

Mount Vernon Gazette

HOME LIFESTYLE
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MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

NOVEMBER 12, 2020

County Police Chief Resigns

BY KEN MOORE
GAZETTE PACKET

Police Chief Edwin C. Roessler Jr. announced his resignation last week, effective February 2021.

His resignation drew praise from many for his 30-plus years of service to the county through his work in the Fairfax County Police Department.

But the announcement came after police officers say their morale is the lowest it has ever been, and after calls for his resignation from some officers.

Hired in 1989 as a police recruit, Roessler served as interim Chief of Police in early 2013 before his appointment as Chief of Police in July of 2013.

"Chief Roessler has dedicated his life to protecting our community for over 30 years, as a new hire, patrol officer, interim chief, and eventually chief for the past 8 years," said Jeffrey McKay, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

"His efforts, along with officers and our community, have made us the safest jurisdiction of our size in the nation. The Chief has worked with the Board on reforms that have solidified the police department as a leader in transparency and community trust."

ROESSLER LED the department to national accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agen-

cies, while also maintaining state accredited status. The FCPD has been re-accredited by both entities during Chief Roessler's tenure.

Roessler led the department through outside review of its use of force policies and community review by the independent Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission in 2015. Reforms led to enhancing diversity recruitment; increasing transparency; implementation of a body-worn camera program; establishment of a Civilian Review Panel and Independent Police Auditor's office; and significant modifications to use of force policies, including de-escalation, duty to intervene, prohibition of choke holds, crisis intervention training and diversion programs.

FCPD training now begins with focus on the sanctity of human life.

Chief Roessler formed the Chief's Diversity Council and partnered with community leaders to help form the Communities of Trust Committee.

During his tenure he prioritized wellness in the community and in the FCPD. Roessler worked to advance mental health support and resources in the FCPD. He also welcomed the addition of an officer-driven, post-traumatic K-9 therapy program and he and his wife raised K-9 Indy, who is now in therapy service with the FCPD Peer Team.

"Chief Ed Roessler is one of the greats in the history of the Fairfax County Police Department," said Braddock Supervisor James Walkinshaw. "His efforts were key in helping

make FCPD a national leader in transparency and accountability while maintaining our status as one of the safest large jurisdictions in the country."

ROESSLER THANKED his staff and county residents and leadership for contributing to the department's success.

"The FCPD is blessed with women and men, past and present, who understand their noble calling in life and are dedicated to serving and protecting others," Roessler said. "I've worked alongside progressive law enforcement professionals, amazing forward-thinking strategic county leaders and great community advocates who have truly embraced the concepts of One Fairfax to ensure equity for all. Our county leaders, community and its great police department are positioned to continue to serve as a model for the next generation of policing in America."

Supervisor James Walkinshaw (Braddock) said, "The men and women of the FCPD are some of the best-trained, most committed public servants in our community and the next Chief will have the honor of leading them into the future. That future requires a leader willing to acknowledge the inequities in the law enforcement and criminal justice systems and take bold action -- action that will sometimes face political resistance from defenders of the status quo -- to address them. I'll be looking for someone with



PHOTO COURTESY FCPD

Edwin C. Roessler Jr.

a track record and commitment to doing just that," Walkinshaw said.

A recent meeting of the Board of Supervisors Public Safety Committee mentioned low morale in the police force.

"I've met with hundreds of Fairfax County police officers in recent months, in group settings and individually," said Public Safety Chairman Rodney Lusk (Lee) at a committee meeting before Roessler's announced retirement, "and to a person they have told me

SEE COUNTY POLICE, PAGE 14

'We've Got to Unite This Country'

Warner recalls WWII service, political career.
More on Veterans Day on page 3-4.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Former U.S. Senator John Warner, a veteran of World War II and the Korean War, was the featured speaker at the Nov. 10 meeting of the Alexandria Rotary Club.

The 93-year-old Warner gave a virtual presentation that included a discussion of his personal history, including his experiences in WWII and Korea

and transition to politics. Warner served as U.S. Secretary of the Navy from 1972-74 and as senator from Virginia from 1979 to 2009. His 30-year tenure stands as the second longest in Virginia, behind only Harry F. Byrd Jr.

A member of the Republican party, Warner is known for his bipartisan work in politics, including endorsements of several Democratic candidates over the years, including his successor in the senate, Mark Warner, and current

President-elect Joe Biden.

"I have supported candidates based on the character of the individual," Warner said.

A resident of Alexandria, Warner continues to lecture on government and expressed concern for the recent political climate.

"We've got to unite this country," Warner said.

"This is unlike anything I have witnessed since the outbreak of World War II. We can and have to do better."

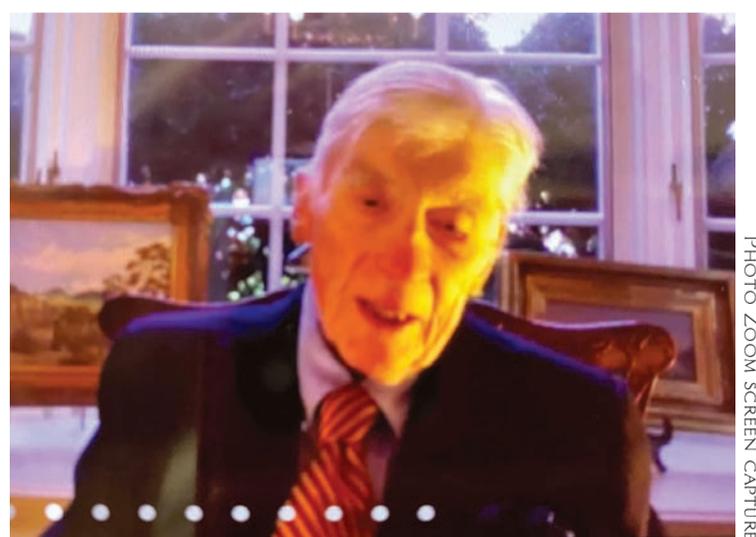


PHOTO ZOOM SCREEN CAPTURE

Former Senator John Warner gives a virtual presentation to the Alexandria Rotary Club on Nov. 10, the birthday of the U.S. Marine Corps. Warner is a Navy veteran of World War II and served in the Marines during the Korean War.

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A Salute to Veterans

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

For more than 100 years, America has been honoring its veterans on November 11, marking the date in 1918 when the Armistice with Germany went into effect as the sound of artillery went silent along the Western Front in France. The hostilities of World War I had come to an end.

U.S. President Woodrow Wilson formally proclaimed Armistice Day the following year on Nov. 11, 1919, saying, "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with

gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations."

An act of Congress was approved in 1938 making Nov. 11 a legal holiday known as Armistice Day. Congress later amended the act to replace "Armistice" with "Veterans," and Veterans Day became official on June 1, 1954.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, formal events marking Veterans Day were canceled although private ceremonies were organized to honor Alexandria's veterans.

—JEANNE THEISMANN
SEE MORE PHOTOS, PAGE 4



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Major John Bordner, U.S. Air Force (ret.) center, with Ander Bordner and SN Vargas at Coast Guard boot camp graduation in Cape May, N.J., in 2015.

"Whereas Memorial Day is a time for solemn remembrance of those who died for our country, Veterans Day should be a celebration of the service of our past, current and future veterans. And with that I couldn't be prouder of my son Ander carrying on the tradition of service to our great nation."



Arden Levy, U.S. Army Major 12-year veteran, and Col. Tony Sanchez, U.S. Army (ret.) 28-year veteran, married 22 years

"My experience with service changed my life," said Levy, a member of the Judge Advocate General Corps. "It was a way for me to serve my country and defend those who have defended this nation. The JAG corps is a very mission-focused organization and there was no better way for me to start my law career."



