

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

MARCH 31, 2022

'The Cemetery Club' Poignant comedy has one weekend left at ACCT.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE GAZETTE

Aldersgate Church Community Theatre is back with "The Cemetery Club," a poignant comedy that follows three Jewish widows who meet once a month to visit their husbands' graves.

The Ivan Menchell play centers around Ida, Doris and Lucille. Each is navigating the different stages of grief, as is Sam, who meets the ladies while visiting his wife's grave. The 1990 Broadway production featured Eileen Herkert and was later made into a film starring Ellen Burstyn, Dianne Ladd and Olympia Dukakis.

"This show is both funny and poignant -- you can be laughing one minute and ready to cry the next," said ACCT producer Marg Soroos. "The characters are real and the script is so well written. It is just what a fun evening at the theater can be."

Patricia Nicklin plays sweet tempered Ida, who is ready to begin a new life.

"I, too, am at the next chapter of



Kirk Lambert (Sam), Kathy Ohlhaber (Lucille), Patricia Nicklin (Ida), and Janice Zuker (Doris) star in "The Cemetery Club," playing March 25 – April 10 at Aldersgate Church Community Theatre. Performances are 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sundays.

my life, the 'third act' as they say," Nicklin said. "Acting in 'The Cemetery Club' has gently forced me

to ask the all-important question: Am I doing what I want to with my life, or am I living another's agen-

da? I hope the audience will take away that age is just a number and friendship is everything."

"This show is both funny and poignant - you can be laughing one minute and ready to cry the next."

— ACCT producer Marg Soroos

PHOTO BY HOWARD SOROOS

Joining Ida in the monthly sojourn are Lucille, a feisty embodiment of the girl who just wants to have fun; and Doris, who is priggish and judgmental, particularly when Sam enters the scene and gentle sparks fly between him and Ida.

"The show isn't really about the cemetery or the deceased husbands," said Kathy Ohlhaber, who plays Lucille. "It's about the relationship between the three women. It's so easy to focus on what

SEE POIGNANT, PAGE 10

Ides of Bark Brings Out the Dogs

Mount Vernon pets ruled at this fourth annual event.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

Although there haven't been any bomb incidents in the southern part of Fairfax County recently, the police do have Paisley, a trained bomb sniffing dog who was busy sniffing everything at the fourth annual Ides of Bark event in Mount Vernon.

Paisley hangs out with Detective Brian Storm who was happy with the lack of calls. "I have yet to use her on an active call," Storm said, but notes that bombs are just one of the things she can sniff out. "They can help look for shell casings," he added.

The Ides event at Grist Mill park brought out all sorts of dogs to enjoy the sunshine and the brisk March weather. This is an event Supervisor Dan Storck

SEE MOUNT VERNON, PAGE 14



Jackson Dumais with his dog Milo.



Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck with Reasa Currier, the new Director of the Fairfax County Animal Shelters, and her daughter Evelyn.

Junior and Duke, two therapy dogs.



PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE GAZETTE

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Beloved Cancel Culture

Toni Morrison novel prompts legislation that has critics worried about book bans.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Toni Morrison's Pulitzer-prize winning book "Beloved" prompted such outrage in one Fairfax County parent in 2013 that she tried to have the book banned from her son's AP English class. Laura Murphy said the book gave her teenage son nightmares, and she urged school officials to do something about it. She took the fight all the way to the Fairfax County School Board, which voted six to two to keep the book in the AP English curriculum.

Inspired by the criticism over "Beloved," former Del. Steve Landes (R-25) introduced a bill in 2016 that would have required schools to notify parents if they expected to provide instructional material that had "sexually explicit instructional material." The bill passed a Republican-controlled House and a Republican-controlled Senate, although it received a veto from Democratic Gov. Terry McAuliffe.

"I think that our bill is a slippery slope and is not too far away from Florida's 'Don't Say Gay' bill."

— School Board member Kelly Carmichael Booz

That veto ended up being perhaps the most significant issue of the campaign for governor last year. Republican candidate Glenn Youngkin said he would have signed the bill if he were governor, and he used the issue as a wedge against the former governor who was attempting to return to the Executive Mansion. During a heated debate between McAuliffe and Youngkin at the Schlesinger Center in Alexandria, Youngkin repeatedly needled the former governor until McAuliffe stuck his foot in his mouth.

"I don't think parents should be telling schools what they should teach," said McAuliffe in a moment that was endlessly repeated in Republican campaign commercials.

FLASH FORWARD to 2022. Youngkin is now governor, and he's poised to sign Senate Bill 656, which was introduced by Sen. Siobhan Dunnivant (R-12) as a sort of sequel to the Be-



During the General Assembly debate over the Beloved Bill, Del. Marcus Simon (D-53) put together a Little Banned Book Library outside his office in the Pocahontas Building.

loved Bill. Like the previous incarnation, it requires schools to notify parents when they plan on teaching "sexually explicit content." This time, two Senate Democrats crossed party lines to vote with the Republicans and send the bill to the governor's desk: Sen. Lynwood Lewis (D-6) and Sen. Monty Mason (D-1).

"This bill is something we can all embrace," said Dunnivant. "It's about actually making sure tough conversations happen and parents interact with their children on those things."

The legislation was communicated to the governor on March 9, which means that Youngkin has until April 11 to make a final determination. That means the governor is

poised to deliver on his campaign promise of signing the bill that McAuliffe vetoed. That has raised alarm bells for people who worry that notifying parents of "sexually explicit content" would have a chilling effect among teachers who might avoid teaching "Be-

"We have this wonderful Pulitzer-prize winning fabulous Black female writer who has received her accolades for obvious reasons. I can't help but wonder what the real concern is about."

— School Board Chairwoman Meagan Alderton

loved" in favor of something more anodyne.

"I think there are some racist undertones to the conversations about her novel, and that concerns me," said Alexandria School Board Chairwoman Meagan Alderton. "We

have this wonderful Pulitzer-prize winning fabulous Black female writer who has received her accolades for obvious reasons. I can't help but wonder what the real concern is about."

