

The Strange Career of Felon Disenfranchisement

Amendment targets Jacksonian-era restriction weaponized during Jim Crow.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Felons have been prohibited from voting in Virginia since 1830, when the “right to suffrage” was denied “to any person convicted of any infamous offense.” But it was during the era of Jim Crow that felon disenfranchisement became weaponized to prevent Black voters from influencing elections. The Constitution of 1902 disenfranchised Virginians convicted of “treason or of any felony, bribery, petit larceny, obtaining money or property under false pretenses, embezzlement, forgery or perjury.” Now, more than a century later, lawmakers are considering a constitutional amendment stripping felon disenfranchisement from the Virginia Constitution.

“This is something I’ve been fighting for ever since I’ve been in the General Assembly,” said House Majority Leader Charniele Herring of Alexandria, who was first elected in 2009. “Once someone has served their time, they have the civil right to come back fully and exercise their right to vote.”

Herring introduced House Joint Resolution 555, which would restore the right to vote for convicted felons upon “com-



Election officials check poll tax records at an Arlington precinct in 1944.

pletion of his sentence of imprisonment.” If lawmakers approve the resolution this year, that would be the first step in a long process. Members of the next General Assembly would have to approve identical language next year after the election this fall. Then voters would have to approve the amend-

ment in November 2022. Gov. Ralph Northam identified this as one of his top priorities in his State of the Commonwealth address last month.

“Virginia is one of just a few remaining states where, if you have a felony conviction, someone has to act to restore your civil rights

to vote or run for office,” said Northam. “It’s not automatic, but it should be.”

THE ROOTS OF felon disenfranchisement go back to the age of Jackson, when the dominance of the ruling elite was threatened by calls for expanding electorate to universal white male suffrage.

“Once someone has served their time, they have the civil right to come back fully and exercise their right to vote.”

— House Majority Leader
Charniele Herring

Virginia responded by calling for a constitutional convention, which met at the Capitol from October 1829 to January 1830. The convention rejected extending the vote to all free white males, although delegates extended the franchise to long-term leaseholders and male heads of household.

The right to suffrage was denied to “any person of unsound mind, or who shall be a pauper, or a non-commissioned officer, soldier, seaman or marine, in the service of the United States, or by any person convicted of any infamous offence.”

“These exclusions were directed specifically at those
SEE THE STRANGE. ON PAGE 8

Queen Bee’s Priebe Victim of Car Theft

Police investigate incident during gas stop in Old Town.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

It was Super Bowl Sunday and Allison Priebe had her hands full with things to do. The local business owner was participating in the Walkable Warehouse Sale in Old Town but first needed to fill her car with gas.

Stopping at a gas station she had used many times in the past, Priebe had just begun pumping gas when a man jumped into her car and drove away, stealing her car, purse, phone, computer, coats, jewelry and the receipts from the warehouse sale.

“I am covered in gasoline and extremely shaken up,” Priebe said

in a Facebook post detailing the incident.

Priebe stood stranded at the gas station with an empty feeling that has left her forever changed.

“I have been laying extremely low since the incident,” Priebe said. “I do not think I will be able to pump my own gas for a while. I’m extremely shaken up and feel very raw and violated.”

The Alexandria Police Department is conducting a stolen vehicle investigation into the incident, which took place at the Liberty Gas and Auto Service Center in the 700 block of S. Patrick Street.

It was just after 1 p.m. on Feb. 7 when Priebe’s vehicle, a white 2017 Lexus GS400, was stolen.



Allison Priebe in Queen Bee Designs, recounting her car theft experience.

A suspect accessed the vehicle through an unlocked door. Priebe was not injured during the incident.

Priebe noted that the employees of the gas station seemed undisturbed by the incident, almost treating it like an everyday occurrence. They did call 911 and police responded immediately.

According to the Alexandria Police Department, the suspects were spotted operating a black 2018-2021 Mazda 6 with Maryland temporary tags. Security cameras captured images of the suspects using Priebe’s credit card in Prince George’s County.

The police department advises drivers to avoid leaving vehicles

unattended and to always lock the doors and keep the keys in hand when pumping gas. Priebe is going to heed to that advice, and a little bit more.

“I think for the immediate future I will ask for my partner to pump my gas or at least ask someone to come with me,” Priebe added.

Priebe is the owner of Queen Bee Designs, a local gift store, and was in the middle of her biggest sale of the year.

“I can’t tell you how devastating this was for me both personally and professionally,” she said.

Her bad luck did not end with the theft of her car.

On Valentine’s Day, Priebe broke
SEE QUEEN BEE’S. PAGE 9

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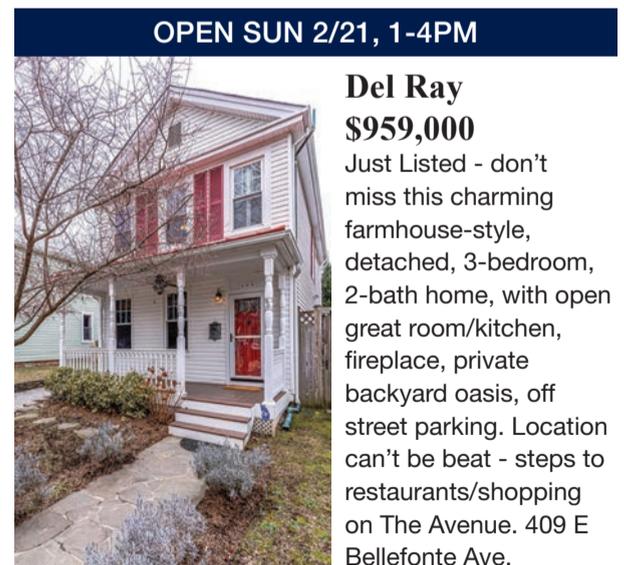
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Inspiring Young People in Creative Learning Activities

Fairfax Symphony named a Dominion ArtStar.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

With more than five decades as an honored symphony, Fairfax Symphony Orchestra (FSO) adds 2021 Dominion Energy ArtStar to its accolades. FSO received the ArtStar award for its innovative music-learning program, “Link Up,” in partnership with Carnegie Hall. The award was received at the Virginia Commission for the Arts “Art Works for VA” virtual conference.

FSO was one of five organizations from Virginia that received the ArtStars award for inspiring people in creative endeavors. The organizations represent Virginia organizations with annual operating budgets under \$1 million. Each received a \$10,000 grant to support their winning arts or cultural education program.

“These organizations show ways the creative spirit continues to thrive – whether through outdoor, virtual or digital programming,” said Hunter A. Applewhite, president of the Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation. “Virginia is very fortunate to have these talented organizations.”

“The Virginia Commission for the Arts (VCA) congratulates all the ArtStars Award recipients, including the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra,” said Janet Starke, Executive Director, VCA. “This award affirms the good work being done by the FSO, and their peers from across the state.”

Developed by the Weill Music Institute at Carnegie Hall, FSO’s “Link Up” program provides a unique opportunity for students



Students in Fairfax Symphony Orchestra “Link Up” 2019 music program.



Fairfax Symphony Orchestra Bassist Aaron Clay.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF FAIRFAX SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA.