Staff Sergeant David Martin, U.S. Air Force

"I studied Clinical Laboratory Technology in the Air Force and that's what I do now. I use the same tools and equipment in my work as a jeweler. My three years of service helped shape the career I have now."

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



SSgt. Harvey Stoler US Army (ret.)

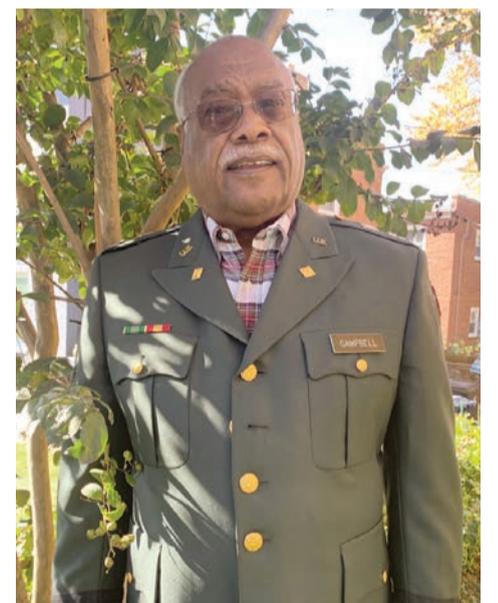
"I served in the U.S. Army reserves from 1971-1993 as a Sergeant First Class at the brigade level. My civilian job was as a civilian personnel management specialist. I think what I value most from my time in the military is what I learned about myself and the friendships and networking I was able to do during my time of service."

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



Capt. Bill Vosbeck, U.S. Marines

"I joined the Marine Corps during World War II since I knew the Marines were being so successful overseas at that time. I remained in the reserves when the war ended and when the Korean War came along, I had to report to duty immediately. When my time in the service ended, my wife Betty and I decided to make Alexandria our home and I started my architectural firm. I am thankful to the Marine Corps for what they did for me throughout my career. Two of my cousins, who were brothers, were killed during World War II during their service in the Army Air Corps. I was fortunate to be at the right place at the right time."

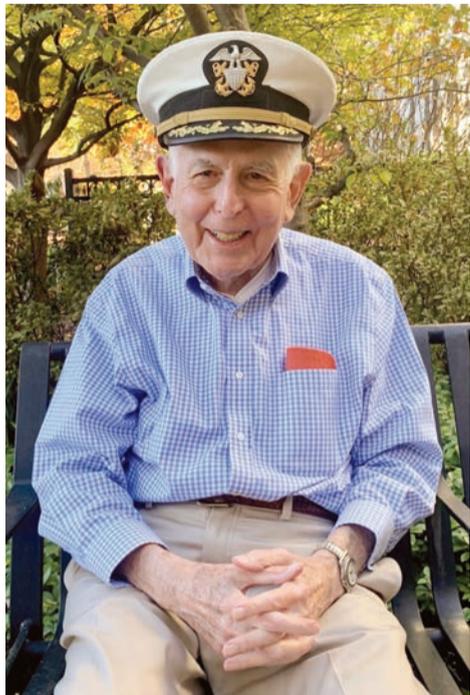


Capt. Lynnwood Campbell, U.S. Army

"I decided at 12 years old that I wanted to be a captain in the Army. I was in JROTC in high school and ROTC in college. Upon my college graduation in 1970, I received a commission as a finance officer. I was assigned to the Military District of Washington D.C., where part of my duties was to act as a survivor assistance officer. Five times I was tasked with telling parents that their sons were killed in the line of duty. After completing my active duty commitment, I joined the 2290th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH) unit as finance officer. I had a great experience in the military and along with Nelson Greene Jr. convinced the Alexandria School Board and the Army to create the JROTC program at T.C. Williams High School. My service was a privilege and I would do it all again."

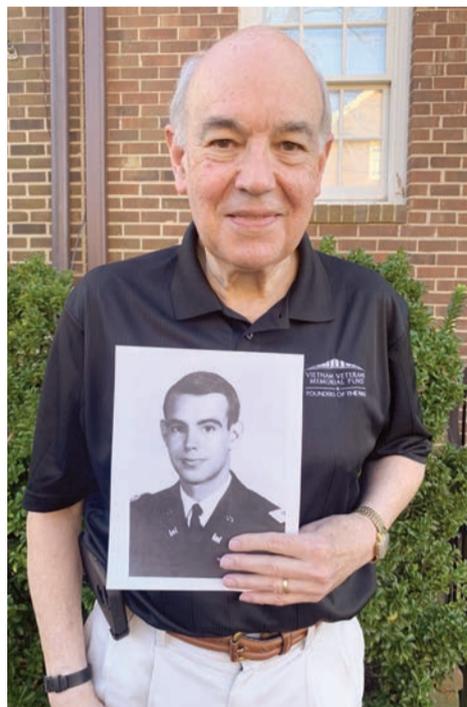
A Salute to Veterans

FROM PAGE 3



Comdr. Paul S. Frommer, U.S. Navy (ret.)

"I served 23 years on active duty in both the Atlantic and Pacific, including two tours in Vietnam. I had a ROTC scholarship and most of my duty was in destroyers. My last tour of duty was command of the destroyer USS Barry and our home port was in Athens, Greece. I would do it all again. It was wonderful and a privilege serving this country."



Capt. John O. Woods Jr., U.S. Army

"I was commissioned as a Corps of Engineers officer but opted to go into Army aviation. I flew helicopters in Vietnam and was shot down on the 26th of October in 1967. I spent three years at Walter Reed putting Humpty Dumpty back together again, but I refer to my time in the hospital and convalescent leave as defining my future life, which has been absolutely wonderful."



Charles Nelson, U.S. Air Force

"I went into the Air Force in 1952. My service took me to quite a few places, including being stationed in Alaska before it became a state. I was in communications – we were spying on Russia back then. I met a lot of guys that I stayed in touch with over the years but many of them have passed on. But if the Lord lets me see the 12th of March next year, I will be 90 years old and am thankful for everything He has given me."



Col. Jennifer Krischer U.S. Air Force (ret.)

"My 25 years of service would not have been possible without the support of my family and husband, who restarted his career as an attorney several times just to enable mine to support and serve our country. I was deployed to the Middle East for a year, missing my daughter's kindergarten year and son's third grade year. My family was amazing in supporting me in supporting our troops."

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Honoring Our Veterans

BY HENRY DORTON
COMMANDER, AMERICAN LEGION POST 24

Seven decades ago, in 1950, brave Americans defended a far-off land that was under attack. For three years they fought what many still call, "the Forgotten war." On this Veterans Day, we honor not just those brave Korean War veterans, but ALL who have served in the U.S. military since our country's founding.

Regardless of how one feels about policies that lead to war, let there be no doubt that veterans serve with honor. They serve to make life better for others. They preserve our freedom.

Not all veterans have seen war, but a common bond that they share is an oath in which they expressed their willingness



American Legion Post 24 Commander Henry Dorton

PHOTO BY JOHN BORDNER/GAZETTE PACKET

to die defending this nation. We can be secure at home because we have brave warriors protecting us in the air, at sea, on land and beyond our atmosphere.

In addition to foreign adversaries, many veterans have had to battle invisible threats to their mental health and well-being. More than 20 veterans a day take their own lives. Only those who experienced firsthand the horrors of combat can understand why so many of these young men and women feel compelled to take such drastic and permanent measures.

We must do everything possible to stop these needless deaths. The American Legion has instituted a Buddy Check program, in which we encourage our members to regularly communicate with our fellow veterans to ask if they need help and to offer their hands in friendship.