ACROSS THE COUNTRY, efforts to ban books from school libraries have intensified in recent years. A Texas lawmaker identified 850 books last year he fears "might make students feel discomfort, guilt, anguish or any other form of psychological distress because of their race or sex." Here in Virginia, a Chesterfield parent worked with Sen. Amanda Chase (R-11) to advocate against books celebrating LGBT relationships or examining drug use, specifically "Eleanor and Park" by Rainbow Rowell, "Dope Sick" by Walter Dean Myers and "Tyrell" by Coe Booth.

"Most parents, if they actually read excerpts, would have grave concerns," Chase told the Chesterfield Observer. "As a parent, that's not something that I want my kids reading."

In several cases, school boards across Virginia have taken quick action only to reverse course later. The Spotsylvania County School Board was forced to reverse its decision to remove a list of sexually explicit books from its schools after intense push-back from the community. And the Fairfax County School Board removed two books from its library shelves then put them back after hearing concerns about censorship and suppression. The Alexandria School Board has not yet had a similar controversy erupt, but some are concerned the Beloved Bill has similarities to a bill in Florida outlawing discussions about sexual orientation or gender identity in primary schools.

"I think that our bill is a slippery slope and is not too far away from Florida's 'Don't Say Gay' bill," said School Board member Kelly Carmichael Booz. "I'm concerned about that for the respect for each of our children who live in Alexandria, and I want them to feel valued regardless of their race or their gender identity or anything else."

EFFORTS TO BAN BOOKS are almost as old as books themselves, and Northern Virginia school boards have wrestled with this issue for decades. In 2003, a group of concerned parents formed a group known as Parents Against Bad Books in Schools and started challenging titles like "The Pillars of

the Earth" by Ken Follett and "Daughters of Eve" by Lois Duncan. The group identified 55 books its members said were "extreme" and compiled a list of 700 books that had

SEE BELOVED CANCEL, PAGE 13

Gum Springs Resident Celebrates 102

Car parade had well-wishers, neighbors and Mount Vernon officers.



Ada Singletary at 102.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

The car parade, the honking and the flowers were the life of the party to celebrate Ada Singletary's birthday and commemorate this Gum Springs resident that's been around since 1920. She's lived in the same house since 1966 when her grandfather was still around, and has been in a couple of parades around the neighborhood.

This birthday was special though, and it brought out the New Gum Springs Civic Association, a squad of police officers from the Mount Vernon station, folks from the neighborhood and Pastor Darrell K. White from Bethlehem Baptist Church where Ada goes to

church. Tenesha Green also goes to that church and was proud to honor a fellow parishioner. "Shows we still have a sense of community," Green said.

Queenie Cox put together the parade, and the weather cooperated so it was a covid-safe, outdoor event. "Last year we did a book," she said.

The cars gathered in the parking lot of the Harvest Assembly Baptist Church right around the corner from Ada's house. Kevin Shaw, the assistant commander of the Mount Vernon Police Station lined the cars up, with Queenie Cox out in front.

Detective Daryl Davis was one of the officers and he grew up right around the corner from Singletary so the two neighbors went way back. "Been here all my life," he said.



Ada Singletary is joined by Pastor Darrell K. White, left, Queenie Cox, right and Officer Kevin Shaw, Detective Daryl Davis and others from the Mount Vernon station.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION



Honking was encouraged.



Cheers for Ada Singletary from those in the 1968 Pontiac GTO.



Presents, cards and flowers delivered at curbside for Ada Singletary, 102.

Writing With Passion

MVHS students win Letter to the Editor contest.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE GAZETTE

Mount Vernon High School celebrated the finalists of the Letter to the Editor contest with the announcement of the winners March 24 in the MVHS auditorium.

Eight finalists were honored with Makayla Adams named as the first-place winner.

“We encourage students to write something they are passionate about,” said contest sponsor

“We encourage students to write something they are passionate about.”

— Letters to the Editor contest sponsor
Avis Catchings

Avis Catchings. “We give them topics to write on and work with The Gazette publisher Mary Kimm.”

A panel of judges selected the winners, who received various awards ranging from \$25-\$150.

“We are looking forward to seeing the letters published in the paper,” Catchings said. “We told the finalists that all eight of their letters will be published in the Mount Vernon Gazette and we are excited to see that happen sometime in April.”



JANET BARNETT/THE GAZETTE

Mount Vernon High School Letter to the Editor contest finalists Afra Ofori, left, and Rachel Adu, right, celebrate with first place winner Makayla Adams March 24 at MVHS.

Help Clean Up Little Hunting Creek

Sen. Scott Surovell and Del. Paul Krizek are partnering with the Friends of Little Hunting Creek to sponsor the annual 2022 Little Hunting Creek Cleanup event on Saturday, April 30, 2022.

Little Hunting Creek is one of the most severely degraded streams in Fairfax County. In 2007, it was named “Fairfax County’s Trashiest Stream” by Fairfax County who spent over \$50,000 of taxpayer funds removing trash. The area is impacted by a standard stormwater system, a significant retail presence, a large concentration of apartments with trash containment problems, and a large homeless population, which results in significant litter dispersal throughout the watershed.

Over the last 12 years, Surovell, Friends of Little Hunting Creek and their volunteers have removed 228 shopping carts, over 500 bags of trash, over a dozen bikes, over 60 tires, and multiple car seats. Additionally, volunteers helped dispose of one large metal jungle gym, one bathtub, one bounce house, one lawn chair, and numerous liquor and beer cans. An extensive cleanup such as this is not possible without the help of the Mount Vernon community who take time from their schedules to help improve the local environment.

