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Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

NOVEMBER 11, 2021



Jim Carmalt, Village Hardware, sings the national anthem with the Fairfax County Joint Color Guard presenting the colors.



The 2021 Tribute award recipients are (back row left to right) John Sherburn, Eric Nelson, Danny Heerschop, Nelson Navarro, Kyle Frederick, Andrew Lam, Corey McGhee, Angel Medina, (front row left to right) Jonathan Bryant, Richard Henry, Marvin Johnson, Shaquon Wilkins, Joshua Queen, Alexa Fulmer, Walter Covert, Maria Pangelinan, Brian Snyder.

Chamber Honors Police and Emergency Responders

Twenty-two outstanding police officers and first responders from Fairfax County and Fort Belvoir were recognized last Friday at the 16th annual Police & Firefighters Tribute hosted by Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce and presented by Inova Mount Vernon Hospital and 95/495 Express Lanes.

Stories of persistence to solve crimes and dedication to community were shared as each officer was individually recognized. Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chair Jeff McKay, Supervisor Dan Storck and Supervisor Rodney Lusk, along with departmental leadership helped present the awards.

"We have the best first responders in the country," said Jeff McKay. "Our people are the most important asset we have in the county and we want to invest in them individually and in their health and well-being."

McKay acknowledged the stresses public safety personnel have dealt with during the pandemic. "Take all the Covid stresses and multiply them by ten, a hundred or a thousand and first responders have still put on their uniforms and been willing to encounter these new dangers."

Many award recipients were recognized for going above and beyond the require-



Jonathan Elias, WJLA-TV ABC 7, entertained the audience while presenting awards.

ments of their job both in their interactions with the public and also in their support for other team members professionally and personally.

Receiving awards from the Franconia Police Station were Shaquon O. Wilkins, Police Officer of the Year; Richard R. Henry, Detective of the Year; John Sherburn, Police Volunteer of the Year; Eric T. Nelson, Meritorious Service; and Jonathan T. Bryant, Supervisor of the Year.

Recognized from the Mount Vernon Police Station were Kenyatta Momon, Meritorious Service; Matthew Hrubes, Detective of the Year; John Chase, Officer of the Year; and Stephen Cicinato, Supervisor of the Year.

Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department presented awards to Maria Severa Pangelinan, Chief of the Lorton Volunteer Fire Department; Angel Medina, Company Officer of the Year; Walter Covert, Firefighter of the Year; and Brian Snyder, EMT Medic of the Year.

The Fort Belvoir Department of Emergency Services recognized Lt. David F. Gorney III, Civilian Police Officer of the Year; SGT. Joshua Queen, Investigator of the Year; SPC Alexa Fulmer, Military Police Officer of the Year; Captain Nelson J. Navarro, Civilian Police Supervisor Officer of the Year; Captain



PHOTOS COURTESY OF TISARA PHOTOGRAPHY

All the firefighters from FCF&RD and Fort Belvoir joined together with (back row) Kevin Good, Fort Belvoir Fire Chief; Walter Covert, FCF&RD Firefighter of the Year; Chief John Butler, FCF&RD; (front row) Kyle Frederick, Fort Belvoir Firefighter / Medic of the Year; Cory B. McGhee, Fort Belvoir Company Officer of the Year; Andrew Lam, Fort Belvoir Firefighter of the Year; Maria Pangelinan, FCF&RD Volunteer Provider of the Year; Angel Medina, FCF&RD Company Officer of the Year; and Brian Snyder FCF&RD EMT Medic of the Year.

Marvin Johnson, Supervisor of the Year; SGT Danny Heerschop, Army Security Guard of the Year; Corey B. McGhee, Fire Company

Officer of the Year; Kyle Frederick, Firefighter Medic of the Year; and Andrew M. Lam, Firefighter of the Year.

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Tacos Top the Menus in Mount Vernon

This Mexican favorite started off with “street tacos,” and it’s still a favorite.

BY MIKE SALMON
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

In Mexico, there are “street tacos,” for sale by vendors who push carts similar to the hot dog cart that is a mainstay on the streets of Washington, D.C. Along Richmond Highway in Mount Vernon, the street taco is still available, reflecting the multi-cultural influences that are found in this part of Fairfax County.

Tacos El Costalilla in Hybla Valley Center is one place that specializes in street tacos.

“They’re Mexican. In Mexico they’re really small but we double the taco,” said Paula Gonzalez, a relative of the Gallegos family that owns the restaurant. It’s a small place with limited seating, but a big fanbase that flock there during lunch and dinner. In addition to the tacos, “a lot of people come in for the salsa,” she said, and Mexican dishes like the Torta Ahogada (\$7.50) which she called “a typical meal from Mexico.”

The soups are big there too and on weekends they sell out of their hominy soup and beef honeycomb soup. Gonzalez is proud of their food quality. “Sometimes customers say it’s better than from their country,” she said.

Just north on Richmond Highway is El Paso Mexican Restaurant where they specialize in a dish called “Gomez Street Tacos,” particularly on Tuesday nights, where for \$6.99, the dish has three tacos, rice and beans. “You can’t beat it,” said manager Roy Gomez, a member of the family that owns the El Paso chain which has one restaurant in Springfield and another in Woodbridge. The Gomez Street Tacos are available in “al pastor,” which is pork, and beef, chicken, steak and “carnitas,” which is Mexican shredded, pulled pork.

Their taco nights attract a lot of regulars who bring their friends, and with Fort Belvoir and Bolling Air Force Base close by, “we have a lot of military come in,” Gomez said.

Monday nights are children’s night and they have a magician. On weekends, they offer 15 percent off to nurses and firefighters, “They’re the ones that are real heroes,” Gomez said.

A little further south on Richmond Highway is Taco Lucas where they have eight kinds of tacos, ranging in price from \$1.79-



Carmen and Sandra with a plate of cheese nachos.



Herminia holds a plate of street tacos at Tacos El Costalilla.



At lunchtime it’s busy in the kitchen at Tacos El Costalilla.



These street tacos come in chicken, beef and beef tongue.



Original artwork adorns the walls at El Paso in the Huntington area.

If you go for a taco....

Tacos El Costalilla, 7862 Richmond Hwy. (703) 704-9088
Ricos Tacos Moya, 8685 Richmond Hwy. (703) 780-2880
El Pollo Ranchero, 6324 Richmond Hwy. (703) 721-2000
El Pollo Primero, 7324 Richmond Hwy. (703) 765-0093
El Paso Mexican Restaurant, 8746 Cooper Road, (703) 912-6166
Taco Lucas, 8142 Richmond Hwy. (703) 799-6756

2.99. They just introduced the Taco Birria, which is a kind of beef taco and it is the “number one seller here now,” said manager

Louise Callejas. The tacos at Taco Lucas are bigger than street tacos but Callejas remembers seeing the street tacos for sale in the

urban areas of El Salvador where he is from. “Somebody sets up a grill,” he said. “In El Salvador, it’s the pupusas, a national thing,” he said, and pointed them out on the Taco Lucas menu. Pupusas were the number one seller before the taco birra was introduced, but now “it’s a close second,” he said.

Other taco places in Mount Vernon include Ricos Tacos Moya, El Pollo Ranchero and El Pollo Primero.

BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

TUESDAY/NOV. 16

Genealogical Society Lecture. 1-3 p.m. Via Zoom. Learn about the routes the Colonial

ancestors took as they migrated to the Northwest Territory, Kentucky and Tennessee. Librarian Jacob Eubanks discusses this 200-year migration during the Mount Vernon Genealogical Society’s Nov. 16 meeting. Register no later than Nov. 15 to this free Zoom event at <https://mvgenealogy.org/cpage.php?pt=111> OR by email-

ing contact-us@mvgenealogy.org. Visit the website: <https://mvgenealogy.org/cpage.php?pt=111>

THURSDAY/NOV. 25

CAN the Bird 5K. 8 a.m. CAN the Bird 5K Turkey Trot will begin and end in the Walmart parking lot, 5885 Kingstowne Boulevard, Alexandria. All ages can enjoy a run around

Kingstowne Center and the Kingstowne Lake. Medals will be awarded for first, second and third places for overall men and women runners, plus best runner with a dog, and best runner with a stroller. First, second and third place medals will also be awarded for these categories: 12 years and under; 13-18 years; and master runners 50 years and older.

