

Democrats Choose Northern Virginia Ticket

Primary voters select candidates with gender and racial diversity but lacking in regional balance.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

As election returns started rolling in from the Democratic primary Tuesday, Republicans started boasting about having the most diverse statewide ticket in Virginia history. Although Democrats nominated a candidate for lieutenant governor who describes herself as an “Afro Latina, Lebanese, Irish woman,” Republicans can boast they have a ticket that has candidates from Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads, two parts of the state where voters will determine the winner of the next election.

“That would work if Republicans were not selling white supremacy and white nationalism,” said David Ramadan, a former Republican delegate who’s now at George Mason University’s Schar School. “Minorities are not going to vote for Republicans because of what they saw in the last 10 years.”

At the top of the ticket is former Gov. Terry McAuliffe of McLean, who’s trying to accomplish something that’s been done only once — return for a second term. Virginia is the only state in the country that prohibits its governor from running for reelection. The only other governor to be elected to a second non-consecutive term was Mills Godwin, who had one term as a Democrat in the 1960s and one term as a Republican in the 1970s.

McAuliffe is essentially running on a platform of extending the administration he handed off to Ralph Northam four years ago, although this time he would not be facing a hostile Republican-controlled General Assembly.

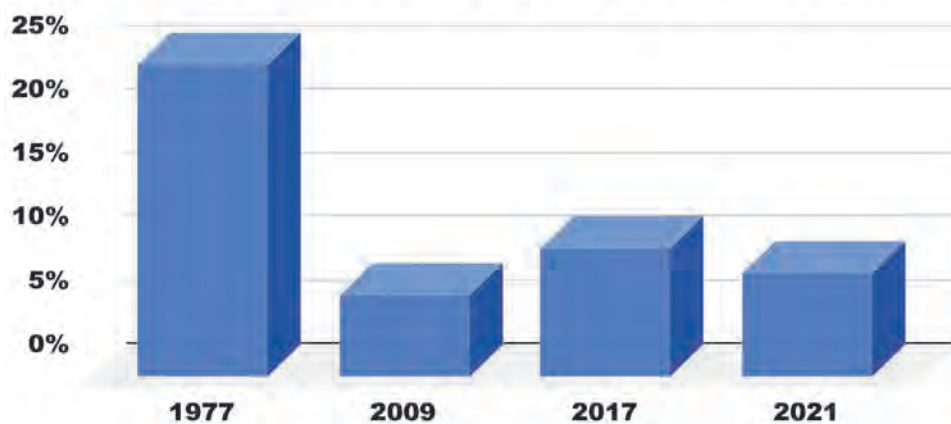
“Throughout his time as governor, Terry implemented bold initiatives to create good-paying jobs and expand economic opportunity across the commonwealth,” said New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham, chairwoman of the Democratic Governors Association. “Now, as Virginia rebuilds following the pandemic, Terry will work as governor to create an economy that works for all Virginians and uplift those who have been hit the hardest.”

McAuliffe is a wealthy Northern Virginia businessman who will be facing another wealthy Northern Virginia businessman, Glenn Youngkin, who has already pumped \$12 million into his own campaign. McAuliffe supporters say his campaign will be about protecting access to health care, reducing gun violence, ensuring economic recovery and addressing climate change. After the former governor secured the nomination Tuesday night, Youngkin called McAuliffe a “career politician who pretends to be a businessman.”



Democrats celebrate former Gov. Terry McAuliffe’s victory Tuesday night in McLean.

Turnout in Democratic Primaries



source: Virginia Department of Elections

Turnout in this year’s Democratic primary was higher than 2009, when Republican Bob McDonnell became governor. But it was lower than 2017, when Democrat Ralph Northam was elected governor.

liffe supporters say his campaign will be about protecting access to health care, reducing gun violence, ensuring economic recovery and addressing climate change. After the former governor secured the nomination Tuesday night, Youngkin called McAuliffe a “career politician who pretends to be a businessman.”

“Taking their enthusiasm for recycling to a new extreme, Democrats are offering Virginians two-thirds of their 2013 ticket, hoping voters will see it as new and improved,” said Senate Republican Leader Tommy Norment. “Virginians are a lot smarter than the Democrats think.”

DEMOCRATS HEAD INTO the fall election season with a ticket that features two seasoned statewide politicians and a newcomer who rose to power in the wave election of 2017. Ayala unseated former Del. Rich Anderson (R-51), who is now the chairman of the Republican Party of Virginia. Late in the campaign, Ayala broke her pledge to resist taking campaign cash from Dominion Energy and received \$100,000 from the utility monopoly that many Democrats say exerts too much control over Virginia politics.

“Hala Ayala made news in the last days of her campaign for being a liar,” said House Republican Leader Todd Gilbert. “Democrats continue to be saddled with internal fighting over who should bankroll their campaigns.”

If elected, Ayala would be the first woman elected lieutenant governor and the first woman of color elected stateside in Virginia history. On the campaign trail, she often talks about her hardscrabble journey from working at a gas station for minimum wage while pregnant to developing a career in cybersecurity. She won with 38 percent of the vote in a crowded field that included the



Terry McAuliffe

Primary for Governor

❖ Terry McAuliffe:	302,000 votes,	62 percent
❖ Jennifer Carroll Foy:	96,000 votes,	20 percent
❖ Jennifer McClellan:	56,000 votes,	12 percent
❖ Justin Fairfax:	17,000 votes,	4 percent
❖ Lee Carter:	13,000 votes,	3 percent



Hala Ayala

Primary for Lieutenant Governor

❖ Hala Ayala:	176,000 votes,	38 percent
❖ Sam Rasoul:	114,000 votes,	24 percent
❖ Mark Levine:	53,000 votes,	11 percent
❖ Jennifer McClellan:	50,000 votes,	11 percent
❖ Sean Perryman:	38,000 votes,	8 percent
❖ Xavier Warren:	20,000 votes,	4 percent
❖ Elizabeth Guzman:	20,000 votes,	4 percent



Mark Herring

Primary for Attorney General

❖ Mark Herring:	268,000 votes,	57 percent
❖ Jay Jones:	206,000 votes,	43 percent

most diverse set of candidates ever assembled on a statewide ballot.

“Hala Ayala is closer to shattering one of the highest glass ceilings in Virginia elected office, which would be a triumph for the entire Latino community,” said Nathalie Rayes, president and CEO of the Latino Victory Fund. “As the state grapples with the disparities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, Hala will work to root out these inequities by focusing on priority issues such as expanding access to affordable health care and creating an economy that works for all Virginians.”