Volunteers will spend the day removing trash, litter, and debris from two sites in the uppermost watershed of the creek where it originates in Hybla Valley. Water, trash bags, and cleaning supplies will be provided to all volunteers. After the cleanup, volunteers are invited to participate in Cinco De Surovell at Fort Hunt Park.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

There are many reasons to volunteer:

- ❖ Gain high school and middle school community service hours
- ❖ Gain education about local ecosystem shortcomings and impairments
- ❖ Raise community awareness of volunteerism and environmental protection with children
- ❖ Make your community a better place

Event Details

2022 Little Hunting Creek Cleanup
Saturday, April 30, 2022
9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

RSVP at <https://bit.ly/CreekCleanup2022>

The cleanup will be staged from two locations:

Janna Lee Avenue Little Hunting Creek Bridge:

From Route 1 (at the intersection with Mount Vernon Memorial Highway), turn west onto Buckman Road, right on Janna Lee Avenue to the bridge over Little Hunting Creek.

GPS Coordinates: 38.741070, -77.095512

Mount Vernon Shopping Plaza Near Sherwin-Williams Paint Store:

From Route 1, turn N on Fordson Road, the cleanup site is in the concrete channel adjacent to a Sherwin Williams store in the NE corner of Mount Vernon Plaza. Enter from Fordson Road, directly across from Mamma’s Kitchen (7601 Fordson Rd.)

GPS Coordinates: 38.749711, -77.089303

If you can attend, please RSVP at <http://bit.ly/CreekCleanup2022> to ensure that enough clean up supplies and food are provided



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Downstairs, you will first notice the large, elegant family room w/wood-like laminate flooring, crown molding, & an inviting wood burning FPL. On the left rear corner is a door that leads you to the outside stairwell & up to beautiful shrubs & flowering plants. The 4th BR has laminate flooring w/windows which offers plenty of light. The utility room also has laminate flooring w/lots of shelving.

The right front of the lower level is as nice a laundry room as you will ever find. Spacious (16x14), completely finished w/ceramic tiled flooring, plus an elevated window for egress. If this room had a closet, it could be a 5th BR. Finally, we have a large elevated crawl space, beneath the dining rm addition, which also offers a huge amount of storage space.

Great location: Walk across the street to Mt. Vernon High School & Riverside Elementary – 5-7 mins (S), to Ft. Belvoir, 2 mins (S) to Mt. Vernon Estate & the GW Pkwy, 15 mins (N) to Old Town, Alex, 27 mins (N) to Regan National Airport, & 35 mins (N) to Arlington or D.C., all available via the scenic GW Parkway. Great Location, Great Home, Great Yard!



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Proceeds from the Spring Garden Market support the preservation of historic River Farm as the headquarters of the American Horticultural Society and its maintenance as a green space for all to enjoy.



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Mount Vernon Gazette



April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month

BY DEL. PAUL KRIZEK

This Friday, April 1st, begins National Child Abuse Prevention Month. This month recognizes the importance of families and communities working together to strengthen families to prevent child abuse and neglect. This year's theme is "Words Matter". Parents and caregivers are challenged to be intentional every day to speak encouraging words that build up children's sense of worth. Please join me in wearing blue on April 1st to support survivors and bring attention to this critical issue.

Sadly, child abuse cuts across all boundaries of race, education levels, and income brackets.

In 2021, there were more than 37,000 reports of child abuse in Northern Virginia alone (2,600 children in Fairfax County). There are 3.5 million reports annually in the United States. According to the Children's Bureau's 2020 Child Maltreatment Report, approximately 2 million children across the country received prevention services in 2020. 1.2 million children received post-response services (such as family preservation, family support, or foster care) because of needs discovered during an investigation or alternative response. During the Federal fiscal year 2020, fewer than one-quarter (21.8 percent) of confirmed maltreatment victims were removed from their homes because of an investigation or alternative response. As we learn more about how exposure to traumatic events affects a developing child's brain, it has become clear that childhood trauma is one of the most critical public health concerns that we face today.

To combat these problems, organizations like SCAN of Northern Virginia and FACT (Family and Children's Trust Fund) provide no-cost parenting support groups in English and Spanish, access to education and assistance resources, and provide grants to support trauma-informed practices throughout Virginia. FACT is the only organization in Virginia, and one of few nationally, that addresses trauma across the lifespan.

Protective factors and adverse childhood experiences are frameworks utilized in prevention efforts to reduce the risk of maltreatment and prevent the recurrence of abuse or neglect by drawing upon the strengths of families and acknowledging traumatic events.

Protective factors are conditions or attributes in individuals, families, and communities that promote the health and well-being of children and families. By using a protective

ABUSE	NEGLECT	HOUSEHOLD DYSFUNCTION	
Physical	Physical	Mental Illness	Incarcerated Relative
Emotional	Emotional	Mother treated violently	Substance Abuse
Sexual		Divorce	

CREDIT: ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION

Categories of Adverse Childhood Experiences.

factors approach, child welfare professionals and others can help parents find resources and supports that emphasize their strengths while also identifying areas where they need assistance, thereby reducing the chances of child abuse and neglect.

Protective Factor 1: Nurturing and attachment

Protective Factor 2: Knowledge of parenting for child and youth development

Protective Factor 3: Parental Resilience

Protective Factor 4: Social connections

Protective Factor 5: Concrete supports for parents

SEE CHILD ABUSE, PAGE 7

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OPINION

Gun Violence Still With Us

BY DEL. KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM

Mass murders have not made the front pages of newspapers recently even as the pace of gun violence continues to be a menace to our society. Keeping many incidents of gun violence off the front pages of newspapers is in part related to the Federal Bureau of Investigation definition of a mass murder being the killing of four or more persons in a single event. That is a horrific event without a doubt, but the amount of violence in occurrences just below that definition has to be equally as alarming.

Virginia is no stranger to mass murders. One of the deadliest mass murders in our country occurred on the campus of Virginia Tech when a mentally deranged student in 2007 killed 32 students and staff and wounded 24 others. As recently as 2019 a Virginia Beach city employee killed 12 people at his workplace and wounded four others.

Every day in Virginia and throughout the country news media are reporting on the inside pages of newspapers and in other news accounts the daily occurrence of gun violence that is less than a mass murder but bringing trauma to thousands and disrupting the safety and quality of life for many thousands more. There is a legitimate concern that the public has become numb to the bad news and may shut it out as something we do not want to recognize or know about because there is no known solution for it.