However, it is up to all of us to ensure that every veteran feels that his or her service to this country is appreciated by their fellow Americans.

Tell veterans directly that you appreciate them and are grateful for their service. Simply say, "Thank you for what you have done for our country."

War is never anything to celebrate, but peace is. The peace in between horrific wars is brought to you mainly by our veterans. The sacrifice brought forth during those wars is also made mostly by our veterans. The American Legion is dedicated to remembering the legacy of all veterans because what these men and women have done for us, matters to America.

God Bless America and God Bless our veterans.

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.

TUESDAY/NOV. 17

Immigrants from Germany. 1-2:30 p.m. At Mount Vernon Genealogical Society, Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Genealogist James M. Beidler will speak about German

immigrants to America in the 18th century. Register no later than November 13 by emailing your name and email address to contact-us@mvgenealogy.org. Visit the website: www.mvgenealogy.org/eventListing.php?nm=20

DRIVERS NEEDED TO HELP SENIORS

Mount Vernon At Home is a nonprofit organization serving senior citizens

in the Mount Vernon and Alexandria areas of Fairfax County. They are in critical need for volunteers to assist members with driving to medical appointments and grocery shopping. Mount Vernon At Home will supply you with necessary personal protective equipment (PPE), and can provide a donation receipt for your mileage. Volunteers can sign up for driving assignments through the online system which

makes it easy to see and accept assignments. Give what time you can, there is no minimum or maximum number of hours. If you have some time to give to the community and can spare several hours a month, visit info@mountvernonathome.org, or call 703-303-4060.

NOV. 16-23

Operation Christmas Child. More than 4,000 locations will now offer a

curbside drop-off option for the Samaritan's Purse project, Operation Christmas Child. Volunteers are preparing to collect shoebox gifts during National Collection Week, Nov. 16 – 23. Operation Christmas Child has been collecting and delivering shoebox gifts—filled with school supplies, hygiene items and fun toys—to children worldwide for more than two decades. For

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 13

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NEWS

Business Update on the Coronavirus

BY HOLLY DOUGHERTY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MOUNT VERNON LEE CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE

The coronavirus continues to affect businesses throughout our community and accurate information can help businesses make good decisions. This update on recent governmental actions and opportunities may be of benefit to businesses and employees trying to navigate this situation.



Holly Dougherty

If you have questions about this information, please feel free to reach out to me at 703-360-6925.

Rebuild VA Grants Expanded Eligibility

Rebuild VA Grant Fund has expanded its eligibility criteria to allow more small businesses and nonprofits to apply. Businesses with less than \$10 million in gross revenue or fewer than 250 employees will be eligible under the new criteria, and the maximum grant award will increase from \$10,000 to \$100,000.

Rebuild VA is now open to all types of Virginia small businesses that meet size and other eligibility requirements, from restaurants and summer camps, to farmers and retail shops. Businesses that previously received a Rebuild VA grant will receive a second award correlated with the updated guidelines. <https://www.governor.virginia.gov/rebuildva>

Scholarships for Workers Impacted by Covid-19

The Re-employ Virginia, or REV Initiative provides scholarships to COVID Impacted Workers. Virginia is allocating \$30 million in federal CARES Act dollars to help those whose employment has been impacted by COVID-19.

These individuals are eligible to enroll in a workforce or community college program in five essential industries, including health care, information technology, skilled trades, public safety, and early childhood education.

The initiative will provide one-time scholarships of \$3,000 to register in a qualifying full-time workforce program and \$1,500 to

SEE BUSINESS UPDATE, PAGE 14
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Alex/Riverside Estates \$599,900
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One More Step — The Electoral College

BY DEL. PAUL KRIZEK

The Presidential election is not over yet ... I know what you are thinking. You are wondering about the Electoral College process that starts on Dec. 14 with the electors voting by paper ballot and ends on Jan. 6, 2021, with the House and Senate in joint session to count those electoral votes. Indeed, this process of how we elect our President and Vice President has not changed much since our nation's founding. But, the United States looks very different today than it did in 1789 when the United States Constitution was first ratified and our founding fathers came up with the process of using electors as a compromise between a popular vote and a vote by Congress.

Our nation has grown from 13 states and around 4 million people to 50 states and approximately 328 million residents. And yet, we, as citizens, do not vote directly for the President. In fact, until the passage of the 17th amendment in 1913, we also did not have the

right to directly vote for our US Senators. Before then, they were selected by state legislatures. All across the nation, over the last several months, citizens were voting to elect the electors in their states who will be charged with selecting the next President. You may have even noticed on your ballot when you voted in this election that under the party affiliation, the text read "Electors for" Biden, Trump, or Jorgensen.

The framers originally created the Electoral College system as a sort of governmental protection against the "masses of uneducated citizens" who would otherwise be responsible for selecting the nation's future presidents. Our own George Mason, a Virginia delegate to the Constitutional Convention, considered a president elected by popular vote to be a big mistake. He argued that "it would be as unnatural to refer the choice of a proper character for chief magistrate to the people as it would to refer a trial of colours to a blind



man." Without the access to information we have today, and with much of the country illiterate, they were skeptical that voters would make informed decisions about the candidates they were voting for. Instead, the framers believed the wisest option would be to select a group of trusted "electors," a group educated on the candidates, and how that group would be selected would be up to the individual states. In Virginia they are chosen by party convention. In Florida, uniquely, they are chosen by the Governor. Furthermore, electors would meet in their respective states as well in order to avoid political gamesmanship you may find in a national convention. Perhaps that made sense in 1787, but in the 21st century, the Electoral College continues to prove that it is a dated system that is in need of reform. Placing power back into the hands of the informed public is the most democratic thing to do. Indeed, direct election would make everyone's vote count equally.

So, let's discuss the Electoral College system. In total, there are 538 electoral votes nationwide, and each state has an equal amount of electoral votes to the number of its members in the U.S. Senate plus its number of members in the U.S. House of Representatives. In order to be elected President, a candidate must receive at last 270 electoral votes, or a majority. If there's a tie among the electors or if no candidate gets a majority, then the election goes to the House of Representatives.

This creates a scenario where, depending on which state an individual lives in, they might have more or less representation by their state's electors than individuals in other states. For example, in Wyoming which has a population of approximately 578,000 people and has 3 electoral votes, each electoral vote represents 192,000 citizens. In a state like California, which has 39.5 million citizens, each electoral vote represents 718,000 citizens. Despite having a higher population and amount of electoral votes than Wyoming,

SEE ONE MORE STEP, PAGE 7

COMMENTARY

Hail to the Chief-Elect

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)

Tears welled up in my eyes last Saturday evening as the President-elect Joe Biden and the Vice President-elect Kamala Harris addressed their supporters and the nation for the first time after having been declared the winners of the presidential election. The words they said, the message they delivered, and the tone they set struck the chords that have been so vitally important to me and to many others throughout our lifetimes. If we seemed ravenous in listening to their words, it was because we have not heard them for too long and were hungering for inspirational and positive leadership.

The President-elect made his approach to governance clear: "I pledge to be a president who seeks not to divide, but to unify—who doesn't see red and blue states, but a United States, and who will work with all my heart to win the confidence of the whole people." Starting with that kind of attitude will go a long way toward his success in being a unifier.

My interest in politics goes back

to my teenage years and has been influenced by the great speeches I have heard, not simply for the words that were said but because of the hope they offered and the vision for greatness for our country they inspired. I stood in the foot-deep snow at the United States Capitol on January 20, 1961 and heard a leader I revered, the new President John F. Kennedy, say in his inaugural speech, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country."