Donations of canned goods will be accepted for local food banks. Bring the family for a fun Thanksgiving Day morning run. Register for early bird prices at www.MountVernonLeeChamber.org

WALKING GROUP

Let’s Walk! Let’s Walk! is a community walk. SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 14

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NEWS

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/GAZETTE



In early November, there were signs and a few pieces of heavy equipment at the playground in Martin Luther King Jr. Park.

Thanksgiving Day Family Run

TURKEY TROT
5K
CAN the Bird

November 25
8:00 am
Kingstowne

Bring canned goods for local food banks

Register at MountVernonLeeChamber.org

MOUNT VERNON • LEE
Chamber OF COMMERCE



Upgrades at Martin Luther King Jr. Park in Mount Vernon

Playground in Gum Springs gets upgrades that may be used on more county parks.

BY MIKE SALMON
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE



Gone are the days of shiny metal monkey bars. This artist rendering shows the colorful playground equipment that is prevalent now.

If You Go

Martin Luther King Jr. Park is located at 8115 Fordson Road in Mount Vernon.

All the park equipment will be age-appropriate. Some of the equipment is for 2-5-year-old children, while other equipment is for the 5-12 year olds. They are also installing accessibility features that may not have been required or available in the 1990s.

SEE PARK, PAGE 5

Over nearly 30 years, playground standards have changed and the equipment needs to be upgraded, so Fairfax County officials are doing just that in Martin Luther King Jr. park. Children need a safe place to play in the Gum Springs area of Mount Vernon.

The park was built in the 1990s at a time when there were different requirements of park safety, and this came to the attention of the county, so an upgrade was scheduled.

"Some of the current safety standards were not met," said Project Manager Isabel Villarroel. There were drainage issues and the location was close to the parking lot, which can create a danger if children wander, so a new fence is being put in too.



Hay is spread outside the fence of the Martin Luther King Jr. Park to help grass to grow.

Protect the ones you love,
get your flu shot today.



@vaccinatevirginia





PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/GAZETTE

The swing set on the eastern end of the playground has eight swings.

Martin Luther King Jr. Park

FROM PAGE 4

Gum Springs resident Ebony Taylor called it an “excellent idea for the county,” and pointed at her two-year-old. “I think it’s a great idea, really good for his age group,” she said.

The \$212,000 project began in September and is scheduled to be completed by the end of November.

Martin Luther King Jr. Park is located at 8115 Fordson Road, which is close to the Gum Springs Community Center and the Audubon Trailer Park.

Park upgrades like this are being considered for the southern part of Fairfax County, said Villarroel, particularly in the Springfield and Mount Vernon districts. It is a topic the Park Authority Board will be looking at this fall, added Villarroel.



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Alex/Riverside Estates \$699,500
8342 Wagon Wheel Road

This stunning, meticulously updated & maintained Split in popular Riverside Estates is NOW Available! 4BRs, 2.5BAs, carpet, screened porch--loads of upgrades. The main level offers 3BRs, 2BAs, beautiful hwd floors, double pane windows, kitchen, living & dining rooms & screened porch. The updated kitchen will take your breath away w/its granite counters, dazzling white cabinets & marble tiled floor. The living rm has a large, brilliant bay window and opens to the dining rm that provides access to a spectacular screened porch, perfect for chilling or entertaining. The lower level offers a charming family rm w/a gorgeous FPL, 4th BR, remodeled half bath, & approximately 600sf of storage/utility/workshop space. The backyard is a perfect blend of hardscaping, (stone patios, & walls) & beautiful landscaping-Ideal for entertaining. If you desire a fabulous, turn-key home...Here it is!! Great location: 1 mile (S) to Mt. Vernon Plantation, 5 mins (S) to Ft. Belvoir, 15 mins (N) to Alex, 27 mins (N) to National Airport, 27-35 mins (N) to Pentagon/D.C.



Alex/ Mt. Zephyr \$679,900
8521 Richmond Avenue

Tired of dealing with the stairs in a 3-level Colonial? Come see this stunning 2 level Rambler w/walkout lower level to a large stone patio & beautiful backyard. The main level offers 3BRs, & 2BAs, large open kitchen remodeled in 2007, sparkling finished hwd floors, a living room w/wood burning FPL, & finally a stunning 3 season screened porch off the dining room, a perfect place to unwind after a hard day at the office. The lower level has 4th, & 5th BRs, a third bath & a huge family room w/2nd FPL, & lovely bar/kitchenette. This is a perfect area for entertaining. Storage a concern, check out the 26 x 13 storage room & the added storage in the attic over the screened porch, accessed by pull down stairs. Throw in a large beautiful backyard & you have a total winner! Some additional updates: New Shed 2010-New Well McLain Boiler 2006 w/20-year warranty-New Roof 2012 w/25-year warranty- A/C 2015-Granite Countertop lower level kitchenette 2016- Washer & Dryer 2016. 5 minutes to Ft. Belvoir (S), 15 minutes (N) to Old Town Alex, 27 minutes (N) to National Airport, all along the George Washington Parkway.



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Post-Election and Looking to the Future

BY DELEGATE PAUL KRIZEK

Rather than write about last week's statewide election and give you yet another postmortem to ponder, let's focus on the future and our preparation for the upcoming General Assembly session in January. It's not too early to do so as we are just two months away and already drafting bill language and crafting our legislative agenda.

In my capacity as Chairman of the Joint Subcommittee on Charitable Gaming, I am working with our Legislative Counsel to draft and introduce several pieces of legislation aimed at reforming the current fractured charitable gaming system in Virginia. These initiatives will include clarifying regulations for who, what, when, and how organizations may participate in charitable gaming in the Commonwealth, along with stricter reporting, accounting, and oversight standards. This will be coupled with increasing oversight powers of the enforcement agency for the Charitable Gaming Board, and providing that agency with necessary funding and staff to fulfill this mission. I also plan to reform the Board itself to ensure that no member of that board has a conflict by having a vested interest in the rulings and decisions of the Charitable Gaming Board.

As we celebrate Native American Heritage month this November, I would like to highlight a few



Delegate Krizek with Supervisor Lusk greeting wonderful Election Day volunteers at Hybla Valley Elementary School.

initiatives that I will introduce to support our Virginia Tribes. In years past, I have introduced legislation and budget language to support a Tribal Land Repatriation Fund, or a fund to provide grants to tribes looking to repurchase their ancestral lands. In this spirit, I will introduce a bill to add Tribal Governments to the current list of public bodies eligible to receive grants from the Virginia Land Conservation Fund (VLCF). I will also submit legislation to require that Virginia Tribes receive Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) on projects and policies of significant impact on them, their modern community, or their ancestral territory. Here at home, I have been

alerted to a tax code problem facing some of our residents who have lost family members while serving our country in the military. Back in 2014, you may remember a Constitutional Amendment on your ballot which ultimately passed and exempted from taxation, under certain eligibility requirements, the real property of the surviving spouse of a member of the armed forces of the United States who was killed in action, as defined by the Department of Defense.

Due to ambiguity in the language of the statute, some surviving spouses in Fairfax County who were approved for this exemption and have been receiving it for several years, have recently been in-

formed that they were approved for this exemption by mistake, because while their spouses died while serving in the armed forces, they did not meet the definition of "killed in action."

I seek to remedy this situation to provide these Gold Star families with the tax exemption intended and due to them to honor them for their sacrifices.

These are just a few of the legislative endeavors that I will be working on over the next couple of months, and I look forward to sharing more with you as we get closer to the beginning of the legislative session.