Virginia is no stranger to gun

violence. According to Everytown for Gun Safety, in an average year in Virginia 1,019 people die and 2,050 are wounded by guns. Virginia has the 29th highest rate of gun violence in the United States. In Virginia, 65% of gun deaths are suicides and 32% are homicides. Guns are the leading cause of death among children and teens. An average of 85 children and teens in Virginia die by guns every year, and 55% of these deaths are homicides. (EveryStat.org)

Beyond the statistics are the stories of what happens to individuals, families, and communities because of gun violence. In July of last year a three year old was killed by a stray bullet in Richmond. In the same city in April a shootout at an apartment complex left a woman and her three-month-old baby dead. In November in Norfolk last year three women died and two were wounded from gun shots in a domestic dispute. In March of this year a 25-year-old newspaper reporter and her friend were caught in crossfire from a shootout in downtown Norfolk and were killed. There are dozens of similar stories of what some have described as an epidemic of gun shootings in the Commonwealth.

Citizens need to continue to speak out on gun violence and help give a voice to the victims. The 2020 session of the General Assembly made important reforms related to gun safety including my universal background check bill. We need to hold onto these reforms without backsliding while electing candidates who will support further reform.

Child Abuse Prevention Month

FROM PAGE 6

Protective Factor 6: Social and emotional competence of children

Adverse childhood experiences are traumatic events that occur before a child reaches the age of 18. Adverse childhood experiences include all types of abuse and neglect, such as parental substance use, incarceration, and domestic violence. A landmark study in the 1990s found a significant relationship between the number of adverse childhood experiences a person experienced and a variety of negative outcomes in adulthood, including poor physical and mental health, substance use, and risky behaviors. The more adverse childhood experiences experienced, the greater the risk for these outcomes.

For more information and resources on protective factors, adverse childhood experiences, and supporting family resiliency, please visit childwelfare.gov and scanva.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

org.

If you experienced childhood abuse it was not your fault. Childhood abuse is preventable and children can recover.

There are ways you can help stop child maltreatment if you suspect or know that a child is being abused or neglected. If you or someone else is in immediate and serious danger, you should call 911.

Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline (Call or text 1.800.4.A.CHILD [1.800.422.4453]). Professional crisis counselors are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, in over 170 languages. All calls are confidential. The hotline offers crisis intervention, information, and referrals to thousands of emergency, social service, and support resources.

Contact Virginia Child Protective Services: (800) 552-7096

Fairfax County Child Protective Services: 703-324-7400

<https://www.fact.virginia.gov>

Dr. Whyte's

New Book

Released March 8, 2022

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- Learning the role food, exercise, and sleep play
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RSVP at MountVernonLeeChamber.org



Biologists pull up the suspended mussel cages from the river.



Project participants search a cage's base for young mussels.



Biologist Matt Ashton lowers a cage, explaining the process to the public.



Project participants put fish carrying microscopic mussel larvae into cages.



Matt Ashton secures a new cage before lowering it into the water.



An educational panel on the pier explains a mussel's life cycle.

Bringing Mussels Back to the Potomac

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

Many people may think that freshwater mussels are insignificant, nondescript critters, but for rivers and streams, they are important critters.

Virginia's riverbeds, including the Potomac's, were once lined with native mussels. When the first English settlers arrived, "They were astonished to discover rivers practically paved in freshwater mussels," according to the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources' (DWR) website. Over the next 400 years, pollution, dams and invasive species helped put 70 percent of mussels in the United States at risk. Over seven percent have gone extinct and another 50 percent are listed under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. In Virginia, of 82 species, only 30 percent are considered to be stable, with the remaining in decline, reports Department of Wildlife Resources.

Declining mussel populations can signal that freshwater ecosystems are in trouble. "The disappearance of freshwater mussels usually indicates chronic water pollution problems," says a U.S. Department of Agriculture website.

To improve water quality, the Potomac Riverkeeper Network (PRKN) has launched the 50 Million Mussel Project to restore freshwater mussel populations in the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers.



Left to right: eastern pond mussel; eastern lamp mussel; tidewater mucket mussel.

What Is a Mussel?

Mussels are aquatic mollusks, invertebrate animals with soft bodies usually enclosed in a hinged shell. Freshwater mussels can range from thumbnail to pie plate size and live from 20 to 100 years.

Mussels draw in water with their incurrent siphon and discharge it through their excurrent siphon. Their shells are usually, but not always, dark in color on the outside and pearly on the inside. Mussels grow in both freshwater and saltwater. They spend much of their lives partially buried in sediment.

Why Mussels?

"Like oysters, freshwater mussels are nature's water-based clean-up crew," explains Emily Franc, Vice President for Development/Philanthropy at Potomac Riverkeeper



An eastern lamp mussel.

er Network. They are filter feeders which means they obtain food by filtering water for nutritious particles.

One adult mussel can clean up to 10 liters of water per day. They can filter out excess nutrients, sediments and other pollution. These pollutants come from stormwater running off roofs, parking lots, roads and other hard surfaces and from lawn and agricultural fertilizers. Nutrients often flow off agricultural fields and poultry farms.

Sediments can smother mussel beds and cloud water. Turbidity blocks sunlight needed for submerged aquatic vegetation, underwater plants that invertebrates, fish, ducks and other aquatic organisms need for food and protection.

While the river is making progress, in their 2020 report, the Potomac Conservancy, concluded, "... excess nutrients and sediment from polluted urban runoff is increasing over time and threatens to undo

"Recovering our nearly extinct freshwater mussel populations will help heal the entire Chesapeake Bay. They need our help to make a comeback."

— Emily Franc,
Potomac Riverkeeper Network

decades of progress ... Sediment in urban and suburban stormwater runoff continues to increase."

Growing Mussels

The riverkeepers hope to reintroduce 50 million mussels to the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers by 2030, starting by propagating native mussels on the Potomac in Smoot's Cove at National Harbor. They have propagated or cultured four species: eastern floater, eastern lamp mussel, eastern pond mussel and tidewater mucket. They plan to eventually have similar projects at other Potomac River sites.