Another inspirational moment came for me on my birthday, November 3, 2008, when Jane and I stood for hours in a crowd estimated at 80,000 people at the Prince William County Fairgrounds waiting for candidate Barack Obama who arrived at 10:30 p.m. for the final appearance of his campaign to be president. In his usual inspiring way he told us, "I come away with an unyielding belief that if we only had a government as responsible as all of you, as compassionate as the American people, that there is no obstacle that we can't overcome."



There is no destiny that we cannot fulfill." In an echo of President Kennedy's words, former President Obama this fall challenged the country with his words, "Change will not come if we wait for some other person or if we wait for some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek." And just as President-elect Biden reminded us of the unity of

America, Barack Obama at the Democratic Convention in 2004 in a speech that brought him to the attention of political leaders had reminded us that, "There's not a liberal America and a conservative America—there's the United States of America."

While these quotes are words, they reflect attitudes and beliefs that can stir us to positive action to realize the potential for an honest and decent America that is open and inclusive and where the American dream can become a reality for all.

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.

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A Connection Newspaper



One More Step

FROM PAGE 5

Californians are actually LESS represented in the Electoral College than those who live in Wyoming. This holds true for many states around the nation. This doesn't really seem fair, does it?

Each state has the authority to allocate their electoral votes however they see fit. Most states utilize the "winner take all" scenario, where a state's popular vote winner in turn gets all of a state's electoral votes. Nebraska and Maine differ, splitting their electoral votes using the congressional district method. Nebraska allocates two of its five electoral votes to the statewide winner but allows each of its three congressional districts to award one electoral vote to the popular vote winner in their specific district. In Maine, two out of four go to the statewide winner, and two go to the winner in the two respective congressional districts.

So, how do we allocate our 13 electoral votes in Virginia? According to the Virginia Code, "in elections for President and Vice President of the United States, the appropriate chairman or secretary of each political party shall furnish to the State Board ... the names of the electors selected by the party at its convention held for that purpose, together with the names of ... the candidates for President and Vice President for whom the electors are required to vote in the Electoral College ... a copy of a subscribed and notarized oath by each elector stating that [they] will, if elected, cast [their] ballot for the candidates for President and Vice President nominated by the party that selected the elector, or as the party may direct in the event of death, withdrawal or disqualification of the party nominee." So, here in Virginia, we utilize the "winner take all" method, and it is against the law for electors to be "faithless", or vote contrary to the winner in Virginia.

Out of the total 58 presidential election cycles in history, five elections ended with the national popular vote winner losing the Electoral College. Two of these instances occurred during the last 20 years—2000 and 2016. This means that one third of the elections in the 21st century have had this worrisome outcome.

So, how do we go about reforming the Electoral College system and make our Presidential elections more modern, fair, and representative? The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC), which I supported this year in the Privileges and Elections commit-

tee, creates an agreement between states to allocate their electoral votes to the winner of the national popular vote. Should enough states sign on to this compact to reach the 270 vote threshold, we will never again be faced with the scenario of a candidate who lost the popular vote becoming President. As of July 2020, the NPVIC has been enacted into law in 16

jurisdictions possessing 196 electoral votes, including four small states (DE, HI, RI, VT), eight medium-sized states (CO, CT, MD, MA, NJ, NM, OR, WA), three large states (CA, IL, NY), and the District of Columbia. 74 additional electoral votes will be needed before it could go into effect.

A presidential election without the Electoral College and rely-

ing on the national popular vote would produce a vision of a less polarized America, showing that typical "red" or "blue" states still have significant numbers of voters of other affiliations, helping those voters feel less isolated, and possibly more likely to vote and be engaged in the electoral process. It would also help to eliminate the focus on "swing states", encourag-

ing candidates to seek votes from citizens all across the country and not just from a select few battleground states with large numbers of electoral votes.

Just as the time eventually came to directly elect our US Senators, perhaps the time has now come for the American people to directly elect our President and Vice President.

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Wooboi Chicken Sizzles Into Old Town

BY HOPE NELSON
GAZETTE PACKET

The first thing you need to know about Wooboi Chicken: The restaurant takes its spices seriously.

Don't go in ordering a Code Red – or, for that matter, a Code Blue – unless you are prepared to finish the job and take the heat. And don't assume that a Level Two is your typical medium-spicy. The folks at Wooboi have not come to mess around in the spice department.

"We mean it," said chef-owner Michael Choi, chuckling. "We've made grown adults cry."

APPETITE

With that warning taken to heart, walk into North Old Town's Wooboi, the newest outpost of the Herndon-based flagship, and prepare to feast on hot chicken served in several different ways.

"We have such a simple menu, but that's what we love," Choi said. "Because of our simple menu we can really focus on every little detail, from our chicken to the sources that we get our supplies from to the spice levels to the sauces and slaws and pickles."

Wooboi opened its doors in Old Town on Nov. 2, but the planning phases took place nearly a year earlier, pre-pandemic and in a completely different dining landscape. After losing some time to covid-related construction delays, Wooboi has emerged onto the scene in a bit of a different form than



it might have been in the so-called "before times."

"Our menu was actually different pre-covid," Choi said, adding that at least for the moment Wooboi has moved away from the likes of chicken and waffles in favor of more handheld, quick-preparation favorites like sandwiches.

"When people order, we want to give them their order in less than seven minutes.

That's why we only focus on sandwiches and tenders here," he said.

But if you've come in with your sights set on another menu item, take heart: There's a mystery lurking around the room.

"We do have a secret menu," Choi said. "A hint for that is the menu is actually written around the restaurant."

Do with this information what you will. While Wooboi is really a Nashville-in-

IF YOU GO

Wooboi Chicken,
531 Montgomery St.

Hours: 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday; closed Sundays.

Hidden gem: The Choi fries. "That's one of our secret menu items," says chef-owner Michael Choi. "It's this really delicious umami bomb of flavor." The secret? French fries are topped with a homemade mambo sauce and honey mustard, along with mozzarella and cheddar cheese. The dish was inspired by Choi's father, who often came into the Herndon store at night hungry and requested fries with all the fixings.

spired hot-chicken restaurant, Choi says a number of customers come in craving Korean-style chicken instead. To accommodate their wishes, Wooboi has come out with a new "Woo sauce," available only in the Old Town location. A little bit spicy and very garlicky, the sauce has the tang from ginger and is finished off with a Korean pepper paste called gochujang.

"Everyone who tries the sauce loves it," he said.

Just don't forget to take the spice levels seriously.

Hope Nelson is the author of "Classic Restaurants of Alexandria" and owns the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at www.kitchenrecessionista.com. Email her any time at hope@kitchenrecessionista.com.

CALENDAR

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 DEC. 9

Forty+ Project II. 3-4 p.m. Via Zoom. Forty+ celebrates the collective creativity of people past the age of 40. Fall Project 2 is directed by choreographer Kelsey Rohr through weekly sessions on Zoom (with outdoor or in-person meetings as conditions allow). The project is open to people of all physical facilities. Cost is \$100. Visit the website: <https://www.janefranklin.com/>

adult-dance/forty-plus

FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS, NOW THRU DEC. 5

Alexandria Drive-In Movie Encore Series. At the Alexandria Drive-In Theatre, 5001 Eisenhower Ave, Alexandria. The Alexandria Drive-In Theatre, presented by Alexandria based businesses ALX Community and The Garden, will feature a popular collection of movie classics and family favorites. Cost: \$35 per car/per screening. No refunds. 100% of ticket costs go to local Alexandria based charities. Visit the website: www.AlexandriaDriveIn.com. Schedule:

- Saturday, November 14 - The Secret Life of Pets & Pitch Perfect (Double Feature)
- Friday, November 20 - Sea Biscuit
- Saturday, November 21 - How to Train Your Dragon & 42 (Double Feature)
- Friday, December 4 - The Bourne Identity
- Saturday, December 5 - The Grinch & Love Actually (Double Feature)

NOW THRU NOV. 27

"Gratitude" Art Show. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. At Gallery Underground, 2120 Crystal Drive/Crystal City Shops, Arlington. Gallery Underground in November presents Gratitude: Representing Thankfulness in Artwork, an all-member all-media show. The year 2020 has presented us with multiple physical, moral, spiritual and emotional challenges.

