-David Peters, who was shot and killed in 2018 during an encounter with Richmond police. Peters, a 24-year-old Virginia Commonwealth University alumnus and high school biology teacher, was naked and unarmed during the shooting. After running into traffic on the interstate, Peters charged at an of-

ficer who deployed a Taser and then fired his gun. Peters' family said he was experiencing a mental health crisis.

Bourne's bill requires law enforcement to consider mitigating "impact to care" by having officers not wearing their uniforms and using unmarked vehicles, when possible.

Dana Schrad, executive director of the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police, did not directly comment on Bourne's bill, but she said mental health calls are "volatile and dangerous" and that co-response teams require extensive training for officers and mental health workers.

"Additionally, there needs to be sufficient funding to make both trained officers and mental health workers who serve on co-response teams available at any time of day," Schrad said in a message.

Schrad said the organization supports efforts to create co-responder teams for mental health calls. She said the commonwealth must address the "overwhelming need" to improve mental health and preventative services locally.

"However, we cannot support efforts

SEE BEHAVIORAL, PAGE 5



# Gathering Hundreds of Ideas for Police Reform

Public input session part of effort to create more transparency in public safety.

BY KEN MOORE  
THE CONNECTION

## Matrix

Police Reform Suggestions Matrix, Sept. 29, 2020, here: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/topics/sites/topics/files/assets/documents/police-reform/police-reform-suggestions.pdf](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/topics/sites/topics/files/assets/documents/police-reform/police-reform-suggestions.pdf)

In retirement, Randy Sayles, former Marine, former Denver police detective, former DEA special agent undercover in the U.S., Pakistan and Brazil, won a lifetime achievement award from Fairfax County for his efforts to make this county's police force and policies more equitable for all residents. Sayles also enjoyed clearing neighborhoods of debris, just one of the reasons the county also gave him an environmental excellence award last year.

But Sayles was also a Black man.

One morning at 4:30 a.m. when he parked on a median to clear litter from the street, Sayles was confronted by a police officer who ticketed him and refused to hear what he was doing or why he was parked where he was.

"Randy was so incensed by receiving this ticket, so affronted by the treatment he received as a Black person by this police officer, that he took the matter up with the Chief [of Fairfax County Police Department] directly," said Phil Niedzielski-Eichner, at a public input session hosted by the Board of Supervisors Public Safety Committee, chaired by Lee Supervisor Rodney Lusk last Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2020.

Niedzielski-Eichner and Sayles served on Sharon Bulova's 2015 Ad Hoc Police Policy Review Commission, effectively advocating years for police reforms to combat systemic racism, including mandatory use of body worn cameras, the importance of programs such as Diversion First for people with mental illness and intellectual disabilities, de-escalation strategies, limiting police vehicle pursuit, and recognizing the sanctity of human life.

"A few of us warned at the time that it would be a mistake to declare, 'Mission Accomplished.'" said Niedzielski-Eichner.

**LAST WEDNESDAY**, Sept. 30, Lee Supervisor Rodney Lusk, chairman of the Board of Supervisors' Public Safety Committee, held a Community Input Session on Public Safety in Fairfax County. Lusk launched a new website in July designed to be a one-stop shop for all previous and future law enforcement data published by Fairfax County, and to make publicly accessible a matrix of all police reform recommendations, and questions submitted by community members.

"This site is a first step in fulfilling a personal commitment to increase law enforcement transparency and accountability by offering easy to find, clearly organized, and interactive data all in one place," said Lusk. "Critical data remains unavailable, and much more community input is still need-



Panel of listeners: Supervisor Lusk, Commonwealth Attorney Descano, Police Chief Roessler, Fire Chief Butler, Deputy County Executive Rohrer, Independent Police Auditor Schott, and CRP Chair Doan in a Community Input Session on Public Safety in Fairfax County sit for three-and-a-half hours of community input on Public Safety.



Rodney Lusk  
(D-Lee)



Diane Burkley  
Alejandro



Chief Edwin  
Roessler



Phil  
Niedzielski-Eichner

ed."

Lusk has received hundreds of suggestions from the community and his staff has compiled a matrix with the suggestions. Lusk has pledged that each person or organization that poses a question, suggestion, or idea will be addressed and answered.

"This year, the Public Safety Committee has been dealing with an unprecedented number of competing priorities," said Lusk, at the beginning of the public safety input session. "As a result, there has been limited opportunity for community input during our formal committee meetings."

"We are here to listen and to answer questions," said Lusk.

**BLACK PEOPLE** are on the receiving end 45.63 percent of the time when Fairfax County Police use force, despite being 9.7 percent of the county's population, according to the FCPD yearly report.

"This isn't a problem from just this year. This has been consistent the last five years," said Sean Perryman, president of the Fairfax County NAACP.

"We need to have a sense of urgency about this and we need to get serious about this because this is affecting everyday people's lives," said Perryman.

The Fairfax County Office of the Independent Police Auditor is "facilitating a study by the University of Texas at San Antonio and the University of Cincinnati to identify patterns and trends in FCPD uses of force during 2016-2018 with emphasis on racial, ethnic, gender, or similar disparities across subpopulations," according to the Auditor's webpage. The UTSA team will issue a public report on the study's findings and recommendations and present it to the Board of Supervisors by early 2021.

"People who make up 46 percent of use of force will not care about a University of Texas study in San Antonio when they are beaten or subject to any kind of force that is used against them," said Perryman.

The Fairfax NAACP sent Lusk 45 recommendations for police reform, including

ending the practice of having FCPD officers serve as school resource officers. Police in schools lead to what many consider a school-to-prison pipeline, criminalizing actions that should be handled as school discipline issues.

"The [Fairfax County Police] Department still struggles with transparency," Niedzielski-Eichner said. "Residents deserve to know what police are doing and use of force incidents should be reported on a regular basis rather than waiting for the annual use of force report."

Diane Burkley Alejandro, of ACLU's People Power program, said that the county has used force much less since the 2015 Ad Hoc Commission.

"We saw less use of force ... against white people," said Alejandro. Black people are still facing disproportionate and increased police use of force in Fairfax County, according to recent data.

"Where do we stand? Arrest disparity is increasing, use of force discrepancy is increasing and discipline disparity is increasing," she said.

While the overall number of arrests is declining, Black and Latino people are seven times and three times more likely to be arrested than White people, said Alejandro.

"What we are asking you to do, first and foremost, is admit there is a problem," she said. "My main question [for leaders at the dias] ... do you believe there is systematic racism in Fairfax?" She said if Fairfax County's leaders could not admit that there is systemic racism here, it was unlikely that police officers would embrace the needed change.

Chief Edwin Roessler's response: "We have a great department that is head and shoulders above everyone else in this country."

**JUST AFTER GEORGE FLOYD's** death, a Fairfax County police officer tased a Mount Vernon man, despite de-escalation strategies underway by other officers and the Fire and Rescue workers who were called to help the man in the midst of a mental health crisis.

What happened afterwards, Perryman

said, was as disturbing as the video of the officer tasing the man. "When Chief Roessler did the right thing and held the officer accountable, many of his officers turned on him for it. That shows a problem in the culture in the Fairfax County Police Department."

Not everyone agreed.

During last Wednesday's hearing, Brenda Tillett of Bolster the Blue advocated for Roessler's removal, saying morale is low among officers and distrust of their chief is high.

"They have to replace him with someone who does not hide but who stands boldly with them," said Tillett. "How does an irrevocably broken relationship between the chief and his troops best serve the safety of our community?" she asked.

She was also critical of Fairfax Commonwealth Attorney Steve Descano, who charged the officer in the taser incident.

"He has created an environment where the officers are the hunted and he is the hunter. Our officers have admitted they are afraid to use force of any kind to keep themselves and others safe," said Tillett.

Descano, who took office in December 2019, made a presentation to the Board of Supervisors' Public Safety Committee on Sept. 22, explaining that his office is drastically under staffed given the workload it is facing. He asked for funding for more \$19 million, 137 in additional staff to meet the need. The Board of Supervisors will provide \$1.9 million from the carryover package towards the implementation of phases 2 and 3 of the body-worn camera program in FY2021. This includes a 40% increase to the Commonwealth's Attorney's budget with 15 new positions in their office to help with review of body camera footage, Chairman Jeff McKay said in an email to residents.

**CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER** Dawn Butorac appeared at the public input session to ask for a step towards equity.

The Office of the Public Defender handles 6,000-7,000 cases a year, roughly 75 percent of criminal charges in Fairfax, said Butorac. And 44 percent of her office's clients are Black and roughly 40 percent of the jail population is Black, she said. "We are there to act as a check and balance to the system. We are there in court everyday challenging the arrests and searches and constitutional violations and general overreach by the police and prosecutions," she said.

SEE GATHERING HUNDREDS, PAGE 11  
[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)



# Behavioral Health Teams To Join Police On Mental Health Calls

FROM PAGE 3

that would disarm law enforcement officers and take them out of uniform on mental health calls," Schrad said.

Bourne's bill would require Virginia Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, in collaboration with Criminal Justice Services, to create two plans by July 1, 2021.

One creates a written plan for the development of a Marcus alert system, and another sets guidelines for law enforcement. By the same date, localities must also create a database identifying individuals with mental or behavioral health illness, developmental or intellectual disability or brain injury. Such individuals or a legal guardian may voluntarily provide the individual's address and relevant health information to the database, which would be accessible to 911 and the Marcus alert system.

The bill would require Virginia Behavioral Health and Developmental Services and Criminal Justice Services to establish guidelines and training programs for crisis teams, call center employees, clinical staff and Marcus alert system users by Dec. 1, 2021.

