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Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

OCTOBER 22, 2020



More than one hundred Mount Vernon residents joined Bijan Ghaisar's family in a candlelight vigil at the shooting site in November 2018.

U.S. Park Police Charged in Killing of McLean Resident

Family has waited for justice since November 2017 when Bijan Ghaisar was shot.

By Ken Moore
 Gazette Packet

Fairfax County's Commonwealth Attorney Steve Descano filed charges against two U.S. Park Police officers for the 2017 killing of 25-year-old McLean resident and Langley High School graduate Bijan Ghaisar. Ghaisar was unarmed when shot multiple times in the head as he sat in his Jeep Grand Cherokee.



Bijan Ghaisar

"When this incident happened, it shook our community and the reverberations were felt far and wide because of the disturbing video that we've all seen," said Descano.

"Like so many others in our community, I was deeply disturbed by the images we saw on that

Latest: Police Officers Turn Themselves In

Update on Bijan Ghaisar Case: Park Police Officers turned themselves in and were arraigned and released on bond. Commonwealth's Attorney called for the following conditions of bond ahead of trial: no possession of firearms or ammunition, no exercise of police powers, and cannot leave Virginia. Status hearing date set for Nov. 23.

cruiser video," he said.

Descano charged each officer last Thursday, Oct. 15, 2020, with one count of manslaughter and one count of reckless discharge of a firearm.

"I wish this could have been done in a faster fashion," Descano said. "However, there is no shortcut to justice. This is a very complex and nuanced case. The pursuit of these indictments involved the careful review of over 11,000 pieces of documentary evidence, the chasing down of additional evidence, and the conducting of in-person interviews and discussions in the midst of a global pandemic."

Ghaisar's family responded on FaceBook. "Our heavy hearts are a little lighter tonight knowing that the police officers who murdered our son and brother are closer to being held accountable for what they did. Too many of the people who are sworn to protect and serve our communities commit heinous acts of violence and go unpunished. With these charges we are reminded that at least here in Fairfax County, Officers Alejandro Amaya and Lucas Vinyard are not above the law."

"Justice has not yet come for the Ghaisar family, but today is a major step forward in that journey,"

SEE OFFICERS CHARGED, PAGE 10

Will River Farm Be Sold? Supervisor Dan Storck hopes to preserve the Property.

By Ken Moore
 Gazette Packet

Supervisors Dan Storck and Jeff McKay hope to save River Farm through historic designation, while the American Horticultural Society plans to sell one of America's most famous houses, seeking a premium price.

"The proceeds from the sale of River Farm will be used to create a significant endowment which has been the missing link in our financial viability. And so, the time has come," said Terry Hayes, Board Chair. "As we prepare to pass on the stewardship of River Farm, we share the community's hope of finding a new owner who will work to preserve and protect this beautiful and historic property."

The public outcry and concern was huge when the American Horticultural Society announced its plan in September, and Storck, Mount Vernon's supervisor, said he was "shocked."

"We believe we have a once in a lifetime opportunity to preserve a piece of our nation and county history, but first we must collect all the information needed about the preservation process, timeline, and legal implications to ensure sound long-term decisions," said Storck and McKay, in a joint statement.

The move could reduce what might be done with the 27-acre

property.

It's a defensive move.

"But the only real protection is for the AHS board to work with the community to preserve what's there," said Storck. "They have to be willing to work with us."

A public body or park authority would not be able to pay more than the appraised value, a reported \$18.2 million.

Stock and McKay directed the Department of Planning & Development Heritage Resources Staff to create an expedited Historic Overlay District for River Farm. "We further direct Heritage Resources staff to assemble and provide all this information and deliver it no later than three weeks from today's date," Stock said during the Board Matters portion of the Board of Supervisors meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 20.

County staff has already started this process and the deadline is feasible, according to Storck.

GEORGE WASHINGTON ACQUIRED the 27.57-acre property at 7931 East Boulevard Drive in 1760, when it was called Clifton's Neck.

After a series of different owners and different names, the Soviet Embassy offered to buy the property in 1971 for use as a retreat for its staff. But during the Cold War
 SEE WILL RIVER FARM, PAGE 10



PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON

The future of River Farm remains uncertain.

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

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VIRTUAL OPEN SAT 10/24, 1PM

Del Ray | \$1,099,000

4-bedroom, 2-bath expanded craftsman, located 2 blocks off "The Avenue" & blocks from Metro. Kitchen boasts stainless appliances and granite countertops. Great room with cathedral/vaulted ceiling, fireplace. Separate apartment/au-pair suite. 507 E Alexandria Ave. **Jen Walker 703.675.1566** www.JenWalker.com



OPEN SAT 10/24, 2-4PM

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OPEN SUN 10/25, 1-4PM

Wellington Estates | \$825,000

ONE LEVEL LIVING and 3-car garage. Situated on a half-acre lot, between Old Town and Mount Vernon Estate, this home features abundant outdoor living space as well as its 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, and full basement: two decks and a gazebo. 7801 Lee Avenue **Peter Crouch 703.244.4024** www.CrouchRealtyGroup.com



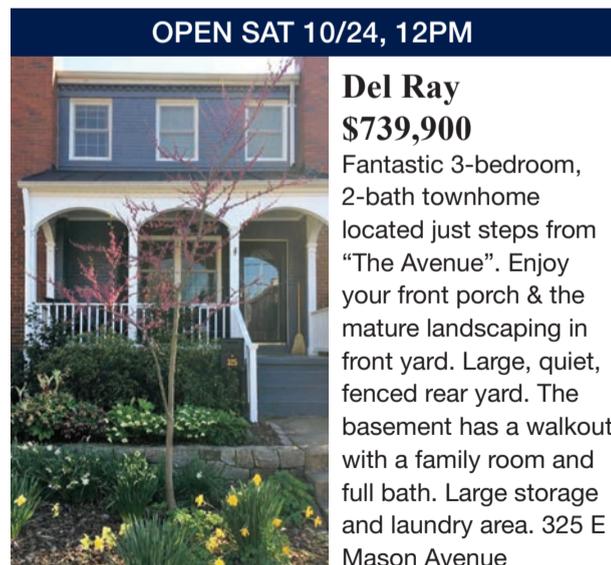
Rosecrest | \$749,000

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1600 Prince Street | \$399,000

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OPEN SAT 10/24, 12PM

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Old Town \$1,198,000

Early 19th century end townhome, expanded to almost double its original size includes 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, family room adjacent to the striking eat-in kitchen, hardwood floors and built-ins plus unique ambiance of Old Town. Wide deck leads to charming walled garden with brick patio.

Ann Duff 703.965.8700 www.AnnDuff.com



OPEN SUN 10/25, 2-4PM

Lake Ridge \$359,900

3-bedroom, 3.5-bath townhouse features a unique sunken living room with double sided fireplace, updated kitchen, 2 renovated baths and a remodeled basement with full bath & bonus room. New deck off the kitchen has a spiral staircase leading to fenced back yard. 3291 Weymouth Ct.

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Friends Group Performs Bike Trail Repairs on Mount Vernon Bike Trail

Gunk Removal and Plank Replacement is the Work of Volunteers.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

As the biking weather comes to a close, the wear and tear on the Mount Vernon Trail from a busy summer is being addressed by the Friends of the Mount Vernon Trail group who have embarked on a few sections north of Reagan National Airport to repair and restore. Armed with hammer, nails and scrub brushes, the group is fixing loose deck boards, cleaning out gunk that's amassed under the raised portions, and replacing the non-skid surface coverings to make it better for everyone.

There are several "volunteer events," planned through the rest of this year in areas that need it near Theodore Roosevelt Island. This area was identified as an issue in the Theodore Roosevelt Island Area Study and the Mount Vernon Trail Corridor Study, the Friends reported.

"This was chosen as a focus area based on multiple reports by trail users of crashes during wet conditions," said Judd Isbell, President



Friends of the Mount Vernon Trail busy at work, fixing loose boards and slick spots.



Anti-skid options being looked at by the Friends group.

of the Friends of Mount Vernon Trail.