Member artists have created work in the season's spirit of giving thanks, representing images of those things for which they are still grateful, despite the current world we face. In our Main Gallery are new works by our members on all themes, in media including oil, acrylic, pastel, watermedia, sculpture, glass, ceramics, wood and metalwork. Visit the website: <https://galleryunderground.org/>

NOV. 6-28

"Women's Right to Vote: 100 Years Since the 19th Amendment" exhibit (November 6-28) features artwork by Del Ray Artisans, local high school students and 2020 graduates; and celebrates the achievements of women over the past 100 years. The movement towards equality in America continues today. Lift your voice and vote. Opening Day Appointments: Friday, November 6, 12-8 p.m. View exhibit at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. Details: www.DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

STARTING NOV. 9

Everyday Magic at Arts on the Horizon. The first is a new show, Everyday Magic, created and composed by local performer, Christopher Michael Richardson. This digital, interactive, six-episode series will premiere the week of Nov. 9, with a new episode airing each week. For more information and tickets for

Everyday Magic, visit the website <https://www.artsonthehorizon.org/everyday-magic.html>

NOV. 10 TO JAN. 21

Holiday Spirit. At Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, Studio 29, 105 North Union Street, Alexandria. Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery announces the opening of its juried show "Holiday Spirit." This is the annual holiday show, and the artists go all out to create gifts that will get you into the holiday mood. Hours: 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 11

Why Do Cicadas Scream. 9 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Virtual on Zoom. Excitement is as easy as the wave of a wand. Explore the cicada life cycle and themes of transformation and change through movement and art. Tuition: \$45. For Scholarship information or to enroll at www.janefranklin.com or call 703-933-1111.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 11

Saluting Independence. 10-11:30 a.m. Virtual. Join in Saluting Independence on Nov. 11, a virtual event that honors our veterans and raises support and awareness for Canine Companions for Independence. Free. Visit the website: www.cci.org/salutingindependence. Registration is required to receive access to the event. Register at www.cci.org/

salutingindependence

SATURDAY/NOV. 14

Savory Soiree in the Secret Garden – "Autumn Variations." 5 and 8 p.m. At The Rectory, 711 Princess Street, Alexandria. Join in a "Savory Soiree" in the Secret Garden for an elegant evening of gourmet four-course dinner paired with wine and live music by composers sharing a birthday on November 14th: Johann Nepomuk Hummel, Fanny Mendelssohn, Aaron Copland and Buckwheat Zydeco, played by internationally acclaimed pianist Marianna Prjevalskaya. Cost is \$149. More details and tickets on website: <https://www.classicalmovements.com/2020/10/19/savory-soiree/>

SATURDAY/NOV. 21

The Ken & Brad Kolodner Trio. 2 p.m. Featuring Ken Kolodner, hammered dulcimer | Brad Kolodner, banjo | Alex Lacquement, upright bass. Welcome Thanksgiving with a uniquely American program that celebrates the traditions of American music and crosses the boundaries of Old-Time, Bluegrass and American Roots music. At The Rectory on Princess St, 711 Princess St, Alexandria. Visit <https://www.classicalmovements.com/secret-gardenconcerts-2/>

RESTAURANT OF THE WEEK



Primo owner Jim Nicopoulos invites you to enjoy their award-winning menu either by carry-out or at the outdoor dining.

Primo Family Restaurant

1636 Belle View Boulevard
Alexandria, VA 22307
703-765-6767 For Carry Out
Open Daily 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Menu at:
<https://primofamilyrestaurant.com>

Primo Family Restaurant is a family-owned and operated business with a proud history of serving the Belle View Community since 1988. The owner, Jim Nicopoulos, is a third generation restaurateur, born and raised in the nation's capital.

Primo specializes in authentic Greek, Italian and American fare, made with the finest, organic, and sustainably grown ingredients — many produced in Virginia.

"We want customers to feel like they're eating a home cooked meal," Nicopoulos said, "So our standards are of the utmost importance." Nicopoulos personally selects the ingredients that go into their meals.

The dining room at Primo is currently closed but outside dining is available as well as carry out. They have been preparing meals for 18 years while observing the highest safety measures and during Covid, your safety is their first concern.

Primo Family Restaurant offers a broad selection of healthy, delicious meals. The menu may be viewed at [https://primofami-](https://primofami-lyrestaurant.com)

lyrestaurant.com. Carryout meals may be ordered by calling 703-765-6767 then just drive up to the front of the restaurant and the friendly staff will hand you the meal. You don't even need to get out of the car.

New daily specials make the family dining experience even more enjoyable. On Mondays, your second pasta dinner is 50 percent off; Tuesdays, the second pizza is 70 percent off; and on Thursdays, the second gyro is 45 percent off. These specials are only available with call-in orders.

There are also weekly specials like white bean soup, spinach pie, and moussaka. Ask about the weekly specials when you call in an order. Primo is proud to be recognized as #1 New York Style Pizza in Northern Virginia.

"Our loyal customers are a big part of why we strive to be better every day," said Nicopoulos. "The lasting connections we make within the community and guests is the reason why Primo is more than just a restaurant, but a close-knit family. Come in and see for yourself."

Primo has proudly supported #FirstResponders #HealthCare-Workers #SchoolTeams #PTAs and other community organizations for many years.



Call 703-765-6767 for carry out Just drive up and they will hand you the food. Take advantage of daily and weekly specials.

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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!



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

GIVE THE GIFT OF BUSINESS

Buy a gift card to use at a later date and shop locally online when possible.



KEEP YOUR SUBSCRIPTION

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



BUY NOW, PICK UP LATER

Planning to make a purchase? Call the business to see if you can make the purchase but pick it up later.



ORDER FOOD-TO-GO OR HAVE IT DELIVERED

Local restaurants are open and ready to provide their delicious food. Order and pay online. Consider adding a generous tip.



Wondering what local businesses are open?

Visit MountVernonLeeChamber.org

LOCAL BUSINESS INFORMATION: mountvernonleechamber.org/business-resources-for-coronavirus/
FAIRFAX COUNTY INFORMATION: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/covid19/information-businesses-impacted-coronavirus/
VIRGINIA INFORMATION: www.virginia.gov/coronavirus-updates/

Another Mount Vernon Gazette Community Partnership

Black Friday & Small Business Saturday SALE

King's Jewelry



Nov. 27th & 28th
ALL DAY!
10 am to 6 pm

20%-40% off Fine Jewelry, Select Watches & Giftware.*

KingsJewelry.NET
609 King Street, Old Town Alexandria
703-549-0011

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 4

the nearest drop-off location, visit samariantanspursure.org/occ and clicking on "drop-off locations".

WORKHOUSE ARTS CENTER AFTER-SCHOOL CAMPS

After-school visual arts camps at Workhouse Arts Center have begun. After-school camps are offered from 4:30-6:30 p.m. every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday in two week sessions. Camps are for students Grades 1-3 and 4-6, with a limit of 9 students per session.