Where and When

To learn more about the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra partnership with the Carnegie Hall “Link Up” program and other Fairfax Symphony education programs, visit www.fairfaxsymphony.org. Additional support for the Fairfax Symphony “Link Up” program provided by ArtsFairfax, The Rea Charitable Trust, and the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation.

in Grades 3-5 to come together for a shared cultural experience.

“We are thrilled and honored to be a Dominion ArtStar in recognition of our work to serve teachers and students by implementing

our much-needed “Link Up” education program virtually this year,” said Jonathan Kerr, Executive Director, FSO. “Our commitment to our community is stronger than ever, only strengthened by the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. By sharing our concerts and education programs virtually, we are filling a critical need for quality arts programs to entertain, educate, inspire, sustain, and unite the communities we serve. This prestigious award furthers our work to provide unique, innovative, and uplifting arts experiences for thousands in Fairfax County and across our region.”

For Aaron Clay, “as a bassist, who performs both classical music and jazz, I’m particularly excited to be part of the FSO “Link Up” program. It’s wonderful to see students exploring what happens when jazz and classical music come together. Studying composers including Florence Price, Duke Ellington, Leonard Bernstein, George Gershwin, and Courtney Bryan, students are learning concepts of rhythm, form, improvisation, and communication and how they contribute to that magical moment in the orchestra when jazz and classical music comes together to really “swing!”

2021 Virtual Fairfax County Teen Job and Opportunity Fairs: Signup Begins Feb. 1

For the past few years Supervisor Pat Herrity’s office, Fairfax County Public Schools and Connection Newspapers, along with Supervisors’ offices, businesses, and community organizations including our local chambers, have hosted very successful teen job fairs and career-building workshops. These events focused on students and young job seekers looking for a variety of em-

ployment opportunities; full time, after-school, seasonal positions, internship opportunities, and volunteer positions.

The fairs have provided thousands of teenagers the opportunity to get in front of employers and for our employers to find talented Fairfax County students to fill their positions.

This year Herrity is once again teaming up with Connection Newspapers, Fairfax County Public

Schools, community chambers and organizations and fellow Board members to bring our community two Fairfax County Teen Job Fairs and Career-Building Workshops. Normally, there are 5-6 fairs at local high schools. With the limitations of the ongoing pandemic, this year’s fairs will be hosted virtually through Brazen, a professional virtual job fair platform. The virtual fairs are scheduled for Saturday, March 13, 2-5 p.m. and Saturday,

March 20, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The fairs will be open to all teens in Fairfax County looking for employment, volunteer opportunities, or tips on building their resume. Free online booth space will be provided to businesses and organizations to advertise their available positions. We will also host resume and career building sessions with our Chamber of Commerce partners.

Beginning Feb. 1, students as

well as employers can register to attend at this link, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/teen-jobfairs.

First jobs are important, and these events help connect teens with employers and prepare our youth for the workforce. This year especially, students and employers are desperate for opportunities provided by the fair with the hope that some normalcy will begin this summer.

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/FEB. 20

Integrating Stormwater Management in Landscape Design. 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Ecosavvy Symposium from Green Spring Gardens. Learn innovative techniques to capture, store and redirect rainwater. Online event. Visit the website: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring/ecosavvy-symposium/022021>

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

FARMERS MARKET VENDORS STILL DELIVERING

McCutcheon/Mt. Vernon Farmers Market won’t reopen until April 21, but in the meantime some of the market’s vendors are taking orders online and delivering them to the Sherwood Hall Library parking lot on Wednesdays. Note that you must order in advance and that not all the vendors deliver every week. The vendors making deliveries are:

Arnest Seafood – crab cakes, scallops, shrimp, rockfish, oysters and more;
Honey Brook Farms - meats and vegetables raised with no chemicals, gluten-free baked goods;
Misty Meadow Farm Creamery - milk, ice cream, cheese, eggs and meats;
Twin Springs Orchard - fruits, vegetables, cheese and more;
Valentine’s Bakery & Meats - meats and baked goods.
The Fairfax County Park Authority, which operates the Mt. Vernon Farmers Market, has no

connection to the deliveries. The market, with a full array of vendors, will resume on April 21 and take place every Wednesday from 8 a.m. to noon at the Sherwood Hall Regional Library through December 22.

METRORAIL SERVICE MODIFICATIONS

The City of Alexandria is sharing information on construction activity and modifications to Metrorail Blue and Yellow Line service

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 7

Finding Solutions in the General Assembly

BY SEN. SCOTT SUROVELL
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

(D-36)

Both the Senate of Virginia and the House of Delegates have released proposed budgets and we will vote on the budget soon. We are also working to resolve some complex bills and to accelerate vaccinations.

Vaccination Progress

Health care providers have administered over 1.2 million covid-19 vaccinations in Virginia as of Feb. 12, nine of ten available first doses. As of last week, that means that Virginia ranked seventh among states as a proportion of our population.

The state also announced a unified vaccination scheduling system although Fairfax County chose to opt out. Virginia is now receiving 129,000 doses per week which is up 23 percent from our initial allocation. We have also expanded the vaccination program to 36 CVS drugstores around the state. We expect the pace to pick up once the Food and Drug Administration approves the new single-shot vaccines.

Back to School, River Farm, Mason Neck

On Wednesday, both chambers announced amendments to our two-year budget. Fortunately, revenues have been better than anticipated. The Senate budget includes a three percent raise for teachers and a requirement that school systems hold in-person instruction during the 2021-22 school year. We also included language to prevent local school systems from losing funding if families have removed their children from the public schools.

Sen. Adam Ebbin and Del. Paul Krizek secured funding in both the Senate and House budgets to provide at least \$2 million to help purchase River Farm.

My \$1.6 million amendment to fund a public water connection for Mason Neck State Park was accepted. Delegate Kathy Tran secured the same provision in the House which is promising.

Managing Criminal Records

Because the minority (Republicans) refused to extend our "short" session to 46 days, we had to formally move legislation from the



Surovell

regular session to the special session. This forced us to take two days off which gave us some additional time to collaborate to resolve some important disputes. On Tuesday, I met in the Governor's Office with approximately ten legislators and the Governor's policy staff to resolve an impasse on the expungement or sealing of convictions and records relating to certain dismissals of criminal charges.

I am very optimistic that we will be able to announce a compromise that will provide hope to the 1.6 million Virginians who have a misdemeanor or felony conviction but served their sentence and have long since moved on and led law-abiding lives. Enacting this bill will help people move beyond their past and support their families, and will also give employers a bigger pool of employees.

The Senate also accepted my amendment that requires Virginia's Compensation Board to revamp staffing formulas for the state's Commonwealth's attorneys. Today, staffing is determined solely based on felony counts indicted and convictions obtained which incentiviz-

es prosecutors to overcharge and over convict people. My amendment will set new standards.

The Senate also agreed to increase and retain about \$35 million that I requested to fund the computer infrastructure necessary to facilitate the expungement and sealing reforms, and my initiative to expand the Court of Appeals of Virginia by seven judges. Virginia is the only state in America in which litigants do not have a right of appeal after a civil or criminal case and more judges are necessary to help with the new cases.

Our budget also prioritizes \$136 million to extend rail service to the New River Valley in southwest Virginia. This means you might be able to take a train to Virginia Tech in Blacksburg soon. The budget also reallocates \$3.9 million per year saved from abolishing capital punishment to a public defender office for Chesterfield County and new public defender appellate positions. A public defender will help provide thousands of people with enhanced legal defense instead of just a handful of people.

