

# Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

FEBRUARY 24, 2022

## Wreath Laying at the Tomb Of George Washington

Supervisor Dan Storck hosted his annual wreath laying at the tomb of George Washington on President's Day. Participating in the wreath laying were members of the Mount Vernon High School JROTC and Boy Scout Troop 1906 from Gum Springs. In attendance were Doug Bradburn, Director of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association; Karen Corbett Sanders, FCPS School Board member; Alison Ross Tompkins, chairman of the Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce; Ron Chase, president of the Gum Springs Historical Society; and other community leaders. After the service at George Washington's Tomb the group visited the Slave Memorial at Mount Vernon to lay a wreath and pay respect to those buried at that site.



Supervisor Dan Storck, hosted his annual wreath laying at the tomb of George Washington on President's Day. Participating in the wreath laying were members of the Mount Vernon High School JROTC and Boy Scout Troop 1906 from Gum Springs.



Arch leading to the Slave Memorial at Mount Vernon where a wreath was laid and respect paid to the enslaved community.

PHOTOS BY STEVE DOUGHERTY



With bigger trucks and more high tech gear, the new Woodlawn Fire Station is one more tool in the community.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE GAZETTE

## New Fire Station Gives Firefighters an Edge

Mount Vernon station has bigger bays and quarters in a rapidly growing area.

BY MIKE SALMON  
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

In Mount Vernon, the ribbon was cut Feb. 19 on the new \$12 million Woodlawn Fire Station just off Richmond Highway with bigger bays, bigger trucks and all the bells and whistles needed in this crowded corridor in southern Fairfax County.

The new two-story station has room for 16 fire and rescue staff,

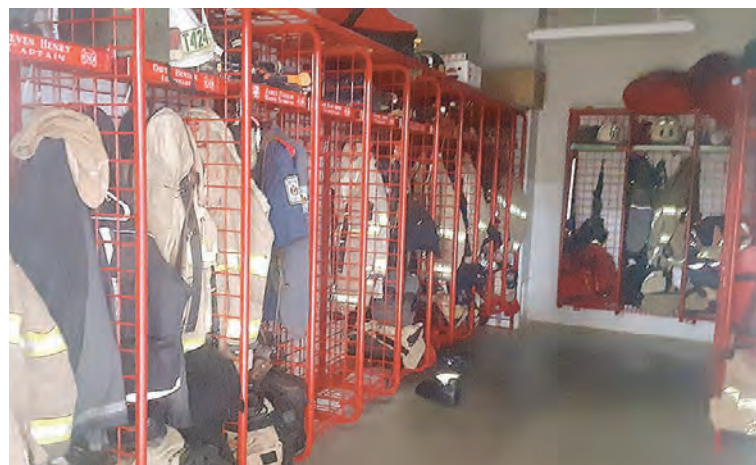


Fireman Furman and his mural in the stairwell.

four drive-through bays, and LEED certification elements for energy efficiency, air handling systems and renewable energy infrastructure. Scheibel Construction began construction on the 15,000 square foot station in December 2019,

and it was completed in December 2021.

"They can have all the equipment they need, the old station didn't have the room," said Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mount Ver-SEE NEW FIRE STATION, PAGE 4



The ready room.



PET GAZETTE

PAGES 7, 8, 9, 10



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](http://www.WeAreAlexandria.com)

#WeAreAlexandria



OPEN SUN 2/27, 2-4

**Arlington | \$1,875,000**

Classic Craftsman style home with a spacious front porch in Lyon Village. Special care has been taken to honor its original design. Features include four bedrooms, three and a half baths, a spectacular gourmet kitchen with family room and primary suite addition, renovated baths, gleaming wood floors and 1-car garage. Lovely flagstone patio garden with koi pond. Truly a Commuter's dream! 1604 N Cleveland Street

**Julian Burke 703.867.4219**  
[www.JulianBurke.com](http://www.JulianBurke.com)



OPEN SUN 2/27, 2-4

**Milway Meadows | \$939,000**

Bright open floor plan perfect for living and entertaining. Large addition for family room, office, dining room, or au pair suite. Gorgeous private yard, hot tub, tons of storage, oversized 2-car garage. Walk to school, pool, library! 7519 Cornith Drive  
**Robin Arnold 703.966.5457**  
[www.robinarnoldsells.com](http://www.robinarnoldsells.com)



OPEN SAT 2/26, 12-2

**Rosemont | \$850,000**

2-bedroom, 2-bath updated bungalow. Light-filled living room boasts high ceilings, built-in bookcases, and gas fireplace. Renovated kitchen with high-end appliances. Screened-in back porch. Fabulous basement. 1 W Oak Street  
**Jen Walker 703.675.1566**  
[www.JenWalker.com](http://www.JenWalker.com)



OPEN 2/26, 2-4 & 2/27, 12-2

**Waynewood | \$779,900**

This 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath beauty has a versatile floor plan for all of today's space requirements! Formal living room, fantastic kitchen opens to dining + sitting areas. Large family room, lower level rec room! Large yard! 1106 Croton Drive  
**Susan Anthony 703.795.9536**  
[www.SusanBruceAnthony.com](http://www.SusanBruceAnthony.com)



OPEN SAT 2/26 & SUN 2/27, 12-2

**Potomac Valley | \$725,000**

Recently updated & incredibly maintained 4 level home on a quiet cul-de-sac in highly desired 22308. This 4-bedroom, 2-bath home sits on a large lot. Open living & dining room flow to the updated stainless and granite kitchen. 1804 Ingemar Court  
**Jillian Keck Hogan 703.951.7655**  
[www.JillianKeckHogan.com](http://www.JillianKeckHogan.com)



OPEN SUN 2/27, 2-4

**Kirk | \$649,000**

4-bedroom, 2-bath brick split foyer offers a terrific opportunity to buy & renovate or move right in. This well-maintained home includes a 3 year old roof, newer HVAC, fresh paint, replacement windows. sited on a spacious, flat lot. 8026 Candlewood Dr  
**Jodie Burns 571.228.5790**  
[www.JodieBurns.com](http://www.JodieBurns.com)



OPEN SUN 2/27, 12-2

**Midtown Alexandria | \$395,000**

Unique 1-bedroom with den/office, modern kitchen, large balcony, and tons of upgrades across from Huntington Metro. 2 assigned parking spaces. 24/7 concierge, sundeck, 7th floor pool, fitness center, & more! 2451 Midtown Ave #616  
**Jeffrey Cann 703.717.1932**  
[www.JeffreyCann.com](http://www.JeffreyCann.com)



OPEN SUN 2/27, 2-4

**Nethergate \$725,000**

Stunning 2-bedroom, 2-bath townhome in lovely setting. Living room with wood-burning fireplace. Hardwood floors. Large kitchen with table space walks

out to patio for entertaining. Primary bedroom with high ceilings. Lower level family room with full bath. Huge utility for tons of storage. 1104 Michigan Court

**Kim Peele & Hope Peele 703.244.5852**  
[www.thepeelegroup.biz](http://www.thepeelegroup.biz)



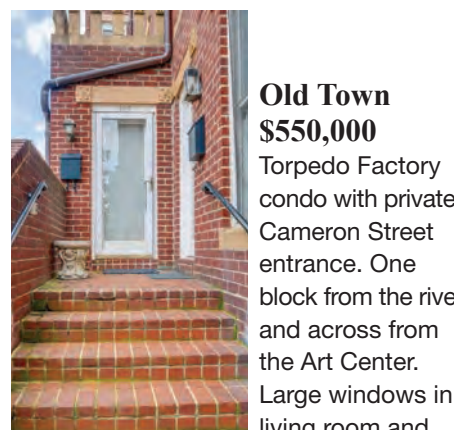
OPEN SAT 2/26, 1-3

**Old Town \$590,000**

Renovated 2-level, 1-bedroom, 1.5-bath townhome offers a cozy main level with high beams, and a powder room. New kitchen boasts stainless

steel appliances and flows to outdoor patio-great for entertaining! Walk to shops, restaurants, and all that Old Town has to offer! 229 N Henry Street

**Jen Walker 703.675.1566**  
[www.JenWalker.com](http://www.JenWalker.com)



**Old Town \$550,000**

Torpedo Factory condo with private Cameron Street entrance. One block from the river and across from the Art Center. Large windows in living room and

engineered floors throughout. Renovated kitchen and bath. Washer & dryer in unit. Walk-in bedroom closet & additional storage. 120 Cameron St #CS105

**Susan Craft 703.216.4501**  
[www.SusanCraft.com](http://www.SusanCraft.com)



OPEN SUN 2/27, 2-4

**Loftridge \$549,000**

Stunning wide-slat, wire-scrapped red oak floors, living room with fireplace flanked by customized built-in bookcases, gorgeous

kitchen. recently rebuilt and expanded deck, 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, double hung windows replaced in 2020. 5742 Evergreen Knolls Court

**Robin Arnold 703.966.5457**  
[www.robinarnoldsells.com](http://www.robinarnoldsells.com)

Serving the Washington, DC Metro Area since 1980.  
703.549.9292 | 109 S. Pitt Street | Alexandria, VA 22314 | [McEneaney.com](http://McEneaney.com)





## Ditch Warfare House Republicans push for tax cuts; Senate Democrats push back.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

**O**n the campaign trail, Glenn Youngkin said Virginia's economy was "in the ditch." Now that he's governor, he's calling for a host of tax cuts he says will jumpstart what he calls a "rip roaring" economy. He wants to eliminate the grocery tax, double the standard deduction and postpone an increase in the gas tax.

But Senate Democrats are skeptical.

"Companies are lining up — let me repeat that — lining up to come to Northern Virginia. Would they be doing that if we were taxing them out of existence? I mean give me a break," said Majority Leader Dick Saslaw this week. "How do you explain that and the fact that virtually none of us here ever get emails saying 'Oh geez you need to cut taxes?'"

During a tense meeting of the Senate Finance Committee this week, newly installed Secretary of Finance Stephen Cummings said the cost of government is outstripping economic prosperity. He pointed to data showing sluggish job growth, warning senators that revenues are strong because taxes are too high. The governor is hoping the job-growth numbers will be a persuasive argument for Senate Democrats who are skeptical of moving forward with his package of tax cuts.

