

Waynewood Baby Delivered in The Family Van in the Driveway

A concoction, a last-minute text and quick thinking were part of baby James' arrival.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

A trip home for lunch last week started out pretty routine for Waynewood resident and orthodontist Justin Hughes but ended up being unforgettable. Justin Hughes' pregnant wife Laura went into labor and ended up giving birth to their son in the back seat of their Honda Odyssey van that Justin pulled back into their driveway when they realized they weren't going to make it to the hospital in time. It's a tale for the family lore.

"By the time I ran around to open the door, the baby was out," Hughes said, "I'm just kind of in shock."

It all started when the baby was late, past the due date, and Laura Hughes was talking with friends who told her about a method they used to speed things up, a so-called "midwives concoction." It contained Castor oil, almond butter, lemon verbena and a few other ingredients. Laura drank this concoction that morning around 10:15 and things started happening right when Justin got home for lunch around noon.

"My wife texted me from the bathroom," he said.

They both got into the van and started heading to the hospital, and Justin called the midwife and told her they were on the way. There was no sense of urgency from the hospital, so Justin concentrated on driving. After all, Laura was in labor for hours with their other children so they thought this would be more of the same. A couple of streets away from their house, the baby started coming and there was no way they'd get to the hospital so they headed back to the house, pulling into the driveway just before 2 p.m., and called 911. That's when baby James made his appearance. Justin had brought along a lot of towels in the van just in case, and it turned out to be a good move. Justin recalled that precious few minutes in the van:

"It took me a minute to get a grasp on him because he was slippery, I was able to pull him up after Laura moved out of the way a little bit. I got the cord off of his neck and wrapped him in a towel and Laura held



Justin, Laura and baby James Hughes.

him in a towel up against her chest. The umbilical cord was still attached to James and to the placenta which was still inside and hadn't been delivered."

Baby James was breathing and crying, and his color looked good so Justin was relieved.

The ambulance pulled up, and all the neighbors were looking on when Justin gave everyone the thumbs up and yelled out "It's a boy." Minutes later, the ambulance pulled away, and Justin followed behind in the van, but it all turned out for the best — James and Laura are doing fine.

These days, a story like this has got to have some video and this was no exception. A neighbor caught certain parts on the Ring doorbell, which Justin called "a funny, candid moment," he said.

Everyone was thankful that the birth of their third child was successful but in the end, "I don't want to do it again but everything worked out," Justin said.



A shot from the neighbor's doorbell video, capturing some of the action. The ambulance pulled up, and neighbors were looking on when Justin gave everyone the thumbs up and yelled out, "It's a boy."



This county map shows the current location of the Penn Daw Fire Station and the vacant nursery land.

County Eyes Spot for New Fire Station and Affordable Housing

Proposed location has easy access to Richmond Highway and GW Parkway.

The existing Penn Daw Fire Station dates back to 1967 when the pace of life was a little slower along this section of Richmond Highway. But fast forward 54 years, and it's time to upgrade to a new station to meet the demand. A block away, the Hybla Valley Nursery recently closed, and the piece of property is big enough to accommodate a new station and affordable housing, so the wheels are in motion to co-locate the station and housing at this location on Beacon Hill.

According to the county, the new location on Beacon Hill Road allows first responders direct access to emergencies in the community and eliminates the need for construction of a temporary fire station. Due to the size of the property and ideal location along Route 1, an opportunity was realized to co-locate additional facilities, it said on the county website.

Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck (D) set up an advisory committee which looked at the situation last fall, and saw the opportunity to relocate the

First Community Meeting:
April 24, 2021 at
10:00 a.m. via Zoom

Second Community Meeting:
April 26, 2021 at
7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Telephone Dial-In Information for either meeting:
602-333-0032
888-270-9936 (US Toll Free)
Conference code: 711201

Eleanor Kennedy Shelter, which is in an old pumphouse building on Fort Belvoir land across from the Town of Accotink.

"Co-locating services at the site and providing supportive housing in a new, modern facility aligns with county strategies to prevent and end homelessness in the Fairfax-Falls Church community," according to Fairfax County documents.

The advisory committee met over the last few months, and now they are ready to hold public meetings to present the plan, get suggestions and make changes before finalizing it.

Mary Paden, Chair of the South County Task Force, cited

SEE COUNTY EYES, ON PAGE 11

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OPEN SAT 4/24 & SUN 4/25, 2-4PM



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This spectacular 5-level classic dazzles with its top-of-the-line kitchen, year-round sunroom, and incredible gardens. With 4 bedrooms & 2.5 baths, every corner is impeccably maintained. Serene primary suite, delightful rec room, and a private workshop. 1107 Priscilla Lane
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www.AlexisBogdan.com

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www.RobinArnoldSells.com

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Jillian Keck Hogan 703.951.7655
www.JillianKeckHogan.com

OPEN SAT 4/24, 1-3 & SUN 4/25, 12-2



Annandale | \$649,000

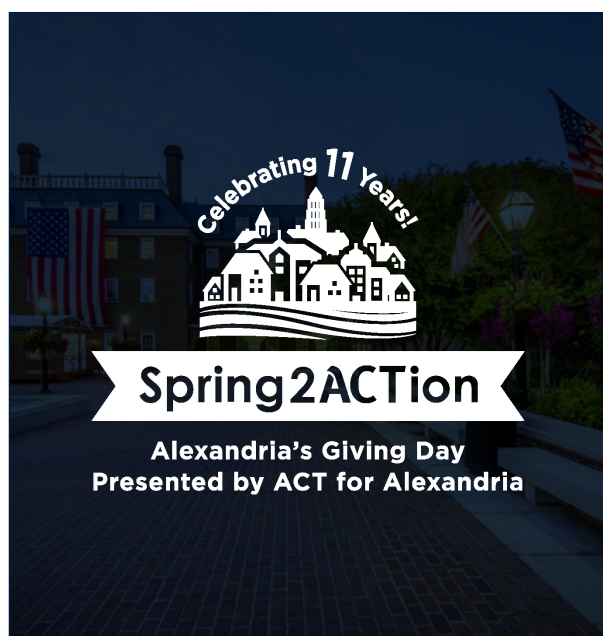
Beautiful brick home inside the beltway featuring 3+ bedrooms and 3 full bathrooms. Hardwood floors on the main floor along with a modern kitchen. Plenty of storage downstairs with a separate back entrance to a large, flat, fenced backyard. 7716 Royston Street
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Terry McAuliffe, candidate for governor, visits Mount Vernon Woods Elementary during a United Community food distribution.

McAuliffe Visits COVID Relief Efforts in Janna Lee Census Tract

On Tuesday, residents of the Janna Lee community received a special visit from former Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe at Mount Vernon Woods Elementary School. The visit took place at a United Community COVID relief food distribution, one of four mobile sites in the community serving 400 families each week, in addition to 350 families served at United Community's food pantry.

"For too many Virginians, food insecurity still affects all aspects of life," Terry McAuliffe said. "We've got to do more to help them rebuild their lives -- starting with distributions like this one."

Together with United Community's Neighborhood Ambassadors, Terry McAuliffe helped distribute a truck-full of fresh produce, shelf-stable food, diapers, and much

needed hygiene products to families -- some of whom had stood waiting in line for more than an hour.

"The Janna Lee census tract has the highest poverty rate in Fairfax County -- one in five families lives in poverty," United Community President & CEO Alison DeCoursey said. "Since the COVID crisis began, United Community focused its efforts on preventing a hunger crisis in the middle of a public health crisis."

The residents of Janna Lee face many obstacles. The neighborhood sits in a federally-designated Food Desert, as well as a Food Swamp. More than 80% of families rely on free or reduced lunch to feed their children. Eviction rates are 2-3 times higher than the County average. More unsettling, those who live here have a lifespan 10 years less than

the average Fairfax County citizen.

As Virginia's 72nd Governor and First Lady, Terry and Dorothy McAuliffe made ending childhood hunger a key priority of the administration. As a result of increased funding and the administration's partnership with No Kid Hungry, nearly 13 million more school meals were served per year in Virginia. But there is so much more work to be done here in Fairfax and across the Commonwealth.

"The people closest to the problem are the people closest to the solution," Yolonda Earl-Thompson of United Community said. "If we're going to solve these equity problems, we need to put residents in positions to lead. Today's distribution is just another example of that."