Please continue to respond to my constituent survey at www.scottsuovell.org/survey. It is an honor to serve as your state senator.

General Assembly at Crossover

BY DEL. PAUL KRIZEK
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

This last year has been called "historic" and "unprecedented". Most of the use of these adjectives was pejorative and used in the negative, referring to the various crises our nation has faced and continues to face. Today, I write using these two words in the positive to describe the many important actions Virginia has taken in this session. Indeed, upon this session's conclusion, Virginia will very likely lead the south in the legalization of recreational marijuana, the abolition of the death penalty, and enhancing LGBTQ+ protections. These and our other legislative victories are unprecedented and historic, and they will make the lives of Virginians safer, more equitable, and even more fun.

The resolution to amend sections of the Virginia Constitution regarding the prohibition of same-sex marriage that is in direct conflict with current federal constitutional law has passed the House, and will likely receive bipartisan

support in the Senate. This bill is mostly symbolic, as same-sex marriage is legal federally due to the Supreme Court ruling in Obergefell v. Hodges, but this will fix the bigoted language that was put into the Virginia Constitution just 15 years ago. It will still need to pass again next year and then go to a referendum as do all proposed amendments to the Virginia Constitution.

Virginia is second only to Texas in the number of prisoners executed since 1976. Executions are incredibly expensive, do not deter violent crime, and are disproportionately carried out on black and brown men. There have been many executions nationwide of innocent people who were convicted before the widespread use of DNA evidence that could have been used to exonerate them. Abolition of the death penalty will not bring back the lives lost, but it will place Virginia on the right side of morality and save the Commonwealth millions of dollars in court costs.



Krizek

On Monday, we voted to move the rest of the legislation, including the budget bill, to be considered in the special session. Even with the seven bill cap on legislation introduced on both sides, we could not get through all of them before the original 30-day deadline. I am grateful Governor Northam called for the special session that began last Wednesday because now we can give these bills the full consideration, discussion and deliberation that they, and the public, deserve.

The legislation I introduced has fared well this session — six of my seven bills have made it from the House floor to the Senate. Almost all passed the House with bipartisan support, some overwhelmingly so. All these bills have either passed the Senate or are before Senate committees. My staff and I have worked hard to meet with stakeholders and constituents to perfect these bills, and I look forward to working with the Senate to pass legislation to protect fire-

fighters and pollinators, save taxpayer money, improve upon last year's casino legislation, and increase opportunities for working Virginians.

In addition, several pieces of legislation I am a Chief Copatron on have passed through the General Assembly and are on their way to the Governor's desk. These include Del. David Bulova's resolution HJ SEE GENERAL, PAGE 7

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PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



A volunteer looks over boxes of donated goods during the Alive! housewares donation day Feb. 6 at Fairlington United Methodist Church.



St. Stephen's & St. Agnes student Kylie Payne accepts donations at the Feb. 6 Alive! housewares donation day at Fairlington United Methodist Church.

Sweet Home Alexandria

Alive! collects housewares for those in need.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE GAZETTE

Alive! collected dozens of boxes of new and gently used housewares during a drive-by donation day Feb. 6 at Fairlington United Methodist Church.

"We are collecting housewares for the first time since the pandemic started," said Alive! board member Gerry Hebert. "We haven't really been able to do this before now but decided to do it outdoors, physically distance and practice safe mask wearing by everybody."

Housewares were collected by volunteers in the

church parking lot on King Street. Items will be distributed to Alexandrians who may be in their first home, transitioning from homelessness, or unable to afford basic household items.

"We have so many people in need," Hebert said. "When people move from a shelter into public housing or public assistance housing, they often just come with the clothes on their back. They need basic housewares like sheets and pillowcases and towels and dishes. Those are the things that make a true home out of an empty apartment."

Kylie Payne, a student at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes, volunteered helping unload donations during the event.

"I love helping and organizing things like this," Payne said. "It's satisfying seeing how much we can collect for people in need."

www.alive-inc.org

Nominations Open To Celebrate Women

2021 awards to honor women on front lines of pandemic.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE GAZETTE

Nominations are now open for the 2021 Alexandria Celebrates Women Awards. The organization is looking to focus on those who have worked or volunteered on the front lines during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We have been inspired for centuries by women who stepped up and led the way in Alexandria," said organizer Pat Miller. "This past year, many women have worked and volunteered an exceptional number of hours on the front lines – delivering mail and packages, ensuring our food supply, teaching our children, caring for our health and safety, and many other ef-

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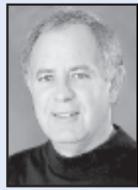
orts helping the Alexandria community battle COVID-19. We want to honor those unsung heroes."

Alexandria Celebrates Women will host the first Celebrate Women Awards Monday, March 29. The Women's History Month awards ceremony will replace the Alexandria Commission for Women's annual Salute to Women. The free online event will highlight five women through biographical videos.

To nominate someone for outstanding contributions to the community during the pandemic, visit www.alexandriacelebrateswomen.com. Nominees must live or work in Alexandria and nominations close at midnight March 15.

Alexandria Celebrates Women is a volunteer 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established to recognize the history of Alexandria's heroines while celebrating the empowerment of Alexandria's modern woman.





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SOLD



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SOLD



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SOLD



Alex/Riverside Estates **\$736,000**
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For more information: www.RexReiley.com

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MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE ❖ FEBRUARY 18-24, 2021 ❖ 5

Off the Menu: Restaurant News and Notes

By HOPE NELSON
GAZETTE PACKET

New eateries, renovated restaurants, decade-old breweries and wine with felines: It's just another month in Alexandria's food and drink scene.

La Fiamma to Open at Former Paradiso Location

The venerable Paradiso is getting a new look – and a new name – when La Fiamma opens to customers this week. The family business has made its way to Melina

and Gonzalo Pardo, who are looking to put their own stamp on the restaurant and its offerings. From grilled specials (think rack of lamb or Bistecca piccolina) to chicken, eggplant or veal Parmesan to an array of fish entrees to a dozen pasta options, La Fiamma is opening up strong. 6124 Franconia Road.

Port City Brewing Turns 10

In a blink of an eye, a decade has zoomed past since Port City Brewing first opened its doors in an unassuming building on Wheeler Avenue.

Earlier this month, the brewery celebrated its tenth birthday with a rollout of its Colossal X barley-wine-style ale and – in this most unusual time – a video from Port City staff and dignitaries to celebrate from a distance. 3950 Wheeler Ave.

ESP Tea and Coffee Opens on King Street

After Killer ESP closed its doors amid much drama last year, it was unclear what might happen with the cozy coffee shop space. Turns out – a new coffee shop, under new ownership, has moved in to

take its place. Tech entrepreneur Erik Muendel's new shop takes the best of the old Killer ESP and has added his own twists in the form of new tea offerings and more. 1012 King St.

Mount Purrnon Keeps the Party Going

Two months after obtaining its liquor license, Mount Purrnon has settled into its full role as Cat Café + Wine Bar with a plethora of events celebrating both felines and festive beverages.

