

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

FEBRUARY 10, 2022

Embark Meets One Fairfax

Mobile-home owners finally get a presentation on rezoning of adjacent land.

BY MARY PADEN
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

Penn Daw Terrace mobile home owners finally got a presentation Saturday on a 466-unit development planned for the property adjacent to their mobile home park.

The planning commission already held its public hearing on the rezoning of the property called Alexandria Crossing, but the decision was deferred until Feb. 16 when it became known that the mobile home owners had not been told about the development at the request of the park owner, Lois Epps. Mount Vernon Planning Commissioner Walter Clarke went along with that decision saying, "We have got to respect the business owner as well. We don't want to be a dictator of other people's businesses."

The Northern Virginia Affordable Housing Alliance collected signatures of 27 organizations on a petition asking the planning committee to defer its decision until a public meeting with residents was held as is the practice with any adjacent neighborhood. Mobile home park residents also requested a meeting with the developer and county about area development plans.

Saturday, Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck responded with a full-blown event with poster-size maps and illustrations, a presentation by the developer's agent, the presence of senior county planning staff, and a tour of the



Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck answers questions from community members and mobile home park residents who were comfortably seated on resale couches at Evolution Home consignment shop.

site. Spanish translation was available through headsets.

Originally planned for outdoors, the meeting was driven by cold and wind to the lower level of Evolutions Home consignment shop, 6239 Shields Ave., at Richmond Highway, which is on the land being developed and at the entrance to the mobile home park. About 50 participants were comfortably seated on resale couches.

Mobile home owners also learned that the county comprehensive plan has slated their park plus the Walmart Plaza to their south as a high-density hub around a proposed Bus Rapid



The developer's agent, Lynne Strobel, points to the Alexandria Crossing location, which, like the Penn Daw terrace mobile home park and the Walmart, is within the half-mile circle around the future Penn Daw Bus Rapid Transit station.

Transit (BRT) station, which will be located at the front of the current Walmart parking lot. The station, scheduled to be operational in eight years according to Storck, is one of seven in the Embark Plan between Penn Daw and Fort Belvoir.

Storck stressed that park owner Epps has told him multiple times that she is not selling her property. She sent her tenants letters saying that the park is not for sale or under contract. Storck decried the spread of "disinformation" that the mobile home park would be sold, but community organizers denied saying it would be sold soon, only that it was under considerable development pressure given the county's comprehensive plan which calls for seven-to-10 story buildings surrounding the transit station.

Regarding the Alexandria Crossing development, residents seemed most concerned about the possibility of additional traffic and parking on Shields Avenue where one of the seven-story apartment buildings will have a secondary entrance and where the school bus stops to pick up children. Residents also asked about a retaining wall and fence that will separate the two properties, as well possible runoff, erosion, and construction noise.

Regarding development of the area around the future BRT station, residents asked, "If the land value of our park goes up, will our rents go up? What if the owner

SEE EMBARK MEETS, PAGE 10

It's Only February, But Not Too Early for Potholes

January's cold temperatures made the pothole season come early.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

When the front wheel sinks out of sight and the car jolts around, shocking the driver into a spasmodic guttural sound, it's a reminder that pothole season is right around the corner. In the dead of winter, it will only get worse before it gets better.

Potholes are part of the road

maintenance procedure every year, and according to the Virginia Department of Transportation, it's the freeze and thaw process that gets the pavement cracking.

According to VDOT, it's the spring temperatures that warm the cold pavement, melting and evaporating ice. This creates air pockets that can eventually cause the pavement to break up. A winter of heavy snow or rain and several

SEE IT'S ONLY, PAGE 5



On a warmer winter day, VDOT crews were out patching potholes in southern Fairfax County.

PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

McEneaney Associates has always had one motto in mind... not to be the biggest, but the best. For more than 40 years, our Associates have lived in and supported Alexandria, helping to build our town into the thriving community it is today. To learn more about our Associates and our firm, visit www.WeAreAlexandria.com

#WeAreAlexandria



Old Town | \$2,995,000

Expansive, historic home with a private garden offers nearly 7,000 SF of finished living space + the unfinished basement. Currently comprised of 3 separate units, it offers the possibility of rental income, multi-family living, or a conversion to one grand residence. 126 S Fairfax St
Lauren Bishop 202.361.5079
www.LaurenBishopHomes.com



OPEN THU 4-6PM & SAT 1/12, 12-2PM

Mount Vernon Manor | \$744,900

Beautiful Colonial with 4 bedrooms, 2 full and 1 half baths, 1-car garage and outdoor living spaces on flat, fully-fenced .35-acre lot. Many upgrades and features - too many to list! Walking distance to running & bike trails, & rec centers. Ready for you! 8647 Gateshead Rd
Christine Robinson 240-925-7100
www.RobinsonChristine.com



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

The Whitman, DC | \$650,000

Two level condo, with outdoor patio & garage parking, in the heart of DC. Floor-to-ceiling windows allow for ample light throughout. The primary bedroom has a walk-in closet and direct access to the in-unit washer/dryer. Rooftop pool & pet friendly. 910 M St NW #117
Jillian Keck Hogan 703.951.7655
www.JillianKeckHogan.com



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

Rosemont \$949,900

4-bedroom, 2-bath gem! Welcoming porch leads to living room with cozy fireplace. Upstairs laundry room, 3 bedrooms & renovated bath. Finished lower level offers bedroom, rec room, & renovated bath. Screened porch, fabulous backyard and stone patio. 106 E Walnut Street

Jen Walker 703.675.1566
www.JenWalker.com



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

Del Ray \$700,000

This charming 2-bedroom semi-detached home offers a spacious living room with a wood-burning fireplace. Separate dining room. Deck and fenced-in backyard. 2 large bedrooms upstairs and a finished basement round out the home. Walk to "The Avenue". 1506 Wayne Street

Jen Walker 703.675.1566
www.JenWalker.com



OPEN SUN 2/13, 2-4PM

Huntington at Mount Vernon \$529,999

This 3-bedroom, 3.5-bath townhome has been lovingly maintained & updated! Remodeled kitchen with quartz counters, open yet cozy living room, generous primary bedroom, lower level family room with fireplace, & fenced yard. 2773 Carter Farm Ct.
crombieandolsen.com

Kristy Crombie 571.969.1774
Erika Olsen 202.262.1293



Warwick Village \$595,000

This nice 3 level townhouse is located in a quiet in a cul-de-sac with ample street parking. 3 bedrooms & 1-bath upstairs, wood floors on 2 levels, kitchen with granite counter tops. There is a private back yard and room in the large basement for expansion. 2926 Sycamore St

Debora Jackson 703.623.5546
www.McEneaney.com



Ashburn \$459,000

Charming 3-bedroom, 3.5-bath brick front townhouse located in desirable Ashburn Village with all its amenities. The entry level is inviting with gorgeous hardwood flooring, a living/dining room, and eat-in kitchen with access to the back yard. 20966 Killawog Terrace

Joseph Lynch 703.927.1098
www.joelynchrealtor.com



The Real Estate Market in the Metro DC Region Remained Hot Through 2021

In our latest semi-annual market report we take a comprehensive look at sales data for the second half of last year, analyze the impact of tight residential inventory, and look ahead to the first half of 2022 to help you make the most informed real estate decisions.

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NEWS



Bill and Ruth Cleveland have been married for 48 years.

Marion Brunken and Susan Haskew, together for five years, will celebrate three years of marriage in July.



Jackie and Andres Maldonado will celebrate six years of marriage on Feb. 20.



Jamie and Becca Branch, together for nine years, have been married for almost three years.



Peter and Jenny Wintermute have been married for 15 years.



Bob Eifert and Michael Curry have been together for 45 years.



Angeli and Max Miller have been married 17 years.

Love Is in the Air Couples share their secrets to success.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

As Valentine's Day approaches on Feb. 14, the second to be celebrated during the pandemic, couples across the city are making plans to honor their spouses, partners and sweethearts. But just as the pandemic produced myriad challenges for businesses and families, so too were couples faced with changing dynamics in their relationships. Seven Alexandria couples share their secrets to keeping their love alive.

Marion Brunken and Susan Haskew

Marion: "We met at a function at Alex-Renew five years ago. We chatted about living in Del Ray and in time realized we have things in common like hiking, camping and gardening. On July 20, we will celebrate three years of marriage. The pandemic showed us even more what a good match we are. I'm a better person with Susan."

Susan: "I love that Marion is an outdoor person. She is active, happy and energetic and wants to do things all the time. We both

enjoy a lot of the same things and that is important to me. You have to keep a relationship exciting. We are just very lucky to have found each other."

Bill and Ruth Cleveland

Ruth: "We have been married 48 years and now have eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. My advice to newlyweds is to be best friends first, then lovers, then continue to work together. Marriage is a partnership. Share everything, be open to each other and no lies."

Bill: "The secret to a long and happy marriage is to take things one day at a time."

Jackie and Andres Maldonado

Andres: "What is not great about Jackie? She is the most devoted mother and wife. She is everything to our kids which makes her everything to me."