Session E - December 7 to December 18
Email JoshStout@workhousearts.org or call 703-584-2934.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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

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

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

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

Line Dance Instructor needed for the Gum Springs Senior Program once a week on either Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. Volunteer Solutions, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711.

Volunteer Fairfax makes it easy for individuals and families, youth and seniors, corporate groups and civic clubs to volunteer. Fulfill hours, give back, or pay it forward through a variety service options. Visit www.volunteerfairfax.org or call 703-246-3460.

STEM VOLUNTEERS. The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) needs scientists, engineers, mathematicians, and physicians to assist K-12 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) teachers in the Northern Virginia Area, during the 2016-17 school year. In the 2015-16 school year, the numbers of STEM volunteers in Northern Virginia were: Fairfax County - 40, Arlington - 20, and Alexandria - one. Details of the collaboration are worked out between the teacher and the volunteer, and may involve giving demonstrations, assisting in lab experiments, lecturing on special topics, assisting with homework, etc. The hours are flexible, and volunteers attend a one-day training in September before being assigned to schools. To see how volunteers are assisting their teachers, view the video clips at www.seniorscientist.org. To volunteer, contact donaledge@aol.com.

Fairfax County's Community Services Board is seeking volunteer office assistants. Volunteers are needed to assist CSB staff with

greeting guests, making reminder phone calls, data entry, filing, shredding, stocking shelves, and other duties as needed. Hours are flexible, but would be during normal business hours. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb/viva/volunteers.htm for more.

Yoga Teachers are needed. Help improve a person's well-being by teaching yoga classes to adults who are staying in a residential facility. The day/time is flexible, but would be during the week. Prior yoga instruction is required. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb/viva/volunteers.htm for more.

The Northern Virginia Long Term Care Ombudsman Program needs volunteer advocates for residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Contact Lisa Callahan at 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Respite Care volunteers give family caregivers of a frail older adult a break so they can go shopping, attend a doctor's appointment or just have coffee with a friend. Volunteers visit and oversee the safety of the older adult for a few hours each month. Support and training are provided. Contact Kristin Martin at 703-324-7577, TTY 711, or Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Fairfax County needs volunteers to drive older adults to medical appointments and wellness programs. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Gum Springs Senior Program in Alexandria is looking for a Line Dance Instructor. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Kingstowne Center for Active Adults in Alexandria needs Instructors for the following classes: Country-Western Line Dance, Hula Hoop and African Style Dance. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Hollin Hall Senior Center in Alexandria needs instructors for the following classes: Basic Woodworking, Italian and Ballroom Dance. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Mount Vernon Adult Day Health Care Center in Alexandria needs front desk volunteers and patient Card Players. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Advisory Board of the Joe and Fredona Gartlan Center for mental health is looking for volunteers. The board meets the second Tuesday of the month from 9-11 a.m. at Gartlan Center 8119 Holland Road.

Mount Vernon At Home is a community Village, providing support, services, and community to seniors in the area. Volunteers are needed for a variety of services, with transportation to medical appointments are greatest need. They can also use help with in-home handyman work and handling IT problems. If you are interested in volunteering, contact us at info@mountvernonathome.org or call 703-303-4060.

Volunteer Advocates for Nursing Home & Assisted Living Residents needed throughout Northern Virginia. Contact the Northern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/lcombudsman/, or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-324-5861, TTY 711.

Hollin Hall Senior Center is looking for a DJ ballroom and dance instructor. The Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road.

The Mount Vernon Adult Day Health Care Center is looking for social companions for participants on Fridays from 3-5 p.m. and front desk volunteers on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 11 a.m.-noon and 3:30-4:30 p.m. Located at 8350 Richmond Highway. For these and other volunteer opportunities call 703-324-5406 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults.

HOME LIFE STYLE

Thanksgiving Decor In the Era of Covid-19

Creating dining elegance
at a distance.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

Naomi Patterson's Thanksgiving table is usually set with linen dinner napkins, cleaned and starched, and her wedding china, ecru with a platinum border. The guests include her 88-year old mother and a host of cousins. This year, she's debating a change.

"My mother is healthy, but because of her age, I'm nervous about having her around other people, especially my cousins who are in college," said Patterson who lives in Bethesda. "I still want it to be nice and I want to maintain our traditions."

Like many families, Covid-19 and the resulting safety precautions have changed the way they will celebrate Thanksgiving. Elaborate feasts might be scaled down, moved outdoors or held virtually. Though the structure is different, style needn't be sacrificed.

"Shouldn't your dinner al fresco be just as lovely as the one you host in your formal dining room?"

— Anne Walker,
interior designer and owner of Farm and Feast

"Outdoor entertaining has been on the rise for a decade, but now more than ever outside is the place to be," said Potomac based designer Anne Walker of outdoor home accessories and design company Farm & Feast. "Whether you have a formal outdoor living room complete with stone fireplace and patio, or a balcony outside your apartment, or something in between, your Thanksgiving holiday will be most successful this year if you gather outside."

If the temperature is mild this year, a turkey dinner outdoors can allow one to achieve both elegance and safety.

"Shouldn't your dinner al fresco be just as lovely as the one you host in your formal dining room?" asks Walker. "What could be better than enjoying a cocktail and some wine and cheese en plein air?"

Durable and shatterproof serve wear is a must when dining outdoors, suggests Walker. "Enjoying hors d'oeuvres from a marble and wood rustic cheese board and wine from a silicone-wrapped outdoor wine glass will lift your spirits, as will wrapping yourself in an organic cotton throw to stave off the chill in the fall air," she said.

When setting an outdoor table, consider rustic accessories so that the design flows with the natural surroundings.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANNE WALKER

An al fresco Thanksgiving dinner can maintain safety without sacrificing elegance.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LISA QUEEN DESIGN

A traditional table setting can add warmth to virtual Thanksgiving celebration.

"Spray paint a fallen tree branch or tumbleweed in gold or a similar warm autumn tone and use it as a centerpiece, suggested Lisa Queen of Lisa Queen Design. "Nest it with candles, small pumpkins, and other soft decor to bring it to life."

Add warmth to a virtual celebration by using traditional table accessories. "We brought some additional character to our table by mixing antique brass napkin rings," said Queen. "Not everything needs to match, and this is one way to make a tablescape feel unique and curated."

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734 North St. Asaph Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

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Jeff Platenberg, Assistant Superintendent of Facilities and Transportation Services.



Elaine Tholen, Fairfax County School Board Member, Dranesville District



Megan McLaughlin, Fairfax County School Board Member, Braddock District



Dr. Scott Brabrand, Superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools



Leigh Burden, Assistant Superintendent Finance at Fairfax County Public Schools

Possible Funding Threat for FCPS

Number of students enrolled in Fairfax County Public Schools decreases 5 percent, nearly 9,000 fewer students.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
GAZETTE PACKET

Fall membership as of Sept. 30, 2020 at Fairfax County Public Schools declined by 8,859 students dipping to 180,151 compared to data recorded last year at the same time, according to Assistant Superintendent of Facilities and Transportation Services Jeff Platenberg. That could be a problem if the trend continues.

The Membership Trends Report, SY 2020-21, presented by Platenberg to the School Board on Nov. 4 found that division-wide total membership dropped 5 percent for SY 2020-21. Platenberg said changes in students enrolled occurred at all school levels with the most significant decline happening at the elementary level, dropping by 7,729 students. The information was part of the Virginia Department of Education Student Record Collection 2020-21 that is collected four times a year, Fall, Spring (through March 31), End-of-Year and Summer.

