

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

MARCH 10, 2022



Views from Hollin Hills 2021 House and Garden Tour, which illustrate some of the key elements of Charles Goodwin's mid-century design. Floor to ceiling windows that blur the lines between interior and exterior; exposed brick; open floor plans; siting of homes adapted to the landscape and more.

Historic District Established for Hollin Hills

4-year process results in protection for distinctive mid-century neighborhood.

BY KEN MOORE
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

The Hollin Hills neighborhood in Mount Vernon “represents the work of a master,” said Dranesville Planning Commissioner John C. Ulfelder.

“Charles Goodman, both as an architect and as a planner, because he was both, created something very, very special,” said Ulfelder. “He influenced a lot of young architects at the time.”

The neighborhood, including 468 privately owned properties, is historic and well-known to architects and planners. More than a thousand people attend American Architect Institute tours which showcase Hollin Hills, said Hunter Mill Planning Commissioner John A. Carter. “Charles Goodman deserves national recognition as a master architect,” he said; Carter mentioned the respect Frank Lloyd Wright had for him.

Following a public hearing on Wednesday, Feb. 23, the Planning Commission voted to support designating Hollin Hills as a Historic Overlay District. The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors formally approved the designation at its next meeting this past Tuesday, March 8, 2022.

The Historic Overlay District would provide an added layer of protection for the design integrity of the neighborhood.

“Under the Historic Overlay District regulations, these installations would require review and approval by the Architectural Review Board prior to construction within the district’s boundaries,” according to Chairman Jeff McKay.

THE NEIGHBORHOOD was already listed on the County Inventory of Historic Sites in 1972 and the National Register of Historic Places in 2013.

“We’ve had a lot of support for this application,” said Walter

Clarke, Mount Vernon Planning Commissioner.

Four Hollin Hills residents testified at the Planning Commission.

“The [Historic Overlay District] is really critical to protect Hollin Hills both as a historic resource and as a community,” said J.G. Harrington, resident of Hollin Hills. “We’re seeing increasing pressure on mid-century construction all around us and developers realize the houses are relatively small as compared to the lots and see opportunities. All around us we’re seeing tear downs and much larger houses being built that are not like the houses that were there before.”

“We see what is going on in surrounding communities where houses that are on lots our size or even smaller are being knocked down,” said Barbara Ward.

THE NEIGHBORHOOD began the process of exploring HOD design. SEE HISTORIC, PAGE 10



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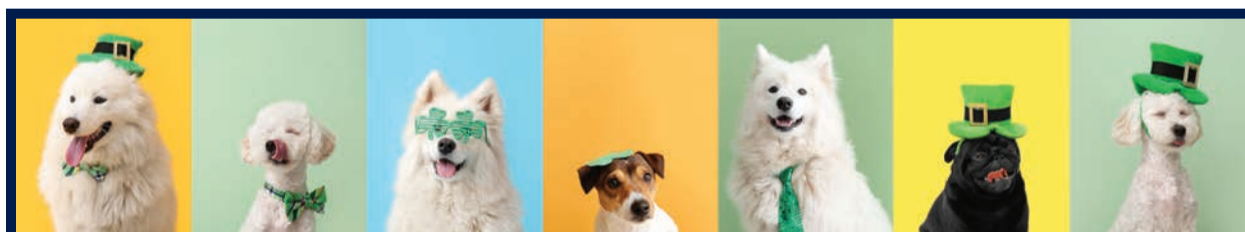


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For 40 years the **Fun Dog Show** was the kick-off event at the St. Patrick's Day parade in Old Town, raising money for the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria, but restrictions over the last couple years led to event cancellations.

This year, you can still join us in support of the AWLA. Through March 16, 2022, McEneaney Associates will match donations up to \$5,000!

To add to the pot o' gold, follow these simple steps:

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The original Mount Vernon High School Building building is all-brick with columns and a grand entrance out front



The sign out front tells of the county's plans for redevelopment.

Original Mount Vernon High School Picked for Food Preparation Incubator

This developing business accelerator aims to be a plus to the area.

BY MIKE SALMON
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE



A colorful, hand-drawn icon for the project.

The redevelopment of the Original Mount Vernon High School took another step forward recently when Fairfax County put out a “Request for Expressions of Interest” to include a food-based business accelerator and entrepreneurship center.

Officials have eyed a 12,000 square foot space that was formerly the locker rooms on a lower level floor to become the Food Business Accelerator and Culinary Entrepreneurship Center. Interested parties are expected to establish and operate an accelerator and entrepreneurship center focused on food-based businesses. This effort would serve as an anchor tenant in the building and contribute to the enhancement and activation of the larger campus, the “Requests for Expressions of Interest” states. This accelerator operation joins a current business incubator on the former school grounds that was established earlier but has yet to go into operation.

The plan with the food incubator is expected to provide economic opportunities, encourage business growth, and contribute to the economic diversification of this rapidly growing corridor, Fairfax County said. A teen center and senior center are already

operating in the 140,000 square-foot building. The teen and senior centers are located on the north side of the building, while the food incubator is planned to go in on the south side, near a United Community office that handles immigration issues. Future development in the school building includes a theater, space for education and workforce development, childcare, and a separate technology-based business center.

Redeveloping this former school site was one of the things Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon) spearheaded since the beginning. “I am very excited about the prospects and opportunities that our vision of a Human Development Center at OMVHS will bring to our residents and businesses,” Storck said. “The potential for a food business accelerator and entrepreneur center fits directly into my advocacy to develop a community hub providing life-long learning, workforce training, child, teen and senior support centers, entertainment and community gathering spaces. This future center will

support our residents’ development, encourage business growth and acceleration, and contribute to the diversity of our workforce as we re-envision the Richmond Highway corridor,” he added.

A GOOD FIT

A food business accelerator will be a fully licensed shared-use commercial space that is certified for food production. Members will rent the kitchen by the hour, day, or month to produce specialty food products and receive guidance and coaching to improve their independent businesses. The request for expressions of interest seeks a food business accelerator operator that will provide a programming component focused on helping participating entrepreneurs and small businesses to scale or expand.

This is a good fit for an area that has been hit by the pandemic with job loss and businesses closed. A closed business is right next door to the former school property, and across the street is a aged auto repair shop, a check cashing business and small grocery store that handles specialty items. In addition, the Mount Zephyr Business Center is next door on the north side and it’s an entity that could benefit from the redevelopment. The South County Government Center is diagonally across Richmond Highway from the site.

According to the Fairfax County Office of Economic Innovation and Strategy, this part of the Mount Vernon District would be good for a food incubator because it meets several goals or criteria for the school site. “We have confidence that the food business accelerator will be a source of jobs and employment opportunities for nearby residents,” they said. An accelerator of this type could

be defined as a piece of “cultural infrastructure,” due to the variety of cuisines available in the Richmond Highway corridor.

Transportation-wise, this location is next to one of nine potential rapid transit stations that will run along the highway from Huntington Metro Station to Fort Belvoir, as proposed in Embark, the Route 1 corridor revitalization plan, the county said.

On the sign out front, the anticipated project completion date is 2024.

PRESERVING HISTORY

The building has a historic value so county officials wanted to save the structure. This was part of an effort by Supervisor Storck, who started the ball rolling as early as 2016. The school building is an example of Colonial Revival architecture that was originally built in 1939 on land that used to be part of George Washington’s Mount Vernon Estate. The 22-acre property was used as a high school until 1973 and a middle school until 1985 and then was leased to the Islamic Saudi Academy in 1989.

In 1987, the Virginia Department of Historic Resources determined that the high school property was eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The school was listed on the Virginia Historic Landmarks Register in December 2017, and in the National Registry of Historic Places in May 2018, the county said.

Fairfax County will accept responses to the Request for Expressions of Interest (RFI), through March 31, 2022. Responses should be submitted electronically to Jamie.gaucher@fairfaxcounty.gov.