That being said, I am incredibly appreciative of the support shown throughout this campaign cycle, and I would be remiss not to recognize everyone who knocked doors, made calls to voters, and donated their money and time to not only support me in my race, but the many races across the Commonwealth. A special thanks goes to the many volunteers across the 44th district who braved the rainy and chilly weather on Election Day to be present outside of the polls, as well as providing poll coverage on each of the 45 days that early in-person voting was open, not to mention working at the Farmer's Market tent every Wednesday morning.

In total, 24,969 votes were cast in the 44th district throughout the voting period: 23.53% voted early, and 31% voted in-person on Election Day. SEE POST-ELECTION, PAGE 7

Schools Lost on Nov. 2

BY PAT HYNES

The winner of the Virginia governor's race, Glenn Youngkin, would have you believe that teachers can't be trusted to teach historic truth or inclusive literature without victimizing white children. He would have you believe that school librarians push pornography on children and that parents have no right to challenge books. He wants you to think that school principals can't support trans students and keep girls safe in the bathroom at the same time.

None of that is true. The vast majority of parents know that none of that is true. Polls show that parents overwhelmingly trust their children's teachers and school leaders to provide safe, effective learning environments for their

children. And every day, in classrooms across every part of Virginia, educators earn that trust.

Unfortunately, most media and Democratic politicians failed to effectively challenge these destructive, divisive lies. Bullying school boards, teachers, librarians, and our most vulnerable students worked for Youngkin and the GOP. They are already doubling down for the 2022 midterm elections.

It's time for public school teachers, parents, and students in Virginia to get organized and get loud. We have to assume that politicians, parties, and many in the media will do no better going forward. We must make our own voices too loud to ignore.

Here's the truth about schools in Virginia:

- ❖ Teachers empower students when we teach the whole, unvarnished truth about U.S. and Vir-

ginia history, from the first slave ships at Point Comfort, through the Capital of the Confederacy and Massive Resistance, to the systemic inequities that remain today.

- ❖ Teachers empower students to think critically and empathically by exposing them to traditionally under-represented voices and stories in literature.

- ❖ Teachers create safe, joyful learning environments for all students when they respect preferred

names and pronouns.

Parents and students in Virginia overwhelmingly expect teachers to do these things because it's just good teaching.

Schools lost in Virginia on Nov. 2. It's time for educators, parents, and students to speak up and protect our most important public institution.

Pat Hynes is a former member of the Fairfax County School Board, a teacher in Arlington and a Reston resident.

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OPINION

Redistricting Moves to the Supreme Court of Virginia

BY SEN. SCOTT SUROVELL

While the Nov. 2 election has dominated recent headlines, the process to redraw state and federal legislators' districts has been moving along six months late due to delays in receiving U.S. Census data.

Ever since Elbridge Gerry signed a bill to draw several Federalists out of their seats in 1812, gerrymandering has been a problem in the United States. I have always believed that redistricting is one of the most significant fundamental problems in American democracy, and it has become especially problematic with the power of computer-aided mapping coupled with Big Data. Voters should pick their elected officials instead of elected officials picking their voters.

Based on this principle, I have always supported nonpartisan redistricting. In the 2019 Virginia General Assembly session, several members introduced a constitutional amendment requiring nonpartisan redistricting, but after it emerged from rewrites in the legislative process it became bipartisan redistricting, which is very different. In 2020, legislators approved the measure a second time. I was one of two Senators who voted "no" because I do not support the involvement of elected officials or partisans in redistricting and I believe the proposal was inadequately thought out. The amendment was placed on the ballot and approved by voters 65.6% to 34.31% in November 2020.

This summer, the Virginia Redistricting Commission was created and began work redrawing state Senate, House of Delegates and Virginia's Congressional districts after census data became available in late August. Four senators, four delegates and eight citizens were appointed, equally balanced between Democrats and Republicans. The Commission gridlocked on every important vote from the first day. It had two chairs, two lawyers and two map drawers. They could not agree on a committee process, on Virginia law or the requirements of the Federal Voting Rights Act of 1965. They produced multiple separate maps for every district and were unable to reconcile any of them because they ostensibly disagreed on the law and would not negotiate.

Once the commission process fails, the Constitution requires the Supreme Court of Virginia to draw districts. Democrats and Republicans are required to submit three or more proposed special masters, legal representatives of the court who have no "conflicts of interest." The Supreme Court

is required to pick one person to serve as a special master from each list, people who will be charged with putting together the maps within 30 days of their appointment. No one knows how that will work given that courts typically only pick one special master in court-administered proceedings.

Last week, the House and Senate Democratic Caucuses submitted three names. Each were experienced academics who had been previously selected by judges to redraw districts that suffered from legal or constitutional violations. The Republican Caucuses took a different tack. They proposed three partisans who have never been appointed by any court in America to serve: (1) the Executive Director of the National Republican Redistricting Trust; (2) a Republican consultant who drew the hotly litigated 2010 Wisconsin Senate map for the Wisconsin Republicans and is now drawing maps for Texas Republicans; and (3) a data researcher who was paid \$20,000 by the Virginia Senate Republican Caucus two months ago for "consulting services."

The Senate and House Democratic Caucuses asked the Court to set deadlines for all caucuses to submit maps and for public hearings before and after the maps are proposed to give the public an opportunity to comment on the proposals. We also asked the Court to set up an online commenting system so that all comments can be filed and accessed electronically instead of submitted on paper and only reviewable in the Supreme Court Clerk's office in Richmond. The Republican Caucuses refused to join our request.

No one is really sure what the process will be at this point. However, the Supreme Court is accepting comments in writing at its clerk's office. Please stay tuned to my Facebook, Twitter and Blog for information about how to participate. Redistricting now will happen very fast and these districts will be in place until after the 2030 census.

Many predict that there will be major changes to state Senate and U.S. Congressional districts in Northern Virginia given their current boundaries and population changes since the last census. Major changes are possible for some House of Delegates districts. The proposals and comment process, as allowed by the Supreme Court, will take place between Thanksgiving and Christmas or maybe beyond.

Please stay tuned and contact me if you have any questions at scott@scottsuovell.org. It is an honor to serve in the Virginia Senate.

Post-Election

FROM PAGE 6

In Fairfax County overall, 162,218 voters voted early, and 55% of Fairfax voters turned out in total. Statewide, the Commonwealth had record high turnout — a higher percentage of voters cast ballots in this election than in any Virginia gubernatorial election since at least 1997.

I was honored and very happy to receive 18,262 votes, or 67.74% of the vote to win reelection to serve a fourth term as Delegate for the 44th District in Richmond. Thank you for your continued trust in me to represent our community here in Mount Vernon and Lee. As always, please contact me at any time with legislative questions or ideas.

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Fairfax County Public Schools Assistant Superintendent, Facilities and Transportation Services Jeffrey Platenberg.



FCPS Superintendent Scott Brabrand.



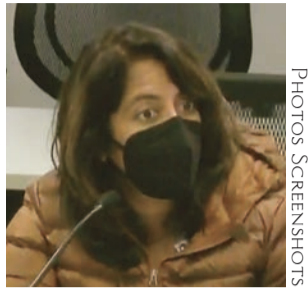
Karen Corbett Sanders, Mount Vernon, Fairfax County School Board.



Abrar Omeish, At-Large, Fairfax County School Board.



Megan McLaughlin, Braddock representative to the Fairfax County School Board.



Rachna Sizemore Heizer, vice chair, Fairfax County School Board.

PHOTOS: SCREENSHOTS

Second Year of Membership Decline for FCPS

What risk to state funding, budget and school boundaries?

MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

In comparison to last year's enrollment of 180,151 students, Fairfax County Public Schools enrollment for SY 2021-22 decreased by 1,556 students, or 1 percent, to 178,595.

