

Hiding at the Top of the Ticket

Race for Senate features two-term incumbent versus first-time candidate.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

When Mark Warner ran for governor in 2001, opponents knocked him for wanting to be governor without having ever run for office before. Now, almost 20 years later, Warner is seeking a third term in the Senate. His Republican opponent in the race, Daniel Gade, has never held elected office before. And Gade's closing argument to voters as the campaign draws to a close is that they should reject Warner because he's a "career politician" who is little more than a partisan hack masquerading as a moderate.

"When he says he's going to work across the aisle, what we really see is him retreating into his partisan positions," said Gade in the third and final televised debate earlier this week. "He gets bipartisan only in an election year."

Warner rejects this line of argument. When questioned about his willingness to work across the aisle, Warner mentions prominent Republicans he's worked with in the Senate, including John McCain and Orrin Hatch. He also points to support from his predecessor in office, Republican Senator John Warner. During his first campaign for the Senate he positioned himself as a "radical centrist," an approach he continues to take 12 years later.

"Virginians know my record," says Warner. "They know my record as governor, when as a Democrat with a two-to-one Republican legislature, we made record investments and remained the best-managed state, best state for business and best state to receive a public education."

The race for Senate in Virginia is not on the national radar as a race to watch, and Republicans have not identified Warner as an incumbent who might be vulnerable. Polls show Warner consistently with a double-digit lead over Gade. The most recent poll is from Christopher Newport Uni-



Sen. Mark Warner at Belle Haven to talk about the Great American Outdoors Act.

FILE PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON

versity, which shows Warner with a 17 point lead. Despite the outsized lead, the airwaves have been buzzing with ads in the race — including spots on broadcast television where Warner attacks Gade. "That suggests to me that there's something there. Why go negative unless you have to?" asked Quentin Kidd, director of the Wason Center for Public Policy

I don't know why Warner would run a negative ad."

Six years ago, when Warner was campaigning for a second term in the Senate, he was running another race that few people identified as a race to watch. But in the final days of the campaign, Republican Ed Gillespie surged and came close to beating Warner in an upset. Warner ultimately prevailed, but the unexpectedly close margin in that race gave Republicans hope they might be able to unseat him this year if they were able to find the right candidate.

"This is beyond an uphill race for any Republican running, especially candidates who have never held elective office and have no name recognition," said David Ramadan, a former Republican member of the House of Delegates who is now at the Schar School of Policy and Government at George Mason University.

at Christopher Newport University. "I have not thought of this race in any sense as being competitive, but



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Republican candidate for Senate Daniel Gade lost a leg in combat in Iraq.

"Mark Warner wins this one with a landslide."

THE CANDIDATES have presented a contrast that's personal and political. Gade, 45, is a combat-wounded vet who now teaches at American University and lives in Mount Vernon. Warner, 65, is a resident of Old Town who made a fortune as a founder of Nextel before becoming state party chairman and launching a campaign for governor. On the campaign trail, they've disagreed on everything from the Affordable Care act to the Trump administration's response to coronavirus and the vacancy on the United States Supreme Court. They've also admitted a few mistakes along the way. During a debate at Norfolk State University, Gade acknowledged that he probably shouldn't have said wearing a mask during the pandemic was what government overreach and tyranny feels like.

"In May of 2020, what you saw there was me at a sort of philo-

Mark Warner
raised: \$14 million
spent: \$5 million
cash on hand: \$9 million

Daniel Gade
raised: \$993,000
spent: \$768,000
cash on hand: \$225,000

sophical point that a government that is powerful enough to make you do little things is also powerful enough to take your liberty in other ways," said Gade. "Maybe I mangled the point. I'm not a career politician."

The moderators of that debate also got Warner to admit to making a mistake in being slow to criticize the name of the Washington football team, which continued to use a racial slur as the team's nickname until the Black Lives Matter movement forced a national conversation about white privilege.

SEE HIDING AT THE TOP, PAGE 14

"Virginians know my record."

— U.S. Sen. Mark Warner (D)

"When he says he's going to work across the aisle, what we really see is him retreating into his partisan positions."

— Republican candidate Daniel Gade

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NEWS

Lorton Landfill Mountain Could Become 'Fairfax Peak'

Officials delay decision on possible indoor ski slope, looking for more public comments before moving forward.

By MIKE SALMON
GAZETTE PACKET

Southern Fairfax County is moving closer to being an alpine ski destination, as the "Fairfax Peak," indoor ski slope moves closer to fruition. Officials want more time for public comment, so on Oct. 6, the Board of Supervisors deferred the decision on the proposed Interim Agreement "to allow the developer, Alpine X, to advance its due diligence for the Fairfax Peak to allow an additional 30 days of public comment."

This agreement is an interim step in a years-long process that will entail future public engagement opportunities at several levels. Public comment is now open until Nov. 17.

Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon) is including this extension in his newsletter that goes out to 7,000 households so they will have a chance to weigh in on the plans. At Alpine X, John Emery is doing much of the same. "We plan to conduct outreach in the coming weeks via email to gather constructive input for this initial phase, and invite leaders and residents in the meantime to share their free-form thoughts via our contact page here: <https://alpine-x.com/contact/>. We will be engaged in media discussions once we have solidified project updates to communicate moving forward," Emery said.

Ski Local

The whole thing is being planned to be built on the mountain of trash at the Lorton Landfill, right off I-95 in the southern part of Fairfax County. The ski facility plans may include multiple slopes for skiing and snowboarding with a variety of ramps, jumps, rails, boxes and other features, capable for use in national snowboarding and freestyle skiing competitions.