From chocolate and wine pairings for Valentine's Day to a

Purresident's Day wine tasting to a regular "Jeopardy!" event (hint: the next one is this week, Feb. 18), the café has embraced its full identity. What's more: In February's spirit of love and friendship, adopting a bonded pair of cats from Mount Purrnon will only cost \$100 this month, as opposed to the usual \$250. Love is in the air! 109 S. Alfred St.

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

MARCH 29 (MONDAYS)

Yoga for Gardeners I. 9:30-10:30 a.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (Adults) This class features a gentle introduction to the Vinyasa method, which helps participants increase the strength, flexibility and endurance necessary for gardening. \$129 per person for 11 sessions. Class held indoors. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes (code 6E6.JNLA) or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

SATURDAYS THRU MARCH

Virtual Pure Barre. 1:30-2:30 p.m. Virtual via Zoom. Pure Barre has again partnered with the National Landing BID to bring free virtual classes to the community. Visit the website: <https://nationallanding.org/do/virtual-pure-barre-intro-classes>

THURSDAYS THRU

MARCH 11

Happy Hour Yoga. 5:30-6:30 p.m. Virtual via WebEx. The National Landing BID has partnered with Erin Sonn, owner of eat.YOGA.drink, to bring unique yoga experiences to you virtually. This free, hour-long class will have a different theme and playlist each week and requires registration. Visit the website: <https://nationallanding.org/do/happy-hour-yoga>

NOW THRU MARCH 24

Wednesday Morning Study Group. 10:30-11:30 a.m. Via zoom. Fairlington UMC 3900 King St., Alexandria. Join in a nine-week study of Laudato Si: Caring for Our Common Home, the groundbreaking encyclical letter by Pope Francis on climate issues and a Christian faith-based response. Visit the website: www.fairlingtonumc.org.

FEB. 1-25

Hunt for Washington. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. In Alexandria. A fun and challenging game to uncover

clues about Alexandria and George Washington. The Hunt, which should take about 60-90 minutes to complete, will take you to places in Old Town

Alexandria associated with the General. Start by printing the Clue Sheet at <http://washingtonbirthday.com/events-1>, and bring it with you as you traverse the heart of Old Town and then use your sleuthing skills to find answers to the clues. Submit your findings to GWBirthdayEvents@gmail.com before the end of the day on February 25. George Washington himself announce prize winners from a drawing of correct clue sheets during the February 26 Webinar, "The Life of George Washington in 4 Acts" (see www.washingtonbirthday.com). Visit the website: www.washingtonbirthday.com.

FEB. 1-26

Dreams and Nightmares. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. At Gallery Underground, 2120 Crystal Drive, Arlington. National Juried Show, compelling artworks on the theme of Dreams and Nightmares, pieces chosen from all over the country. From the beautiful and sublime to the dark and twisted. Featuring artwork by Colleen Smith, Peter Hargreaves and Lindsay Cronk. Visit the website: <https://galleryunderground.org/>

FEB. 5-27

In the "After Edward Hopper: Themes of Solitude and Isolation" exhibit, artists present their interpretations of what makes Hopper's imagery quintessentially American: perseverance, fortitude, diversity, and an egalitarian spirit in spite of adversity, impoverishment, and social injustice. This exhibit expresses the anthem of a new dawn: still we rise as one, stronger together. Runs February 5-27, 2021 at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria VA. Details: www.DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

FRIDAYS IN FEBRUARY

The Life of George Washington in Four Acts. 7-8 p.m. Virtual. Join George Washington every Friday in February as he discusses his life during various periods of his life and engages the audience. Cost

is \$20 admission per event. Visit WashingtonBirthday.com for the full program. Tickets are available at <https://shop.alexandriava.gov/Events.aspx>.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 17

Flying Squirrels Talk. 7-9 p.m. Via Zoom. The Friends of Dyke Marsh will present a talk on line by naturalist Kim Young from Fairfax County Park Authority's Hidden Oaks Nature Center. The rodents are likely quite common in some habitats in Northern Virginia. She will explore their often-hidden life, how to look for them, how to attract them to your backyard, their adaptations for nocturnal living and their ability to "fly." Register at info@fodm.org for this meeting, to be held on Zoom. Visit the website: www.fodm.org

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 17

Lecture: Hidden in Plain Sight: Moss Kendrix and the Enterprise to Sell Black Citizenship. 7 p.m. Virtual. Dr. Brenna Wynn Greer will trace how Black public relations guru Moss Hyles Kendrix enlisted white corporate America in a campaign to redefine black citizenship after World War II. Dr. Greer will also examine how Kendrix and his work—so visible and so important in the early Cold War era—was almost lost to us. Dr. Greer is Associate Professor of History at Wellesley College. To purchase lecture tickets, visit AlexandriaVa.Gov/Shop.

SATURDAY/FEB. 20

Art League's Patrons' Show. 2-8 p.m. At 105 North Union Street (Studio 21 in the Torpedo Factory Art Center, Alexandria. The Patrons' Show is the League's biggest fundraising event of the year and offers seasoned and new art collectors an opportunity to select from over 600 works of original fine art donated by Art League and Torpedo Factory artists.

For each ticket drawn, ticket holders acquire artwork valued anywhere from \$225 to thousands of dollars. The Patrons' Show is now open for viewing during regular Gallery hours: Wednesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday noon to 5 p.m.

SUNDAY/FEB. 21

Doug Tallamy and Nature's Best Hope. 1:30-2:30 p.m. Virtual meeting. Global insect declines and three billion fewer birds in North America are a bleak reality check about how ineffective our current landscape designs have been at sustaining the plants and animals that sustain us. Doug Tallamy discusses simple steps that we can take to reverse declining biodiversity and explains why we, ourselves, are nature's best hope. Register with code IOO.JJ8. Virtual programs will be conducted via Microsoft Teams or Zoom. A link will be emailed to registered participants prior to the program. \$10 per person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes using the program code, or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

FEB. 24 TO MARCH 24

Forty+ Fire Pit Party. Virtual and In-Person. Featuring: Choreographer Jane Franklin. Dates: Wednesday, weekly, Feb 24 - March 24; from 3 - 4 p.m. and Sunday, March 21; from 4 - 8 p.m. Forty+ Projects celebrate the collective creativity of people past the age of 40 resulting in unique collaboration. Projects explore movement and performance technique within a creative premise. Forty+ will meet weekly on Zoom with occasional in-person, socially distanced outdoor rehearsals at the film locations. The Fire Pit Party is an on-site filmed project in the Alcova Heights neighborhood of Arlington County. Dances will travel through the neighborhood, from one fire pit to the next, and involve participants of all ages. Tuition: \$100. Visit <https://www.janefranklin.com/adult-dance/forty-plus> or call 703-933-1111.

THURSDAY/FEB. 25

RiverRenew Listening Session. 6-8 p.m. Virtual event. Discover how AlexRenew is building for the future of Alexandria's waterways at a virtual Community Listening Session. Learn more about RiverRenew and meet the design-build team. Register in advance: RiverRenew.com/listening-sessions

THURSDAY/FEB. 25

Voices of Woodlawn: A Reckoning by 4

Poets of America's Slave-Holding Past. 12-1 p.m. Virtual event. Hosted by the Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, Alexandria. In Voices of Woodlawn, four poets give voice to the erased lives of the enslaved at Woodlawn, a Fairfax, Virginia former plantation that is now a historic site. Maryland Poets Diane Wilbon Parks, Patrick Washington, Sylvia Dianne "Ladi Di" Beverly and Hiram Larew confront the sadness, anger, injustice, and confusion of such a past and its haunting legacy.