A long-time Janna Lee resident,

Earl-Thompson first started this distribution in March of 2020, distributing food to about 20 people a week from her front door. Today she heads the Communities of Opportunity initiative with the help of over 20 volunteers and Neighborhood Ambassadors. The new initiative has empowered hundreds of residents, placing them at the center of relief efforts.

"As community members, we have the power, privilege and proximity to do something now," Earl-Thompson said. "We are committed to getting things done and being the change we want to see in our community."

United Community provides wrap-around programs and services that support children, youth, and families in southeastern Fairfax County. Families in need are encouraged to visit www.unitedcommunity.org for food pantry hours and other available resources.



Anila Angjeli's home in Milway Meadows was decorated with hundreds of blossoms.



Cori Pratel's house was part of the Petal Porch Parade.



Petals of Diversity show the many facets of the community.

ALine Architecture Promotes Petals of Diversity

A new part of the National Cherry Blossom Festival this year was the "Petal Porch Parade" where participating neighborhoods decorated their porches with

cherry blossoms to celebrate the season.

The Milway Meadows neighborhood in Mount Vernon featured the "Petals of Diversity" display spearheaded by Anila Angjeli,

owner of ALine Architecture and a member of the Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce.

"I wanted to share this fun and joyful

program," said Anila "Our neighborhood theme is "Blossoms of Diversity - Milway Meadows." We've decorated the homes, porches and lawns with colorful Cherry petals flower templates and other flowers to represent diversity."

Concerned Citizens Testify on Fairfax County's Budget

County tax rate and County employee pay freeze drive comments.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
GAZETTE PACKET

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors held three days of public testimony, April 13 through April 15, on the County Executive's proposed FY 2022 Advertised Budget Plan, the Advertised Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Years 2022 to 2026, with future years to 2031 and the current appropriation in the FY 2021 Revised Budget Plan. The Board also accepted testimony on the FY 2022 effective tax rate. The hearings are available online to view on demand.

Following the School Board Presentation by Fairfax County School Board Chair Dr. Ricardy Anderson, County employees, union and organization representatives, individuals, and others pleaded with the Board of Supervisors to recognize the value of their work and consider the proposed budget's impact on their requests.

SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR Dr. Anderson requested that the Supervisors fully fund Fairfax County Public Schools FY 2022 Advertised Budget. She said FCPS school-based and operation staff had worked endless hours since March 13, 2020, to provide engaging instruction. They developed and implemented academic and emotional supports for students and families. She acknowledged there remained "a tremendous amount of work to be done and resources to be secured" for FCPS staff to mitigate the damage caused by COVID-related disruptions and learning virtually and concurrently.

Anderson reminded the Board of Supervisors that on Feb. 18, 2021, the School Board unanimously adopted FCPS FY 2022 Advertised Budget. It represented, she said, an increase of \$75.5M, or 2.4 percent from the FY21 Approved Budget.

"This thoughtful and caring budget acknowledges the school division's most pressing needs. It is student-centered, staff-focused, and fiscally responsible," she said. Aware of the \$90.2 million shortfall between FCPS's budget request and the County's proposed FY 2022 Budget, Anderson said FCPS was at a pivotal moment.

"Fully funding this budget will help us to maximize the opportunity before us by investing in every FCPS student and providing the resources each of them needs to reach their full potential," she said.

Kimberly Adams is President of the Fairfax Education Association, a union representing thousands of school employees in Fairfax County. "We understand the constraints on revenues, but in our area, we have once again been inside the bubble where property values have risen. This means our revenue is set to increase, even if property taxes remain flat," Adams said.

According to Adams, the County must compensate those who continue to drive it forward, especially when those in Richmond prioritize workers who need that compensation. "After years of underfunding, school



Fairfax County School Board Chair
Dr. Ricardy Anderson



5. Kimberly Adams
President, Fairfax Education Association
Kimberly Adams, President of
Fairfax Education Association

FY 2022 Proposed Taxes and Fees

Type	Unit	FY 2021 Actual Rate	FY 2022 Proposed Rate
GENERAL FUND TAX RATES			
<i>Real Estate</i>	<i>\$100/Assessed Value</i>	<i>\$1.15</i>	<i>\$1.14</i>
Personal Property	\$100/Assessed Value	\$4.57	\$4.57

FY 2022 Proposed Taxes and Fees

April 23, 2021	Budget Committee Meeting
April 27, 2021	Board of Supervisors marks-up FY 2022 Budget, adopts FY 2022-FY 2026 Capital Improvement Program, and FY 2021 Third Quarter Review
May 4, 2021	Board of Supervisors adopts FY 2022 Adopted Budget
May 11-12, 2021	School Board holds public hearings on FY 2022 budget
May 20, 2021	School Board adopts FY 2022 Approved Budget
July 1, 2021	FY 2022 Budget Year Begins

Next Steps toward Board adoption of the FY 2022 Adopted Budget and School Board adoption of the FY 2022 Approved Budget.

employees are slated for a 5 percent salary increase (through the state), but only with a local match," she said.

Adams noted a cost of living raise would be a morale booster to school employees. "We simply ask you to recognize that you can and must keep the tax rate where it is and push forward a portion of those dollars to your schools. Continue to invest in Fairfax, and do your job this budget season, so that we can continue to do ours," Adams said.

Norm Hall is an employee with Fairfax

County. In a video released by the Fairfax County Government Employee Union, SEIU Virginia 512, Hall urged the Supervisors to pass a strong collective bargaining ordinance. "People on the ground who know each other and have the respect and trust of each other can come up with solutions that will work for the citizens that we serve, as well as the employees. (Collective bargaining) is what you're going to do to retain employees who might have other options because they'll understand that taking care of employees is mission-critical."

Documents Available Online

The Fairfax County FY 2022 Advertised Budget Plan can be found online. Other documents as listed below can also be found on the Fairfax County website.

County Executive's Presentation of the FY 2022 Advertised Budget Plan to the Board of Supervisors (February 23, 2021)

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget/sites/budget/files/assets/documents/fy2022/advertised/fy-2022-advertised-presentation.pdf>

Citizen's Guide to the FY 2022 Advertised Budget Plan

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget/sites/budget/files/assets/documents/fy2022/advertised/fy-2022-advertised-citizens-guide.pdf>

Overview

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget/fy-2022-advertised-budget-plan-overview-volume>

Charles McAndrew of Oak Hill opposed the FY 2022 effective tax rate increase. He said that the Board planned to implement a real estate tax rate of \$1.15 which could cost the homeowner an average of \$300. According to McAndrew, this continued a two-decade trend where the County Board of Supervisors increases real estate taxes three times faster than the homeowner income, which barely kept up with inflation.

"I should also add, the last 20 years that the real estate tax usually goes up, in most cases, two to three times the rate of inflation. This increase exceeds the consumer price index for 2020, which is approximately 1.3," Andrew said.

Sherry Noad of Burke supported maintaining the current real estate tax rate of \$1.15 per \$100 of assessed value rather than reducing the rate to \$1.14. "I don't think we can afford the reduction at the time and still continue to maintain the excellent schools, public services, and recreational facilities that make Fairfax County a great place to live and raise our families," she said.

Arthur Purves of Vienna addressed the Board as President of the Fairfax County Taxpayers' Alliance. He requested that the Supervisors provide greater clarity when speaking of lowering the real estate tax rate or keeping it the same as last year. He said the Board should tell how much residential assessments increased. "Instead of saying the advertised tax rate of \$1.15 is the same as last year and as homeowner assessments

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Concerned Citizens Testify On Fairfax County's Budget

FROM PAGE 4

are increasing, add the average assessment increases 4 percent. That way, homeowners will know how much their real estate tax will increase, even if the rate is unchanged," said Purves.

Gina Lynch of Fairfax is Chair of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter Advisory Services Commission. She reported that despite the many challenges of the pandemic, staff and volunteers continued to carry out critical programs at the Michael Frey Animal Shelter on West Ox Road. She called the Board's attention to establishing a new shelter in the south end of the County. "Naturally, the associated personnel and infrastructure funding for this new facility must be included in your budget planning discussions," she said.

According to Lynch, alongside the shelter staff, the animal protection police officers ensure that all animals in the County are treated in a legal, human, and compassionate manner. She noted that they had not received their longevity step increases for many years,

affecting their retirement incomes. Lynch asked the Board of Supervisors to ensure they appropriately receive receipt of their increases.