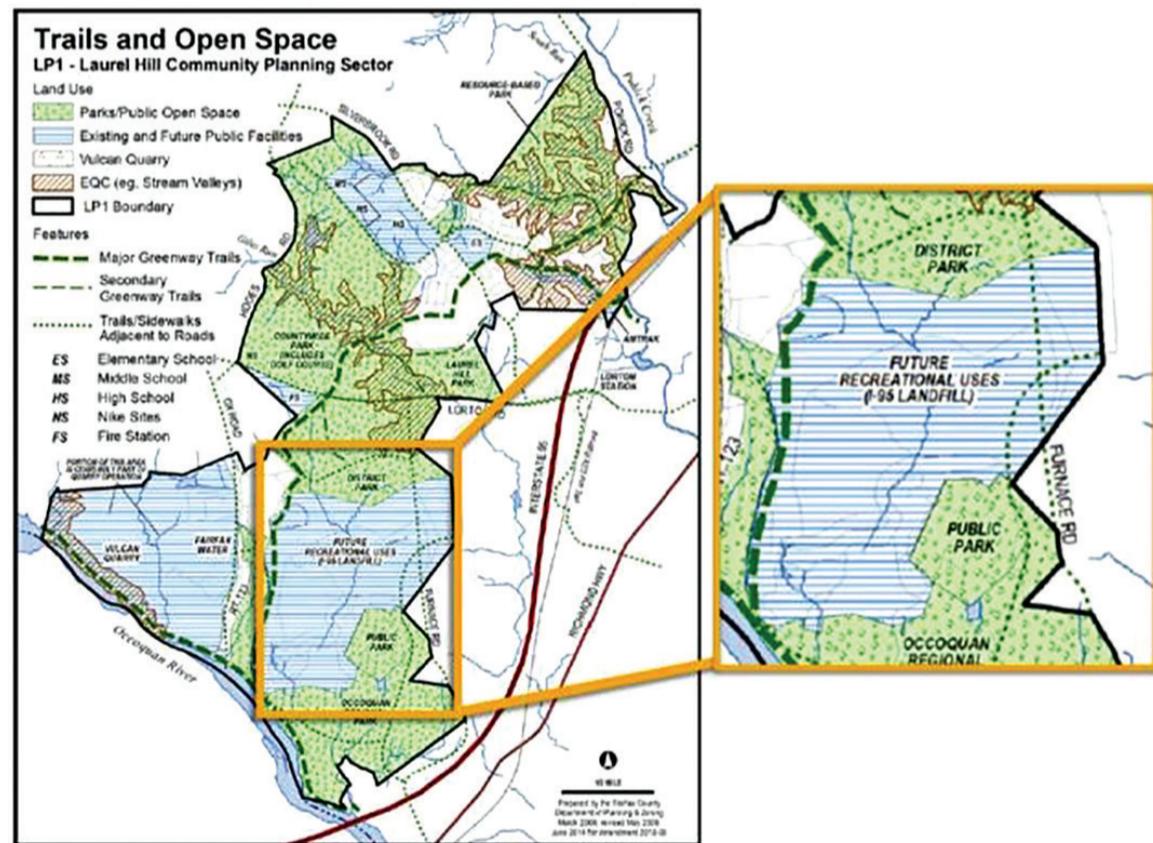
At the top of the 20-degree slope



Artist rendering of the indoor ski slope.



In a similar facility in Landgraaf, Netherlands, it's a winter wonderland.



As noted in the above map, the I-95 landfill is intended for future recreational uses. The Alpine-X recreational facility fits into this re-use category.

This map shows the location in relation to Laurel Hill and I-95.

there would be restaurants, a ski shop and sky bar. A 100-plus room luxury hotel would be at the base of the indoor snow facility. The "peak" would be connected to Occoquan Regional Park by a gravity-powered, mountain coaster that would slide from the summit to the park. A gondola would ferry riders from Occoquan Regional Park and

the facility's base to the summit, where Fairfax Peak sky terrace could be built, one plan states.

The proposal also envisions other amenities that could be added in the future, including a water park, a "gravity ropes course" and passive recreation areas. SnowWorld has signed a confidential agreement with the Northern Vir-

ginia Regional Park Authority to possibly operate or own some of these facilities.

Fairfax Peak would be built as a public-private partnership, so the county would lease its land to Alpine-X, and the company would build, own and operate its facility. This lease would be negotiated separately if the proposal is ulti-

mately accepted.

SnowWorld USA is affiliated with SnowWorld International, a company that looks at its facility overseas in the Middle East called "Ski Dubai," as a facility similar to the one they are proposing in Lorton. A number of letters of support have been included with this filing, it said on the report. In addition to those letters, support has been expressed by the following entities: NOVA Parks, Visit Fairfax, Fairfax County Economic Development Authority, South County Federation, and the Workhouse Arts Center.

Regional Tourism

The Lorton area has seen nothing like it and this would add to a blossoming mix of tourist attractions planned for southern Fairfax County, starting with the opening of the National Museum of the United States Army, planned for next month on Veterans Day. The facility would complement the existing equestrian center, Laurel Hill Golf Course, Workhouse Arts Center and the mountain bike course at Occoquan.

Besides strengthening Laurel Hill as a recreational destination, Fairfax Peak would allow local schools to add ski teams. Alpine-X proposes making its facility available to law enforcement and military for cold-weather and snow training, the report said.

Fairfax Peak plans to incorporate green and energy efficient technologies in its buildings. For example, the company says it would collaborate with Covanta's private waste-to-energy plant to capture and reuse steam; reuse gray water and use solar energy. The facility also would open its doors to local colleges and universities that wish to test new environmental technologies.

If Alpine-X's proposal is accepted, the company projects that it could complete the project's first phase in 36 to 48 months. Alpine-X LLC is a Virginia-based holding company whose mission is to develop family-centric active lifestyle communities and experience-based sports entertainment venues throughout the United States, their website states.

This isn't the first time a county landfill has turned into something useful. At Hilltop, along Telegraph Road in Fairfax County, a landfill there was turned into a golf course for many years, before finally becoming The Crest of Alexandria, a development of homes and condominiums.

Comments can be submitted by Nov. 17 to clerktothebos@fairfax-county.gov



Wayneswood 5th graders making sandwiches for Martha's Table.



Sandburg 7th graders from Girl Scout Troop 3399 making sandwiches for Martha's Table.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Fort Hunt Community Part of "Be the Good Project"

Family's effort with food contributions turns into a whole lot more.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

What started out as a family effort to pitch in, helping those in need of food during the pandemic has blossomed into a bigger effort called "Be the Good Project," that's brought community together, fed thousands and taught life lessons to those who participated.

"This is a lesson that's impossible to teach," said Amber Marchand, a Lake Braddock Secondary School alumni who is one of the forces behind the project. Together with her husband Sterling, and children Foster, 8, Quinn, 7, Ford, 5, and Milo, 3, and lots of people in the community, they've spent the past months feeding many across the area.

Thousands of sandwiches go across the Potomac River to Martha's Table in Anacostia, while non-perishables go to the United Community Ministries in Mount Vernon, and the rest of the food goes to other distribution efforts in the area.

"Our goal is at least 1000 sandwiches a week to Martha's Table," Amber Marchand said.

Food and nutrition have been at the heart and soul of Martha's Table since they opened in 1980, the website read. McKenna's Wagon is a part of Martha's that delivers food, including sandwiches, to off-site locations.

"It's been a real blessing to our family to see the community come together," said Amber Marchand.

By getting her children involved, "they understand the need, feel they can impact change."

The Marchands live in the Fort Hunt area and work with local scouts, school groups, a salon in Old Town, Alexandria called "Styl-ists At North," the Aldersgate Day School in Mount Vernon, and the West Potomac High School dance team.

"The word of mouth has been incredible," said Marchand.

Amber Marchand is an artist too, and her doodles have turned into a donation source as well. "I draw custom illustrations — or "doodles," as we call them — and all of the proceeds go towards buying

more bulk groceries for families in need," she said. They accept financial donations as well.

Masks Are a Must

Everyone involved knows how important it is to be safe from the coronavirus, so they are extra careful to minimize contact, wear masks and gloves and do as much as possible remotely. At Martha's Table for example, the organization brings out a cart, volunteers at "The Good Project," fill it with boxes of sandwiches, and it goes back inside. They work with Martha's mobile unit called McKenna's Wagon. "We're very careful,"

SEE FORT HUNT, PAGE 5



7-year-old Quinn Marchand helping with sandwich pick-up at Aldersgate Day School.



The four Marchand children delivering non-perishables for "Stuff the Bus" to help the guests of United Community. The Marchands have delivered 6,200 pounds of food since June.



Debbie Rozek and Betsy McArdle of Burke delivering sandwiches they made for Martha's Table.

Fort Hunt Community Part of “Be the Good Project”

FROM PAGE 4

Marchand said.

At United Community, they participated in the “Stuff the Bus,” event a few weeks ago, and to get support beforehand, Marchand’s children made a video that highlighted the event.