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/sites/publicworks/files/assets/documents/rfi-170-1.pdf>

HISTORY



HUNTLEY MEADOWS PARK, FCPA

Ground-level view of antenna array at Hybla Valley Field Station, 1958. Today, this is the central wetland at Huntley Meadows Park.



HUNTLEY MEADOWS PARK, FCPA

Aerial view of Naval Research Laboratory antenna array. The road leading to the antenna is the hike and bike trail located at the South Kings Highway entrance to Huntley Meadows Park.



Brady, "Mrs. Morris" Washington.

EDWARD PORTER ALEXANDER PAPERS #7, SOUTHERN HISTORICAL COLLECTION, THE WILSON LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

The mysterious Ada Hewitt; AKA Mrs. Morris; AKA Mrs. Mason.

Spies, Sputnik and Other Secrets In Huntley Meadows Park

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

At Huntley Meadows Park, the raccoons, snakes and skinks hide undercover to avoid detection. The park has a hidden human side too, Cheryl Repetti told a group on a Feb. 28 walk on the park's west side. Repetti is the Historical Interpreter and Site Coordinator for Historic Huntley.

Northern Virginia's proximity to the nation's capital has attracted foreign and domestic spies over the years, starting with George Washington's Revolutionary War espionage network. In a Mount Vernon Museum video, an actor portraying a post-war Brit says that the Americans did not "outfight us, they outspied us," Repetti recalled.

During the Civil War, Augusta Heath, also known as Ada Hewitt,

SEE HUNTLEY MEADOWS, PAGE 11



Wires bundled in rubber tubes protrude from the forest floor today, left by the communications work and research.



The trail on the west side of the park. Cheryl Repetti said that the forest is "young," that most of the trees were not present when the communications, satellite and road work were done in the park.



Cheryl Repetti shows a photo of the paved oval, the site of asphalt testing.



Huntley Meadows Park's Cheryl Repetti described women spies of the Civil War, including the mysterious "Mrs. Morris."



Huntley Meadows Park's Cheryl Repetti led a walk exploring the park's "hidden history." A small piece of masking tape on the park sign is one way spies signaled they had made a drop.

PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH

Last Week of Session?

BY DEL. PAUL KRIZEK ators Reeves and Bell.

This week marks the 9th and final week of the 60-day 2022 General Assembly session. Or so we hope. During this home stretch, the days on the House Floor get longer and longer as my colleagues and I vote and move bills across the finish line and onto the Governor's desk for consideration.

Along with completing the budget, the main focus this week is on conference committees. When similar but not exact bills are passed out of each body, a conference committee is called to iron out the differences between these bills to create a final product that will be voted on by the General Assembly and sent to the Governor. Each body will appoint three members to serve on each conference committee, consisting of the bill patrons, two members of the majority party in each body, and one member of the minority party. Once an agreement is reached between the conferees, each conferee must sign the conference report, and both the House and Senate must accept the report for the bill to be sent to the Governor.

This year, I am serving on three conference committees: HB 763, HB 764, and SB 402, all bills included as part of my larger bipartisan charitable gaming reform package that I have worked on this session with Sen-

After completing conference reports, the final budget must be decided upon. It's not unprecedented for the budget process to take longer and for a final vote on the budget to occur later on in the spring. However, that does not mean that deliberations can carry on in perpetuity. Under the Virginia Constitution, we must pass a balanced budget, and that budget must be in place for the start of the biennium, which begins on July 1, 2022.

In recent memory, when Medicaid Expansion was passed in Virginia in 2018, the final budget compromise was not signed by Governor Northam until June of that year, just a few weeks shy of the July 1 beginning of the fiscal year. In that year, session adjourned "sine die" on March 10, and the General Assembly was then called back to Richmond for a special session April 11, 2018, to May 30, 2018, to address the state budget. Should more time for careful deliberations be needed, convening a special session is just one method that can be employed to gain extra time.

While it's unclear as of this writing whether we will have a completed budget by the scheduled sine die date on this upcoming Saturday, March 12, I am confident that my colleagues on the budget conference committee will present the General Assembly with a budget compromise we can all agree on.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

RUDY'S GOLF OPENS

Rudy's Golf has just opened in the space formerly occupied by TopGolf at 6625 South Van Dorn Street in Alexandria. The 74-bay facility has limited hours for now: Thursday: 1-8 p.m.; Friday: 1-9 p.m.; Saturday 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; and Sunday: 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Bay rentals are by the hour on a first-come, first-serve basis (reservations coming soon).

VIRGINIA STATE PARKS IS HIRING

There are numerous opportunities to join the team at one of Virginia's 41 state parks. Whether you enjoy working outdoors, sharing your educational or historical expertise, or planning events and programs, there are plenty of choices for fun jobs this year. The experience, knowledge and skills that you will gain are unique and valuable. Utilize your technical, historical, educational, organizational, communication or customer service skills while connecting to nature. Daily duties will vary for each job and there are different needs at each park location. For example, you may have the opportunity to present nature, culture, and history programs for all ages; provide friendly customer service at a park contact station, camp store or visitor center; perform the routine grounds

care, maintenance, light construction, and cleaning tasks necessary to operate State Park facilities. Visit <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/jobs>

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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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

volunteer, contact donaldrea@aol.com.

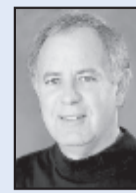
Assistance League of Northern Virginia is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that feeds, clothes and provides reading assistance and books to children in need. Assistance League's programs touch the lives of hundreds of children in Fairfax and Prince William Counties and the City of Alexandria.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

United Community (formerly UCM), 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, seeks volunteers for Food Pantry assistance, Early Learning Center teacher aides, basic needs counselors, youth tutors and mentors, office administration/data entry, and community outreach. Flexible hours and schedules. Opportunities for all ages to serve, including community service hours. More info at ucmagency.org/volunteer-opportunities or email volunteer@ucmagency.org.

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

RSVP, a volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older. RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serv-

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If you are looking for an outstanding home that is bursting w/charm & character, then you must see & visit this gorgeous, rare, 3 level Cape Cod. It lies deep in the center of the Mount Vernon Community known as Sedgewick Forest. This home has been meticulously maintained, updated & sits on a quiet cul-de-sac



offering a lovely, private front yard & a spectacular, large bkyd. The bkyd has a lovely deck which is perfect for entertaining while enjoying the multitude of plants & beautiful shrubs & trees.

Inside on the main level you have freshly refinished hardwood floors, double pane windows, a lovely MBR, the second BR & the hall bath w/an inviting Jacuzzi tub. The beautiful kitchen w/ lovely corian counter tops is open to the dining & family rooms. The family room is the center of activity, surrounded by windows & looks out to both the front & back yards. The TV will convey along w/the surround sound speakers. The gas FPL will add character & help warm up the room during the colder months. The living room is spacious w/beautiful hardwood floors along w/a large bay window & also a gas FPL. The upper level is spacious, has 2 large BRs each w/carpet over hardwood floors & a hall bathroom.

A full basement offers a large recreation room w/new carpet along with/a large cedar closet. If you are handy & enjoy working with tools, then you'll love the separate workshop w/a large work bench & plenty of shelving. The laundry & utility rooms are spacious, offering plenty of storage.

Great location - Rt 1 to our West, GW Pkwy and Potomac River on our East, Ft. Belvoir-5 minutes South, Mt. Vernon Estate, 1 mile walk, Alexandria 15 minutes (N), National Airport 25 minutes (N), D.C. and Pentagon 30 minutes (N). Open House this Sat 1-3 & Sunday 1-4. Any offers will be presented Monday afternoon.



For more information: www.RexReiley.com

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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

What Happens to the Bills that Die?