The student attendance counts are known as “average daily membership.” The drop could potentially put millions of dollars in basic aid funding by the state as well as County funding in jeopardy. Virginia’s public schools are financed through a combination of state, local and federal funds. The apportionment of state funds for public education is the responsibility of the Virginia General Assembly, through the Appropriations Act. General fund appropriations serve as partial state support augmented by retail sales and use tax revenues, state lottery proceeds, and other sources.

Elaine Tholen, Fairfax County School Board, Dranesville District, chaired the Nov. 4 work session. According to Tholen, understanding the County’s membership trends would be the initial driver and basis for the board’s considerations as it began its Capital Improvement Program (CIP) season that ran through February 2021. School capacity, program locations, capital planning and construction projects hinged on enrollment data. Tholen said, “This is for informational purposes.”

According to Membership Trends Report, SY 2020-21, three factors affected the change in total student membership. They were the birth to kindergarten ratio, net migration, which is the total of new students entering the school division added to those leaving the division, and the number of transfers within the division. Platenberg said he found the kindergarten membership decrease of 2,208 students “most interesting.” The birth to kindergarten ratio dropped from 87 percent to 75 percent. “That’s a significant decline worthy of note,” he said.

NET MIGRATION, which increased by 1,725 students in SY 2019-20, saw a decrease of 4,953 students in SY 2020-21. In other words, 6,678 more students withdrew from the division than entered. Whether or not the downward trend was temporary would depend on many factors, including the future course of the pandemic and economic conditions, according to the Trends Report.

While FCPS had an overall positive total number of transfers for SY 2020-21, 17,423, it decreased from the number of transfers for



Students return to in-person instruction at Fairfax County Public Schools.

SY 2019-20 at 19,385.

Student withdrawals over the summer, those students who were reported active in the Student Record Collection from the previous school year and did not return by Sept. 30, contributed to a negative net migration for SY 2020-21. Summer withdrawals increased to 12,317 from 8,893 students in SY 2019-20. Whereas the top three withdrawals reasons in 2019-20 were to attend other schools, in SY 2020-21, homeschooling skyrocketed to reason number three, increasing from 152 students to 1,584. Platenberg said, “This withdrawal information is particularly interesting given the pandemic.”

During discussion, Laura Jane Cohen, Springfield District School Board Member, said principals told her that families who had pulled their kindergarteners out of the county school system could come back to school on Nov. 16. “I’m hearing from folks who decided to delay enrolling their kindergarteners, and we’ll have them enrolled next year, which would cause massive fluctuations,” she said.

Platenberg said when the school system had “outliers,” it was best to proceed with caution and not make any drastic changes. “We

have staffing at the levels that were provided from the prior year. ... What we have seen [enrollment decrease] is an aberration,” he said.

Megan McLaughlin, Braddock District School Board Member, said the decrease in student enrollment, 8,859 fewer students, was “incredibly concerning. ... We’re talking not just about CIP impact but if my calculations are correct, that could be as much as \$132 million or more in estimated expenses and funding. What’s going to happen to our budget?”

Brabrand said he did not think the numbers at the elementary school level were going to stay that low. “Most of those people I believe will come back to FCPS.”

Trying to head off potential future budget losses at the state level as well as the county level if enrollment did not increase, McLaughlin asked Leigh Burden, Assistant Superintendent Department of Financial Services, “Are we just going to wait till next March to find out what the state might do?” McLaughlin called attention to possible public comment to lower County funding if Schools “usually get more money when there are more kids ... the inverse would be

then the expectation.”

Burden said the state had another opportunity to review enrollment data at the end of March. As for the County, they would not build their FY 22 budget based on an enrollment loss. “We believe that the current enrollment loss is temporary...We would plan to build our budget based on a flat enrollment from FY 21.”

IN AN INTERVIEW days after the session, State Sen. Jennifer Boisko (D-33) said, “There are no further education related amendments from the Governor that will be considered by the General Assembly this year... (Nov. 9) the Senate will be going back into session to consider other amendments to the budget and to the legislation passed in the Special Session. In Special Legislative Session, the General Assembly made a number of policy changes to provide more flexibility and support our local public schools. For example, understanding the drastic changes in the school attendance due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the General Assembly has delayed the mid-year adjustment to state payments based on ADM projections until after the final March 31 ADM is calculated.”

In the meantime, on Nov. 6, Fairfax County Federation of Teachers reported that Fairfax County’s COVID positivity rate was at 5.3 percent and questioned if the numbers were safe, posting: “Why is @FCPSsupt forcing staff back into schools right as our numbers worsen? @BostonSchools closed when they surpassed 4%.” Earlier that week, Arlington County Schools announced it was delaying plans for in-person learning, “a safety risk” wrote Superintendent Francisco Durán.

FCPS retweeted it will hire classroom monitors to assist students in the classroom while their teachers work virtually. “Earn \$15.42 per hour. High school diploma

SEE COUNTY SCHOOL, PAGE 14
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Army Museum Opens at Fort Belvoir

Virtual opening paves the way for socially-distanced visits, but tickets are required.

BY MIKE SALMON
GAZETTE PACKET

The rain and clouds on Veteran's Day, and the overcast of the pandemic, provided a solemn backdrop for the opening of the National Museum of the United States Army in Fort Belvoir. This museum is the first to tell the entire history of the nation's oldest military service, immersing visitors in the story of the U.S. Army through galleries, moving exhibits, a multisensory 300-degree theater, rooftop garden, and hundreds of historic treasures rarely or never-before-seen by the public eye.

"It showcases the history and traditions of the Army through the eyes of the American soldier," the museum narrator said. The purpose is to commemorate and educate.

Although the opening ceremony was limited due to an increase in COVID-19 cases across the country, the ceremony was virtual with participation from The Honorable Ryan D. McCarthy, Secretary of the Army; Gen. Mark A. Milley, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and Gen. James C. McConville, Chief of Staff of the Army.

The museum features a grand lobby that will be the site of many ceremonies in the future. Once inside the museum space, there are three parts – Soldiers Stories; Fighting for the Nation; and the Army and Society. There's a section called the "Medal of Honor Experience," that has recordings of soldier's accounts and descriptions of actions that earned the nation's high award. In addition, the museum has a learning center full of modern, high tech devices that acts as an "immersive learning space," the Army said. Then there's a theater with a 360-degree screen, showing the Army film called "Noble Deeds," most of the time, but it can show other films as well.

The U.S. Army has been collecting artifacts since 1814 when Congress passed a legislation directed at the Secretary of War, ordering that artifacts from the Army's actions be collected for learning and display purposes. Items on display include uniforms, a combat helmet from World War I, guns, tanks and helicopters, each with a description of how it was used to defend the nation.



Display featuring a 12-pounder Napoleon Gun



UH-1B Iroquois Helicopter that was used in Vietnam.



Museum director Tammy E. Call

The original plans had the museum opening on June 4, 2020, but the decision to postpone the opening was made in mid-April due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout the summer, a skeleton crew was on-site part of the time doing finishing work, and raising the flag in the morning. The Museum is now scheduled to be open every day except Dec. 25.

Free, timed-entry tickets are required and are available by request through the Museum's website at theNMUSA.org. Due to high demand, the Foundation encourages individuals to wait for their ticket confirmation before making travel plans.

The location of the museum is outside the main base, on a section of the Backlick Road that intersects with Richmond Highway. It is right across from Davison Airfield, an Army facility for helicopters and small airplanes.

To ensure visitors' safety from Covid, the Museum is preparing to follow Commonwealth, federal, and U.S. Army health guidelines. The Museum will promote social distancing by limiting the number of visitors in the building, offer 'grab and go' refreshments in the café, modify some of the interactive exhibits, and enhance cleaning procedures.