“They’re very involved,” she said. Since June, they’ve delivered more than 6,200 pounds of non-perishable foods to UCM and keep a big plastic container in front of our mailbox in Fort Hunt where people drop-off food each week.

The Fort Hunt neighbors have been creative and asked for donations at birthday car parades, collected from Girl Scout troops, and passed out flyers on other streets in addition to adding extra items to their grocery carts to help families in need.

Sterling Marchand makes a sandwich delivery. He drives hundreds of sandwiches to Martha’s Table in Anacostia twice a week, totalling more than 12,400 sandwiches since July.



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Make a Plan and Vote 2020

BY DAN STORCK
SUPERVISOR (D-MOUNT VERNON)



Voting is a fundamental American right and the basis of our democracy. “We the People” are our foundation and each of us and our votes are cornerstones. This year, like no other recent time in our history, we are reminded how our country has struggled to support that right for each and every American, and how important it is that each individual exercise this right to vote.

Early voters are turning out and mail-in ballots are being requested in record numbers. Our office, and others, are answering hundreds of emails, phone calls and visitors as residents want to be sure they have all the correct voting information.

I know you are hearing about long lines at the Fairfax Government Center and concerns about the safety of mailing your ballot and COVID-19. Once again, Fairfax is a great place to be. I can assure you there are many safe ways to vote this year, from early – no excuse – voting at 14 sat-

ellite voting locations (5 more than 2016) opening Oct. 14, first time ever secure ballot drop boxes, mail-in ballots (mail as early as you can!) and, of course, voting on election day. Fairfax County is committed to ensure all voters have the opportunity to vote and all votes are counted.

Please exercise your hard-earned rights and vote this election season!

Regardless of party or beliefs, it is important that you express your views. Take some time today to review all your options and make a plan for the best way for you to vote this year.

Voting Need to Know:

- ❖ Vote at any of the 14 satellite voting locations open on October 14 – October 31. Hours are 1 p.m. – 7 p.m. Mon-Fri and 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Sat. Locations in our District include the Mount Vernon Governmental Center, 2511 Parkers Lane, and the Laurel Hill Golf Club, 8701 Laurel Crest Drive.

- ❖ Request an absentee ballot by October 23 and vote by mail or take to a secure ballot drop box during satellite voting hours at all satellite voting locations.

- ❖ Vote on election day at your regular voting location. Note: the Lorton Library polling location has moved to Lorton Station Elementary School due to the Library closure.

- ❖ Bring a form of identification to vote, but it does not need to be a driver’s license. Your voter registration card or even a current utility bill will work.

- ❖ If you requested a mail-in ballot, but choose to vote in-person, take your ballot with you to the voting location to surrender it for an in-person ballot.

- ❖ Curbside voting is available for those who are 65-years or older, or any person with a physical disability. Look for the posted phone number outside of all voting locations.

- ❖ This year’s ballot is longer than usual, with two constitutional amendments and four bond referendums.

It is strongly recommended you review the ballot prior to going to your voting location. Sample ballots in multiple languages are available here: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/upcoming>.

- ❖ More information about voting in Fairfax: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/>.

We Need to Start Talking About The Emotional Impact of Election Day

BY RICSHAWN ADKINS ROANE

About the Author

Ricshawn Adkins Roane is an African-American daughter, sister, wife, and mother living in Great Falls. She is a senior leader in private philanthropy and has graduate training in counseling and mental health.

This week I was invited to participate in a focus group to solicit ideas for an upcoming conversation around the impact of the November 3 elections on the philanthropic sector. And make no mistake, the impact will be seismic no matter the outcome; these are the most consequential American elections in which my fellow Generation Xers and I will have ever participated. Up and down ballots across the country, in rural towns, suburban hamlets, and urban centers, the winners of this election (from the President and Congress to State Legislators and Attorneys General, to Mayors, Sheriffs, Boards of Supervisors and School Boards) will determine the policies and practices that will govern us all.

The import of this election season is evidenced by the ubiquitous voter registration and “Get Out The Vote” campaigns being waged by the right, left, and middle. Increasingly those efforts have extended to preventing voter

suppression and intimidation and mounting legal challenges to ensure votes are counted fairly and accurately. And regardless of partisanship, all of us should prioritize free and fair elections where every vote is counted and every vote counts.

The next priority for me and many others should be prioritizing our emotional health by centering ourselves and building the emotional fortitude and stamina that will be required in the post-election aftermath. That seems like a tall order when so many are running flat out exhausted just to get to the election day “finish line.” The reality, however, is that November 3, 2020 will not mark the culmination of our efforts or an ending, but the end of a beginning. In fact the most recent battle in the war to realize the promise of America for all her residents has really just begun; the difficult and daily work of governing is how we materialize that promise.

No matter which party controls the White House, Congress, and State Houses across the country as a result of these elections (and there’s a good chance we won’t know by the time the polls close), the days and weeks in the immediate aftermath will be emotionally and mentally taxing. The reality is that no matter which party prevails, on Wednesday, Nov. 4,

nearly 1,000 of our family members, neighbors and community members, colleagues, and congregants are projected to die from COVID-19; unemployment numbers will continue to rise (and access to affordable and equitable health care will decline) in a country where 140 million people were poor or low-income prior to the pandemic; over 179 million people will be in danger of a utility shut-off; and 30-40 million will be at risk of eviction.

I hearken back to Nov. 9, 2016 and the shock, befuddlement, and denial I felt having gone to bed with the expectation that Hillary Clinton would be victorious and waking up to the news that Donald J. Trump was elected the 45th president of the United States. I

remember my stunned stagger to the school bus stop with my then 8- and 6 year-olds, the heavy silence of an environment usually cacophonous with the laughter of elementary school children and their preschool-aged siblings and the banal chatter of watchful parents. The pundits’ proclamation that White suburban women clenched the victory for Trump rang through my head as, through eyes bloodshot from tears, I silently asked “were you one of them?”

And we need to prepare for a similar emotional and mental assault after November 3.

The reelection of President Donald J. Trump and a conservative wave will mean the triumph of falsehoods over truth, of those

SEE WE NEED, PAGE 7

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OPINION

We Need to Start Talking

FROM PAGE 6

who are expendable over those who are essential, of “law and order” for a few over justice for all, of rising 401Ks over rising quality of life, and of acceptance of the unacceptable. In short, it will likely mean more of the last 8 months for the next 4 years. That triumph will also be a repudiation of my very being as a Black woman and that of my family. Black folks will be confronted anew with the fact that we keep loving a country that doesn’t love us back. And while virtual learning will mean no teary eyes at the bus stop, my heart will be in my throat every time I pass my neighbors on my daily morning walk, bump into them at the grocery store, or run into them while picking up take out, wondering “were you one of them?”

If Joe Biden/Kamala Harris and a range of progressive candidates are victorious, we will be dealing with the triple threats of an unhinged President Trump driven to govern out of spite and not the good of the country, a possible assault on a peaceful transition of power for the first time in our democracy, and the specter of nationally televised white supremacist-led terrorism (the Proud Boys have told us they are standing by and those intent on “liberating” our country are plotting and planning); not to mention the everyday harassments that will not be horrific enough to make the news cycle but cut as deeply.

There is clearly an outcome that gives me greater hope for the longer-term future but make no mistake about it, the immediate aftermath of these elections will be harder than pre-election. So draw on your faith resources (I pray that you have some), center yourself through those practices that anchor you, put your sister circle on standby, and prepare for the emotional aftermath of November 3.