Compared to the pre-pandemic SY 2019-20 enrollment of 189,010, there had been a total student decrease of 10,415 (6 percent) in FCPS. The continued downward trend follows last year's plummet of 5 percent with a loss of 8,859 students.

A similar reduction is playing out across the nation's public school divisions and the Commonwealth's.

"The majority of school districts still saw slight declines," said FCPS Superintendent Scott Brabrand. "And as this pandemic is ending really this week, as we give the vaccination out to all kids. There's going to be a fundamental realignment. We're sitting on 2,000 more homeschool kids than normal ... We may see a change ... at second semester, late January, or early February." He added that FCPS would seek a "hold harmless" approach from the state so the downward membership trend would not impact state funding to the division.

Jeffrey Platenberg, assistant superintendent, Facilities and Transportation Services at FCPS, presented the numbers at a school board work session on Nov. 9.

Public school divisions in the Commonwealth must, by Virginia code, take a count of Sept. 30 Fall Membership and report this information to the Virginia Department of Education no later than Oct. 15 each year.

This school year's current decrease matters to FCPS for a multitude of reasons, one being if students don't return, the division may have to figure out how to operate with fewer state-funded dollars.

Like other public schools in the Commonwealth, FCPS receives state revenue based partly on enrollment numbers and formulas. The Commonwealth of Virginia provides two types of revenue: state aid and sales tax. Sales tax revenue is distributed to school districts based on each locality's number of school-age children.

According to Platenberg, many factors, including the pandemic's future course and economic conditions, will determine whether or not these trends are temporary. He summarized the official 288-page report made available to the school board in a 25-slide presentation with the help of Pranita Ranbhise,

coordinator, Office of Facilities Planning.

Platenberg explained that data in the Membership Report is also used

at the county level as a foundation for a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) based on school capacity and student projections. Membership also impacts the FCPS budget and staffing formulas. In December, the board will take a deeper dive into the analysis. There was no board action on Nov. 9.

Membership includes in-person and virtual programs at traditional schools, centers/alternative programs such as special education centers, preschool resource centers, alternative school and court programs, and others.

Top Six HS Pyramids with the Largest Net Migration, SY 2021-22



Top Three HS Pyramids with Largest Positive Net Migration

| Region | HS Pyramid | SY 2019-20 Net Migration | SY 2020-21 Net Migration | Change from SY 2019-20 to SY 2020-21 (%) | SY 2021-22 Net Migration | Change from SY 2020-21 to SY 2021-22 (%) |
|--------|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|--|
| 2 | Thomas Jefferson | 147 | 145 | -2 (-1%) | 223 | 78 (54%) |
| 4 | West Springfield | 258 | -112 | -370 (-143%) | 196 | 308 (275%) |
| 2 | McLean ¹ | 119 | -153 | -272 (-229%) | 192 | 345 (225%) |

Top Three HS Pyramids with Largest Negative Net Migration

| Region | HS Pyramid | SY 2019-20 Net Migration | SY 2020-21 Net Migration | Change from SY 2019-20 to SY 2020-21 (%) | SY 2021-22 Net Migration | Change from SY 2020-21 to SY 2021-22 (%) |
|--------|------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|--|
| 5 | Westfield | -65 | -252 | -187 (-288%) | -321 | -69 (-27%) |
| 1 | Herndon | 64 | -308 | -372 (-581%) | -166 | 142 (48%) |
| 3 | Lewis | 190 | -105 | -295 (-155%) | -123 | -18 (-17%) |

¹ HS pyramid contains a school that is currently going through a phased-in boundary adjustment.
Source: FCPS, Certified Membership, September 2019 to September 2021.
Notes:
1. FCPS base membership includes general education, special education, AAP, FCPS PreK, and preschool.
2. Centers/Alternative Programs membership includes special education centers, preschool resource centers, alternative school programs, and alternative court programs.
3. Other membership includes adult education, multi-agency, and home school and private school special education services.
4. Membership includes students who attend an FCPS school and reside outside Fairfax County and the City of Fairfax.
5. Dates for official budget counts are special education and special education preschool (December 1), nontraditional sites (January 31), and FCPS PreK (March 31).
6. FCPS Virtual Program provides virtual instruction to support students who have been approved for SY 2021-22.
7. Effective SY 2021-22, students in the Fairfax County Adult High School Equivalency program are considered as part of Fairfax County Adult School student membership.
8. "*" is used to indicate that the value may be unavailable or not applicable.

Top Six HS Pyramids with Largest Net Migration

Change in Birth to Kindergarten Ratio by HS Pyramid, SY 2019-20 to SY 2021-22



Top Six HS Pyramids with Largest Increase

| Region | HS Pyramid | Ratio SY 2019-20 | Ratio SY 2020-21 | Change from SY 2019-20 to SY 2020-21 | Ratio SY 2021-22 | Change from SY 2020-21 to SY 2021-22 |
|--------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | Madison | 101% | 85% | -16% | 110% | 25% |
| 4 | South County | 97% | 79% | -18% | 101% | 22% |
| 4 | Lake Braddock | 124% | 99% | -25% | 120% | 21% |
| 4 | West Springfield | 130% | 110% | -20% | 130% | 20% |
| 1 | Langley | 148% | 134% | -14% | 153% | 19% |
| 2 | McLean | 129% | 140% | 11% | 158% | 18% |

Sources:
1. FCPS, Certified Membership, September 2011 to September 2020.
2. Virginia Department of Health Division of Health Statistics, Vital Records and Health Statistics, 2005 to 2015.
Notes:
1. Kindergarten membership includes general education, special education, special education centers, alternative school programs, multi-agency, and home school and private school special education services.
2. Kindergarten membership includes students who attend an FCPS school and reside outside Fairfax County and the City of Fairfax.
3. Kindergarten membership only includes students who attend a traditional Fairfax County public school in-person.
4. Birth numbers include only births by mothers who reside in Fairfax County or City of Fairfax.
5. Dates for official budget counts are special education and special education preschool (December 1), nontraditional sites (January 31), and FCPS PreK (March 31).
6. "*" is used to indicate that the value may be unavailable or not applicable.

Change in Birth to Kindergarten Ratio.

Highlights of Platenberg's presentation centered on the three "fundamental factors" that influence student membership counts and projections from year-to-year. They are the birth-to-kindergarten ratio, student migration, and student transfers. The data presented in the report is available on the Facilities and Membership Dashboards.

<https://www.fcps.edu/about-fcps/facilities-planning-future/>

facilities-and-membership-dashboards

Platenberg said that kindergarten enrollment numbers experienced an increase in SY 2021-22 by 1,186 students, resulting in a birth-to-kindergarten ratio of 75 percent in SY 2020-21 to 84 percent in SY 2021-22. On the other hand, while FCPS did experience a positive overall net migration of 151 students in SY 2021-22, 15,839 students migrated into the

division, and a total of 15,688 students migrated out, it made little impact overall given last year's loss of 4,953 students. Combined with the SY 2020-21 migration totals, there has been a net migration of -4,802 students since the pre-pandemic SY 2019-20 total.

In addition, even though summer withdrawals decreased from 12,317 students in SY 2020-21 to a total of 11,243 students who

SEE SECOND YEAR, PAGE 9

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Critical Illness Recovery Hospital Coming to Inova Mount Vernon

Inova Health System is expanding its services with the addition of a Critical Illness Recovery Hospital at Inova Mount Vernon Hospital. A Critical Illness Recovery Hospital, also known as a Long-Term Acute Care Hospital, is a new Inova service for patients who require an extended stay with specialized clinical attention and support, but no longer need the intensive care provided in an acute care hospital.

The Critical Illness Recovery Hospital will care for patients with complex medical conditions such as heart failure, wound or burn care, severe brain injuries, respiratory therapy or ventilator weaning.

“The absence of this type of care in

our region has previously required patients to be transferred to facilities in Charlottesville, Richmond, or DC — far away from their families,” said J. Stephen Jones, MD, President and CEO, Inova. The addition of the Critical Illness Recovery Hospital at Inova Mount Vernon will mean that “all five Inova hospitals will be able to confidently

transition patients to an Inova facility closer to home for this expert care.”