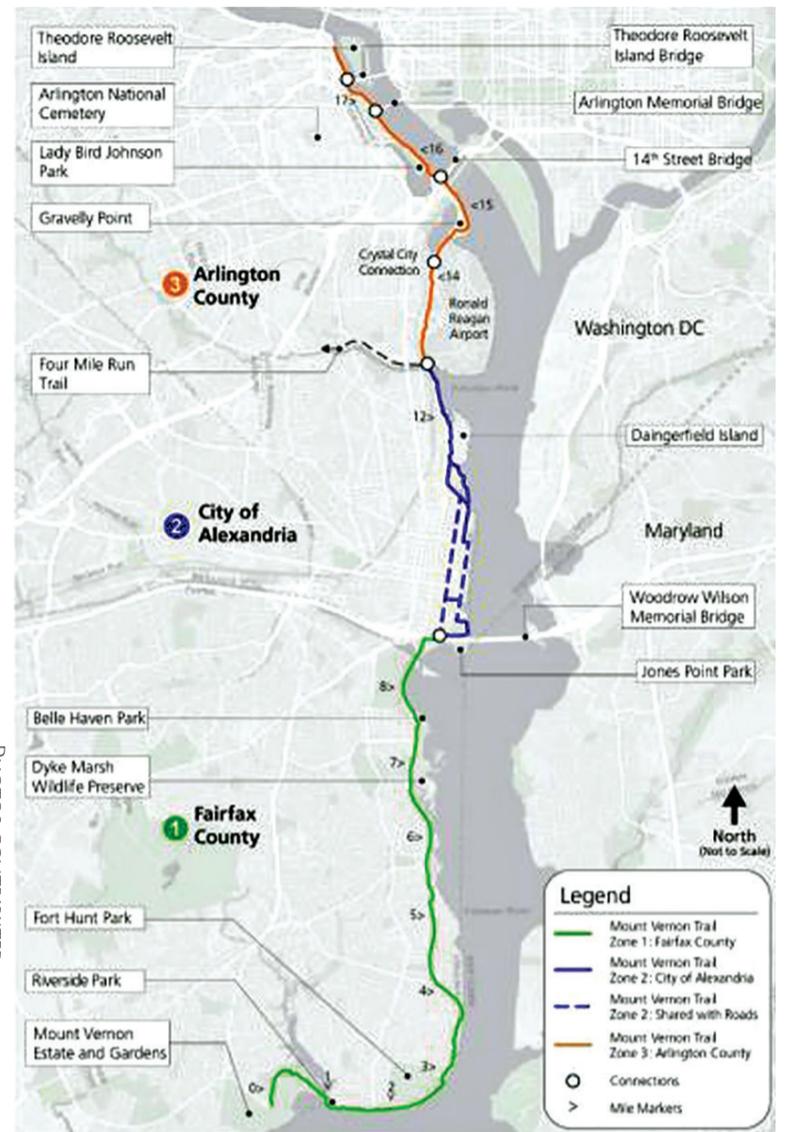
They are starting at the Trollheim Bridge which is officially called Bridge 31 on the trail map, and it is the wooden bridge next to Theodore Roosevelt Island. This has been the site of multiple

crashes due to slippery and uneven surfaces, caused by the build-up of gunk that seeps up between the boards. Rotting leaves are one of the sources of this gunk.

Following the gunk removal event on Oct. 31, the group is moving on to the loose and rotting deck boards, and then applying an anti-skid treatment to the main crash site at Trollheim. They are raising funds and evaluating different materials. The treatment will be a heavy-duty material that can withstand heavy use and year-round weather conditions.

The Friends group has been working with the National Park Service to coordinate these tasks. "Any activity that the Friends of

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



According to the National Park Service map, the Mount Vernon Trail is divided into three sections for planning purposes.

Mount Vernon Trail perform is at the permission and in coordination with NPS," said Isbell. "NPS has been a fantastic partner in identifying mutual goals for the trail and providing technical expertise and tools to support our activities," he added.

Although most of the Friends members have some skills, volunteers don't need a high level of carpentry experience. Isbell has put in much time renovating homes so he's gotten experience with con-

struction, but added that "we try to keep tasks in all of our events simple enough that a complete novice can do it with just a few minutes of instruction. Our events involving repairing bridge decking will mostly involve removing nails and screws, using pry bars to lift boards and using drills to reattach boards," he said.

Using trail use data, they select times of lower traffic to do the repairs, and set up work zones with

SEE FRIENDS GROUP, PAGE 10

Mount Vernon Trail Study Identifies Hot Spots

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

In May 2020, the "Mount Vernon Trail Corridor Study," was completed to identify opportunities to improve the Mount Vernon Trail, looking at safety concerns, users' needs, and resource management considerations.

The National Park Service tasked the U.S. Department of Transportation Volpe National Transportation Systems Center (Volpe Center) to assess the design, condition, usage, and crash history of the Mount Vernon Trail. The analysis is intended to inform park operations and maintenance needs, as well as identify short- and long-term capital projects to improve the visitor experience, the report stated.

The George Washington Me-
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

morial Parkway office is a unit of the National Park Service who owns, maintains, and operates the 18-mile Mount Vernon Trail from George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate to Theodore Roosevelt Island, linking Fairfax County and the City of Alexandria, to Arlington County and major Potomac River bridge crossings into the District of Columbia.

Major findings of the study include:

- ❖ The trail is defined as "crowded," especially at weekday commute periods and weekend recreation periods.

- ❖ There is a conflict at times between bicycle traffic and pedestrians.

- ❖ High crash potential entering and exiting the Mount Vernon Trail at the 14th Street Bridge and Four



The variety of trail users poses a challenge to planners.

Mile Run trail intersections.

- ❖ Crashes attributed to narrow trail portions, surface conditions, and at-grade roadway crossings.

- ❖ Trail is in "fair to good," condition officially, but there are spots

targeted for reconstruction in the near future

- ❖ There are spots where increased maintenance is needed.

- ❖ Signage and pavement markings need attention in certain ar-

PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

reas. Since the trail was created in the 1960s and 1970s, the development of the trail predates modern multi-use trail design standards, so many of the improvements are designed to bring it up to modern standards. In conclusion, there are short, mid and long-term improvements that need to be made. Short term includes bridge improvements, signage and coordination with neighboring jurisdictions. Mid term is to refine the scope of improvements, hire a trail manager and institute a maintenance program. Long term improvements include a few spots for rehabilitation in all three zones and eliminating an "S" curve at Daingerfield Road. There were no solid dates for projects to be completed in the study but the dates for long term, for example, were 2024-2030.

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NEWS

Pohick Bay Park Celebrates Expansion

Ribbon cutting ceremony marks land addition.

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

NOVA Parks held a ribbon cutting ceremony at Pohick Bay Park on Oct. 17 to celebrate additions to its land holding there. The second of two private residential properties, that predated the creation of the park in 1972, now joins the public space. The land purchase assures that the full 1,010 acres making up the park will remain in conservation, free from residential development and road building.

In remarks, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeff McKay and Supervisor Dan Storck noted the high value area citizens place on parkland, with about 16 percent of the County's territory comprising parks. They acknowledged the assistance of the State General Assembly, especially Delegate Mark Sickles, along with those members in the audience, Senator Scott Surovell and Delegate Kathy Tran, in working on funding approval for the park purchase; securing \$600K for completing the suffragists memorial at the nearby Occoquan Regional Park; and budgeting funds for staffing two positions at Mason Neck State Park.

Contributions for Pohick Bay from the Virginia General Assembly provided \$322K, from the Commonwealth's Land Conservation Foundation; with the same amount sourced from the NOVA Parks' Capital Fund. A federal grant of \$644K from the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund completed financing for the two parcel "Lott" property.

LOCATED ON MASON NECK with views of Pohick Bay, the "Lott" and adjacent "Stribling" properties had retained private ownership and access through the park since the park's inception about 60 years ago.

The Stribling property was purchased by NoVA Parks in 2018 valued at \$2.1 million (see Connection, April 19, 2018). The earlier Stribling purchase also was made possible through a series of conservation grants from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, and the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation.

Houses that now sit on the land will not be immediately removed. However, the space acquisition "opens the possibility of expanding camping towards this area. And .. this area might see habitat resto-



Ceremonial ribbon cutting Executive Director Paul Gilbert, State Sen. Scott Surovell, BOS Chairman Jeff McKay, Supervisor Dan Storck, NOVA Parks Board Chair Michael Nardolilli, Treasurer Paul Baldino, and NOVA Parks staff with Delegate Kathy Tran and children; also present, not pictured: Glenda Booth, VA Land Conservation Foundation, other NOVA Parks staff.



COURTESY - NOVA PARKS

Mapped location of Lott and Stribling properties in Pohick Bay Park



BOS Chairman Jeff McKay lauds partnership of constituents, State and Federal land conservation funding during ribbon cutting ceremony

PHOTOS BY
SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

ration and additional water access points for the public", said NOVA Parks Executive Director Paul Gilbert. The popular park welcomes about 1,000 users on an average summer Saturday for camping, hiking, and water activities.