CALENDAR

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Advancing Diversity and Inclusion Through Changes in TJ Admissions

Newest proposed merit lottery admissions policy fuels concern.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
GAZETTE PACKET

Pathway Composition



School Board
Work Session
10/6/2020

Top-level discussions concerning proposals by Fairfax County Public Schools leaders and School Board members to increase the population of underrepresented students of color at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) have flown fast and furious the last four weeks. In the most recent plan in the process dated Oct. 8, a revised Merit Lottery proposal is on the table. To be accepted into the Merit Lottery, students would need to meet minimum requirements and be randomly selected within their pathway according to Superintendent Scott Brabrand in his Oct. 8 presentation.

As background, since TJHSST is a regional Governor's school within Fairfax County Public Schools, an applicant's pathway to the school is not only as a Fairfax County Public Schools student but also as a student residing in Loudoun, Arlington, Falls Church, Prince William and if attending a private school. The School Board reached consensus at its Oct. 8 regular meeting that the TJHSST admission tests and application fee should be removed.

RESPONSES to the proposed revisions by community members were split. Some who spoke at the meeting cited concern over a two-tiered admission process, impact on the prestigious school and unintentional discrimination while others applauded the effort to increase admittance for underrepresented groups.

The process to change TJHSST Admissions Policy began Sept. 15 when Brabrand presented his recommendations to the School Board to improve diversity by establishing a Merit Lottery System. On Sept. 23, FCPS presented a Community Town Hall with Brabrand to hear feedback on proposed policy changes to TJHSST Admissions. An additional three events related to the matter occurred the first full week in October.

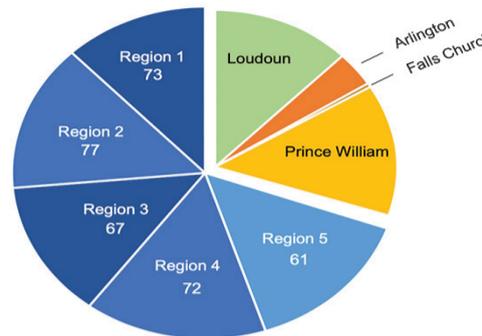
At the Oct. 6 School Board Work Session, the Superintendent's newly revised Admissions proposal showed a rolling admissions process to keep a class of 500 students. Based on a holistic review of their applications, the highest-evaluated students would be offered an opportunity to fill 100 of the available 500 seats.

The remaining 400 seats would be filled by a merit lottery, with FCPS region slots proportional to student enrollment. To be accepted into the Revised Merit Lottery, students would need to meet minimum requirements that remained unchanged: student portrait sheet, problem solving essay and experience factors.

The highest-evaluated 100 students would be offered admissions. The remaining students would be selected randomly within their pathway.

At the Oct. 7 Community Town Hall on

- **FCPS: 350 seats (proportional based on student enrollment)**
- **Loudoun: 62 seats**
- **Arlington: 18 seats**
- **Falls Church: 2 seats**
- **Prince William: 68 seats**
- **Private school applicants will be assigned a pathway based on residency**



The numbers represented are based on the allowed ratio student cap for the 2019-2020 freshman application



Pathway Composition to Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology.



Ricardy Anderson, Chair Fairfax County School Board, Mason District Representative.



Speaker Hanning Chen disapproves of the proposed revised Merit Lottery for Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology.



Didi Elsyad, student at Thomas Jefferson.

SCREENSHOTS

the Admissions Policy, Brabrand said, "We know historically over decades we have been challenged having the diversity of the TJ admitted class match the diversity of Fairfax County Public Schools." He added that during the School Board Work Session the night before, Oct. 6, the Board provided consensus to eliminate the battery of tests, Quant-Q, ACT Aspire Reading and Science, that were "squeezing out the diversity in our students as they seek to become part of the admitted class at TJ."

Commenting on the \$100 application fee used in other years, Brabrand said, "A fee frankly is a way to send a message (that) this is something for you to be a part of or not. Eliminating the fee is a step in the right direction." Other requirements including the problem-solving essay, student information sheet, algebra I in the eighth grade, and minimum GPAs in math and science would be retained. Brabrand said that the Board also asked him on Oct. 6, to look at additional capacity space at TJ, its "pathways" and to provide additional slots, not just for Fairfax County Public Schools but also for regional

partners whose children apply and are admitted to the school. According to a spokesperson for Fairfax County Public Schools, "The Board also agreed that the Superintendent's revised proposal should include a capacity increase at TJHSST to be more comparable with other schools in the division; examine an approach that considers the applicant pool by pyramid and middle school; present a holistic admissions process that considers lottery and non-lottery options; and initiate the revised admissions process timeline for the Class of 2025 to begin no later than the end of January 2021."

During the Oct. 8 comment portion of the regular Fairfax County School Board meeting, feedback from 15 parents, students and constituents who signed up to speak revealed a sharp divide on the proposed Revised Admissions policy.

Sujatha Hamilton, the Fairfax County NAACP education chair, said some middle school communities did not send applicants to TJ resulting in unequal representation. "Because we don't get emails and letters from their parents... does not mean that

they don't pray for opportunities or resources for access. I am begging you to remember them. They are your constituents too even though they may not even know that the Board exists to serve their needs. Please do not send this out to an external body or delay."

Countering, Brandon Kim questioned the racial code-based system saying it would institutionalize the very racism that it claimed to fight. "You are putting the future of our kids in the hands of administrators who are tone deaf to the needs and concerns of (the) Asian American community (and) have an anti-Asian bias."

Hanning Chen addressed the diversity and culture gap in learning, opportunity and programs. "Does anyone know why there are so few Black and Latino students in TJ? Because of the failure of FCPS of educating those underserved students whose FCPS's outreach programs have dropped by 50 percent since 2011. Over the last ten years, those abandoned students, lacking FCPS resources, were not even mentioned once by FCPS leadership until now. Those poster kids are suddenly needed for a political show," he said.

Didi Elsyad, a student at TJHSST said, "TJ is segregation in its modern form."

IN HIS PRESENTATION to the Board, Brabrand said that statistically the revised Merit Lottery system should provide some increase in admittance for underrepresented groups while allowing top performers entry into the school. However, he acknowledged concern that the two-tiered admissions process may have unintended impacts on the Caring Culture at TJHSST and may continue to admit more students from a few top-performing FCPS middle schools.

Proposed next step responses included targeted outreach to eighth grade students, recruitment letters, virtual open houses and presentations to students, parents and the community to the 95 participating middle schools and 100+ private schools. Target recruitment also included the provision to provide underrepresented students STEM programming to generate excitement of learning math and science.

The Board approved a motion directing the Superintendent to develop a plan to establish policies and procedures for a regional governing board for TJHSST consisting of a proportional representation of school boards that send students to the school.

In the meantime, eighth graders and their families wait for a firm admissions timeline, and the School Board works to find consensus on proposed process revisions. "My office will continue to collaborate closely with the School Board to ensure that the proposed changes will help all students have access to TJ based on the merit of their application and not based on test scores and unequal access to preparation programs," said Brabrand.



PHOTO BY DAVID BLANCO/COURTESY WORKHOUSE ARTS CENTER

Morgan Prescott as Workhouse Drive-Thru "Nightmare Alley" ghoul.