SEE BRINGING MUSSELS BACK, PAGE 11
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Chris, Bill and Eric are the heart of the station.

Chris Lambrou and his 35-year-old cactus.



PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE GAZETTE

The yellow sunflowers were such a perfect setting, these women dressed up, threw on sunhats and came back for a picture.

Loyal Customers and a 35-Year-Old Cactus are the secret at Woodlawn Auto

BY MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

At Woodlawn Auto Center, the combination of tradition, customer service, mechanical expertise and the friendliness of owner Chris Lambrou are the right formula to keep people coming back. A few years ago, Lambrou's inclination to plant flowers everywhere didn't hurt either.

Three women saw the traffic island full of bright yellow sunflowers as a good backdrop for a picture so they dressed in yellow with floppy hats and stopped to pose in

front of the flowers. "They came in for the picture," Lambrou said, and although he didn't know them, he was glad his flowers came in handy for something.

Every spring, he concentrates on a garden early on, planting the sunflowers and roses all over the place. "My regular customers appreciate it," he said.

Former Gov. George Allen was one of those customers, and a faded snapshot of Allen's visit is mounted on the wall in the office.

Lambrou has been at the garage for 40 years and has seen them come and go on the busy road out front, and over on Richmond

Highway a few doors down. The speeding cars, horns, trucks and screeching skids are all part of the daily soundtrack.

"Before they fixed the road, used to be two or three accidents a day," he said. One time there were five cars in one crash, as he remembered.

When Richmond Highway was straightened and widened in front of Fort Belvoir, that changed things, and the road right out front had another lane added.

Moving On Up

A newcomer to the garage is Bill Parsley, who started out as a

customer when he was still in the Army stationed at Fort Belvoir. He was looking for a hobby, and Jose, one of the mechanics, started teaching him here and there. "I started coming on the weekends," Parsley said.

Eventually he got out of the Army and got his license to perform safety and emissions inspections so he does now at the station. "I didn't want to just sit at home," he said.

Now that it's late March, Lambrou is focusing on the flowers he's going to start planting for the coming season. He picks up the plants from the Home Depot up the street

and other plant places in the area to add some color. "Every year," he said.

There's a cactus inside that's 35 years old, Lambrou said, and the sign out front is showing its age, but no one really knows how long it's been there. The sign does the trick and it's too expensive to replace, he added.

If you go...

Woodlawn Auto Center
5634 Mt. Vernon
Memorial Highway
Alexandria
703-780-4707
www.woodlawnautocenter.com

Environmental Expo Returns

Saturday, April 23, 2022,
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Fort Hunt Park

Come to the 4th Annual Mount Vernon District Environment Expo: Get Outdoors! Learn and Do! on Saturday, April 23, 2022, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Fort Hunt Park, 8999 Fort Hunt Road.

The Mount Vernon District office will hold the Expo in partnership with the National Park Service George Washington Memorial Parkway. Attendees will learn about the environmental and climate challenges we face on a daily basis and actions you can take to help.

Free, family friendly event including: Exhibitors, Workshops, Live Music, Live Reptile & Owl Programs, Electric Vehicles, Nature Walks, Junior Ranger Program, Recycle Right, Touch-a-Truck, CCTV Robot Demos, Purple Glass Monster (bring your glass), give-aways and more.

Live Music by Billy B the Natural Science

Song and Dance Guy. Since 1977 Bill Brennan (a.k.a. "Billy B.") has electrified children, parents, and teachers alike with his exciting style of combining environmental education and entertainment. Billy B., a trained educator turned performer, uses songs and dances which he writes and choreographs himself to teach children of all ages about natural science, ecology and the environment.

Featured workshops include: Reptile Wonders, the Secret Garden, Birds & Bees, NPS Junior Ranger Program, bird and nature walks and more.

Check out solar cooking and CTV Robot Demonstrations.

Join us next year to LEARN, ENGAGE and ACT to save our environment!

Website: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon/4th-annual-environment-expo-get-outdoors-learn-and-do>

Supervisor Dan Storck will be holding his 2nd Saturday Office Hours on the 3rd Saturday this month, April 16 from 9 – 10:30 am and 12:30 – 3pm in the Mount Vernon Office.



Billy B. is scheduled to perform at the Mount Vernon District Environmental Expo on April 23.

ENTERTAINMENT

NEW EXHIBIT AT MOUNT VERNON

George Washington's Mount Vernon unveiled an expansive and inclusive new permanent exhibition, Mount Vernon: The Story of an American Icon. The exhibition traces the rich and complex history of Mount Vernon—not only the celebrated era of George and Martha Washington, but the lesser-known stories of the enslaved community, earlier and later generations of Washingtons, and the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association (MVLA), which has preserved the property since 1860. The exhibition represents the largest reunion of original Mount Vernon objects since the dispersal of George and Martha Washington's estates in 1802.

NOW THRU APRIL 4

Outer Space. 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. At Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, 105 N Union Street, Alexandria. Extraterrestrials, galaxies, planets, and anything else beyond the sky are fair game for our artists' creativity. Themed work will be eligible for recognition by the jurors. Non-themed work will also be exhibited.

NOW THRU MAY 5

Solo Art Exhibition. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Art & Framing, 694 N. St. Asaph St., Alexandria. Art & Framing will be home to the exhibition "Works from Nature's Jewel Tones: Paintings by Kathleen Callery. The show features 20 of Callery's works. The jewel tones found in nature have been the main inspiration for these paintings--Kathleen Callery.

NOW THRU 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.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 30

Artist in Residence. 6-8 p.m. At Cafe Royal, 734 North Asaph Street, Alexandria. One-time Gazette-Packet critic Michael Kent will be the "artist in residence" at Alexandria's Cafe Royal. Kent studied art in Maine and in France. His works have been displayed in galleries, bookstores, etc in Massachusetts,



The Second Life Exhibit will be held April 1-30 at Del Ray Artisans Gallery in Alexandria.