The Inova Mount Vernon Critical Illness Recovery Hospital is part of Inova’s ongoing efforts to fully build out its healthcare delivery system. This will expand Inova’s system of services in the growing Eastern Region of Northern Virginia, which includes the City of Alexandria and surrounding communities, Mount Vernon, Lorton, Franconia, and Springfield.

The Critical Illness Recovery Hospital will be built within the current footprint of Inova Mount Vernon Hospital, and is expected to be fully operational in late 2022.

“The CIRH will allow patients to

continue in Inova’s seamless continuum of care and will allow for easier communication among patients and the care team, as well as the development of specialized programs and services to better treat patients,” said Roberta Tinch, MHA, FACHE, President of Inova Mount Vernon Hospital and Administrator of Inova’s musculoskeletal service line.

The Critical Illness Recovery Hospital will be built within the current footprint of Inova Mount Vernon Hospital, and is expected to be fully operational in late 2022.

Second Year of Membership Decline for FCPS

FROM PAGE 8

withdrew over the summer of 2021, this year’s withdrawals remain more than the last pre-pandemic total of 8,823 in SY 2019–20.

A total of 17,952 students transferred into a school other than their base (assigned) school, and 17,332 students transferred out of their base (assigned) school, resulting in a net transfer of 620 students.

The top three transfer reasons provided for SY 2021–22 are: 4,481 (25 percent) to access AP; 3,452 (19 percent) to enter special education programs; and 3,016 (17 percent) were related to reasons considered within the student transfer regulation.

The membership of centers and alternative programs continued to experience a drop, significant in percent, if less so in student numbers. It includes special education centers, preschool resource centers, alternative school programs, and alternative court programs. Following a student decrease of 356 (19 percent) in SY 2020–21, total membership in SY 2021–22 decreased by 151 (10 percent), resulting in a total decrease of 507 (27 percent) students since the pre-pandemic SY 2019–20 membership.

Platenberg said the CIP projection would be highly challenging because of last year’s significant decrease in membership, the resulting tracking decline this year, and the



Fairfax County School Board Work Session on Tuesday, Nov. 9.

trend that students are coming back.

“Things are getting back to whatever the new normal may be, but then having us do a market correction or some kind of reset in our forecasting methodology,” he said.

The school board members broke into three groups and wrote their reactions on easels. School board member Abrar Omeish presented for her group, saying they needed context for the data. “We’ve had two unique years for a variety of reasons,” she said. “What’s normal?” Second, she noted that alternative schools did not follow the trend. Third, Omeish questioned what Platenberg referred to as “fundamental factors” in his report and whether they were reliable measurements.

“How useful are they? Are we relying on

SEE SECOND YEAR, PAGE 9

campagna center
PRESENTS

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Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend & Parade

Friday, December 3rd, & Saturday, December 4th, 2021

Join us in kicking off the holiday season and celebrating the rich history of the Alexandria community with our 50th anniversary events. Funds raised support our educational programs for children and families from cradle to career!

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campagnacenter.org/event/the-scottish-christmas-walk-weekend

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First Lady Dr. Jill Biden talks with a Franklin Sherman Elementary School student in McLean.



Parents and caretakers accompany their children 5 to 11 years old for their first COVID-19 pediatric vaccine at the national rollout for the vaccination held at Franklin Sherman Elementary in McLean.

First Lady Dr. Jill Biden Comes to Franklin Sherman

Kicking off the national COVID-19 pediatric vaccine distribution at Franklin Sherman in McLean, where vaccines have a history.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
GAZETTE PACKET

On Monday, Nov. 8, First Lady Dr. Jill Biden and U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy visited Fairfax County Public Schools, Franklin Sherman Elementary in McLean, to promote the pediatric COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 5 to 11 years old.

The choice of Franklin Sherman ES allowed Biden and Murthy to kick off the national COVID-19 pediatric vaccination campaign at the same school where the first polio vaccine was administered 67 years earlier. On April 26, 1954, Franklin Sherman Elementary students became “Polio Pioneers,” the first children to receive the Salk vaccine, which started the United States on the path to eradicating polio.

“This vaccine is the best way to protect your children against COVID-19,” Biden told parents and their newly vaccinated children. “It’s been thoroughly reviewed and rigorously tested; it’s free, and it’s available for every child aged five and up.”

School Superintendent Scott S. Brabrand said that with the opportunity for widespread COVID-19 vaccination of younger children, it was hoped that students would learn in person, avoid school or division closures, and keep school staff and students safe. “We are proud to be leading the way in the vaccination rollout for children ages 5 to 11, just as we did with the polio vaccine in 1954,” Brabrand said.

A week before, on Tuesday, Nov. 2, CDC Director Rochelle P. Walensky endorsed the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices’ recommendation that children 5 to 11 be vaccinated against COVID-19 with the Pfizer-BioNTech pediatric vaccine. The approval paves the way for the vaccine to be given to approximately 28 million children aged 5 to 11 in the United States. It was an important step forward in the fight against the virus.



First Lady Dr. Jill Biden comes to Franklin Sherman, here flanked by students and talking about the importance of vaccinating children ages 5 and up for COVID-19. Students received the first pediatric polio vaccines in 1954 at Franklin Sherman Elementary.

Biden and Murthy’s visit to Franklin Sherman comes after the virus claimed the lives of more than 5 million people worldwide, including more than 750,000 Americans and more than 1,200 Fairfax County residents.

More than 85 percent of Fairfax County students aged 12 and older have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. FCPS has successfully implemented layered prevention strategies since the start of the pandemic in March 2020 and reports that it continues to have both an extremely low positivity rate (0.35 percent) and transmission rate (0.02 percent) in its schools.

FCPS will soon host school-based vaccination clinics evenings, weekends, and during the school day. The school division partnered with a private vendor to open in-school clinics where students can be vaccinated with



From left, U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, First Lady Dr. Jill Biden and Gloria Addo-Ayensu, MD, M.P.H., director of health for Fairfax County, at the national rollout for pediatric COVID-19 vaccines.



From left, Fairfax County School Board Chair Stella Pekarsky (Sully District) and Fairfax County School Superintendent Scott S. Brabrand give thumbs up at FCPS’ Franklin Sherman Elementary in McLean.

parent or guardian permission and with or without their presence. It is partnering with Fairfax County Health Department, hosting several mass vaccination clinics, pop-up clinics at school sites in the evenings and/or weekends, and supporting school-based clinics during the school day.

Inova Children’s is holding weekend pediatric vaccination clinics at the Inova Center for Personalized Health and Inova Cares

Clinic for underserved communities. The Virginia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics will deliver more than 3,900 vaccines per week through its pediatricians.

Fairfax County School Board Chair, Stella Pekarsky, said, “We are proud of the way the schools, the County, and our private partners have come together to ensure that everyone who wants the vaccination will be able to get it.”

Second Year of Membership Decline

FROM PAGE 9

the same thing, for example, birth rate ... when there's development maybe that we want to also look at?" Omeish said. She added that perhaps boundary work needed to be halted, given that there was a problem there. "We're not able to properly project," Omeish said.

School board member Karen Corbet Sanders said they needed to look at "the why," especially in the effectiveness of the Welcome Back communications. She asked, "Did we actually measure?"

School board member Megan McLaughlin said her group questioned longer-term membership changes and trends and how they might impact program budgets and operations relating to staffing and supplies.

They wanted to understand better special education population changes, what is happening with the Washington Boards of Education, and what "all this raw data is telling us."

Sizmore Heizer added that it would be helpful to have the data disaggregated in special education and alternative schools. "I'm hearing a lot of those students didn't come back."

Student Enrollment at a Glance

Total membership decreased by 1,556 (1%) students

Combined with the SY 2020-21 decrease of 8,859 (5%) students, there has been a total decrease of 10,415 (6%) students since the pre-pandemic SY 2019-20 membership.