ATTORNEY GENERAL Mark Herring was able to beat back a challenge from Del. Jay Jones (D-89), who is seen as a rising star in the party. Republicans have already signaled that they’ll be going after Herring for

SEE DEMOCRATS CHOOSE, ON PAGE 9

PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/THE CONNECTION

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Cindy Clemmer 703.966.0403
ClemmerAndSchuckHomes.com



The Henry | \$650,000

Open, light and spacious corner condo steps to Braddock Metro is beautiful! This 2-bedroom, 2-bath (sought-after floor plan) unit has high-end finishes, gleaming hardwoods, high ceilings, closet organizers, & more. 525 N Fayette St #316
Mary Farrell 703.969.5522
ChooseMary.com



OPEN SUN 6/13, 2-4

Virginia Hills | \$599,000

Beautifully renovated 4-bedroom, 3-bath whitewash brick raised rambler. Large fenced-in backyard. Gorgeous kitchen: stainless steel, Quartz, 42-inch cabinets. Fresh paint, flooring, and fixtures throughout. 6212 Dadson Court
Heidi Burkhardt 703.217.6009
RealtorHeidiB.com



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Beverly Hills | \$484,000

Pretty 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath townhouse with gleaming hardwood floors, wood-burning fireplace, recessed lights and large windows. Updated kitchen and baths, stacked washer/dryer - move in ready! Assigned parking. 1661 Kenwood Ave
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Horizon House | \$250,000

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OPEN SUN 6/13, 2-4

Old Town \$1,049,000

Awash with natural light, this stylish townhouse features 3 bedrooms, 3.5 updated baths, hardwood floors and 2 wood-burning fireplaces. A renovated chef's

kitchen with stainless appliances and handsome countertops opens to the living room. Private patio and 2 off-street parking spaces. 676 S Columbus Street

Babs Beckwith 703.627.5421
BabsBeckwith.com



OPEN SUN 6/13, 2-4

Rosemont Park \$887,000

Just what you've been looking for! Spacious red brick end townhouse with 3 very large bedrooms, 3.5 baths in highly sought-after neighborhood.

Screened porch, 2 fireplaces, eat-in kitchen. Just blocks to the King St and/or Braddock Rd Metro, Old Town & Del Ray shops & restaurants. 13 W Chapman St

Betty Mallon 703.phone
BettyMallon.com



OPEN SUN 6/13, 2-4

Belle Haven \$837,000

Hooray for this striking Olde Belhaven Towne 4-bedroom, 3.5-bath, 3-level end townhome! Standing proudly on an extra-large 5,513-SF

landscaped lot, this beauty offers eat-in kitchen, gas cooking, gracious deck, 3-sides of windows, 2 fireplaces, 3 deeded parking spaces. 6306 Olde Towne Court

Ann Duff 703.965.8700
AnnDuff.com



OPEN SAT 6/12 & SUN 6/13, 2-4

Warwick Village \$595,000

2-bedroom, 1-bath, end-unit townhouse with unfinished basement offers so much potential... move right in

or renovate! Replacement windows, hardwood floors, updated kitchen and bath. Minutes to Del Ray shops and restaurants. 75 Kennedy Street

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Influencer Marketing is the Next Thing for Products and Businesses

The outfits, dinner recipes, jewelry and selfies on Instagram are part of the process.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

Marketing via social media now has a face, or a bunch of faces in the form of “influencers,” who can get dolled up, sit back and take a selfie wearing the latest, put it out there for the world to see, and collect a paycheck. It’s called “influencer” marketing, and is defined as a form of social media marketing involving endorsements and product placement from influencers who have a purported expert level of knowledge or social influence in their field.

Alexandria resident Heather Mills found her niche with Aldi grocery stores and recipes she’s made and now has 56,000 followers.

“You need to have a passion,” she said, and her passion started with Aldi grocery stores, and then branched out to the food recipes she makes from her Aldi foods. It is a side gig for Mills, and she admits that the swag bags and free samples the companies send her is part of the fun too. Her passion for cooking, food photography and Instagram are enough to keep her at it, and the latest recipe she’s tried is Red Bag Chicken, and now it has “a cult following,” she said. She knows Aldi influencers from all over the country, including Ash-

ley Williams, another Aldi fan who she knows through online contact. “I’ve made some online friends through it,” Mills said. Williams also promotes Aldi things, and they both get incentives through the commercial entities that make the products, not Aldi.

Williams is an influencer with several outlets in addition to Aldi’s including Sam’s Club, and Walmart. “It’s a fantastic way for

learned so much from starting the other two channels, I applied that experience to Oh Hey Walmart and it took off,” Williams said.

Influencers at the Chamber

Bonnie Taylor, the Chief Marketing Strategist at CSS Innovations, works with the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce marketing department and has seen the influencer culture there too. The

influencers have the name, and businesses like big names behind their products. “Social media influencers are not too different from pitch people or celebrities used in advertising or other promotional efforts,” Taylor said. Budgeting for social me-

“When you build a relationship with your audience, they trust you when you recommend a product, which is why it is important to maintain their trust and put your word behind only products you really support.”

—Ashley Williams

brands to market their products,” she said. Williams builds an audience and gains their trust by putting out things on Instagram, and that became the basis of her job as an influencer. It’s grown from there. “When you build a relationship with your audience, they trust you when you recommend a product, which is why it is important to maintain their trust and put your word behind only products you really support,” she said via email. “I started Oh Hey Walmart in December 2020, I was already running @ohheysamsclub and @ohheyaldi and really enjoyed it. I felt like Walmart carries some good gems that could be dug up. I

dia influencer marketing would be very similar. “The difference with social media influencer marketing is that the influencer often uses his or her own platform and brand, rather than having the business budget for advertising costs, filming or design production, etc.” Could the influencer expense be a line item in the company’s marketing budget? Taylor has seen this work. “If the business can find a worthy influencer within their space it’s a logical budget item,” she said.

A marketing agency called “Hey Influencers” has a page on Instagram full of influencers doing their stuff. This includes a model with



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

One of the pictures off the Hey Influencers Instagram page.



Alexandria influencer Heather Mills created this spicy chicken sandwich from Aldi’s ingredients and then posted it to her page, like she has with other recipes.



Alexandria influencer Heather Mills loves to share her cooking secrets on Instagram.

pouty lips and perfect hair showing off a new line of make-up, another taking a selfie in the mirror, and various hats and sunglasses shots at tropical locales. On the page are clips from text conversations: “Crazy how I planned a bunch of stuff to do today but now that it’s raining, I legally cannot” said one. “A parcel a day keeps the sadness away,” said another. This is a conversation of sorts to build familiar-

ity with the reader.

Hey Influencers was started by Gretta van Riel, and used her 16 million combined followers on Instagram to learn how to leverage the power of social media influencers to build a successful brand, their website says. Some of her successes include companies like “SkinnyMe Tea,” “Drop Bottle,” “Skintox Co” and “The 5th Watch-

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/JUNE 15

MV Genealogical Society Meeting. 1-3 p.m. Via Zoom. Legal Scholar Natalie Ram will discuss the legal landscape of consumer genetic data during the June 15 meeting of the Mount Vernon Genealogical Society. Email: contact-us@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 grown mushrooms

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Marijuana Legalization Topic At Chamber Morning Briefing

Join Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce for the Morning Briefing on Thursday, June 17, 8:30 am, for a discussion on marijuana legalization in Virginia. Del. Paul Krizek will facilitate a discussion with Megan Field,

Policy Advisor to Governor Ralph Northam on impacts to business and the community.

This will be a virtual meeting. For more information or to register please visit www.MtVernon-LeeChamber.org or call 703-360-6925.