"Trust and the ability to communicate are key to a successful relationship."

— Bob Eifert on his 45-year relationship with Michael Curry

Jackie: "I love that Andres is so hard working and all he does for our family and to provide for us. The pandemic with kids has been a huge curve ball as was the transition from one to two kids. But Andres is very funny and so much fun to be around and that gets us through. We will be married six years on Feb. 20. Nothing exciting planned. Maybe we will order food once the kids are asleep."

Jamie and Becca Branch

Jamie: "Becca has a very big heart and keeps me in line. I can always tell from the look in her eyes when I need to do something. My best advice to other couples is to be patient, listen, and spend time together. Find something you both love to do and do it together. And it helps if you learn to cook."

Becca: "We met in college at a bar at Ole Miss. We have been together almost nine years

and married for almost three. It has been great to share so much time together. What I love most about Jamie is that he is very sincere and very patient ... and I need someone with a lot of patience."

Bob Eifert and Michael Curry

Bob: "We have been together for 45 years now. Gay marriage was not legal at the time and over the years marriage was never a huge issue for us. But as we approached retirement we learned that we had to get married in order to share retirement benefits."

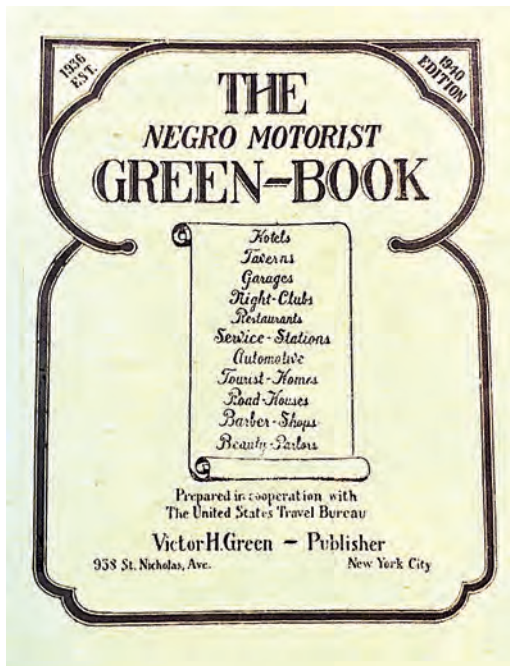
So after being together for 38 years, we got married and in July we will celebrate seven years of marriage. Trust and the ability to communicate are key to a successful relationship."

Michael: "We have been in love for many, many years and had some difficult times but it is important to believe in each other and support each other."

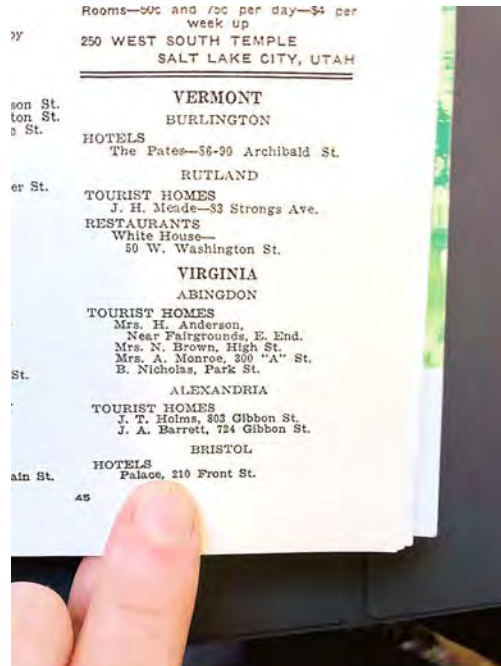
Angeli and Max Miller

Max: "We went to school together at

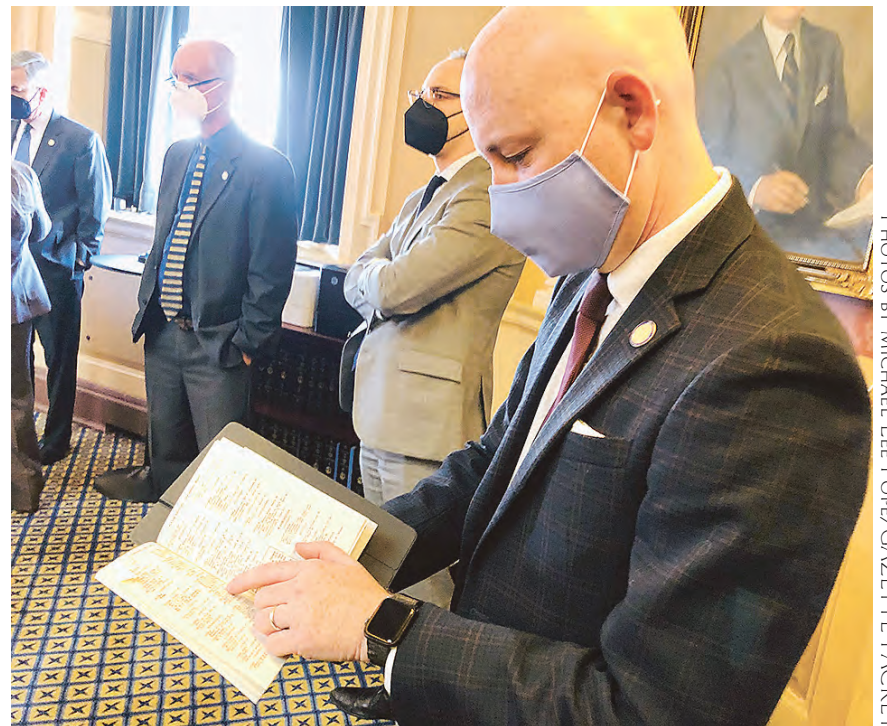
SEE LOVE IS IN THE AIR, PAGE 13



The Green Book was created by New York City mailman Victor Hugo Green in the early 1930s. New editions were published until the 1960s.



Alexandria had only two listings in the Green book, both tourist homes at the intersection of Gibbon Street and South Columbus Street in the Bottoms neighborhood.



Del. Mike Mullin (D-93) looks through a 1940 edition of the Green Book, which identified safe places for Black travelers in the days of segregation.

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

Commemorating Hidden History

Alexandria 'Green Book' locations may soon be designated historic sites.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

In the 1930s, traveling while Black could be dangerous. Service stations and hotels were segregated, and people traveling for work or pleasure needed to know where it was safe to pump gas or stay the night. Enter New York City mailman Victor Hugo Green. He started publishing the Negro Motorist Green Book in 1936, documenting destination sites for an emerging African-American middle class who owned cars. Now members of the General Assembly are considering a bill that would identify and commemorate all Virginia locations listed in the Green Book editions from the 1930 until the 1960s, when it ceased publication.

"The history of being an African American in Virginia is a history of all Virginians," said Del. Michael Mullin (D-93). "You're talking

about a history of people who are still alive today and yet somehow that history is already being lost."

Some cities have many Green Book locations while others have only a few. Richmond, for example, has listings for two hotels, three service stations, a barber shop and a restaurant. Alexandria, on the other hand, has only two listings — both identified as "tourist homes" at the intersection of Gibbon Street and South Columbus Street. Councilman John Taylor Chapman, owner of the Manumission Tour Company, says a "tourist home" was essentially a 1940s-era Airbnb.

"That's the Bottoms neighborhood, which is one of the earlier African-American communities in Alexandria," said Chapman. "It's not too far from Alfred Street Baptist Church, and the Odd Fellows Hall is right up the street. So this

is one of the central locations for African Americans in the city at that time."

THE BILL TO IDENTIFY and com-

"The history of being an African American in Virginia is a history of all Virginians. You're talking about a history of people who are still alive today and yet somehow that history is already being lost."

— Del. Michael Mullin (D-93)

memorate all of Virginia's Green Book sites began as a casual conversation on the House floor during some down time. Del. Jeion Ward (D-92) was reminiscing with Mullin about the beaches in their part of Hampton Roads. Ward mentioned a hotel that was listed in the Green Book as a place where visiting African Ameri-

can performers would stay.

"Big stars, they were stars to us. They would come down, and there was only one hotel that they could stay at the beach,"

historical marker explaining what happened at that location and what we might learn from it.

"A 70-bed hotel that had some of the most prominent African American singers and entertainers in the country," said Mullin. "And that place no longer exists. In fact, there's no record of it."

The first step in commemorating all the places will be identifying them. The Green Book was in publication from the 30s to the 60s, and the Library of Virginia has none of them. Ward owns a copy from 1940 that has a couple

of pages of Virginia sites. So if lawmakers approve Mullin's bill, the first step would be for the Department of Historic Resources to gather all the editions and identify the sites so they can go about the work of publicizing them and educating the public about this almost-lost chapter of Virginia history.