"We have to be able to explain why we are not growing then because I understand that people are

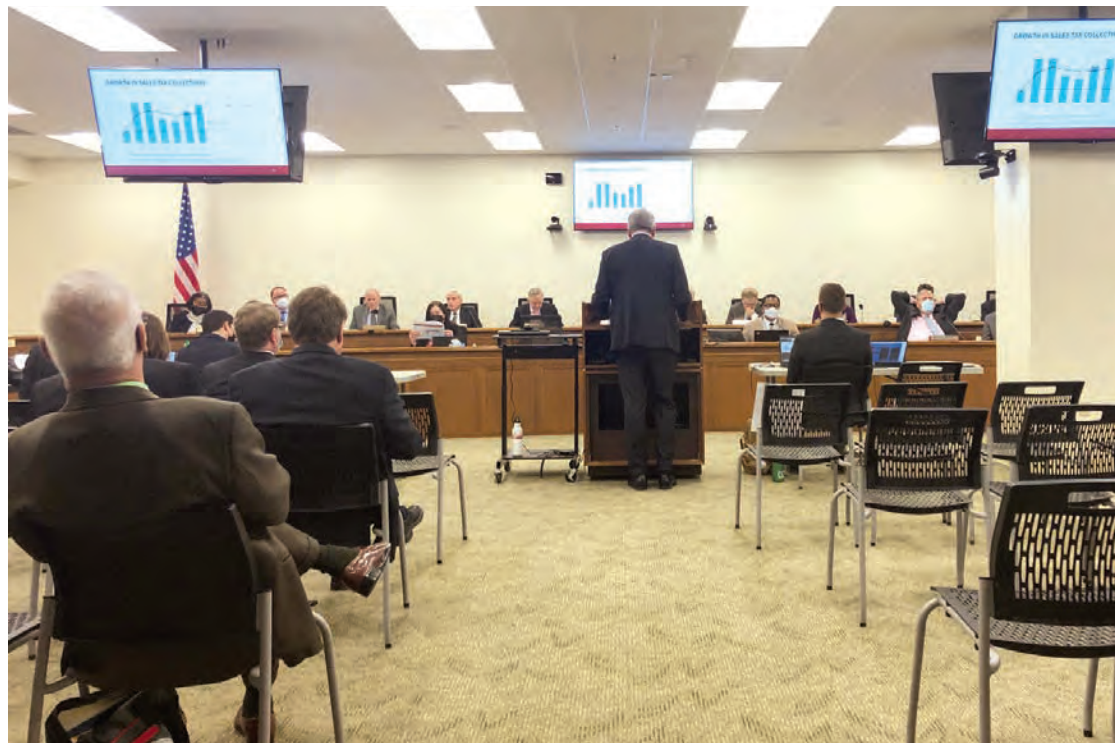


PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

Secretary of Finance Stephen Cummings presents a bleak economic picture to the Senate Finance Committee this week.

not complaining right now that 'you're taxing me too much,' but why is it we're lagging all these other states?" said Cummings. "Why are we lagging the national economy? There's got to be an explanation."

**THE EXPLANATION** for Virginia's languid recovery from the pandemic downturn might be explained by related data on unemployment. Because Virginia's unemployment rate was so much lower than other states, many experts say, the commonwealth has less ground to reclaim. States that have seen super-

charged job growth are also states that suffered a much higher unemployment rate when the economy shut down.

"A state like Florida that is more tourism and travel dependent was hit much harder at the beginning of the pandemic," said Chris Wodicka, senior policy analyst with the Commonwealth Institute. "If you measure 'recovery' in the way the administration seems to be measuring it, Virginia will look worse just based on that alone."

House Republicans tried to get Virginia to leave the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, a

multi-state compact created to cap and reduce emissions across 11 states. But Senate Democrats rejected that idea, which means Virginia will remain part of the group despite opposition from conservatives who say it's a drag on the economy. Critics of the environmental policy Democrats put in place when they were in charge say mandating green energy is a recipe for disaster.

"RGGI is a real and growing tax on power and companies cannot evade it by taking a third party provider," said Stephen Haner, a senior fellow at the Thomas Jef-

erson Institute. "And until the election there was a strong reason to worry this year could bring repeal of the Right to Work law."

**IN THE COMING** weeks, Senate Democrats and House Republicans will need to hammer out their differences on tax cuts. The House wants to eliminate the grocery tax while the Senate wants to let local governments keep the option to have a 1 percent sales tax on groceries. The House wants to double the standard deduction while the Senate wants to study the idea and come back to it later. And the House wants to delay an increase in the gas tax while the Senate rejects that approach.

The bottom line is that the Senate budget has about \$3 billion more in revenues than the House budget. That could end up meaning less spending on everything from environmental preservation projects to economic development programs.

The Senate budget has \$278 million more for public education, for example. Cummings says that kind of austerity is needed to make Virginia more competitive with other states, a perspective Saslaw rejected in trademark fashion.

"Listening to you, you'd think we're in the poorest, most bankrupt state in America and everything has gone to hell in a handbasket," said Saslaw.

"Saslaw can't be paying much attention to his constituents if he thinks cost of living and inflation isn't a major problem for Virginia families," said Macaulay Porter, spokeswoman for the governor.

## Man Shot by Police in Lorton Identified, Charged



PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/GAZETTE PACKET

Fitt Court is in the Newington part of Lorton, where an officer from the Mount Vernon district shot a man who pointed a gun at officers on Tuesday while they were investigating an illegally parked van.

Fairfax County Police Chief Kevin Davis on the scene in Lorton after the shooting.

### Officer not yet named.

BY MIKE SALMON  
GAZETTE PACKET

**T**he man shot by a Fairfax County police officer in an early morning shooting last week was identified as 34-year-old Michael Vaughn, a fugitive who was arrested on Feb. 16 for two outstanding warrants for failure to appear and a probation violation.

According to Fairfax County Police, Vaughn's warrants stem from previous charges of possession of a firearm while in possession of certain substances and selling a

schedule I/II drug that occurred on March 18, 2021. When Vaughn violated his probation, a warrant was issued on Sept. 2, 2021. A second warrant was issued on Sept. 22, 2021 when Vaughn failed to appear in court on the original charges.

The police offered a detailed report of the events:

In the morning of Tuesday, Feb 15, Vaughn was in his vehicle in the 8300 block of Fitt Court in Lorton when officers arrived to investigate after being called by nearby residents about a car parked on the street with a North Carolina license plate. The first officer arrived at 8:12 a.m. and found a red 2008 Kia Sedona with tinted windows. SEE MAN SHOT, PAGE 4





Owner Meron Tesfaye talks with Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck.



His Grace Abune Fanuel, Archbishop of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, DC area dioceses.



Zema Market ribbon cutting celebrates a new Ethiopian store on Richmond Highway.

## Zema Opens

There's a genuine Ethiopian store on Richmond Highway. A ribbon cutting celebrated the grand opening of Zema Market, 8217 Richmond High-

way, on Saturday, Feb. 5. Mount Vernon Lee Chamber Vice-Chair Kevin McNulty conducted with remarks by Supervisor Dan Storck, Mark Viani, SFDC, and His

Grace Abune Fanuel, Archbishop of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, DC area dioceses. The owners are Tesfaye Gebremichael, Genet Tesfaye, Dawit Gebremedhin

and Meron Tesfaye. The store is named after the daughter Zema. More than 250 people visited Zema Market during their grand opening weekend. (571) 347-7072

# New Fire Station Gives Firefighters an Edge

FROM PAGE 1

non) who cut the ribbon on Saturday, Feb. 19, alongside of station Captain Steve Norris, Chairman Jeff McKay (D), County Fire Chief John S. Butler and Christopher Herrington, Director of the Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services. The event started out with Lt. Lee Blount singing the National Anthem and Rev. Dr. Jerrold L. Foltz gave the invocation.

Woodlawn Fire Station 24 is a block off Richmond Highway in a residential area, right next to the old station which opened in 1970. Back then, the area wasn't as densely populated, and the trucks were smaller so the old station didn't need to be so grandiose.

"We keep growing," said Norris. "It's much safer," he added.

Mike Furman, one of the fire fighters at the station, painted a firefighting themed mural up the stairwell to the second level. He



The fire fighting team at Station 24.

came up with the idea, and painted it between fire runs while on duty. It took him about two months to finish. Furman's hobby is murals

and he painted a smaller mural for the Volunteer Fire Department station at La Plata in Maryland, but "this is the first of this scale," he said.

Fire fighting may have changed a bit since the horse-drawn pump-truck days, but there is still the need for brass fire pole, and Sta-



Even the mailbox has a fire fighting theme.

tion 24 is no different. Supervisor Storck tried it out, sliding down the pole and fulfilling a childhood dream.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE GAZETTE

# Man Shot by Police in Lorton Identified, Charged

FROM PAGE 3

dows and curtains inside separating the driver and passenger compartments. The officer attempted to look inside the van, but the view was obstructed.

The officer then began knocking on the windows but did not receive any indication someone was inside, police said.

A second officer arrived as back up, they determined the North Carolina license plate on the van was reported stolen. Due to the stolen license plate, officers re-

quested a tow truck for the van. As officers began the procedure for it to be towed, they found a Virginia license plate in the rear cargo area. The Virginia license plate matched the VIN of the van. Officers then contacted the owner of the van to determine who might have been driving it.

As officers spoke to the owner of the van on the phone, the tow truck driver arrived and opened the driver's door. An officer pushed a button inside the van, which opened both rear sliding doors.

As the doors opened, the officer observed Michael Vaughn holding a carbine-style rifle and emerging from the rear driver-side door. The officer and the tow truck driver quickly took cover. Vaughn was given several commands, but he refused to comply. One officer discharged their firearm, striking Vaughn twice in the upper body. Officers immediately rendered aid until fire and rescue personnel arrived. Vaughn was taken to a nearby hospital with injuries that were later determined not to be life

threatening. One officer was taken to the hospital for injuries that were not considered life threatening. He remains hospitalized, police said.

The Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney is reviewing the facts and circumstances surrounding this incident and will determine if additional charges will be placed.

The officer involved in the incident has been identified as a 2-year veteran who is assigned to the Franconia Police District

Station. Per department policy, the officer has been placed on a restricted duty pending the outcome of an administrative investigation by our Internal Affairs Bureau. An independent review will also be conducted by the Police Auditor.