Novelties and Gifts Share Space with Fun

At Highs and Lows in Hybla Valley, behind the door with five knobs, local artists and Pac Man scream nostalgia.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

Behind the counter, all calls to the “Highs and Lows Gifts and Thrifts,” shop are answered on a Mickey Mouse phone with push button dialing, one of the many throwbacks in the latest Mount Vernon gift store along Richmond Highway. A look inside is a flashback to 1987, or somewhere around there.

“We’re trying to bring back the nostalgia,” said a new employee Alex Blas, an alumna of Hayfield Secondary, which is right down the street.

The walls are covered with pictures, action heroes, tee shirts, and artwork from local artists. There’s even a Pac Man game that still works, and they let shoppers sit down and play a few games, as they mentally travel back to that time. Behind the counter is what looks like a Pepsi Cola vending machine, but it’s really the front of an old machine that now acts as the door to the employee area in the back.

This was the brainstorm of the owner, who goes by the name “Fresh,” who got the idea from a show like “Get Smart,” or the original Batman shows where the bookshelf magically swings open when a certain trick book is touched. They also put five doorknobs on the front door- another one from a 1970s sitcom.

“You can’t take it all in on one sitting,” Fresh said of the store. The idea is to link his shop with the up-and-coming pop world that teens are into, and the surrounding community.

One of the artists they feature is a woman named Ju Ju, who they discovered selling her art in the parking lot about a block away from the store. Now they are displaying several of her works, alongside other locals. “Another artist came from the Great Southern Tattoo shop,” right down the street, Fresh said.

Highs and Lows Gifts and Thrifts

6436 Richmond Highway
Alexandria

On Instagram @HIGHSANDLOWS703



The Mickey Mouse phone is getting replaced by a real pay phone they’ll install on the wall.

Fresh is a child of the 1980s and 90s from Los Angeles and there are signs of the west coast all over the shop. “It brings in a new kind of flavor to our area,” he said.

One way he gives back to the community is cleaning up the street litter out front. The store is only about 40 feet from the south-bound travel lanes of Richmond Highway, and it gets litter on a daily basis, but the folks at the store try to keep it in check. Looking after the environment is another mission they have, and he rides his skateboard to work when he doesn’t feel like driving.

“We’re not trying to be sorry, we’re trying to be better,” Fresh said.

Still Computer Savy

When dealing with nostalgia and the new generation, the internet plays a big role, and Blas said this is where many see the old toys, figurines and tee shirt designs that are on sale at the store. Take the Rocky Horror Picture Show tee shirts they sell, with Frankenfurter on the front for example. Does anyone remember him singing “Sweet Transvestite,” in the 1977 movie? Possibly not, but they have seen him online, and that’s what hooks the new fans. “More old school stuff is coming back,” said Blas, “anything that is related on-



The feel-good atmosphere attracts a following in Hybla Valley.



A sit-down Pac Man game dates back to the early 1980s.

PHOTOS BY
MIKE SALMON/GAZETTE

line,” he added.

They’re big on Instagram too, and recently started a Facebook page, but even Facebook is taking on an “old school,” feel around the store. The Mickey Mouse phone is on its way out too. Fresh found an old pay phone on a trip to Richmond, and will soon have it hanging on the wall, wired to the store’s line for business calls.



Clara, one of the clerks, holds a Rocky Horror Picture Show tee shirt.



The door to the back room is from a real soda machine.

Levine Is One of Five Incumbents Defeated

Two-term House member tried to run double campaign, losing both.

There's a reason why candidates have never tried running in two different Democratic primaries at the same time. Voters clearly don't like it.

That's why Del. Elizabeth Guzman (D-31) dropped out of the race for lieutenant governor when it appeared that she would likely

HOUSE DISTRICT 45

lose her House district if she stayed in the statewide race. But Del. Mark Levine (D-45) stayed in the fight for lieutenant governor, finishing

Elizabeth Bennett Parker: 9,310 votes, 59 percent
Mark Levine: 6,402 votes, 41 percent

in third place and losing his House seat to challenger Elizabeth Bennett Parker.

"Whatever the future lies for me, I know I will never stop speaking out against injustice," said Levine. "I still believe if you're persistent and creative, get the details right, and work with others of good will, even the toughest problems can be solved."

Del. Lee Carter (D-50) came in last place in the Democratic primary for governor while also losing his house seat to Michelle Maldonado.

Ibraheem Samirah (D-86) and Del. Steve Heretick (D-79) also lost to challengers this week. On the Republican side, Del. Charles Poindexter (R-9) lost to challenger Wren Williams.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 3

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. -

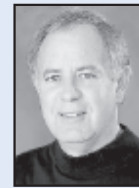
variety of freshly roasted coffee
Twin Springs Orchard - fruits, vegetables, cheese and more
Valentine's Bakery & Meats - meats and baked goods.

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

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 10



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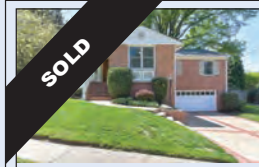
Alex/Engleside

\$1,200,000

8734 Lukens Lane

SOLD

4.128 acres zones R-2 for sale. There are 2 lots: 4/0 acres w/house (Tax Map 1101 01 0043) and .128 acre vacant land (1101 01 0043A). House on Property sold "AS IS" and NO ACCESS given or allowed. Land Value only. Water, sewer, gas, electricity available. This land is adjacent to the houses on Halley Farm Ct. which were built in the 2010-2011-time frame.



Arlington/Golf Club Manor **\$1,300,000**
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Congratulations to the Class of 2021!



Mount Vernon High School class of 2021 graduation.

BY: DELEGATE PAUL KRIZEK

Congratulations to all of the high school graduates and their families across the 44th district! Over the past two weeks, I have had the opportunity to join my colleagues and proud teachers, principals, and parents to attend and participate in the first in-person high school graduation ceremonies in our community since 2019 at Mount Vernon High School and West Potomac High School. I am also looking forward to joining graduating seniors at Bryant High School's ceremony later this week. The ceremonies took place on the football fields and went off without a hitch. Every speech, from both students and faculty, was inspirational and moving. I have the utmost confidence in the future when these incredible young leaders are at the helm.

After a year of uncertainty, it was uplifting to celebrate the remarkable achievements of these students who have sacrificed so much while completing their secondary education during a global pandemic. While last year's seniors graduated virtually and saw many of their events cancelled, this year we thankfully saw our students transition back into the classroom after a year of at-home learning — albeit with distancing and mask requirements — and those aged 12 and up eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, making in-person instruction much safer for all involved. With infection rates lower than they have been for the first time since March 2020 and an increasing number of Virginians being vaccinated against COVID-19 each day, it appears that these in-person events are here to stay.

We made many significant investments in our K-12 education in this year's budget. A budget highlights what we value, and ed-

ucation ranks as the 2nd largest expenditure in the Virginia budget (behind health and human resources).

Overall, \$8.8 billion and \$9.2 billion was allocated to public education for the 2021 and 2022 fiscal years respectively. \$16.6 million was appropriated to supplement federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds to support at-risk three and four year olds participating in the Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI).