Jinks to Keynote Friendship Breakfast

Lawhorne, Pepper to be honored with Rev. Ben Lynt Award.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Former City Manager Mark Jinks will be the keynote speaker Feb. 21 at the Friendship Firehouse Breakfast, the SEE JINKS TO KEYNOTE, PAGE 14



Former City Manager Mark Jinks will be the keynote speaker at the annual Friendship Firehouse Breakfast Feb. 21 at the Westin Hotel Alexandria.



Former City Councilwoman Del Pepper will receive the Rev. Ben Lynt Award Feb. 21 at the Friendship Firehouse Breakfast.



Recently retired Sheriff Dana Lawhorne will be presented with the Rev. Ben Lynt Award Feb. 21 at the Friendship Firehouse Breakfast.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

35th Annual Mount Vernon Town Meeting with Supervisor Dan Storck

Saturday, Feb. 12, 2022

7:45 a.m. – Exhibit Hall Open

9:30 a.m. – Speakers, Audience Q&As and Virtual Tour

Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mt Vernon Road, Alexandria, VA 22309 & Virtual Live Stream

Attendees will have the opportunity to meet and question community leaders and engage in the Mount Vernon community. Highlights include an Exhibit Hall with over 50 community groups and County agencies, audience question and answer sessions and a “virtual tour” with “pilot” Supervisor Dan Storck.

Additional speakers include Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeffrey C. McKay, County Executive Bryan Hill, Mount Vernon District School Board Member Karen Corbett Sanders, George Washington Parkway Superintendent Charles Cuvelier, Special Guests Con-

gressman Don Beyer and Congressman Gerry Connolly and other community leaders.

More than 300 attendees are anticipated at this major annual event.

Organizers promise an exciting reveal, special recognitions and COVID-19 vaccine availability.

As a special addition, the Mount Vernon Children’s Business Fair will be joining the Town Meeting with young entrepreneurs showing off their start-up businesses and displaying their wares from 9 a.m. – noon at this one-day marketplace. More information: <http://www.KidBizInc.com/MountVernon>.

The Town Meeting will also be live streamed on [fairfaxcounty.gov/cable](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cable), Channel 16, Cox HD 1016, YouTube (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCN-2VIKbuPbOJeR_B39GX0_w) and Facebook Live (<https://www.facebook.com/SupervisorDanStorck/>).



PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

This pothole on Memorial Street in the Beacon Hill area has a sharp edge that magnifies the jolt on the front tire.

It’s Only February, But Not Too Early for Potholes

FROM PAGE 1

freeze-thaw cycles can mean a big pothole season ahead.

This year, January was cold so the freezing and thawing had a head start. In Hybla Valley, there’s a doozie on Memorial Street near the Beacon Center Shopping Mall, and another over at Devereux Circle Drive, just upon entering the Lake D’evereux neighborhood.

To fix holes like these in Mount Vernon, the pothole is carved out with a jackhammer or masonry saw to create a neat rectangle, VDOT said. When the excess asphalt is removed, an adhesive is applied and asphalt is added in layers. It is leveled off and compacted with a pavement roller.

In some counties, VDOT uses “pothole killers,” machines that fix potholes quickly without closing the road.

A four-man crew with a truck can only fix about 10 potholes a day, VDOT said, but a pothole killer truck can fill about 100 potholes a day with only one person operating the machine. Manually, potholes can only be fixed if the temperatures are above 50 degrees, VDOT said, but the pothole killer can operate in any temperature which makes it good for the early season potholes.

If a pothole damages your tire and/or the rim or shocks, there may be a system to get reimbursed for some of the damage. On the VDOT website, it says that if a driver hits a pothole and experiences damage to their vehicle, they have a legal right to submit a damage claim. Claims are investigated on a case-by-case basis. Investigators review the circumstances, the type and location of the pothole, if VDOT had been previously notified of the issue, and if crews had been



This one at Devereux Circle Drive is close to the intersection with Telegraph Road, so it would be easy to forget upon entering the neighborhood.

given a reasonable amount of time to repair the pothole. To submit a claim for damage to your vehicle, visit <https://my.vdot.virginia.gov>.

VDOT is also using technology to get ahead of the potholes. Roads today are built to reduce their moisture capacity so it doesn’t freeze and thaw as much as in the past. Researchers are working to develop better, more durable pavement materials and designs, they said. Researchers also have improved the cold-patch asphalt so those patches last longer.



The Rotary Club of Mount Vernon, VA

The Mount Vernon Rotary Club is initiating the “You Make a Difference Award” to support community service by organizations in the Mount Vernon area.

Specifically, the purpose of the Mount Vernon Rotary “You Make A Difference” Award is to:

- 1) Recognize individuals and organizations who support service to others
- 2) Support community service within the Mount Vernon area

This local support is consistent with the Rotary International Motto: “Service Above Self.”

A single award and associated grant of \$1000 will be presented once a year. The goal is to recognize a single individual who sustains community service and to contribute financial support to keep that service continuing.

Nominations will be accepted until noon on March 23, 2022. To receive a nomination form or more information, email rcmvva@gmail.com

Rotary is where neighbors, friends, and problem-solvers share ideas, join leaders, and take action to create lasting change. Visit www.rotary.org for more information.

The Rotary Club of Mount Vernon meets via Zoom on Wednesday evening from 6:30 to 7:30. To request an invitation link email mikej1013@verizon.net

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Putting Crime Guns in the Cross Hairs

BY SEN. ADAM EBBIN

As the co-chair of the General Assembly Gun Violence Prevention Caucus, confronting the gun violence crisis has been a priority of mine for years. While I support the Second Amendment and the availability of firearms for hunting, self-defense, and sport, we must implement common-sense gun safety laws that keep dangerous firearms out of the hands of those who will not responsibly use them. I have two bills this session focused on gun safety. The first, addresses the growing threat of “ghost guns;” the second targets firearms without serial numbers being used and traded. Mirror versions of these bills are being carried by House member Del. Marcus Simon (D-Falls Church). Both bills passed the Senate Judiciary Committee and await floor votes.

Ghost guns are undetectable, untraceable firearms which can be bought online, assembled with ease, and function precisely like any other firearm. These weapons pose a serious and deliberate prob-

lem. Law enforcement report seeing a rise in the use of these weapons in criminal acts as well as accidental shootings. It can be easier to build a ghost gun than to assemble an Ikea dresser. The process of converting ghost gun parts — which can be purchased without a background check, license or record of sale, into a functioning firearm — involves just a few steps and can be completed without any specialized skill. Due to the nature of their component parts, these weapons cannot be detected by normal security screening methods, like those you would encounter in an airport. They are particularly enticing to people who cannot pass a background check — domestic abusers, minors, organized crime, and those with a violent felony record.

In 2018, a man prohibited from accessing guns built his own ghost gun from parts ordered online and perpetrated a mass shooting at his workplace in Middleton, Wis-



Sen. Adam Ebbin

consin. In late 2019, a 16-year-old, too young to purchase a firearm, used a ghost gun to kill two students and injured three others at Saugus High School in California.

My legislation fixes a loophole: manufacturers are required to put

a serial number on finished firearms but not on individual parts. This bill requires manufacturers, dealers, and distributors to add a serial number, which legitimizes a weapon and makes it traceable if used in a crime, to the parts sold in Ghost Gun kits.

My second bill, SB 643, has garnered support from a broad coalition including the Virginia Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, the Virginia Citizens Defense League, prosecutors, and the State Police Association.

This bill addresses the people using or distributing firearms that are already illegal: guns that have had their serial number removed. Removing the serial number makes the devices untraceable

when found or connected to a crime. Federal law makes possessing, transporting, or delivering a gun with an altered serial number a felony. Under current Virginia law, only the removal or alteration of a serial number is a crime, but not the use or sale of such a gun. Commonwealth’s Attorneys cannot prosecute people in state courts for this offense.

Considerable effort is required to remove a serial number from a weapon. At minimum, welding tools and drills are needed. Removing the serial number is an intentional act aimed at avoiding accountability for actions taken by the person wielding the weapon. These are crime guns, full stop.

While no one law can prevent all violent incidents, I believe that smarter gun regulations are a part of the solution to prevent some of the tragedies that we all wish to end including homicides, domestic violence, children’s accidental deaths, and suicide by firearm. I am certain that the lives that we save will be worth the effort.

It is my continued honor to serve the 30th District.

Week Four: Bills Moving in Richmond; Retail Marijuana Under Discussion

BY SEN. SCOTT SUROVELL

In the fourth week of the General Assembly’s session, several of my 27 bills advanced.

The Senate passed my resolution to create a two-year study between the House and Senate to evaluate the state’s COVID-19 pandemic response. If adopted by the House of Delegates, this will be a major, two-year evaluation with recommendations about lessons learned.

One of my bills would place our projected \$1 billion surplus from the Virginia 529 Plan into an endowment fund to create 2,000 full-ride scholarships for female and minority students who would have been denied admission to Virginia universities before 1900 because of gender and race-based discrimination practices. I asked that the bill be tabled and referred to an ongoing study about the surplus. Various Senate committees have favorably acted on all of my other bills so far.