Fun for the Brave

"Nightmare Alley," Northern Virginia's First-Ever Haunted Drive-Thru, coming to Workhouse Art Center.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

The ever enterprising Workhouse Arts Center is bringing the upcoming Halloween season thrills with its "Nightmare Alley" the first immersive, completely contactless drive-thru Halloween experience in the region," said Joseph Wallen, Director of Performing Arts at the Workhouse.

Based upon responses from patrons of the Workhouse's summer Drive-In movies and with necessary health and safety precautions because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Workhouse staff decided to update its long-standing haunted attraction for Halloween. "It serves not only as entertainment, but also as an extension of the Workhouse Performing Arts program, allowing local youth to practice their set production and theatrical skills," said Wallen.

"Nightmare Alley" will have zombies, swamp creatures, creepy clowns, and scary dolls among 13 different scary scenes taking up residence on the Workhouse campus. These special campus inhabitants are meant to entertain visitors experiencing the attraction from the safety of their cars.

"At a time when performing arts is on hold in the nation, the Work-

house is truly pleased to provide an artistic outlet for our young actors, set designers, stage managers, and volunteers alike to participate safely in creating this incredible production," said Wallen

Food trucks will be on the Workhouse campus to offer food and soft drinks for purchase. It is an alcohol-free event. Bringing snacks onto campus is permitted. Bringing alcohol violates ABC laws. Patrons may arrive up to 45 minutes early to visit food trucks. For the safety of all guests attending, masks covering nose and mouth must be worn when out of a vehicle. Workhouse buildings and restrooms will be closed during this event.

"Building on last year's Haunted Trail production of 'Breakout' and this year's Drive-In Movie series at the Workhouse, we found a way to create a hair-raising haunted attraction that is both terrifying and completely safe. The drive-thru design of 'Nightmare Alley' will allow visitors to enjoy the Halloween season despite COVID-19," added Caroline Blanco, Vice Chair of the Workhouse Board of Directors and Chair of the Workhouse Haunted Attraction Design Team.

Get ready for 13 nights of scary fun as The Workhouse Arts Center campus provides a unique and extra eerie setting for Halloween 2020.

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VIRGINIA INFORMATION: www.virginia.gov/coronavirus-updates/

Another Mount Vernon Gazette Community Partnership



Glenn Fatzinger, co-chair of the Mount Vernon Regional Historical Society, recounted the fort's history.



John and Nancy Okstulski stand on one of the fort's remaining dirt walls.

PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH

Locals Revisit the Civil War at Fort Willard

By 1865, Fort Willard was southernmost of 68 forts and 93 batteries armed with over 800 cannons, part of protecting Washington.

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

In 1862 and 1863, at the apex of today's Belle Haven community, Union soldiers at Fort Willard were on the lookout for enemies coming up the Potomac River or approaching along Accotink Turnpike. Fort Willard was the southernmost of 68 forts that Union forces feverishly built after the Confederates unexpectedly won the 1861 Battle of Manassas and President Abraham Lincoln, fearing Confederate attacks, ordered that the nation's capital and its 75,000 residents be protected. For Fort Willard, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dug ditches and piled up dirt to form the fort's 20-foot walls, mounds still visible today, a little scrap of history that has survived 158 years of development.

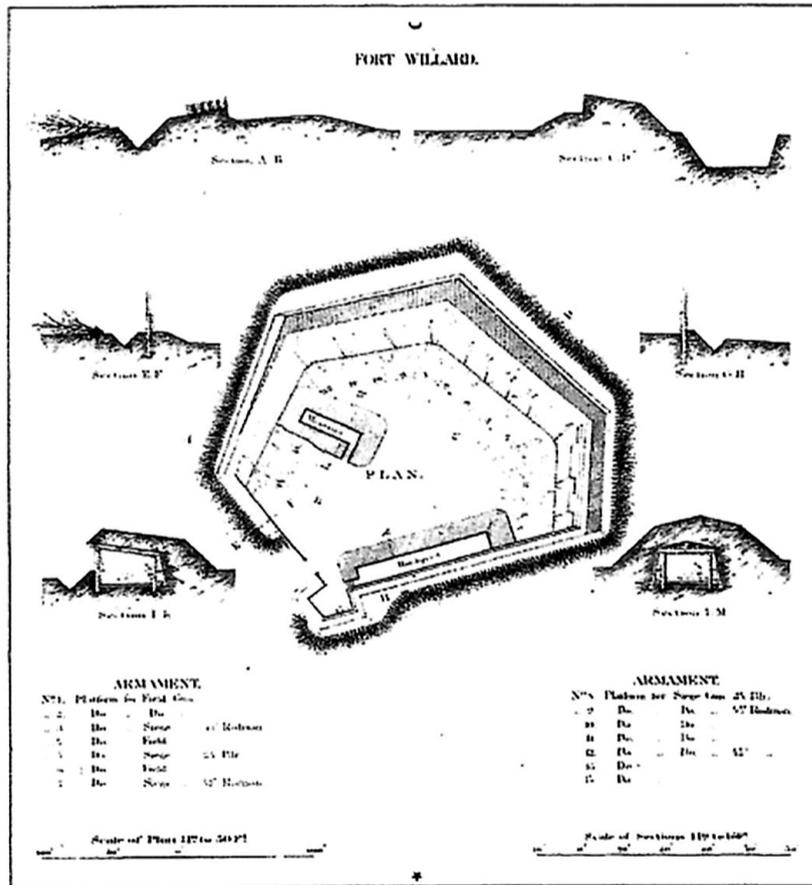
The Mount Vernon Regional Historical Society hosted 45 people in three shifts on Oct. 10 at what today is a Fairfax County park.

"Most people don't know that Fort Willard exists," offered Glenn Fatzinger, the organization's co-chair, as history buffs toured the 1.6-acre park girdled by a street named Fort Willard Circle.

Greg Crider, a Williamsburg Manor resident attended, because, he said, "I'm interested in Civil War history and find that place unique for our area."

The Defenses of Washington

Military planners chose strategic heights overlooking turnpikes, railroads, bridges and shipping routes. By 1865, 68 forts and 93 batteries armed with over 800 cannons were in place. Today, the National Park Service (NPS) manages 17 of the original sites. Fort Willard probably resembled Fort Ward on today's Braddock Road, one of the best preserved and managed by the city of Alexandria, said Fatzinger. The forts formed a ring of earthen fortifications around Washington. Says a National Park Service bro-



Fort Willard—Engineer Drawing. National Archives

chure: "Soldiers and laborers worked with shovels and picks to build ramparts (walls), parapets (slopes) and bombproofs (shelters), following a standard procedure for construction. A dry moat (trench) and barricade of dead trees called an 'abatis' surrounded each fort." By the end of 1863, 23,000 troops manned the forts. The completed Defenses of Washington made Washington, D.C., one of the world's most fortified cities, according to National Park Service historians.

A Redoubt

Completed in 1863 by the 34th Massachu-

setts Volunteer Infantry, the 742-acre Fort Willard was Redoubt D, a temporary "appendage" to Fort Lyon, located near today's Huntington Metro, North King's Highway parking lot.