Every locality must have a Marcus alert system with care teams by July 1, 2022, according to the bill.

Mental Health America of Virginia Executive Director Bruce Cruser, who called the bill "a significant step forward" during a House committee meeting on Aug. 25, said the proposal may need further review in order to promote coordinated responses across localities.

"We're just anxious to see how we can work out language that is coordinated," Cruser said.

Opinions vary among mental health personnel regarding potential safety risks posed by crisis situations, Cruser said.

"If a mental health professional is being put in harm's way, I mean obviously that's a concern," he said. "But I think how the system is structured is really the key."

Cruser said there's uncertainty in the mental health field regarding how the system would work in different areas across Virginia and whether personnel would be equipped to respond to crises.

"Some are well trained in de-escalation, and some are not," Cruser said. "That's really one of the challenges here, is to work with local community service boards and localities to determine the best way to intervene that brings about the desired result, which is less injury to anyone and better outcomes."

Cruser said Mental Health America of Virginia supports the goals of Bourne's legislation, but that a larger effort is needed to prevent crisis situations from happening in the first place.

"If there's a call for service and it's a mental health call, well then the response should be mental health-focused," Cruser said. "The law enforcement response should be reserved for what law enforcement are trained to deal with best. The challenge is how you determine the nature of the call in the first place."



**Rex Reiley**  
RE/MAX Allegiance  
703-768-7730  
rex.reiley@rmxtalk.com



Alex/ Riverside Estates Upper \$600's  
8503 Cherry Valley

Riverside Estates' largest split foyer model (Concord) w/2 car garage & lots of updates, i.e., roof 2001, HVAC 2012, baths 2009, furnace 2001, updated double pane windows 2019. Kitchen was opened to the dining & living rooms & is absolutely stunning: granite & quartz counters, large island w/seating capacity & beautiful hwd floors. MBR & MBA share a lovely gas FPL to add charm to the master suite. A large lower level offers a family rm which also has a gas FPL, a 4th BR & 3rd full bath. Plenty of storage behind the 2 car garage. Large lovely fenced bkyd, perfect for entertaining. 7 minutes to Ft. Belvoir (S), 15 minutes to Alexandria, (N), 25 mins to National Airport (N) and 33 mins to the Pentagon (N).



Alex/Mt. Vernon Grove \$655,000  
4207 Robertson Blvd.

Welcome to this large beautiful 2 story split situated on an expansive, flat, .34 acre lot w/a fenced bkyd, & 1 car side entry garage. A major renovation in 2015 to include: new roof, kitchen opened up to living & dining rooms w/granite counters & center isle, SS appliances, cherry cabinets & oak floors to match the rest of the finished hwd, painted interior w/crown molding, 6 panel doors throughout. A/C replaced in 2019. Large 19x12 deck off the dining area, also installed in 2015. 2 wood burning FPLS inspected & improved as necessary. All 3 baths remodeled as well. This is a tremendous buy & ideally situated in Mt. Vernon. 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir (S), 17-18 mins to S. Alexandria (N), 27 mins to National Airport (N) & 28-30 mins to the Pentagon (N). Nothing like it on the market!!



Ft. Hunt/Hollin Hall \$649,500  
1905 Clayton Place

Beautiful contemporary home with open floor plan in sought after Hollin Hall community zoned for Wayneswood Elementary. 1600 sq.ft. One level living w/ 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Renovated kitchen and baths. Wall of windows in back overlooking private backyard. Sits on a quiet cul de sac with lovely landscaping. Blocks to George Washington Parkway and Potomac River. Neighborhood shopping center. Fabulous location.



For more information: [www.RexReiley.com](http://www.RexReiley.com)

Each Office Independently Owned and Operated



# We all know things are different.

## Keeping you safe is not.



At Inova, we ensure the safety of everyone who comes to us for care with safe locations, safe supplies, safe cleaning and safe practices. You're Safe@Inova.

SAFE

INOVA

SAFE LOCATIONS

SAFE PRACTICES

SAFE SUPPLIES

SAFE CLEANING

Learn more and get the facts at [inova.org/StaySafe](http://inova.org/StaySafe)

## Congressional Action Is Urgently Needed

For local businesses to successfully navigate pandemic downturn, they need more and specific support.

BY HOLLY DOUGHERTY

The Covid-19 pandemic has placed unprecedented new strains on our local businesses as they try to keep their doors open and serve the community.

Congressional action is urgently needed for local businesses to successfully navigate this on-going situation and Mount Vernon Lee Chamber has reached out to the Virginia Congressional delegation for small businesses support during Covid-19.

Congress should allow small businesses that continue to suffer clear economic losses due to COVID-19 to apply for a second Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan. Streamline and simplify the PPP forgiveness process by forgiving small business loans up to \$150,000 automatically. Allow

businesses that were unsuccessful or failed to apply during the first PPP process to apply now.

Federal liability protections are essential for businesses. Shield small business owners from liability for Covid-19 absent evidence that the business willfully failed to develop and implement a plan to reduce the risk of COVID-19 to customers and other third parties and that such failure caused the injury.

An economic downturn is not the time to place new regulatory requirements on business such as the "beneficial ownership" mandate under consideration as part of the National Defense Authorization Act. The "beneficial ownership" mandate, passed by the US House of Representatives, singles out small businesses with less than 20 employees and requires them to file additional paperwork with the

US Treasury Department each time they form or change ownership of their business. Larger businesses are exempt from this requirement. This information would be placed in a Federal database where the public would have access to it endangering the privacy of these businesses and their business operations. In addition to privacy concerns, a recent study found that a beneficial ownership mandate places additional paperwork burdens and costs on small businesses estimated at \$5.7 billion in new regulatory costs and 131.7 million hours of paperwork.

Congress intended for PPP expenses to be deductible as ordinary business expenses and then the IRS issued regulations negating that intent. Congress needs to clarify their intent and also allow small business owners to use both PPP and the Employee Retention

Tax Credit (ERTC) by improving interaction between the two programs. Provide targeted tax relief to assist with operating expenses, reopening supplies, and personal protective equipment.

Reform unemployment insurance by prohibiting unemployment insurance compensation from exceeding an employee's prior wages. Unemployment compensation should not create unintended consequences for both employers and employees.

As COVID-19 continues to disrupt our economy, small businesses need to have resources and protections to move forward during this health crisis.

Congress needs to listen to business and respond to these concerns for the economy to recover.

*Holly Hicks Dougherty is Executive Director of the Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce*

## We Need a Better Redistricting Amendment

BY SEN. SCOTT SUROVELL (D-36)



Along with eliminating the Electoral College and reversing corporate contributions green-lighted by the Citizens United case, I consider the drawing of elected officials' district lines to be one of the most significant, fundamental problems in American Democracy today.

Question #1 on Virginia's Nov. 3 ballot is a proposed amendment to Virginia's Constitution to create a decennial commission to establish districts for elected officials of the U.S. House of Representatives and the Virginia Senate and House of Delegates in 2021 and into the future. Our current system is flawed, but the proposed amendment is not the correct solution.

### The Redistricting Proposal

Here is how the commission would work. The U. S. Constitution and Constitution of Virginia requires the state legislature to redraw congressional districts and state legislative districts after each census. The amendment would create the Virginia Redistricting Commission (VRC). The VRC would have 16 members - eight state legislators and eight citizens.

The legislators would be equally split between the Virginia Senate and House of Delegates and further equally split between the majority and minority parties so that no party would have a majority. The citizen members would be chosen by a panel of five retired Circuit Court judges from lists submitted by the majority and minority caucuses in each chamber of the legislature.

The amendment requires --

- ❖ The Virginia Redistricting Commission to submit plans to the General Assembly within 45 days after receiving U.S. census data or July 1 of the year following a census, whichever is later;

- ❖ Approval by six of eight legislative members, including three of four members of each body and six of eight citizen members;

- ❖ A majority vote of the General Assembly without amendment; and

- ❖ The Governor's signature.

If no plan receives a majority vote within certain timeframes, the districts would be drawn by the Supreme Court of Virginia.

### A Flawed Proposal

While I voted for this proposal in 2019 to keep the conversation going to 2020, upon further study, I

have concluded it is not the correct approach and was one of two Senators to vote "no." First, it is a bipartisan commission. It is not non-partisan. Legislators would still be heavily involved in drawing their own districts. Citizen appointees would be chosen from lists likely created by legislators (that is still being negotiated). While one party could not steamroll the other, the language would force commission deal-making to preserve the electability of members unless the citizen members (probably picked by legislators) refuse to agree.

My biggest concern is that the criteria for actually drawing the districts are not set forth in the proposed Constitutional amendment, so it can be changed by the state legislature because the crite-

ria are in state law, a law that we adopted in the last session. Every Republican member of the General Assembly opposed it and when the legislature's composition inevitably changes, the legislature will pass a bill creating new criteria that could require districts to be drawn to favor other partisan factors and effectively mandate a partisan gerrymander.

### A Better Approach

Ideally, I believe apolitical redistricting can be more impartially done by computers using an agreed-upon algorithm that respects minority rights consistent with the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, uses mathematical compactness and contiguity measures,

SEE WE NEED, PAGE 11

### Let Us Know Your View

Connection Newspapers welcomes views on any public issue. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers; we will only print your name and town name. Letters are routinely edited for length, libel, grammar, good taste, civility and factual errors.