The park bond funding question on the 2016 election ballot, which helped to make the Pohick Bay acquisition possible, passed with 66.4 percent voter approval; receiving the highest favor of all ballot questions in that presidential election year. Voters again this November will have the opportunity to vote yes or no on park and park facilities bonds totaling \$112M; \$110M for the Fairfax County Park Authority, and a \$12M contribution for NOVA Parks regional authority.

NOVA Parks authority was established initially in 1959 to acquire and protect natural land and receives annual contributions from Fairfax County and other area jurisdictions. Sixty plus years later, the regional authority encompasses over 12,000 acres, including an extensive 50 miles of shoreline, held in the public trust.

RECENTLY, NOVA Parks has been in the news related to development under consideration near the Occoquan Regional Park, to turn a portion of the County's landfill property into a ski resort. Proposals include tying Occoquan Park to the private ski enterprise by gondola or a mountain coaster. County supervisors, park and tourism officials, and the nearby Art Workhouse have eyed the public land lease with company built, owned and operated facilities, as a possible tourism draw and revenue stream. Others bemoan development of the land and loss of opportunities for restoration to natural habitats at the landfill, preferring passive recreational use. Under the Virginia's Public-Private Partnership Act (PPEA), the opportunity for public comment continues until November 17 (submit to: clerktothebos@fairfax-county.gov).

As NOVA Parks Board Chairman Michael Nardolilli reminded participants, "Natural land provides ecological services, bringing pure water, clean air, and healthy places for recreation." Paraphrasing the advice given to Scarlett O'Hara by her father in "Gone With the Wind," Nardolilli said, "Land is the only thing that matters, the only thing that lasts."

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Chamber Supports Belle View Businesses

To support the businesses in Belle View Shopping Center affected by the devastating fire of October 2019, Mount Vernon Lee Chamber presented a check for \$4,000 to Kevin Green, owner of The Virginia Florist and president of the Belle View Merchants Association.

“We all know that life and business guarantee set-backs,” said Stanley Koussis, chairman of the Chamber. “Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce came together

with the Belle Haven community to establish a fund to help the come-back of the fire damaged Belle Haven Shopping Center.”

This money was raised from the community through generous donations to a Fundly campaign. Steve Larsen, New Alexandria Citizens Association, was instrumental in establishing and supporting the fire relief fund.

Working with Julie Stoltz, Cherry Tree Digital, the Belle View Merchants Association has developed a website for the restaurants and stores in the shopping center at <https://bellevueshops.wordpress.com/>. There are also new Instagram, Facebook and Twitter accounts that are linked to the website.

Interviews from many Belle



Stanley Koussis, Chamber Chairman, Kevin Green, Belle View Merchant's Association, and Alison Ross Tompkins, Chamber Vice President at the Belle View Shopping Center. More than \$6,000 has been donated to support the businesses damaged by the October 2019 fire.

View merchants are posted on the website and social media accounts to spotlight their products and services. This expands the online presence of all Belle View businesses.

“We’ve been posting throughout Covid,” said Stoltz “And I’ve been working with the stores to advise them on how to work on their digital footprint.”

This marketing effort will reassure existing customers that their favorite stores and restaurants are

still open while enticing potential customers to come and see, come, and experience what is available in Belle View. This shopping center is home to many unique, locally owned small businesses.

Repairs to the shopping center continue while many businesses are open and ready to serve the community. Please continue to support these merchants, your neighbors, and friends, who serve you and try to make your day better in every way.

Restaurant of the Week: Cedar Knoll Restaurant

Cedar Knoll Restaurant features sweeping views of the Potomac River, acclaimed American – French cuisine and a fun atmosphere. The menu is modern and innovative while the furnishings are true to the historic Mount Vernon roots.

The restaurant is built around a log cabin dating back to the 1800s and on land that belonged to George Washington.

The management of Cedar Knoll Restaurant was acquired in 2015 by Andrew Holden, his brother Chris, and business partner Char-

SEE RESTAURANT, PAGE 11

CEDAR KNOLL RESTAURANT

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Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber's Restaurant of the Week: Cedar Knoll Restaurant's location provides panoramic views of the Potomac River. The historic venue provides modern, innovative cuisine. Reservations are required to allow for social distancing.



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COMING SOON



Alex/Riverside Estates 8402 Bound Brook Low \$600's

Come check out this beautiful “Virginia” model, offering a 5BR, 3BA Split w/large 2 car garage & a lovely deck off the kitchen overlooking a private & fully fenced bkdy. Many updates including roof, vinyl siding, & double pane replacement windows in '04, furnace & A/C replaced in '19, HWH in '12. Beautiful refinished hdwd floors on the main level which offers 4 spacious BRs, & 2 full BAs. The lower level offers a 5th BR, 3rd full bath & spacious family room w/a cozy gas FPL & walkout to the bkdy, all perfect for an in-law suite. This wonderful community is a short walk to Mt. Vernon Estate, 5 min drive (S) to Ft. Belvoir, 15 mins (N) to Old Town, 23 mins (N) to Reagan National Airport, 30-35 mins to D.C. and the Pentagon. A great buy, priced in the low \$600's.

COMING SOON



Alex/ Riverside Estates 8503 Cherry Valley Lower \$700s

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 hdwd 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 bkdy, perfect for entertaining. 5 minute drive to Ft. Belvoir (S), 15 minutes to Alexandria, (N), 25 mins to National Airport (N) and 33 mins to the Pentagon (N).

COMING SOON



Alex/Hybla Valley Farm 7720 Schellhorn Road Mid \$600's

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Special Session Summary #1: Criminal Justice Reform Delivered

BY SEN. SCOTT SUROVELL
FIRST OF THREE PARTS.

Last week, the General Assembly special session effectively ended. Gov. Ralph Northam called the session to adjust the budget after the economic harm caused by the COVID-19 crisis. After George Floyd's May 26, 2020 murder and citizens' demands for change, we chose to broaden our work and focus on three areas: criminal justice, policing reform, and the budget. I will address criminal justice reform this week, policing reform next week and the budget changes last.

In early June, the Senate Democratic Caucus determined a limited focus on only policing would not address the bulk of harm inflicted by our criminal justice system. We invited suggestions and created a committee of Senators to vet 150 ideas which we narrowed to 28 objectives and 11 bills.

First, we passed a racial profiling bill that prohibits police from stopping vehicles for violations arising out of subjective unverifiable judgments such as window tint or loud exhaust violations, and prohibited searches based on an allegation of marijuana odor in light of the decriminalization of

marijuana last session. This will reduce opportunities for racially-biased enforcement.

We passed legislation creating a framework for every locality in Virginia to have access to emergency mental health response teams by 2026. Treating psychiatric emergencies as mental health crises instead of law enforcement problems will bring appropriate help to people in crisis instead of criminal charges.

The U.S. Department of Justice has authority to investigate police departments for a pattern and practice of racially-biased policing and negotiate consent decrees to alter behavior and the Obama Administration has negotiated decrees after deaths such as Michael Brown, Tamir Rice and Freddie Gray. The Trump Administration has negotiated zero. We approved a bill giving the Virginia Attorney General the authority and staffing to investigate Virginia law enforcement agencies to pick up where the Trump Administration has refused to act.

I carried legislation that restored discretion to Virginia's prosecutors. In the 24 years I have practiced law, I have never seen a judge reject a prosecutor's request to drop



a case. Judges in Arlington and Norfolk now routinely refuse to grant government requests to dismiss marijuana possession charges. My legislation requires a judge to dismiss a criminal charge upon the agreement of the government and a defendant unless

a victim can establish racial bias or bribery.

My legislation also allows plea agreements to defer charges for dismissal or reduced charges after the accused completes steps such as drug treatment, mental health counseling, community service and good behavior. This had been Virginia law until the last 10 years after conservative legislators pressured judges to cease the practice and Virginia's appellate courts altered 200 years of Virginia law finding that measures like this were not authorized by the legislature. We reformed Virginia's jury sentencing law dating to 1796, enacted when felonies could only be punished by the death penalty. Today, Virginia is one of only two states in America in which prosecutors can demand a jury to recommend a sentence. Juries give sentences that often range far higher than sentencing guidelines recommend, causing many

accused people to forego a trial, even when they are innocent, to avoid lengthy sentences. This will restore balance to our criminal justice system and make our constitutional promise of a right to trial by jury a reality.

The General Assembly passed legislation that allows localities to set up civilian review boards with subpoena power and real authority. Currently, many jurisdictions, including Fairfax County, have civilian review boards for police, but they are only advisory.