ELEMENTARY School membership decreased by 655 (1%) students.

Combined with the SY 2020-21 decrease of 7,729 (8%), there has been a total decrease of 8,384 (9%) ES students since the pre-pandemic SY 2019-20 membership.

MIDDLE School membership decreased by 1,010 (3%) students.

Combined with the SY 2020-21 decrease of 217 (1%), there has been a total decrease of 1,227 (4%) MS students since the pre-pandemic SY 2019-20 membership.

HIGH SCHOOL membership decreased by 176 (0%) students.

Combined with the SY 2020-21 decrease of 392 (1%), there has been a total decrease of 568 (1%) HS students since the pre-pandemic SY 2019-20 membership.

Virtual Program membership (new SY 2021-22 program)

ES VIRTUAL membership is 217 students.

MS VIRTUAL membership is 66 students.

HS VIRTUAL membership is 98 students.

Total Centers/Alternative Programs membership decreased by 151 (10%) students:

Combined with the SY 2020-21 decrease of 356 (19%), there has been a total decrease of 507 (27%) students since the pre-pandemic SY 2019-20 membership.

In-person membership decreased by 153 (10%) students.

Virtual Program membership is two students.

Total Other category membership increased by 55 (9%) students:

Combined with the SY 2020-21 decrease of 165 (21%), there has been a total decrease of 110 (14%) students since the pre-pandemic SY 2019-20 membership.

In-person membership increased by 53 (9%) students.


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**Richmond Highway (Route 1)
Speed Limit Study
Fairfax County**

Virtual Public Information Meeting

Tuesday, November 30, 2021, 7 p.m.
<https://www.virginiadot.org/Route1SpeedLimitStudy>

Find out about a study assessing the 45 MPH speed limit on about eight miles of Richmond Highway (Route 1) between Belvoir Road/Meade Road and I-95/I-495 (Capital Beltway) to improve safety for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, drivers, and transit users.

The meeting will be held as a **virtual/online meeting**. Information for accessing and participating in the virtual meeting is available at <https://www.virginiadot.org/Route1SpeedLimitStudy>. The study team will make a short presentation beginning at 7 p.m. and answer questions for about an hour after the presentation.

Review study information and meeting details on the webpage above or during business hours at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030. Please call ahead at 703-259-2752 or TTY/TDD 711 to make an appointment with appropriate personnel.

Give your comments during the meeting, or by **December 10, 2021** via the comment form on the study website, by mail to Ms. Tien-Jung "Tina" Ho, P.E., Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030 or by email to meetingcomments@VDOT.virginia.gov. Please reference "Richmond Highway (Route 1) Speed Limit Study in Fairfax County" in the subject line.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT Civil Rights at 703-259-1775.

In case an alternate date is needed, the meeting will be held Thursday, December 16, 2021 at the same time.

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15th Annual Alexandria Film Festival Is Now

The 15th annual festival will be held virtually Thursday, Nov. 11-25, through Thanksgiving Day. The AFF <https://alexfilmfest.com> offers new films in advance of their arrivals at commercial theaters, streaming services, or television. The festival will stream more than 40 films of every genre from around the world, inclusive of numerous premieres. The two-week event is open to all area film enthusiasts. The 2021 event will feature the Burke & Herbert Bank Family Showcase, and two Salute to Service Members Showcases celebrating Veteran's Day weekend, with cost-free ticketing for active duty and retired military service members.

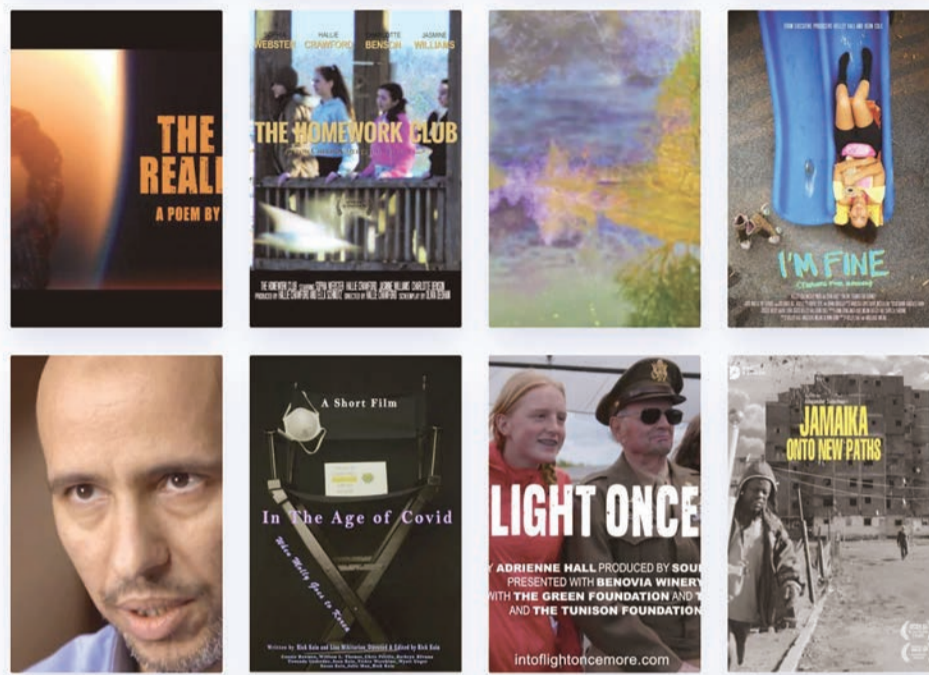
Additional festival programs include shorts, features, dramas, comedies, animation, science fiction, and documentaries of every description, as well as numerous filmmaker Q&As.

<https://alexfilmfest.com>

A sampling of 2021 AFF screenings include:

"Searching for Monsters" This riveting story was featured on NPR's October 30 airing of This American Life (<https://www.thisamericanlife.org/752/an-invitation-to-tea>). Follow a formerly imprisoned and officially exonerated alleged al-Qaeda terrorist on his search for his torturers. He wants to take revenge — by forgiving. This is the true story behind the Hollywood drama "The Mauritanian" starring Jody Foster. Q&A with director John Goetz follows the first screening for this feature-length film in the U.S. Trailer & tickets: <https://watch.eventive.org/festival2021/play/6181f9b60edb30009410155c>

"Open Field" They played by NFL rules in NFL stadiums. They won world championships. They're at the top of their game. What else do they have to do to level the playing field? Meet quarterback Sami Grisafe, San Francisco 49ers coach Katie Sow-



ers and other legends of women's tackle football who played for the love of the game against all odds. Trailer & tickets: <https://watch.eventive.org/festival2021/play/616500da25788f004598c6f5>

"Love in a Bottle" Dramedy about two people in two different countries, both in quarantine during lockdown time, begin a relationship through Facetime — but how viable is a relationship that might as well be just a fantasy? ADVISORY: contains nudity, sexual situations. Q&A with Director Paula van der Oest follows the film. Trailer & tickets:

<https://watch.eventive.org/festival2021/play/61565afc3488e100b90ccf28/6180a4dadadce800d757a9de>

"I'm Fine, Thanks for Asking" When a recently widowed mother becomes homeless, she convinces her 8-year-old daughter that they are only camping for fun while

she works to get them off of the streets. Q&A with Director Kelley Kali (alumnae of Howard University) follows the film. Drama filmed mid-pandemic with cast also serving as crew. Trailer & tickets: <https://watch.eventive.org/festival2021/play/618336f28675e90052431e7d>

"Into Flight Once More" Narrated by Gary Sinise, this film brings the history of June 6, 1944 to the present through the lens of one squadron and their epic recreation journey across the North Atlantic to Normandy for the 75th Anniversary of D-Day. Along the trip we meet some of the last remaining D-Day Veterans and younger generations of men and women who honor their sacrifice. Tickets: <https://watch.eventive.org/festival2021/play/6164ff0825788f004598c54e/6158fc8fd5c72f00933aa552>