Maryland, Georgetown, Alexandria and other Virginia locations. They can be found in private collections on three continents.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 30

Reparations at VTS. 7-8:15 p.m. Virtual event. Virtual Lecture: Reparations at VTS: Uncovering a Not So Hidden History Part II. In September 2019, Virginia Theological Seminary announced the creation of a reparations endowment fund and the intent to research, uncover, and recognize African Americans who toiled under the oppression of VTS during slavery and throughout the Jim Crow era. The March 30th lecture looks at the program's progress providing reparations to descendants since March 2021's lecture and overview. This year, Ebony Davis, will provide an update to the program and speak with one of the descendants about what the VTS reparations program has meant to their family. Register at https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_NW07M8HSRw-SakkXm1dV3Aw

THURSDAY/MARCH 31

Out of Eden. 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. at The Rectory on Princess Street, 711 Princess Street, Alexandria. A Journey Through Art Song featuring Shana Oshiro, soprano, Brian Bartoldus, piano and Jodi Beder, cello. Captivating and rarely performed art songs narrate a

journey to elevated consciousness of one's connection to the world through Love, in music by Mozart, Tchaikovsky, Massenet, Jake Heggie, Florence Price and Jasmine Barnes. Shana Oshiro is joined by pianist Brian Bartoldus for classical to contemporary songs showcasing themes of transformation, feminism, and justice. Visit the website: <https://www.classicalmovements.com/secretgardenconcerts/>

THURSDAY/MARCH 31

New York Polyphony. 7:30-9 p.m. At Immanuel Chapel, 3737 Seminary Road, Alexandria. The program will include: Crux triumphans - Loyset Compère (c. 1445-1518); Lamentations for Good Friday (Feria VI) - Francisco de Peñalosa (1470-1528); Taaveti laul - Cyrillus Kreek (1889-1962); Lamentations of Jeremiah - Thomas Crequillon (c. 1505-1557); Lamentations of Jeremiah I - Andrew Smith (b. 1970) composed for New York Polyphony; Officium de Cruce - Loyset Compère (c. 1445-1518). Visit the website: vts.edu

APRIL 1-30

Second Life Exhibit. 6 p.m. Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday; 9 p.m. Friday. At Del Ray Artisans gallery in the Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. The "Second Life" exhibit features art made with recycled materials. Workshops and events are also

scheduled throughout the month. Details: delrayartisans.org/calendar/#event=second-life

APRIL 1 TO JUNE 5

"SeeWorthy" Exhibit. At Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union Street, Studio #9, Alexandria. View ship construction through the eyes of maritime archaeologists in SeeWorthy, a new exhibit from Alexandria Archaeology highlighting the technology used to digitally reconstruct historic vessels. Recent development along the waterfront has led to significant discoveries by archaeologists, including the remains of four historic ships. These remnants have been laser scanned to create models showing what they would have looked like in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

SATURDAY/APRIL 2

Garden Talk - Prune Like a Pro. 10:30-11:30 a.m. At Green Spring Gardens, Alexandria. (16-Adult) This is a great chance for people who are reluctant pruners to learn the basics! Extension Master Gardener docents will show you the timing, techniques and equipment to prune your trees and shrubs. Bring a pruner and work gloves to practice outside, weather permitting. After this session, you will have the confidence to successfully prune your trees and shrubs. \$10 per person. Code HWECA4Q. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

SATURDAY/APRIL 2

ALX Dog Walk. Check-in from 7 to 7:45 a.m.; walk from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. At Oronoco Bay Park, 100 Madison St., Alexandria. Come join the inaugural two-mile ALX Dog Walk along the breathtaking waterfront walk in historic Old Town Alexandria. Walkers and their pooches (or without a pooch) follow the waterfront trail in Oronoco Bay Park in Old Town, head toward the Robinson Landing Pier, where they will parade by a judging panel for fun prizes, and then return to the park for an awards celebration hosted by Monte Durham of "Say Yes to the Dress Atlanta," plus music, hundreds of dogs, treats and more.

SATURDAY/APRIL 2

Used Book Sale: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Selection of over 20,000 gently used children's books, fiction, history, biography, home and garden, cooking, crafts, sports, religion, travel, CDs, DVDs, and more. Unless specially priced, \$1 for hard backs, 50 cents for large

paperbacks, and 25 cents for mass market paperbacks. Visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-sherwood-regional>.

APRIL 2 TO MAY 1

Cherry Blossom Exhibition. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union Street, Alexandria. Art lovers are encouraged to stop by the Torpedo Factory Art Center throughout April to view floral art displayed on all three floors. Participating artists will display their most colorful spring and cherry-blossom-inspired works in their studios from Saturday, April 2 until Sunday, May 1. Torpedo Factory Art Center is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Masks are required for all visitors regardless of vaccination status. Visit torpedofactory.org.

APRIL 2 TO JUNE 12

MVUC Greenhouse Plant Sale. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Weekends only. At Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. The Annual Spring Plant Sale at the MVUC Greenhouse opens April 2 and 3, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., weekends only. They have a variety of vegetables and flowers for sale again this year. Lots of regular and heirloom tomatoes and not-too-hot peppers (more than 20 different varieties) as well as some of your favorite perennials, annuals, and herbs. Visit the lovely, old greenhouse and buy some new plants for your spring garden.

TUESDAY/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.

THURSDAY/APRIL 7

Joseph Ellis: The Cause: The American Revolution and its Discontents 1773-1783. 7 p.m. At George Washington's Mount Vernon. One of the most celebrated historians of the Revolutionary era brings personal stories to life in this landmark work. Cost: \$60 individual lecture/\$175 series. Discount for members. For more information and to register visit mountvernon.org.

Poignant Comedy Has One Weekend Left at ACCT

FROM PAGE 1

you have lost or what never was. It's harder to see what is alive in front of you and that is what this relationship represents - embracing the here and now, letting go of the before and navigating forward."

Rounding out the trip of friends is Janice Zucker as Doris.

"Doris is the only one who wants to keep up this 'Cemetery Club,'" Zucker said. "Lucille has totally

moved on since her husband's death and Ida is about to move on from hers but Doris is still stuck in the past with her late husband Abe. I hope that audiences will see that even though someone close to you has died, they are never gone from your mind and your heart."