We expanded Virginia's program to give inmates credit towards early release if they are of good behavior, engaged in education and follow through on rehabilitation programs. Today, Virginia has one of the most restrictive earned sentence programs in the country due to measures proposed by now-U.S. Attorney General Bill Barr in 1995.

We hope that these reforms will bring broader, structural change to Virginia's criminal justice system and mitigate 200 years of outdated policies that have caused unnecessary harm and fallen disproportionately upon low-income people and communities of color. I was proud to be part of this historic effort.

I hope you will share your views by emailing me at scott@scottsurvell.org.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

American Horticultural Society Update: Proceeds From Sale of River Farm Will Be Used to Create Endowment

In September, the American Horticultural Society (AHS) announced plans to sell River Farm, which has been our headquarters since 1973. The majority of our board firmly believes it is the most viable option to allow for the continuation of our national nonprofit during very difficult financial times. Like many national, member-based nonprofits, our revenue streams are being reduced by the on-line habits of a population outside our traditional community. The financial realities of the past years have reduced our programming reach and our ability to get River Farm and the AHS mission to thrive. With the added financial strain caused by COVID-19, we have reevaluated our priorities regarding the organization's mission and with deliberate thought we have decided the future focus

of AHS. For our century-old organization to survive and thrive, we have a fiduciary responsibility to pursue a mission-based solution that is proactive, deliberate, and dramatic.

We have greatly appreciated the community's outreach and input, which I assure you the AHS board has heard and taken to heart. We all love River Farm and understand its significance and importance to the Alexandria community. Since the early 1970's we have been pleased to open our headquarters' grounds to visitors whenever possible and have hosted thousands of life events and celebrations that hold lasting memories for many. For nearly 50 years, we have done our very best to try to make River Farm pay for itself, but it has always run a deficit because River Farm is expensive to operate and main-

tain, especially for a small national nonprofit such as ours. Over the course of many years the impact has been great. We have had to defer important infrastructure maintenance to the aging 100+ year-

old home of our headquarters and the gardens at River Farm. Many plans to improve River Farm have been abandoned due to hurdles and financial restrictions. We have

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 8

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.

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A Connection Newspaper



“Bolster the Blue” Hosting Pro-Police Event



Support Our Law Enforcement on October 24th

A local pro-police organization named “Bolster the Blue” is hosting an event in support of law enforcement on Saturday, October 24th.

The event, titled “Police, Pastors, and Prayer” features special keynote speaker Jason Yates of the organization “My Faith Votes,” and will take place in front of the Fairfax County Courthouse on Page Avenue. Free garage parking is available for anyone who wishes to attend the event.

BOLSTER THE BLUE was started by Fairfax County resident Brenda Tillett, after she and her son decided one day to bring lunch for all of the officers as a way of saying thank you for their service.

Said Tillett, “as my son and I brought hand-written thank-you cards for each officer and lunch, we were humbled by the impact this small gesture had. We wanted to share that feeling of appreciation with officers everywhere again and again.”

POLICE, PASTORS, AND PRAYER is an opportunity for all Fairfax residents who appreciate our law enforcement officers to join in prayer with and for the men and women in blue who keep our communities safe.

In addition to keynote speaker Jason Yates and other guest speakers, the event welcomes local community pastors offering prayers and inspirational messages for our police and our country.

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY: Police, Pastors, and Prayer will feature live DJ'd music, games and activities for kids and adults alike (including face and wrist painting, pumpkin decorating, police sticker scene decorating, cornhole, pumpkin tic-tac-toe, “guess how many candy corns are in the jar,” raffles, and a children’s essay contest.

Food will be available on-site with both a food truck and cotton candy cart present for attendees.

Tables will be available for event sponsors, including the Fairfax County Republican Committee, and Bolster the Blue t-shirts and hats will be available for attendees in exchange for a donation. For more information, email Bolster the Blue at info@bolstertheblue.com.

BOLSTER THE BLUE PRESENTS:

POLICE, PASTORS, AND PRAYER

with special keynote speaker Jason Yates of My Faith Votes

OCTOBER 24, 2020 | 2PM - 5PM
10550 PAGE AVE., FAIRFAX, VA (FREE GARAGE PARKING)
IN FRONT OF FAIRFAX COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Bring your family and join us for an afternoon of prayer and messages of unity. Enjoy music, pumpkin decorating, face/wrist painting, cotton candy, food, and kids' games with your family.
Meet officers and get to know those who protect and serve us.

Contact us at info@bolstertheblue.com for more information or to get involved.

Flyer distributed by Bolster the Blue for “Police, Pastors, and Prayer”

BACK THE BLUE

They risk their lives to keep us safe.
But radical left-wing Democrats want to defund and abolish the police, and put suburban families in harm’s way.

VOTE REPUBLICAN NOV. 3RD



Bolster the Blue Holds Essay Contest for Kids

Bolster the Blue is now accepting submissions for a children’s essay contest, with prizes awarded to the top 3 winners. Entrants should write an essay in 250 words or less describing the story of the police officer pictured above. Submit entries to info@bolstertheblue.com.

Budget Plus Robust Health, Public Safety, and Equity Reforms

BY DEL. PAUL KRIZEK

After two months of hard work by legislators and our staff, the historic 2020 Special General Assembly Session has recessed until we finalize the budget after the November election. While we may not have been in session every single day, the time from the commencement of the special session on Aug. 18 until recess on Oct. 16 was 60 days — the typical length of our “long sessions” during budget years.

Last Friday evening, we passed our amended budget, signed off on conference reports, and sent legislation to the Governor for his signature. Unless otherwise provided for, the bills that are signed into law by Governor Northam in the coming weeks will go into effect on March 1st (the first day of the fourth month following the adjournment of the special session).

We are now “recessed” until after the November election; after that time we will return to consider any of Governor Northam’s amendments and vetoes to the budget and legislation we passed, and then officially adjourn. Indeed, we have a busy couple of months ahead of us as we complete our special session work and prepare for the upcoming regular session in January.

Convening this special session virtually was truly a herculean effort on behalf of the information technology professionals in the House Clerk’s office, who built and operated a successful system that allowed for safe remote participation to include the public’s participation, and with remote voting by legislators. Thanks to their efforts, we were able to accomplish our important work for Virginians all the while convening safely and

efficiently through virtual means — and with no outbreaks of coronavirus.

Virginians were counting on us to meet the moment and provide for relief during this health crisis, and I am proud to say that we accomplished these goals. We have passed a fiscally responsible balanced budget without dipping into the rainy day fund, with robust health, public safety, and equity reforms. Virginia is now a model to the nation for how meaningful reform can happen, especially during a pandemic crisis.

BELOW IS A SUMMARY of just the House Democrats’ non-budget, COVID-19 Relief and Policing, and Criminal Justice reform legislation which passed during the 2020 Special Session and is headed to the Governor’s desk:

HB 5046 (Adams) Advancing innovations in telehealth.

HB 5047 (Murphy) Prohibits manufacturers or distributors from selling necessary goods or services at an unconscionable price during a declared state of emergency.

HB 5048 (Sickles) Mandating transparency requirements for congregate-care facilities requiring a public health emergency.

HB 5059 (Willett) Providing certain liability protection for assisted living facilities in relation to COVID-19.

HB 5050 (Helmer) Authorizes the Governor, during a declared state of emergency due to a communicable disease of public health threat, to purchase and distribute PPE to private, nongovernmental entities.

HB 5064 (Price) Providing rent pay-



ment plan opportunities for tenants negatively impacted by COVID-19.

HB 5068 (Ayala) Prohibiting garnishment of stimulus relief checks.

HB 5087 (Tran) Removing the sunset clause on Virginia’s short-term compensation program (work-sharing) to facilitate eligibility for CARES Act funds.

HB 5093 (Watts) Granting flexibility in enforcing executive orders through civil penalty. Under current law, the only penalty for such a violation is a Class 1 misdemeanor.

HB 5106 (Cole) Protecting prospective tenants whose credit is negatively impacted by COVID-19.

HB 5113 (Roem) Ensuring local school board participation in the federal Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) no-cost breakfast and lunch program.

HB 5115 (Price) Protecting housing security for individuals and families negatively impacted by COVID-19.

HB 5029 (McQuinn) Mandating the duty of one officer to intervene to stop use of excessive force by another officer.

HB 5043 (Bourne) Creating a statewide Marcus Alert system.

HB 5045 (Delaney) Banning sexual relations between officers and arrestees.

HB 5051 (Simon) Requiring decertification of a law enforcement officer who is terminated or resigns for violation of law, serious misconduct in violation of statewide standards of conduct, or during an internal investigation.