Surovell

The Senate passed my bill to make it easier for divorcing spouses to divide retirement plans administered by the Virginia Retirement System. We also passed my legislation to create a clear runway for companies to invest in large-scale,

organic waste digesters that can make renewable biomethane. This approach can replace methane extracted through hydraulic fracturing or “fracking,” a natural gas extraction method which I have helped prohibit east of Interstate 95 in Virginia. My legislation to establish a new charter for the Town of Occoquan received a unanimous vote and is now in the House of Delegates.

MARIJUANA We had our first public hearing on legislation to set the parameters for the retail sale of marijuana. This is a complicated situation. Under the bill we are considering, there will be a three-tiered system to separate ownership between cultivators,

processors and retailers that will maximize the development of Virginia businesses and community capital. However, the details around the system are fraught with complexities and choices.

There is no consensus on a tax rate that will generate sufficient revenue while avoiding sufficient incentives to continue a black market. There is no agreement on how

the revenues would be used. The Senate Democratic Caucus would like the revenues in part to be invested in a way to help alleviate the disproportionate impact that criminalization of marijuana offenses has had in the state.

There is also no consensus on a transition period to the new retail licensing system. Today, Virginians

SEE WEEK FOUR, PAGE 14

Let Us Know Your View

Connection Newspapers welcomes views on any public issue. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers; we will only print your name and town name. Letters are routinely edited for length, libel, grammar, good taste, civility and factual errors.

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OPINION

"The Good, Bad, And the Ugly"

By Del. Paul Krizek

We are in our last week of session before "crossover" here in Richmond. Next week is when the bills must all crossover from the House to the Senate and similarly, from the Senate to the House. If they survive that journey, they will find themselves on the Governor's desk where he can sign into law, veto or amend. Right now though there are only a small number of bills ready for crossover, including two of mine, and so I highlight for you some of those legislative initiatives, including the "good, the bad, and the ugly."

Some of these bills passed on party line votes, and some were bipartisan efforts. You will see that most of the party line bills were ones the Republicans introduced to reverse legislation the Democrats passed in the last two sessions when we were in the majority.

The Good

Some of the good bills that have made it out of the House to date include my bill, HB 314, which passed unanimously 99-0. It directs the Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services to develop by Jan. 1, 2023, a brochure for use by retail establishments that sell plants in the Commonwealth that explains the value of plant species native to the Commonwealth and the harm of noxious weeds and other invasive plants, and shall include information as to how to access more information about noxious weeds and invasive plant species on the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Service's website. HB 314 is a wonderful step in the right direction of providing the general public with adequate and accurate information about the benefits of Virginia's native plant species on our environment.

Another good bill, and which of course earned my vote, is HB 84, that permits out-of-state audiologists to volunteer to provide free health care to an underserved area of the Commonwealth under the auspices of a publicly supporting nonprofit organization that sponsors the provision of health care to populations of underserved people if they do so for a period not exceeding three consecutive days



Krizek

and if the nonprofit organization verifies that the practitioner has a valid, unrestricted license in another state.

Here are a few more good legislative ideas that passed the House with bipartisan support:

- ❖ HB 526 allows out of state victims of human trafficking to be eligible for in-state tuition to Virginia public institutions of higher education. The bill provides that a person who may be a victim of human trafficking regardless of whether any person has been charged with or convicted of any offense has eligibility for in-state tuition.

- ❖ HB 342 removes obsolete language relating to the teletype system formerly used by the Virginia State Police. Previously, the code required police to use an outdated teletype system to communicate in certain situations.

- ❖ HB 587, introduced by Del. Roem, and passed the house by a vote of 84-15, this bill expedites the processing of completed free and reduced meal applications in K-12 schools.

- ❖ HB 750 prohibits any agency of the Commonwealth or director or chief executive of any agency or department employing law-enforcement officers; any sheriff; any police force; or the Department of State Police from establishing a formal or informal quota that requires a law-enforcement officer to make a specific number of arrests or issue a specific number of summonses within a designated period of time.

The Bad Bills:

The bad includes this bill, HB 185. It repeals a provision that would permit any person who is qualified to register to vote to register to vote in person up to and including the day of the election, notwithstanding any deadline for the close of registration records. The repeal will limit the persons who are entitled to register to vote after the close of registration records to just any member of a uniformed service of the United States who is on active duty, any person residing temporarily outside of the United States, and the spouse or dependent residing with someone in the categories previously lifted. The law that allows registering to vote on election day hasn't even

SEE "THE GOOD, BAD", PAGE 14



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MOUNT VERNON

DISTRICT

The 35th Annual Mount Vernon Town Meeting is back in person this year!

Join us in person or virtually to learn about ALL that is happening in our District.

Saturday, February 12, 2022
7:45 a.m. – Exhibit Hall Open
9:30 a.m. – Speakers, Q&A's and Virtual Tour
Live on Channel 16, Facebook and YouTube
More details: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon





Join Supervisor Dan Storck for the 35th Annual Town Meeting! Meet your Supervisor and many County, state and federal leaders. Have your questions answered, learn about issues important to you, connect with County agencies and service providers and mingle with your neighbors. The highlight of the morning will be taking a "virtual tour" of the changing Mount Vernon District from Huntington to Lorton.


Speakers: Board of Supervisors Chairman **Jeff McKay**, County Executive **Bryan Hill**, George Washington Parkway Superintendent **Charles Cuvelier**, Mount Vernon District School Board Member **Karen Corbett Sanders**, Special Guests Congressmen **Don Beyer** and **Gerry Connolly**, and other community leaders.


*Per COVID-19 protocols, visitors – regardless of vaccination status – are required to wear a mask while inside all Fairfax County facilities. **Looking for a COVID-19 vaccine? Get yours at the Town Meeting!**

For more information, call the Mount Vernon District Office at 703-780-7518, TTY 711, visit the office at 2511 Parkers Lane, or send your questions/comments to mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov.



To request reasonable ADA accommodations or language translation services, call the Mount Vernon District Office, 703-780-7518 or TTY 711 on or before 2/1/21.





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Connect with TEAM MVD and your Mount Vernon neighbors at the 35th Annual Town Meeting! #ConnectMVD

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MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE ❖ FEBRUARY 10-16, 2022 ❖ 7

Our Winter Visitors – Waterfowl

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

While landlubbers shiver from the cold and retreat to the indoors, out on Northern Virginia's rivers and ponds, thousands of waterfowl paddle, dabble, dive and dine. As North America's northern lakes freeze, even more waterfowl come south. Birds migrate to use resources, especially food, that are seasonally abundant and to avoid places where resources are scarce or weather is very harsh.

Describing the area's wintering waterfowl, Larry Meade, president of the Northern Virginia Bird Club, recently wrote, "They are usually fairly easy to find since they are often swimming around out in the open. There's no need to wait for them to hop out of a bush."

Swans, ducks and geese are waterfowl, birds generally with webbed feet and flat bills. Waterfowl require aquatic habitats like rivers, lakes, streams, wetlands or oceans. Many species gather in groups, sometimes called "rafts."

The Audubon Society of Northern Virginia (ASNV) identified 25 species in the 2021 annual winter survey. This year's survey is now underway.

Waterfowl are excellent indicators of the health of the aquatic environment, notes Greg Butcher, ASNV Vice President.

Swans

Swans are the largest waterfowl species. They have long necks and heavy bodies, fly with slow wingbeats and necks outstretched. Tchaikovsky must have been inspired by their beauty. Think of those "Swan Lake" ballerinas.

In December, tundra swans arrive in the area with up to 500 gathering off Mason Neck in southern Fairfax County. They are especially striking with a black bills black legs, straight neck, a six-to



Volunteers conduct waterfowl surveys on the Potomac River every winter.

seven-foot wingspan and high-pitched, bugling calls. American explorer Meriwether Lewis called them "whistling swans" because their wings "whistle" when flying. They feed on aquatic plants, tubers, invertebrates, mollusks, snails, mussels and shellfish. In March, they return to their breeding grounds in Alaska and Canada's Hudson Bay.

Ducks

Waterfowl watchers delight in spotting many duck species in area waters in winter. In "duck world," there are generally two types – dabblers and divers. Dabbling ducks feed in shallow water by putting their head in the water or dabbling to feed on vegetation, larvae and insects. With their head down, their butts poke straight up. Some, like northern shovelers, skim the surface of the water for food. Diving ducks dive into the water, feed on clams and fish, and can propel themselves underwater.

Wood ducks, mallards, northern shovelers, gadwalls, northern pintails and American black ducks are all dabbling ducks. Diving ducks include lesser scaups, buffleheads,

ruddy ducks, mergansers and canvasbacks.

Dixie Sommers, an avid bird watcher, likes to watch the three species of mergansers in the area, especially the hooded merganser. The male has a striking white "hammerhead" crest or hood bordered with black; a black face, neck and back; a white breast and chestnut-colored sides with accents of white stripes. The female has a cinnamon-colored crest. Mergansers also have an extra, transparent eyelid called a "nictitating membrane" which protects their eyes like goggles when they are under water.