The Museum's construction was supported, in part, by the Army Historical Foundation's Campaign for the National Museum of the United States Army. Nearly 200,000 veterans, Army families, and grateful Americans have raised more than \$183 million towards the \$200 million campaign goal. The Foundation will continue the campaign as the Museum opens to the public. Those interested in supporting the campaign can visit ArmyHistory.org.

PHOTOS BY THE ARMY HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

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As Second Opinions Go ...



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

... it was first rate. A confirmation - of sorts that I have (and have had in all likelihood) thyroid cancer and not non small cell lung cancer. And I say 'sorts' because the medical records transferred did not include the original pathologist's report on the tissue sample taken in 2009 and not all the scans from the nearly 12 years of treatment either. Nevertheless, this second oncologist summarized my cancer as being thyroid; partially because I'm still alive. Generally speaking, lung cancer patients don't survive years beyond their prognosis. Addition by subtraction you might say. Unfortunately, lung cancer does what it does: grows, and when it doesn't, it's reason to consider another diagnosis. My primary oncologist had often said that the tumors in my lungs never acted as he had anticipated.

Good news then. Great news. I don't have the "terminal" cancer with which I was originally diagnosed. I guess that explains why I have lived so many years past the "13 month to two year" prognosis that I was initially given in late Feb., 2009. Rather than having an incurable disease: non small cell lung cancer stage IV, I now have papillary thyroid cancer stage IV. Hopefully, I will be able to live with it much as I had lived with the apparent lung cancer" day by day, scan to scan. However, the day to day stress may be less because the worst case is not necessarily a scenario that I have to anticipate. Granted, it's still cancer, and from what I was told, still incurable, but for the moment, very treatable. Surgery is likewise not an option and there is still medication - with side effects, that will remain part of my life, but there is life that remains. Moreover, there also remains regularly scheduled CT scans and lab work that will monitor my condition. And it is not until I receive the results from these diagnostic procedures that I can truly appreciate the change in my diagnosis.

It's not that I don't trust this second opinion, it's more that I've spent the last nearly 12 years thinking one way and changing how I think now after one 45-minute appointment is not quite how I can roll.

Besides, my thyroid cancer has metastasized to the lung. And though it has been slow moving, it has moved. And it is rare. At present, it is responding to the medication but there are no guarantees in the cancer business, and I will continue to live from one scan to the next. I am grateful to be out from underneath, apparently, this terrible weight of fear and inevitability. However, as a long-time cancer patient, I can't simply presume that life resumes as per usual, with per-usual being a pre-cancer-type life. Regardless of now being a thyroid cancer patient and not a non small cell lung cancer patient, I still am a cancer patient. As such, I still retain all the feelings and anxieties. I will still attend all the meetings, if you know what I mean? I can't simply disconnect or forget all that I've endured these past 11-plus years

And lo and behold, I have a CT scan this Wednesday. By the end of the week, I will likely learn if my newly diagnosed thyroid cancer is still responding to treatment or whether there is something rotten in Denmark (me being Denmark). Even though I have a new working diagnosis - thyroid cancer, which on the face of it, is much less serious, I can't approach my life any differently than I did before. Cancer is in charge, and until it tells me, so to speak, via scans and lab work, that it's OKAY to breath normally, I won't be able to. Now more than ever, almost, even with this new information, I can't forget where I've been and what I've been told. It was lung cancer once. Perhaps, it can be again. For the moment, I'm going to try and enjoy my new-found status. But with the incomplete medical records painting a less-than-definitive picture, I will go along with the second oncologist's assessment, but only from a distance. Unfortunately, having been told one thing before, and now being told another very different thing, doesn't change the facts on my ground. I still have cancer.

And it's still incurable. That problem remains.

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

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NEWS

County Police Chief Resigns

FROM PAGE 1

morale within the police department is the lowest that it has ever been."

"This is a public safety issue that must be addressed in order to ensure that our officers are performing at the highest level possible, and that we are retaining the highly skilled law enforcement professionals that we have invested so much time and resources in training," said Lusk.

The Fraternal Order of Police called for Roessler to resign after he condemned the actions of an officer who was charged with three counts of misdemeanor assault and battery after tasing a man in the Mount Vernon District.

"Bolster The Blue," a self-described conservative grassroots organization, held a press conference with Fairfax County GOP

to say that their efforts helped lead to Roessler's retirement.

Supervisor Pat Herrity said, "I want to start by thanking the Chief for his many years of service to the residents of Fairfax County. It has been a difficult time to serve in law enforcement. As we begin a new chapter in the history of our Police Department, we will need to find a leader that will address the needs of our officers, build on our legacy as a nationally respected and recognized department and keep at the forefront their primary mission — to protect and serve all residents of the county and keep us the safest jurisdiction of our size in the country. There is a lot of work still to be done and I am committed to working with the Board to address the many issues facing our officers and the department."

Business Update on the Coronavirus

FROM PAGE 5

register part-time or in a short-term, non-credit training program. <https://www.vccs.edu/rev/>

Restaurants & Outdoor Activities During Winter

Fairfax County has passed an ordinance to facilitate outdoor dining and fitness during colder months. The ordinance allows for businesses to have tents that are closed on one or more sides and adds provisions regarding the use of heaters.

With Governor Northam's COVID-19 Executive Orders still in effect, this action helps businesses encourage safer socially distanced, outdoor activity through a streamlined county process. The full county ordinance with the new closed tent allowance is available on page 52 of the board meeting agenda. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/boardofsupervisors/sites/boardofsupervisors/files/assets/meeting-materials/2020/board/oct20-revised-board-package.pdf>

PPP Forgiveness Applications Not Due Oct. 31

SBA forms 3508, 3508EZ, and 3508S displaying an expiration date of '10/31/2020' in the upper-right corner have caused some confusion among business owners regarding when to apply for PPP forgiveness; however, that date only refers to the form and not to the loan process.

According to SBA guidance, borrowers may submit a loan forgiveness application any time before the maturity date of the loan and loan payments are deferred only until 10 months after the last day of each borrower's loan forgiveness covered period.

Outbreaks in Schools Dashboard

Virginia has started a "coronavirus outbreaks in schools" dashboard to help inform local communities about the impact of COVID-19 in K-12 schools.

This dashboard lists public and private K-12 schools that are currently experiencing or have experienced a COVID-19 outbreak and can help employers know how to support their employees through this difficult time. <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/outbreaks-in-school-settings/>

Coronavirus Vaccine

While drug companies are receiving positive results on vaccines for the coronavirus, it is important to also know that Virginia has allocated \$22 million received in federal CARES Act funds to distribute vaccines once they are approved for public use.

The Virginia Department of Health submitted a draft vaccination plan to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention earlier in October for review. VDH is currently collecting information on health care providers who intend to administer a Covid-19 vaccine when it becomes available.

County School Population Drops

FROM PAGE 12

or equivalent experience required." Work would be paid hourly with no benefits.

FCPS continued its gradual return to school under concurrent instruction seeking to bring back small cohorts of vulnerable students, young children, those with disabilities, English learner newcomers and high school career back to in-person instruction. Pilot studies were underway at eleven schools. According to FCPS Family Guide for 2020-21 Return to School, in this model, students receive two days of teacher-led instruction in the school building and two

days of teacher-led instruction at home. "Concurrent instruction maximizes teacher-led instruction (two days in person, two days virtual) by allowing in-person students to "log into" class on at-home days. Teacher-led concurrent instruction is the best instructional model for our in-person students."

FCPS continued its plans for early Head Start, PreK and Kindergarten, students with intensives support need and deaf/hard of hearing to return on Nov. 16 and students in grades 1-2 and those at specialized career centers to return on Nov. 30.

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