#### Send letters

Online [www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter/)  
By email: [editors@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:editors@connectionnewspapers.com)

By mail to: **Letters to the Editor The Connection**  
1606 King St., Alexandria VA 22314

You can comment on our Facebook page or find us on Twitter  
[www.facebook.com/connectionnewspapers](http://www.facebook.com/connectionnewspapers)  
<https://twitter.com/alexgazette>  
<https://twitter.com/mtvernongazette>  
<https://twitter.com/followfairfax>

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

@MtVernonGazette

An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by  
**Local Media Connection LLC**

1606 King Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Free digital edition delivered to your email box. Go to [connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe](http://connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe)

**NEWS DEPARTMENT:**  
[gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Jeanne Theismann**  
[jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com)  
[@TheismannMedia](https://www.facebook.com/TheismannMedia)

**Marcia Hobson**  
Community Reporter  
[mhobson@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mhobson@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Mike Salmon**  
Contributing Writer  
[msalmon@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:msalmon@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Ken Moore**  
Contributing Writer  
[kmoore@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:kmoore@connectionnewspapers.com)

**ADVERTISING:**  
For advertising information  
[sales@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:sales@connectionnewspapers.com)  
703-778-9431

**Debbie Funk**  
Display Advertising/National Sales  
703-778-9444  
[debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Helen Walutes**  
Display Advertising, 703-778-9410  
[hwalutes@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:hwalutes@connectionnewspapers.com)

**David Griffin**  
Marketing Assistant  
703-778-9431  
[dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Classified & Employment Advertising**  
703-778-9431

**Publisher**  
Jerry Vernon  
703-549-0004  
[jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Editor & Publisher**  
Mary Kimm  
[mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com)  
[@MaryKimm](https://www.facebook.com/MaryKimm)

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

**CIRCULATION**  
**Circulation Manager:**  
Ann Oliver  
[circulation@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:circulation@connectionnewspapers.com)

A Connection Newspaper





# OPINION

## Reform at America's #1 High School Is Good for All, Including Asian Americans

By TJAAG AND NAKASEC VA

As part of the proposed 2020 budget for the Commonwealth of Virginia, Governor Northam charged all academic year governor's schools to set diversity goals and develop a plan to meet them. In response, the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) School Board created a merit lottery proposal to reform admissions at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJ). On Sept. 23, FCPS Superintendent, Dr. Brabrand, held a town hall to present the merit lottery proposal and hear feedback. The merit lottery would improve admissions standards at what is ranked the #1 high school in the United States by raising the minimum applicant GPA to 3.5. In line with best practices at other magnet schools and trends at top universities, the plan would eliminate a standardized test that is demonstrably preppable and prone to amplifying bias. Through this reform, underpre-

sented minorities including Black, Latinx, and low-income students are projected to increase dramatically.

Some critics who called into the town hall tried to paint the movement for greater inclusion as a zero-sum game punishing Asian Americans and immigrants. This could not be further from the truth. The TJ Alumni Action Group (TJAAG) and the National Korean American Service & Education Consortium of Virginia (NAKASEC VA) unequivocally denounce this framing, which misrepresents facts and pits marginalized populations against each other. We do not claim to speak for all Asian Americans, who are not a monolith. At the same time, we are convinced that reforms to make TJ more equitable and inclusive will benefit everyone in Northern Virginia, including Asian Americans.

By narrowly focusing on the Asian American majority attending TJ, critics ignore the experiences of

SEE REFORM AT, PAGE 11



The Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's® is happening on every sidewalk, track, and trail across this country. All of us are raising funds for one goal: A world without Alzheimer's and all other dementia. Because this disease isn't waiting, and neither are you.

Take your first step at [alz.org/walk](http://alz.org/walk)



2020 NATIONAL PRESENTING SPONSORS

2020 WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S  
October 10 Washington, D.C.

Additional Walks available.  
Find one near you at [alz.org/walk](http://alz.org/walk)



### High School CAREER FORUM

**FORT HUNT**  
Black Cultural Alliance Alumni

**Saturday October 17**

11:00AM-1:00PM  
This is a virtual event



The Fort Hunt High School Black Cultural Alliance Alumni (FHHS BCAA) is excited to host the 5th Annual High School Career Forum. The High School Career Forum is an event for high school students to learn about different career opportunities available to them after high school. A panel will share the career decisions they made, what their careers entail (education/training) and how it has impacted their lives, their life choices and experiences.

Register for the FHHS BCAA High School Career Forum at [fhhsbcaa@gmail.com](mailto:fhhsbcaa@gmail.com) by Thur. Oct 15. Please give your first and last name, grade and contact information (email & ph #). Registration is required to receive log in information for this virtual event.

Another Mount Vernon Gazette Community Partner

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

## TWO POOR TEACHERS

### Kitchen and Bathroom Remodeling



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

Fully Insured & Class A Licensed  
Since 1999



**Free Estimates 703-999-2928**

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

Visit our website: [www.twopoorteachers.com](http://www.twopoorteachers.com)



# Domestic Violence Awareness Month in a Pandemic

BY DELEGATE PAUL KRIZEK

It is less than a month before a Presidential election which looks to have historical turnout and only three more months left in this awful year of the COVID-19 pandemic. Sports teams are playing to empty arenas, our kids are learning remotely online, and none of us knows how to handle the upcoming Halloween.

Unfortunately, one issue remains the same and that is the problem of family violence. Indeed, October is when we, here in the Commonwealth, recognize Domestic Violence Awareness Month. It was designated as such by the General Assembly in 1989 and serves as an annual reminder of how important it is for us to continue to work to prevent domestic abuse and to treat and support survivors all across the Commonwealth. Domestic violence is characterized as a pattern of coercive behaviors used by an individual to gain or maintain power and control over another individual in the context

of an intimate, dating, or familial relationship.

In this moment in time, many of us feel a collective sense of trauma as we navigate the uncertainty of this pandemic.

However, survivors of domestic and sexual violence have experienced this more acutely, as isolation has brought to the surface feelings of anxiety and memories of trauma, and an increased environment of danger for those with no other option but to shelter in place with former or current abusers.

While stay-at-home orders were necessary to prevent further spread of COVID-19 in our communities, the result is sadly an escalation of domestic violence. In fact, law enforcement agencies across the Commonwealth have reported spikes in domestic violence incidents since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Some agencies say that domestic violence



Krizek

was their number one call for service over the summer. Unfortunately, that trend is likely to continue as stressors pile up on individuals, like loss of a job, and the strains on interpersonal relationships that come with families living in close-quarters for long periods of time. It was reported in The Virginian-Pilot that calls to domestic and sexual abuse hotlines increased by 76% statewide in March.

During this year's General Assembly session, we took critical steps toward a goal to further prevent instances of domestic violence here in Virginia. We passed many pieces of legislation that went into effect in July and even now, are credited with saving lives.

Extreme Risk Protection Orders, or "red flag laws" are used now for the first time by law enforcement as a tool in many cases across the Commonwealth to temporarily remove weapons from individuals

who have shown that they are a danger to themselves and others. Recognizing the link between firearms and intimate partner homicide and intimidation, this session we passed legislation that prohibits individuals subject to permanent protective orders from knowingly possessing a firearm while the order is in effect.

My bill, HB 1044, was signed into law which raises the penalty for any person who deceptively installs or places an electronic tracking device and uses that device to track the location of any person without their consent. Victims of domestic violence are often tracked by their abusers. This offense is now a Class 1 misdemeanor, which elevates unauthorized tracking to the same level as stalking. Finally, The Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Prevention Fund was created to develop, support, and evaluate programs that prevent sexual and domestic violence. While funding for this program was unallotted due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I am confident

we will restore funding to this crucial cause in an upcoming General Assembly session.

Sexual and domestic violence programs remain open to provide crisis services, emergency shelter, and resource-based support. The Virginia Statewide Hotline is still here during this time (24 hours a day, 365 days a year) and ready to help, and so are sexual and domestic violence programs all over the state. If you or someone you know needs help, please call: 1-800-838-8238, text: 804-793-9999, or chat: <https://www.vadata.org//chat/>.

To report a crime, call the Fairfax County Police Department at 703-691-2131 or, for emergencies, please call 911. Please stay safe out there and don't hesitate to reach out for help.

To support charitable efforts to combat domestic violence please consider donating to the Family and Children's Trust Fund <http://www.fact.virginia.gov/donate-2/> the organization in Virginia devoted to treating and preventing family violence across the lifespan.

## Collective Bargaining Means a Seat At the Table So County Employees Can Improve Services, Jobs

BY TAMMIE WONDONG WARE

The pandemic is showing just how much we depend on each other -- no matter who we are, where we're from or the color of our skin. Suddenly working people -- including the thousands of workers who keep Fairfax County running -- are front and center because more and more Virginians are realizing just how essential our jobs are to the community.

As Fairfax County employees, we do incredibly important work to keep our communities safe and healthy. We provide health care and mental health services, care for young children, keep our air and water clean, maintain our parks and natural resources, keep our libraries running, and much more.

We are called essential but too often, we're not treated that way when it comes to important decisions about our jobs and the best ways to serve the public. That's why we're glad to see the Board of Supervisors take steps last week to give county employees the right to a real seat at the table -- a process called collective bargaining -- where we can negotiate to im-



Tammie Wondong Ware

prove our jobs and the essential services we provide.

As county employees, we have the front-line expertise to keep Fairfax safe and healthy.

Many of us have joined together in our union, SEIU Virginia 512, so we can have a voice in the services we provide and our own working conditions. We've already made a difference for the community, adding needed mental health services, making government more efficient, and ensuring paid family leave to protect working families during the pandemic. Through collective bargaining, we can do even more.