The name of the officer will be released within 10 days, unless there is a credible threat to the safety of those involved or if additional time is required to thoroughly complete the risk assessment process.



## OPINION

# Juvenile Deception, Facial Recognition and Medical Record Transparency

BY SEN. SCOTT SUROVELL



The sixth week of the General Assembly brought us to “Crossover” – the moment when each chamber must finish work on bills originating in each chamber and we begin work on bills coming from the other side.

Twenty-five of my twenty-seven bills were passed by the Senate and will now be heard in the House of Delegates. On the last day of session, I defended eight bills on the floor of the Senate alone. I will discuss several in this column that I have not covered in prior columns.

In 1969, the Supreme Court of the United States held that it was constitutionally permissible for law enforcement to lie to suspects during interrogation to gain information for prosecution. Several states have questioned the fundamental fairness of using this tactic to juveniles who are not as sophisticated and are more susceptible to persuasion than adults. False confessions are involved in about 35 percent of wrongful convictions and there is a plethora of cases involving juveniles who wrongfully confessed.

My legislation would prohibit law enforcement from using deception tactics during a custodial interrogation of a juvenile and shift the burden of showing a confession was voluntary to the government if these tactics were used. It passed the Senate on a bipartisan 26-14 vote.

I also carried a bill that will allow the limited use of facial recognition technology to develop leads in criminal investigations and for use in specific community welfare situations. Last year, we passed legislation prohibiting facial recognition from being used in Virginia law enforcement due to concerns about accuracy across racial subgroups. The Fairfax County Police Department had previously used this technology over 12,000 times with no false positives.

More recently, you may have read about the “shopping cart killer” who was arrested on U.S. 1 near the Penn Daw Walmart pushing the bodies of two dead women in containers in a shopping cart. He was later linked to three other murders across the country. Facial recognition companies have additional information about him, but the FCPS is prohibited from obtaining

or using it by statute. This technology can also be used to identify individuals without identification such as lost adults with dementia, people unable to provide information due to medical emergencies such as strokes or concussions, or dead bodies. Police cannot use this technology even if no foul play is suspected.

The National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST) has begun a program that now certifies many facial recognition technologies as being

98-99% accurate with minor deviations across racial subgroups. Many are being used in national security applications, for air travel, and for trusted-traveler programs such as Global Entry run by U.S. Border and Customs Control. My legislation would allow it to be used for specific investigations and community welfare incidents, but not for general surveillance or monitoring. It passed the Senate on a bipartisan vote.

I am also working with the Virginia Chapter of the Humane Society on legislation to modernize Virginia law relating to the sexual abuse of animals. While Virginia currently prohibits bestiality, it does not have criminal sanctions for individuals who traffic in animals for sexual abuse or for the manufacturing or possession of “animal porn” which has all been shown to have strong correlation with child sexual abuse and other sex crimes. Detectives also testified at our hearing regarding suspects destroying child pornography during raids, but separately storing or keeping their animal porn because they knew it was not illegal. My bill passed the Senate unanimously.

Medical records have become electronic over the last two decades. However, when a doctor makes a change on your chart, you can no longer see the scratches to show the change and the edits are often invisible without careful inspection. I carried legislation requiring medical providers to produce the audit history for medical records so that patients can quickly see any changes made to their contemporaneous medical records.

Next week, we move on to the budget and action on legislation that has crossed over. Please complete my constituent survey at [www.scottsurovell.org/survey](http://www.scottsurovell.org/survey) and if you have feedback, send me an email at [scott@scottsurovell.org](mailto:scott@scottsurovell.org)

### BULLETIN BOARD

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

#### THURSDAY/MARCH 3

Club Meeting. 9:30 a.m. to noon. At Yacht Haven Yacht Club, 4817 Tarpon Lane, Alexandria. The Yacht Haven Garden Club meeting program is about Shade Gardening by Anne Alexander, Certified Master Gardener. Visitors are welcome. Call 703-304-0156.

#### WALKING GROUP

Let's Walk! Let's Walk! is a community 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](mailto:ecenglish@cox.net).

#### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

United Community (formerly UCM), 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, seeks volunteers for Food Pantry assistance, Early Learning Center teacher aides, basic needs counselors, youth tutors and mentors, office administration/data entry, and community outreach. Flexible

hours and schedules. Opportunities for all ages to serve, including community service hours. More info at [ucmagency.org/volunteer-opportunities](http://ucmagency.org/volunteer-opportunities) or email [volunteer@ucmagency.org](mailto:volunteer@ucmagency.org).

Operation Paws for Homes, a Virginia based 501(c)(3) organization seeks volunteers, especially to foster dogs. See [www.ophrescue.org](http://www.ophrescue.org) for information and all volunteer opportunities. Yoga Teachers are needed. Help improve a person's well-being by teaching yoga classes to adults who are staying in a residential facility. The day/time is flexible, but would be during the week. Prior yoga instruction is required. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb/viva/volunteers.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb/viva/volunteers.htm) for more.



**Rex Reiley**  
RE/MAX Allegiance  
703-768-7730  
[rex.reiley@rmxtalk.com](mailto:rex.reiley@rmxtalk.com)



**Vienna/Arcadia Condo** **385,000**  
**9480 Virginia Center Blvd. Unit 120**

Beautiful 2BR, 2BA Condo located in South Vienna. Good Sized Bedrooms each with their own walk-in closet and bath. Kitchen is open to the eating area and family room & has beautiful Corian countertops. Attractive laminated flooring through the kitchen, family room and hallways. Don't miss the office station and the lovely balcony off the family room. 2 convenient garage spaces below are reserved for this unit. Tremendous community amenities highlighted by a wonderful swimming pool, gym, recreational room and office room. Finally, a perfect location with quick and easy access to Rt. 66, 495 and Rt. 50. If you want to leave your car behind, a quick 2 block walk will put you at the Vienna Metro Station. This wonderful property can be yours to enjoy!!



For more information: [www.RexReiley.com](http://www.RexReiley.com)

Each Office Independently Owned and Operated



# Rotary



## 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:mikej1013@verizon.net)**



# Budget Success

## \$400,000 for the new Lee District Community and Workforce Development Center.

BY DEL. PAUL KRIZEK

**O**n this past Sunday afternoon, Feb. 20, the House Appropriations Committee, on which I serve, and the Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee met separately to report their respective proposed budget bills, HB 29 and HB 30, and SB 29 and SB 39. Spending for HB/SB 29 ends at the end of this fiscal year, June 30, 2022. HB/SB 30 covers the fiscal year 2023-2024 biennium beginning on July 1, 2022. This is an exciting day each session, and the culmination of many hearings and a lot of work for the money committees in each body to allocate \$58.3 billion over the biennium period.

As an update to my column earlier this session, I am pleased to announce that many of my important budget initiatives were included in the House Appropriations Budget which will be voted on this Thursday before it then will go into conference to be reconciled

with the Senate version.

Most exciting is a joint effort with Lee District Supervisor Rodney Lusk where I was able to procure \$400,000 to outfit the new Lee District Community and Workforce Development Center, scheduled to open this year in the heart of Hybla Valley, serving residents up and down Richmond Highway with job training, recreational activities, and childcare. In addition, the center will contain classroom and workshop space that will be utilized to upskill and train residents for employment in the trades and technology jobs of the future. Through partnerships with the building trades, and companies like Amazon and INOVA Hospital Systems, these trainings will be directly linked to employment opportunities that will be available in the area over the next two years and beyond.

Also good news is that two of our local charities, United Community and Good Shepherd Housing are included in the budget at

\$500,000 per year, and a one-time amount of \$200,000 respectively. This is a much needed infusion of funding that will enable these charities to continue their critical work to end multi-generational poverty, providing housing, emergency services, children's services, and budget counseling, among many other resources for low-income families in our area.

I secured funding of \$75,000 to create a code commission to review the Code of Virginia and recommend changes to the General Assembly that are needed to reflect the recent federal recognition of Tribal Nations that share territory with the Commonwealth. This two year Commission will include members from each of the federally recognized tribes as well as ten legislators.

My bill HB 766, which passed the House, creates an Illegal Gaming Enforcement Coordinator to organize the enforcement of illegal gaming laws by the state and local law enforcement agencies and is now funded with \$334,962 over the biennium.

My effort to create a Special Assistant to the Governor for Disability Rights Advocacy is in the budget at \$350,000 for each year of the biennium. One in four Virginians live with a disability. This

position will be a great asset to the residents of Virginia, for people with disabilities, caregivers, and family members, regardless of age of onset, type of disability, and socio-economic status.

Likewise, I will fight to keep the \$2 million I had in last year's budget for River Farm to be repurposed for accessibility improvements on the property, including ADA compliant public trails, viewing and parking areas, shoreline stabilization, and elimination of invasive plant species.

While we had many budget "wins," I am disappointed that the budget does not include my request to use additional ARPA funds for a hazard pay bonus to public transit workers.

I was also disappointed to see funds proposed by Governor Northam and me to allow Virginia's federally recognized Tribal Nations to acquire historic property stripped from the House budget proposal. I hope to continue working in future years to advocate for this funding.

I look forward to voting on this budget on the House Floor on Thursday, and fighting to keep these critical initiatives in the final budget that will soon head to Governor Youngkin's desk.

# Working with an Eye Towards Compromise

## Progress advances every time we change the law for the better.

BY SEN. ADAM EBBIN

**A**fter 25 long, hectic legislative days, often beginning at 7:30 a.m. and finishing late in the evening, the General Assembly reached "crossover" last week. As indicated by the name, this is the point where all bills must have passed their house of origin to continue on their legislative journey. For my part, I was glad to pass one constitutional amendment and 75% of my introduced bills out of the Senate (18 of 24) with three additional bills headed to interim studies and commissions for a closer look. Crossover day itself was spent mostly on the Senate floor, as members hashed out the details of complicated legislation and debated some of our more controversial bills. While we continue to meet constantly over the following days to discuss amendments to our two year budget, the brief respite

from presenting and reviewing bills allows for some time to develop strategies for legislation passing to the other chamber — this year to a body controlled by the other party. Unfortunately, partisan divisions will cause some bills that passed the Senate with ease to face a quick death in the House. However, relying on carefully cultivated relationships and working with an eye towards compromise, this year offers an opportunity for outsized bipartisan cooperation.