BY SEN. ADAM EBBIN

When session adjourns sine die on March 12th, every member will return to their district with a winnowed legislative agenda. This is always the case, but it is particularly true in a year with split party control of the legislative chambers. Often at this time of the year, I get asked, "What happens next? Does this bill have any future?" Understandably, some constituents are disappointed when hard-fought legislation falters. Some are fired up and ready to continue their advocacy. Regardless, the afterlife of legislation plants the seeds for future bills. We don't let hard work go to waste.

Of my original twenty-five bills, thirteen will not advance to the Governor's desk. Each faced unique challenges, and for those interested in the debate on each bill, the Senate and House archive all videos of the Committee and Subcommittee hearings where the bills were heard. Three bills were passed by in order to study the problem they sought to address before next year's legislative session. These include my bill to provide pay parity for public defenders compared to their counterparts in Commonwealth's Attorneys' offices (SB282), legislation to reduce negative interactions during traffic stops and improve data on racial profiling (SB277), and a bill seeking to establish privacy for individuals' genetic data, such as that collected by services like 23andme (SB419).

The work of our public defenders is a cornerstone to the fairness of our justice system, and I look forward to the results of the study examining their compensation. Addressing the potentially tense moments of traffic stops remains a priority of mine as does codifying consumer protections for personal information in the



growing field of direct-to-consumer genetic testing. Based on the results of the study and work groups established this session, I may develop new legislation next year to address these concerns.

Two bills were continued to next year, meaning that committees can review them in the interim if they choose, but they will likely need to be brought back in a different form next session. One was my bill aiming to address eviction defenses (SB284) and the other was my major continued effort to establish a legal-adult-use market for cannabis (SB391). This legislation would have comprehensively stood up a legal adult-use sales market, created health and safety regulations to ensure public health and effectively banned youth access to the product. It also would have reformed our criminal justice system, expanded expungements and allowed for resentencing for those with prior cannabis convictions, was the product of two year's hard work, two studies by the nonpartisan Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission, and intense review by the Cannabis Oversight Commission, which I chair. House of Delegates Republicans, though promising to take action to create an adult-use marketplace that would cut down the growing illicit market and create an avenue for burgeoning Virginia small business, killed the bill with minimal debate on a party line vote. Lack of action on this topic means another year of proliferating synthesized cannabis (like "delta-8") in gas stations and convenience stores and illicit trade which will drown out the legal marketplace without swift action. The House's inaction this year was an abject failure for Virginians and public safety.

Five of my bills were killed outright, including my two measures aiming to address gun

violence (SB643 and SB310) and my constitutional amendment affirming the right to marry (SJ5). The Republican House killed the amendment in an early morning subcommittee meeting. In doing so they denied voters the right to decide whether or not to repeal a stain on our state constitution — an inoperable provision denying the right to marriage to same-sex couples and replacing it with an affirming right to marry regardless of gender or sex. I will continue to fight both to defend and affirm the rights of LGBTQ Virginians, as well as to protect our communities from gun violence caused by the proliferation of firearms and unaddressed criminal loopholes.

My bill repealing a cumbersome and unnecessary triennial audit requirement for home care organizations was rolled into SB580, introduced by Senator McDougale (R-Hanover) and I'm pleased to report this bill passed both the House and Senate and awaits the Governor's signature to become law.

Though it does not always turn out as we hope or worked for, the legislation that dies does not disappear. Rather, it lays the foundation for what comes after we all leave Richmond and return home. We will refer to it, build upon it, or modify it as we move ahead. Throughout the year, I will be connecting with constituents, speaking to community members, organizations, and businesses about their ideas for how we can improve legislation and what new bills may be needed. This will help inform what we start drafting for next year.

It is an honor to serve you in Richmond. I look forward to reporting on the successful bills we pass soon.

P.S. If you are a member of a civic group that would like me to provide a post-session legislative update in the late spring or early summer, please email my office at district30@senate.virginia.gov.

The Rundown

Major action on many bills.

BY SEN. SCOTT SUROVELL

Last week, Week 7 of the 2022 Regular General Assembly Session, brought major action on many bills. This coming week, no committees can meet after Monday and the session is scheduled to end on Saturday, March 12.

The House of Delegates killed seven of my 25 remaining bills. First, SB246 required law enforcement officers to advise a driver why they were stopped before asking for their driver's license and vehicle registration. I introduced this bill after a constituent from



Kingstowne ended up in the local news after she was stopped and charged with driving while intoxicated and after she asked why she was stopped. She blew a 0.00% breath alcohol concentration and her case dismissed, but the entire situation was avoidable. This policy is consistent with Virginia law enforcement accreditation standards, Virginia State Police and Fairfax County Police policies, but the Virginia Sheriffs Association opposed it and a House committee voted the bill down on a party-line vote.

The same constituent was also encouraged to file a police complaint, which she did, but when her case became public the law en-

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The House and Senate budget negotiators have started meeting, but when the available revenues are \$3 billion apart, it is virtually impossible to negotiate.

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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A Connection Newspaper



OPINION

Surovell

FROM PAGE 6

forcement agency claimed she had not filed anything. A second bill required law enforcement agencies to provide a written confirmation of all complaints, a practice also consistent with accreditation. The state's Sheriffs opposed this bill too and a House committee defeated it on a party-line vote.

Next, we passed Sen. Adam Ebbin's legislation last session that decriminalized the possession of small amounts of marijuana by adults. This session, I introduced legislation allowing anyone currently incarcerated for marijuana distribution to seek a resentencing proceeding and all people whose sentences were enhanced due to a prior marijuana-related conviction to see a review of their sentence by the Parole Board. A House committee killed the bill on a party-line vote.

Fourth, the COVID-19 Pandemic spotlighted the sacrifice and vulnerability of our front-line health-care, grocery store and other workers who kept working and because of the nature of their jobs, could not work from home. I carried SB352 with Del. Candi King which would have required most health-care and grocery store employers to provide 30 hours of sick leave per year to these heroes who also lost many colleagues. Front-line workers should not have to choose between going to work sick where they can spread illness and their paycheck. It died in committee on a party-line vote.

In 1969, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a decision that allows police officers to lie to suspects in an effort to obtain a confession. However, multiple studies show that juveniles do not have the sophisti-

cation of adults, are more susceptible to deception, are more deferential to authority than adults, which can result in false confessions and wrongful convictions. I carried legislation similar to a bill introduced by Del. Sally Hudson to heighten the government's burden in such cases, but it died on a party-line vote in a House committee.

Finally, I also carried legislation to clean up and clarify some inconsistencies in our rules relating to the sealing of convictions and expungement of acquittals in connection with the landmark legislation I passed with Del. Charniele Herring last year. A House committee rejected it on a party-line vote with little discussion.

Nearly all of my other bills are awaiting the Governor's signature. A few will go into a conference committee for negotiation and final resolution. The House and Senate budget negotiators have started meeting, but when the available revenues are \$3 billion apart, it is virtually impossible to negotiate. We may need a special session to resolve the differences.

Over 250 constituents have completed my constituent survey. Thus far, 91% support extending the Yellow Line to Woodbridge, 87% would like to see Fairfax County match our state funds to provide teachers a 5% pay raise, 76% support underground utilities on U.S. 1, and funding priorities should be secondary education, mental health care and transportation, while the top issue is climate change. Please provide your opinions on the Commanders football stadium, reproductive choice, firearm violence prevention and marijuana legalization. You can complete your version at www.scottsurovell.org/survey

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5

ing, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, email Carly Hubicki at chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-403-5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit www.rsvpnova.org.

Line Dance Instructor needed for the Gum Springs Senior Program once a week on either Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. Volunteer Solutions, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711.