Fort Willard was five sided with 20-foot high dirt walls. Dirt could absorb enemy projectiles better than wood, brick or stone. It had two barracks, officers' quarters, two batteries, a cook house and 10 support buildings. Between 400 and 500 men were stationed there to defend the Potomac River, Accotink Turnpike and the swampy lands below, later filled for the Belle Haven Country



A Civil War cannon manufactured by Steen at Fort Willard Park.

A sketch of the fort from the National Archives.

Club. It was named for Colonel George L. Willard who was killed in action at Gettysburg at age 35.

One irony is the location, a Union fort in a state that seceded from the Union in 1861.

"The northern part of the Mount Vernon area was taken over by Union forces," Fatzinger said. Fairfax County "went back and forth, was occupied by both," he said.

To build forts, the military appropriated land and at war's end, officials dismantled most forts and auctioned off materials. The federal government returned Fort Willard's land to the original owner, Samuel Johnson. In the late 1970s, developer Eugene Olmi Jr., donated the land to the Fairfax County Park Authority.

Society co-chair Sally Lyons told visitors, "There are very few Civil War forts left. This gives you a feeling of what was here." Added Fatzinger: "This site is preserving part of our local history that people need to understand. We are trying to educate people."

Information:

<https://www.nps.gov/cwdw/index.htm>
<https://www.dccivilwarforts.org/mission-vision-history>

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PHOTO FROM FAIRFAX COUNTY

Curbside voting will be available at every early voting location for those 65-years-old or older, or any voter with a physical disability. Election officials strongly recommend that voters curbside vote at the Fairfax County Government Center.

More Ways to Vote

Fairfax County opened thirteen new early voting locations, giving voters more opportunities to cast their early votes ahead. Virginia has seen 86% more early ballots cast already this year than during the entire early voting season in 2016. In the first two days of early voting, Fairfax County alone saw an increase in ballots of roughly 208% compared to the first two days of early voting in 2016. The new voting locations will alleviate wait times and give Fairfax residents plenty of options of where to cast their ballots. In addition, the Fairfax County Government Center currently provides a 24-hour drop-box.

Since early voting began on Sept. 18, Virginians have had the option to vote early in-person at their local registrar's office or via mail, and can continue to do so until Oct. 31.

Beginning Oct. 14, Fairfax County voters can vote early in-person at 13 new locations throughout the county: Hours: Monday-Friday, 1 p.m. - 7 p.m.; Saturday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

❖ **CENTREVILLE:** Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville, 20121

❖ **FRANCONIA:** Franconia Governmental Center, 6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria, 22310

❖ **HERNDON:** Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center Street, Herndon, 20170

❖ **LORTON:** Laurel Hill Golf Club, 8701 Laurel Crest Dr, Lorton, 22079

❖ **ANNANDALE:** Mason Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale, 22003

❖ **MCLEAN:** McLean Governmental Center, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean, 22101

❖ **MOUNT VERNON:** Mount Vernon Governmental Center, 2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria, 22306

❖ **RESTON:** North County Governmental Center, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston, 20190

❖ **FAIRFAX:** Providence Community Center, 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax, 22031

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For questions about voting, contact the Fairfax County Office of Elections at 703-222-0776, TTY 711. See www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/

❖ **CHANTILLY:** Sully Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly, 20151

❖ **FALLS CHURCH:** Thomas Jefferson Library, 7415 Arlington Blvd, Falls Church, 22042

❖ **FALLS CHURCH:** Tysons Pimmit Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22043

❖ **SPRINGFIELD:** West Springfield Governmental Center, 6140 Rolling Road, Springfield, 22152

❖ The Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, will be open for early voting on three Saturdays only, Oct. 17, Oct. 24, and Oct. 31, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

❖ Fairfax County voters can continue to vote at the registrar's office at 12000 Government Center Parkway, through Oct. 31. The registrar's office is also expanding its in person voting hours: Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 7 p.m., Saturday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

❖ Curbside voting will be available at every early voting location, and it is offered to those who are 65-years-old or older, or any person with a physical disability.

Election officials strongly recommend that voters curbside vote at the Fairfax County Government Center where there are 20 spaces set aside. Other early voting locations may only have one or two spaces available because their parking lots are smaller compared to the Fairfax County Government Center.

At the Fairfax County Government Center, curbside voters should park in the marked spaces in the parking lot in front of the building's left-hand side. Poll workers are outside ready to assist these voters. These procedures may change during inclement weather though.

The county warns that regardless of where voters choose to curbside vote, they should still expect significant waits.

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Home Library Design

Designers offer ideas for spaces with style and comfort.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

Once thought of as space for academics to smoke cigars and sip whiskey, the era of covid-19 has transformed home libraries into now cozy places of refuge. Those who've grown tired of Netflix and election coverage might find solace in curling up with a book. From a reading nook with a small chaise to a grand room with a fireplace and soaring ceilings, five local designers offer inspiration for creating a home library.

Tracy Morris, Tracy Morris Design

Whether ornate or minimalist, design ideas for accommodating one's personal taste abound, says Tracy Morris, Tracy Morris Design in McLean. "When it comes to home libraries, the customization options are endless," she said. "Some of my favorite things to include in libraries are art light sconces that illuminate the books, a built-in bar, closed storage, a built-in reading nook or even a secret bookcase door."

A literary retreat need not lack elegance, says Morris. "When it comes to creating a space that feels relaxing, while still put together, it's always best to keep it simple," she said. "Use soft pillows and throws, textured fabrics on upholstery, and be sure to include a soft rug."

Even for those with a vast collection of tomes, Morris believes in leaving a few open spaces on the shelves to display accessories, like picture frames or bookends. "Completely filled shelves can be overwhelming," she said. "Balancing it with other accessories will make it look stylish, yet relaxed. I like to break up the shelves by including some books turned horizontally with a decorative object resting on top." One of Morris' most memorable home libraries was at once stately and serene. "We opted for a completely wood-filled space with rich leathers," she said. "Since the space was filled with darker wood tones, we used large windows for added brightness. We also had the mullions of the windows faux painted to match the wood for a seamless look."

Doubling as a home office, the space includes a fireplace focal point. "We used swivel chairs that can pivot towards the fireplace in the room or towards the desk, plus putting an ottoman in between provides a soft place to kick up your feet," she said.



PHOTO BY GREG POWERS

A fireplace, leather chairs and large windows combine to make this wood-filled home library by Tracy Morris both stately and comfortable.



PHOTO BY ANGELA NEWTON ROY

Large windows add additional lighting to this wood paneled library and home office by Rebecca Penno.

Lindsay Boudreaux, Shotgun Double

Stained wood, painted wood, metal, glass and leather are some of the materials of which book cases can be made, says designer Lindsay Boudreaux of Shotgun Double in Alexandria, Va. The number and types of books can determine the construction and design. "One home office we designed required an entire room, floor to ceiling, of open shelving to house the client's book collection," she said.

While design can create aesthetic appeal, proper lighting offers functionality. "It is so important to have many types of light, like ambient light from windows and overhead fixtures, task lighting at the desk, and reading chairs, and control of that light with everything on dimmers as much as possible," said Boudreaux.

Boudreaux believes that dimma-

ble LED lights work best in home libraries. "They more closely mimic soft daylight and help to create a soothing atmosphere for work or relaxation," she said. "Add a few plants and a great piece of artwork, and you've got a welcoming room that you will enjoy showing up to work in."