LYDIA LAWRENCE, the chair of the Fairfax NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Committee, urged the Board of Supervisors to fund improvements for trees and green spaces, especially along the Route One corridor in Annandale, where there are inequities. The heat index map highlights those areas as heat islands because of higher impervious surfaces and fewer trees and green spaces.

Lawrence asked the Board to designate funds to change the name to evaluate and execute the removal of Confederate names on a prioritized basis, focused initially on Lee District, Lee Highway at Lee Jackson Memorial Highway. "These names have no place in our County, especially in its commitment to equity. We all need to feel like we live in a safe place, a place that values each and every one of us as humans," she said.

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/MAY 18

Mount Vernon Genealogical Meeting. 1-3 p.m. Via Zoom. Federal court records merit a close look by those putting together their genealogical puzzle. And there is no better guide than attorney, genealogist and acclaimed lecturer, Judy G. Russell. Nonmembers are welcome to attend one free event each year. Register by May 12. Visit the website: <https://mvgenealogy.org>

ONGOING

Local, farm-fresh produce – including strawberries and asparagus – and more will be featured at the now-opened McCutcheon/Mt. Vernon Farmers Market. From 8 a.m. to noon every Wednesday (through December 22), 16 local farmers and food producers will sell fresh, locally grown vegetables and fruits; meats; Chesapeake Bay seafood; breads and pastries; honey, jams and jellies; milk, cheese and eggs; herbs and plants; and more. The market is located at the Sherwood Hall Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. All of the items sold at the market are grown or produced by the vendors and come from within a radius of 125 miles.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) EBT cards can be used. As a bonus, the market will match up to \$20 per market visit in SNAP dollars for fruits and vegetables.

This year's vendors are:

Arnest Seafood – crab cakes, scallops, shrimp, rockfish, oysters and more
Grace's Pastries - cakes, pastries and breads, with a Caribbean touch
Great Harvest Bread - breads and pastries

Honey Brook Farms - meats and vegetables raised with no chemicals, gluten-free baked goods

House of Empanadas –variety of empanadas

King Mushrooms –variety of locally

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grown mushrooms
Locust Grove Farm - vegetables and herbs
Misty Meadow Farm Creamery - milk, ice cream, cheese and eggs
No. 1 Sons- pickles, kimchi, sauerkraut and kombucha teas
Ochoa Produce - vegetables, herbs and flowers
Traveling Shepherd Coffee Co. – variety of freshly roasted coffee
Twin Springs Orchard - fruits, vegetables, cheese and more
Valentine's Bakery & Meats - meats and baked goods.

APRIL 24 AND 26

Virtual Community Meeting. April 24 at 10 a.m. or April 26 at 7 p.m. Supervisor Dan Storck will host virtual community meetings on the Penn Daw Fire Station, Emergency and Supportive Housing project. The county has proposed building new public safety and housing facilities at the former Hybla Valley Nursery site at 2801 Beacon Hill Road. At the meeting, staff will present information about the project and answer questions. Visit the project website: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/capital-projects/penn-daw-fire-station-and-supportive-housing>.

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 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

ADULT ENGLISH LANGUAGE CLASSES

The Literacy Council of Northern Virginia (LCNV) is hosting beginning-level adult English language classes from February to May. Due to the continued situation of COVID-19, classes for the spring semester will be held on virtual platforms only, which require students to have a computer, tablet, or smartphone and internet access to participate. Registration runs through February 5, with options to register via text message, phone calls, or in-person at certain locations and times.

Classes offered this spring include:

- ❖ Beginning English Class: provides adult English language learners the fundamental skills to understand and communicate in English, helping them to better engage in the community and advance their careers.
- ❖ Family Learning Programs (FLP): provides English language instruction for parents or caregivers, so that they can better communicate with their children and support their education.

Classes are \$85 with books and assessment included. Registration is required for enrollment. Please understand that no children are

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 7



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UNDER CONTRACT

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2308 Kimbro Street

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UNDER CONTRACT

Vienna/Acadia Condo **\$404,900**
9480 Virginia Center Blvd. Unit 120

Beautiful 2BR,2BA Condo located in South Vienna. Good Sized Bedrooms each with their own walk-in closet and bath. Kitchen is open to the eating area and family room and has beautiful corian countertops. Attractive laminated flooring through the kitchen, family room and hallways. Don't miss the office station and the lovely balcony off

the family room. 2 convenient garage spaces below are reserved for this unit. Tremendous community amenities highlighted by a wonderful swimming pool, gym, recreational room and office room. Finally, a perfect location with quick and easy access to Rt. 66, 495 and Rt. 50. If you want to leave your car behind, a quick 2 block walk will put you at the Vienna Metro Station. This wonderful property can be yours to enjoy!!



UNDER CONTRACT

Alex/Mt. Vernon Manor **\$564,900**
8804 Falkstone Lane

Great Opportunity for a young family to invest in this lovely 4BR, 2.5BA Colonial in a wonderful neighborhood and to add their own taste and design to the kitchen and baths. The interior and exterior have been freshly painted, and the hwd floors have been refinished and look great. The yard is large, fenced in the back to allow little ones and

a dog or two to romp. Both the front and rear have been overseeded and should start coming to life in a couple of weeks. Similar model, but with a 2-car garage and totally remodeled, recently sold for \$721,250. Great location- to the South: Ft. Belvoir, 5 minutes - to the North: Old Town Alexandria, 15 minutes, National Airport, 27 minutes, Pentagon and D.C.- 30-35 minutes. Tough to find a home and good-sized lot in this area <\$600,000.



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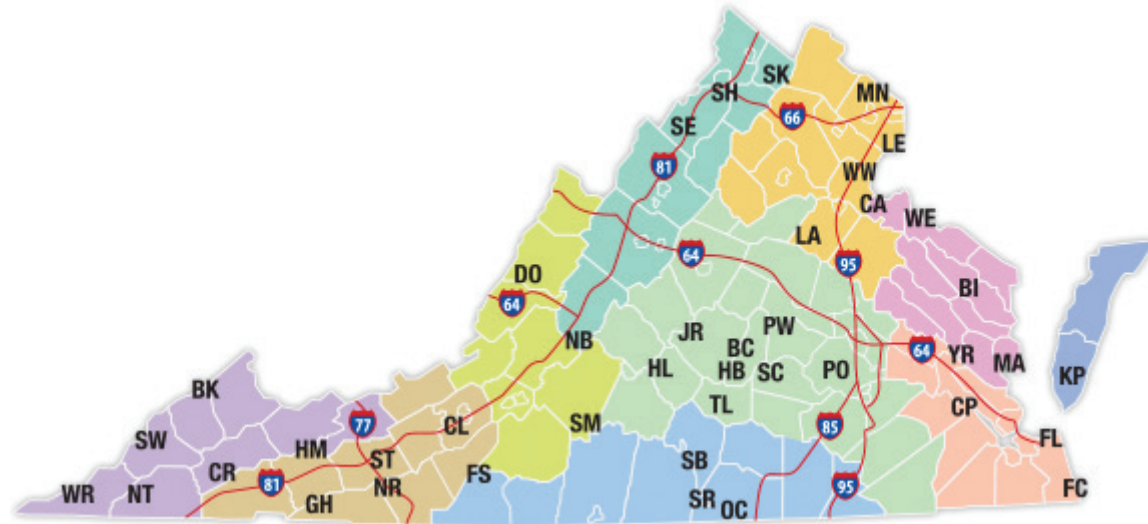
By DELEGATE PAUL KRIZEK

This year, as we have practiced physical distancing to combat the spread of COVID-19, many of us have discovered a newfound appreciation for our natural world and the great outdoors. We have safely hiked, cycled, picnicked, and kayaked across the Commonwealth (or, are planning to!). As Virginians, we are lucky to have such a diverse topography and wilderness to explore and enjoy, from nature preserves in the tidewater region, mountains and valleys to the west, dense forests, and a plethora of rivers, lakes, and creeks.

On this Thursday, April 22, we celebrate Earth Day. Every year since 1970, the global community has commemorated this day to honor our planet and promote environmental protection. This week also coincides with National Park week (April 17-25) and the dedication of Virginia's 40th state park, Machico-



Krizek



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moco State Park, in Gloucester County. Machicomoco is an Algonquian word that means "special meeting place", and the park serves the dual purpose of sharing the history of Virginia's Indian tribes as well as providing Virginians with critical greenspace. Machicomoco Park is surrounded

by three creeks and has a great viewshed overlooking the Pamunkey River, now known as the York River.