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

Fairfax County's Community Services Board is seeking volunteer office assistants. Volunteers are needed to assist CSB staff with greeting guests, making reminder phone calls, data entry, filing, shredding, stocking shelves, and other duties as needed. Hours are flexible, but would be during normal business hours. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb/viva/volunteers.htm for more. Yoga Teachers are needed. Help improve a person's well-being by teaching yoga classes to adults who are staying in a residential facility. The day/time is flexible, but would be during the week. Prior yoga instruction is required. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb/viva/volunteers.htm for more. The Northern Virginia Long Term Care Ombudsman Program

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 9



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.

Jurisdiction	Fed Struc Id	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Posted Date
HENRICO	9657	0	LAKESIDE AVENUE	NORTH RUN	2/17/2022
FRANKLIN	7825	606	PRILLIMANSWICH/ROUTE 606	BRANCH OF TOWN CREEK	2/16/2022
WASHINGTON	18840	11	LEE HIGHWAY	GREENWAY CREEK	2/15/2022
CARROLL	4791	922	HIDDENVALLEY RD/ROUTE 922	SNAKE CREEK #1	2/15/2022
GILES	8436	635	BIG STONY CK RD/ROUTE 635	LAUREL BRANCH	2/11/2022
FRANKLIN	8031	1605	WHSPRNG CK RD/ROUTE 1605	MAGGODEE CREEK	2/8/2022
LOUDOUN	11375	792	THOMAS AVENUE	SUGARLAND RUN	2/7/2022
NOTTOWAY	12852	610	SPAINVILLE RD	SWEATHOUSE CREEK	2/5/2022
SMYTH	17646	657	THOMAS BRIDGE RD	S FORK HOLSTON RIVER	2/4/2022
BLAND	3072	608	SKYDUSKY RD	BIG WALKER CREEK #1	2/3/2022
SCOTT	16698	623	SPEERS VALLEY RD	N FORK CLINCH RIVER	2/3/2022
ROCKBRIDGE	15653	712	WADES RD/ROUTE 712	CEDAR GROVE BRANCH	2/2/2022
DICKENSON	5887	685	BRIDGE STREET	RUSSELL FORK RV @ HAYSI	2/1/2022
GRAYSON	8915	741	HOMESTEAD RD	BIG FOX CREEK	2/1/2022
LEE	11003	880	RED FLETCHER RD	DRY CREEK	2/1/2022
LEE	10908	672	ROUTE 672	MARTIN CREEK	2/1/2022
RUSSELL	16341	71	NORTH 71	COPPER CREEK	2/1/2022

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.

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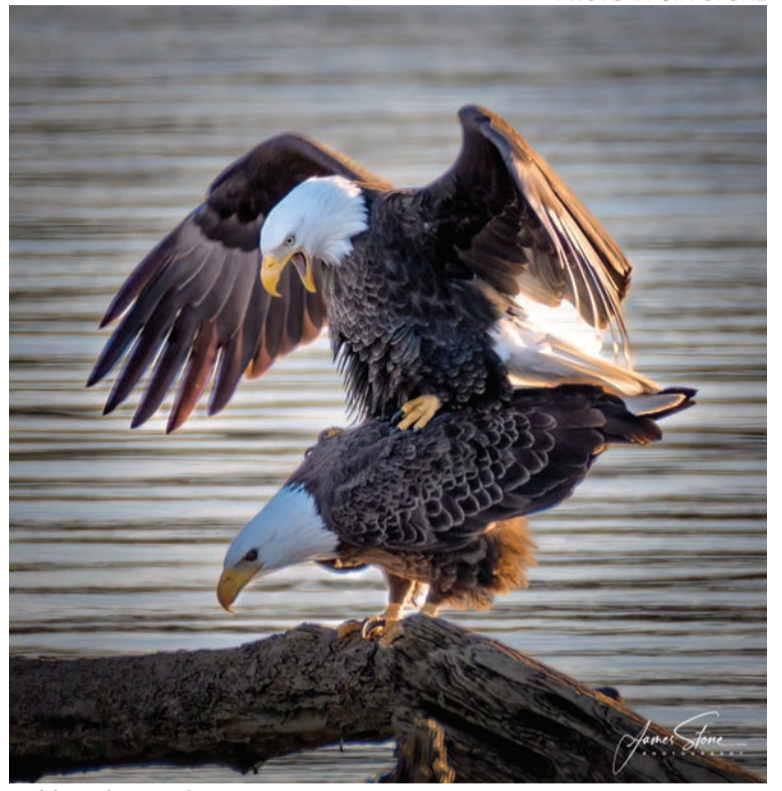
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Bald eagle nest in Dyke Marsh.



Bald eagles mating.

PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH

Bald Eagles Are Thriving but Face Challenges

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

“Virginia’s tidal rivers are just loaded with bald eagles,” Jeff Cooper told 210 people attending the March 2 meeting of the Friends of Dyke Marsh. These large raptors with an 80-inch wingspan regularly breed, nest, forage and migrate on and near rivers like the Potomac. People see bald eagles frequently at Dyke Marsh, Mason Neck and Fort Belvoir. Cooper is wildlife biologist with the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources and has worked with birds for over 30 years and co-authored 17 papers.

In and around Dyke Marsh and Mason Neck, there are nests every half mile or so because there’s so much food available, he said. In recent years, Dyke Marsh has had three active bald eagle nests.

Bald eagles feed mainly on fish which they catch with their sharp yellow talons. “They make their living with their feet. Virginia is rich in aquatic resources,” Cooper said. When an eagle pair raises their young, they forage near their nest, so eaglets’ success is highly contingent on habitat quality, Cooper said. Bald eagles are highly territorial and mate for life.

The Potomac and James Rivers consistently see high use by migrant and “local” eagles, breeding pairs, offspring and all age classes. From Dyke Marsh south to where route 301 crosses the Rappahannock River is what wildlife biologists call a “bald eagle concentration area.” The area also

has non-paired, adult bald eagles called “floaters,” birds constantly roaming the landscape trying to find mates. Floater numbers are increasing because the area is so saturated with breeding pairs.

The Chesapeake Bay is the epicenter of eagle conservation, having the densest breeding population in the lower 48 states and a critical stop on the Atlantic flyway, and northern and southern populations rely on the Bay for winter or summer habitat.

“What happens in the Bay has an impact,” Cooper said.

Belle View resident Carolyn Gamble commented, “Jeff Cooper’s talk opened my eyes to how much bald eagles depend on our stretch of the Potomac River as well as the entire Bay area. I enjoyed learning from someone with many years of ‘hands-on’ experience and have a greater appreciation for the DWR’s research.”

Tagging and Tracking Eagles

Cooper and his colleagues tag bald eagles in Virginia’s coastal plain, generally east of Interstate 95. In 2007, they started tagging with cellular transmitters to trace the birds’ movements. He has tagged over 130 bald eagles and over 40 golden eagles. Golden eagles are found in mountainous regions. Adults are dark brown all over with a golden sheen on their neck and head visible from some angles. Like bald eagles, they have a powerful beak and talons.

To capture an eagle, Cooper puts out road-kill deer and he hides; when the eagle feeds on the bait, Cooper shoots a 40-by-



Jeff Cooper holding a bald eagle at Rappahannock River National Wildlife Refuge.



Jeff Cooper measures eagles’ beaks. Here, Sandy Spencer holds the eagle, caught at Virginia’s Rappahannock River National Wildlife Refuge.

60-foot, rocket-powered net over the birds. He also uses a bow net with a leather trigger and at times to snare an eagle, puts foam in a gizzard shad to make the fish float. For most eagles, he takes measurements and blood samples, bands them and attaches a transmitter on the eagle’s back.

The process takes from 35 minutes to one hour.

To count nestlings and check their health, he climbs trees like an arborist. “I was put in the emergency room a few times because of eagle claws,” he snickered.