They are joined by poet and harmonica player, Cliff Bernier, in a powerful program of witness. Visit the website: <http://www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org/voices-of-woodlawn>

THURSDAY/FEB. 25

Breaking Down the Wall of Slavery at Carlyle House. 7 p.m. Via Zoom. Join Maddy McCoy of the Slavery Inventory Database virtually for a discussion on how the enslaved individuals and families at Carlyle House were identified. Maddy will also discuss the importance of identifying and telling a historic site's full story. Tickets can be purchased at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/breaking-down-the-wall-of-slavery-at-carlyle-house-tickets-139736187699>

THE BIRCHMERE

Fri. Feb. 26: TYGRESSA SINGS NATALIE – Remembering Natalie Cole \$29.50
Sat. Feb. 27: TUSK – The World's #1 Tribute to Fleetwood Mac \$35.00
Sun. Feb. 28: JC COLE & FOLSOM '68: Tribute to Johnny Cash, with special guest REDD VOLKAERT \$29.50
Thu. Mar. 4: HIGH NOON: A Tribute to Lynyrd Skynyrd & Southern Rock \$25.00

All shows are at 7:30pm, unless otherwise noted. Tickets available at Ticketmaster.com. Contact The Birchmere at 703-549-7500 or www.Birchmere.com.

General Assembly at Crossover

FROM PAGE 4

527 to establish a workgroup to study the sale and use of invasive plant species in the Commonwealth, and Del. Jones' HB 2207 which establishes that Covid-19 causing the death or disability of firefighters, emergency medical services personnel, law-enforcement officers, and correctional officers is an occupational disease compensable under the Workers' Compensation Act.

Many of my proposed budget amendments made it into the House version of the budget including \$2 million to assist in the purchase of River Farm, \$1 million to increase enforcement of unlawful direct shipment of alcoholic beverages into Virginia, funding for the Department of Environmental Quality for a field test of the

effectiveness of certain plantings to remove road salt from impervious surface stormwater runoff, and supporting Del. Mark Sickles' leadership to bring \$500,000 from the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families block grant for our local charity, United Community. Public parks improve the lives of the people who live near them, and I believe that the historic River Farm needs to be protected for the public good. Unlicensed alcohol shipments negatively impact lawful Virginia businesses and reduce the Commonwealth's tax revenue from these products. Groundwater quality impacts the health of the environment and the public. I hope that the Senate will agree that these amendments will make life better for all Virginians and that they make it into the final budget.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 3

impacting Alexandria travelers between Saturday, February 13 and Sunday, May 23. Work scheduled during this period will result in significant station infrastructure improvements as part of WMATA's Platform Improvement Project; upgrades to signal and power systems along the Blue Line; and installation of the Potomac Yard Metrorail Station pedestrian bridge.

FEBRUARY 13 THROUGH MAY 23: Metro will temporarily suspend service along the Blue Line to facilitate work associated with the Platform Improvement Project. The Arlington Cemetery station will be closed for platform reconstruction and the installation of more energy-efficient LED lighting, slip-resistant tiles and new digital signage to improve customer communication. The Addison Road station on the Blue Line in Maryland will also be closed for similar improvements. Metro is providing free shuttle buses between the Pentagon, Arlington Cemetery and Rosslyn stations for riders. Travel between Northern Virginia and Washington, D.C. is available on the Yellow Line via the Pentagon, and the Orange or Silver Lines via the Rosslyn station.

BEGINNING TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16: Metro will begin running a temporary extension of Yellow Line service in Northern Virginia that travels to the Van Dorn St. and Franconia-Springfield stations. This additional train service will originate at the Mt. Vernon Square station, then follow the Yellow Line to the King St.-Old Town station, and deviate onto rail serving the Van Dorn St. and Franconia-Springfield stations. Service along this Yellow Line extension will be limited to Monday through Friday until the track work impacting the Franconia-Springfield and Van Dorn St. stations is complete.

TUESDAY/MARCH 16

Mount Vernon Genealogical Meeting. 1-3 p.m. Via Zoom. The internet has changed the way we do genealogy. Does this make books, CDs and microfiche, obsolete? Join the MV Genealogical Society's March

meeting and let Chuck Mason, Jr., host of Channel 10's Tracing Your Family Roots, walk you through the benefits of using all of these sources. Nonmembers are welcome to one event each year free of charge. Register by March 12 by emailing contact-us@mvgenealogy.org.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia is accepting applications for college scholarships for the 2021 - 2022 school year. Eligible students include high school seniors, undergraduates, and graduate students in Northern Virginia. Community Foundation manages 12 scholarships and administers the funds for 18 other scholarships that support Northern Virginia students pursuing undergraduate and graduate degrees. The applications for scholarships are due by 5 p.m. on April 2, 2021. To learn more about each scholarship opportunity and to apply visit: cfnova.org/grants-and-scholarships.

COVID UPDATES

Quick Facts for Older Adults about COVID-19 Vaccine Appointments
Vaccine eligibility is occurring in phases per the CDC and Virginia Department of Health. More information about vaccine rollout in Fairfax can be found at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/covid19.

As more vaccine becomes available, there will be more options where to access it. In the future, you will likely be able to access vaccine via your doctor, a health clinic or pharmacy.

It takes two doses. Follow the directions of your vaccine provider to schedule your second dose.

One caregiver can attend a vaccine appointment with their loved one. Vaccine-eligible people can register for appointments online or over the phone (no need to do both).

Online: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/covid19. Click on "Vaccination" at the top of the page and you will see registration information. After your registration is accepted, a

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 9

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Obituary

Obituary

Obituary

Celebrating Our "Happily Ever After"

A Tribute to Ravi Panth
April 13, 1952-January 28, 2021

February 2021

Dearest Ravi,

When we met February 14, 1991, we never imagined the incredible journey we would start together. It all began, the night before Valentine's Day, when my neighbor, who was about 75 at that time, had been insisting I accompany her to one of her social events. She had asked me so many times, that I always felt bad turning her down. However, this time I decided to accompany her, not knowing that my world and yours would forever change.

Who would have known? We both had relocated to Virginia from countries that are thousands of miles away and with different cultural backgrounds. We never imagined the incredible miracle that was about to occur when the Puerto Rican woman and Indian man would start their "Happily Ever After" on this special, unforgettable and magical Valentine's event.

We were blessed indeed. The connection and chemistry was present from the very beginning. I remember you standing at the corner of the room near the food table holding a diet Pepsi and nibbling on some of the finger foods. You were wearing the olive green casual jacket (that memorable olive green jacket that I have been searching for unsuccessfully for years), over the white shirt and tie. You looked so stylish and so well put together. This jacket and its story has always been one of our favorite topics of conversation, especially on Valentine's Day. Our faces would light up as we relived those moments. Well, I would give anything to find that olive green jacket, and, who knows, as we both have come to realize during our journey together, everything is possible.