The Get Skilled, Get a Job, Give Back (G3) Fund and Program was signed into law, which makes tuition-free community college available to low-and middle-income students who pursue jobs in high-demand fields. The G3 program includes \$36 million to cover tuition, fees, and books and provides wraparound support for eligible students at the Commonwealth's two-year public institutions. The G3 program is also one of the first in the nation to provide financial assistance on expenses such as food, transportation, and child care. Through this new program, an estimated 36,000 Virginians will be able to earn degrees in key industries such as health care, information technology and computer science, manufacturing and skilled trades, public safety, and early childhood education.

Finally, our teachers and school staff deserve endless accolades for their adaptability and creativity in educating our students in new ways during this past year. We cannot thank them enough, but providing them with competitive pay is a good way to start. This biennial budget includes \$80.1 million for a 2 percent bonus for teachers and support staff in 2022, and \$153 million for a 5 percent pay increase for teachers, a step in the right direction to elevating teacher pay to the national average.

\$30 million in the first year and



At Mount Vernon High School class of 2021 graduation: Del. Paul Krizek, Sen. Scott Surovell, Supervisor Dan Storck, School Board members Karen Corbett Sanders and Tamara Derenak Kaufax.



2021 graduates of West Potomac High School toss their caps in the air in celebration.

\$40 million in the second year were allocated to one-time programs and initiatives to address learning loss experienced by students due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds will continue to help academic recovery as we adapt to post-pandemic life.

Aside from budgetary measures, the General Assembly also passed several pieces of legislation to improve education for Virginia students.

A long-awaited bill was passed which provides that students who meet the criteria can be deemed eligible for in-state tuition regardless of their citizenship or immigration status. Now, all eligible students who live in Virginia will be able to continue their education without undue financial hardship.

Also, this year we passed The School Equity and Staffing Act, which addresses a long-standing shortage of social workers, nurses and mental health professionals in Virginia public schools by ensuring that each school has at least three

of these specialized support positions per 1,000 students. This bill and a companion budget amendment invests \$50 million in these positions, which are even more necessary than ever to address the lingering effects of the past year on our students.

Let Us Know Your View

Connection Newspapers welcomes views on any public issue.

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Deaths of Vulnerable Road Users are Preventable

Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling statement on bicyclist killed by a driver in Alexandria section of Fairfax County

BY BRUCE WRIGHT

The Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling (FABB) extends its sympathy and condolences to the family and friends of Fatima Del Carmen Alvarez Romero. According to the Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD), on Thursday, June 3, Ms. Alvarez Romero was riding her bike east in the crosswalk to cross Telegraph Road on the south side of the Franconia Road intersection when she was hit by the driver of a 2020 GMC Savanna traveling north on Telegraph. Ms. Alvarez Romero, 24, was pronounced dead at the scene. Her family has started a gofundme page to help pay for her funeral expenses. www.gofundme.com/f/fatima-alvarezs-funeral-arrangements

The FCPD states that its investigation remains active and that details of the investigation will be presented to the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney for review. Anyone with information about this crash is asked to contact FCPD's Crash Reconstruction Unit at 703-280-0543. Tips can

also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by phone -1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477), by text – Type "FCCS" plus tip to 847411. Anonymous tipsters are eligible for cash rewards of \$100 to \$1000 dollars if their information leads to an arrest.

FABB encourages any witnesses to the incident to come forward and provide information to the FCPD. Unfortunately, when a bicyclist is killed in this type of crash, he or she does not have the opportunity to speak as a witness. FABB also encourages the FCPD to undertake a comprehensive investigation so that there is justice for Ms. Alvarez Romero.

Just hours after Ms. Alvarez

Fairfax County is one of the only jurisdictions in the area that has not adopted Vision Zero, designed to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy, and equitable mobility.

Romero was killed at Telegraph and Franconia, a pedestrian was hit and killed by a driver at the nearby intersection of South Kings Highway and Southgate Drive. These deaths come just two weeks after the death of bicyclist Ray-



This part of Telegraph goes from two to six lanes at Franconia with narrow, old sidewalks. This is next to a park, bus stops, on the way to Huntington metro station, a private school, churches. Poor street design is no excuse for excessive speed or inattentive driving

mond Buza, who was killed by a driver in Centreville.

Fairfax County is one of the only jurisdictions in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area that has not adopted Vision Zero, a set of policies designed to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy, and equitable mobility for all. We call on Fairfax County and the Virginia Department of Transportation to acknowledge that the injuries and deaths of vulnerable road users are preventable and to act with urgency to adopt much-needed safety measures.

About FABB: The Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling (FABB) is a non-profit organization devoted to making bicycling fun, safe, and accessible for people of all ages and abilities in Fairfax County. <https://fabb-bikes.org/>



FABB: the injuries and deaths of vulnerable road users are preventable; Fairfax County should act with urgency to adopt much-needed safety measures. Ghost bike roadside memorials like this are placed where a cyclist has been killed or severely injured, usually by the driver of a motor vehicle.

CALENDAR

NOW THRU JUNE 27

Timeless Tradition. 12-4 p.m. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. The copyist program at the National Gallery of Art offers a unique opportunity for artists to study the techniques of old masters through intimate study in the galleries. This exhibit presents the work of members of this program alongside a color photo of the original and an artist's statement explaining why the work was chosen and what was learned through copying. Visit the website: www.nvfaa.org

MAY 25 TO JUNE 27

Birds of a Feather. Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery announces the opening of its juried show

"Birds of a Feather, which opens on May 25, 2021 and runs through June 27, 2021. The birds are back, and they are celebrating. Themed work will be eligible for recognition by the jurors. Non-themed work may also be exhibited. Visit the website: <http://torpedofactory.org/visit/>

JUNE 1 TO AUG. 31

Creative Summer Programs is a series of workshops exploring the arts. Learn techniques in painting, sculpture, collage, mixed media, sketching, and more from local artists. Dive into your creative consciousness solo or with friends. Online and in-person, for children and/or adults, free and paid programs are offered. Sign up for what inspires you! Held at Del

Ray Artisans (2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria VA) unless noted. Details: DelRayArtisans.org/programs/creative-summer/

JUNE 4-26

"The Naked and the Newt: Studies in Human and Herpeton Anatomy" art exhibit explores human and animal bodies, investigating conceptions of anatomy, texture, and conservation with our partner, the Virginia Herpetological Society (VHS). Special workshops taught by local artists and free talks by VHS are offered in conjunction with the theme. The exhibit runs June 4-26, 2021

at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria VA. Details at www.DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

THURSDAY/JUNE 10

"A Haunting Refrain: Jazz in June." 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. At The Secret Garden of the Rectory, 711 Princess Street, Alexandria. Retro, smooth, and timeless. Vocalist and front-woman, Ariana Harbin leads jazz quartet Sweet Something in favorite jazz tunes from "Summertime" to "On the Sunny Side of the Street," and in tribute to the indelible performances of Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald, Frank Sinatra, Nat King Cole and more. Visit the website: <https://www.classicalmovements.com/secretgardenconcerts/>