Challenges

Lead levels in both eagle species are a serious threat today. Cooper cited a February paper by Vince Slabe and others with Conservation Science Global which found that nearly half of bald and golden eagles tested between 2010 and 2018 in the U. S. show signs of chronic lead poisoning. This was the first study to sample eagles across the entire country. Eagles scavenge and ingest spent lead ammunition from carcasses and gut piles left by hunters. “Chronic poisoning suggests repeated expo-

sure to lead over the long term,” the authors wrote. Lead poisoning can make birds weak, emaciated and uncoordinated, thus less able to evade predators and dangers. The study, published in Science, is at <https://www.science.org/stoken/author-tokens/ST-344/full>.

Collisions with both civilian and military aircraft are another threat. Cooper called Virginia and Florida “hotspots” for eagle-aircraft strikes. Most airports are located in prime eagle habitats because they are near water. Eagles are

Bald Eagles Are Thriving but Face Challenges

FROM PAGE 8

“big birds,” Cooper said, and have crashed through cockpits. In the Chesapeake Bay region, there were seven airstrikes between 1990 to 2009, 18 from 2010 to 2015, and some are not reported. Cooper is working with Langley Air Force Base in Hampton, Virginia, where between 2013 to 2020, he tagged over 130 eagles with cellular transmitters for an aircraft strike study.

Back from the Brink

Haliaeetus leucocephalus, the bald eagle, was once headed for extinction in the lower 48 states. In 1963, only 417 nesting pairs were documented. Scientists attribute their decline to DDT and other compounds in pesticides that moved up the food chain and made eggshells so thin that chicks failed to hatch. In 1967, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) put the bald eagle on the endangered species list. In 1972, Congress banned DDT and bald eagle population numbers started to rise. In 2007, FWS removed bald eagles from the endangered species list. Since 1977, Virginia’s breeding population has increased ten-fold, says William and Mary’s Center for Conservation Biology website.

Mount Vernonite Greg Cridler promoted the talk among his friends and neighbors and found it “very informative and interesting. Apparently, the characteristics of



Jeff Cooper puts metal bands on eagles’ ankles.



Jeff Cooper releasing the bald eagle.

PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH

our area are the most attractive on the east coast which is why we are seeing more bald eagles,” he said.

You can view the presentation at

www.fodm.org. Cosponsors of the meeting were the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia, the Northern Virginia Bird Club, the Friends of

Huntley Meadows Park and the Friends of Mason Neck State Park. Several live cameras monitor bald eagle nests, including nests at

the National Arboretum, <https://naeaglecam.org>, and the Dulles Greenway, <http://www.dullesgreenway.com/eagle-cam/>.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 7

needs volunteer advocates for residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Contact Lisa Callahan at 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Respite Care volunteers give family caregivers of a frail older adult a break so they can go shopping, attend a doctor’s appointment or just have coffee with a friend. Volunteers visit and oversee the safety of the older adult for a few hours each month. Support and training are provided. Contact Kristin Martin at 703-324-7577, TTY 711, or Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Fairfax County needs volunteers to drive older adults to medical appointments and wellness programs. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Gum Springs Senior Program in Alexandria is looking for a Line Dance Instructor. For these and other volunteer

opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Kingstowne Center for Active Adults in Alexandria needs Instructors for the following classes: Country-Western Line Dance, Hula Hoop and African Style Dance. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Hollin Hall Senior Center in Alexandria needs instructors for the following classes: Basic Woodworking, Italian and Ballroom Dance. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

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

The Advisory Board of the Joe and Fredona Gartlan Center for mental health is looking for volunteers.

The board meets the second Tuesday of the month from 9-11 a.m. at Gartlan Center 8119 Holland Road.

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

Volunteer Advocates for Nursing Home & Assisted Living Residents needed throughout Northern Virginia. Contact the Northern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltoombudsman/, or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-324-5861, TTY 711.

Hollin Hall Senior Center is looking for a DJ ballroom and dance instructor. The Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. The Mount Vernon Adult Day Health Care Center is looking for social companions for participants on Fridays from 3-5 p.m. and front desk volunteers on Tuesdays and

Wednesdays from 11 a.m.-noon and 3:30-4:30 p.m. Located at 8350 Richmond Highway. For these and other volunteer opportunities call 703-324-5406 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults.

<cal1>Ongoing

<cal2>Mobile DMV. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Sherwood Hall Library. Two programs, DMV Connect and DMV 2 GO, will provide full DMV service to the Route 1 area. At the Sherwood Hall service centers, customers can apply or renew their ID cards, drivers licenses, take road and knowledge tests, apply for special ID cards, get copies of their driving records, obtain vehicle titles, license plates, decals and transcripts, order disabled parking placards or plates, purchase an EZ-Pass transponder and more. A full list of services is available at www.dmv.virginia.gov.

Art Making as Meditation. 7-8:30 p.m. St. Aidan’s Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. Art making as meditation can be an active form of contemplative practice. Each session begins with a short reading and a brief introduction to materials. Silence for making and meditation lasts an hour followed

by sharing images or insights gained through the process, if desired. Children able to participate in silence are welcome to come with a parent’s quiet supervision. RSVP not necessary for attendance, but helpful for planning purposes. Call 703-360-4220, email info@centerforspiritualdeepening.org or visit www.staidansepiscopal.com/Center-for-Spiritual-Deepening.

Mount Vernon Preservation Challenge. George Washington’s Mount Vernon has embarked upon a special year-end fundraising campaign that will help ensure the ongoing preservation of the estate of this nation’s first president. As the country’s most popular historic home, Mount Vernon does not accept government funding, instead relying upon donations from patriotic individuals and organizations. Through the Preservation Challenge, Mount Vernon hopes to raise enough money to perform critical repairs and restoration work on original structures located in the historic area. The funds SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 13

Historic District Established for Hollin Hills

FROM PAGE 1

nation back in 2017, having small group conversations in people's houses, and then "literally going door to door," said Patrick Kelly, president of the Civic Association of Hollin Hills.

"It's not the past that we're concerned about, it's the future. And we do worry about future development and what it could potentially do to Hollin Hills," said Kelly. "We really are looking forward to the support of the Architectural Re-

"All around us [in other neighborhoods] we're seeing tear downs and much larger houses being built that are not like the houses that were there before."

— J.G. Harrington, resident

view Board that will allow some more protection for us in making sure that future renovations can still be innovative and unique but conforming with the Goodman original idea."

This is how Hollin Hills describes itself: "Nestled into a rolling, park-like setting, more than 450 mid-century modern houses

"The Architectural Review Board ... will allow some more protection for us in making sure that future renovations can still be innovative and unique but conforming with the Goodman original idea."

— Patrick Kelly,

seem to float weightlessly in a canopy of trees. There are no traditional suburban houses here, and few fences or barriers of any kind. Instead, the houses — with walls of glass and clean, geometric lines — perch lightly and naturally in the wooded hillsides, as if they were part of the landscape itself," according to its website.

"This area is magnificent not only in its unique architecture but in its layout and the aesthetic beauty of the forestry and vegetation around it. It's all integrated which just makes it fascinating," said Planning Commissioner Timothy Sargeant, at-large Planning Commissioner.

"Action on the [Historic Overlay District] is really critical for Hollin Hills to maintain our community, to maintain the integrity of what we have," said Harrington.

The historic overlay district designation will ensure that county planning staff and the architectural review board will also have to approve applications.

One caller told the Planning Commission to know that he didn't want Hollin Hills to become a living museum.

But Ward, who is on the neighborhood's review board, said innovation has always been expected and encour-

aged by the neighborhood which is filled with architects.

"We need more offbeat personalities, more people strong enough to stand unafraid and be themselves," Charles Goodman wrote.

"The HOD designation will permit Hollin Hills to preserve its mid-century modern architectural integrity while allowing for the architectural evolution of the community as it confronts the needs to incorporate new building methods and materials, the residents evolving housing requirements which the pandemic has accelerated, and responds to changing climate and environmental design issues," said Ward.