That evening our eyes met, and it was a mesmerizing experience. You walked slowly towards me with what you call your "John Wayne" walk and in your unique tone of voice asked, "Can I place my jacket here behind your chair?" My shy manner did not allow me to say anything but, "Yes, of course." My face blushed as my heart beat so, so fast.

Then, you asked me to dance and turns out that you were talented even at that. You held my hand and lead me to the dance floor. I found out that you loved all kinds of music, whether slow, rock and roll, country, line dancing, or Latin. On occasions, further on in the relationship, you even tried dancing merengue and salsa. You loved it all, and you certainly were a natural turning an eye or two as your charming-self let loose with the rhythms on the dance floor.

There was something about you. It was a glow, a special glow that certainly lit up a room and you definitely stood out with that beautiful smile of yours, laughter and charming personality. Years later, when I asked the meaning of your name, you told me that "Ravi" in Hindi meant "Sun". Well, that explains the glow. You were a ray of sunshine in the lives of so many.

We finally had a chance to find a quiet sitting area and you immediately pulled out a picture from your wallet. It was a picture of your son, Avishek as a toddler. Your daddy love was evident as your eyes sparkled sharing stories about him. You also talked fondly about your mother, father, brothers, and your career as an Engineer.

My attraction towards you went beyond your handsome physical features and charisma. I knew that night, from that first encounter, that you were a loving, kind, caring and devoted father, son and brother. Those incredible traits were confirmed as our relationship slowly flourished, and we got to know one another better. With the passing of the years, I witnessed first-hand your sensitivity, compassion, creativity and wonderful sense of humor.

Your talents manifested themselves in so many other areas. They extended to math, writing, and technology. You would not rest until you mastered a new computer program or when you attempted to explain some math problems to me and I would say, "I can't get it." And you with your calm self would say, "It is OK. Not to worry."



Even through your health struggles, we supported and leaned on one another and as you would put it, "Together always through thick and thin." I thank God each day for allowing us to cross paths because we are indeed what some identify as "soulmates." We have lived life under our own terms, and regardless of what society identifies as a "normal relationship," ours was the most normal, unique and fulfilling of all. The type of relationship that comes ONLY once in a lifetime.

Our "Happily Ever After" started from the day we met. From that moment on, our lives were enriched as we were destined to help one another grow in so many incredible ways. Our love, commitment and support towards one another will always be present as a unique, incredible and memorable love story that will live on forever.

Our positive energy radiated in balance and harmony as it all flowed naturally and effortlessly. During our journey, I never heard you raise your voice, or be confrontational and you never ever said anything negative or rush to make judgements about anyone. This positive energy has always been present. It has been reflected in the way you have taken care of your mother getting her medications ready, taking her to appointments, making sure she ate well, and your final tribute to her spending countless hours creating her 90th birthday book of memories which I consider a true masterpiece.

I cherish all of our memories together but especially those simple and caring tender moments when you held my hand in the car and the protective way you held my wrist when crossing a street. I cherish our quiet movie nights and the way you would recite the script from one of the scenes of the Bruce Lee movie, *Enter the Dragon*. You had watched that movie so many times that you knew it inside out.

I remember in detail how you stroked my lips and hair, and the way you cut in half the last shrimp on a plate and shared it with me. I cherish the first time you had a "bacalaito" (codfish fritter) during one of our trips to Puerto Rico. I cherish the moments of finding a Kit-Kat chocolate bar (my favorite) in some area around the house. And, who can forget that Valentine's Day when you showed up with 45 of them in a gift box.

I cherish our shopping trips together, the moments of listening to relaxation music or Julio Iglesias, one of our favorites, and the aroma therapy with Tiger Balm on our temples and tips of our nose.

I cherish the long time ago moments when you were still driving back and forth home from work. You would call me daily to let me know you were about to cross the bridge. You knew me so well that you knew it would be the first thing I would ask you because crossing the bridge back from office indicated you were almost home safe and sound.

I cherish your career milestones especially

when you joined the Navy as a civilian and continued to contribute to the country with your talents as an Engineer. You loved those Navy aircraft carriers so much. I cherish your plaques, letters of recognition of service and your excitement and commitment when working with your team on a project.

I cherish all of your office friends and your daily interactions with them and who I got to know by your sharing of office events like a retirement, new hire, marriage, passing of a family member or when you contributed to an office activity with your own homemade "mango pie" which was certainly popular. And, I cherish the moments when Avishek, who was enlisted in the Navy at that time, showed up at your office to have lunch together with you.

I cherish your rich cultural heritage, your childhood stories, like the one when you relocated to India from Burma around the age of twelve, and the stories of your classmates from that time period in your life. But, in particular, I cherish the story of your arrival to the United States in 1978 with just a couple dollars in your pocket and your stories about when you settled in New York.

And my love, I cherish the story of how you slowly worked hard to bring all of the family members to the United States and build a brighter future for all. These stories and anecdotes are so unique and inspiring that I encouraged you to write about them and you were excited and close to doing so.

Furthermore, I also cherish your love for Michelle, Omar, Javier and my four grandchildren as you gained their trust as we moved on in our relationship. You have been instrumental in their lives influencing them in a positive way with your examples, giving them advice, guiding and supporting their own journey in life.

I cherish our moments with Avishek and the way you would always end a phone conversation with him saying, "I love you Babo." I thank God for having Avi in my life and acknowledge the incredible job you and his mother Bhadrah have done in co-parenting him. Avi has certainly evolved into a reflection of you. He has all of the unique qualities needed to navigate life with a purpose as he continues making a difference in people's lives. And, just like you, his caring and sensitive nature and love for family and country will impact many.

Avi has been instrumental taking on so much during this difficult time and has pulled us ALL through. He is destined for many more great things and with the ongoing support of Sonali, he will continue to make us all proud.

I thank everyone who has supported our journey and our struggles especially during this challenging time living with this horrendous pandemic and the loss of life. That includes the 911 operators, paramedics, nurses, doctors and staff at Inova Fairfax Hospital. They are the ones in the front lines sacrificing daily in service of others. And let's not forget, that the memory of those lost MUST always be kept alive.

In conclusion, I find myself these days remembering it all, looking at photos, your videos, and rereading the messages on the collection of cards you sent me during our life journey together. In doing so, I found a Valentine's Day card with a message that summarizes our love and reaffirms our "Happily Ever After." May you rest in peace and until we meet again.

Loving you always,
Ivette

I Love You

I love you because you dream with me and you know how to make me laugh.
I love you because your hugs warm me and your kisses make my heart skip a beat.
I love you because you're not only my partner but also my best friend.
I love you because you're there when times are tough and you make the good times even better.
I love you because no matter what, you love me too.
Happy Valentine's Day and Anniversary my love.

The Strange Career of Felon Disenfranchisement

FROM PAGE 1

persons who were perpetually in a state of dependence or, the case of convicts and servicemen, had ostracized themselves from the interests of a specific community," wrote historian Christopher Curtis. "Nonetheless, the idea of dependency itself had been transformed from a test of the ability to produce one's own food into a test of relative social productivity."

The disenfranchisement for felons did not apply to African Americans because they couldn't vote anyway. Subsequent Virginia constitutions built on the initial exclusion for anyone convicted of an "infamous offence." In 1851, bribery was added. Then, in 1870, treason and corruption were included. When a constitutional convention began in 1901, delegates drew on language from several other states seeking to prevent participation from Black voters. The Constitution of 1902 was a Jim Crow document aimed squarely at institutionalizing white supremacy and preventing Black people from being able to exercise the franchise of voting.