We know what PPE, cleaning supplies, and other protections we need to ensure our own safety and the safety of the people we serve. As our county navigates the impact of the pandemic and how to return to in-person services, collective bargaining will give us a stronger voice and make it easier to keep

everyone safe as we reopen. We can bring our ideas and solutions to the table and work with the county to ensure all its employees have safe working conditions, and the pay and benefits we need to care for our own families.

Many of us struggle to make ends meet for our own families with the rising cost of living and ever-increasing healthcare costs. Some county employees have been forced to seek a second job just to pay the bills. One of my coworkers wraps up her county job, puts her children to bed and then heads out to a 4-hour shift stocking shelves as a store clerk until 11 pm. Our county can do better than this for the people who take care of our community.

That's why we're looking forward to working with the county board to discuss how establishing collective bargaining rights can help improve jobs and services for all. We know that working together, we can make Fairfax County a better place to live, work and play, where we protect all workers and where every family can thrive.

*Tammie Wondong Ware is Human Service Assistant, Fairfax County Fairfax Chapter President, SEIU Virginia 512*

### BULLETIN BOARD

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

doors. Register online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes) (code 7DFPE4G) or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

#### SATURDAY/OCT. 10

Sketch Journaling Workshop. 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, Alexandria. (16-Adult) Sketch journals are a great way to remember your travels or your daily adventures. Artist Marni Maree shows you various ways to see, draw, and simplify a scene, and how to creatively collect information to fill up a sketchbook journal. Then prepare some of your journal pages and go outside to draw scenes around the gardens using a pen and watercolors. A supply list will be sent before class. Bring a lunch. \$94 per person. Register online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes) (code 4E1.C06B) or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

#### SUNDAY/OCT. 11

Tea Program: Fifty Years in Women's Lives. 1-3 p.m. At Green Springs Gardens, Alexandria. (Adult) Consider how the past 50 years have transformed women's lives. Discover things that women could not do before 1970 and reflect on an astonishingly fast-paced liberation that continues today. Hear about the remarkable woman whose donation 50 years ago made Green Spring Gardens possible. \$36 (program & tea); \$15 (program only).

#### WATERSHED CLEANUPS

Do your part to help the environment. Volunteer for a "Watershed Cleanup Days" event at a park or recreation center near you this fall. These community service events are great for individuals, families, service groups and students. Work outdoors helping to clear Earth's arteries by removing tires, bottles, cans and other debris dumped in local waterways. All ages are welcome to take part. Cleanups are currently scheduled:  
Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020: Ellanor C. Lawrence Park;  
Saturday, Oct. 24, 2020: Lake Fairfax Park;  
Saturday, Nov. 7, 2020: Cub Run RECenter, Hidden Pond Nature Center, Providence RECenter and Riverbend Park.  
Visit the website <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/volunteer>

#### SATURDAY/OCT. 10

Mindfulness Workshop. 10:30-11:30 a.m. At Green Springs Gardens, Alexandria. (All ages). What is mindfulness? How would you practice in the gardens and at home? Discover the benefits of a mindful practice and learn how to explore life with purpose. Through mindful exercises lead by site manager Nicole Mitchell Connors, practice meditation and walking Green Spring Gardens in mindful way to reduce stress and increase joy. Practice what you learn at home and whenever you visit the gardens. This program will be conducted out-



## WELLBEING

# Creating a Spooky and Safe Halloween in the Age of COVID-19

Ideas for frightful revelry abound even amid coronavirus concerns.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
GAZETTE PACKET

Cartoon character Marshall from Paw Patrol will be searching for chocolate while a tiny pop star tracks down toys as Arlington mother and teacher Becky Beach and her family celebrate the spookiest day of the year. Forgoing trick-or-treating, she, her husband and young son will gather with other family members for a modified Halloween celebration.

"We are going to buy Halloween-themed party toys and candies for our children to hunt," said Beach. "It will be similar to an Easter egg hunt, but for Halloween. We are maintaining the joy by allowing our children to still wear their Halloween costumes, but we won't be going out."

Like other annual traditions, COVID-19 has transformed the way festive events are celebrated. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) officials are encouraging revelers to err on the side of caution this season. As Halloween approaches, some parents are faced with a quandary: allowing children to engage in the frightful fun of the day without compromising safety.

"Some Halloween activities pose higher risk than others," said Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayenu, MD, director, Fairfax County Health Department. "In general, the more closely you interact with others and the longer that interaction, the higher the risk of COVID-19 spread."

The CDC has grouped activities into low-risk, moderate-risk and high-risk categories. The sugar-laden but beloved tradition of trick-or-treating is considered among the riskiest of ghoulish traditions while celebrations with family members are among the lowest.

There are parents who are comfortable with activities considered by the CDC to be moderate-risk, such as open-air, one-way, walk-through where appropriate mask use is enforced, like Markoff's Haunted Forest and Enchanted Forest at Calleva Farm in Potomac, says Dr. Bitu Nasserri, MD. "Overall, the CDC guidelines make good sense. They are based on intelligent considerations broken down by how much you want to expose your children," she said. "The main takeaway is to not be in large crowds or crowded streets, as kids will inevitably remove masks. Going house to house and allowing people to hand out individual candies increases the risk of COVID exposure exponentially ... and should be avoided at all costs this year."

Creativity is the theme this season and traditions of holidays like Easter and Christmas are offering Halloween inspiration says Fairfax mother and blogger Alice Anderson. "We want to keep things as fun as possible for our kids so we are going all out on party

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALICE ANDERSON  
Alice Anderson and her family will wear costumes and celebrate Halloween with a family party due to COVID-19 safety concerns.

ideas this year," she said. "We usually go to a pumpkin farm with fun activities but have decided to make our own fun at home with that as well. Our kids are excited to help make decorations and get everything set up."

Starting new traditions and borrowing ideas from other holidays is the way that Alexandra Fung, a Mount Vernon mother, will deal with the disappointment that her children will feel when they aren't knocking on doors in anticipation of treats. "Egg hunts at Easter have long been a favorite activity at our house, so carrying the tradition over to Halloween has everyone excited, from our toddler to our teen," she said. "And, having it at night with flashlights, and the promise of some king-sized candy bars, makes it all the more fun for everyone."

From reading books filled with ghosts and goblins to creating a season-long calendar, reminiscent of those used for Advent, inspiration abounds, says psychologist Reena Patel. "Create a month of Halloween countdown," said "Why not? We do it for Christmas too. Make a countdown calendar and for each day and have a Halloween surprise, like a Halloween coloring sheet, candy corn puzzle, pencils, stickers. Anything small that represents and leads up to the big day."

"We have a bunch of activities planned for our party at home," added Anderson. "We are going to make decorations, play Halloween games, carve pumpkins, make a DIY (do-it-yourself) maze, eat yummy treats, and finish the night watching the new Scooby Doo movie. I think Halloween can be as fun as you make it and our kids will be happy spending quality time together as a family."

While independence-seeking teens and tweens might not be wowed by Halloween candy hunts and spooky-themed cartoons at home, they can still enjoy a frightful evening while maintaining safety. "They should have small get-togethers at their friends' houses for Halloween," said Beach. "Check for fevers if inviting teens to your home for Halloween before admitting them in your home. Make sure your teen social distances themselves and wears a mask and/or gloves to keep safe."

Perspectives on Halloween safety vary, acknowledges Karen Aronian, Ed.D. "Some door-to-door trick-or-treating will still happen, but some neighborhoods are doing the same 'pod' [small group] approach with Halloween that they have done with schooling, by going out in safe pods of kids predetermined by parents," she said. "Homes that do decide to give out candy should mark their house with a sign that says, 'covid safe' meaning gloves, masks and social distancing will be observed."

**"We are maintaining the joy by allowing our children to still wear their Halloween costumes, but we won't be going out."**

— Becky Beach,  
Arlington mother and teacher

## Food fit for a king on a family budget

### DAILY FEATURES FOR EVERYONE!

Monday - 1/2 Price Burger Night  
Tuesday - Kids 12 & under Eat Free with accompanying adult. 1 child per adult.  
Wednesday - Roast Turkey Special  
Thursday - Lasagna Night  
Friday - Fish Fry  
Saturday & Sunday - Full Brunch Buffet with Omelette Station

734 North St. Asaph Street, Alexandria, VA 22314  
**Royal Restaurant** 703-548-1616  
ALEXANDRIA'S NEIGHBORHOOD RESTAURANT • SINCE 1904 [RoyalRestaurantVA.com](http://RoyalRestaurantVA.com)

Advertising options to reach your local market.

WELCOME  
WE ARE  
**OPEN**  
PLEASE COME IN

**THE CONNECTION**  
Newspapers & Online

PRINT | DIGITAL | SOCIAL

For Advertising: Call 703.778.9431 or Email [advertising@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:advertising@connectionnewspapers.com)



# Hank & Mitzi's Chef Edwards Wins Food Network's 'Chopped'

BY HOPE NELSON  
GAZETTE PACKET

Through multiple courses, battling multiple competitors, Hank & Mitzi's own Chef Chris Edwards came out on top of the Food Network's "Chopped" competition last week, facing off against competitors from across the country – and Edwards' own back yard in Alexandria.

Edwards thinks it was sheer coincidence that he found himself facing off against Chef Mimi Huynh of Sunday in Saigon, and though all his opponents were formidable, he found himself the victor in the end.

"I feel really excited; I got a lot of nice comments from friends and people who have come to the restaurant and seen (the show)," Edwards said.

But for anyone who thinks this is simply an evening in a restaurant truncated to a few minutes' worth of airtime, think again.

"It's completely different from a restaurant scenario," Edwards said. "Usually in a restaurant we have a lot more time to come up with that stuff!"

The pressure, too, is completely different than a normal night of service.