HB 5055 (Herring) Strengthening laws related to Citizen Review Panels.

HB 5058 (Hope) Eliminates certain vehi-

cle equipment offenses or the odor of marijuana as pretexts for a stop or search by law enforcement.

HB 5049 (Helmer) Demilitarizing police departments by prohibiting the acquisition and use of certain weapons and military equipment by law enforcement agencies.

HB 5062 (Mullin) Codifying prosecutorial ability to dismiss charges.

HB 5069 (Carroll Foy) Banning the use of neck restraints by law enforcement except if immediately necessary to protect the officer or another person.

HB 5072 (Lopez) Empowering the Attorney General to conduct “pattern or practice” investigations of police forces that appear to be violating constitutional rights, including unlawful discrimination.

HB 5098 (Askew) Expanding the definition of hate crimes to include false 911 calls or reports to law enforcement against another person made on the basis of race, religious conviction, gender, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation, color, or national origin.

HB 5099 (Aird) Prohibiting no-knock search warrants.

HB 5104 (Price) Strengthening the assessments and review of prior law-enforcement employment records required before hiring law enforcement officers.

HB 5108 (Guzman) Diversifying the Department of Criminal Justice Services’ Committee on Training.

HB 5109 (Hope) Standardizing and enhancing training by criminal justice academies and establishing required in-service training standards for law enforcement officers.

HB 5148 (Scott) Increasing earned sentence credits.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 6
had to scale back or cancel many of our national programs because of a lack of financial resources. Today, outside of our travel study and youth gardening programs, due to budget constraints, the majority of our educational events are held only at River Farm. This is contrary to who and why we are. AHS’s national mission of connecting Americans with plants, demands that we seek opportunities which expand geographic accessibility and programs that resonate with diverse communities across the United States from Alaska to Florida and from Maine to Hawaii. Rather than merging with the American Public Gardens Association, as we previously considered, our board is now committed to focusing on our national mission and maintaining AHS as an independent national nonprofit with its own board, staff, and headquarters. We are working thoughtfully to complete a sustainable business model that will allow AHS to streamline expenses and effectively deliver plant-based programming to all Americans for

the next 100 years.

For this renewed vision to move forward, we must first take steps to ensure that AHS is financially secure. The proceeds from the sale of River Farm will be used to create a significant endowment which has been the missing link in our financial viability. And so, the time has come. As we prepare to pass on the stewardship of River Farm, we share the community’s hope of finding a new owner who will work to preserve and protect this beautiful and historic property. We are willingly working in good faith with elected officials and other interested nonprofits to explore options to benefit River Farm and AHS. I sincerely thank our members, donors, volunteers, and community for their past support which has been invaluable to AHS. Your continued support and input is important and graciously received as we move in this exciting new direction.

Terry Hayes, Board Chair
American Horticultural Society

Noisy in Mount Vernon, More Noise Coming?

If you spent anytime out on the patio in Mount Vernon this summer, I’m sure you’ve heard the loud, obnoxious cars and motorcycles with modified exhaust systems and screaming, roaring engines that pierce the serenity of our peaceful neighborhoods, (“Mount Vernon Serenity Cut Short By Noisy Tailpipes,” Mount Vernon Gazette, 10/8/2020).

For the past two months I’ve been working with Alexandria, Fairfax County, Virginia State Police and other local officials to end this pervasive problem plaguing northern Virginia’s quiet neighborhoods, but with a recent legal proposal, it may get worse.

I live in an area where we’re used to the droning hum of traffic noise, the occasional airplane flyover and frequent sirens so noise is not new, but this fairly new phenomenon has risen dramatically

Correction

In the Oct. 14 article, “Advancing Diversity and Inclusion Through Changes in TJ Admissions,” the quote attributed to Brandon Kim came from Srinivas Akella. It should have read:

“Countering, Srinivas Akella 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.”

since the start of the pandemic.

Maybe it’s the more open than usual roadways where racing and revving scofflaws feel like the world is their racetrack.

Certainly the prevalence of cars with souped up, over horse powered engines and aftermarket exhaust systems that amplify the already loud vehicle into an ear splitting loudspeaker, have taken over local roadways. At all hours of the night too.

So two months ago I engaged local law enforcement. I was told by our neighborhood Fairfax County

Police liaison to call dispatch and they’ll send a car to the area. I made sure my neighbors knew of this tactic and prayed that it would work. But when I called the dispatcher, on several occasions, I was often told the same thing: there’s nothing we can do. The problem continued to get worse.

That’s when I contacted my local elected officials: Fairfax County Supervisor Storck, Delegate Krizek, and Senator Ebbin.

Again, everyone seemed receptive and Delegate Krizek was nice

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 10

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Will River Farm Be Sold?

FROM PAGE 1

War, “many across the world objected to the thought of George Washington’s farm becoming the possession of the Soviet Union,” according to Storck and McKay. “As a result, Congress and the State Department asked Mr. Matheson to withdraw the property from the market,” according to the Board Matter.

Philanthropist Enid Annenberg Haupt, a member of the American Horticultural Society, helped the organization purchase the property and make it the headquarters of the society under the condition that the property remain open to the public and in honor of former president George Washington, of the nation’s first great gardeners and horticulturalists.

The property was named River Farm.

“AHS has long sought to make River Farm a living representation of its principles and organizational vision of raising awareness about and fostering sustainable, earth-friendly gardening and horticultural practices. Thus, we were greatly shocked

and saddened by the news on September 4, 2020 that the AHS Board of Directors intended to sell the River Farm property,” said Storck.

THE ORGANIZATION DEFENDED its decision in a letter to the editor immediately after Storck’s Board Matter, and said the majority of the AHS board called the sale “the most viable option to allow for the continuation of our national nonprofit during very difficult financial times,” said Hayes.

“Like many national, member-based nonprofits, our revenue streams are being reduced by the on-line habits of a population outside our traditional community. ... With the added financial strain caused by COVID-19, we have reevaluated our priorities.” See the letter to the editor and Storck and McKay’s Board Matter on this issue’s opinion pages.

DELEGATE PAUL KRIZEK (D-44) and Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-31) met last month with



PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON

The future of River Farm remains uncertain.

AHS leadership and said they expressed their willingness to discuss placing the property into public ownership so that River Farm can remain accessible to the public for generations to come.

“We have joined a smaller fundraising group that will focus our energy on raising the nec-

essary funds to purchase River Farm,” Krizek and Ebbin wrote in an Oct. 1 column in this paper. “We have many avenues to try to obtain this funding, including applying for grants, soliciting funds from conservation organizations and private donations, as well as from government sources.”

Officers Charged in Ghaisar’s Death

FROM PAGE 1

Descano said.

DESCANO EXPECTS the officers will file motions to move the case to federal court within a month, and that the federal government will move to dismiss the case on the grounds of the Supremacy Clause.

“Because of these unique challenges, we’ve not only prepared for these indictments, we’ve also spent months preparing for trial. As I stand before you, I know we are ready to try this case tomorrow,” said Descano.”

Descano asked Attorney General Mark Herring to assist in the case.

The U.S. Department of Justice refused to produce witnesses for the grand jury and trial, Descano said, and he relied on evidence collected by the Fairfax County Police Department from video footage dashcams.

“To that end, I want to specifically thank [Fairfax County] Police Chief Ed Roessler as

well as all the officers that responded that evening and subsequently handled the investigation of the case -- because of your efforts, you gave us the foundation necessary to get us today’s result.”

BIJAN GHAISAR, who was an accountant, was rear-ended as he was driving on the George Washington Parkway on Nov. 17, 2017.

Ghaisar left the scene and drove away, failing to speak to the driver of the car that hit him, and he failed to stop when U.S. Park Police approached him.

Ghaisar continued south through Alexandria. And Park Police pursued. When Ghaisar stopped again, Park Police approached with guns drawn at the corner of Fort Hunt Road and Alexandria Avenue in Mount Vernon.

A Fairfax County police officer had joined in the pursuit and had activated his in-car dashboard video camera. Footage demonstrates Ghaisar drove off each time he was

approached by police, but footage also shows the unarmed man being shot in the head as he sat in his Jeep Grand Cherokee.

He died 10 days after being shot.

“Bijan Ghaisar was an individual that was involved in a minor traffic accident and was shot and killed by law enforcement officials minutes later. On a relatively uneventful night in 2017, Bijan was struck by another car, left the scene, and thereafter failed to pull over for the U.S. Park Police,” said Descano.

“None of that should have led to his death. It left a family with a great loss and a community with a lot of unanswered questions,” he said.