"Our politics will be purified," boasted state Sen. Carter Glass, a newspaper editor from Lynchburg who played a key role in the constitutional convention. "This plan of popular suffrage will eliminate the darkey as a political factor in this state in less than five years so that in no single county of the commonwealth will there be the least concern felt for the complete supremacy of the white race in the affairs of government."

WHITE SUPREMACY was the declared goal of the 1902 Constitution, and it was devastatingly successful. A new literacy test required voters to give a reasonable explanation of any section of the constitution unless he paid property taxes to the state or was a Civil War veteran or the son of one. Although a previous Constitution had done away with the poll tax, the 1902 version brought it back. Anyone who registered to vote after Jan. 1, 1904 was required to pay a poll tax of \$1.50 for each of the three years preceding an election. The electorate was reduced by half.

"The electorate was so thoroughly eviscerated that throughout the first half of the 20th century, the Democratic Party regularly elected its gubernatorial candidates with the support of less than 10 percent of the adult population," wrote historian J. Douglas Smith. "So few Virginians voted in the first half

of the 20th century that political scientist V.O. Key quipped that 'by contrast Mississippi is a hotbed of democracy.'"

The disenfranchisement of felons was a feature of the 1902 Constitution that was retained when Virginia wrote a new Constitution in 1971. Now, one in five Black Virginians are permanently disenfranchised.

African Americans make up one fifth of Virginia's population but more than half of those disenfranchised are African American. Virginia is one of only 11 states that permanently disenfranchise voters. Even though the roots of felon disenfranchisement stretch back to 1830, the effort to remove it from the constitution are viewed largely through the Jim Crow chapter of its history.

"It is time for us to reverse what has been a racist law," said former Gov. Terry McAuliffe, who testified in favor of the amendment. "It is time for Virginia to be on the right side of history."

THE CURRENT PROCESS for restoring the right to vote involves a petition to the governor, which can be an intimidating process for people who are trying to get their lives back together after being incarcerated. And an application does not guarantee the restoration of rights. During his term, Republican Gov. Jim Gilmore restored rights to 238 individuals. By contrast, Gov. McAuliffe restored rights to 173,000 people.

"I would like nothing more than to put our office out of business," said Secretary of the Commonwealth Kelly Thomasson, who oversees the process for restoring civil rights for the governor.

People who work with those who have felony convictions to restore rights say the process can take as long as seven months for some.

For others, they may have already had their rights restored but didn't know it. In those cases, people come to the painful conclusion that they could have been voting for years but didn't because they were told they would never again have the right to vote. Some have argued that people should never lose their right to vote, even while incarcerated.

"At the very least, we should make the restoration of civil rights automatic," said Chris DeRosa, leader of the Arlington chapter of Spread the Vote. "They should not have to jump through hoops and beg to have their voting rights restored by the governor."



COURTESY OF THE ALEXANDRIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

The photo of the suspects from a store in Prince George's County where the credit cards were being used.

Queen Bee's Priebe Victim Of Car Theft

FROM PAGE 1

some bones after falling on the bricks outside her store in the 800 block of S. Washington Street. So for now, she's hobbling around and hoping for support from the community.

"I came into the store on Valentine's Day very hopeful," Priebe posted on Facebook. "But right now I am in pretty rough shape and could definitely use some more prayers and good vibes."

Police ask anyone who may recognize either suspect to call Detective Walter Boyd at 703-746-6245.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 7

scheduling link will be sent to you as vaccine becomes available. Call: 703-324-7404 to register for a vaccine via phone. Vaccine Appointment Tips After you receive your first vaccine, you should take a picture of your vaccination card that you will receive. That way you won't have to worry about misplacing it. Wear a mask to the appointment. Download and use v-Safe, an app that helps you report any reactions you are having to the vaccine. Learn more: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/vsafe.html

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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.

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.

Announcements

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

Obituary

Carlton Farquhar Andrus



On Sunday, February 7, 2021, **Carlton Farquhar Andrus** died at the age of 82. He was known to his friends as Nick and to his 11 grandchildren as Grampi. He loved his family dearly and they were the center of his world. He loved sharing a story and a laugh with friends and strangers alike. His laugh was loud and all-consuming, and usually the room roared with laughter with him. He will be dearly missed.

Born in New York City on June 1, 1938, Nick was nicknamed Knickerbocker as the first person in his family history, which dates back to the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1730, to be born in New York City. After graduating from Phillips Academy and Brown University, Nick moved to Washington, D.C. and spent 5 months on the staff of Senator Everett M. Dirksen (R - IL). He became active in the D.C. Young Republicans and served as their Treasurer in 1965. Following work on the 1968 election and 1969 inauguration of President Richard M. Nixon, Nick joined the former Department of H.E.W. where he worked for over 7 years in a variety of legislative affairs positions. In 1977, he began nearly 4 years in the United States Senate as a Legislative Assistant to Senator Harry F. Byrd (I - VA) and Senator Robert C. Byrd (D - WV). In 1981, Nick moved to the Government Accountability Office (GAO), where he spent over 25 years doing budget work. His highest position was GAO's Deputy Budget Officer.

Since his retirement in 2006, Nick sang in 3 church choirs. In 2008, Nick joined the Mt. Vernon Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, the Harmony Heritage Singers, and served as its President. He participated in the Meals-On-Wheels program and was active in the Alexandria chapter of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE), where he held several leadership positions including President.

In 1971, Nick married Katherine (Kathy) Louise Decker, formerly of Knoxville, TN, and Washington, D.C.. Nick and Kathy had five daughters. Their youngest daughter, Kathleen (Kate) McQuiston Andrus preceded him in death in 1992 at the age of 10. He is survived by his wife, Kathy, his daughters Elizabeth (Beth) Ann Withers of Peoria, IL, Mary (Molly) Katherine Andrus Cross of Tampa, FL, Robin Andrus Kinzer of Arlington, VA, and Margaret Andrus Sickling of Auckland, New Zealand, and his 11 grandchildren and 4 sons-in-law. He is also survived by his sister, Elizabeth (Liz) Andrus Schoeberlein of Glen Ellyn, IL, his brother, Thomas (Tom) McQuiston Andrus of Portland, OR, and his Uncle Robert (Bobby) Farquhar Andrus of Chicago, IL.

In respect of coronavirus precautions, on Friday, February 19, at 10:30 am, there will be a small private celebration of Nick's life. A link to virtually view this event will be shared through the Demaine's Funeral Home website.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Parkinson's Foundation of the National Capital Area (<https://app.etapestry.com/onlineforms/ParkinsonFoundationoftheNatio/donation.html>) or to Nick's granddaughters' campaigns to raise money for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (Katt Withers - <https://events.ils.org/nca/DCSOY21/kwithers> and Allison Kinzer - <https://events.ils.org/nca/DCSOY21/akinzer>).