Mount Vernon Supervisor Daniel Storck created a Hollin Hills Historic work group four years ago, and then conducted a poll to

determine the neighborhood's interest in having the designation. About 82 percent of households responded to the survey, more than 62 percent supported it.

The Board of Supervisors authorized the planning department to study the possibility of creating the historic overlay district in July 2018.



Attendees wait to tour the Ward home on Marthas Road home as part of the Sept. 25, 2021 Hollin Hills House + Garden tour.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/THE GAZETTE

Their Own Words

From Hollin Hills website, <https://www.hollin-hills.org/our-community/>

"Nestled into a rolling, park-like setting, more than 450 mid-century modern houses seem to float weightlessly in a canopy of trees. There are no traditional suburban houses here, and few fences or barriers of any kind. Instead, the houses — with walls of glass and clean, geometric lines — perch lightly and naturally in the wooded hillsides, as if they were part of the landscape itself.

"The place is Hollin Hills — one of the most beautifully-designed and well-preserved modernist communities in the United States. Built between 1946 and 1971, it was the brainchild of developer Robert Davenport and architect Charles Goodman, visionaries who wanted to bring a bold new approach to housing in America — and who believed that modern architecture could foster both community and, as Goodman put it, 'the flowering of the individual.'

"Davenport and Goodman turned these wooded hills into an 'architectural laboratory,' creating a community both strikingly modern and utterly natural. Pared to

an elegant simplicity, the houses have wide expanses of floor-to-ceiling windows to erase the line between indoors and outdoors, while the light-filled 'open-plan' interiors create a sense of freedom and space.

"And the architecture's integration into the steep terrain remains particularly striking. The houses don't try to dominate the landscape — they embrace it. Rather than being laid out on a bulldozed grid, the streets follow the natural flow of the hills, with the houses set at unique angles to enhance views into the trees. Fences are rare, and each property flows freely into the next, tying the community together into a green and park-like whole.

"Now, seven decades after its founding, Hollin Hills remains a masterpiece of modern architecture. The winner of numerous design awards, it's had a lasting impact on postwar American housing and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. But it's also a vibrant, living community of creative people in almost every field, from architects and writers to lawyers and physicians, drawn by the beauty of the architecture and the imaginative freedom it seems to represent."

"When you go to restrict what people can do with their property, you need to do that very carefully and very deliberately, and you need to make sure you brought into that conversation all different kinds of perspectives," said Storck at the March 8 meeting.

Ward said the community has had at least 13 meetings on the designation, articles printed in the community newsletter and "endless discussion on our neighborhood forum concerning this proposal.

"I doubt that there is any person who lives in Hollin Hills who is not fully aware of what is going on," said Ward.



Visitors in the kitchen of the Ward home in Hollin Hills.

Huntley Meadows Park

FROM PAGE 4

a woman who called herself “Mrs. Morris,” mentioned “Huntly” in her letters from prison after she was arrested for alleged espionage against the United States. This was a reference to today’s Historic Huntley, the 15-room country house, acquired in 1820 by Alexandria’s mayor, Thomson Francis Mason, grandson of Gunston Hall’s George Mason IV. The Masons likely retreated to their villa to decompress from city life and enjoy the hilltop breezes and view of their 800-plus acres.

The Surreptitious “Mrs. Morris”

Mrs. Morris claimed she had married Thomson and Betsey Mason’s son, John Francis “Frank” Mason, and had a child with him in Paris. In prison, Mrs. Morris confessed to being a Confederate spy and in her letters to Frank, hinted that her mother-in-law was a Union sympathizer. Alexandria and that part of Fairfax County were then under Union occupation. She wrote, “Huntly has not been touched. All this goes to prove your mother’s position is very well understood here by the Lincoln Government.”

While no one has documented that the ever-resourceful Mrs. Morris visited Huntley, records show she met Confederate President Jefferson Davis. An 1872 letter by “X” to the Alexandria Gazette lauded her mastery in covert operations. “Of her powers of fascination there can be no question, statesmen and warriors having surrendered at discretion to her charms of form and intellect,” X penned. With her duplicitous wiles, she obtained Union General Irvin McDowell’s plans for the 1861 march on Manassas Junction, wrote the plans in code, wrapped the document in black silk and hid it in her hair bun, said Repetti. Her accomplice slipped the plans to Confederate General Pierre G. T. Beauregard.

In 1872, Mrs. Morris testified in the U.S. Senate when some alleged that an unauthorized sale of U.S. arms to France violated U.S. neutrality in the Franco-Prussian War. She was also connected to an insurrection in Cuba.

Anti-Aircraft Defense

During World War II, three damaged U.S. B29 bombers were forced to land in Soviet territory. Stalin ordered his underlings to dismantle and copy them. This generated anxiety among high-level U.S. officials, so to strengthen U.S. defenses, the Army built anti-aircraft sites armed with guns near major cities. The Virginia National Guard Battery D had 134 men who staffed a site at today’s Huntley Meadows and operated four 90- and 120-millimeter, anti-aircraft guns. Today, the facility’s sidewalks and other concrete remnants peek out from the forest floor.

In the 1950s, as Cold War tensions mounted between the U.S. and the Soviet Union, new surface-to-air missile defense systems made anti-aircraft guns obsolete and the Navy decommissioned the Huntley site. The Pentagon then circled Washington, D.C., with 13 Nike anti-aircraft missile complexes. Fairfax County had three, one near Lorton today which has a historic marker declaring, “This was the only Nike complex in Fairfax County containing missiles armed with nuclear warheads.”

Tracking Enemy Submarines and Sputnik

Birds chirp in the park today. For 20 years, hush-hush technology chirped. Wires poking out of the ground today were left by the Naval Research Laboratory’s (NRL) Hybla Valley Research Station, which from 1958 to 1971 conducted classified radio communication research and built top-secret antenna arrays organized in two circular fields to track signals from

Soviet submarines off the Atlantic coast.

The site of a former circular antenna array is today’s central wetland, created in 1978 when beavers built a dam. Severe droughts in the wetland can expose metal pieces and parch marks showing ground disturbance.

In 1957, the Soviets launched Sputnik I, a beach-ball-size, artificial satellite that orbited the Earth in about 98 minutes, beating the U.S. in that era’s “space race” and sending shock waves across America. Hybla Valley NRL radio employees tracked Sputnik’s orbits. Many say that Sputnik led to the U.S. space program.

In the early 1960s, today’s park was also the site for a Naval Research Laboratory command and control station for the U.S. government’s GRAB (Galactic Radiation and Background) satellite, a signals intelligence satellite first launched in 1961, shortly after the loss of the U-2 spy plane flown by Gary Powers in 1960. Powers was performing photographic aerial reconnaissance in Soviet territory. According to the National Security Agency’s website, GRAB’s unclassified mission was to collect solar radiation data. Its secret mission was to gather “radar pulses within a specific bandwidth from Soviet equipment,” data ultimately sent to the Strategic Air Command and NSA.

The Naval Research Laboratory’s work on GRAB eventually led to the Global Positioning System (GPS) today found in most cell phones.

From 1943 to 1953, the then federal Bureau of Public Roads tested asphalt to determine its capacity to support heavy vehicles. This work may have been security related, for example, to develop pavement to support tanks. Parts of the oval track, still there, are now in the park’s maintenance area and closed to the public.

Green Spring Park

Today’s Green Spring Park and mansion near Anandale were the former farm of Michael Straight who while working for the Franklin Roosevelt administration spied for the Soviets’ security agency, until 1991, the KGB. He had joined the Communist Party as a student at England’s Cambridge University. The Straight family donated Green Spring Farm to the Fairfax County Park Authority. Straight’s second memoir, *On Green Spring Farm: The Life and Times of One Family in Fairfax County, Va., 1942 to 1966* was published posthumously.