"It's difficult; it's a pressure unlike you can even imagine, especially an unfamiliar place," Edwards said, adding he kept telling himself, "Just don't cut yourself, and make sure everything gets on the plate."

The episode of "Chopped" that Edwards was featured on was actually filmed about a year ago, he said, in an environment that is completely different from the pandemic-fac-



**Chef Chris Edwards of Alexandria's Hank & Mitzi's won the Food Network's "Chopped" competition last week, Sept. 29.**



**Sheer coincidence that Chef Edwards found himself facing off against Chef Mimi Huynh of Sunday in Saigon? Edwards won.**

ing world we're living in today. But now, Edwards is ensconced in the kitchen at Hank & Mitzi's at 600 Montgomery St., having helped reopen the suite of Hank's Oyster Bar establishments as covid-related restrictions were lifted over the summer.

"Things are going pretty well when you consider the fact that we don't have the capacity to fill our dining room like I would. We are lucky enough to have plenty of out-

door seating," he said.

Indeed, Hank & Mitzi's has about 50 seats available for indoor dining and about 60 additional seats outdoors.

The restaurant will look to use space heaters to keep al fresco diners warm for as long as possible this year.

Edwards was surprised, too, that some customers are coming into the restaurant just to see the new "Chopped" champion in

action.

"I know it's a popular show, but sometimes you don't realize how many people are going to notice you," he said.

*Hope Nelson is the author of "Classic Restaurants of Alexandria" and owns the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at [www.kitchenrecessionista.com](http://www.kitchenrecessionista.com). Email her any time at [hope@kitchenrecessionista.com](mailto:hope@kitchenrecessionista.com).*

## CALENDAR

### STARTING OCT. 3

Art on the Avenue. The 25th Annual Art on the Avenue festival will move to a virtual format for 2020, launching on Saturday, October 3 and running through the holidays. Over 150 artists will be featured, offering handmade items in a wide range of mediums, including wheel-thrown vases and bowls, tiles, sculpture, tote bags and purses, drawings and pastels, knitted and crocheted hats and gloves, woven scarves and shawls, gourmet food, fused and blown glass, jewelry, paintings, photography, and much more. Traditionally held each fall on Mount Vernon Avenue, Art on the Avenue is a multicultural arts festival that strives to reflect the vibrant mix of the Del Ray community through the artists and their work, and draws an estimated 75,000 visitors each year. Visit [www.artontheavenue.org](http://www.artontheavenue.org).

### NOW THRU NOV 1

Art by Mail II. The "Art by Mail II" The exhibit features the artwork of Del Ray Artisans members. You'll find one-of-a-kind, small format, original paintings in watercolor, oil, and acrylic; mixed media art and artful cards; plus, small

3D works. Enjoy browsing the collection. Artwork will be mailed directly from the artist within 10 days of purchase. Purchases are mailed directly to you. Enjoy the exhibit at [www.DelRayArtisans.org/artbymail](http://www.DelRayArtisans.org/artbymail).

### NOW THRU OCT. 14

Weekly Free Outdoor Yoga Class. 6-7 p.m. At Del Ray Psych & Wellness Parking Lot, 1900 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria.  
Maureen Clyne, an affiliated agent with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in the Alexandria office, will be leading free outdoor yoga classes in the Del Ray neighborhood of Alexandria. This community event, Harvest Moon Yoga 2020, is suitable for all levels and open to the public. The class is taught by Clyne, a senior yoga instructor, and is sponsored by Del Ray Psych & Wellness. Contact: Maureen Clynel: 703-967-8884.

### OCT. 1-31

Autumn's Palette. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. At Gallery Underground, 2120 Crystal Drive, Arlington. Gallery Underground presents Autumn's Palette: Art for the Season, an all-member show featuring themes and colors of fall including painting, ceramics, mixed media, glass, wood and metal work. Visit the website: <https://www.galleryunderground.org>

### OCT. 2-31

Mini World Exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans gallery in the Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. The "Living in a Mini World" exhibit at Del Ray Artisans gallery features art smaller than a magazine. Paintings, 3d works, lots of different jewelry. Visit <http://www.delrayartisans.org/event/mini-world/> Gallery hours are Thursday & Friday 12-6 p.m., Saturday 12-4 p.m. The gallery is free, open to the public, and accessible.

### THURSDAY/OCT. 8

Signature Virtual Masterclass: Words, Words, Words -- Creating a character through text with Natascia Diaz. 7 p.m. Natascia Diaz (Signature's Passion, The Threepenny Opera, West Side Story) is an expert when it comes to analyzing and using the text to understand and create different well-rounded characters, within the specific style needs of each new show. Join her for an interactive session with a script to experience a taste of the tablework process together, how it begins to connect us with the text, and feel how a show first comes to life... before we even get out of our chairs. This is a discussion-based masterclass that is appropriate for general audiences and students. At Signa-

ture Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave., Arlington. Visit [www.sigtheatre.org](http://www.sigtheatre.org)

### MONDAY/OCT. 12

Fall Day Camp. 9-11:45 a.m. Via Zoom. In Jane Franklin Dance virtual day camps, students explore movement and art, words and imagination. Students receive art project packets with print-outs, instructions and some supplies. They will share and collaborate on movement using Zoom break-out rooms. Cost is \$45. Visit the website at <https://www.janefranklin.com/fall-day-camps>

### SUNDAY/OCT. 25

Death (& Mystery) at the City Hotel -- American Graffiti: A Mystery in History Guided Investigation. 7-8:30 p.m. Via Zoom. If you found something old and mysterious in your attic, how would you begin to unravel its tale? Join staff as they study the puzzle of Civil War era graffiti on the attic walls of Gadsby's Tavern Museum. The night begins with the telling of the tragic stories of two Civil War soldiers who died in the building. Against this backdrop, participants will go (virtually) behind-the-scenes to follow the evidence in search of the story behind the perplexing prose artfully inscribed upon the attic walls. This program is sponsored by Gadsby's Tavern Museum, part

of the Office of Historic Alexandria. Tickets are \$8. Guests will receive an email with the Zoom meeting link, Meeting ID, and password by noon the day prior to the event.

### THE BIRCHMERE

The Birchmere in Alexandria is reopening with limited capacity. During the public health emergency, there will be a \$25 food and beverage minimum and a \$5 Covid fee. There will be no bar service and no gathering in the stage or bar areas. Customers will be escorted to their seats, and those without reserved seats will be seated by staff to ensure social distancing. Schedule of Shows:  
Friday, Oct. 9 -- Start Making Sense -- A Tribute to Talking Heads  
Saturday, Oct. 10 -- John Kadlecik -- Solo Acousti'Electric  
Sunday, Oct. 11: Eclipse - The Ultimate Journey Tribute  
Friday, Oct. 16 -- Double Vision -- The Foreigner Experience  
Saturday, Oct. 17 -- Huggy Low-down with Chris Paul & Friends  
Mon/Tue. Oct. 19-20: Samantha Fish (10/19 is Sold Out! Second Night Added!)  
Thursday, Oct. 22-23: Drew Lynch (Two Nights!)  
Saturday, Oct. 24: Free Flowing Musical Experience



# Reform at America's #1 High School Is Good for All, Including Asian Americans

FROM PAGE 7

countless Asian Americans the current system fails. Lumping a substantial portion of the TJ student population under the broad umbrella term "Asian" erases the internal diversity within the Asian community. Reforming TJ admissions is an opportunity to expand access to local Asian student populations who are underserved, including girls, persons with disabilities, English language learners, refugees, and those from low-income families. For example, many TJ alumni cannot recall one classmate of Southeast Asian descent despite the substantial local population of Vietnamese Americans and other groups. Moreover, nearly 20% of Asian American FCPS students are economically disadvantaged, but only 2.1% of TJ students are low-income. Dr. Brabrand acknowledged during the town hall that some families pay up to \$15,000 to give their children a leg up on the TJ application process. This is not a meritocracy nor is it acceptable for any public school designed to benefit the whole population, rather than just the privileged few.

Additionally, labelling equity reforms at a magnet high school as "anti-Asian racism" trivializes the myriad biases Asian communities face everyday. Asian Americans across the country are reporting violence or threats of violence as a result of others' rac-

**"In line with best practices at other magnet schools and trends at top universities, the plan would eliminate a standardized test that is demonstrably preppable and prone to amplifying bias."**

ist assumptions around COVID-19 risk and blame. Those with Asian heritage have long been subject to the "perpetual foreigner" myth and continue to be disproportionately doubted as American. Many Asian American immigrants also suffer from accent discrimination, lack of access to public services and programs as a result of language barriers, colorism where lighter skin is preferred over darker skin, the "bamboo ceiling", and more. To try and equate a genuine effort to make TJ more inclusive with serious racism faced by Asian Americans is a distortion of reality.

Beyond admissions, redefining merit must be part of improving the toxic culture in and around TJ, which unnecessarily harms all Asian American students. For some, rejection from TJ had long-term damaging effects on their emotional and mental health. For others, admittance was a pyrrhic victory

that came at the cost of their elementary and middle school years spent on rigorous test prep to the exclusion of other activities. Still others graduate TJ ill-equipped as leaders and STEM problem-solvers in diverse universities and workplaces as a result of their narrow and exclusionary high school education. As part of the reform process, FCPS and the TJ administration must consider the whole system of which admissions is only one part.