More significantly, it is the first state park to honor and recognize the history and legacy of the indigenous people of the region. The park not only invites visitors to reflect, and to be a refuge from our daily stress, but to learn about the Algonquian Powhatan Confedera-

cy, their language and cosmology that are so deeply rooted in the land.

A Special Meeting Place is just that, with two miles of wooded trails to educate visitors about the waterways the indigenous people navigated and explored. The park was designed in collaboration with tribal representatives, and at last week's opening ceremony Chief

SEE VISIT A VIRGINIA, PAGE 7

Joseph McCoy: Lynched in Alexandria, April 23, 1897

By AUDREY P. DAVIS,
DIRECTOR, ALEXANDRIA
BLACK HISTORY MUSEUM

Americans are attached to their phones. We bemoan the fact that almost everyone everywhere is engrossed in texting, watching videos, or responding to social media. An annoyance, or convenience, if you are African American the smartphone has been a lifeline, a visual record, an epitaph — it has changed the racial injustice landscape. Incidents of discrimination, intimidation, torture, and murder, a frequent occurrence for the African American community, have been documented in real time for the world to see, and remarkably racial terror hate crimes persist.

Americans look, sympathize with victim families, protest, and vow it will never happen again ... then repeat the cycle when it does. I have heard some in Alexandria say we are lucky that racially motivated murders of African Americans never occurred in our city. Except they already have....

In the 1890s, long before the era of smartphones, two young Black Alexandria men died at the hands of a white mob. Today, I write about one of them, Joseph McCoy, who

was lynched on April 23, 1897.

The eighteen-year-old McCoy was accused of molesting the daughter of his white employer of sixteen years. Without a trial, he was kidnapped from the Alexandria police station (today the site of City Hall) and lynched at the corner of N. Lee and Cameron streets in the early morning hours of April 23. There were many witnesses for McCoy's death and the perpetrators (including some of Alexandria's most upstanding citizens) used this to their advantage to create a climate of fear for African Americans in Alexandria.

Is that climate of fear any less today for African Americans? After the death of George Floyd on May 25, 2020, when a pandemic lockdown world could not turn away from his brutal death, politicians, celebrities and citizens around the world pledged to end racially motivated violence. Still it persists.

George Floyd was denied compassion and legal redress as Joseph McCoy was denied it 124 years before. Both men are part of a chain of racially motivated deaths — a chain with thousands of links for every man, woman and child of color murdered in the US because of hate. Why has nothing changed? How many more people of color

will become links on this chain?

When people say life today is better for Black, Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC), we have to ask ourselves how much better? When a traffic stop, a walk or jog in a neighborhood could end with the loss of life, when unemployment, housing, health care and food inequalities have decimated BIPOC communities. How far have we really come as a society? On April 23, 1897, none of these issues were going through the mind of Joseph McCoy. He just wanted to survive, but he knew he would not. He died looking into the eyes of people he had grown up with, people who granted him no mercy. For a young Black man growing up in America today can we reassure him that times have changed?

This week, Alexandria remembers the life of Joseph McCoy. Established in 2019 by City Council, the Alexandria Community Remembrance Project (ACRP) is committed to educating Alexandria citizens about the city's history of racial terror hate crimes and the two lynchings that occurred in Alexandria. Everyone has the power to effect change and fight inequality. The two most important things a person can do is to understand American race history

and Speak Truth to Power. By understanding America's history of racial hate crimes people can call out injustice when witnessing it. If you don't know where to start, become a part of the Alexandria Community Remembrance Project, visit the city's museums and libraries and learn about Alexandria's Black history. This weekend, learn more about Joseph McCoy on the In Memoriam page alexandriava.gov/Historic, pay your respects at the lynching location, and view the newly installed remembrance marker. City Hall will be illuminated in purple, the color of mourning, throughout the weekend. It is our hope that this April 23, 2021 memorialization will provide belated accountability, reconciliation, honor, and respect for Joseph McCoy.

This Saturday, April 24th at 1 p.m., as part of the remembrance, ACRP is sponsoring a free virtual lecture. Distinguished historian Susan Strasser will facilitate our understanding of lynching in the broader context of racial hate crimes. Dr. Strasser will offer two more social justice-themed lectures this spring.

To read the full account of April 23, 1897, and to sign up for the monthly ACRP newsletter, please visit: alexandriava.gov/Historic.

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A Connection Newspaper



Visit a Virginia State Park this Earth Day

FROM PAGE 6

Stephen Adkins of the Chickahominy said that this “marks a signal event in the lives and history of both indigenous peoples and their friends and neighbors who comprised the total citizenry of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Never in the existence of the Commonwealth has it designed a site so replete with rich native history as Machicomoco.”

There are 39 other wonderful parks across Virginia that are all worth a visit. Some, like Machicomoco, can even be visited by boat, and for 85 years have offered healthy, safe and recreational opportunities for all Virginians.

It all started in 1936 with just six parks: Seashore State Park (now First Landing State Park), Westmoreland State Park, Staunton River State Park, Douthat State Park, Fairy Stone State Park, and Hungry Mother State Park. The state park system has thrived and expanded since. Another recent addition is the Natural Bridge State Park in 2016, on land once owned by Thomas Jefferson. It features an amazing 215 foot tall natural bridge, a limestone gorge carved out by Cedar Brook. There are six miles of hiking trails including the Cedar Creek Trail that leads from the bridge to the historic Monacan Indian village and the 30-foot cascades of Lace Falls.

Our state parks have thousands of campsites, hundreds of cabins, more than 500

miles of trails and convenient access to Virginia’s major waterways.

Virginia also has four State Parks that have received the elite International Dark Sky Park designation — Staunton River, James River, and recently added this month: Natural Bridge and Sky Meadows. An International Dark Sky Park is a park possessing an exceptional or distinguished quality of starry nights, a difficult feat to achieve with light pollution.

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I was proud to support \$1.5 million in the budget for our local Mason Neck State Park’s drinking water supply.

This biennial budget also provided funding for the Preservation of Open Space Lands Trust Fund which protects lands in the Commonwealth used for parks or recreational purposes, conservation of natural resources, historic and scenic lands, wetlands, and

much more, including \$2 million in funding for a possible new regional River Farm Park, here in Mount Vernon.

Across the nation, there are 63 National Parks, and 423 national park sites (including battlefields, national lakeshores, historic monuments, scenic trails and parkways). Virginia boasts 18 of these locations, including Shenandoah National Park, Richmond National Battlefield Park, Colonial National Historical Park, Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts, and running through my district: the George Washington Memorial Parkway. In 2020, while wearing masks and maintaining social distancing, 237 million people visited these parks. This Earth Day, make a plan to visit one of your Virginia or national parks!

Visit here to find your Virginia park: <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/find-a-park>

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BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5

allowed at in-person registrations. If possible, please bring your interpreter for the process. Strict social distancing precautions will be enforced. Face masks will be provided. Registration times and dates are available at LCNV’s distance learning page (<https://lcnv.org/distance-learning-session/lcnv-classes/>), or call 703-237-0866.

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.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 10

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Wellbeing pages, the first week of every month.

Delight in our **HomeLifeStyle** sections, the second week of every month. Peek at the top real estate sales, glimpse over-the-top remodeling projects, get practical suggestions for your home.

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

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County Board Recognizes '2021 Community Champions'

Citizen leaders step up to support the vulnerable.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE GAZETTE

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors recognized its ten "Community Champions" during the Board's April 13 meeting. The County's volunteer leaders supported many causes, giving their time and talents to improving the quality of life for those most vul-

nerable dealing with food insecurity to social injustice.

Every year, as a part of the Fairfax County Volunteer Service awards, supervisors have the honor and challenge of selecting one outstanding volunteer from their district to receive their Community Champion Award. During the meeting, each board member provided brief comments on his or her district, "Community Champion 2021."

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards will be live-streamed on YouTube Tuesday, April 20.