OTHER OFFICIALS RESPONDED. “As we near three years since two National Park Police officers tragically shot and killed Bijan Ghaisar, it is long past time for the Ghaisars to receive answers about what happened to their son and brother that night,” said U.S.

Sen. Mark Warner.

“We’ve all seen the video of these officers firing unprovoked into Bijan’s car. We’ve held hearings in Congress to demand answers. We’ve called on the Justice Department, the FBI, and the Park Police to provide transparency and accountability. Yet, we’ve been given no answers, no explanation, and no justice,” U.S. Representatives Jennifer Wexton (D-VA) and Don Beyer (D-VA) and Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) said in a joint statement.

“After nearly three years of stonewalling, lies, and cover up, this is a major leap forward towards the justice that the Ghaisar family deserves.”

“The DOJ would rather close the book on this case and move on -- but we refuse to let that happen until justice is done,” they said. “We applaud Fairfax Commonwealth’s Attorney Steve Descano for taking this necessary action to hold those involved with Bijan’s killing responsible.”

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 8

enough to ask to work with me on a solution. Senator Ebbin’s chief of staff did the same. Supervisor Storck’s staff weighed in with local authorities.

Here’s the punchline: while I’ve been talking with law enforcement and engaging with elected officials to solve this problem, the Virginia legislature was simultaneously passing a bill (SB 5029) that would allow MORE vehicle noise. In fact, get ready for this because it’s stunning — the Bill actually prohibits law enforcement from pulling over a car for broken brake lights or no brake lights at all, unsafe or defective equipment, no muffler or modified muffler that makes the car louder. There’s more

to SB 5029 and I ask that you read it yourself and then call Governor Northam to ask him to veto it. The bill reads like a Saturday Night Live skit or an satirical Onion story.

Also, when you hear loud vehicles report it to your local law enforcement agency.

For all my efforts in trying to bring peace and quiet back to my neighborhood it’s been frustrating, to say the least, that Virginia lawmakers are actually working against me and my neighbors. Disappointingly, the elected officials who said they’d like to work with me on a solution voted to support SB 5029.

Bryan Jacobs
Mount Vernon

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Friends Group Performs Bike Trail Repairs on Mount Vernon Bike Trail

FROM PAGE 3

signs and traffic cones to let the riders know there is work going on. Using caution through the zones is recommended, and when a board is being pulled off or a new one is being placed, flaggers with high visibility vests are on duty to make sure the riders know what’s going on.

“During COVID, we are limiting events to 10 volunteers and also requiring use of face masks,” Isbell added.

Closer to Mount Vernon, there are areas of concern also, including a bridge near the Mount Vernon Estates where Isbell crashed in the past and bruised his ribs. They are looking for suggestions

and volunteers as well. Anyone who is interested in helping organize an event in the Mount Vernon portion of the trail to clean a bridge, fix bridge deck boards, trim overgrown vegetation or do edging on the trail is encouraged to email mtvernon-trail@gmail.com.

They have a long list of projects that would be perfect for business, church groups or scout groups looking to perform a community service project, Isbell said.

For more information, go to MountVernonTrail.org, on Twitter at [@MtVernonFriends](https://twitter.com/MtVernonFriends), on Facebook at [@MountVernonTrailFriends](https://www.facebook.com/MountVernonTrailFriends) and by email at mtvernontrail@gmail.com

NEWS

Restaurant of the Week: Cedar Knoll Restaurant

FROM PAGE 5

lie. The dining rooms and patio are now open, but reservations are required to allow for appropriate social distancing. For reservations call 703-780-3665, email reservations@cedarknollva.com or visit the website <https://cedarknollva.com>

On-line ordering for carryout is still an option for customers and orders may be placed at <https://app.upserve.com/s/cedar-knoll-alexandria> and then picked-up at the restaurant.

When ordering online, choose from classics like steak or crab cakes, or try the BBQ. They have wine to-go at 20% off menu price. Put together a mixed 6-pack of craft beer for \$15 or order specialty or classic cocktails. Make it a complete meal by ordering appetizers and desserts, too.

In the dining room or on the patio, the menu of French and American cuisine features starters and main course dishes like lobster, shrimp, fish and scallops along with steak, pork chops, and delectable vegetarian entrees.

The desserts are just the right combination of unique flavors and satisfying sweets. All food is made from scratch in the restaurant including desserts.

Cedar Knoll offers a full selection of liba-

tions which can be enjoyed at the restaurant or ordered "to go." There are specially selected craft beers, champagnes, and wines. A menu of specialty cocktails pleases every taste.

During the Covid-19 pandemic Cedar Knoll began emphasizing its grocery service for those wanting quality groceries from local sources.

"The Joy of Eating" provides a selection of fresh groceries for the home that can be picked up at the restaurant Thursday afternoons or delivered within a five-mile radius from the restaurant for a small fee.

Groceries include a variety of fresh meats, vegetables and fruits. Local honey, eggs and fresh milk is also available. Some pre-made salads and restaurant sauces are available with fresh focaccia bread and Cedar Knoll desserts. They even offer sanitation supplies and toilet paper. Order groceries by phone or email and find the weekly list posted on the website.

As social gatherings resume, Cedar Knoll Restaurant has room for larger events such as weddings, business retreats or family gatherings. For events, guests may reserve the entire r

estaurant for larger groups as well as each room and the patio individually as options for smaller groups.

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!

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To champion business and build community in partnership with our members.

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

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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

LOCAL BUSINESS INFORMATION: mountvernonleechamber.org/business-resources-for-coronavirus/
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Off the Menu: Restaurant Notes From Around Town

BY HOPE NELSON
GAZETTE PACKET

Though the covid-19 pandemic marches on, there are signs of life across the city's restaurants as new enterprises launch and old favorites re-emerge. Here are three of the top openings (and reopenings) in Alexandria this month.

Brewski's Barkhaus opens to humans, dogs

Dog lovers and their allies, rejoice: Last weekend served as the official opening for Brewski's Barkhaus, Alexandria's latest dog-friendly dining establishment. Located at 529 E. Howell Ave., (where Flat Top Burger had been most recently), Barkhaus offers a bar and restaurant, as well as indoor and outdoor off-leash play areas for customers' pups. The pub is taking reservations on its website at brewskis-barkhaus.com. Looking to bring your dog along for the ride? Mem-

berships are required, check the restaurant's website for details.

Krunch & Noodles offers hot ramen and more on the West End

The West End of town just got a little spicier. Newcomer Krunch & Noodles opened its doors at 277 S. Van Dorn St. on Oct. 2 with a full slate of Asian delicacies, ranging from nearly a dozen ramen options to a half-dozen Korean barbecue selections (including the likes of bulgogi and teriyaki chicken). Vegetarians won't leave empty-handed, either; the restaurant is also dishing up yakisoba and fried rice, among other choices.

The Majestic reopens after eight-month hiatus

Old Town's Majestic restaurant at 911 King St. reopened on Oct. 7 for the first time since the start of the pandemic, bringing with it revised menus and new hours. The restaurant will be closed Mondays and Tuesdays but open for lunch and dinner (and weekend



Old Town's Majestic restaurant at 911 King St. reopened on Oct. 7 for the first time since the start of the pandemic.

brunch) the rest of the week. Look for brand-new "Majestic Meals for Two" to go, as well as dine-in favorites like the restaurant's famous

monkey bread and more.

Hope Nelson is the author of "Classic Restaurants of Alexandria" and

owns the *Kitchen Recessionista* blog, located at www.kitchenrecessionista.com. Email her any time at hope@kitchenrecessionista.com.

Alexandria Arts Alliance Hosts Joint Virtual Fundraiser

The Alexandria Arts Alliance in partnership with ACT for Alexandria and in collaboration with Alexandria's vibrant artists and arts organizations announces and invites you to its first virtual fundraising event, streaming on Facebook Live on Oct. 24, 2020 at 7 p.m.

ACT 4 #ArtsALX will include inspiring video vignettes from 23 Alexandria-based artists and arts organizations representing the disciplines of music, dance, visual arts, theater, film and artisans as well as special appearances (including Mayor Justin Wilson and a cast member from Saturday Night Live). One hundred percent of the proceeds raised will benefit the following participants:

Alexandria Choral Society, Alexandria Citizens Band, Alexandria Film Festival, Alexandria Harmonizers, Alexandria Singers,

Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, Art on the Avenue, Arts on the Horizon, ArtSpire VA, Brave Spirits Theatre, Del Ray Artisans, Eclipse Chamber Orchestra, Fantastical Glass, Karen Fitzgerald Art, Lisa Schumaier, Local Motion Project, Metropolitan School of the Arts, MetroStage, QuinTango, The Art League, UpCycle Creative Reuse Center, Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association, and Yellow Door Concert Series.