Geese

Geese are long-necked birds, larger than ducks, that feed by tipping up or grazing. They usually gather in flocks. Most people have seen Canada geese grazing on golf courses or big grassy areas. Present in Northern Virginia year-round, they have black necks and beaks, brown breasts and white cheeks. While many people do not welcome the "deposits" they leave behind, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter liked to watch them fly over



A pair of Wood ducks.

PHOTO BY DIXIE SOMMERS



Many bird watchers find a spotting scope useful in studying waterfowl's features.

from the White House roof to listen to "a sound primeval in its tone and rhythm." He watched "long wavering V's, breasts transformed to brilliance by the lights we would have dimmed," he wrote.

Numbers Vary

Winter waterfowl numbers can vary for several reasons. If northern lakes do not freeze, water-dependent birds may not come south. Problems on the breeding grounds can reduce winter populations.

Algal blooms, sedimentation and

heavy rains that cause murky water can block sunlight and impede the growth of submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV). These aquatic plants, also called "underwater grasses," grow in the water up to the surface and provide refuge for small fish and shellfish. The roots, shoots and seeds are high carbohydrate food for many waterfowl species.

"SAV is essential to waterfowl's winter survival. If they can't find SEE OUR WINTER, PAGE 11



Seeing a common loon in the area is especially exciting, like this one snapped by Ed Eder, former president of the Friends of Dyke Marsh.

PHOTO BY ED EDER



A pair of Hooded Mergansers.

PHOTO BY RANDY STREUFERT



Tundra Swans in flight.

OBITUARY

Bill Vosbeck

**Noted architect,
WWII veteran dies at 97.**

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Bill Vosbeck, a World War II and Korean War veteran who went on to become a nationally recognized architect, died Dec. 15, 2021, at the Fairfax Retirement Community in Fort Belvoir. He was 97.

A longtime resident of Alexandria, Vosbeck was president of Vosbeck, Vosbeck & Associates, an architectural firm he started following his years of military service.

"Bill is another giant of Alexandria that we have lost," said Jim Aldige noting the loss of Don Simpson Sr. in 2018 and T.J. Fannon in 2013. "These were the men who shaped the community."

William F. Vosbeck Jr. was born May 13, 1924, in Mankato, Minn. He met his future wife, Elizabeth (Betty) Just, in high school and together they attended the University of Minnesota. The two married following graduation and celebrated 74 years of marriage prior to Vosbeck's death.

While still in college, Vosbeck enlisted with the U.S. Marine Corps. He was stationed at Quantico and moved his wife and young family to Alexandria.

"I joined the Marine Corps during World War II since I knew the Marines were being so successful overseas at that time," Vosbeck told the Connection Newspapers in 2020. "I remained in the reserves when the war ended and when the Korean War came along, I had to report to duty immediately. When my time in the service ended, my wife Betty and I decided to make Alexandria our home and I started my architectural firm."

Following his military service, Vosbeck and younger brother Randy, also an architect, formed Vosbeck, Vosbeck & Associates. They eventually merged with an engineering firm and the resulting company became known as VVVR, an Alexandria-based and nationally recognized design and planning firm that won over 60 design awards in the greater Washington Metropolitan Area and Mid-Atlantic Region.

Vosbeck was a fellow of the American Institute of Architects, an honor bestowed by the Institute on AIA-member architects who have made outstanding contributions to the profession. He served on the board of directors of Virginia Power and of United Virginia Bank. Vosbeck was a trustee of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and a founding member of Senior Services of Alexandria. He was a long standing and active member of Belle Haven Country Club and of the Rotary Club of Alexandria.

"I considered Bill a mentor to me," said Aldige, a fellow Rotarian. "He was always approachable and I never saw him get upset about anything. Bill showed those around him what it is like to be a true leader."

Vosbeck is survived by his wife of 74 years, Betty; brother, Randy, of Colorado; daughters Lee Hagan of Alexandria and Lynn Kunkel of St. Augustine, Fla.; daughter-in-law, Bibi Vosbeck of Alexandria; and six grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by sons Jon, Fred and James.

A memorial service will be held Feb. 12, 2022, at 11:30 a.m. at Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Church, 2001 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, Va. 22306. A Celebration of Life reception will follow from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria, Va. 22307. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Senior Services of Alexandria, 206 North Washington Street, Suite 301, Alexandria, Va. 22314.



JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Bill Vosbeck, a noted architect and veteran of World War II died Dec. 15, 2021. He was 97.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

High school sweethearts Bill and Betty Vosbeck were married for 74 years.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED
Bill Vosbeck at 6 years old in 1930.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Bill Vosbeck, right, with brother and business partner Randy Vosbeck in 2012.

bration of Life reception will follow from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria, Va. 22307. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Senior Services of Alexandria, 206 North Washington Street, Suite 301, Alexandria, Va. 22314.

"Bill always carried himself like a Marine Corps general," Aldige added. "He appreciated that part of his life and the structure that it gave him for his future successes."

Said Vosbeck, "I am thankful to the Marine Corps for what they did for me throughout my career. I was fortunate to be at the right place at the right time."

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Embark Meets One Fairfax

FROM PAGE 1

decides to sell later? What are our rights?"

Storck said any rent increases would be up to the owner.

He did not specify the rights of mobile home owners displaced by development, but said "the state has a process and the county has a process and the new Manufactured Housing Task Force is making recommendations to update the county process." State law requires a 180-day notice and \$3,500 in moving expenses for mobile home owners displaced by development.

Storck noted that "there will be change all along the corridor and what change we get will be up to all of us.

"My commitment is to meet with the community residents and organizations. I will commit to you that I will leave no one behind. By that I mean that all Mount Vernon property owners and residents will have a place where they feel they can reach their full potential. This is a core value for me.

"Any Mt. Vernon resident displaced by development will have an opportunity to get affordable housing in Mount Vernon District," Storck said.

He cited two developments under construction, North Hill with 279 affordable units and the Arden with 126 affordable units.

Low-to-moderate income households are generally defined to be those earning 60 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI) or below as indicated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. In fiscal year 2021, 60 percent of AMI for a family of four in Fairfax County was \$77,400. The upper range of the "moderate income" band extends to 80 percent AMI (\$82,300 for a family of four). To qualify, a household would be restricted to income of not more than 50 percent of AMI.

HCD estimates Fairfax County is currently short by 30,000 affordable units, meaning lower-income families may be doubled up or paying more than 30 percent of their income in rent.

Dan Lagana, Lee District Planning Commissioner, said, "These folks are homeowners and should be treated with the dignity and respect with which we reach out to homeowners." He noted that the developer, the mobile home park owner, and at least one mobile home owner are all on the county Manufactured Housing Task Force. "So they could have communicated with each other," he said. "They meet with each other almost every

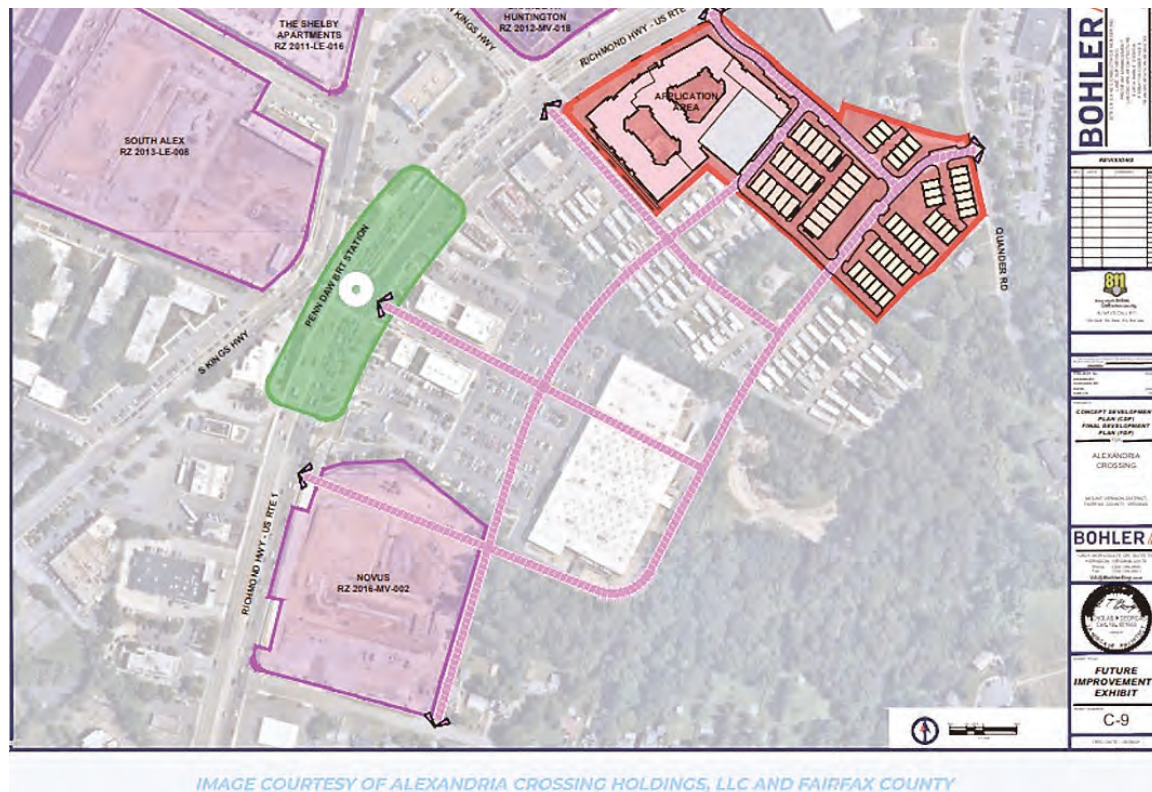


Lynne Strobel, agent for developer LMC Alexandria Crossing Holdings, LLC, answers a question while Mt. Vernon Planning Commissioner Walter Clarke and Supervisor Dan Storck stand behind her.