Six of my bills passed the Senate with unanimous support, including legislation to protect living organ donors from employment discrimination, requirements for a seller to disclose any financial interest or pending legal action in property purchases, and a bill requiring comprehensive energy reliability reports from Dominion energy to localities. These bills all stemmed from concerns raised by constituents

throughout the year, and often were helped along with their support in committee testimony and advocacy. I was also glad to pass legislation providing an alternative to the sometimes cumbersome witness signature for absentee ballots and to remove a roadblock to localities' ability to procure electric and diesel transit buses with broad support.

My bills aiming to address gun

violence, improve the functioning of the Virginia Employment Commission, and require property surveys to be completed in Northern Virginia historic districts before the purchase of a home, have sparked some controversy, and will likely have to jump some hurdles to make it to the finish line. Despite a broad coalition of support from advocacy

SEE WORKING WITH, PAGE 13

### 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.

#### Send letters

Online [www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter/)  
By email: [editors@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:editors@connectionnewspapers.com)

By mail to: **Letters to the Editor The Connection**  
1606 King St., Alexandria VA 22314

You can comment on our Facebook page or find us on Twitter  
[www.facebook.com/connectionnewspapers](http://www.facebook.com/connectionnewspapers)  
<https://twitter.com/alexgazette>  
<https://twitter.com/mtvernongazette>  
<https://twitter.com/followfairfax>

Never miss an issue, get a free digital subscription, <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe/>

[www.MountVernonGazette.com](http://www.MountVernonGazette.com)

Twitter @MtVernonGazette

An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by  
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Free digital edition delivered to your email box. Go to [connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe](http://connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe)

NEWS DEPARTMENT:  
[gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com)

Mary Kimm  
Editor and Publisher  
[mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com)

Jeanne Theismann  
[jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com)  
[@TheismannMedia](http://TheismannMedia.com)

Mercia Hobson  
Community Reporter  
[mhobson@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mhobson@connectionnewspapers.com)

Mike Salmon  
Contributing Writer  
[msalmon@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:msalmon@connectionnewspapers.com)

Ken Moore  
Contributing Writer  
[kmoore@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:kmoore@connectionnewspapers.com)

ADVERTISING:  
For advertising information  
[sales@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:sales@connectionnewspapers.com)  
703-778-9431

Debbie Funk  
Display Advertising/National Sales  
703-778-9444  
[debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com)

Helen Walutes  
Display Advertising, 703-778-9410  
[hwalutes@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:hwalutes@connectionnewspapers.com)

David Griffin  
Marketing Assistant  
703-778-9431  
[dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com)

Classified & Employment  
Advertising  
703-778-9431

Publisher  
Jerry Vernon  
703-549-0004  
[jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com)

Editor & Publisher  
Mary Kimm  
[mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com)  
[@MaryKimm](http://MaryKimm.com)

Art/Design:  
Laurence Foong  
Production Manager:  
Geovani Flores

CIRCULATION  
Circulation Manager:  
Ann Oliver  
[circulation@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:circulation@connectionnewspapers.com)

A Connection Newspaper





# PET GAZETTE



Moscow 2003.

## From Moscow To Alexandria

Journalist Lisa McAdams was covering the international cat show in Moscow, Russia, in 2003 when four-month-old Bella reached out with her paw to touch her and stole her heart. Now 19 years old, Bella has lived for the last 15 years in Alexandria, Virginia, with Lisa and her husband, Michael Collins, who affectionately refer to her as “the Czarina!”



Bella with Lisa McAdams in February 2022



Hunter Mill District Supervisor Walter Alcorn gets some work done, while family cat Princess Carolyn opts for a nap. She was a 13-year-old rescue when she was adopted by his family.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALCORN FAMILY



Now going on two years old, Samson and Mishka were “pandemic puppies” along with their nine other siblings – born in the fall of 2020 in West Virginia to their mixed-breed mother, Sadie. In November, 2020, Sadie and her brood landed in the care of Animal Welfare League of Arlington <https://www.awla.org/>, who ultimately placed all eleven puppies into different foster homes in groups of twos and threes. In December 2020, the lucky brother and sister were adopted by a pair of next-door neighbors – Alyssa Tope and Galina Ginzburg of Arlington.



David Griffin, Ana Claudia Griffin, Poppy of Alexandria  
 “Poppy is a Basset Hound and is almost 1.5 years old. We got him from Peru which is where my wife (Ana, pictured) is originally from. He loves to chew any sticks he finds and really enjoys walking around Old Town. We also go to Blackjack Dog Park off Route 1 almost every day and he loves playing with other dogs.”

Juno has been a resident of Arlington for almost 6 years. Her eight sons and two daughters live all over the country, but a few still live in Arlington. She cries when she is reunited with anyone in her family — no matter the species. Like any new mother, she had a makeover when the pups were all gone and she could stop nursing them, finally, and getting her figure back, could dress up again.

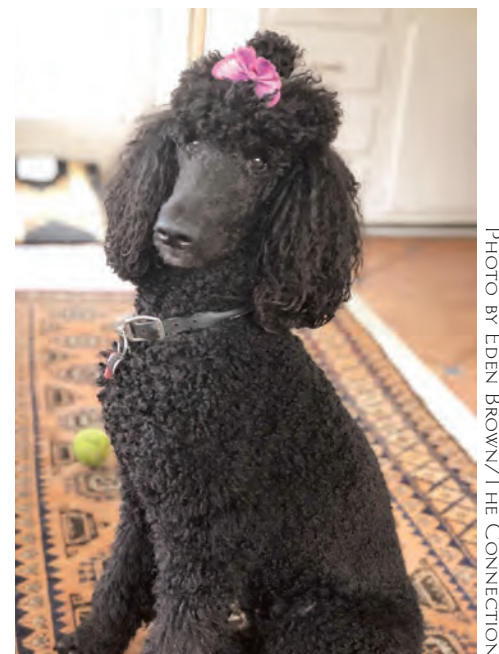


PHOTO BY EDEN BROWN/THE CONNECTION



# Currier Named New Director of Animal Sheltering

Currier brings long record on animal welfare.

By SUSAN LAUME  
GAZETTE PACKET

It is common practice in large corporations and government for newly appointed department heads to select their preferred immediate staff. If you are the newly appointed head of Fairfax County's Department of Animal Sheltering, your staff selection just might be of the four-legged, furry variety. Meet new director Reasa Currier, J.D., and her newly appointed assistant, Gandalf, a rabbit. Currier, and Gandalf, who took their positions on Jan. 31, head Fairfax County's only municipal animal shelter, located at 4500 West Ox Road in Fairfax.

Currier learned about animal care as a young girl, developing a passion for their welfare with early exposure at the side of her grandfather, a hog farmer and large animal veterinarian. Her family often made a home for animals abandoned by others; the three legged and the one-eyed, leading Currier to know animals "would have a huge role in my life." Working in animal welfare for most of her career, her first job was advocating for Arizona's Humane Treatment of Farm Animals Act in 2006. Under Proposition 204, Arizona became only the second state to ban the use of gestation crates for hogs; passing with a wide majority of 61 percent of the vote; assuring that pregnant pigs be confined only in ways that allow the animals to lie down, stand up, fully extend their limbs and turn around freely for the majority of the day. Ten states now ban the use of hog gestation

crates and many food companies have voluntarily given up the practice under the pressure of public opinion.

Currier comes to the county from the Humane Rescue Alliance, established in 1870 by Congress to care for animals in the D.C. area. Previously, Currier worked for the national animal advocacy organization, the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). There she worked on areas of systemic cruelty: factory farming, puppy mills, the wildlife trade, and animal fighting. She also was a founding director of Humane Dominion, a non-partisan political action group formed in 2012, which analyzed animal welfare voting records for Virginia legislators, promoting the campaigns of those strong on animal welfare support.

As Currier takes the county shelter reins, or perhaps more aptly, the shelter leash, she will find a modern, relatively new shelter building, complete with a surgical unit; outside exercise runs and play areas; and separate dog, cat, small mammal, in-take and quarantine sections; with robust volunteer and foster programs; and which offers low cost rabies vaccine clinics. The shelter has boasted a consistent live release rate of over 90 percent since they started tracking this metric in 2013.

Looking ahead, Currier wants the shelter to "be a resource for all things related to animals; not just for caring for homeless animals and helping them find homes, but also to provide resources to keep pets and their people together." Resources may include infor-

Gandalf, a Chinchilla rabbit, available for adoption hopes to use his experience in a home office setting, or just a home.



Reasa Currier, Director, Fairfax County Department of Animal Sheltering, with office assistant rabbit, Gandalf.

mation on pet friendly housing, affordable veterinary care, and behavioral and training support. Under the "One Fairfax" lens, she says, such support will deepen the shelter's relationship with neighborhoods where there are "pet resource deserts." And since transportation to the shelter may not be available to all, she expects future events to target neighborhoods on site with additional grooming, pet food, and basic medical care. Her goal? "Help to keep animals with their people. The shelter should not be a place of last resort."

The shelter's success depends on animal fosters and shelter volunteers to supplement an able, knowledgeable staff, Currier says. She expects to ramp up the volunteer program again this summer, following their Covid pause. The shelter especially needs additional fosters during the summer kitting season. Also after recently accepting dogs from the Korean dog meat trade, they need volunteers to spend time with fearful dogs

who need a chance to acclimate before adoption.

Next year, the department will add a second shelter, now under construction on Lorton Road in Lorton, to better serve south county areas; which also increases their need for volunteers.

Office assistant rabbit Gandalf remained quiet through our interview, moving calmly around his designated portion of the office. A Chinchilla rabbit, he is a member of one of the largest rabbit breeds, known for their mild manners and gentle dispositions. Although sharing an office now with Currier, his plans include hope for retirement to the ease of an adopted home, perhaps taking on the role of experienced home office assistant. We are not sure what skills Gandalf brings to his position beyond impeccable lit-

ter box training, and being super cuddly. If one considers "hiring" him, it should be said that Gandalf fits the expression, "doesn't work for peanuts." He works for blueberries. Readers looking for more information about adoption and other shelter services can find it and view adoptable pets at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/animalshelter](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/animalshelter). Those viewing the Facebook page, Fairfax County Animal Shelter, should be forewarned that the level of irresistible cuteness there is very high.