Rebecca Penno, Penno Interiors in McLean,

Determining homeowners reading style and the way the room's overall purpose, is the way that Rebecca Penno, Penno Interiors in McLean, Va. approaches each home library design. "Some home libraries function as a work space, others as more of a den," she said. "This is always a struggle with homeowners when styling their built-ins. "Many homeowners have a true book collection that they do not want to let go of. Other home-



PHOTO BY SPENCE PHOTOGRAPHICS

A starburst chandelier adds light to this basement space by Barri Branker of Beyond the Box Interiors.



PHOTO BY PAUL BURKE

A desk and floor-to ceiling bookcases allow this space by Keira St. Claire to function as both a library and home office.

owners have books with no attachment. If possible, we always eliminate all paperback books."

An expansive library with multiple functions, says Penno included a desk, fireplace and television. She designed the room to serve as library, home office and a space to relax. "In order for the homeowner to be able to use all three of these focal points, we used comfortable lounge chairs on a swivel base to provide flexibility," she said. "The starting point was the oak paneling. It provided a masculine backdrop with the deep wood tones and strong grain. From there, we layered patterns of all brown tones paired with brass accents."

Keira St. Claire of Anthony Wilder Design/Build

Setting the desired tone and atmosphere is required for creating a relaxing space without compr-

ing elegance, says Keira St. Claire of Anthony Wilder Design/Build in Potomac, Md. "Comfort and style can and should go hand in hand and is very personal to each of us," she said. "What makes you feel relaxed? When you're thinking of your happiest places, where are you? The beach? The mountains? A European city? The spa? Think of ways to incorporate elements from those places into your decor."

Accessories not only determine the way a room looks, but also the way it feels. "Fill your library with the things that make you happy," said St. Claire. "A balance of collectables, photographs and books or magazines, a record collection, or wall-to-wall books. Surround yourself with whatever you love. This will ensure that this space is calming and inspiring and makes you feel good to be in."

Designing a peaceful oasis for reading can be done simply. "A good way to create a cozy, relaxing atmosphere without skimping on style is layering lots of varying textures and patterns," said St. Claire. "For instance, lots of pillows in your chair, blankets to wrap yourself in with a warm cup of tea, or a sun-filled room with fresh flowers and an iced lemonade." While a room with a fireplace, soaring ceiling and pedigreed antiques is unaffordable for many, a tasteful and well-designed room is not. "If you don't have the budget or don't want to invest in something as permanent as built-ins ... there are many stylish bookshelves available in any style you can imagine."

Barri Branker of Beyond the Box Interiors

A diminutive basement space can offer solace and beauty, says designer Barri Branker of Beyond the Box Interiors in Alexandria referring to an unconventional home library she created recently.

"The room is tiny and would not be one that would be used regularly, we opted against built-in shelving and sourced beautiful open airy wrought iron bookshelves," she said. "We provided drama and texture with the stunning sculptural wall lights." Dark and cramped might come to mind when one thinks of room in a basement, Branker says that this home library is quite the opposite. "The space receives light with a modern starburst chandelier adding functional reading light and cheery brightness," she said. "The art and accessories create a boutique hotel feel. Rather than trying to shove a typical seating arrangement in the room, we used a large tete-a-tete chaise."

BULLETIN

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

SATURDAY/OCT. 24

Garden Fairy Houses. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Woodlawn is hosting a (natural, foraged) teensie-house building activity within its grounds. They are collecting foraged building "supplies" like bark, leaves and more to provide you -- lots of natural building materials culled from the grounds Cost is \$10. Visit the website: <http://www.woodlawn-popeleighey.org/>

THURSDAY/OCT. 29

Realigning Resilience. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Virtual event. Join in a presentation by Gustavo Angeles, Environmental Justice Program Coordinator for The Sierra Club, Virginia Chapter. Free. Registration with included email address is required to receive event link. Visit the website: <https://alexlibraryva.org/event/4629848>

SATURDAY/OCT. 31

Garden Fairy House Trail. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. For the very first time, the site will be showcasing a (natural) teensie-house trail within the grounds. Come and see what enchanted structures you can find (and hopefully a fairy or two!) Each admission ticket will include a trail map, and of course, a goodie bag filled with treats and fairy dust. Costumes are always welcome. Visit the website: <http://www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org/>

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.fairfax-county.gov/parks/volunteer>

NIGHTMARE ALLEY AT WORKHOUSE ARTS CENTER

The Workhouse Arts Center announces that "Nightmare Alley" Haunted Drive-Thru is coming to Lorton for this year's Halloween season. "Nightmare Alley" is the first immersive, completely contactless drive-thru Halloween experience in the region. Zombies, swamp creatures, creepy clowns, and scary dolls are among 13 different scary scenes taking up residence on the Workhouse campus during the month of October. These new campus inhabitants will scare and entertain visitors experiencing the

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Obituary



Patricia L. Barnes, 88, passed away on June 12. Born Oct. 11, 1931 in Indiana, she was the daughter of the late Evelyn Cox Wingert and Lewis Francis.

Patty was a lifelong teacher. After graduating from her beloved Indiana University, she taught numerous first graders to read in schools in Whittier, Calif., Crawfordsville, Ind., Lubbock, Tex. and at St. Aidan's in Alexandria, Va. After earning a master's degree in special education from the College of William and Mary, she moved to teaching students with learning disabilities in Fairborn, Oh. and then at Walt Whitman Middle School in Fairfax County Public Schools for 20 years. She remained in touch with many of her former students who continued to seek her advice. After retirement, she kept on teaching, leading classes on strength training and movement exercises for her friends at the Hollin Hall Senior Center, where she also served on the advisory board and worked in the library.

Patty was an enthusiastic sports fan. She was a cheerleader throughout high school and college, and continued to cheer on IU whenever and wherever they played. Other favorites were Arnold Palmer and Tiger Woods, the Redskins and Wizards, and any former IU basketball player in the NBA.

Patty's love of sports was matched by her husband, the late Frank G. Barnes (Maj. Gen. USAF), who died in 1976. In addition to supporting Frank throughout his Air Force career, Patty joined him in attending numerous college and professional sporting events. (Famous in family lore is her attending a football game in Los Angeles a week before giving birth to the couple's first child.) She maintained her teaching career while also performing the duties expected of an officer's wife, giving her children an example in multi-tasking before that became a recognized phenomenon.

Patty was also an enthusiastic cheerleader of her family. She is survived by three children, Beth Barnes of Lexington, Ky., Susan (Joe) Canfield of Pella, Iowa, and Hank (Connie) Barnes of Morrisville, NC; five grandchildren, Alix and Dan Barnes and Katie, Ally and Maddie Canfield; and numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her sister, Penelope Osborne; brother, Phillip Francis; and two nephews. The family thanks Ray Leshynski for the many ways in which he was of help and support to Patty, particularly in helping her to maintain some independence even as her multiple illnesses conspired against her.

We also thank the staff at Brandywine Living of Alexandria for providing an engaging environment for Patty the last several years and showing so much compassion at the end. Thanks too to Capital Caring for their invaluable services these last few weeks. Patty will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery when circumstances allow; a celebration of life will be held then as well. Jefferson Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements.