Diane Watson, Community Champion 2021, At Large- "As a passionate advocate for issues relating to the health, well-being, and enrichment of older adults, our at-large champion has been an active volunteer with the Fairfax County Department of Family Services Volunteer Solutions, the Northern Virginia Aging Network, and the Fairfax County Long Term Coordinating Council, working to enrich the lives of older adults and support challenges unique to this community. She serves her active adult community as a block captain and care team leader, where neighbors work together to provide services so that all can age in place safely in their home. She has also helped draft policies tackling social isolation for older residents in Fairfax County and throughout Virginia. An outstanding advocate, facilitator, and collaborator, congratulations to Diane Watson, our At-large Community Champion." - Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeff McKay (D At-Large)



Rebecca "Betsy" Clevenger, Community Champion 2021, Braddock District - "For more than a decade, our next volunteer has been a champion and leader of her church's charitable operations in Annandale. Prior to March 2020, she helped serve an average of 65 families weekly. Once the pandemic took effect, the need for food and necessities skyrocketed, and she rose to the occasion. She oversees the provision of critical food requirements, such as 220 grocery bags prepared weekly, emergency food boxes, as well as prepared meals. She's created an environment where everyone can get help, no questions asked. Her tireless efforts and organizational prowess have ensured that thousands of our neighbors have had food to eat and warm clothes to wear. Congratulations, Betsy Clevenger." - Supervisor James Walkinshaw (D-Braddock)



Fanny Salazar-Laske, Community Champion 2021, Dranesville - "This year's champion was instrumental in establishing WIN, Women-inspired Neighborhood, a community-wide effort in conjunction with Fairfax County Public Schools, county government, and nonprofits to bring women in need to the forefront of assistance. The success of a group over its six-year history is predominantly due to her efforts in creating a safe space for neighbors, largely people of color, immigrants, (and) for those struggling financially can come together to talk about the challenges they face, build social networks, and find ways to support each other. During the pandemic, she has helped those in need by distributing food at food banks, offering interpreting skills, for reaching out to families adversely affected by the pandemic." - Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville)



Volunteer Fairfax 2021 Community Champions

Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeff McKay (D-At-Large) selected as his champion Diane Watson
Supervisor James Walkinshaw (D-Braddock) picked Rebecca "Betsy" Clevenger
Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) selected Fanny Salazar-Laske
Supervisor Walter Alcorn (D-Hunter Mill) chose Lydia Russo
Supervisor Daniel Storck (D-Mount Vernon) picked Reverend, Dr. Brian Brown
Supervisor Penelope Gross (D-Mason) selected Bob Kahane
Supervisor Daniel Storck (D-Mount Vernon) chose Rev., Dr. Brian Brown
Supervisor Dalia Palchik (D-Providence) chose Judith Schneider-Fletcher
Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) picked Stacey Brumbaugh
Supervisor Kathy Smith (D-Sully) selected Dr. Reverend Brenda McBorrough
Supervisor Rodney Lusk (D-Lee) chose Michelle Menapace

Lydia Russo, Community Champion 2021, Hunter Mill District - Serving as a volunteer with Vienna Volunteer Fire Department since 2006, she assists with fundraising outreach and marketing. In addition, she turned what was supposed to be a purely social endeavor, a Facebook group called Vienna VA Foodies, into a vehicle for raising money, awareness, and community action for food-insecure families, for frontline workers also, first responders, and more. Her efforts weren't limited to Vienna either. When the Black Lives Matter Movement grew over the summer, Vienna Foodies fundraised to help the Anacostia area of D.C. In one day, the group raised \$20,000 to support Martha's Table, a nonprofit helping children, families, and the community." - Supervisor Walter Alcorn (D-Hunter Mill)



Michelle Menapace, Community Champion 2021, Lee District - "This volunteer worked on several Fairfax County Boards, Authorities and Commissions including the Community Action Advisory Board and Human Services Council, the Food Access and Literacy Workgroup. Our Community Champion has spent a good deal of her time in 2020 devoted to numerous pandemic efforts. She focused on collecting and delivering farmers market produce for donation organizations, addressing food insecurity, and selling face masks for others. When she delivered masks and was asked how they could compensate her for her efforts, she asked that folks simply pay it forward by providing food donations to nonprofits, such as So Others Might Eat, World Central Kitchen, Food for Others, and more. Her efforts resulted in more than 250 masks donated and countless food donations." - Supervisor Rodney Lusk (D-Lee)



Bob Kahane, Community Champion 2021, Mason District - "This volunteer is well known in his hometown. He has served as president of the Rotary Club three times in the past and will take up that position again in July. He has also served as chair for Taste of Annandale, the largest community event in the Mason District, for four years. His jobs as chair are numerous, including recruiting sponsorships, organizing volunteers, and attending to a myriad of other details. The Taste attracts more than 6,000 community members for free entertainment, food, and more. Proceeds from this event are used to support youth activities in his town and in his district. Congratulations Bob Kahane, Mason District Community Champion," read on behalf of Supervisor Penny Gross (D-Mason District) by Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeff McKay (D At-Large)



Helping Children Improve Their Writing

Practical suggestions for boosting skills.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

When Stacie Dougherty read an essay that her seventh grade son wrote for a Language Arts writing assignment, she became concerned. As she scanned the page, she noticed grammatical errors and run-on sentences.

"I don't think he knows how to write a paragraph with a topic sentence and supporting sentences," she said. "I need to nip this in the bud before he starts high school in a year and I can't afford a tutor."

Parents like Dougherty who fear that this school year's remote learning environment has compounded their child's writing difficulties are looking for strategies to address the problem. Local writing specialists explain why kids struggle with writing and what parents can do to help.

"Writing can feel like a challenge especially at the middle and high school level," said Kathryn Roessler, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School in Alexandria. "This is often because writing involves so many different skills and is a process that entails so many different steps."

Take time to brainstorm, plan and organize, says Roessler. "Sometimes students see this as an extra step rather than one that can promote efficiency and save time in the long run," she said. "An outline is always helpful for organizing ideas, even when it's not a specific requirement by the teacher."

One resource for improving a student's writing is providing models and examples of the specific type of writing that a student is attempting to complete, says Amy Hutchison, Ph.D, associate professor and director of the Division of Elementary, Literacy and Secondary Education at George Mason University. "[It's] sometimes referred to as mentor writing," she said. "Students study the features of a mentor text to determine how they can apply those features to their own writing."

Whether a classic or the latest in popular fiction, a tool in developing effective writing skills is sitting on the shelf at a local library. "Reading has a profound impact on the development of writing skills," said John Gilbert, Tutoring Coordinator and Writing Specialist in Marymount University's Student Academic Hub. "Think of reading as a partnership that goes hand-in-hand with writing. Reading exposes a child to different writing genres, builds vocabulary, increases phonemic awareness, and helps to build grammar skills."

An activity as simple as keeping a daily journal can help boost a student's writing. "Studies have shown that journaling, because it is a creative process, not only improves writing skills, as it is a daily practice

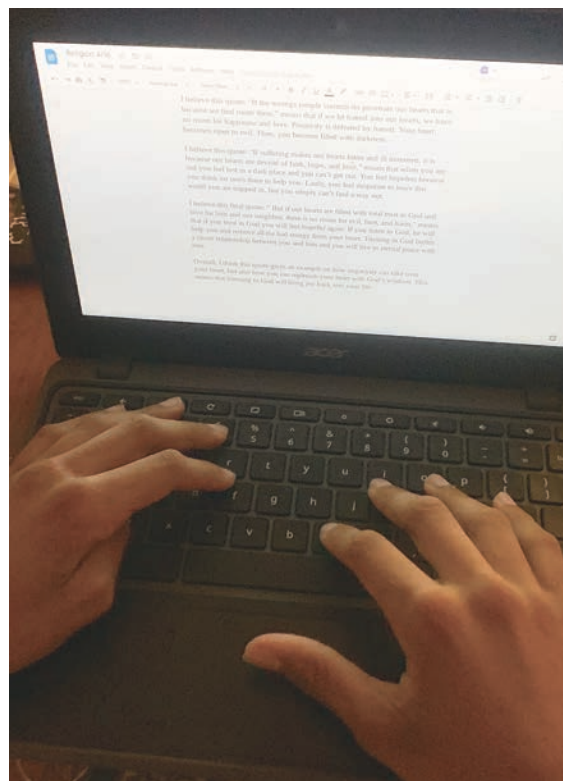


PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Improving a middle or high school student's writing abilities requires practice and structure.

"Reading has a profound impact on the development of writing skills."