# Beagles Find Heroes in General Assembly

By SUSAN LAUME  
GAZETTE PACKET

As the Virginia General Assembly moves to the midpoint of its 2022 session, several animal welfare bills remain under consideration. This session both Houses took up possible regulation of breeders who raise animals for research; such breeders are not currently regulated by the Commonwealth. Ongoing issues, over several years at the only research animal breeder currently in the state, located in Cumberland County, prompted legislators to act. Eleven such bills were sponsored this session. Bills in the Senate took a one more "last chance" approach; while those in the House were written to shut down the current operation and any future violation-plagued research breeders.

Envigo, a large Indiana based corporation, which breeds Beagle dogs for research, has been cited for violations by inspectors from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). The site is currently under investigation with more charges expected in coming months. The facility is a large "factory farming" type operation, spread over the equivalent of five football fields; at times housing as many as 5,000 dogs breeding 400-500 beagle puppies per month sold within the United States and to foreign customers for animal testing and research.

Seven bills were submitted in the Senate by Sen. Dave Marsden, (D-37), chairman of the Senate companion animals subcommittee; Sen. Bill Stanley, (R-20), a frequent sponsor of companion animal bills; and Sen. Jennifer Boysko, (D-33). Boysko last year sponsored legislation which now limits cosmetic testing on animals in Virginia and prohibits sale here of cosmetic products tested on animals.

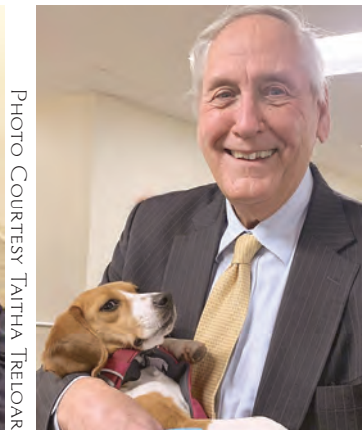
Marsden's bill would establish an Animal Welfare Oversight Officer report-



Sen. Jennifer Boysko (D-33rd) and Senator Bill Stanley (R-20th) reach across the aisle to protect animals from poor conditions at Virginia research animal breeder.



Tannis is comforted by Sen. Bill Stanley, whose bill would make adoption consideration a first alternative required for research animals prior to euthanasia.



Sen. Dave Marsden whose bill would establish an on-site animal welfare officer at research breeder operations.



Sen. Jennifer Boysko shares a moment with Tannis, a research Beagle surrendered to Richmond SPCA, which found her a loving home.

ing to the State Veterinarian's office, paid for wholly by research breeder fees, and with twenty-four hour access to the facility to assure on-going humane practices. The other Senate bills established requirements for regular reporting on animal dispositions after inspectors found 300 dead puppies; adoption opportunities for animals no longer needed in the operation as an alternative to euthanasia; and prohibiting sales to foreign entities or those U.S. research entities which conduct animal testing not required by federal law or regulation.

In the bill review process, some of the bills were amended in the agriculture subcommittee to add a "re-enactment clause," a delayed date of effect; whereby the bills would not go into law unless reenacted by next year's General Assembly.

Adding that clause would have the effect of giving the research breeder additional time to correct their deficiencies. Following the attachment of the reenactment clause, Stanley successfully introduced a senate floor amendment substituting March 1, 2023 as the date at which any additional violations would be considered under the law. His action eliminated the need for the Gen-

eral Assembly to act again to protect the animals; a greater reassurance to animal advocates.

FOUR HOUSE BILLS also deal with research animal breeder issues. Bills sponsored by Delegates Shelly Simonds (D-94), Irene Shin (D-86), Kaye Kory (D-38), and Rob Bell (R-58), would prohibit the sale of research animals to foreign testing facilities; animal purchase by Virginia State testing facilities from research breeders with significant citations; and trading with an entity with critical animal welfare violations. Given Envigo's history of violations, these bills, if enacted, could prevent their operation for several years.

Having reached the point of the General Assembly's session cross-over, eight of the original eleven bills, which passed floor votes in each body, move to the other for consideration.

Although animal welfare bills are often viewed differently by legislators in rural and urban areas, passage of these bills with near unanimity demonstrates legislator's resolve to solve research breeder issues. Given the difference in approach taken by legislators, those following this issue must wait to see which will move forward.



More than 150 Beagles recently surrendered to shelters, although bred for animal research, sent by professional animal transport to two rescue groups.

# County Animal Shelter Employees Care for Adoptable Pets

By SUSAN LAUME  
GAZETTE PACKET

Here are a few of the many caring employees of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter, who daily care for homeless pets. From mice, guinea pigs, and bunnies, to snakes and turtles, to exotic birds and the occasional chickens and horse, and to the far too many dogs and cats who need a home, shelter employees provide a safe place, food, and human companionship.

In 2021, 3,177 animals of all types passed through those comforting arms, most on their way to connecting with an area family seeking a pet. Meet some of the shelter employees who make it possible for our voiceless, homeless animal neighbors to find lasting comfort and a home.

Anna Wilson with Snowball, a one year old male mouse, now at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter, described by staff as "the best mouse in the whole wide world," and that's a lot of mice!



Katherine Denvano, humane education coordinator, with 2 year old Toby, a friendly, fast learner with a huge smile (Pet ID 42623643)



Heather Baskett, animal care manager, with Storm, aka Stitch, a 2 year old happy-go-lucky, full of fun girl (Pet ID 49389592)



Melanie Leopold, foster & rescue coordinator, with chatty and snuggly, Dio, an orange 5 yo male short hair, with a freckled nose (Pet ID 47573053)



Dannie McClammy, shelter caretaker, with Duff, an 8 month male Guinea pig, a playful dude, who was adopted soon after being photographed.



Anna Wilson, administrative assistant, with "best mouse," Snowball, a one year old male, who likes to be held and to snack on string cheese and veggies (Pet ID 47890843)



Reasa Currier, shelter director, with Gandalf, a 3 year old male Chinchilla rabbit, coming in at 12 pounds. This gentle giant with office assistant experience, is ready to take over a home office staff of kids and small dogs (Pet ID 49422570)





Lucy, 9 ½, “is the sweetest girl who wants love, attention, and a comfortable bed.”  
<https://www.lab-rescue.org/seniors>



Rudolf, 10, is “a true gentleman with impeccable manners and a kind, gentle demeanor ... He would be very happy with a single person or an older person looking for loyalty and companionship.”  
<https://www.lab-rescue.org/seniors>



Sunny, 9, is “up for anything, like swimming and long walks, and has lived happily with children and the commotion they bring.”  
<https://www.lab-rescue.org/seniors>



Duke and Luke, both male, are a bonded pair, 12 years old, and “excellent work-from-home buddies ... laid-back, happy and affectionate.”  
<https://www.lab-rescue.org/seniors>

# Adopting a Senior Dog Could Be a Better Match, Really

## One woman’s passion and ‘Tribute’.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
 THE CONNECTION

Senior dogs are Barbara Nugent’s passion and calling. In her free time, Nugent, Park Services Division Director at Fairfax County Park Authority, is a volunteer for Lab Rescue LRCB, <https://www.lab-rescue.org/>, serving as a transporter for the non-profit organization. She drives the dogs to the vets, helps deliver them to their foster and adoptee homes, and welcomes often overlooked senior rescue dogs into her home, and adopts them herself.

As young as seven or eight years old, they are the dogs with the sugar muzzles of gray fur under their eyes, on their noses, and around their mouths. Nugent made the choice many years ago when her Labrador retriever, a “wonderful dog,” died at 16 years. “I knew that I had room in my heart and my head to continue to address the issue of making sure that senior dogs have a forever home,” Nugent said.

Chester and Sarge, a bonded pair, were Nugent’s first adoptees when she returned to Northern Virginia, both 12 years old and from Lab Rescue.

“Oh my, there was part of me that was saddened that someone would surrender a 12-year-old dog. You never know why, and I don’t need to know the backstory,” Nugent said. “I just hold on to them as long as I can.”

Nugent continued to adopt older labs throughout the years, possibly a dozen in all, providing them forever homes. Some were the more typical bonded pairs who couldn’t be separated, with one very old dog and one much younger, “So, I keep rotating through and making sure that when I lose an older lab, I can cycle into another lab. I typically have two,” she said.

Nugent says they all deserve as good a home as she can provide them, and she spoils them. Currently, Nugent has Molly, thirteen, and Sadie, eight. Nugent takes Molly “water-walking” once a week to assist the muscles in her rear legs. Water-walking is a kind of zero-impact training in which the hydrostatic pressure of the water reduces weight or strain on the dog’s joints. Warm water helps to relax the body and promote



Jacinta, 10, “doesn’t get on any furniture and is easy on the leash.”  
<https://www.lab-rescue.org/seniors>

mobility.

“They have treadmills filled with water, and the dogs walk on the treadmill as the bottom moves. With Molly and some of the dogs, they will put up a small dish with suction cups and put peanut butter in it. Molly would walk all day if you do that,” she said. Molly has improved, now able to hop on the bed and walk upstairs.

It’s critical to rehome senior rescue dogs and place them with their second chance families; it is immaterial whether they end up in an apartment, townhouse, or detached home. “They need to be in a home so they can continue to work on their manners,” Nugent added, rather than having them stay longer at shelters and kennels and possibly live out their lives there. “It’s a challenge to find people who will foster and adopt older dogs. Lots of people like the puppies and the middle-aged dogs who are already house trained,” said Nugent.

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals reports that older dogs are adopted at a rate of 25 percent. In contrast, younger dogs and puppies are adopted at 60 percent.

As a consequence, senior pets are often overlooked. Prospective owners might reassess their expectations and consider adopting senior dogs to provide joy, and less stress than a puppy.

An older dog can be the unexpected ideal



Rescue dogs. Molly, 13 years old, is the yellow Lab, and Sadie, eight years, is the chocolate lab. They are a bonded pair, not to be separated and love their forever home with Barbara Nugent.



The Labrador retriever who changed the course of a woman’s life and that of over a dozen rescue dogs.

fit, Nugent said. What you see is what you get. A puppy’s personality and attributes may alter with time, but a senior dog’s personality has already been established. Senior dogs also generally know all the basic commands. And although all dogs need medical attention, Nugent has discovered that the expenditures are not greater for senior dogs.