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If Michael Corleone Had Lung Cancer

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



"Just when I thought I was out ... they pull me back in." And just when I thought I had a month off from cancer-related appointments, infusions, scans and lab work, et cetera, I experienced a new symptom the other day which warranted an unexpected brain MRI. Though I delayed a few days in sharing my new symptom, on Thursday I emailed my oncologist. Within the day (not nearly soon enough for my wife, Dina), I received a call from my doctor. After a brief conversation during which I described my symptoms in more detail, a diagnostic scan was scheduled for the next day (fortunately an appointment opened up while we were talking. Otherwise, it might not have occurred so soon). According to my oncologist, what I was experiencing is called "disequilibrium." I couldn't walk a straight line. Had a police officer been present, I would have been cited for walking while intoxicated.

Amazingly I received the results from the MRI within a few hours of my appointment. The report from the radiologist was extremely thorough since I had been given "contrast," an infusion which provides better detail for the radiologist. (Given my pre-existing kidney issue, there are certain products which I cannot tolerate, ones which are filtered through the kidney, specifically "contrast.") But this time, my oncologist wanted the clearest picture/assessment possible. (Infusing "contrast" results in a kind of clarity, like the difference between viewing color and black and white.) So receiving an "unremarkable" (no metastasis, "no infarct, no hemorrhage, no intracranial abnormality," no anything) report was particularly encouraging. Now I can breathe again, except for another side effect caused by the lenvima (my thyroid cancer medicine), but that symptom is more par for the course I've been on for the last four months or so. "Disequilibrium" not so much.

Going forward, I am experiencing less balance/dizziness issues. But I'm also no longer - for the moment, taking my thyroid medicine, which I can't imagine is a good thing. However, I'm not going to worry about that in the short term. In the long term, not taking the best possible prescribed treatment for the treatment of papillary thyroid cancer is hardly reassuring to my presumptive life expectancy. Nevertheless, if I've learned anything in my nearly 12 years as a cancer patient, it is that nothing (drugs, side effects, miscellaneous treatment/protocols) lasts forever. Heck, sometimes treatment and all doesn't even last a month. It's best to sit tight and try to be patient. Getting ahead of one's immediate circumstances is unhelpful and could be much ado about nothing (at least that's been my modus).

That being clear to me, anytime I can get a month where I have no scheduled lab work, infusion, injection, diagnostic scan or appointments is to be acknowledged and celebrated almost. Presently, I am, or rather was in the middle of just such an interval until this "disequilibrium" manifested. It's sort of like being called in to work on your off day. Mentally, it really upsets the apple cart, and more specifically your peace of mind. And any time a cancer patient can get some piece of mind, it's extremely valuable. It's mind over something that's the matter.

With a month off from cancer-related activities, one can almost ('almost,' not quite though) live a cancer-free, normal-type life. It's not as if you forget your circumstances however, but it allows a certain mental break which believe me, all us cancer patients need. Without all the constant reminders, one can almost back-burner the whole cancer existence. Unfortunately, this kind of existence is also characteristic of the ups and downs and all-arounds that cancer patients experience. Granted, it's not ideal, but it's still a living, thank God!

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

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Leveling the Playing Field in School Advocating for children with special needs or learning disabilities.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

When Lisa Lightner's son Kevin was two-years-old, she discovered that he would need special learning support in school. She has spent more than 12 years working to make sure he received the necessary assistance in the classroom. Now she is helping other parents avoid the frustrating and difficult process that she endured. Lightner is now a special education advocate, blogger and host of the podcast "Don't IEP Alone," a title that references an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). She uses her platforms to raise awareness and share information and resources to help other parents navigate the complicated and overwhelming path to securing the best education for special needs

"Working to get help for Kevin was a challenge. It's really an overwhelming process," said Lightner, whose son is now 14. "I'm college educated and I had so much trouble figuring it out." changes that remove barriers and provide your child with equal access to learning.

Recognizing that a child has and a learning disability, such as dyslexia or Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), and determining the type of accommodations and adjustments in school to ensure that they have equal access to learning, is an arduous process. Though the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) gives children the right to have IEP that includes a learning plan tailored fit their learning differences, they don't always receive it.

"The special education climate has really changed in recent years," said Lightner. "Schools are doing more with less. Teachers have larger class sizes, fewer resources. It's very easy for a child to fall through the cracks if you don't stay on top of their progress."

Learning disabilities can often go unnoticed, but red flags that a child might have a learning disability include low grades and difficulty keeping up with their peers academically. "Parents are often the first to recognize that their child may be struggling with certain learning endeavors, for example reading, math, or writing," said Clara Hauth, PhD Associate Professor, Special Education Marymount University. "The terms for these learning disabilities are dyslexia, dyscalculia and dysgraphia." "A more obvious telltale is when the child shares with you an ongoing pattern of frustration about schoolwork or shows a lack of engagement in school," added Kelley Regan, Ph.D. Professor and academic program coordinator for special education at George Mason University. "Also, if work completion is taking an unusual amount of time or the child shows little independence or a lack of understanding of assignment or there is an avoidance of schoolwork; these could be signs that the child's needs may or may not be met."

The current virtual learning environment and the resulting restructuring of the way

that accommodations or IEPs are being administered might make noticing whether a child's academic needs are being met more challenging. "We also have seen firsthand over the last year how unprecedented circumstances like a pandemic have impacted delivery of instruction for students with disabilities," said Regan. "The delivery of services for students with disabilities had to be revamped by school districts across the nation and now we are seeing the impact of school closures on student achievement and social-emotional learning."

A diagnostic test will help identify and confirm a learning disability. "Parents who feel that their student may have a disability should contact both their family doctor and the school to request initial meetings to discuss their concerns," said Hauth.

Such tests could provide information to guide the creation of an IEP that outlines the accommodations that will meet a child's learning needs. Examples of these accommodations include additional time to take tests and complete homework and assignments or having tests administered on a one-on-one basis. Even with an IEP in place though, some children might not get the resources they need. "Research tells us that many novice special education teachers and even veteran teachers feel overwhelmed by their workloads and managing these workloads can be challenging," said Regan. "To meet the needs of students, teachers need adequate resources and materials, and they need devoted time to collaboratively design meaningful instruction for students. Limited resources and time may be one explanation as to why children with learning disabilities may not be receiving what they need."

In an ideal learning environment, a general education teacher collaborates with a special education teacher and they design specialized instruction that allows the student to succeed with the general education curriculum. "If ... the needs outlined on the child's IEP are not being met for the child, a parent should advocate."

Almost everything is more challenging within a virtual learning environment, monitoring a child's academic performance is still essential, says Lightner. "Engage in the IEP process, all of it, all year round," she said. "You have to stay engaged and in contact with your team and your child's progress. Understanding the evaluations and progress made is essential."

Sometimes, the needs of the child with learning disabilities changes. In such cases advocacy is necessary, advises Regan. "When the individualized program is not providing the supports that previously sufficed, a parent may need to and should advocate," she said. "For example, a parent may observe that his or her child appears very disorganized with his or her school materials, is turning in assignments late or not at all and needs an effective strategy in place for an observed problem. Likewise, there may be a need for adjusting the intensity or frequency of instruction. Instruction should be appropriate for the child."

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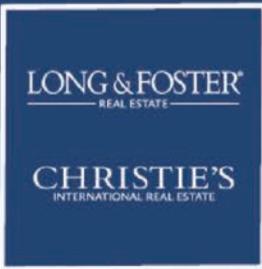


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