Kirk Lambert is Sam, the local butcher, who meets the ladies at the cemetery and is immediately pounced upon by Lucille. But it is

Ida that captures Sam's attention and their budding romance threatens the women's friendship.

"Sam is a reserved, decent, honest fellow who is dealing with the age-old challenges of trying to move on after losing a spouse," Lambert said. "He is torn between the feelings of grief, sorrow, and the guilt and fear of beginning a relationship with someone new."

"The Cemetery Club" is co-pro-

duced by Charles Dragonette and directed by Ruben Vellekoop. Meredith Garagiola plays Mildred, a wedding date for Sam.

"The Cemetery Club is an ideal production for our loyal audience looking to our tradition of entertainment, and for lovers of solid theater who are increasingly discovering that we've grown beyond neighborhood boundaries," Dragonette said.

Added Vellekoop, "Hopefully,

audiences will understand that everyone moves on in their own tempo and that's okay. And don't go to bed angry: stay up and fight."

"The Cemetery Club" is playing March 25 through April 10 at Aldersgate Church Community Theatre, 1301 Collingwood Road. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. For tickets or more information, visit www.acctonline.org.

Bringing Mussels Back

FROM PAGE 8

Propagating mussels requires understanding one of the most complex reproductive systems in nature. Males release sperm which the current carries to a downstream female who draws it in through her siphon. A fertilized egg develops within her gills into the microscopic larval stage called a glochidium. Once mature, the glochidia enter the water column and attach to the gills, fins or scales of freshwater fish, so the fish serves as a host or "taxi" for the mussel's eggs. The glochidia then encyst into the fish's tissue. Still microscopic, the juvenile mussel drops off the fish and begins its life on the stream bottom.

At the Smoot's Cove nursery, Potomac Riverkeeper Network project managers put striped bass and yellow perch carrying microscopic mussels in six cages in hopes that the baby mussels will drop into the cages and grow. They submerge the cages underwater to within one foot of the riverbed.

The floating cages are designed to catch baby mussels as they fall out of the fish's gills and avoid being suffocated by sediment buildup. So far, managers have not found young mussels in the cages, but they suspect that waves and current moved them out and that the mussels are on the river bottom. They hope to send scuba divers down in the fall to search the riverbed for mussels that

likely escaped the cages in recent months. They have found damage to some of the cages and suspect that otters or large birds may have torn into them. The demonstration project will also help develop the most effective type of cage and locate other suitable sites for mussel nurseries.

Managers hope that the Smoot's Cove 10-year project can be a national demonstration center and that the mussel population will eventually become self-sustaining.

In addition to the Peterson Companies/National Harbor, other partners are the Joseph Manning Hatchery in Charles County, Maryland, Oasis Marinas, Underwater Adventure Seekers and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Potomac Riverkeeper Network will expand partnerships to other organizations, including nonprofits.

Mussel restoration projects are also underway on the Anacostia and James rivers and in southwest Virginia.

Franc loves the challenge: "Centuries of human impacts overwhelmed and decimated these once vibrant freshwater mussel populations," she says. "We have the opportunity to reverse the damage and get mussels back in the water to do what they do best, clean the water. Recovering our nearly extinct freshwater mussel populations will help heal the entire Chesapeake Bay. They need our help to make a comeback."



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- 3/16/2022.....A+ Camps & Schools
- 3/23/2022.....Senior Living
- 3/30/2022.....Spring Family Fun

APRIL

- 4/6/2022.....Wellbeing
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- 4/20/2022.....A+ Camps & Schools
- 4/27/2022.....Senior Living

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**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
FOR THE PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND
DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR THE
PROPOSED AREA DEVELOPMENT PLAN AT JOINT BASE MYER-HENDERSON
HALL, WASHINGTON, D.C.**

Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall (JBM-HH) hereby gives Notice of the Availability (NOA) for the Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) for the potential environmental and cultural effects associated with the implementation of an approved Area Development Plan (ADP) for installation-wide improvements. JBM-HH's ADP includes the construction and addition of new buildings, building complexes, building expansions and additions, utility upgrades, road improvements, and an increase in the overall workforce.

The ADP updates two previous ADPs into a consolidated JBM-HH ADP. This ADP will support the Real Property Master Plan (RPMP) by providing a cohesive comprehensive plan of connected system networks. These networks include transportation networks, streetscapes, the built environment, shared open space, utilities, and other systems. The proposed improvements are required for JBM-HH to retain its historic character while modernizing its infrastructure to establish a safe, secure, sustainable, and compact community that is both responsive to the mission and adaptive to the evolving needs of the Military District of Washington (MDW) and the National Capital Region (NCR). The installation-wide improvements would also preserve the historic legacy of iconic buildings and landscapes while embracing modernization, improving pedestrian circulation, and integrating with the surrounding community in a safe and secure environment. In 2017, ADPs were prepared for the individual campuses of Fort Myer-Henderson Hall (M-HH) and Fort McNair (McNair). In 2021, the individual ADPs were updated and consolidated into a single ADP for both campuses. This PEA has been prepared to identify, evaluate, and consider the environmental consequences of the implementation of the consolidated ADP in accordance with NEPA and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations.

JBM-HH is located in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area and composed of Fort Myer, Henderson Hall, and Fort McNair. JBM-HH was created from the administrative reorganization of the Fort Myer Military Community (Fort Myer and Fort McNair) and the Marine Corps installation at Henderson Hall as part of the Congressionally mandated DoD Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Act of 2005. Fort Myer and Henderson Hall are contiguous and located in Arlington, Virginia, adjacent to Arlington National Cemetery (ANC). Fort McNair is located in southwest Washington, D.C., on the peninsula of Greenleaf Point (in the neighborhood known as Buzzard Point), at the confluence of the Washington Channel of the Potomac River and the Anacostia River. JBM-HH encompasses approximately 380 acres (152 hectares) including Fort Myer at 243 acres (97 hectares), Henderson Hall at 29 acres (12 hectares), and Fort McNair at 107 acres (43 hectares). Installation management responsibilities for all three sites is the responsibility of U.S. Army Garrison JBM-HH headquartered in Building 59 on Fort Myer, and integration of functions and services between all three sites has occurred to provide more efficient support of the on-installation and regional populations.