Presently, the Commonwealth of Virginia, Fairfax County Public Schools, and other stakeholders have an extraordinary chance to do right for all young people in Northern Virginia by pursuing TJ reform that seeks to address the long-standing exclusion of too many in our communities. TJAAG and NAKASEC VA look forward to TJ, FCPS, and Governor Northam following through on

## Fatal Crash Involving a Moped in Lincolnia

Detectives from the Fairfax County Police Crash Reconstruction Unit are investigating a fatal crash that occurred on Oct. 5 at 2:20 am. Officers responded to the intersection of Columbia Pike and Lincolnia Road for a crash involving a 2011 Tao Tao moped. A preliminary investigation determined the moped was traveling east on Columbia Pike when it left the roadway and crashed. The driver, Erwin Rodriguez, 32, of Annandale, was thrown from the moped and pronounced dead on-scene.

It is unknown if speed or alcohol are factors. Next of kin have been notified. Rodriguez was wearing a helmet. The investigation is ongoing.

Anyone with information about this crash is asked to contact our Crash Reconstruction Unit at 703-280-0543.

their commitments and enacting real, lasting change.

*This letter is submitted by the TJ Alumni Action Group (TJAAG) and the National Korean American Service & Education Consortium of Virginia (NAKASEC VA).*

## Gathering Hundreds

FROM PAGE 4

Everyday, her clients bring a focus on how the county is not working, how there are vulnerable populations suffering with mental illness, substance abuse issues, trauma, lack of economic opportunity and education, homelessness, and a myriad of other issues.

"The pay difference between my office and Mr. Descano's is quite astronomical," she said. "You have to ask why. Why should that be tolerated? Why should a prosecutor get paid more than a public defender?"

Lusk handed the question to David Rohrer, deputy county executive for public safety.

"I don't know that I'm prepared to commit or answer your question directly. Certainly,

we have studied this issue for the last year or so. And I'll certainly commit to working with you and our Department of Management and Budget to continue to do the comparison studies, as well as I know there are ongoing efforts at the state level," he said.

FCPD has 1,400 officers, Butorac said. She has three investigators. Public defenders make three-fifths the salary of county prosecutors. The police have a \$190 million budget, Butorac asked for \$800,000.

"A priority should be put to helping these individuals," she said.

"This country is prioritizing prosecuting and locking up Black and brown people and that needs to end."

## We Need a Better Redistricting Amendment

FROM PAGE 6

and minimizes "wasted votes" or what is called the "voter efficiency gap," a well-recognized mathematical model that objectively measures whether districts are drawn in a way that reflects the actual partisan makeup of the state. A slight deviation (e.g., 2 percent) could be authorized by a nonpartisan group to adjust lines to account for communities of interest, commuting patterns and other relevant factors. Such a process would come closer to removing political and human influences from the process.

Laws can be changed by the legislature

whenever the legislature chooses. The process to change the state Constitution takes more time and involves multiple steps. Provisions of the Constitution have long standing effects and can remain there for generations.

It is important that when we put language in our constitution that it be either written broadly enough to provide flexibility or if it is specific, it must be finely targeted and precise. The proposed constitutional amendment is neither. I will vote against it.

Please email me at [scott@scottsurovell.org](mailto:scott@scottsurovell.org) if you have any feedback.

# Thank you!

To our doctors, nurses, EMTs and all the heroes in the medical profession. Thank you to our frontline businesses working long hours stocking shelves, cashiering, bagging and cleaning. Thank you to our government officials and leaders who are making decisions to keep us safe. We appreciate all of you!



**Here's how you can help support small businesses during the Covid-19 outbreak**

**GIVE THE GIFT OF BUSINESS**  
Buy a gift card to use at a later date and shop locally online when possible.

**KEEP YOUR SUBSCRIPTION**  
To the gym, exercise class, painting class, music and dance lessons, etc. Many small businesses rely on your support to keep their doors open and pay their bills. Your support can save that business.

**BUY NOW, PICK UP LATER**  
Planning to make a purchase? Call the business to see if you can make the purchase but pick it up later.

**ORDER FOOD-TO-GO OR HAVE IT DELIVERED**  
Local restaurants are open and ready to provide their delicious food. Order and pay online. Consider adding a generous tip.

**Wondering what local businesses are open? Visit [MountVernonLeeChamber.org](http://MountVernonLeeChamber.org)**  
LOCAL BUSINESS INFORMATION: [mountvernonleechamber.org/business-resources-for-coronavirus/](http://mountvernonleechamber.org/business-resources-for-coronavirus/)  
FAIRFAX COUNTY INFORMATION: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/covid19/information-businesses-impacted-coronavirus/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/covid19/information-businesses-impacted-coronavirus/)  
VIRGINIA INFORMATION: [www.virginia.gov/coronavirus-updates/](http://www.virginia.gov/coronavirus-updates/)

**Another Mount Vernon Gazette Community Partnership**





PHOTO COURTESY FAIRFAX COUNTY

Fairfax County School Board 2020.

# Life Hangs in the Box Checked

## HR for County Schools tells staff to make a decision.

**T**ia Williams is an instructional assistant with diabetes and severe asthma at Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS). Choosing the box she checks Tuesday, Oct. 6, stating her intent whether to return to school for in-person learning or not, is an agonizing decision to make. Williams comes from a family of people with diabetes and asthma. Six cousins and four uncles are dead from COVID. “I want to continue to work (and teach), but I also don’t want to bring (the) virus home to my family. When I talked to HR about my ADA application, they told me that I wasn’t approved because my principal said that none of the kids were going to be virtual, so I needed to return. I do not feel like I have a choice. It is either my health or my job.” Williams is one of 653 teachers and support staff who must decide whether to return to in-person work in the school system this October, take a leave of absence, or resign. She works with deaf and hard of hearing students.

Fairfax County School Board voted their approval at a September 22 Board Meeting to decouple school reopening plans from staffing decisions and bring small cohorts of students and their teachers to school sites for in-person instruction. The division’s Department of Human Resources, under the signature of Sean McDonald, Interim Assistant Superintendent, sent an email to those staff members on Sept. 30 asking their teaching intent.

**THE COHORTS** included career and technical education classes, preschool autism classes, English language learners and other special education students, such as deaf and hard of hearing students who Williams supports.

“These students represent 3.5 percent of the total student population and 653 teachers and other instructional staff... needed to provide instruction to these students,” said an FCPS spokesperson.

While the percentage appeared small, Becca Ferrick, President of the Association of Fairfax Professional Educators, said they were concerned for the future of FCPS. Based on the numbers FCPS shared, there were not enough employees prepared to return to in-person instruction to meet the staffing needs outlined. “By forcing the return, we may see that the issue becomes one of simply not having enough employees on the payroll anymore in order to meet those



**Superintendent Scott Brabrand, Fairfax County Public Schools**



**Tamara Derenak Kaufax Lee District Representative, Fairfax County School Board.**



**Melanie K. Meren Hunter Mill District Representative, Fairfax County School Board.**



**Sean McDonald, Interim Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources**

staffing needs...These employees will almost certainly be asked to ignore both scientific advice and their own ethical principles,” she said.

A copy of an email signed by McDonald dated Sept. 30 and obtained by the Connection read in part: “As we plan for student cohort groups to return for in-person learning, you have been identified as a staff member who works with one of the groups identified...There is a possibility based on student need that you will be asked to return to in-person instruction by your principal.” In closing, the correspondence said, “Submit your response no later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday, October 2.”

Human Resources provided a five-option plan to staff:

Return to support in-person instruction,

Submit an accommodation request under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA),

Take an unpaid Leave of Absence (LOA) for the school year’s balance if approved by the School Board,

Access leave under the FFCRA for childcare reasons and then return to support in-person instruction and

Resign or retire.

Upon learning of the email, Tina Williams, President, Fairfax County Federation of Teachers, AFT Local 2401, said in a statement to union members: “I was shocked to find out the FCPS gave hundreds of staff less than 48 hours to make a decision... This isn’t a decision that can be

made lightly since the district has not been transparent in its safety mechanisms, and the plans they have shown fall short of what we need.” She urged members to mobilize and send a message to school board members, school leadership and Superintendent Scott Brabrand.

Tamara Derenak Kaufax is the Lee District Representative on the Fairfax County School Board. She said, “The Board and I were

unaware that the letter was sent. I became aware as I began receiving letters from concerned teachers. I have asked for an explanation from our Superintendent regarding the timeline...I will work with my colleagues, our Superintendent, and his team to ensure that future communication comes without surprises and is supportive of the caring culture that FCPS strives to maintain.”

**ACCORDING TO A SPOKESPERSON** for FCPS, due to feedback from some staff members about the short timeframe to declare their intent on returning to school buildings, recipients of the initial communication received a second one on Thursday, Oct. 1. It extended the timeframe to respond to Tuesday, Oct. 6, at 4:30 p.m. In his second email to staff, McDonald said that the survey data would help inform the next steps needed for staffing. “Your response to the survey is not binding; however, your principal and/or HR will follow up with you regarding your intention,” he said.

Melanie Meren, Fairfax County School Board, Hunter Mill District said on Facebook, “FCPS has received over 2,000 staff requests for accommodations under the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) – an 8,000 percent increase from last year. Meaning they seek to be on leave. Meaning they won’t be available to teach.”

A spokesperson for Fairfax County Public Schools said, “FCPS regrets anxiety felt by these staff members. This has been a tremendously difficult period, and our staff have all worked hard to remain connected to their students and schools. We realize the hardships and sacrifices made by our staff and sincerely empathize with them.”

Roza Qaradaghi is a Special Education Instructional Assistant at Westfield High School. “I just found that I’m pregnant. My doctor has advised against returning to in-person instruction given the ongoing pandemic. I need my wishes to be respected and to be given a virtual option.. My classes are going so well virtually I’m frankly confused why we have to return to in person instruction right now given the risks.”