Almost Perfect for Covert Operations

Parks have been favorite drop-off sites for clandestine operations. The county’s sign for Foxstone Park is in Washington, D.C.’s, International Spy Museum.

Robert Hanssen worked for the Federal Bureau of Investigation from 1976 to 2001 and for most of that time, also worked for the Russians as “Ramon Garcia.” He left papers and cash at dead drop sites in Fairfax and Arlington parks, including Eakin, Idylwood, Canterbury Woods, Lewinsville, Wolftrap and Foxstone.

Hanssen gave each park a code name and signaled drops with inconspicuous materials like adhesive tape, thumbtacks and colored chalk. He made his last drop at Foxstone near his Vienna home in 2001 as FBI agents watched him tape classified material packaged in black garbage bag to the underside of a footbridge over Wolftrap Creek. Reportedly, he said, “What took you so long?”

Most of the Huntley Meadows Park sites are accessible today from the trail at 6901 South Kings Highway. Historic Huntley, 6918 Harrison Lane, is near the park’s Lockheed Boulevard entrance.

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ENTERTAINMENT

SEEKING APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS

Westminster Presbyterian Church in Alexandria is seeking applications for grants of up to \$5,000 to nonprofits in Northern Virginia that provide services in the areas of Children, Hunger, Education, Shelter and Self-Sufficiency. Application deadline is April 28. Contact communitygrant@wpc-alex.org or follow this link <https://wpc-alex.org/westminster-community-grant/>

MARCH 2-31

Woodlawn's 2022 Needlework Show, Common Threads: Connecting People, Families, and Communities, Past and Present, in person. At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. The 59th Annual Woodlawn Needlework Show's theme "Common Threads" focuses on the threads in life that connect us as a community and the commonalities that exist among all people, as demonstrated through the pursuit of craft. Every day except Tuesdays. For more information on the theme and submitting work, www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org. Call 703-780-4000 or email woodlawn@savingplaces.org

MARCH 4-26

Flora & Fauna Exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Features art that explores the interdependence of plants and animals, combining art with science. Exhibit is open at Noon, Thursdays - Sundays, from Friday, March 4 to Saturday, March 26. It closes at 6:00 pm, except Saturdays it is open until 9 p.m. Visit the website: <https://delrayartisans.org/2022/01/flora-fauna/>

THURSDAY/MARCH 10

Spanish Guitar Music. 7-8 p.m. At The Rectory on Princess Street, 711 Princess Street, Alexandria. Sip Spanish wine as you journey from Southern Spain, through North Africa, all the way to Afghanistan. Join them in the Atrium for a pre-season display of improvisation, virtuosity, and an unforgettable exchange between cultures. Guitarist Wadih Ettabbakh returns after opening our autumn season with his distinctive blend of flamenco and Moroccan music, joined by newly arrived Afghan musician Hamid Habib Zada playing the tabla, the ancient hand drums central to musical traditions across South Asia. Visit the website: <https://www.classicalmovements.com/secretgardenconcerts/>

THURSDAY/MARCH 10

Grand Opening Event. 6-8 p.m. At Nepenthe Gallery at Hollin Hall Shopping Center, 7918 Fort Hunt Road, in Fort Hunt, Alexandria. Named after the Greek term for "a place of no sorrow," Nepenthe Gal-



The Brandenburg, Vivaldi & Tango concert will be held on Saturday, March 19 in Alexandria.

Saturday/March 19

Brandenburg, Vivaldi & Tango. 7:30 p.m. At St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 South Pitt Street, Alexandria. Members of the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, led by Music Director James Ross, present an evening of music by Bach, Vivaldi and Piazzolla in the intimate setting of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Hear Baroque renditions with principals from the ASO featured as soloists. Cost: \$45. Visit the website: <https://alexsym.org/performance/brandenburg/>

lery will be the first of its kind in Alexandria – a vibrant artistic oasis that gallery owners and Alexandria natives Jim and Carrie Garland hope will also serve as a community gathering spot. Every Thursday from 6:00-7:30 p.m., Nepenthe will host an art, wine and cheese event that highlights an artwork, artist or special guest or genre.

MARCH 10-APRIL 17

Forces Fleeting. At The Athenaeum Gallery, Alexandria. Opening Reception, Sunday, March 13, 4 – 6 p.m. Artist Talk, Saturday, April 9 at 2 p.m. Forces Fleeting is a mixed-media exhibition of new works by artists Nikki Brugnoli and Anne C. Smith, in the first joint installation by the two longtime friends and collaborators. In very different ways, both women explore the transformative power of landscape, with Brugnoli's gestural screenprint drawings on mylar and wood panels and Smith's dark pencil drawings on stained linen.

FRIDAY/MARCH 11

Garden Talk - Perennials with Personalities. 1:15-2:15 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (16-Adult) Want to have a beautiful yard with loads of curb appeal? Extension Master Gardener docents show you how soil preparation, mass plantings, and careful attention to the right flower selection can give you a lush flowering garden from spring to fall. Cost is \$10 per person. Code C1TQ6GN. Reg-

ister online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

SATURDAY/MARCH 12

Floral Design - Spring Has Sprung. 1-2:30 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (16-Adult) Make a spring-inspired floral arrangement with the help of certified floral designer Betty Ann Galway. Betty Ann will lead you through the project, demonstrate design techniques, and explain the best ways to work with your flowers to extend the life of your arrangement. \$40 per person (plus a \$30 supply fee). Bring disinfected shears and a short box or container that will help you transport your arrangement home. Code 0B4.UYRK. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

SATURDAY/MARCH 12

March150 Art +Party. 7 to 9 p.m. At Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. This exhibition features 100-plus works created and donated by artists local to Alexandria and the greater D.C. region. Emerging and established artists are shown together displayed a wide variety of styles and media. The only requirement to be on view in the exhibition is that artists use the gallery-supplied 10" x 10" wood panels to create the work. All artwork in the show is priced at \$150. Visit torpedofactory.org.

SUNDAY/MARCH 13

Irish Hooley. 2-4 p.m. At Saint Mary's School, 400 Green Street, Alexandria. The Alexandria division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Basilica of Saint Mary will host the annual Saint Patrick's Day Hooley. All proceeds from ticket sales benefit Christ House in Alexandria. There will be Irish food and drink catered by Murphy's, Irish dancers, music by Pat Garvey, bagpipes, a silent auction and a raffle. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$5 for children and may be purchased via: <https://aohalexandria.org/get-your-tickets-annual-st-patricks-hooley/>

SUNDAY/MARCH 13

"Connection." 6 p.m. At The Richard J. Ernst Cultural Community Center, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Metropolitan School of the Arts to Perform The Company Project - Connection. The Company Project is a chance for MSA's pre-professional companies to perform in a high caliber show, which pushes students' boundaries artistically, physically, and mentally. Join our dance companies, iMpulse, MYTE, and dynaMYTE along with special guest performers, as they explore the ways in which we all connect and disconnect. Tickets are \$25 per person and \$20 for students. Go to MSA tickets, www.metropolitanarts.org to purchase tickets.

MARCH 13, 20, 27

Outlander Tours. 11 a.m. to noon. Celebrate the March premiere of Sea-

son 6 of Diana Gabaldon's beloved "Outlander" series with an Outlandish Tour of the Apothecary Museum. Tour this historic apothecary and learn about a few of the herbal medicines—such as cascara and dauco seeds—that were featured in Diana Gabaldon's "Outlander" novels. The tour also touches on the roles of apothecaries and women in medicine in the 18th century. These tours are recommended for people ages 18 and older.