For those wishing to make memorial contributions, we suggest the Student Emergency Fund at Indiana University (<https://www.miu.org/one-time-gift?sc=AG21GANIUFO1GNWETF25M>), the Parkinson's Foundation (https://secure3.convio.net/.../SPage.../2017_donate_form_2.html...), or the National Center for Learning Disabilities (<https://www.nclcd.org/donate/>).

Obituary

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

"And Awaay We Go!"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As Jackie Gleason would say as he segued from his monologue into the sketch comedy that followed on his Saturday night entertainment hour on CBS. So too does my entertainment - or lack thereof, continue. Six weeks or so after my treatment for thyroid cancer (three pills a day) began, per doctor's orders, we have put a halt to the proceedings. Due to increasing values in my bi-weekly lab work (monitored exactly for this purpose), specifically my kidney and liver functions, I am standing down and standing by. We will retest this coming Thursday and then wait for further instructions (smaller dose, intermittent dose, no dose?). In addition, some of the side effects that I am experiencing (fatigue, shortness of breath, a little depression/a little malaise) also encouraged my oncologist to pause the treatment. Hopefully, it's the pause that refreshes as Bud Collins the long time tennis commentator for NBC once said to describe female tennis star, Amanda Paz.

The lab work is the first line of defense and indicator, along with side effects as to what might be going on inside. A scan would be useful as well but due to the radiation exposure, the doctors try to keep its use to an absolute minimum. And since I'm not scheduled to be scanned for another month (every two months), my status is best determined by how I feel and what the lab work shows. In the interim, I will ride the roller coaster of emotions and fear and try to enjoy the reduction in the side effects (which I can do. I'm good that way). I just have to hope that the values in my next lab work go back down or I may very well go off the rails and onto some other ride that might not be so manageable.

All that remains is 'all that remains.' Nothing in my life/cancer routine is likely to change much. Again, what I have I've been told is that what I have incurable: stage IV papillary thyroid cancer, the kind that doesn't respond to radio iodine therapy, so every minute of every day will be spent hoping, praying, wondering and waiting to see if the end is near or thankfully not near at all, like a mirage, almost. Just another day in my cancer conundrum. As Tom Branson said on an episode during the final season of Downtown Abbey about something completely unrelated: "What a palaver!" But that's really what being a cancer patient is all about: Confusion, lack of clarity, few guarantees and changes in your attitude along with your latitude if Jimmy Buffet were writing this column. If my wife were, it would be about going with the flow. However, since I'm writing it, it's about changes, constant change; sometimes more of the same, something completely different. and being prepared, always, to go up and down and all around and everything in between. It's highs, it's lows and its all-overs, too. It may not sound like a great way to make a living, but I can assure you, it sure beats the alternative.

As my mother used to say: "enjoy poor health," especially since isn't seem likely I'll be changing horses anytime soon. But I can do it, I'm a Red Sox fan. I've lived with disappointment and determination my whole life - and thankfully, I've lived to see some World Championships, too. The goal is to try and keep moving forward and remain positive. Like my old friend Ray use to say: "my attitude is my blood type: B+." What's another blip on the cancer radar? I've been on it so long now, Feb., 2009 that it would be abnormal not to appear. And since the experts have been telling me that it's unlikely I won't be off the grid until it's too there's either a new grid or a new drug, I am happy to take a break in the short term if it helps in the long term. Because the goal is to finish, not to falter.

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

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NEWS



Senator Mark Warner, left, and Republican Daniel Gade debate at the studio of WTVR in Richmond.

Hiding at the Top of the Ticket

FROM PAGE 1

During the debate, which was held on the campus of one of Virginia's HBCUs, Warner said he took the wrong position by being one of the few Democrats who failed to demand the team ditch its racist former name.

"I probably should have weighed in earlier," said Warner during the televised debate. "But you learn and you grow, and I think you look at people's history and record."

The role of government has been a central defining theme of the campaign, perhaps best illustrated by a debate over something that happened in 2016.

That's when a woman was killed by a beach umbrella in Virginia Beach. Warner reacted by urging the Consumer Product Safety Commission to step in and potentially help save lives. Gade said that was the wrong response.

"That's maybe a local government responsibility or state government maybe," said Gade shortly after securing the Republican nomination over the summer. "But the idea that this overarching, over powerful federal government would reach into our lives in a way that would tell us how deeply we should drill our beach umbrellas into the sand; that's absurd."

Warner says it's probably a bad idea to let local or state government regulate beach umbrellas.

"Generally speaking, businesses like to have state rules preempted so they can have

a single standard," said Warner when asked about Gade's comments. "If Mr. Gade is suggesting that we ought to have 50 different sets of rules or maybe 50,000 different sets of rules because every locality ought to be able to make those rules, that would be an area I just respectfully disagree."

Perhaps the biggest point of distinction between the candidates has been over the Affordable Care Act. A Republican-led lawsuit challenging the law is on the calendar for the Supreme Court this fall, and candidates for office are using the issue as an appeal to voters on both sides. During the first televised debate hosted by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce, Warner says Gade's opposition to the ACA would undermine protections for preexisting conditions. Daniel Gade responded that was offensive.

"There were 25 states when the ACA was passed that already protected people with preexisting conditions," said Gade, who lost a leg as a combat vet in Iraq. "And the idea that I would take away protections for people with preexisting conditions is offensive and it's false and it's defamatory."

Warner says Gade can't have it both ways.

"If my opponent wants to change his position and say he supported my decision along with John McCain to keep the ACA, he can make that change," said Warner. "But you can't go out and criticize me for the ACA and then cherry pick which parts of the ACA you want to preserve."

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 13

attraction from the safety of their cars. Tickets are on sale now. There will be 13 nights of fright, starting now through Saturday, October 31.

Fridays and Saturdays will run from 7-11 p.m. each weekend in October, and the Sundays in the middle of the month (October 18, and the 25) will run from 7-10 p.m. The Workhouse is holding auditions for scare actors and is accepting volunteers to assist in this year's event. (Students wishing to volunteer are eligible to receive service hours.) For sponsorship opportunities, contact: elenaromanova@workhousearts.org

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Assistance League of Northern Virginia, a volunteer nonprofit, invites community members to join the organization to participate in its Reading Express program. Volunteers provide one-on-one tutoring to first grade students during the school year. To learn more contact

VP Membership Mary Gronlund at gronbiz@aol.com or Program Coordinator Lynn Barron at lynnies517@verizon.net.

United Community (formerly UCM), 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, seeks volunteers for Food Pantry assistance, Early Learning Center teacher aides, basic needs counselors, youth tutors and mentors, office administration/data entry, and community outreach. Flexible hours and schedules. Opportunities for all ages to serve, including community service hours. More info at ucagency.org/volunteer-opportunities or email volunteer@ucagency.org.

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

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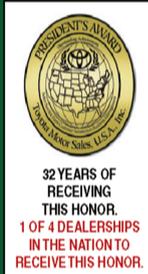
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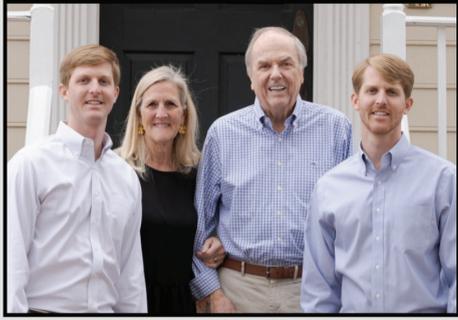
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