Student Cohort	Programs Included	Tentative Return Dates
Group 1	Select high school Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses	October 5, 2020
Group 2	PAC, ECCB, Select high school CTE courses	October 19, 2020
Group 3	Elementary Comprehensive Services Sites (CSS); Key Center; Kilmer Center; Students with Limited or Interrupted Formal Education (SLIFE); Newcomer English Learners (ELs) in Grades 3-12 and additional ELs identified at the school level; select high school CTE courses; select TJHSST senior research lab courses; Adapted Curriculum Programs to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhanced Autism Classrooms</li> <li>• Intellectual Disabilities (ID) K-12</li> <li>• Intellectual Disabilities Severe (IDS) K-12</li> <li>• Noncategorical Elementary (NCE) students who are instructed with an adapted curriculum in a special education classroom</li> </ul>	October 26, 2020
Group 4	Burke (Elementary Program only), select high school academy and CTE courses	October 26, 2020

Chart of groups





## 22nd Annual Chamber Golf Classic Raised Money for Scholarships

Sophia's Cafe won first place in the 22nd Annual Chamber Golf Classic at Laurel Hill Golf Club to raise funds for the Mount Vernon Lee Chamber's scholarship fund. Since 2000, the Chamber has given more than \$248,000 in scholarships to local high school seniors. The winning team from Sophia's Cafe was (left to right) Jim Evans, Sam Misleh, Jeff McKay and Chad Wilkinson (not in photo).

# Residents Protest County Gun Ban

## Open carry hike held in wake of new gun ordinance.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
THE GAZETTE

A group of Fairfax County residents gathered Sept. 19 at the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve for what was billed as an open carry hike along the Mount Vernon Trail in protest of the recent Board of Supervisors vote to ban guns on public property.

"We are here to support the Second Amendment and to protest the gun restrictions passed by Fairfax County," said organizer Michael Parker, a retired Army officer and 22-year county resident. "We are expressing our Constitutional rights and the right to protect ourselves in public spaces."

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors voted Sept. 15 to ban guns on public property. Under the new regulations, guns will not be allowed in county buildings, community centers, or at parks and recreation facilities.

Exemptions to the ban include sworn law enforcement officers, ROTC and collegiate sports participants, educational county programs and events, and the Bull Run Public Shooting Center. Violators would face a misdemeanor that carries a penalty of up to one year in jail, a fine of up to \$2,500 or both.

"I find it ironic that this gun ban exempts law enforcement officers but not licensed concealed carry permit holders, who commit firearm violations at 1/7th the rate of law enforcement officers," said Parker, who holds a concealed carry permit. "At a minimum, the county should have included an exemption for concealed carry permit holders. It would encourage people to get a concealed carry permit, which comes with background checks and training requirements, and that's a good thing."

Fairfax County is among several jurisdictions, including Alexandria, Falls Church and Arlington County, to enact gun bans following the passage of a law by the Virginia General Assembly earlier this year to allow local governments to regulate firearms in certain public areas.

"The Virginia law was motivated by what happened in Virginia Beach," said Parker in reference to May 31, 2019 when a disgruntled city employee fatally shot 12 people and wounded four others in a mass shooting at



Fairfax County resident Michael Parker, center, gathers with Second Amendment supporters at the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve for an open carry hike Sept. 19 along the Mount Vernon Trail.

a municipal building there. "But I believe this motivation is misplaced. Virginia Beach had already banned employees from having firearms in city buildings. An employee ignored that ban and killed the employees who dutifully obeyed that ban. Now Fairfax County is giving criminals the upper hand over its law-abiding citizens."

Parker was among more than 80 speakers at the Sept. 15 Board of Supervisors meeting, which lasted nearly 10 hours. The ordinance passed 9-1 and went into effect immediately. Supervisor Pat Herry (R-Springfield) was the dissenting vote.

"For 24 years, the Board has asked the General Assembly for the authority to make this decision," McKay said. "I have long supported this action. Gun violence is a complex issue with no simple solution, but we must approve common-sense measures to protect our residents."

Parker, who is also a former police officer, believes the ordinance puts law abiding citizens at risk.

"Criminals intent on committing violent crimes are not going to give a damn about this ordinance," Parker said. "This ban is taking away the ability of ordinary citizens to protect themselves in public spaces."

**CLASSIFIED**  
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM  
TO ADVERTISE IN THIS PAPER, CALL BY MONDAY 11:00 AM 703-778-9411

<b>Announcements</b>	<b>Announcements</b>
<p><b>FREE!</b> Savings Include an American Standard Right Height Toilet FREE! (\$500 Value)</p> <p>AS SEEN ON TV</p>	<p><i>American Standard</i> Walk-In Tubs <b>WALK-IN BATHTUB SALE!</b> SAVE \$1,500</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Backed by American Standard's 140 years of experience</li> <li>✓ Ultra low entry for easy entering &amp; exiting</li> <li>✓ Patented Quick Drain® Technology</li> <li>✓ Lifetime Warranty on the bath AND installation, INCLUDING labor backed by American Standard</li> <li>✓ 44 Hydrotherapy jets for an invigorating massage</li> </ul> <p>Limited Time Offer! Call Today! <b>877-691-5591</b> Or visit: <a href="http://www.walkintubinfo.com/vapa">www.walkintubinfo.com/vapa</a></p>

<b>Announcements</b>	<b>Announcements</b>
<p>Prepare for unexpected power outages with a Generac home standby generator</p> <p>SCHEDULE YOUR FREE IN-HOME ASSESSMENT TODAY! <b>844-947-1479</b></p> <p><b>FREE</b> 7-Year Extended Warranty* A \$695 Value! Offer valid August 24, 2020 - December 31, 2020</p> <p>Special Financing Available Subject to Credit Approval</p>	<p><b>GENERAC</b></p> <p>*Terms &amp; Conditions Apply</p>

<b>Announcements</b>	<b>Announcements</b>
<p><b>LeafFilter</b> GUTTER PROTECTION</p> <p>MADE IN THE USA</p> <p>ACCREDITED MEMBER</p> <p>LIFETIME WARRANTY</p> <p>A COMPANY OF <b>ALHS</b></p>	<p>✓ <b>INSTALLS ON NEW &amp; EXISTING GUTTERS</b></p> <p>BEFORE LeafFilter</p> <p>AFTER LeafFilter</p>
<p><b>15% OFF</b> YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE*</p>	<p><b>AND!</b></p> <p><b>10% OFF</b> SENIOR &amp; MILITARY DISCOUNTS</p>
<p><b>5% OFF</b> TO THE FIRST 50 CALLERS!*</p>	<p><b>Promo Number: 285</b></p> <p>CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE <b>1-877-614-6667</b></p> <p>Mon-Thurs: 8am-11pm, Fri-Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: 2pm-8pm EST</p>

\*For those who qualify. One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. \*\* Offer valid at estimate only. CSLB# 1035795 DOPL #10783658-5501 License# 7656 License# 50145 License# 41354 License# 99338 License# 128344 License# 218294 License# 603 233 977 License# 2102212986 License# 2106212946 License# 2705132153A License# LEAFFNW822JZ License# WV056912 License# WC-29998-H17 Nassau HIC License# H01067000 Registration# 176447 Registration# HIC.0649905 Registration# C127229 Registrations# C127230 Registration# 366920918 Registration# PC6475 Registration# IR731804 Registration# 13VH09953900 Registration# PA069383 Suffolk HIC License# 52229-H

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**



## An Update About Some Down Time



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Not that I want to give you a blow-by-blow concerning my treatment switch over to thyroid cancer from lung cancer but the last two columns were written four weeks ago in the same week in expectation of a weekend away, so these observations will be new-ish in that they will be hot off the press, so to speak. Away with the kind of friends who are empathetic, sympathetic and who never make me feel pathetic in any of my struggles. In short, the best kind of friends. This is important because when one in the group goes above and beyond in the wrong direction, like heading from one's present cancer direction to a yet altogether new less desirable cancer direction: stable non small cell lung cancer stage 4 being treated with immunotherapy to stage 4 papillary thyroid cancer being treated with chemotherapy, is hardly a conversation that makes for fun even if I now have my own sort of "BOGO." And though the 'shopping 'buy' may be familiar, the cancer 'buy' is not nearly so familiar. Generally speaking a "BOBO offer is of interest, a cancer one not so much. In fact, it's not much of a bargain at all.

The worst of now being treated for papillary thyroid cancer is the array of side effects which are manifesting. They're not exactly debilitating, they're just one big nuisance broken into about eight different nuisances - and I will spare you the details. The net effect of all these side effects is that for the first time in approximately two years, and I feel extraordinarily lucky to be able to say this, once again I feel like I have cancer. And though it's unlikely it's simply side effects which are doing all the talking, rather than the cancer metastasizing, which it already has anyway since the thyroid cancer is now in the lungs, it's impossible not to consider the consequences. I mean cancer doesn't just travel around to make new friends and influence people. It sort of has a task: to damage and destroy. And I have to admit: feeling as if I didn't have cancer is much more preferred than how I feel now.

Nevertheless, it's not as if I feel at death's door (well, not the front door anyway). It's more a feeling of death being at the back door. Not a direct assault, mind you, more of an indirect one. And I'm sure they still count as much as all the others. Unfortunately, I fear an accumulation of these indirect assaults can cause as much cumulative damage as a direct hit. Ergo, I'm wondering if this rear-type assault/indirect-type hit is an indication of future/perhaps even present trouble? Moreover, I wonder if having to defend myself on two fronts (primary and secondary) will weaken the resistance. Because as many World War II movies as I've seen, the resistance rarely seemed to have enough supplies to carry out their mission.