MARCH 15 AND APRIL 5

NSO Concert Series at Mount Vernon. 7-9 p.m. George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy., Mount Vernon. Listen to members of the National Symphony Orchestra play during a concert series at Mount Vernon. Learn about the history of Mount Vernon before enjoying intimate chamber music performed by members of the National Symphony Orchestra. All concerts will begin at 7 p.m. and are followed at 8 p.m. by a reception of champagne and chocolates with the musicians. Visit mountvernon.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 19

Spring Craft Fair. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Hayfield Secondary School, 7630 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. Indoor Craft Fair and Silent Auction featuring 80 plus artists/vendors selling all handmade crafts. Free kids craft corner hosted by KidsCreate Studio, huge silent auction. Extensive selection of autographed sports, movie and music memorabilia, gift certificates, Capitals and Nationals tickets, artist silent auction. All proceeds go to support the Hayfield Senior class.

THE BIRCHMERE

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

MARCH

Thu. Mar. 10: The Oak Ridge Boys \$65.00
 Fri. Mar. 11: Tarsha Fitzgerald Productions presents The Voices of Motown. \$35.00
 Sat. Mar. 12: An Evening with Tom Rush, accompanied by Matt Nakoa \$45.00
 Sun. Mar. 13: Harmony Sweepstakes. \$29.50
 Thu. Mar. 17: Edwin McCain \$35.00
 Fri. Mar. 18: Joshua Radin w/ Roses & Revolutions \$45.00
 Sat. Mar. 19: The Smithereens with Marshall Crenshaw \$39.50
 Tue. Mar. 22: Langhorne Slim \$29.50; Riddy Arman will be opening.
 Thu. Mar. 24: Euge Groove \$29.50
 Fri/Sat. Mar. 25 & 26: The High Kings \$55.00
 Sun. Mar. 27: The English Beat \$39.50
 Mon. Mar. 28: The Dirty Knobs with Mike Campbell \$45.00
 Tue. Mar. 29: Delta Spirit with Palm Palm opening. \$29.50

BULLETIN

FROM PAGE 7

raised through the Mount Vernon Preservation Challenge will support the following projects:

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

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

SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

Family Support Group. 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at Gartlan Center, 8119 Holland Road. Opportunity for discussion, information and support for families with members experiencing symptoms of mental illness. Professionally facilitated. Program varies, may include guest speakers, movies. Pre-registration is appreciated, but not required. Free. For more information contact Nga Nguyen at 703-799-2726, TTY 711.

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

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

The Mount Vernon Estate has released "The Winter Patriots," a video presentation about George Washington crossing the Delaware River on Christmas Day 1776. Buy the film for \$4.99 or rent for \$2.99 at mountvernon.org/winterpatriots.

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Now We Wait



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Which in this column's context implies news of consequence, and semi unexpectedly at that? Although in the cancer-patient world it's all consequential, until it's not. Still, I didn't anticipate, given what little I know about medical diagnostic procedures/tests, that the upper endoscopy I had on Thursday might involve a post-procedure 'wait.' I figured the little scope they slithered down my throat would determine definitively why I've had difficulty swallowing food these last few months. And it sort of did, however . . .

As I learned from the gastroenterologist while lying on a gurney in recovery, she took two tissue samples to be biopsied. Though she had good news in that there were no blockages, tumors, or problems with my esophagus – opening or closing, nevertheless; she did feel the need to retrieve some tissue for a pathologist to exam more scientifically. I was told those results would be back in five to seven days. Ergo, the title of this column.

Let me be clear, in and of itself, waiting is not the problem. As a cancer patient, I'm always waiting – for something. And unless one integrates/assimilates that into their method of operation/process of elimination, the anxiety and stress of it will make Kenny a very dull boy – for which I need no provocation, according to my wife, Dina. No, the problem here is that I'm waiting when I didn't think I'd be waiting. I figured, incorrectly, that after the scoping was complete, the analysis/diagnosis would be complete. As Linda Ronstadt sang: "Poor, Poor Pitiful Me." It appears, considering the lack of evidence from the procedure to explain away my swallowing difficulties, there are now two more diagnostic procedures scheduled, neither of which sound very pleasant, to find an answer.

Here I thought as Michael Corleone (Al Pacino) thought in "Godfather: Part 3: "Just when I thought I was out, they pull me back in," that every malady/medical situation afflicting me might not have a cancer risk, I was a bit surprised to learn that as a cancer patient, it all matters, it all could be related, and I'll never be out of the woods, even if I can see the forest save for the trees. I'm sort of disappointed in myself thinking that any medical procedure that I have is somehow (A) not complicated by the fact that I have cancer, and (B) very possibly, directly/indirectly related to my pre-existing cancer diagnosis. Either it's a cause or an effect. On the face of it, this is no way to live. On the other hand, it's a miracle I'm still alive and I'm thankful and grateful every day that I am.

So, what's a little waiting? It's all I've ever done since Jan. 1st, 2009 when I first went to the Emergency Room with symptoms. I should have remembered the mantra bedeviling all cancer patients since time immemorial: it's always something.

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

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NEWS



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All the Way to States for the Hayfield Hawk Basketball Team

Hayfield Hawks fans are in an uproar cheering their team on during the quarter finals last Friday night, which Hayfield won. The Hawks went on to the semi-finals and beat South Lakes 67-48 on Monday night and are now competing in the Virginia state championship against Battlefield High School on Friday, March 11 at Virginia Commonwealth University.

– MIKE SALMON

Free St. Patrick's Day Lyft Rides Offered

Preparing to combat that time of year when, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, nearly two-thirds (63%) of nighttime U.S. traffic deaths involve drunk drivers, a local nonprofit organization says free safe rides will be offered to would-be drunk drivers throughout the Washington-metropolitan area during this month's St. Patrick's Day celebrations.

Offered by the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), the 2022 St. Patrick's Day SoberRide® program will be in operation beginning at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 17 (St. Patrick's Day) and operate until 4:00 a.m. on Friday, March 18 as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk period.

During this twelve-hour period, area residents ages 21 and older celebrating with alcohol may download the Lyft app to their phones, then enter the SoberRide® code in the app's "Payment" tab (under the "Add Lyft Pass" option) to receive their no-cost (up to \$15) safe transportation home. WRAP's 2022 St. Patrick's Day SoberRide® promo code will be posted at 3 p.m. on Thursday, March 17 on www.SoberRide.com.

During the 2019 St. Patrick's Day campaign (COVID-19 eliminated the 2020 campaign and limited last year's offering), nearly 700 (697) people in the Washington-metropolitan area used WRAP's SoberRide® program rather than possibly driving home impaired — the second highest level of ridership for St. Patrick's Day in SoberRide's 31-year history. The charity also of-

fers its SoberRide® program on Cinco de Mayo, Independence Day, Halloween and the winter holidays through and including New Year's Eve.

"Lyft is dedicated to providing access to reliable and responsible rides, and we're proud to partner with programs like WRAP to offer Lyft as an alternative to impaired driving," said Kamillah Wood, Director of Public Policy for Community Safety at Lyft. "Through our Roadway Safety Program and our partnerships with the public, we hope to empower our community with the tools to protect themselves and those around them this holiday season."

Sponsors of WRAP's 2022 St. Patrick's Day SoberRide® campaign include the 395 Express Lanes, Amazon, Anheuser-Busch, Beer Institute, Brown-Forman, Constellation Brands, District of Columbia Association of Beverage Alcohol Wholesalers, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Foundation of Advancing Alcohol Responsibility, Giant Food, Glory Days Grill, Kendall-Jackson, Lyft, Molson Coors Beverage Company, New Belgium Brewing, Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington, and the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association. WRAP's 2022 Partner SoberRide® Sponsors include the Maryland Highway Safety Office/Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration and Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles.

Since 1991, WRAP's SoberRide® program has provided 81,645 free safe rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area.

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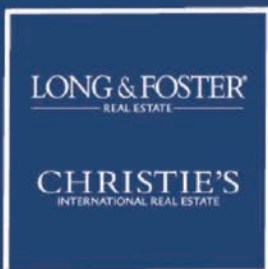


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