ACT 4 #ArtsALX was inspired by the need for artists to share their work given the difficulty of performing, teaching and holding exhibits in the time of COVID-19. The lack of revenue from performances, classes and exhibitions has led to critical financial problems for the arts. Most artists and organizations have had to cancel seasons and indoor events for the foreseeable future, transition-

ing to smaller, outdoor events and virtual presentations.

"We knew as the weather gets colder, gathering will become more challenging," says Alexandria Arts Alliance Board President Melinda Kernc. "There is amazing and inspirational art happening all around us, and we want Alexandria residents to experience it, even if they are staying home. These artists and arts organizations desperately need support from the community they serve so well. This entertaining, collaborative showcase provides a way to ensure the arts will emerge strong when the pandemic subsides."

Homegrown Restaurant Group will donate 10% from all take-out orders mentioning ACT 4 #ArtsALX on the evening of the event. The Alexandria Arts Alliance thanks

event collaborators and contributors ACT for Alexandria, the Alexandria Office of the Arts, the Alexandria Commission for the Arts, and the Garden by Building Momentum.

The fundraising event will stream on the Alexandria Arts Alliance Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ArtsALXAlliance>. Viewers will be invited to donate through text-to-give, and the video will be viewable after the event. Donations are welcome at any time at <https://alexandria-arts-alliance.snwbll.com/act4-artsalx> or can be sent to ACT for Alexandria: 201 N Union Street, Suite 110, Alexandria VA 22314. Please designate donations as ACT4 #ArtsALX. For more information, visit <http://www.alexandriaartsalliance.org/act4-artsalx.html>.

CALENDAR

NOW THRU THE HOLIDAYS

Art on the Avenue. The 25th Annual Art on the Avenue festival will move to a virtual format for 2020, 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.

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.

OCT. 23-24

Metropolitan School of the Arts (MSA) in Alexandria is hosting two free, October performing arts virtual events, Fri., Oct. 23 and Sat., Oct. 24. On Fri., Oct. 23 at 3:30 p.m., MSA Academy students will perform a live, outdoor cabaret at the Lee District RECenter Amphitheatre in Alexandria that can be viewed by the public virtually on the MSA Facebook page the following week. MSA Academy students will also present their pre-recorded One-Act Play, 4 A.M.—Stay-At-Home Edition by Jonathon Dorf on Sat., Oct. 24 at 8 p.m. streamed on Broadway On Demand at <https://www.broadwayondemand.com/not-live/XgRAVlQxoJcU-4am-the-stay-at->

[home-edition--metropolitan-school-of-the-arts?channel=live-productions](https://www.broadwayondemand.com/not-live/XgRAVlQxoJcU-4am-the-stay-at-home-edition--metropolitan-school-of-the-arts?channel=live-productions). Go to metropolitanarts.org/support on how to donate to these free performances.

SUNDAY/OCT. 25

Nature Trivet Workshop. 2-4 p.m. At River Farm, 7931 East Boulevard Drive, Alexandria. The colors in your garden may have faded, but its beauty can live on. Preserve a piece of your garden (or River Farm's) by creating a pair of ceramic trivets with impressions of flowers, leaves, stems, or seed pods. Heather Lezla of Persimmon Street Ceramics will demonstrate the process of hand-cut tile making from start to finish. Texturize

and personalize your trivets with impressions of natural materials. Finally, choose from a selection of fall-inspired food safe glazes for finishing. Heather will finish the process of firing and glazing your pieces in her home studio. Pieces will be returned to AHS two weeks later for pick up (or can be wrapped and shipped for a \$10 fee). Your pair of 5 1/2 inch trivets will be ready for use as hot pads or decorative tiles. Cost: AHS members \$80; non-members \$90. Visit the website: <https://connect.ahsgardening.org/river-farm-events/2020/nature-trivet-workshop---non-member>.

To Preserve Options to Save River Farm

Joint Board Matter with Supervisor Dan Storck and Chairman Jeff McKay - Request for Analysis of River Farm Historic Overlay District.

River Farm, located on 27.57 acres at 7931 East Boulevard Drive in Mount Vernon, VA, is considered a local institution in the Mount Vernon District that is full of history, heritage, and natural beauty.

First built in 1757 and named "Clifton's Neck", then acquired in 1760 by George Washington as the northernmost farm of the five farms his family owned, it has gone through many different owners and many different names throughout its history. Of note, in 1971, the owner Mr. Matheson decided to sell his home, and the Soviet Embassy offered to buy the property for use as a retreat for its staff. In the Cold War, many across the world objected to the thought of George Washington's farm becoming the possession of the Soviet Union. As a result, Congress and the State Department asked Mr. Matheson to withdraw the property from the market.

Among those concerned by the potential sale was Enid Annenberg Haupt, philanthropist, gardener, and on the Board of Directors of the American Horticultural Society (AHS).

Through her exceeding generosity, the Society was able to purchase the 27 acres agreeing to keep the property open to the public. In honor of George Washington, one of our nation's first great gardeners and horticulturists, the property was again named River Farm. In 1973, AHS moved its headquarters from the City of Alexandria to River Farm. First Lady Pat Nixon joined Mrs. Haupt at the dedication of the property and together planted a ceremonial dogwood tree in

the garden.

AHS has long sought to make River Farm a living representation of its principles and organizational vision of raising awareness about and fostering sustainable, earth-friendly gardening and horticultural practices. Thus, we were greatly shocked and saddened by the news on September 4, 2020 that the AHS Board of Directors intended to sell the River Farm property.

I have been coordinating and leading our local efforts among federal, state and local elected officials and our federal, regional and county park leaders from the moment the AHS Board shocked us all with their decision. The attached letter expresses our desire to partner with the AHS Board, for them to slow down this process and give us time to come up with solutions that allow River Farm to remain publicly accessible and not be sold to a private developer.

We believe we have a once in a lifetime opportunity to preserve a piece of our nation and county history, but first we must collect all the information needed about the preservation process, timeline, and legal implications to ensure sound long-term decisions.

THEREFORE, we request that the Board of Supervisors direct the Department of Planning & Development Heritage Resources Staff to analyze and gather information to create an expedited Historic Overlay District for River Farm.

We further direct Heritage Resources staff to assemble and provide all this information and deliver it no later than 3 weeks from today's date. County staff has advised us that they have already started this process and the deadline is feasible.

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Announcements

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

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Celebrate students, camps, schools, enrichment programs, colleges and more in our **A-plus: Education, Learning, Fun** pages, the third week of every month.

Questions? E-mail sales@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9431



Obituary

LOUISE POMERLEAU KNAUSS
Alexandria, VA

Louise Pomerleau Knauss, 89, of Battersea Lane, died Monday, April, 6, 2020 at INOVA Alexandria Hospital following a stroke incurred on March 22, 2020.



made many special and dear friends during her Body Shop days. Louise will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Louise is survived by her husband of 20 years, Daniel Knauss of Alexandria, her son William B. Eddy and his wife, Lati, of Ft. Meade, MD; her son Frederick Knauss and his wife Betty,

daughter Amanda and son, Mitchell, of North Catasaqua, PA; her beloved grandsons Nicholas W. Eddy of Burlington, VT and Neil B. Eddy of Sandwich, MA and great-grandson, Jared

Born in Westbrook, Maine, a suburb of Portland, Maine, on June 11, 1930, she was a daughter of William A. Pomerleau Sr and Doris A. (Eastman) Pomerleau.

Cerro-Eddy, also of Burlington, VT; her sole remaining sibling, Theresa Deluliis, of Arlington, VA; nieces Patricia Walker and husband Richard, Lucille Deluliis and husband Hal Arneson,

Louise worked for Arlington County Court House beginning in 1979 and retired from there in 1999. In 1972, she opened the Hallmark Store in the Springfield Mall, Springfield, VA, and in the late 1960's she managed and operated the French Poodle Gift Shop on South Jefferson Street in Baileys Crossroads, VA.

Annette Deluliis and husband Martin Rhodes, niece Donna Browning and many nieces and nephews.

Louise was preceded in death by her parents, William A. and Doris A. Pomerleau; her sisters Phyllis Chambers, Joan Browning, and Roberta DeVali; her brothers Herman Pomerleau,

Louise moved to Washington, D.C. after graduating from Kennebunk High School in Kennebunk, Maine, in 1949. She married William Hubert Eddy (deceased 1993) on May 5, 1951 and

William Pomerleau and baby Robert Pomerleau.