— John Gilbert,
Writing Specialist,
Marymount University's
Student Academic Hub

the next."

"Read different types of writing with your child such as fiction, news articles and opinion pieces," added Gill. "Talk about the different writing techniques you notice like sentence length, punctuation and organization."

"Writing can feel like a challenge especially at the middle and high school level,"

— Kathryn Roessler,
St. Stephen's &
St. Agnes School

Students should be encouraged to edit their own writing, says Roessler. "Edit for one thing at a time," she said. "In other words, students can read through their work the first time while focusing on mechanics, including punctuation and capitalization. Then, they can read their work again and check for spelling. Other areas to focus on include grammar, word choice, and organization. Using an editing checklist will also foster a step-wise approach to editing."

Hutchison of GMU is part of a team funded by the U.S. Department of Education to conduct research on the use of digital graphic organizers to support writing difficulties. "Our digital graphic organizer includes built in supports to help students with self-regulation," she said. "Research shows that all students, including those with and without writing difficulties, increase the quantity and quality of their writing when using this structured approach."

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THE CONNECTION **Alexandria Gazette Packet** **Mount Vernon Gazette** **Potomac ALMANAC**



Official ribbon cutting last October for addition of new parkland at Pohick Bay.

Earth Day – Then and Now

Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority is steward of more than 12,000 acres of parkland.

BY PAUL GILBERT
NOVA PARKS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Fifty-one years ago, in 1970, the first Earth Day took place on April 22nd. The issues of that time were quite different than what we face today. In 1970 our nation was awash in pollution. In 1969 the Cuyahoga River in Ohio caught fire due to so much oil and chemicals on the surface. The same year there was a large oil rig spill off the coast of California. A new report at the time documented the endangered Bald Eagle and the impact of DDT pesticide on the eagle and other species. American cities were choked with high levels of lead smog from cars and trucks, and litter was everywhere.

Today, we have addressed many of these issues, and new ones face us. The EPA was established in 1969, and pollution has improved dramatically. DDT was banned, and species like the Bald Eagle have recovered. Lead was removed from gasoline, and our air is much cleaner, and litter is not the problem it was decades ago. All of this has meant better health for people and nature. So, let's take a moment and appreciate the great work that has been accomplished!

Today, while our rivers are not on fire, and we breathe and eat fewer toxins, our challenges are still great. Global warming is the central environmental issue of our generation.

The global average temperature in March 2020 was over 2 degrees higher than the average for the 20th Century, and this trend is growing. The results are more extreme storms, wildfires, hurricanes, and more. And the cause is too much carbon in the atmosphere. The solution has two sides: reducing the use of fossil fuels and the expansion of natural areas that absorb carbon.

At NOVA Parks, we have been doing what we can to address both sides of the carbon issue for some time. Since 2007 NOVA Parks

has tracked every gallon of gas and kilowatt of electricity consumed and converting it to carbon. Many investments have been made to improve energy efficiency. In 2018 NOVA Parks completed its second new building with a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold certification. The new Jean R. Packard Building features recycled building materials, cutting edge stormwater, HVAC, and lighting, and even has solar panels on the roof.

But the most significant contribution the regional park system has made to address the causes of global warming is the expansion of protected forested parkland. As the region's original conservation organization, by 1970, NOVA Parks had already assembled 3,600 acres of parkland. With new parkland acquisitions almost every year, the Regional Park system is currently up to 12,200 acres, including 37 acres of waterfront land in Fairfax County added over just the last year and 600 acres of managed parkland added in Loudoun County in 2018. Over 85% of the Regional park system is in a natural, mostly forested condition. This level of forested land absorbs 15,000 tons of carbon from our air per year! Forests are the air filters of our region, absorbing carbon and releasing fresh oxygen.

Environmental leaders fifty years ago did a remarkable job of cleaning up pollution and toxins in our environment, making the world a healthier place to be today. Our collective job moving forward is to address the carbon in our atmosphere that is driving global warming. We must all look for ways to use fewer fossil fuels, and at the same time, recognize that parkland is more than just a fun place to visit, but is actually vitally important to absorbing the carbon in our air. The progress of yesterday gives hope that the challenges of today can be addressed with focused effort.

<https://www.novaparks.com/parks/map-view>

Early Voting Begins for the June 8 Democratic Primary

Early voting begins on Friday, April 23 for the June 8 Democratic Primary in Virginia.

On this first day for early voting, voters can cast their ballot at the Fairfax County Government Center from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Starting Saturday, April 24, however, three locations will be open for early voting:

- ❖ Fairfax County Government Center
- ❖ Mount Vernon Governmental Center
- ❖ North County Governmental Center

These three early voting sites will be open on weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. until June 1 when longer hours will be offered. These same locations also will be open on Saturday, April 24, May 29 and June 5, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME that Fairfax County is making multiple locations available at the very start of early voting.

Any registered Fairfax County voter can vote early, and can cast their ballot at any early voting site.

An additional 13 early voting locations will be offered beginning May 29. Voting hours at these locations will be from 2 to 7 p.m., Mondays to Fridays. Saturday hours will only be offered at these locations on May 29 and June 5, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Laurel Hill Golf Club will only be available for voting on Saturdays.

The last day to vote early is Saturday, June 5 at 5 p.m.

To keep voters and poll workers safe, social distancing and enhanced cleaning and disinfecting procedures will be followed at every early voting site.

The June 8 election is only a primary for Democratic Party candidates for the following offices:

- ❖ Governor
- ❖ Lieutenant Governor
- ❖ Attorney General

House of Delegates (34, 36, 38, 45, 49 and 86th Districts only)

There is no Republican primary election in Fairfax County. The party has cho-

sen to nominate its statewide candidates through a convention. In Virginia, political parties decide how they nominate their candidates, including using caucuses, mass meetings, primary elections and other methods.

By law, voters must show identification when they vote — but a photo ID, like a driver's license, is no longer required. You may use as ID a copy of your:

- ❖ Current utility bill.
- ❖ Bank statement.
- ❖ Government check.
- ❖ Paycheck.

Other government document with the voter's name and address.

Photo IDs remain an acceptable form of identification — and you can use an expired Virginia driver's license no matter how long ago it expired.

For voters who already requested them, their absentee ballots will begin to arrive in the mail after April 23.

TO VOTE BY MAIL in the primary, you must apply by May 28, and any registered voter can absentee vote by mail without needing a reason or excuse. Applying earlier is better.

The fastest and most secure way to apply is online on the Virginia Department of Elections website. You'll also be able to track the status of your application, as well as when your ballot is mailed to you. Your Virginia driver's license number is needed to apply online, along with the last four digits of your Social Security number.

If you don't want to mail back your cast ballot, you can return it at a drop-off box at any early voting site during the hours they're open.

There also will be a 24-hour secure, drop-off box available outside the Fairfax County Government Center.

For questions or more information about voting and deadlines, contact the Fairfax County Office of Elections at 703-222-0776, TTY 711.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 7

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Assistance League of Northern Virginia is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that feeds, clothes and provides reading assistance and books to children in need. Assistance League's programs touch the lives of hundreds of children in Fairfax and Prince William Counties and the City of Alexandria. There are many volunteer opportunities for community members to contribute to helping those in need. To learn more, email info@alnv.org, or visit www.alnv.org.

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.

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

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 13



A discarded grocery cart in the parking lot identifies this “vacant lot.”



With the tenants moved out, the land that once was full of growing greenery is now speckled with litter.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

County Eyes Spot for New Fire Station and Affordable Housing

FROM PAGE 1

the needs for a new shelter. The new housing must be along a main transit route so residents can get to jobs and services, and that it be constructed as a modern facility recognizing the need for resident care and space. It must also open as soon as possible, the task force criteria stated.

According to Paden, the vacant nursery site fits those criteria. “We think this site could support buildings even higher than four stories

to accommodate more affordable housing,” she wrote.

This shelter should include at least 20 units of permanent supportive housing, with medical respite beds, a kitchen, laundry, community rooms, outdoor terrace, and other essentials of a modern shelter, similar to the existing, relatively new Bailey’s Shelter and Supportive Housing Facility in Falls Church. The site should also include at least 30-50 units of affordable housing units as recommend-

ed by the department of Housing and Community Development.

The surrounding neighborhood was used to being next to a plant nursery, and could push back against the plan. The task force recommends allowing community use of the community room at the fire station. They would also form an “ongoing neighborhood advisory council as at other shelters to deal with any issues between the shelter and neighborhood,” the task force stated.