THURSDAY/JUNE 10

Carlyle House Architecture Tour. 5:30 p.m. Join in an one hour tour of Carlyle House solely focused on the

architecture and restoration of Carlyle House. This tour will be offered on a monthly basis. Reservations are required as space is limited. All COVID-procedures will be in place during this tour. Call 703-549-2997 or email carlyle@nvrpa.org. Tickets: https://apm.activecommunities.com/novaparks/Activity_Search/4690

SATURDAY/JUNE 12

Washington's Forest History Walk. 1:30-3:30 p.m. At Ball-Sellers House, 5620 3rd Street, Arlington. Walk in George Washington's footsteps. In 1775, George Washington bought 1,200-acres of forest in what's now Arlington. The tour begins and ends SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 13

Democrats Choose Northern Virginia Ticket

FROM PAGE 1

appearing in blackface when he was in college, although that issue didn't seem to resonate with Democratic voters when Jones tried to use it as a wedge issue in the closing days of the primary campaign. Herring will be running against Del. Jason Miyares (R-82), a law-and-order conservative who says he'll make sure the streets are safe and criminals are locked up.

"As violent crime rises, Virginia families need an attorney general who will stand up for crime victims and prioritize public safety," said Peter Bisbee, executive director of the Republican Attorneys General Association. "Herring has been criticized for trying to cover up the illegal release of violent prisoners and failed to hold rapists and rioters accountable when local prosecutors wouldn't do their job. Worst of all, Herring supported ending the notifications crime victims receive when their predator is released from prison."

During his time as attorney general, Herring created a new Office of Civil Rights as well as a new conviction integrity unit and a new

worker protection unit while also reorganizing the consumer protection section. He fought against the former president's Muslim ban, and he opposed Republican gerrymandering in the United States Supreme Court. If elected a third term as attorney general, Herring says he'll protect against Republican efforts to oppose access to healthcare, marriage equality and immigrant rights.

"The voters recognized Attorney General Mark Herring for his leadership over the last eight years as he has tackled hard issues — defending the Affordable Care Act, guaranteeing the right for all couples to marry, reforming criminal justice laws, ending police violence and fighting the NRA in their backyard," said Sean Rankin, executive director of the Democratic Attorneys General Association. "DAGA is proud to support Attorney General Herring as he continues the work in Virginia on racial equity and civil rights, reproductive rights and guaranteeing economic justice for all Virginians as communities return to a more normal life after the pandemic."



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RICHMOND HIGHWAY Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)



PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING & COMMENT PERIOD

Online Meeting (Presentation and Q&A)

Wednesday, June 30, 2021 | 6:30-8:00 PM

Preliminary Roadway Design

Comment Period Open Now Through July 9



Open your phone
camera and hover over
code, or see URL below.

Review and Comment on the Preliminary Design through July 9!

Visit the website to review the design and share any comments with the County.

✓ Register for the
online meeting

✓ View the preliminary
design

✓ Provide your
comments

Website: fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/richmond-hwy-brt
(or tinyurl.com/RHBR1)

Email alerts: fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts ("Richmond Highway BRT Project Updates")

Contact email: dotbrt@fairfaxcounty.gov

Bus rapid transit (BRT) is an enhanced bus service. Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) is implementing a BRT system along North Kings Highway and Richmond Highway from Huntington Metrorail Station to Fort Belvoir. At this meeting, the project team will share information about the preliminary roadway design, as well as other project updates, including the process for right-of-way acquisition. FCDOT is accepting comments on the preliminary design through July 9.

Free translation is available for all meeting materials. Contact FCDOT at 703-877-5600, TTY 711. FCDOT ensures nondiscrimination in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you need this information in an alternate format, contact FCDOT at 703-877-5600, TTY 711.



The Richmond Highway BRT project is funded in part by
the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority.

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Let us know about an upcoming event
www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5

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 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.

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.

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

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

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

711.

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

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

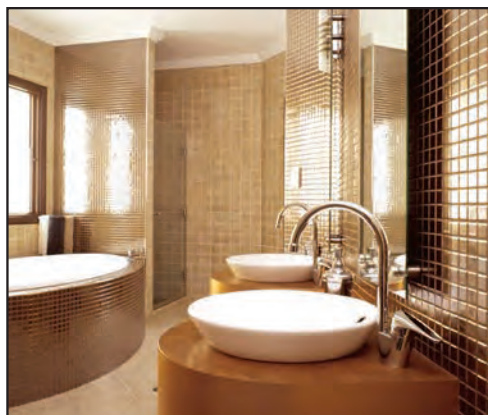
The Kingstowne Center for Active Adults in Alexandria needs Instructors for the following classes:

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11

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LTA Presents 'Ripcord'

Now thru June 26, it's the story of two women thrown together by a cosmic force with a wicked sense of humor.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE GAZETTE

The Little Theatre of Alexandria (LTA) is presenting 'Ripcord' from now through June 26. It's the story of two women thrown together by a cosmic force with a wicked sense of humor. The play is written by Pulitzer Prize winning playwright David Lindsay-Abaire, who masterfully injects inspired moments of physical comedy and unexpected truths into the story.

Janice Zucker is playing the role of Abby Binder. "She is a very angry, bitter, sad and lonely older woman who has had more than her fair share of hard knocks in her life. She has put up a wall around herself because of it and doesn't want to let anyone get close to her. She's kind of just going through the motions of life without really enjoying it at all," she said.

Cameron McBride is playing the role of Scotty. "Scotty is a resident aide at the facility where the play takes place, and often finds himself to be the sole voice of reason. He cares very much about the people there but has his own life that he still wants to explore. Scotty might be still finding his place in the world, but he's doing the best he can on all fronts," he said.

Kathy Ohlhaber is playing the role of Colleen. "I always gravitate to the deeply troubled and broken characters; the more dramatic they are the better. There is nothing like a good freak out on stage. So, comedies are a great way for me to challenge myself and keep the

balance as an actor. Colleen has such a big, over-the-top personality, which is so fun to play. Just with a more dramatic character, I still have to find the elements that make her a real person that the audience can connect with, not end up being annoyed by," she said.

Matt Baughman is playing the role of Derek, Colleen's husband and Marilyn's son-in-law. "He's more realistic and reserved than his wife; always cautious and worried. He's the epitome of a loyal husband, and will do anything for his wife. I find this character appealing because none of the emotional weight of the play is on my shoulders, I just get to pop in here and there and have fun. A great first show to shake of the quarantine rust," he said.

Cameron McBride, who plays the role of Scotty, said: "Theatre in the age of COVID is not only a blessing considering how long we were bereft of it, but also a challenge. Ensuring the safety of the cast, crew, and audience has brought many adjustments and changes to the normal rehearsal process. We have a wonderfully talented group, however, we have been able to put together a show that does justice to the material while considering this challenging time. This show has more serious dramatic elements and themes than previous shows I've worked on. Family struggles, staying relevant, finding a place in the world -- don't worry, there are still lots of laughs to be had here. But there are a lot of slower, more thoughtful stages in the plot that might catch



Janice Zucker (Abby), Kathy Ohlhaber (Colleen), Marsha Rehns (Marilyn), Matt Baughman (Derek), and Cameron McBride (Scotty) star in LTA's production of "Ripcord."

you by surprise."