Louise would want everyone to remember her the next time they open a fresh box of chocolates, have shrimp cocktail, pick out that just-perfect card for that special someone or gather

together for a fun celebration with family and friends. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to a deserving charity of your choice.

A mass of Christian burial will be held on Tuesday October 27 at 10:00AM at Arlington National Cemetery.

Louise loved growing tomatoes, tending her herb garden, working in the yard, gathering blueberries and baking for neighborhood children and friends. She was a real go-getter and never sat still for long! Louise regularly exercised at The Body Shop fitness center on Ft. Belvoir, VA, and earned membership in the 500-Mile Club when she was 84 years old! She

Arrangements are entrusted to the Everly Funeral Home, 6161 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA.

"I'll Think About That Tomorrow"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

What I'm thinking about - and being thankful for, today, is the disappearance of all the side effects I've been experiencing during the last four weeks or so since I began my pill regimen for my papillary thyroid cancer treatment. Too many to list but upwards of a dozen side effects which encompass all activities from those of daily living to others pertaining to just plain living. Let me reprint the warning that came with the pills: "People using this medication may have serious side effects. However, your doctor has prescribed this drug because he or she has judged that the benefit to you is greater than the risk of side effects." Put that in your pipe and smoke it. That's what I have to smoke every day, if you know figuratively what I mean?

The bigger question, the overriding concern/anxiety is what exactly the thyroid cancer is doing now having been left unmedicated for the last nine days? How irreparable is the damage being done when the cancer has been left unchecked? Moreover, to the extent there has been some damage, is restarting treatment even an option or have I already failed the tolerance test? Being a cancer patient is a never-ending series of questions and/or concerns for which there is hardly clarity. As I have been led to believe/educated since my initial lung cancer diagnosis, there will be no more guarantees coming.

But of course improvements in cancer treatment and ongoing research have improved survivability, and with many patients, myself included, turned the cancer treatment into a chronic disease type protocol, like diabetes. Nevertheless, cancer is in control, the doctors are not. There are no slam-dunks in cancer treatment. How would I ever be able to unwind myself from years of stress and fear just because? I couldn't. A cancer patient today sort of means, I'll likely be a cancer patient tomorrow. I don't see how I could shake that self-image.

Somehow, I must, as I'm trying to do now, exult in the joy of a semi uncomplicated, side-effect free existence because ..., it's not guaranteed. I must try even harder to compartmentalize the unknown while savoring this known, relatively easy time. It's not promised and it's not necessarily likely to occur again, certainly not after I return to treatment. But maybe, my new normal will be switching on and off treatment, sort of like I did while being infused with alimta. Though I still had my CT scans quarterly, so long as the scans showed stable, we kept extending the interval between infusions. The goal being to balance effect on the tumors with the quality of life (freedom from side effects and infusion appointments). Eventually, we stretched the interval to as much as seven weeks from the original three enabling me to live - occasionally, a semi cancer free life. Perhaps this on-again, off-again schedule might apply to this recent thyroid treatment. I have to hope because the side effects, as I alluded to initially, have been affecting my quality of life. And if there's one factor driving my better-than expected survival, it has been my attitude, which has derived directly from my management of side effects. Anecdotally speaking (or presuming) being in a good mood, being able to function with normal parameters (to quote Data from "Star Trek: Next Generation") has been a tremendous contributor to my life expectancy (my oncologist refers to me "as his third miracle").

But I can't know for sure. And of course, that's the crux of the problem for many of us cancer patients. One can never know for sure if you're hindering or helping; and since guarantees stopped being made on the ground-zero day you were diagnosed with a "terminal disease" it's often difficult to know which path to follow. Right now, it's easy to follow the path which is creating a more normal/pleasant quality of life. But at what cost? I can't know what the tumors are doing. Perhaps, in taking a break from treatment, I have unleashed the cancer once again. That's my dilemma: reconciling the present with the future, the fear with the familiar, the hope with the inevitable. And it's likely I'll never know if what I've done has been a help or a hindrance. Yet somehow, I have to make plans and decisions. "Tomorrow is another day." Lest, I be gone with the wind.

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

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NEWS

Kaleidoscope -- Another Type of Halloween Candy

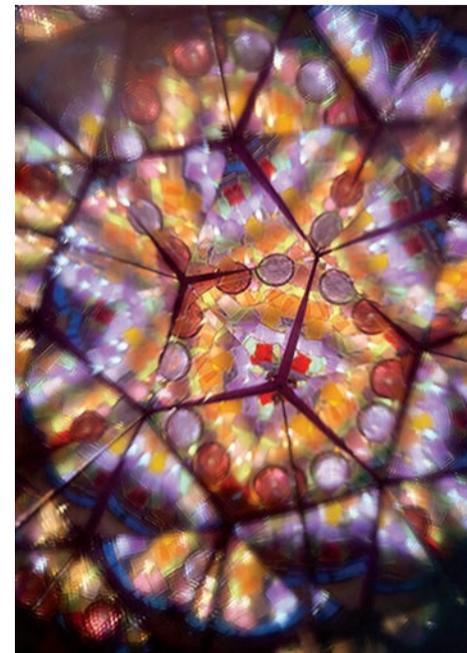
By NINA TISARA
GAZETTE PACKET

As a toddler, Anila Angjeli was given a small device that displayed endless mesmerizing symmetric geometries when seen through light. She was delighted and curious about how it worked. She pulled it apart spilling out the tiny bits of colored glass. As you might guess, she wanted to put it back together so she could continue enjoying the colorful visual displays. It wasn't until she was an adult, that Angjeli, founder of ALine Architecture, has finally gotten to make her kaleidoscope.

A kaleidoscope is an optical device consisting of mirrors that reflect images of bits of colored glass in a symmetrical geometric design. The design of the geometric reflection changes endlessly by rotating the chamber containing the glass fragments. The name is derived from the Greek words kalos ("beautiful"), eidos ("form"), and skopein ("to view"). Kaleidoscope describes the symmetry from so many perspectives, mathematics, geometry, science, nature, arts, architecture, design, and, why not, music. Says Angjeli, "This is why we love it and are hooked to it, and why Kaleidoscope is the mind's eye-candy of this Halloween Season."

This Halloween, ALine will give away 20 Kaleidoscope kits to kids in the Milway Meadows community, Mount Vernon, where Angjeli lives with her husband, two sons and mother-in-law and where she serves on the Board of Directors of Milway Meadows Civic Association.

If you'd like to build a kaleidoscope your-



self or help your child in this learning process, ALine can provide you with the kit of parts and instructions on how to assemble it. Note that mirrors have sharp edges and should be handled with care and that some crafting skills are required.

The Kaleidoscope Project is made possible by ALine Architecture architects, K. Toto, M. Fieger, and A. Angjeli. Mirrors were cut by Precise Glass, preciseglass.com. For more information about ALine's community art projects, see <https://www.aline-architecture.com/social-1>. For information on how you can help support the community art project, email anila@aline-architecture.com.

BULLETIN BOARD

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.woodlawnpopeleighey.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://alexlibrary-va.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.woodlawn-popeleighey.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. 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>

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Assistance League of Northern Virginia, a volunteer nonprofit, invites community members to join the organization to participate in its Reading Express program. Volunteers provide one-on-one tutoring to first grade students during the school year. To learn more contact VP Membership Mary Gronlund at gronbiz@aol.com or Program Coordinator Lynn Barron at lynnieb517@verizon.net.
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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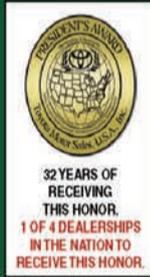
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3517 Surrey Dr
\$998,000
SOUTHERN CHARM!



SALE

9324 Old Mansion Rd
\$1,990,000
NEW BUILD, WATER VIEWS!



SOLD

8710 Yardley Dr
\$630,000
QUAINT COLONIAL!



SOLD

3115 Little Creek Dr
\$729,900
GORGEOUS UPDATES!



SOLD

4324 Tarpon Ln
\$675,000
PRESTINE CONDITION!



SOLD

8814 Surrey Ct
\$850,000
CLASSIC COLONIAL!



SOLD

3203 Battersea Ln
\$580,000
GREAT OPPORTUNITY!



SOLD!

9216 Old Mt. Vernon Rd
\$898,500
SERENE SETTING!



SOLD!

9315 Maybrook Pl
\$685,000
RARE OPPORTUNITY!



SOLD!

9420 Forest Haven Dr
\$699,000
REFRESHED INTERIOR!

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