PHOTOS BY KATHERINE FODDEN

Mobile home park residents and others were comfortably seated on resale couches at Evolution Home consignment shop as county officials and the developer's agent presented maps and sketches of a 466-unit development with seven-story apartment buildings proposed for the property.



The Alexandria Crossing developer's map shows the proximity of the proposed development (red) to the future Bus Rapid Transit Station (green). The areas in pink are residential buildings under construction. The mobile home park and Walmart are in white.

month."

Meanwhile, the Northern Virginia Affordable Housing Alliance (NVAHA) Monday submitted a countywide petition signed by 27 organizations and 19 individuals to the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors asking the planning commission to halt the zoning change process until it can inform and involve the mobile home community.

The petition stated that passing the zoning change without input from an adjacent neighborhood "is unacceptable and contradicts the

County's policy of equitable development, the goals of the Manufactured Homes Task Force, and the spirit of One Fairfax."

The South County Task Force also sent a letter to the planning commission and board of supervisors asking, "How will Embark create better lives for the people of the Route 1 community? This first public rezoning hearing on an Embark development was not a good start.

"We believe residents who are not property owners can engage in community development and that

the Embark development must intentionally benefit them as well as their more affluent neighbors and new residents. We sincerely hope that Embark is not a 'slum clearance' project that keeps mobile home owners and renters in the dark about impending development and then pushes them out to find new homes in other communities."

Although no developer has yet made a public offer, the mobile home park itself is in line for development according to the county's comprehensive plan amendment

that frames Embark. The area from the Alexandria Crossing development through the Walmart plaza, which includes Penn Daw Terrace, is slated for dense residential development with buildings of 7-10 stories, according to county planning staff. It is part of the Penn Daw "community business center" surrounding a planned bus rapid transit (BRT) station. EMBARK is envisioned as a string of nine such nodes from Huntington Metro to Fort Belvoir.

The Alexandria Crossing development of 466 residential units, including two seven-story apartment/condo buildings and townhouses, assembled multiple small parcels of land. The design was praised by county planning staff for adhering to Embark design guidelines. The only other major issue raised was the possible lack of sewer infrastructure capacity in the parcel and who would pay to expand it, which could be an issue for many larger developments along Richmond Highway.

Strobel said presentations on the Penn Daw Alexandria Crossings development were given to the Spring Banks Civic Association, The Belle View Civic Association, and the Mount Vernon Council of Civic Associations, an umbrella group. All approved, or at least did not object to, the development.

Following planning commission approval, the rezoning request will go to the Board of Supervisors for approval and another public hearing.

Mary Paden is chair of the South County Task Force and a member of the county Manufactured Housing Task Force.

Our Winter Visitors – Waterfowl

FROM PAGE 8

it, they move on,” explains Larry Cartwright, a veteran birdwatcher and bird survey leader.

Spring Stirrings

In the winter, males’ colors are often striking and females’ more subdued. In late winter and early spring, hormones start bubbling, the birds’ colors brighten and courtship begins, behavior that can be mesmerizing for people. Male buffleheads, for example, swim in front of females and rapidly bob their heads up and down. Male hooded mergansers raise their crest and jerk their heads backwards, almost touching their back. As they return their heads to the upright position, they make a frog-like, croaking call. Females bob their heads and give “a hoarse gack,” says Cornell University’s All about Birds.

How and Where

to See Waterfowl

Viewing waterfowl can be challenging since the birds may not be

close to the shoreline and diving ducks constantly go underwater and pop back up. Novices may want to go out with experienced birders. Having a spotting scope helps one see colors and wing patterns and varied shapes and sizes of heads and beaks.

Popular Potomac River waterfowl-watching sites include Gravelly Point, the Washington Sailing Marina, Jones Point Park, Belle Haven Park, the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve, Riverside Park and Mason Neck State Park and Wildlife Refuge.

People should never disturb or feed waterfowl. Crackers, popcorn and bread bits, for example, are human food, not bird food.

Other Water Birds

There are other duck-like, swimming birds in area waters, in winter and year-round, that technically, are not called “waterfowl,” birds like grebes, cormorants and American coots. Keen observers have spotted loons and shorebirds off and on, probably migrating through.



Public Notice

Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

In accord with state and federal law, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has imposed new or changed existing weight restrictions and installed new signage indicating the updated weight restrictions on the following bridges and culverts (structures) in Virginia within the last 30 days.

Junction	East Side	West Side	Route	Structure Name	Crossing	Effective Date
LEE	10832	626	DELVALE RD	N F POWELL RIVER		1/31/2022
LEE	10876	648	ROUTE 648	TOWN BRANCH		1/31/2022
LEE	10897	662	ROUTE 662	SIMS CREEK		1/31/2022
GRAYSON	8912	734	CHESTNUT GROVE RD	FOX CREEK		1/31/2022
WASHINGTON	25100	616	LITTLE WOLF RUN	ABRAMS CREEK		1/20/2022
BUCHANAN	23115	755	STILTNETS BOTTOM RD	LEVISA RIVER		1/19/2022
BUCHANAN	23116	1025	MEETING HOUSE RD	LEVISA RIVER		1/19/2022
WYTHE	19666	610	PEPPERS FERRY RD	COVE CREEK		1/18/2022
RICHMOND (M)	21358	0	COLUMBIA STREET	GOODES CREEK		1/13/2022
FRANKLIN	7902	688	POTEET RD/ROUTE 688	GILLS CREEK		1/11/2022
CARROLL	4780	881	CROSS CREEK RD/ROUTE 881	LITTLE REED ISLAND CR #2		1/11/2022
AMELIA	1235	602	BEVILS BRIDGE RD	APPOMATTOX RIVER		1/6/2022
FRANKLIN	7907	695	ISOLANE RD/ROUTE 695	HATCHET CREEK		1/5/2022
MONTGOMERY	12292	663	WALTON RD/ROUTE 663	CRAB CREEK		1/4/2022

The list above is not a comprehensive list of all structures with weight restrictions in the Commonwealth, but shows only structures that have new or changed weight restrictions within the last 30 days. The list contains only basic structure identification and location information and the date the new or changed weight restriction and signage became effective.

For a full listing of all bridge and culvert weight restrictions with detailed information about specific structures, including location data and actual weight limits, visit <https://www.virginiadot.org> and navigate to Info Center/Trucking Resources. This page references a posted structures report and a GIS map tool that contain detailed information about restricted structures in Virginia. To receive email notifications regarding new or updated weight restrictions for structures statewide, complete the sign-up form on the web page.

Notices regarding bridges and culverts with new or updated weight restrictions are published monthly by VDOT. For additional information or questions, please contact, haulingpermits@vdot.virginia.gov.

The Virginia Department of Transportation is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any of its programs or activities on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on VDOT's Title VI Program or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Program Specialist at 804-786-2730.

THE CONNECTION Alexandria Gazette Packet Mount Vernon Gazette Potomac ALMANAC

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Publishes:

February 23, 2022

Ads submitted by:

February 17, 2022

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NOW THRU FEB. 15

The Restaurant Cherry Challenge. The “Cherry Challenge” is a competition among finer restaurants in Alexandria. Each restaurant will develop its own cherry cocktail, appetizer, entrée, and/or dessert in honor of our distinguished native son, of course! The competing restaurants and their entries are listed at <http://washingtonbirthday.com/cherry-challenge>, and the winners will be announced on Parade Day.

NOW THRU FEB. 28

Hunt for Washington. A fun and challenging game to uncover clues about Alexandria and George Washington. The hunt, which should take about 60-90 minutes to complete, will take individuals and families to places in Old Town Alexandria associated with the General. Start by printing a clue sheet from www.washingtonbirthday.com at home and bring it with you as you traverse the heart of Old Town and then use your sleuthing skills to find answers to the clues. Submit your findings to gwbirthdayevents@gmail.com many time before the end of the day on February 28. There are prizes and mementos associated with this event! Free.