When she adopts a senior dog, she brings them to the veterinarian for a baseline senior panel to evaluate “how their kidneys, liver, and other things are doing.” Then, if anything gets their attention, “we watch,

monitor, and attempt to mitigate it,” she said.

Puppies, on the other hand, may be highly costly, and middle-aged dogs can experience severe injuries if they get loose or go to a dog park where there might be rough play. Senior dogs are more mellow in activity and are less prone to high-energy injuries.

Finally, senior dogs settle into a home better; they get each other, as Nugent said. She is not a “pup” herself. “I understand much more about senior dogs after all these years than I did before. I think I can read them when they are a little off,” she said.

Finally, if something were to happen to Nugent, the dogs would be cared for. “With Lab Rescue, I signed a contract for each and every one of my dogs that if something happens to me, Lab Rescue takes the dogs back... to rehome them,” she said.

Nugent considers it an honor to have been a part of the lives of the over a dozen dogs she has welcomed into her home, regardless of how long they have been there. Her story is one of honoring and paying homage, a tribute to her first Lab through her adoption of older Labs.

“I’ve done that since I’ve been in Northern Virginia. ... All these dogs have been a tribute to her,” said Nugent. “She was a wonderful dog. I miss her all the time.”

Her name was Tribute.



# APPETITE

## As Pop-Up Closes, Umbrella Dry Drinks Moves to Its Second Act

By HOPE NELSON  
ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE PACKET

Next week marks the end of the first act for Umbrella Dry Drinks, Old Town's first nonalcoholic bar and bottle shop. The pop-up shop, which has called the Seedling Collective at 121 S. Royal St. home for the month of February, is the brainchild of Sam Kasten, and is really the answer to what she identified as a hole in the market.

Kasten, who has been sober for nearly four years, longed for a place where she could purchase tried-and-true nonalcoholic drink options by the bottle, as well as a place where she and her fiancé could enjoy more than just a glass of soda water when they went out for a night on the town.

"When I was ready in my recovery to start venturing into the world of nonalcoholic drinks, we started trying different options" but could only order online, she said. "Which can be a real hit or miss. Many times it was a miss. I was like, man, I wish there was a shop where I could go and buy these things instead of having to order online."

Kasten readily admits that she has no business background – but she had a dream. And last fall, after taking a 10-week course taught by Chris Marshall, the owner of the alcohol-free Sans Bar in Austin, Texas, she was ready to take the plunge, and Umbrella Dry Drinks was born.



Happy birthday to our first president, says Umbrella Dry Drinks on Instagram. @umbrelladrydrinks Cherry lime margarita! featuring @ritualzeroproof tequila, red tart cherry juice, fresh lime juice & a little simple syrup

"The day after my course ended, I launched Umbrella," Kasten said.

In mid-January, Kasten noticed that the Seedling Collective, which showcases new small businesses with a rotating schedule, had canceled its contract for February.

SEE DRY DRINKS, PAGE 14

## Quality Tree Service & Landscaping

Reasonable prices. Licensed & insured.

### Expert Tree Work

Tree removal, topping & pruning, shrubbery trimming, mulching, leaf removal, planting, hauling, gutter cleaning, retaining walls, drainage problems, etc.

# 703-868-5358

## 24 Hour Emergency Tree Service

### Same Company, Same Employees, Same Great Value - Now Celebrating 20 Years!

## TWO POOR TEACHERS

### Kitchen and Bathroom Remodeling



- Electrical (ELE)
- Gas Fitting (GFC)
- Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVA)
- Plumbing (PLB)
- Residential Building (RBC)

Fully Insured & Class A Licensed  
Since 1999



### Free Estimates 703-999-2929

Check if your contractor is licensed at the state level  
<http://www.DPOR.virginia.gov>

Visit our website: [www.twopoorteachers.com](http://www.twopoorteachers.com)

# Thank and Support the Businesses in our Community



MOUNT VERNON ★ LEE  
**Chamber**  
OF COMMERCE  
[MountVernonLeeChamber.org](http://MountVernonLeeChamber.org)





Fairfax County Executive  
Bryan Hill



Chairman Jeffrey C. McKay  
(D-At Large)



Supervisor James R. Walkinshaw  
(D-Braddock)



Supervisor Pat Herrity  
(R-Springfield)



Tammie Wondong, President  
SEIU Virginia 512 Fairfax

COURTESY OF SEIU

# County Executive Presents FY 2023 Advertised Budget

**Increase in assessed values for real estate and vehicles drive higher tax payments.**

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Executive Bryan Hill is proposing a \$4.85 billion spending plan while maintaining the current real estate tax rate of \$1.14 per \$100 of assessed value according to his presentation on the FY 2023 Advertised Budget plan at the Board of Supervisors meeting on Feb. 22, 2022, at Fairfax County Government Center.

Because of increased home assessments, the typical homeowner's tax payment would rise by \$666, a 9.5 percent increase, according to Hill. "I did have to go back and recalculate that number, but I want you to know that is a true number," Hill said. "I expect mitigating this impact will be a priority."

In addition, used car prices are soaring. Updated information from JD Power for January 2022 suggests an increase of over 33 percent. Hence, with no changes to the Personal Property Tax rate, the average vehicle tax levy for the taxpayer will increase by about \$181. Revenues will increase by \$83 million beyond what is included in the Advertised Budget.

**CHAIRMAN** Jeffrey C. McKay (D) warned the Board and audience before the County Executive's presentation that Hill's proposal was not the final budget. It was the first stage in a protracted process and schedule that sought public input before board approval.

During the discussion, Supervisor James R. Walkinshaw (D-Braddock) said, "This one is going to shock the heck out of a lot of people. We're going to have to figure out how we can make an adjustment here."

Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) said in a statement after the meeting, "The real estate tax increase is on top of the 45 percent increase in real estate taxes over the last decade and comes while residents are facing record inflation, rising gas prices, and continuing to recover from the pandemic. Instead of increasing the burden on our struggling residents, the Board needs to prioritize the critical service issues that are going unaddressed and work to reduce the cost of government."

The proposed budget prioritized compensation for county and Fairfax County Public



Fairfax County Board of Supervisors listen to the County Executive Bryan Hill's presentation of the FY 2023 Advertised Budget. It is a proposal and not the final adopted budget.

Schools employees. "The budget proposal includes a 4.01 percent market rate adjustment for all County employees and performance, merit, and longevity increases," Hill said.

In addition, the County's living wage increases to \$15.90 an hour; Performance, Merit, and Longevity increases, including a new 25-year step proposed for uniformed pay plans, an average increase of 2.15 percent for non-uniformed; 3.85 percent for uniformed.

County compensation includes a 5 percent health insurance premium increase in Jan. 2023, and no changes in retirement employer contribution rates.

**Because of increased home assessments, the typical homeowner's tax payment would rise by \$666, a 9.5 percent increase**

Tammie Wondong is the President of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Virginia 512 Fairfax and a 30-year county employee. "For two years, my co-workers and I have been working on the front lines of the pandemic, with just a 1 percent raise. The rising cost of living and our healthcare increases mean that our paychecks have actually gone down. That's why SEIU members called for fair pay, affordable care, and safe working conditions. Today's proposed budget is one step in that direction, but only collective bargaining can ensure the good jobs and quality public services our community needs."

A **SUMMARY** of the proposed FY 2023 Budget reports net county resources, revenues,

and transfers increase by \$330.17 million and of the increase: \$127.84 million are for county priorities, \$117.90 million for schools, \$5.17 million for reserve requirements, and a \$79.26 million balance for Board consideration.

The proposed budget also fully funds Fairfax County Public Schools' request of \$2.285 billion. Schools are 52.4 percent of General Fund Distribution in FY 2023.

Highlighting investments in board priorities are affordable housing (\$1.52 million/7 positions), Diversion First Initiative (\$1.05 million/7 positions), Opioid Task Force \$0.40 million/3 positions), baseline support for Health Department staff, one public health nurse in all Fairfax County Public Schools, and additional resources for Public Health Readiness (\$12.92 million), Language Access Program, and One Fairfax Support (\$1.54 million/5 positions).

The proposed budget supports residents facing vulnerability, providing \$10.66 million and nine positions; including baseline funds for the Co-Responder Program, Behavioral Health, Equitable School Readiness and Emergency Rental Assistance Program support; and baseline funds for Public Assistance Eligibility Workers, Child Protective Services, and Family First In-Home Services added at Carryover.

"Lastly, we have begun to implement recommendations from the Joint County and Schools Capital Improvement Program Committee," Hill said. A net of 109 positions increases county positions.

Real estate taxes will be the primary source of funding for the County in the fiscal year 2023. Real estate taxes provide about 68 percent of general fund revenue, which is forecasted to increase by 8.1 percent over FY 2022. Taxes on personal property are likely to climb by 10.8 percent.

The proposed budget fully funds the

**FY 2023 BUDGET TIMELINE**

- Feb. 22, 2022 County Executive presents FY 2023 Advertised Budget Plan
- Feb. 24, 2022 School Board adopts FY 2023 Advertised Budget
- March 1, 2022 Joint Board of Supervisors/School Board Budget Committee Meeting
- March 8, 2022 Board of Supervisors authorizes advertisement of FY 2023 tax rates
- March 22, 2022 Board of Supervisors authorizes advertisement of FY 2022 Third Quarter Review
- April 12-14, 2022 Public Hearings at Board of Supervisors on FY 2023 Budget, FY 2023-FY 2027 Capital Improvement Program, and FY 2022 Third Quarter Review
- April 26, 2022 Board of Supervisors marks-up FY 2023 Budget, adopts FY 2023- FY 2027 Capital Improvement Program and FY 2022 Third Quarter Review
- May 1, 2022 Board of Supervisors adopts FY 2023 Adopted budget
- May 5, 2022 Public Hearings at School Board on FY 2023 budget
- May 26, 2022 School Board adopts FY 2023 Approved Budget
- July 1, 2022 FY 2023 Budget Year Begins

Schools Operating request as included in Superintendent's Proposed Budget, a 5.1 percent increase. Schools budget includes:

- ❖ \$88 million in increased sales tax and state aid
- ❖ 4 percent Market Scale Adjustment for all employees and Step Increases for eligible employees
- ❖ Reduction of over \$88 million based on lower projected enrollment
- ❖ Baseline funding for initiatives previously funded with federal stimulus dollars
- ❖ \$10 million placeholder for General Assembly actions

The FY 2023 Advertised Budget Plan and the FY 2023-FY 2027 Capital Improvement Program are available online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget).