Janice Zucker, who plays the role of Abby, said she hopes the audience enjoys the production. "You just have to be open to it. And maybe have a little help along the way."

Marsha Rehns, who plays the role of Marilyn, said: "I hope the audience laughs, enjoys the plot twists, and appreciates why the play is called 'Ripcord.'"

Kathy Ohlhaber, who plays the role of Colleen, Marilyn's daughter, said "Although this is a hilarious show, it is ultimately about the importance of having human connections in your life. What a fitting message as we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic. We all need overdoses of hope now to counteract the darkness many of us experienced in 2020. I want just the very act of getting back to the theater to be an amazing experience for the audience, but I also

want them to feel hope watching this show. If nothing else, maybe the vibrant, elated energy of this cast transcends the 10-foot safety distance between the audience and the stage."

Director Jessie Roberts said, "Even people whose personalities are fundamentally different can not only get along with each other but they can find positive insight into themselves through discovering each other's strengths -- and weaknesses."

He added: "Certainly, the challenges of doing a play that is based on personal interactions during the pandemic were unique. Fortunately, most of the characters in the play don't like each other or have a purely professional relationship so distancing wasn't too difficult. But it was frustrating for the actors and for me, too, to not be able to see and react to facial

expressions during the rehearsal process during which we had to be masked."

Co-Producer Lynn O'Connell said: "I had actually produced 'The Revolutionists' in March as well, and from that experience I felt quite comfortable navigating Covid safety measures and best practices. Now, I shall take a break for a while -- and travel." The other producer is Alan Wray.

She added: "This is truly a comedy, and we want people to leave laughing and being joyful about being in a theatre again. That said, the play does have an underlying theme of the importance of connecting with others and of forgiveness."

'Ripcord' will run now through June 26. The venue is located at 600 Wolfe Street, Alexandria. Visit the website at www.thelittletheatre.com.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 10

Country-Western Line Dance, Hula Hoop and African Style Dance. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Hollin Hall Senior Center in Alexandria needs instructors for the following classes: Basic Woodworking, Italian and Ballroom Dance. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711

or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

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

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

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

Volunteer Advocates for Nursing Home & Assisted Living Residents needed throughout Northern Virginia. Contact the Northern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program

at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltcombudsman/, or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-324-5861, TTY 711.

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

The Mount Vernon Adult Day Health Care Center is looking for social companions for participants on Fridays from 3-5 p.m. and front desk volunteers on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 11 a.m.-noon and 3:30-4:30 p.m. Located at 8350 Richmond Highway. For these

and other volunteer opportunities call 703-324-5406 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults.

ONGOING

Mobile DMV. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Sherwood Hall Library. Two programs, DMV Connect and DMV 2 GO, will provide full DMV service to the Route 1 area. At the Sherwood Hall service centers, customers can apply or renew their ID cards, drivers licenses, take road and knowledge

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 12



PHOTO BY DIEGO VALDEZ

This space for a McLean home, created by architect Rolando Valdez of Bethesda firm GMT Architects, boasts a floor to ceiling fireplace.



PHOTO BY JACKIE ROBBINS

Throw pillows in vibrant shades of blue add a burst of color to this front porch designed by Maria Fanjul of Cabin John, Md. firm Anthony Wilder Design/Build.

Style for the Great Outdoors

Designers see uptick requests for porches and other outdoor spaces.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

Alonging to spend more time outside after a year-and-a-half spent inside is driving a trend in home design, including an uptick in requests for projects like screened porches and patios.

"This past year, homeowners were interested in creating gathering spaces that offered opportunities to be outside, said designer Susan Matus. "I think that we will continue to see the interest in screen porches grow as many spent more time outdoors during the pandemic."

When owners of Cabin John, Maryland residence decided to update their front porch, they tasked designer Maria Fanjul of Cabin John, Md. firm Anthony Wilder Design/Build with the job.

"Because it was an older home, we had to stay within the existing porch's footprint," she said. "In order to draw the eye up, we centered the porch's stairs to align with the front door, raised the porch's roof to allow more natural light into the space and the home, and curved the wood along the gable of the porch's roof."

The space's crisp white columns contrast with the home's deep blue tone, outfitted with neutral furniture.

Throw pillows and a rug in bold shades of indigo and yellow add another burst of color. The overall look is clean and calming. "The owners now have a brighter porch to enjoy," said Fanjul.

While designing a new, custom home in McLean, Va., architect Rolando Valdez created a back porch that offers a seamless transition from the home's interior to its natural surroundings. "There are arched openings that mimic those



PHOTO BY STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG

This backyard porch by Susan Matus of Case Design/Remodeling offers a view of the home's wooded backyard.

found inside [and] provide a clear look at the pool and patio beyond," said Valdez of Bethesda firm GMT Architects.

The space is consistent with the overall style of the home which was inspired by those found along the New England coast. "The porch embraces the colors of the home's pastel blue shingles and white trim," said Valdez.

The space is outfitted with vaulted ceilings, a floor-to-ceiling stone fireplace and flagstone floor that leads to the deck with built-in grill.

When adding a porch to an existing home, Matus and architect Vicente Neto, both of Case Design/Remodeling, worked to create a space that was compatible with the style of the home's interior while also offering views of the wooded backyard.

"We wanted the porch to be accessible but also not block views from the dining room, kitchen or bedrooms on the second floor," said Matus. "The porch can be entered directly from the family room."

"Homeowners now realize how valuable and special the additional gathering space of a porch really is."

"This past year, homeowners were interested in creating gathering spaces that offered opportunities to be outside."

— Susan Matus

FROM PAGE II

tests, apply for special ID cards, get copies of their driving records, obtain vehicle titles, license plates, decals and transcripts, order disabled parking placards or plates, purchase an EZ-Pass transponder and more. A full list of services is available at www.dmv.virginia.gov.

Art Making as Meditation. 7-8:30 p.m. St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. Art making as meditation can be an active form of contemplative practice. Each session begins with a short reading and a brief introduction to materials. Silence for making and meditation lasts an hour followed by sharing images or insights gained through the process, if desired. Children able to participate in silence are welcome to come with a parent's quiet supervision. RSVP not necessary for attendance, but helpful for planning purposes. Call 703-360-4220, email info@centerforspiritualdeepening.org or visit www.staidanepiscopal.com/Center-for-Spiritual-Deepening.

Mount Vernon Preservation Challenge. George Washington's Mount Vernon has embarked upon a special year-end fundraising campaign that will help ensure the ongoing preservation of the estate of this nation's first president. As the country's most popular historic home, Mount Vernon does not accept government funding, instead relying upon donations from patriotic individuals and organizations. Through the Preservation Challenge, Mount Vernon hopes to raise enough money to perform critical repairs and restoration work on original structures located in the historic area. The funds raised through the Mount Vernon Preservation Challenge will support the following projects:

- ❖ The Spring House: This building currently does not have a roof. Money originally slated for this project was reassigned to perform emergency repairs in the Mansion.
- ❖ The Ice House: There is a serious crack in the masonry that may result in long-term structural damage if not promptly addressed.
- ❖ The Mansion: Mount Vernon has just begun a five-year "rustication" project, which is the method used in George Washington's time of cutting, beveling, and sand-casting wood siding to make it appear as if it is stone.