Change is hard.

A few doors down, Carl Sudar heard about the affordable housing from a flyer that was dropped off. Across from his house there is a county-run group house, and another county housing project is not what he envisioned for the land, so he isn’t too happy. “Obviously it will be a detriment to the area,” Sudar said. He looked at the process the county uses to introduce something like that to a neighborhood. “Seems like they already

decided to build it without an approval process,” he said.

Next door to the closed nursery, Denise Annan is a renter that got the flyer as well. She saw the homeowners in the area talking about it when the flyers came out. “I know they were upset,” she said.

To begin the discussion, the county is also hosting virtual community meetings, with the first one scheduled for April 24. Links can be accessed off Supervisor Storck’s webpage and Facebook page.

Mother’s Day is Sunday, May 9. This year we will continue to publish submissions through the May 5th and 6th editions. Photo submissions are due by Sunday, May 2, 2021.

Please complete a submission form at www.connectionnewspapers.com/mothersday and send us your photo(s).

You may also email the requested information and photo(s) directly to editors@connectionnewspapers.com

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4 Eateries to Pack a Picnic

BY HOPE NELSON the sky's the limit.

With the latest cold snap behind us, it's time to turn to picnics. On a slow weeknight, for Sunday brunch, or for lazy Saturday afternoons, the weather is ripe and the time is right for outdoor fare. Here are some of the city's best bets for supplies.

Chewish Deli, 807 Pendleton St.

If you're looking for a quick pick-up sandwich that's bursting with flavor, make Chewish Deli your first stop en route to your picnic destination. From breakfast sandwiches like a classic egg and cheese or a lox sandwich to more brunchy varieties like the sunrise Reuben or a pastrami and Swiss, the deli's menu is teeming with options. Looking to create your own? Order a half-dozen or baker's dozen worth of bagels and

Junction Bakery and Bistro, 1508 Mount Vernon Ave.

Grab an upscale picnic spread at Junction and be the envy of your fellow picnickers at the park. From handhelds to salads to finger foods, the lunch game at Junction is on point for your pickup menu. Take your pick between brisket bowls or brisket sandwiches; go all-in with a Cubano sandwich; add some spicy flair with a turkey banh mi; or get back to basics with a Junction grilled cheese.

Order up some General Tso's cauliflower to give your meal an extra boost, and don't forget some fries on the side!

Stomping Ground, 2309 Mount Vernon Ave.

Biscuits and salad: What more could you ask for on a picnic? They go together like cookies and cream (but, um, more savory).

Stomping Ground is known for



its buttermilk biscuits, which are dressed up in all manner of ways,

from a "classic" fried chicken and pimiento cheese sandwich to a

"Farmer's Frittata" biscuit sandwich. And what, pray tell, is a picnic without chicken salad? Stomping Ground has your back there, too.

Casa Rosada Artisan Gelato, 111 S. Payne St.

What is a picnic without dessert? And don't worry – with Casa Rosada gelato at hand, you won't have to be concerned about it melting too much, as it will be gone much too quickly for that.

In keeping with the sandwich theme, Casa Rosada does offer gelato sandwiches in a variety of flavors, or pick up a pint (or more) with flavors ranging from chocolate and vanilla to arroz con leche and vegan Oreo. What could be sweeter than that?

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 MAY 2

Breath on Glass. At The Art League Gallery, 105 North Union Street (The Torpedo Factory), Alexandria. Oil painter Justin T. Worrell captures the ephemeral, dusky prelude to nightfall in his solo exhibit, *Breath on Glass*. Inspired by the American Tonalist school, Worrell's landscapes blur the boundary between our physical world and the spiritual realm. The exhibit will be on view online and in-person at The Art League gallery from now through May 2, 2021.

NOW THRU JUNE 21

Taste of Old Town North. At various locations throughout Old Town North, Alexandria. Enjoy a two-month stroll through the neighborhood with this year's reimagined Taste of Old Town North. Passport holders will be able to use their Passport to receive discounts at small businesses throughout Old Town North: The Arts and Cultural District, Parker-Gray and Braddock Road West. Passports may only be used once at each participating business; if 75% of a Passport has been used by June 21, the Passport holder will be entered into a drawing to receive prizes. Passports may be purchased online at oldtown-north.org or at the Community Table at the Old Town North Thursday Farmer's Market. Proceeds will support the work of the Old Town North Community Partnership and ALIVE-inc.org. Visit www.oldtownnorth.org.

NOW THRU MAY 1

The "Unfinished/Finished." At Del



Breath on Glass, Justin Worrell's Atmospheric Landscapes, Ponder the Physical and Spiritual at The Art League Gallery from now thru May 2, 2021.

Ray Artisans explores when and how art is "finished." Every artwork in this exhibit has a "starting" artist and "finishing" artist. The exhibit features the work of local artists and high school students, plus offered an avenue for collaboration to combat the isolation we have all experienced during the pandemic. View at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria VA. Details: www.DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

NOW THRU MAY 2

Cherry Blossom Exhibition. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Art lovers are encouraged to stop by the Torpedo Factory Art Center throughout April to view floral art displayed on all three floors.

Participating artists will display their most colorful spring and cherry-blossom-inspired works in their studios. Torpedo Factory Art Center is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Visit www.torpedofactory.org

NOW THRU MAY 15

"MEG Spring Show 2021." at Multiple Exposures Gallery, Alexandria. An exhibition of photography by MEG member artists at the gallery in the Torpedo Factory Art Center in Alexandria. The spring exhibition features two signature pieces by each MEG member artist.

NOW THRU MAY 23

Those Spaces Between Us. At Target Gallery, Studio 2 of the Art Center, 105 N. Union Street, in Alexandria.

The show is a hybrid digital and in-person exhibition that explores transition, ambiguity, and being on the threshold of change. Those Spaces Between Us considers the distances between people and their surroundings and how that divide becomes its own character in art, history, memories, and the stories people tell about themselves. Virtual Reception: Friday, May 14, 2021 at 7 p.m. Visit facebook.com/torpedofactory

NOW THRU MAY 16

Trees/Humans: Life in the Balance. By Patricia Underwood. At the Athenaeum. In this exhibition Patricia Underwood employs photo images of ancient trees taken on her travels. Stop in the gallery for socially-distanced 'meet and greets' with Patricia Underwood on Saturday, April 10th, 2 — 4 p.m. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

NOW THRU APRIL 25

Alexandria Wedding Showcase. At multiple venues across Alexandria and online. Couples will be able to access a fun Alexandria Wedding Showcase mobile-friendly website that will include a directory of businesses, venues and services, guiding them from place to place. For those who want to stay virtual, each participating company will have an option for a virtual tour, video or scheduled appointment. As they visit (in person or online) each venue or set appointments to talk to wedding professionals, they will "check in" through the Alexandria Wedding Showcase website. Visit AlexandriaWeddingShowcase.com.

THURSDAY/APRIL 22

Historic Gardens at Historic Sites Lecture from Carlyle House. 7 p.m.

Virtual. Join Dean Norton, director of Horticulture at George Washington's Mount Vernon, for a virtual presentation about historic house gardens. For a bonus, Carlyle House is partnering with both The Spice & Tea Exchange and Firehook Bakery in Alexandria to offer a tea box to-go. Tea boxes can be picked up at Carlyle House the day of the program between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. or be delivered with contactless drop-off up to two miles from Carlyle House. Visit novaparks.com/parks/carlyle-house-historic-park

FRIDAY/APRIL 23

Garden Talk: Gardening for Bees. 1:30-2:30pm. (Adults) Bees are threatened by habitat loss, pesticides and climate change. Extension Master Gardeners show you how to nurture bees, particularly honey bees, in your garden by growing a variety of plants that support them. \$12 per person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes (3F6.E98L) or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

SATURDAY/APRIL 24

"When Bach Met Bloch." 2:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. At The Rectory, 711 Princess Street, Alexandria. Renowned around the world for his profound artistry and charismatic stage presence, Israeli-American cellist Amit Peled plays a program of works for solo cello by J. S. Bach and the Swiss-born American composer Ernest Bloch.

Visit the website: <https://www.classicalmovements.com/secret-gardenconcerts/>

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 of 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 donaldrea@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.

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Wanna Take A Chance?