To provide input, the public can send written testimony or communicate with the Clerk's Office by email at [clerktothebos@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:clerktothebos@fairfaxcounty.gov). The Board of Supervisors will hold public hearings on the budget April 12-14.



# OPINION

## Working with An Eye Towards Compromise

FROM PAGE 6

groups including NRA and Moms Demand Action, my bill to align Virginia code with federal law on firearms that have had their serial numbers removed caught what is proverbially known as a "fever" on the floor after Sen. Bill DeSteph (R-Virginia Beach), a federally licensed firearms dealer, raised concerns over collectors who owned machine guns being criminalized by the bill, and squeaked by on a party line vote.

I anticipate the Constitutional Amendment I am carrying to repeal the ban on same-sex marriage and replace it with a fundamental right to marry will face strategic opposition in the House, where despite having the votes on the floor to pass, the Speaker assigned an identical House Amendment, carried by Delegate Mark Sickles (D-Fairfax), to a heavily conservative subcommittee where it was killed at 7 a.m. with minimal discussion or debate. This Amendment does a simple, but momentous thing. Our Constitution, the foundational document of the oldest Democracy in the western world, only once deprives citizens of a right — the right to marry the person you love. If passed, it removes that stain, and permanently enshrines this right, safeguarding it for Virginians regardless of their sex or gender, providing a fundamental dignity and equality to our family, friends, and neighbors and reflects the will of a supermajority of Virginians. Additionally, the discriminatory amendment was made defunct by the 2015 Supreme Court case Obergefell v. Hodges, and it is important for our Constitution to reflect the law of the land. I hope the House leadership can be convinced that voters deserve a chance to consider ratifying this amendment at the polls in November.

With only four weeks left in session, we have our work cut out for us. What lies next for my bills will depend on the coming days, as they begin to be referred by Speaker Todd Gilbert (R-Shenandoah) to subcommittees and committees and face hearings and votes. Some, those that Delegates introduced on similar policies, may have to be finalized in a Conference Committee. From these bipartisan groups often emerges compromise. Though progress may not always appear to proceed at the rate we may desire, it advances every time we change the law for the better. I hope to be reporting on such changes in a few weeks.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

**CLASSIFIED**  
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM  
TO ADVERTISE IN THIS PAPER, CALL BY MONDAY 11:00 AM 703-778-9411

**Prepare for Power Outages & Save Money**

**GENERAC PWRCELL**  
SOLAR + BATTERY STORAGE SYSTEM

**REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!**

**ACT NOW TO RECEIVE A \$300 SPECIAL OFFER!\***  
| (833) 688-1378

\*Offer value when purchased at retail. Solar panels sold separately.

**Leaf Filter** GUTTER PROTECTION

**BACKED BY A YEAR-ROUND CLOG-FREE GUARANTEE**

**EXCLUSIVE LIMITED TIME OFFER!**

**15% OFF** & **10% OFF**  
YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE\* SENIORS & MILITARY!  
**+ 5% OFF** TO THE FIRST 50 CALLERS ONLY! WE INSTALL YEAR-ROUND!

**FINANCING THAT FITS YOUR BUDGET!**  
Promo Code: 285  
\*Subject to credit approval. Call for details.

**CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE** **1-877-614-6667**  
Mon-Thurs: 8am-11pm, Fri-Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: 2pm-8pm EST

\*For those who qualify. One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. \*\*Offer valid at time of estimate only. The leading consumer reporting agency conducted a 16 month outdoor test of gutter guards in 2010 and recognized LeafFilter as the #1 rated professionally installed gutter guard system in America. Manufactured in Plainwell, Michigan and processed at LMT Mercer Group in Ohio. See Representative for full warranty details. C5L8# 1035795, DGPL #10783658-5501 License# 7656 License# 50145 License# 41354 License# 99338 License# 128344 License# 218294 WA UBR# 603 233 977 License# 2102212986 License# 2106212946 License# 2705182153A License# LEAFNW822J2 License# WV066912 License# WC 29998-H17 Nassau HIC License# 01067000 Registrations 176842 Registrations HIC054995 Registrations C127229 Registrations C122230 Registrations 366920918 Registrations PC62756 Registrations 0281804 Registrations 13VW09953900 Registrations PAD69383 Suffolk HIC License# 92229-H License# 2205169445 License# 26200022 License# 262000403 License# 0086990 Registrations H 19114

**Sign up for FREE DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION to all of our papers**

[www.connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe)

**Find us on Facebook and become a fan!**

[www.Facebook.com/connectionnewspapers](http://www.Facebook.com/connectionnewspapers)

**THE CONNECTION**  
Newspapers & Online  
The Connection to Your Community  
[www.connectionnewspapers.com](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com)

**OUTER BANKS, NORTH CAROLINA • VACATION RENTALS**

**500 VACATION HOMES**  
Selling fast for Summer 2022 due to need to escape covid

**Brindley Beach**  
VACATIONS & SALES

**Book now for best selection!**

[www.brindleybeach.com](http://www.brindleybeach.com) **877-642-3224**

**The Bath or Shower You've Always Wanted IN AS LITTLE AS 1 DAY**

**\$500 OFF\*** OR **No Payments & No Interest for 18 Months\*\***  
Military & Senior Discounts Available  
OFFER EXPIRES MARCH 31, 2022

**BCI BATH & SHOWER** **CALL NOW! (844) 945-1631**

\*Includes product and labor, bathtub, shower or walk-in tub and wall surround. This promotion cannot be combined with any other offer. Other restrictions may apply. This offer expires Mar 31, 2022. Each dealership is independently owned and operated. \*\*Third party financing is available for those customers who qualify. See your dealer for details. ©2022 BCI Acrylic Inc.

**GENERAC**

**Prepare for power outages with a Generac home standby generator**

**REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!**  
**844-947-1479**

**FREE**  
7-Year Extended Warranty\*  
A \$695 Value!

Limited Time Offer - Call for Details

**Special Financing Available**  
Subject to Credit Approval

\*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.



## M&M/Mars, Nabisco, and Hostess, Et Cetera

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



Consider yourselves advised. Eighteen months or so into my treatment for thyroid cancer and the dry-mouth I've been "side-effecting" has not diminished one bit. In fact, it's gotten worse in one respect: the missing saliva or whatever it is causing this chronic condition, directly impacts your product line and dare I presume, your profits as well. Chocolate, miscellaneous cookies and snack cakes do not satiate like they used to. The constant dryness makes eating certain foods difficult. And as a result, less desirable, and not purchased nearly as much.

How much impact can one individual's changing eating habits have on a company's bottom line? I don't want to boast, but I have a long history of buying and re-buying the same foods repeatedly. If any of these three brands had frequent-buyer incentives when I was growing up, I would have saved my parents thousands of dollars at the supermarket. I recall my mother regularly collecting green stamps for something; I'm sure she would have saved box tops or whatever to earn additional discounts or a baker's dozen type of freebee.

Growing up, I had dessert with breakfast, lunch, after school/midafternoon, dinner and once more before bedtime. Five desserts daily. Part of the reason for this rigorous routine – which I thoroughly enjoyed, was my mother's desire to follow the regularly advertised calcium advisories for children to have strong bones: eight glasses of milk per day. And the way to get children to drink all that milk, at least in my mother's house, was to give us all that chocolate. Which brings me back to the point of this column. Though my chocolate consumption isn't nearly the same now (I know. How could someone keep up that pace?), it is still ample, to say the least, the very least. But unfortunately, I'm simply unable to maintain my life's work.

I blame this squarely on the thyroid cancer drug I've been swallowing every morning since Sept. '19. (In the interest of not defaming a drug/pharmaceutical company, I will not name names.) But there cannot be any other logical explanation. The only variable in my life these last 18 months has been this daily dose. And though initially the treatment didn't curb/impair my chocolate consumption, it seems the cumulative effect of over 500 pills ever since (my re-diagnosis from stage IV non-small cell lung cancer to stage IV papillary thyroid cancer being the cause) has led to this unpalatable condition.

For me, I'll adjust, though I'm not happy about it. There are other desserts, snack cakes and candy (specifically jellybeans of late) which will likely fill the void. But it will be a void, nonetheless. And that means less money going to these big three. I wouldn't say my lack of demand is going to affect the number of eight-hour shifts the manufacturers schedule, but if any line employees want to take early retirement, given the slack, it might be advisable to accept their offer. On the other hand, Jelly Belly's profits will likely increase.

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

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

CALL 703-549-0004

FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION

ELECTRICAL	
<b>K &amp; D ELECTRIC</b>	
COMMERCIAL / RESIDENTIAL SERVICE	
Family Owned & Operated	
Recessed Lighting	Licensed/Bonded/Insured
Ceiling Fans	
Phone/CATV	Office 703-335-0654
Computer Network Cabling	Mobile 703-499-0522
Service Upgrades	lektrkman28@gmail.com
Hot Tubs, etc...	

LANDSCAPING	
<b>Quality Tree Service &amp; Landscaping</b>	
Reasonable prices. Licensed & insured.	
	<b>Expert Tree Work</b>
	Tree removal, topping & pruning, shrubbery trimming, mulching, leaf removal, planting, hauling, gutter cleaning, retaining walls, drainage problems, etc.
25 years of experience – Free estimates	
<b>703-868-5358</b>	
<b>24 Hour Emergency Tree Service</b>	

Landscape Drainage	
	
A JES Services, Inc. Company	
Eco-Friendly Landscape Drainage Experts	
Drainage, Erosion, Landscaping, Hardscaping, Patios, Retaining Walls & More	
Your Neighborhood Company since 1987!	
<b>703-772-0500</b> <a href="http://www.ProDrainage.com">www.ProDrainage.com</a>	
VA. Licensed Class A Contractor	



**Sign up for  
FREE DIGITAL  
SUBSCRIPTION  
to any or all of our 15 papers**  
[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM/SUBSCRIBE](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM/SUBSCRIBE)



## CALENDAR

### 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](http://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](mailto:gwbirthdayevents@gmail.com) any 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.