For more information, visit www.mountvernon.org/donate.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Parent Support Partners, a service of the Healthy Minds Fairfax initiative, are all parents who have received training and are qualified to offer education, support and assistance at no cost to families or caregivers. They provide reliable information that families can use in decision-making and are familiar with services and resources that can help families in distress. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthy-minds/fairfax or www.nami-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html.

Peer Facilitated Mental Health Support Group 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursdays at the Gartlan Behavioral Health Center, 8119 Holland Road. Facilitated by trained peers with lived-experience dealing with mental health challenges. 571-414-9072 sharonmartinbsa@yahoo.com Family Support Group. 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at Gartlan Center,

8119 Holland Road. Opportunity for discussion, information and support for families with members experiencing symptoms of mental illness. Professionally facilitated. Program varies, may include guest speakers, movies. Pre-registration is appreciated, but not required. Free. For more information contact Nga Nguyen at 703-799-2726, TTY 711.

Telephone Support Group. 7-8 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. For family caregivers of older adults. Discuss "Keeping Organized as a Caregiver: What Works?" Share experiences, gain support and get information without having to travel. Free. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices.

Alzheimer's Association support groups provide a place for people with Alzheimer's, their caregivers, family members, and/or friends to share information, caregiving tips and concerns. Groups are facilitated by trained group leaders and are ongoing, free and open to the community. Call the Alzheimer's Association 24/7 Helpline at 800-272-3900 before attending a group for the first time to verify meeting information, obtain directions or other information about the group. A complete list of all groups in the National Capital Area region can be viewed at www.alz.org/nca.

Plant Clinics. Through September, Wednesdays, 9 a.m.-noon at the Mount Vernon Farmers Market at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Volunteers from the Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association will conduct plant clinics during the 2016 season to answer gardening questions, identify plants and insects, and dispense soil test kits to the general public. They encourage backyard gardeners to bring samples for diagnosis or identification. Visit fairfaxgardening.org for more.

Mount Vernon Community Band. Rehearsals are Tuesday 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the Mount Vernon High School band room, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road. There are no auditions. The Mount Vernon Community Band is a nonprofit community service organization that has performed in the Mount Vernon area since 1978. 703-768-4172 or www.mvbands.com.

Training Courses. The American Red Cross in the National Capital Region will host training courses in CPR, First Aid, and AED in the Alexandria and Fort Belvoir offices. These classes offer a two-year certification. Classes range from \$90-\$110. Advance registration is required. To register for a class or find another class in your area, call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit redcross.org/takeaclass.

Sponsors Needed. Britepaths Family Sponsoring. Fairfax-based non-profit Britepaths (formerly Our Daily Bread) is seeking community members to sponsor families in need who live throughout the Fairfax County area. Sponsors are matched with an individual or family with demonstrated need, and may opt to provide a Thanksgiving meal, December holiday meal, and/or gifts for children under 18. Cash donations and gift cards are welcome to assist those who are not sponsored. Britepaths is expecting to have 3,000 households on its assistance list. A great family, company or group holiday service project. Register and learn more at britepaths.org. Contact 703-273-8829 or hpassist@britepaths.org.

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 8

at the Ball-Sellers House rain or shine. All ages welcomed. Visit the website: <https://arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org/>

SATURDAY/JUNE 12

Old Town Scavenger Hunt. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Enjoy a summer afternoon exploring western part of Old Town with a scavenger hunt created by Carlyle House Historic Park and Lee-Fendall House Museum. Pick up your scavenger hunts up at Lee-Fendall House starting at 11am (last scavenger hunt will be handed out at 3pm) and take your time exploring Old Town and end at the newly opened Goodies Frozen Custard & Treats at the Old Ice House. Finished scavenger hunts will receive a buy one get one free coupon for Goodies. Lee-Fendall is located at 614 Oronoco Street, Alexandria. Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/old-town-savenger-hunt-tickets-153719997651>

SATURDAY/JUNE 12

Beyond the Battlefield: A Walking Tour of Civil War Alexandria. 9 a.m. At Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden, 614 Oronoco St., Alexandria. This walking tour shares the stories of soldiers, citizens, and self-liberated African Americans in Civil War Alexandria. It covers the military occupation, the conversion of public and private buildings into hospitals, and emancipation. Tickets must be purchased in advance and are \$15 per person. Members of Lee-Fendall House are free but must call or email to make a reservation (703) 548-1789 or contact@leefendall-house.org.

SATURDAY/JUNE 12

Beauty of Ferns. 11 a.m. to noon. At Green Springs Garden, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Join a virtual gardening program from the comfort of your home, and then head out into your garden to apply all your new knowledge. Green Spring Gardens is offering online programs on plant combinations and on the beauty of ferns during two weekends in June. Explore how to play with color, form and texture in a perennial/shrub border with Washington Gardener Magazine publisher Kathy Jentz. The cost is \$18 per person. Call 703-642-5173.

SATURDAY/JUNE 12

Edible Garden Tour. 10-11:30 a.m. (Adults) Explore the bounty of Green Spring's Edible Garden with an Extension Master Gardener docent who showcases many food plants—from vegetables to fruit trees—suitable for home landscapes. See how edibles can grow in containers and small spaces and discover their ornamental value in the garden. \$15 per person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes (code 96U.LRA9) or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

SATURDAY/JUNE 12

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The Masks are Off ...



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

... and I suppose life is back on, especially for those of us who have been vaccinated. No more hiding your emotions and expressions behind your face-covering as you once again start interacting with the general public. They can see you and of course, you can see them - and you can hear/understand them, too. Conversations will flow more evenly now that they won't be interrupted by an "Excuse me, I can't understand you," or a "Could you please repeat that?" Conversations that were previously affected by fits and starts will revert back to questions and answers and what abouts. For me, the mask was an impediment to normal conversation. Necessary and prudent during a once-in-a-lifetime, public health emergency, but apparently, the time has come. Previous directives: masks, social distancing, contact tracing, quarantining and vaccinations were all most of us ever talked about. Now with vaccinations getting into more arms, our lives are expanding. From our living room to just plain living.

Though there are still mask-on requirements: in schools, on public conveyances, and in airports, train stations and the like and while obtaining healthcare services, we are now, especially those of us vaccinated, free to return to our previous life, mostly. Soon capacity restrictions will be lifted as our lives, so far as the activities which involve large crowds, both inside and out, can open back up in their entirety. Moreover, social distancing will likewise become a thing of the past. Now, all those round stickers marking six feet of distance as well as the plexiglas dividers will disappear as well. However, individual businesses retain the right to require visitors to mask up. As Bobby Brown used to sing: "That is my prerogative," and so too will businesses have their own prerogative to require patrons - or not, to abide by their mask-wearing requirements.