"Failure to Protect" Failed by a system that disproportionately tears apart low in-

come, minority and marginalized families, four parents — Anna, Trish, Ernst and Rosa — fight to reunite with their children. But what does it take to get your children back after they have been taken by Child Protective Services? Failure to Protect is an in-depth look at the flaws in our child welfare system, seen through the lens of forgotten parents, further contextualized by experts in the field to unpack a pressing socioeconomic issue that affects hundreds of thousands of families every day. Q&A follows the film with Director Jeremy Pion-Berlin. Trailer & tickets: <https://watch.eventive.org/festival2021/play/61650d57b5ed1700692f76f9>

"The Homework Club" Filmed on location in Old Town, Alexandria. Inspired by characters from Anton Chekhov's play "The Seagull" and the films of John Hughes, "The Homework Club" follows four high school students with little in common who are forced to work together on an extra credit project. Over an afternoon they bicker, yawn, dance, and discover that they have much in common. Part of the 5-film Burke & Herbert Bank Family Showcase. Tickets: <https://watch.eventive.org/festival2021/play/61650fa3b9c02e05ba764895/6158ff289dede90069a2c604>

About the Alexandria Film Festival— (AFF) brings state-of-the-art independent films to the Nation's Capital region. The AFF is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization supported by a grant from the Alexandria Commission for the Arts and numerous corporate sponsors including Burke and Herbert Bank, Visit Alexandria, Old Town Hilton Hotel, Connection Newspapers - Alexandria Gazette Packet, Alexandria Hyundai, James Connolly Realtor, Wilson Grand Communications, West End Business Association, Alexandria Living Magazine, Alexandria Times, Zebra Magazine, Safer Country, and the Alexandria Commission for the Arts.

<https://alexfilmfest.com>

CALENDAR

NOW THROUGH-DEC. 12

Fall Salon. At Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union Street, Alexandria. Torpedo Factory Art Center is encouraging people to bring home original work from local artists this fall with two major offerings dedicated to making art buying simple and affordable. Target Gallery's next group exhibition, Fall Salon, features 70 works by artists from the greater metropolitan region, all priced at \$1,000 or less. Art Fest—Sunday, November 14, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.—brings this collector's spirit out of Target Gallery and throughout all three floors of the Art Center. Tickets start at \$15 with access to the 3rd floor Art Lounge with expansive Potomac views, a live art project, and beverages to enjoy while you relax. Music will be spun all day by DJ One Luv.

NOV. 11-14

Alexandria Film Festival. The Alexandria Film Festival will take place as a hybrid event—virtual, with some in person events. The festival footprint is expanding this year to include a partnership with the

Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, which will feature six original films and will be presented with a "live to picture" performance of the orchestra on November 6 and 7. This performance will be in person but will observe current safety protocols such as social distancing. Admission: \$12 per showcase or \$75 per All-Festival Pass. To get the latest information, visit AlexFilmFest.com.

FRIDAY/NOV. 12

Outdoor Movie Night. 7 p.m. At Original Mount Vernon High School, 8333 Richmond Hwy., Alexandria. The Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation (SFDC) is excited to introduce a new family-friendly event to the Richmond Hwy Corridor in Fairfax County. SFDC is set to host the 'Outdoor Movie Night', featuring the Disney movie "Luca" (2021). Bundle-up for this fall evening and bring your own blanket or chair. Admission to this event is free.

FRIDAY/NOV. 12

Intersections. 6:30-9 p.m. At The Garden at Building Momentum, 5380



Yellow Door Concert Series musicians and LMP Collective dancers rehearse at The Garden for the Friday, Nov. 12 show at The Garden in Alexandria.

Eisenhower Ave Suite C, Alexandria. LMP Collective and Yellow Door Concert Series present an evening of Jazz music and dance at The Garden. Wine and beer available for purchase. Heavy appetiz-

ers and soda included with ticket price. Cost is \$35. Visit the website: <https://localmotionproject.org>

SATURDAY/NOV. 13

Holiday Pottery Sale. 10 a.m. to 4

p.m. At Alexandria Clay Co-op, 2389 S. Dove Street, Alexandria. Come buy some beautiful functional and decorative pottery while you meet the artists and see where they work. Find out about ACC's pottery classes. Plenty of free parking. Visit the website: <https://www.alexandriaclaycoop.com>

SATURDAY/NOV. 13

Civil War Tours. 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. At Fort Ward Museum, 4301 W. Braddock Rd., Alexandria. Fort Ward Museum will offer soldier-led tours of historic Fort Ward in recognition of Veteran's Day on Saturday, November 13. Two 90-minute tours presented by a Union army soldier interpreter will be held at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Tours are free. The program is weather dependent. Participants will learn about Civil War veterans' organizations, the history of Fort Ward, army life in the Civil War Defenses of Washington, and the design and construction of Civil War forts. Highlights include the reconstructed Officers' Hut and

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 14

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OPINION

Support Refugee Ministry, Save Lives

Dear friends,

We are so, so grateful for your support of the families in our refugee ministry in this difficult time. In just 3 short weeks you have given over \$32,000 to our ministry, and over \$20,000 has already been used to help 12 of our refugee families so that they can pay their necessary expenses here and have money to send lifesaving funds home to their families. It is working. Your dollars have literally served an unimaginable humanitarian crisis. Person by person we are able to feed, house and keep their family members safe from such a distance.

❖ "I can help my grandma, she is 84, and my uncle's family, they all lost their jobs. They will be so happy for this."

❖ "My parents have a little cash and food in their hands now. I don't know how to say thank you."

❖ "I support two families back home plus my own family here, in addition to that I have been hosting [four other family members, and one more who is coming]. ... Handling and managing about 21 people at a time with one source of income is almost impossible but we have no choice but to help our dears to survive."

Each of you has been a part of providing this stability for families faced with very difficult choices. Thank you. I also want to thank the faith communities that have supported this effort, including Fairfax Community Church, Grace Episcopal Church, Rock Spring UCC, and St. John's Georgetown.

So much is being done, all over the world, to improve the situation of those who remain in Afghanistan. While the barrage of emails I receive often includes heart-breaking stories, the broader efforts to reach people in Afghanistan are the largest humanitarian effort I have been a part of, and seeing the tremendous commitment of all sorts of NGOs globally gives me hope.

Our efforts at Christ Church continue to be focused on supporting the families here in Alexandria with whom we have developed deep relationships. We know that their difficulties are not close to being over, but your generosity has demonstrated that they are not alone. The remaining funds will be distributed in the coming weeks.

On behalf of all the families whose lives you have touched, thank you.

Melanie Gray, MSW
Director of Outreach & Mission
Christ Church Alexandria

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Obituary



Joseph Thomas Shamburg, Jr., 58, of Alexandria and Madison, Va. passed away in Jacksonville, Fl. on October 29, 2021 following complications from heart surgery. He was also preceded in death by his father, Joseph Thomas Shamburg, Sr.; and grandmother, Dorothy Kendrick Spicer.