Being in a new battle, even it involves familiar elements: blood pressure readings, EKGs, CT scans, lab and face-to-face appointments, doesn't totally regularize the experience. The reason being that this familiarity is breeding contempt because I have been there and done that. Yet, here here I am having to do it all over again and I find myself quoting Shakespeare or the Three Stooges: "something is rotten in Denmark."

Being a cancer patient is like being unable to send your legs out for a walk as Lt. Com. Henry Blake wanted to after a long period of surgery during a particularly high-casualty episode on the television series, M\*A\*S\*H. And as a previously diagnosed as "terminal" cancer patient, neither can I disconnect from my mortality thoughts any more than Henry could exercise his legs. So what I'm left with is either bucking up or venting to friends and family. I'm lucky to have an outlet. I imagine it is much more difficult for those who don't.

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

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

CALL 703-549-0004

FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION

ELECTRICAL	
<b>K &amp; D ELECTRIC</b>	
COMMERCIAL / RESIDENTIAL SERVICE	
Family Owned & Operated	
Recessed Lighting	Licensed/Bonded/Insured
Ceiling Fans	Office 703-335-0654
Phone/CATV	Mobile 703-499-0522
Computer Network Cabling	lektrkman28@gmail.com
Service Upgrades	
Hot Tubs, etc...	

LANDSCAPING	
<b>Quality Tree Service &amp; Landscaping</b>	
Reasonable prices. Licensed & insured.	
	<b>Summer Cleanup...</b>
	Tree removal, topping & pruning, shrubbery trimming, mulching, leaf removal, planting, hauling, gutter cleaning, retaining walls, drainage problems, etc.
25 years of experience - Free estimates	
<b>703-868-5358</b>	
<b>24 Hour Emergency Tree Service</b>	

<b>Patios &amp; Drainage</b>
Your neighborhood company since 1987
<b>703-772-0500</b>

<b>J.E.S. Services</b>
Free Estimates - Fully Licensed & Insured
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planting &amp; Landscaping Design</li> <li>Drainage &amp; Water Problems</li> <li>Concrete Driveways, Replacement or New</li> <li>Patios and Walks • Masonry Work or Dry Laid</li> <li>Paver, Flagstone, Brick, any style you choose</li> <li>Retaining walls of all types</li> </ul>
All work Guaranteed

Sign up for **FREE DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION** to any or all of our 15 papers

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM/SUBSCRIBE

## NEWS

# Deer Management Season Opens in Fairfax County

FROM PAGE 1

ton, Prince William, Loudoun and Stafford are also looking to decrease the number of deer.

This program started in the county in 1998, citing safety concerns associated with deer like car accidents, health concerns and ecological damage. They also cite health concerns for the deer herd, and deer ticks that might spread Lyme Disease. Virginia is considered a "high risk" state for deer-vehicle collisions, and noted that the likelihood of a deer collision is one in 74. In 2019, there were 102 reportable deer-vehicle collisions in Fairfax County and seven resulted in vehicle occupant or driver injury.

Deer management is a challenging issue, especially in urban areas noted Edwards, and while there are people on both sides of the issue, some type of deer population management is necessary. "Some residents strongly oppose archery hunting or the killing of deer regardless of the method, others have expressed opposition to the archery program due to perceived safety concerns related to weapons use in the parks," Edwards said.

### Venison or Vermin?

The hunting is allowed in 100 parks and public land sites around Fairfax County and the parks remain fully open to the public. Last year was a big year for the program. In Huntley Meadows Park cluster, there were 98 deer killed, consisting of 70 doe and 28 bucks of various description - button buck (younger), and antlered and non-antlered. In the total 18 park clusters where the county program ran last year, there were a total of 868 deer killed, and most of them were does.

All archers must be in compliance with game licensing and general Hunter Safety Education requirements as specified by the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources. All archers are required to pass qualifications with their bows to ensure their accuracy, marksmanship, and skill in shot placement prior to being accepted to the Fairfax County Deer Management Program. Additionally, the county requires that archers in the county program complete training above what is mandated by the state to include a



PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

These orange signs are posted at the trailhead in places where the archery program is conducted.

course through the International Bowhunter Education Program, Edwards said.

All applicants also undergo a criminal background check and they must report any kills. The hunters must use stands, so they can't just walk around seeking deer. "Hunting from the ground is strictly prohibited in any county park," said Edwards. Stands are permitted no closer than 100 feet from park property line 50 feet from park trails.

Once a deer is killed, the hunter then makes an incision down the underside, and removes the organs. This is known as "field dressing the kill," and the "deer must be moved from public view before field dressing," county rules state. They can keep the deer meat, known as venison, for themselves, or donate it to charitable organizations such as Hunters for the Hungry that contribute to local food banks, Edwards noted.

Fairfax County sends out notification letters to property owners adjacent to approved park sites and sent about 22,500 letters for FY 2021. They also hold public information meetings or webinars, HOA and Civic Association Meetings as well as distributing press releases, county blogs (FCPD and OPA) and videos. The orange Deer Management Program signs are posted too.

This year's season started on Sept. 12 and will end on Feb. 20, 2021.

# Tour de Mount Vernon Honors Dave Evans

FROM PAGE 1

including the Gerry Connolly Cross County Trail, cyclists wound through South County, glimpsing several of the historic and environmentally beautiful sites the area has to offer. Supervisor Storck sees the ride as an opportunity to share the beauty and history of Mount Vernon. He commented, "I believe strongly in connecting people to places, history, culture and nature. The recent loss of my best forever friend, Dave Evans, made the ride more special this year. It was Dave who inspired me to create this community ride. I hope everyone will take a moment to reflect and appreciate our dear connections in life, the natural world around us and join

us for the ride next year!"

A special thanks to all our Tour de Mount Vernon partners: Office of Economic Initiatives, FABB Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling, Workhouse Arts Center, La Prima Catering, Volunteer Fairfax and especially the Fairfax County Police for support in keeping riders safe on the roads. The event adhered to Governor Northam's COVID-19 phase III protocols for social gatherings, including requiring masks and social distancing.

For those interested, the routes can be found here and additional ride information can be found here: <https://www.fairfax-county.gov/mountvernon/tour-de-mount-vernon-2020>.



# SPECIAL SAVINGS FOR YOUR TOYOTA



WELCOME TO ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA'S PERSONALIZED CAR CARE EXPERIENCE

BUY 3 TIRES AND GET THE 4TH FOR **\$1**



See Service Advisor for details.

**GOT TIRES?** INCLUDES ROAD HAZARD PROTECTION, TIRE WARRANTY, AND FREE COURTESY INSPECTION.

**BONUS: ADD A 4 WHEEL ALIGNMENT FOR \$39.95**

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 10/31/20.

CHECK ENGINE LIGHT DIAGNOSIS

**NO CHARGE**

INITIAL DIAGNOSIS

WE WILL RETRIEVE VEHICLE CODES & GIVE YOU AN ESTIMATE OF REPAIR COSTS.



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 10/31/20.

Jack Taylor's  
**ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA**



**SAFETY FIRST ALWAYS!**  
Have Your Vehicle Checked for Open Campaigns/Recalls  
Recall Hotline: 703-684-0710

**SERVICE & PARTS DEPT HOURS:**

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 \$329<sup>00</sup>**  
Covers up to 4 years/45,000 miles

3750 Richmond Hwy • Alexandria, VA 22305

## ALIGNMENT SPECIAL

**\$69<sup>95</sup>**

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 10/31/20.

## 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 10/31/20.

## 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 10/31/20.

## BRAKE SPECIAL

**\$79<sup>95</sup>**

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

**MACHINE ROTORS ADDITIONAL**

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 10/31/20.

## BG VITAL FLUID SERVICE

**10% OFF** YOUR FIRST SERVICE

**15% OFF** YOUR SECOND SERVICE

Power Steering • Automatic Transmission • Brake System

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 10/31/20.

## TRUESTART™ BATTERIES

**SPECIAL OFFER**

**\$129<sup>95</sup>**

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 10/31/20.

**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 10/31/20.



**ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA**

©SMS Productions, Inc. 1-800-289-7671 #202001025

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





# CHRIS WHITE

FAMILY REAL ESTATE  
OF LONG & FOSTER

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

## 55 Alexandria Homes Sold So Far In 2020!



3517 Surrey Dr  
\$998,00

**SOUTHERN CHARM!**



1815 Duffield Ln  
\$750,000

**SPACIOUS TOWN HOME!**



9324 Old Mansion Rd  
\$1,990,000

**NEW BUILD, WATER VIEWS!**



8814 Surrey Ct  
\$850,000

**CLASSIC COLONIAL!**



8710 Yardley Dr  
\$630,000

**QUAINT COLONIAL!**



3115 Little Creek Dr  
\$729,900

**GORGEOUS UPDATES!**



7116 Marlan Dr  
\$899,500

**ONE LEVEL LIVING!**



3203 Battersea Ln  
\$595,000

**GREAT OPPORTUNITY!**



3102 Waterside Ln  
\$1,080,000

**PRIVATE DOCK!**



9216 Old Mt. Vernon Rd  
\$898,500

**SERENE SETTING!**



9315 Maybrook Pl  
\$685,000

**RARE OPPORTUNITY!**



9420 Forest Haven Dr  
\$699,000

**REFRESHED INTERIOR!**

LONG & FOSTER  
REAL ESTATE

CHRISTIE'S  
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE

### 703.283.9028

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

[chris.white@longandfoster.com](mailto:chris.white@longandfoster.com)

Alexandria/Old Town Historic - 400 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