All of that being said and understood, even though I'm fully vaccinated, I still feel like I should mask-up. From the national vaccination statistics, there are plenty of people who have not yet been vaccinated and/or are unwilling/unconvinced they need to comply. I can't quite understand the "vaccine hesitancy" or the disinterest in following these most recent public health advisories. It seems like such a small, relatively risk-free/preventing risk step to take. I mean, whatever temporary side effects/discomfort one might experience a day or two after the injection pales in comparison to the effect on your body and/or life expectancy contacting the virus might have. I'll take a definite over a maybe anytime.

Besides, I don't want to be responsible for my own demise, or any others for that matter. In this situation, I'm happy/proud to conform to the public health directives. The virus is bigger - and badder, than any one of us; so to be bigger and badder than the virus, literally and figuratively, the more of us who receive the vaccine, the more of us will be able to survive this pandemic and safely embrace our former lives while not fearing the consequences of our inactions.

The other day at my local Giant, I happened to walk by the customer service desk where I heard a customer bragging to an employee about not planning on getting a vaccination, like he was proud of it. What a disconnect! I'm proud to have gotten my vaccination, and I'm equally proud to have participated in a national effort to try and combat the greatest health crisis this country has suffered since the Spanish Flu first infected Americans over 100 years ago.

I just wish more people would put the country ahead of themselves. For all that we're given here, it really doesn't seem too much to ask. In this circumstance, paybacks are not hell, they're heaven.

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

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 13

binations. 11 a.m.-12 p.m. (16-Adult) Explore playing with color, form, and texture in the perennial/shrub border with Washington Gardener Magazine publisher, Kathy Jentz. This virtual, image-heavy talk includes tried-and-true combinations, as well as some daring new mixes to experiment with in your own home garden. Take notes and get inspired with the formulas for beautiful plant combinations. A link for the program will be sent via email up to an hour before the program start time. \$18 per person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes (code CDVOK4P) or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

SATURDAY/JUNE 12

Del Ray Vintage & Flea Market. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Parking lot of 1900 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Items for sale range from vintage and clothing to housewares, sports memorabilia, child and baby items, artwork and more. A wide variety of prices and items are represented.

SATURDAY/JUNE 12

Alexandria Architecture Walking Tour. 10 to 11:30 a.m. At Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St., Alexandria. Join Carlyle House for a tour of Alexandria, exploring at the various architecture styles that adorn the city streets and make it one of the best places to live and work. Reservations are required as space is limited. Visit novaparks.com/parks/carlyle-house-historic-park

SATURDAY/JUNE 12

North Payne Beer Garden at the Loop. 12-6 p.m. At 215 North Payne Street, Alexandria. Live music, food truck, craft beer, vendors. Reggae Fest. Tickets: \$10

JUNE 12-14

Metro School of the Arts Company Virtual "Metropolitan World Tour." 10 a.m. At 5775 Barclay Ave., Alexandria. Metropolitan School of the Arts (MSA) of Alexandria will present the virtual "Metropolitan World Tour," its annual spring production, on June 12 and 13. The show was pre-recorded at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Center at Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria, Va. campus. Attendees can choose from six virtual show times, available between the hours of 10 AM and 9:30 PM. Tickets are \$30 each. To purchase tickets and view show times, go to <https://metropolitanarts2021springproduction.anywhereat.com/channel.php>. Visit the website: <http://metropolitanarts.org>.

JUNE 1-SEPT. 25

The "Quarantine Creations" art exhibit. At the Veterinary Clinics of America Alexandria Animal Hospital, VCA Alexandria, 2660 Duke St, Alexandria. Features artwork by local artists depicting personal experiences lived through the current global quarantine. Artwork by Del Ray Artisans members through the Gallery Without Walls program in partnership with VCA Alexandria. Details: DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits/gww

MONDAY/JUNE 14

National Museum of the U.S. Army to Reopen. The U.S. Army announced that the National Museum of the United States Army will reopen on June 14, the Army's 246th birthday.

The museum, which is located at Fort Belvoir, officially opened in November 2020, but was closed temporarily due to the coronavirus pandemic. The Museum is the first comprehensive and truly national museum to capture, display and interpret the Army's history by telling stories through the eyes of Soldiers. Its displays and interactive-learning exhibits illustrate the Army's role in building and defending our nation, as well as Army humanitarian missions and

technological and medical breakthroughs built on Army ingenuity. Visit <http://www.theNUSA.org>.

THURSDAY/JUNE 17

Juneteenth Celebration: "Day of Jubilee!" 5:30 and 7 p.m. At The Rectory at Princess Street, 711 Princess St., Alexandria. As part of the "Sounds of Hope & Harmony" Secret Garden concert series, Classical Movements will host an uplifting and festive musical celebration of Juneteenth, the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States, with the Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts. Featuring texts by Langston Hughes and Martin Luther King, Jr. and music by trailblazing composers Margaret Bonds and Adolphus Hailstork, the show will be a joyful and reflective celebration through song, dance and narration.

THURSDAY/JUNE 17

Summer Garden: Tour and Tea to Go. 10-11:30 a.m. At Green Spring Garden, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. With this program, you can tour the vibrant demonstration gardens with an Extension Master Gardener docent who will inspire you with dazzling plant combinations and tales of Green Spring past and present. Then, you can pick up an optional box of treats to enjoy for an afternoon tea. The tour is \$12 per person. Optional tea boxes may be purchased for \$24. Call 703-642-5173.

MOVIES IN ARLINGTON

Join the Rosslyn BID this summer for the Cinema series to enjoy your favorite movies on the lawn in Gateway Park, 1300 Lee Hwy., Arlington on Fridays in June.
Friday, June 11 - Monsters Inc.;
Friday, June 18 - Wonder Woman 1984;
Friday, June 25 - Cool Runnings.
Attendees must register in advance of each showing via Eventbrite and check-in will begin at 7:15 p.m., with movies starting at sundown (approximately 8 p.m. in June).

JULY 1-17

John W. Hiller Retrospective Photography Exhibit is a special two-week exhibit that showcases over four decades of photography from longtime member John W. Hiller, an Oscar and Emmy winner. Works include solitary landscapes of the American West, tranquil Japanese gardens, and contemporary experiential imagery. View exhibit at Del Ray Artisans Gallery (2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria VA) during special hours: Thursdays/ Fridays/ Saturdays 12-8 p.m., Sundays 12-4 p.m. Details: DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

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Sun. Jun. 20: A Musical Tribute of the Temptations, Four Tops, Dells, and Smokey Robinson & Miracles, with Forever Yours, and Special Guest 'IGNATIUS,' (Heatwave's current lead vocalist) Featured House Band: Keith 'Showtime' Busey & The Unit Band with The NWO Horns \$35.
Mon/Tue. Jun. 21 & 22: RICHARD THOMPSON (Solo/Acoustic) \$75.00
Fri. Jun. 25: COREY SMITH \$39.50
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All shows are at 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Tickets available at Ticketmaster.com. Contact The Birchmere at 703-549-7500 or www.Birchmere.com.

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