Joey graduated from Mount Vernon High School in Alexandria and was voted the most valuable player on his baseball team as a pitcher. Joey was a seasonal warehouse employee with Remedy Solutions, Inc. in Jacksonville, Fl. He was an avid fan of the Washington Redskins and the Washington Nationals. He enjoyed going fishing with his two dogs and longtime friend, Renae Lamb. He is survived by his mother, Dona Spicer Shamburg of Madison; a son, Wesley T. Shamburg and wife Sierra of Culpeper, Va.; one brother, Dale Shamburg and wife Amanda of New Kent Co., Va.; nephews, Tyler, Joshua, Austin Shamburg; great-nephew, Brayden Shamburg; and aunts, uncles, and cousins.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Obituary

Legals

ABC LICENSE

4 Perez Brothers Inc trading as Las Vegas II Restaurant, 8428 Richmond Hwy, Fairfax County, Alexandria, VA 22309-2410. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine & Beer On Premises/Mixed Beverage Restaurant license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Jose Jaime Perez/President. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

CALENDAR

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"I Hope Nothing Bad Has Happened"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As heart-warming and sincere as this sentiment is, it's a bit of a window into my presumptive future. Similar in effect to the obituary I happened upon once in The Washington Post years ago. Randomly perusing the Obituary section, my eyes wandered up and to the right, and there it/he was: Samuel Tyson. You don't know him? Neither do I. But there it was beneath his photo, my exact date of birth including year: 9/30/54. It shook me up, I can tell you that. Seeing one's date of birth in the agate type of an Obituary section does give one pause: so that's what my date of birth is going to look like in the Obituary section. Yikes. It wasn't exactly a look into my future, but it was my birthdate.

This title was part of an email sent to our publisher inquiring about my whereabouts since the sender/reader hadn't seen my column for a few months. Again, so this is how some people might react when my column is no longer being printed, as in I'm no longer writing it, or anything else for that matter because I'll be "gishtorben," (Yiddish for dead). Again, a slice of death. It reminded me of a voice message my oncologist left me June of '20 - during the height of the pandemic. Because of an internal mechanism at my HMO, files on the computer are shrouded/darkened to indicate a patient's death. My oncologist came upon my computer file and it exhibited these patient-died clues. Shocked. My oncologist called my cell phone - hoping to talk to my wife, Dina, and when no one answered, proceeded to leave a nearly minute-long condolence message concerning my surprise death. Hearing that message was uncomfortable, sort of. Again, another slice of death moment. And not that we all don't occasionally have these near-misses in life, but when you're a cancer patient who originally received a "13 month to two year" prognosis, a "terminal" diagnosis if there ever was one; death/people dying/your proximity to any of it takes on an entirely new life - so to speak. You try not to get consumed by it, but when you've been told - quite unexpectedly, at age 54 and half that your life expectancy has just taken a 30-year hit, given your parent's age when they both died, the news tends to attach itself to you. As much as you try to be normal/you're pre-diagnosed self, after the medical facts are presented, jokes just aren't as funny, music isn't as uplifting and dancing - for me anyway, seemed particularly pointless. But since that's no way to live, I made a conscious effort to try to find humor in all of it and be as positive and upbeat as I could. Easier written than done.

That's because cancer/a serious medical condition is no laughing matter; "serious as a heart attack" to invoke an all-too-familiar refrain. But unless you find a way to navigate the "slings and arrows of outrageous fortune" (make that misfortune) to quote Cerphe from his old "WHFS" days, life becomes dreary and not worth living. Somehow, one must find light in the all-encompassing darkness and push back against the forces of negativity/death. There's a spiral out there and the more you're able to fight back - emotionally, and not become a victim of your own circumstances, the greater your chances of finding some kind of happiness/accommodation/assimilation in your life. Still, having a less-than-ideal medical prognosis/diagnosis is all it's cracked up to be. Nevertheless, making the best of a bad situation seemed the only logical option for me. My diagnosis was bad enough on its own, I didn't need to make it any worse by droning on about it. I had to accept it and move on, which is exactly what I did. And now I find humor in the blackest of contexts.

Unlike the popular country-music song from a few years ago that sang "Live like you were dying," I want to live like I was living. I don't want to be affected by my disease. I've found a way to live with it, not simply to die from it. Life's too short. Don't I know it.

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

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 12

ceremonial entrance gate, and the fort's fully restored Northwest bastion.

SUNDAY/NOV. 14

Art Exhibit. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Bridgeyard Old Town Apartments (adjacent to Leasing Office), 1204 S. Washington St., Alexandria. An art exhibit of 40 watercolor portraits of pets by Bridgeyard's members. Proceeds raised will be donated to the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria. The goal is to raise \$500. Organized by artist Michael Vitanevec.

NOV. 14 AND 21

Outlandish Tours at the Apothecary Museum, 105-107 South Fairfax Street, Old Town Alexandria. 11 a.m. to noon. Celebrate the November release of Book 9 of Diana Gabaldon's beloved Outlander series with an Outlandish Tour of the Apothecary Museum. Tour this historic apothecary and learn about a few of the herbal medicines featured in Diana Gabaldon's Outlander series of novels, from cascara to dauco seeds. The tour also touches on the role of apothecaries and women in medicine in the 18th century. Recommended for ages 18 and up. Cost is \$15 per person and advance purchase of tickets is required. Tickets are available through AlexandriaVa.Gov/Shop.

THURSDAY/NOV. 18

Lecture: What Made George Washington Tick?

With Prof. Peter Henriques. Doors open at 7 p.m., Lecture starts live and online at 7:30 p.m. At Alexandria History Museum at the Lyceum and Virtual. While recognizing him as the most important figure in American History, Professor Peter Henriques takes issue with the traditional image of George Washington as a selfless leader. Rather, his portrait of George Washington reveals a more complicated - and interesting - man who was both self-effacing and wildly ambitious, with a desire for public adulation that he never fully acknowledged, perhaps even to himself. Dr. Henriques, Professor Emeritus of History from George Mason University, will be available to sign his newest book. Cost is \$12 per person, \$10 OHA volunteer or \$6 virtual only.

NOV. 19-DEC. 17

MVUC Holiday Shop. Virtual. At 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. Mount Vernon Unitarian Church's 56th Holiday Shop is virtual due to Covid. Vendors include Papazian Design, Late Bloomers, Bead Therapy, Deerhawk Art, The Bathing Raven Candle Company, Recycled bag Lady, Jane's Crafts, Nina Tisara Mosaics. Information: mvuc.org. Visit us at bit.ly/MVUCHoliday.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 3

munity walking initiative whose goal is to achieve and maintain optimal health through walking. The members consist of women who are retired or work from home and want to connect with others who share common interests, life experiences and fitness goals. The group meets at 2 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at a central location on Fort Hunt Road and walks for approximately 1 hour weather permitting. Contact information: 703-780-1145 or email; ecenglish@cox.net.

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 Dec. 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

SATURDAY/NOV. 20

Mount Vernon Flea Market. 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Mount Vernon Masonic Lodge #219, 8717 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Offering a variety of antiques and vintage items, practical, as well as creative and handcrafted items such as lavender sachets, pottery, holiday decor, handcrafted soaps, and much more! 25 + vendors. Featuring delicious home-style baked goods from the Sugarcoated Bakery. Visit the website: <https://mountvernonflea-market.wordpress.com/>

SATURDAY/NOV. 20

Bach Consort Performance. 7-8:30 p.m. At St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 S. Pitt Street, Alexandria. Josquin des Prez (c.1450/55-1521) was among the most important composers of his era and, like Bach, a master of counterpoint. He was held in especially high esteem by his contemporaries—a reputation that continues to the present day. This program celebrates the 500th anniversary of the composer's death. Cost is \$40. Visit the website: bachconsort.org

THE BIRCHMERE

All shows are at 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Tickets available at Ticketmaster.com. At 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Contact The Birchmere at 703-549-7500 or www.Birchmere.com.

November

Fri. 12: 10,000 Maniacs \$55.00
Sat. 13: David Bromberg Big Band 'Spirit of 76 Birthday Bash' w/ Veronica Lewis \$49.50
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Tue. 23: The Musical Box Presents: A Genesis Extravaganza Vol. 2 \$49.50
Wed. 24: Hot Tuna Acoustic & Electric with special guest Steve Kimock & Friends \$75.00
Thu. 25 - Thanksgiving
Fri. 26: The Seldom Scene & Dry Branch Fire Squad \$45.00
Sat. 27: Chris Isaak 'Holiday Tour' \$115.00
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Mon. 29: Steve Tyrell \$55.00
Tue. 30: A Peter White Christmas with Mindi Abair & Vincent Ingala \$59.50

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
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.

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