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I'm sort of invoking Southwest Airlines here, but not exactly. What I am invoking are the incredible number of television and radio commercials for legal gambling sites and for car insurance. Both offer rewards while requiring payment upfront. In anecdotal fact, if it wasn't for these two entities advertising on television especially, and on radio to a lesser degree, the airwaves would be a lot less redundant. I'm so used to seeing Flo from Progressive, LiMu Emu and Doug from Liberty Mutual and all sorts of familiar characters from Geico that I am actually contemplating making an insurance inquiry. Together, these insurance companies in particular have combined to nearly beat me into insurance-quote submission. The last time I changed car insurance companies was after seeing a plane at the beach flying a banner for all of us who could see encouraging us to make a call. It was - for me, the last straw. I called the company the following week and was indeed rewarded for that call: hundreds in premium savings.

Likewise, DraftKings, Fanduel and BetMGM have combined to nearly entice me into entering their world of online, sportsbook betting. Unfortunately, I have a much better grasp of the jargon and issues addressed by car insurance advertisers (having been a Certified Financial Planner in my previous profession). With respect to the sportsbooks, even though I'm a long time "sports guy," and as such understand the nature and risks of anticipating a desired outcome, I've rarely ventured outside the lines. Those lines being an NFL most-winners pool held weekly in season at my wife Dina's former employer, a season-ending Super Bowl point-totals-at-end-of-each-quarter thing, and a yearly participation in the annual NCAA's "bracketology," (which I've actually won once).

But the modern sportsbook and even the individuals hired by the radio and television networks to discuss/albeit recommend the various "plays;" the over-under, the parlays and all the extra-special, apparent can't-miss,

opportunities for new/first-time bettors/gamblers hyped as if there really is nothing to lose by playing and only money to win, is all too much for me to process and understand. After listening to all the noise, I really feel a need to take a class to protect myself from simply losing/throwing money away because I think I understand, but likely understand very little of the actual risk/reward dynamic. Certainly, I can appreciate the excitement of winning money at the expense of others, but as most would attest, at the very least; expecting outcomes will satisfy your financial needs is a slippery slope at best and a rabbit hole at worst (why else the "If you become afflicted to gambling" advisories on all the advertisements).

The car insurance companies are certain we all want to save money on such necessary got-to-haves like car insurance. And the sportsbooks are betting (pun intended) that we all want to find free money and are not opposed to taking a chance to get it. A chance which if successful, might actually provide the extra money needed to pay their car insurance premiums. I fear however, that once dipping my wallet into the gambling waters, and win a little, but likely lose more, it might be difficult to extract myself from their figurative clutches. The car insurance companies are sort of the same. They entice us by advertising lower prices then hope to retain customers by offering various other incentives such as "accident forgiveness," "vanishing deductibles" and the like. In effect, they're both trying to bait us and hope we don't switch. Their motivation is quite similar: they want our money and they want us beholden to them. It's not ideal, but it sure is prevalent. In each instance, you're "betting" money on an outcome which is totally out of your control: predicting scores and predicting whether you'll have a car accident or not. Whose to know? Not me. In addition, I've grown weary - and skeptical of the never-ending pursuit of my dollars. Besides, I got out of the predicting business as soon as I received my "terminal" cancer diagnosis in late Feb., 2009.

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

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Community Champions

FROM PAGE 8

Reverend, Dr. Brian Brown, Community Champion 2021, Mount Vernon District - "I'm recognizing Reverend Dr. Brian Brown. This individual recognized the critical needs of the community during the pandemic, especially their emotional and spiritual needs, as the Black Lives Matter movement and awareness grew in our community and around the country. Working with our office, and our district and county public safety officers, and traffic enforcement to coordinate logistics, he organized a safe, peaceful protest and supported black citizens who have lost their lives to police action. Attracting over 1000 participants in the speeches encouraging peaceful action as leverage for change, this march helped the community in grief and frustration towards positive growth." - Supervisor Daniel Storck (D-Mount Vernon)



Judith Schneider-Fletcher, Community Champion 2021, Providence District - "The Providence District Volunteer Champion serves as president for her neighborhood association, the Miller Heights Neighborhood Association, and is very actively involved in championing drives, including many we have partnered on, for Food for Others, for the Oakland High School, and Little Library. In 2020, to allay escalating food insecurity in our area, to organize her neighborhood for turnout for massive food drives working with Food for Others, the results - over 1,000 pounds of food donated. She brings her community together; she raises awareness and advocates for those organizations dealing with food insecurity in the community. With her dedication to help, she has inspired and encouraged her neighbors to be involved in tackling this issue." - Supervisor Dalia Palchik (D-Providence)



Stacey Brumbaugh, Community Champion 2021, Springfield District - Stacey Brumbaugh is emblematic of the best kind of next-door neighbor. As a community leader, she stepped up efforts during the pandemic to help neighbors donate food and living necessities to those in need by offering her home as a collection and distribution location. In connection with her Community Action Center, her home was transformed into a drop-off center for food, easily accessible to community members, allowing distribution to neighbors in need. She is an example of how one person, volunteering with care and commitment, can literally put food on the tables of those who have none." - Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield)



Dr. Reverend Brenda McBorrough, Community Champion 2021 Nominee, Sully District - "Like several of our champions this year, this volunteer got to work during 2020 to support a critical mission area, food insecurity. She willingly and proactively fought this challenge through the most precarious of times. In coordination with the county, she recruited volunteers to coordinate receipt of food and other necessities, oversaw truck loading and dispatch to locations in her district weekly. Through her grassroots efforts, she effectively created a distribution service to ensure no one went hungry in her neighborhood, and she did it with grace, humility, and compassion." - Supervisor Kathy Smith (D-Sully)



KEEP VIRGINIA BEAUTIFUL PROMOTES EARTH DAY ACTION

Keep Virginia Beautiful (KVB) recently published an expanded calendar of Earth Day events and is encouraging participation from communities across Virginia.

"KVB believes every day is Earth Day," said Mike Baum, executive director of Keep Virginia Beautiful. "There is so much people can do on Earth Day or every day to get outside and find a COVID-safe way to make a difference in their communities. Consult our website for some creative ways to get involved."

The KVB event calendar includes the following Earth Day activities:

- ❖ Make dreams into reality by applying for 30 in 30 Green Grants before April 30. KVB will be awarding grants to environmental projects throughout the month of June.
- ❖ Adopt-a-Highway. Groups of all kinds are eligible to adopt and care for a two-mile

stretch of highway in their community.

- ❖ Visit the Nauticus Museum in Norfolk to see Planet or Plastic? An exhibition by National Geographic.
- ❖ Participate in the global Earth Day Live Summit.
- ❖ Learn about Rain Barrel assembly with a workshop at the Broad Rock Ranch Library in Richmond.
- ❖ Give back and participate in community cleanups across the state.
- ❖ Attend the tree planting ceremony at the Williamsburg Botanical Gardens.
- ❖ Stop by the native plant sale at the Virginia Living Museum.

Visit the KVB website for updates to the event calendar. For more information on environmental activities across the state, follow Keep Virginia Beautiful on Twitter, Facebook, or Instagram.



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"Chris white and his office went above and beyond to sell our house. The expertise and ease of the listing and selling of the house was 5 star! The house sold within a month of going on the market. Chris and his associates know the area and they were instrumental in advising us during the process."



9226 Volunteer Dr
\$650,000

"I have known and worked with many real estate agents and Chris White is, by far, the most expert, full-service

agent I've known. What is special about Chris is that he really seems to love his work and he brings loads of joy and ease to those who are lucky enough to work with him. Chris White and his great team not only lived up to their very lofty reputation as "the best real estate agents in the Alexandria area", they also went way beyond the usual guidance and support services we were expecting. With patience, knowledge, efficiency, and some very well-timed humor, we were led through the enormously arduous and stressful task of clearing, repairing, and selling our childhood home of 53 years after the sudden passing of our mother. Somehow, Chris was able to transform this difficult process into a rich and pleasurable journey. We almost hated to see it come to end, except for the fact that in the end, our house sold for much more than our list price and was only on the market for 3 days before receiving a record number of offers. We are so glad we put our faith in Chris from start to finish, and that we followed his excellent guidance to turn our dreaded nightmare into a total business success and unforgettably positive experience."

Considering selling in 2021? Call us today!

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INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE

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