**FRIDAY/FEB. 25 Tell Me Your Name.** 5-6:15 p.m. At Carlyle House Historic Park, Alexandria. The guided tour will explore the historical context of slavery in 18th century Alexandria, the experiences of the enslaved community at Carlyle House and his plantations, and the importance of ongoing research efforts to connect with descendants. Reservations are required as space is limited. Call 703-549-2997 or email [carlyle@nvrpa.org](mailto:carlyle@nvrpa.org).

### SATURDAY/FEB. 26

**Garden Artists: Fleeting Masterpiece Program.** 1-2 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Participants 5 and older can explore the temporary art of Andy Goldsworthy, and use rocks, leaves, branches and even ice to create a personal, fleeting nature masterpiece. All attendees, including parents, must register. The cost is \$8 per person. Call 703-642-5173.

### SATURDAY/FEB. 26

**Washington Symposium.** 1 p.m. The George Washington Masonic National Memorial hosts leading scholars of the life and legacy of George Washington. The theme of the 2022 George Washington Symposium is "The Political Education of George Washington, 1758-1774." The George Washington Symposium is held annually to honor Washington's birthday by providing the public with enlightening contemporary research on the life of George Washington. Admission is free and free parking is available.

### SATURDAY/FEB. 26

**George Washington Birthday Gala.** Formal (white tie optional). Reception at 5 p.m. Entertainment in the Memorial Theater at 6:30 p.m. Banquet in the Memorial's Grand Masonic Hall at 7:30 p.m. The presentation of the George Washington Memorial Award will take place during the banquet. Tickets are \$200. To purchase tickets, visit <https://gwmemorial.org/>. Tickets are limited.

## Dry Drinks

FROM PAGE 11

"I booked it literally that night. I had no idea how I was going to pull it all together, but I just started ordering inventory."

And about that inventory: The selections have grown by leaps and bounds over the past few years. Gone are the days of O'Doul's, Fre, or, yes, soda water being patrons' only choices for an alcohol-free experience. Forget that. Whiskeys, absinthe, beers, wines, sparkling wine: They're all there, and they're all good.

"In the past one to two years, the non-alcoholic beverage industry has really taken off. There are so many options out there that are actually good!" Kasten said.

Some of Kasten's favorite brands include Lali, an alcohol-removed wine, and Gruvi, a beer brewer from Colorado. But one of her all-time favorites is Noughty, a nonalcoholic sparkling wine that's incredibly similar to the alcohol-infused version.

"I have fooled people in my family" with it, Kasten laughs.

The majority of brands that she carries are women-owned and founded, Kasten

says, and she's made a point of doing a lot of local events with other women-owned small businesses.

"It's not even the drinks for me; it's about building this community that's not centered around alcohol," she said, adding that it can be very lonely being a sober person in an alcohol-centered environment. Having shops and bars like Umbrella Dry Drinks, which set their sights in another direction, is a way to spark community in a new, alcohol-free way.

At the end of the day, Umbrella's mission is to "provide sophisticated nonalcoholic options to those who wish to stay dry," Kasten said, and though the pop-up shop at Seedling Collective closes its doors next week, it's only the start for her and her business.

With the long-term goal of landing a permanent space firmly in her mind, Kasten is hammering out the final details for her next temporary spot in Old Town, ideally staying nearby on South Royal Street, which she'll announce soon.

*Hope Nelson is the author of "Classic Restaurants of Alexandria" and owns the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at [www.kitchenrecessionista.com](http://www.kitchenrecessionista.com). Email her any time at [hope@kitchenrecessionista.com](mailto:hope@kitchenrecessionista.com).*



Presidents Day  
**SAVINGS  
EVENT**

*Jack Taylor's*  
**ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA**

**WE NEED  
TRADES!**  
GET OVER KELLEY  
BLUE BOOK VALUE  
FOR YOUR TRADE  
THIS WEEK!



**NEW 2022 TOYOTA  
COROLLA LE SDN**  
LEASES STARTING FROM...

**\$189** /MO



MODEL# 1852. MSRP \$21,520. LEASE OFFER FOR QUALIFIED LESSEES. BASED ON 39 MONTHS, 10K MILES/YR & \$2999 DUE AT SIGNING. SECURITY DEPOSIT WAIVED. PLUS TAX, TAGS, FREIGHT AND \$789 PROCESSING FEE. FACTORY PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

**NEW 2022 TOYOTA  
CAMRY LE SDN**  
LEASES STARTING FROM...

**\$269** /MO



MODEL# 2532. MSRP \$26,320. LEASE OFFER FOR QUALIFIED LESSEES. BASED ON 39 MONTHS, 10K MILES/YR & \$2999 DUE AT SIGNING. SECURITY DEPOSIT WAIVED. PLUS TAX, TAGS, FREIGHT AND \$789 PROCESSING FEE. FACTORY PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

**NEW 2022 TOYOTA  
PRIUS**  
LEASES STARTING FROM...

**\$269** /MO



MODEL# 1223. MSRP \$26,730. LEASE OFFER FOR QUALIFIED LESSEES. BASED ON 39 MONTHS, 10K MILES/YR & \$2999 DUE AT SIGNING. SECURITY DEPOSIT WAIVED. PLUS TAX, TAGS, FREIGHT AND \$789 PROCESSING FEE. FACTORY PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

**NEW 2022 TOYOTA  
HIGHLANDER**  
LEASES STARTING FROM...

**\$359** /MO



MODEL# 6948. MSRP \$40,220. LEASE OFFER FOR QUALIFIED LESSEES. BASED ON 39 MONTHS, 10K MILES/YR & \$3999 DUE AT SIGNING. SECURITY DEPOSIT WAIVED. PLUS TAX, TAGS, FREIGHT AND \$789 PROCESSING FEE. FACTORY PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

**SERVICE & PARTS HOURS: MON-FRI 6A-7P & SAT 7A-5P**

**BATTERY  
SPECIAL  
FREE**  
BATTERY CHECK-UP  
INCLUDES: CHECK COLD CRANKING  
AMPS AND VISUAL INSPECTION OF  
BATTERY CONDITION. INCLUDES  
BATTERY CONDITION PRINT OUT.  
TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT  
TIME OF WRITE-UP. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.  
VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. OFFER ENDS 02/28/22.

**LUBE, OIL &  
FILTER SPECIAL  
\$39.95**  
\$44.95 FOR SYNTHETIC OIL CHANGE  
INCLUDES: CHANGE OIL (UP TO 5 QTS.), INSTALL  
GENUINE TOYOTA OIL FILTER, INSPECT & ADJUST  
ALL FLUID LEVELS AND COMPLIMENTARY MULTI-  
POINT INSPECTION WITH PRINT OUT.  
NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON  
MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX  
AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER ENDS 02/28/22.

**ALIGNMENT  
SPECIAL  
\$89.95**  
4-WHEEL ALIGNMENT  
INCLUDES: 4-WHEEL ALIGNMENT,  
INSPECT SUSPENSION, BALL JOINTS,  
STRUTS & SHOCKS, TIRE CONDITION  
AND SET TIRE PRESSURE.  
TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT  
TIME OF WRITE-UP. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.  
VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. OFFER ENDS 02/28/22.

**BRAKE PAD  
SPECIAL  
\$99.95**  
BRAKE PAD REPLACEMENT  
INCLUDES: INSTALL GENUINE TOYOTA FRONT BRAKE PADS,  
INSPECT FRONT & REAR ROTORS AND/OR DRUMS, CHECK TIRE  
CONDITION AND INSPECT ALL HARDWARE. TCMC PADS ONLY.  
MACHINE ROTORS AN ADDITIONAL \$199.95  
NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON  
MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.  
TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER ENDS 02/28/22.

**TOYOTACARE  
PLUS  
\$329.00  
SPECIAL**  
MAINTAIN PEACE OF MIND BY  
EXTENDING YOUR TOYOTACARE  
COMPLEMENTARY MAINTENANCE  
PLAN TO 4 YEARS/45,000 MILES!  
TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT  
TIME OF WRITE-UP. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.  
VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. OFFER ENDS 02/28/22.

**SERVICE  
VARIABLE  
DISCOUNT**  
THE MORE YOU SPEND,  
THE MORE YOU SAVE!  
\$10 OFF... WHEN YOU SPEND \$50-\$99  
\$15 OFF... WHEN YOU SPEND \$100-\$199  
\$20 OFF... WHEN YOU SPEND \$200-\$499  
\$50 OFF... WHEN YOU SPEND \$500+  
TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT  
TIME OF WRITE-UP. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.  
VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. OFFER ENDS 02/28/22.

**CALL TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT TODAY: 703-684-0710**



Toyota's  
President's Award  
34 years in a row!

Se habla español

*Jack Taylor's*  
**ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA**

3750 Richmond Hwy • Alexandria  
**703-684-0700**  
AlexandriaToyota.com





# CHRIS WHITE

FAMILY REAL ESTATE  
OF LONG & FOSTER

Leading the Area in Real Estate **SOLD!!!!**

## 106 homes sold in 2021!



**SOLD**

2220 Windsor Rd  
\$2,199,000



**SOLD**

3710 Riverwood Rd  
\$1,099,000



**SOLD**

9316 Mount Vernon Circle  
\$1,295,000



**SOLD**

4515 Milburn Ct  
\$1,061,500



**SOLD**

8311 Bound Brook Ln  
\$798,000



**SOLD**

8228 Stacey Rd  
\$925,000



**SOLD**

8708 Camden St  
\$875,500



**SOLD**

9500 Riverwood Rd  
\$1,499,000



**SOLD**

4211 Adrienne Dr  
\$750,000



**CONTRACT**

9307 Ludgate Dr  
\$3,250,000



**SOLD**

8702 Gateshead Rd  
\$645,000



**SOLD**

3620 South Pl  
\$1,185,000



**SOLD**

9305 Ludgate Dr  
\$1,350,000



**SOLD**

4322 Neptune Dr  
\$1,099,000



**SOLD**

9177 Rosemary Lena Way  
\$1,000,000



**SOLD**

3114 Waterside Ln  
\$675,000

LONG & FOSTER  
REAL ESTATE

CHRISTIE'S  
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE

## 703.283.9028

[www.chrisandpeggywhite.com](http://www.chrisandpeggywhite.com)

[chris.white@longandfoster.com](mailto:chris.white@longandfoster.com)

Alexandria/Old Town Historic - 400 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