NOW THRU FEB. 28

American Legion Post 24 Run, Walk, n’ Roll. This George Washington Birthday Commemorative event is intended to build community and enhance the physical, mental, and emotional resiliency of participants—veterans and non-veterans alike. This month-long event during February 2022 encourages participants to run, walk and/or roll on their own for at least 24 miles in increments and routes they choose. Registration is \$24. Visit <https://runsignup.com/Race/VA/Alexandria/GWB24RunWalkRoll> for more information.

NOW THRU MARCH 6

Artist’s Exhibition: Oenone Hammersley and Darren Smith. At the Athenaeum Gallery, Alexandria. Artists Meet and Greet, Sunday March 6, 2 — 4 p.m. Oenone Hammersley’s paintings depict abstract water patterns in mixed media on canvas and wooden panels. The panels are cut to resemble water cascading or waves breaking. Darren Smith uses his creative vision while leading the foreign-language editions of National Geographic Magazine. He applies the same skills to making his handmade photo collages. The Athenaeum Gallery is open Thursday to Sunday 12 to 4 p.m.

NOW THRU FEB. 26

The “DADA 2.0” Exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Features art that expresses absurdity and discontent through the lens of Dada. Open Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays 12-6 p.m. (Closed February 27, 2022). Details at DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

THURSDAY/FEB. 10

The Life and Times of Colonel



Enjoy Chocolate with Washington on Saturday, Feb. 12 at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria.

Charles Young. 7-8 p.m. Virtual. Join Park Ranger Roger Osorio, from the Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers National Monument, to learn the story behind Colonel Young’s life and the legacy he created. Charles Young, born to enslaved parents, persevered through racism and prejudice to become one of the first African American graduates from West Point Military Academy and went on to serve in many capacities and missions throughout the United States and the world at a time when opportunities for Black Americans were severely restricted. Contact mzimmerman@alexlibraryva.org. Visit alexlibraryva.org

FRIDAY/FEB. 11

Sing Willow by The Thirteen. 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Alexandria. Throughout musical history, composers have long turned to the natural world for inspiration and solace. Chief among equals is English composer Ralph Vaughan Williams, who was born in 1872 and whose 150th birthday we celebrate in this program. The Thirteen will pair Vaughan Williams’ music with works that explore the concept of the natural world and humankind’s place in it by beloved composers including Trevor Weston, Caroline Shaw, Benjamin Britten and more. Visit the website: www.TheThirteenChoir.org.

SATURDAY/FEB. 12

Storytime with the Alexandria Black History Museum. 10 a.m. Virtual. Educated kids during story time with the Alexandria Black History Museum, a collaboration with the Alexandria Library. Join Mrs. Lillian Patterson for story time and hear about African American history. The event is great for children ages 4 to 8, but all are welcome. Recurring story times occur on the second Saturday of each month. Visit alexlibraryva.org.

SATURDAY/FEB. 12

Children’s Business Fair. 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. At Aldersgate Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria. Experience young minds marketing, selling, counting money and feeling accomplished! Come be a shopper and help Fort Hunt’s young entrepreneurs launch their businesses. Visit the website: <https://www.KidBizInc.com/CBF>

SATURDAY/FEB. 12

Chocolate With Washington. 2-3 p.m. At George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Children (and accompanying adults) are invited

to spend an hour with General Washington to talk about the American Revolution, ask questions of our first citizen, and enjoy hot chocolate and delicious comestibles. Sponsored by First Home Care of Alexandria. Masks will be required. Free. To register, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com> and search Chocolate with Washington. Visit the website: www.washingtonbirthday.com.

SATURDAY/FEB. 12

A White Historian Explores “Race Riots.” 11 a.m. Virtual. Violent clashes between large crowds of different races have disturbed the social order in the United States since long before the Civil War, and the phrase “race riot” has been used to describe such disparate events such as the Tulsa massacre of 1921, the 1968 uprisings following the assassination of Martin Luther King and the anti-Chinese riots of the 1870s. Susan Strasser investigates the term and a history of racially-charged violence that has framed American discussions of race throughout the nation’s history. Visit alexandriava.gov/historic.

SATURDAY/FEB. 12

Starting from Scratch with Seeds. 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. (16-Adult). At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Grow flowers, vegetables and herbs from seed and expand your garden. Be inspired by Green Spring staff members as they discuss potting mixes, containers, seed treatments, lighting, fertilization, watering, seed sources and timing. Then take home a few seeds to start your own collection. \$22 per person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes or call 703-642-5173. Code J1V.D6BU.

SATURDAY/FEB. 12

Rachmaninov Rhapsody. 7:30 p.m. At Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, Alexandria. The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra is joined by renowned soloist Sara Daneshpour with Rachmaninov’s romantic Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini. Strings take center stage with George Walker’s Lyric for Strings and Beethoven’s Quartet for Strings in C-sharp minor, expanded for full orchestra. The program also features Sibelius’ epic tone poem, Finlandia. Cost: \$20-\$85. Visit the website: <https://alexsym.org/performance/rachmaninov-rhapsody/>

Senior Living in Alexandria Workshop: Cooking with Kole

BY MARYANNE BEATTY

Senior Services of Alexandria Register now for Senior Services of Alexandria’s Feb. 17, 10 am Virtual Webinar - “Cooking with Kole” - a fun, interactive experience in the comfort of your own kitchen. Kole, who presents regularly at the Beatley Library, will guide you through easy-to-follow recipes to make along with him or at your convenience.

Recipes include Lemon Asparagus Fettuccine, Pastina Soup and Prawns Provençal.

Kole Gansebom began his fascination with food and nutrition from a young age. Throughout his journey, “he’s discovered when you eat meals made from ingredients that are grown natively and harvested in season, you’re gifted incredible flavor that’s packed with nutrition. Preparing foods with

these tenets in mind is good for our bodies and the planet.”

Kole studied at the Omaha Institute for Culinary Arts and later graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a degree in Nutrition and Dietetics. He believes “that knowledge about nutrition and how to eat well is only half of the equation. Being able to prepare food and maximize flavor is when the excitement really starts. It’s been a joy to share my knowledge with friends, family, and in classes like these.”

This is a zoom event, free and open to the public. You can register online at www.seniorservicesalex.org or call SSA’s office at 703-836-4414, ext. 110.

The ingredient list and recipe details will be sent to all registered attendees a week before the event, Feb. 17

ASO Presents Rachmaninov’s Masterpiece

BY MELINDA KERNC

Under the direction of Music Director James Ross, the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra will present Rachmaninov’s Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini with pianist Sara Daneshpour on Saturday, February 12, 2022 (7:30 p.m.) at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center and Sunday, February 13, 2022 (3:00 p.m.) at the George Washington Masonic Memorial.

A native of Washington, D.C., Ms. Daneshpour has garnered awards internationally and received acclaim as a sought-after touring artist. New York Concert Review wrote of her artistry, “She lavished color on oft-neglected line, illuminated subtle beauties, and raged through the storms, always with stunning polish.” Sara Daneshpour joined the Astral Artists roster as a winner of its 2010 National Auditions.

The program, titled Dark Glow, opens with Finnish composer Jean Sibelius’ well-known and beloved tone poem Finlandia. Strings take center stage with Beethoven’s Quartet for Strings in C-sharp minor, expanded for orchestra by Maestro Jim Ross. One of his last works composed when he was completely deaf, the piece explores a range of joy and heartbreak. The program also features George Walker’s Lyric for Strings, inspired

by his grandmother, who was born into slavery. A trailblazer among composers throughout his life, Walker was the first African American awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Music in 1996. The program culminates with Rachmaninov’s Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, a set of 24 variations based on Paganini’s theme for violin.

Alexandria Symphony Orchestra is committed to providing a safe concert environment for patrons, musicians and staff. Schlesinger Concert Hall has been completely overhauled with a state-of-the-art ventilation system. Audience members, musicians, staff, and volunteers will be required to wear a mask (N95 recommended) for the duration of performances. All audience members, musicians, volunteers and staff must be fully-vaccinated to attend.

The Alexandria Symphony is a fully-professional orchestra drawing from the Washington, D.C. metropolitan region’s wealth of musical talent. Many musicians perform with other orchestras and top military bands. Single tickets are \$20-\$85 for adults, \$5 for youth (18 and under), and \$15 for students (with ID). The ASO also offers senior and group rates and a special discount for military employees and veterans for this performance. For tickets and more information, visit www.alexsym.org or call (703) 548-0885.

Chamber Business Scholarship 2022 Now Open

Applications are now available for business scholarships provided by Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce. At least one scholarship will be awarded to a senior pursuing further education in business from each of the high schools in Lee and Mount Vernon Districts. Additional scholarships may also be awarded.

Students may apply online at <https://mountvernonleechamber.org/business-scholarship-application/> or call 703-360-6925 to request an application. The application deadline is Friday April 15. Students must live in Mount Vernon and Lee Districts or attend a school in these districts. Those interested in applying for the scholarship should visit www.MountVernonLeeChamber.org and review the application requirements.

For the past twenty-five years, the Chamber of Commerce has invested in the future by awarding more than \$265,000 in scholarships to develop the next generation of business and community leaders.

Love Is in the Air

FROM PAGE 3

Loudoun High School but didn't get together until we met after college on the bike trail. We have been married for 17 years now and my favorite thing about Angeli is her organization and planning skills."

Angeli: "It is important for us to do our own thing. We do not always have to be together. We get to be individuals and have our own hobbies and hang out with our own friends. My favorite thing about Max is his great sense of humor."

Peter and Jenny Wintermute

Peter: "We met through a friend in Dewey Beach and I proposed at the Daytona 500 in 2004. My favorite thing about Jenny is what a wonderful mother she is to our children. It's not easy juggling outside family and in-laws."

Jenny: "Peter and I have been married 15 years now. I love what an amazing father Peter is. He is very involved and supportive of his wife and children. It is a challenge making time for one another when there is work and children and other responsibilities, but it is important to the success of a relationship."

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Obituary



Margery May Johannes Nelson December 4, 1929- December 18, 2021

Margery was born and raised in Hoquiam, Washington. After graduating from Hoquiam High School in 1947, she attended the University of Washington where she was a member of the Pi Beta Phi Sorority.

She was predeceased by her parents Eugene "Joe" and Linda Johannes, her sister Carolyn (Terrence) Hanley, her husband William A. Nelson and her son, William E. Nelson.

Margery is survived by her brother and sister-in-law, Stanley and Bonnie Johannes of Hoquiam, Washington; her daughter and son-in-law, Carrie and Chris Cahill of Pennington, NJ and her daughter-in-law, Mary Nelson of Chicago, IL. She is also survived by her four adored granddaughters, Dana Cahill, Kelsey (TJ) Clarkson, Kaitlin Cahill and Alison Cahill along with many nieces and nephews who will miss her very much.

While Margery was a Homemaker, she was an ardent volunteer, giving her time to many great endeavors. Her warm smile and generosity were her trademark. She was a wonderful role model to her children and granddaughters. The love she gave was unconditional and she had a lot of love to give.

She lived in Alexandria, Va. for 42 years where she was a dedicated member of the Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Church. Margery was involved with United Community Ministries and Mt. Vernon-Lee Enterprises and Meals on Wheels just to name a few.

In 2019, Margery moved to Pennington, NJ to be closer to her family. Her family is honored and blessed to have been a part of her earthly world and wish her gentle travels onto her next journey. A special thank you to Brandywine of Pennington and Penn Medicine Hospice for such wonderful care.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to a local Humane Society. A Celebration of Life will be held privately with her family.

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Apparently, the Time Wasn't Now

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



I thought those quarterly scans that I discussed last week came around a little too quick. However, sometimes (heck, oftentimes) life gets to be a bit of a jumble and cooler heads don't always prevail. I was both right and wrong in last week's column. I was right to be surprised by the need timing-wise, to get scanned again so soon. And I was wrong thinking the scans were my usual and customary quarterlylies. They were not. Before the scheduled appointments, I called Member Services to get some clarity. Sure enough, these scans were not the typical, recurring quarterly CT and Bone scans that I wrote about last week coming around so quickly. They were different. They were two MRI scans, one of the brain and the other for the lower abdomen. Scans that I have annually but have no sense when that annual cycle occurs. Of course, the appointments were set by my oncologist – with me, after our last post-scan meeting, but I had totally forgot. Fortunately, I remembered in time, and so far, the results indicate no activity/complication. I am not free and clear by any means, it just means, to quote "Forest, Forest Gump:" "One less thing." News for which I am exceedingly grateful and amazed – and never take for granted.

The MRI scans will take about 35 to 40 minutes each, so long as I remain still during the study. Still, it means lying down and locked in a face cage and then loaded into a claustrophobic tube to endure bangs and knocks and all sort of other auditory interference while the resonance is imaging. The first time I had an MRI 13 years ago, I was loaded into the tube and immediately pressed the panic button to unload. When I slid back outside the tube, the technician advised me to keep my eyes closed. And for 13 years, annually, I have followed her advice. So long as I don't open my eyes and see how close my face is to the machine (inches) and think about how much of my body has been inserted into this tube (almost entirely), I can endure the scan. I've never been given any medication to keep me calm, not an uncommon occurrence for patients (like my father) who couldn't be so confined for so long in such a small place.

But none of that really bothers me. What bothered me was how unprepared I was for the scan appointment. Usually, I know what's going on in my care. The fact – which became a concern, that this time, I was unaware of the procedure and the timing. And after I spoke with Member Services, I realized I had cause for that concern. My most recent quarterly scans were during the last week of December, a mere five weeks prior to this most recent scan appointment. Yet I had no sense of the time/recurrence but instead thought quite mistakenly that it was time for the quarterly scans and got a bit agitated that it seemed to come around so quickly. Boy was I wrong – and right.

But I'll try to take it in stride. After all, being in treatment has its struggles. Invariably, there are complications and confusions. As I was advised to do so years ago: "Blame the cancer."

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

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OPINION

"The Good, Bad, And the Ugly"

FROM PAGE 7

gone into effect in Virginia yet, and there is no evidence that same day registration leads to voter fraud.

❖ The bad also includes this bill, HB 58 that prohibits local governing bodies from establishing provisions related to procurement of goods, professional services, or construction that would require a wage floor or any other employee benefit or compensation above what is otherwise required by state or federal law to be provided by a contractor to one or more of the contractor's employees as part of a contract with the locality.

The "Ugly" Bills:

❖ HB89 is one of the "ugly" bills, which aims to criminalize the behavior of students at school (disorderly conduct, which has broad definitions) and does not give an exemption to students in Special Education with an IEP or with other disabilities. Schools already have tools to handle student behavioral problems such as counseling, in

and out of school suspensions, escalating to expulsion. Measures such as this disproportionately affect special needs students as well as students of color, and bringing law enforcement into schools to place kids in the criminal justice system is not the answer.

❖ Also, HB 296, an "ugly" bill in that it ends the incremental minimum wage increases at the current \$11 and doesn't allow next year's increase to \$12 an hour, a bill we passed two years ago.

The bill also repeals provisions related to increasing the state minimum wage based on an annual adjusted minimum wage determined by the Department of Labor and Industry. This measure will hurt low income families.

If you have a bill that you are following or want more information about any bill and where it is on its journey to becoming law, please do not hesitate to contact my office here in Richmond at DelPKrizek@house.virginia.gov.

Week Four: Bills Moving in Richmond; Retail Marijuana Under Discussion

FROM PAGE 6

can legally purchase marijuana from five licensees, such as Beyond Hello in Manassas, if they have a recommendation from a medical provider. The medical marijuana companies would like to sell marijuana at the retail level without the medical recommendation while others would like to see vertically-integrated hemp growers authorized to sell marijuana until the final retail system is in place.

We are also debating how to address the fate of 500 Virginians currently imprisoned for marijuana distribution and several thousand more who received enhanced sentences for other offenses due to marijuana-related sentence enhancements. I am carrying legislation with Senator Louise Lucas to create both resentencing and parole board avenues to seek a modification of sentence. This will be a complex negotiation and I am optimistic we will make progress this year to finalize this issue so we can move on to other issues.

The Senate approved my legislation to create a seventh Circuit Court judgeship in Prince William County.

Prince William County, Manassas and Manassas Park have grown by nearly 50,000 people or about 10 percent since judicial caseloads were last evaluated and wait times to go to court are significantly higher there than in most other Northern Virginia jurisdictions. If the House of Delegates approves this bill, our delegation will nominate a new person to be a judge within the next two weeks.

I will be available online on Feb. 12 at 1 p.m. for my eastern Prince William County town hall meeting with Sen. Jeremy McPike and Delegates Luke Torian and Candi King. I hope you will join us and share your views.

The next week of the legislature's session is traditionally the time for final hearings on some of the most difficult bills.

I always appreciate hearing your views and suggestions. Please email me at scott@scotturovell.org.

Jinks to Keynote Friendship Breakfast

FROM PAGE 4

traditional kick-off to the city's slate of George Washington Birthday celebration events.

Sponsored by the Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association, the city's oldest fire company that was established in 1774, the breakfast will take place at the Westin Hotel Alexandria at 400 Courthouse Square beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Former City Councilwoman Del Pepper and recently retired Alexandria Sheriff Dana Lawhorne will be presented with the Reverend Ben Lynt Distinguished Service Award. The award is named in honor of Rev. Lynt who served as pastor of Alexandria's Second Presbyterian Church for 44 years and is

presented annually to an Alexandria citizen, business or municipal leader for exemplary service to the community.

In his remarks, Jinks, will tell of ghost stories and other episodes from the city's history.

The Friendship Firehouse breakfast kicks off the city's George Washington Birthday events that includes a wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Revolutionary Soldier at 11 a.m. and the Armed Forces Community Covenant Ceremony at noon.

The parade through Old Town begins at 1 p.m.

Tickets for the breakfast are \$45. For reservations, contact Bill Kehoe at kehoefd@aol.com or call 703-751-6416.

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