The PEA has been prepared in accordance with the regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the NEPA, (Public Law 91-190, 42 USC 4321-4347 January 1, 1970), amendments, and the Army's Implementing Regulations (32 CFR Part 651, Environmental Analysis of Army Actions). The PEA is available to view in printed form at the Arlington Central Public Library, the D.C. Southwest Neighborhood Library, and the JBM-HH Environmental Division-Directorate of Public Works Building 321, located at 111 Stewart Road or to view/download electronically at the <https://home.army.mil/jbmhh/index.php/teamJBMHH/about/Base/environmental-management-division-website>.

Comments or questions on the PEA and Draft FNSI may be directed in writing to: Ms. Kelly Whitton, Environmental Management Division, Directorate of Public Works, 111 Stewart Road, Building 321, Fort Myer, VA 22211-1199 or by email to: JBMHH_NEPA@usace.army.mil, Subject: Draft PEA. Comments must be received no later than 30 days after publication of this NOA.

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NEWS

'Anastasia'

Bishop Ireton production to aid Ukrainian refugees.

Musical theater returns to the Bishop Ireton High School stage with the spring production of *Anastasia*, marking the school's first in-person musical since March 2019.

"*Anastasia*, the story of a girl in search of home, love and belonging, is timeless and not limited to the play's setting," said Bishop Ireton Head of School Kathleen McNutt. "The current conflict in the Ukraine reminds us of the gift of life, freedom and family, and these valued themes are reinforced in *Anastasia's* journey. This play and current events remind us to appreciate the challenges that each one of us faces daily."

The Bishop Ireton cast, crew and administration recognize that the Russian setting of this play is a reminder of the current conflict in Ukraine, and will donate a portion of all ticket sales to Catholic Relief Services for the humanitarian efforts to assist Ukrainian refugees.

Performances take place April 1, 2, 8, and 9 at 7 p.m. and April 3 at 2 p.m. at the Garwood Whaley Auditorium at Bishop Ireton High School, Cambridge Road. Tickets are \$10 per person and available at the door or at bishopireton.org/tickets.

-JEANNE THEISMANN



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Students rehearse for the Bishop Ireton High School production of *Anastasia*, opening this weekend at the Garwood Whaley Auditorium on the school's campus. Proceeds will go to support humanitarian relief efforts for Ukrainian refugees.

"The current conflict in the Ukraine reminds us of the gift of life, freedom and family."

— Bishop Ireton Head of School Kathleen McNutt

BULLETIN BOARD

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

SATURDAY/APRIL 23

Sen. Mark Warner will host his annual Academy Day on Saturday, April 23, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This is a virtual event that will be hosted on Acelevents.

The event will offer students, their parents or guardians, and school counselors a comprehensive overview of the United States service academies and their admission processes.

Attendees will have the opportunity to join breakout sessions with representatives from the United States service academies for presentations and an interactive question and answer period. On the main stage, you will hear from representatives from the Virginia congressional delegation about the application procedures for congressional nominations to the academies as well as speakers from the Department of Defense Medical Examina-

tion Review Board, the University of Virginia ROTC programs, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets, the Virginia Military Institute, and the Virginia Women's Institute for Leadership at Mary Baldwin University. There will also be time to speak in more detail with many of these representatives at their virtual resource tables.

Information on the nomination process for the service academies is available on the Senator's website at www.warner.senate.gov. You may email academy_noms@warner.senate.gov with any questions.

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 donaledge@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

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NEWS

Beloved Cancel Culture

FROM PAGE 5

been challenged across the country.

"In recent years, our schools are becoming a minefield of vulgar, sexually explicit, graphically violent and controversially themed books in the curriculum, classroom collections and libraries," said PABBIS leader Kathy Stohr at the time. "The term minefield is especially appropriate because the student is not aware until the material is right in his face, and then it is too late."

Mychele Brickner, Fairfax County School Board chairwoman at the time, hoped the issue of controversial books would be a springboard to higher office, and she launched a campaign for chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. The chairmanship was open in 2013, and Brickner hoped concerns over inappropriate books in schools might provide a path to victory. But her campaign fizzled out when her opponent, Supervisor Gerry Connolly, turned the issue against her and was elected with a huge margin of victory.

"I can show you sections of the Bible that ought to be banned in schools," said Connolly during the campaign. "I just don't think government ought to be in the business of telling you or me what we should read or what our children should read."

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 12

Learning Center teacher aides, basic needs counselors, youth tutors and mentors, office administration/data entry, and community outreach. Flexible hours and schedules. Opportunities for all ages to serve, including community service hours. More info at ucmagency.org/volunteer-opportunities or email volunteer@ucmagency.org. Operation Paws for Homes, a Virginia based 501(c)(3) organization seeks volunteers, especially to foster dogs. See www.ophrescue.org for information and all volunteer opportunities.

RSVP a volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older. RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, email Carly

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Obituary

Obituary



Joan F. Beach was born on April 5th 1930 in Hopewell, Virginia, and passed away after a long illness on March 17th 2022 at the age of 91. She was married to George (Froggy) Beach until his passing in 1997, and is survived by her loving son, Stephen. She took great pleasure in her family, home, friends and neighbors and will be greatly missed. A Committal Service and Interment will be held at Bethel Cemetery on Friday, April 1st at 1pm.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Joan's name may be made to Alley Cat Allies, King Street Cats, Animal Welfare League of Alexandria, or another animal charity of your choice. Please visit www.everlywheatley.com for more details and to sign the virtual guest book.

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Why Me? Why Now?



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I am not “woeing.” I am wondering. Why am I getting messages from my primary care physician concerning the need for my having an “advanced directive?” For those of you who don’t know what an ‘advanced directive’ is, the short answer is: it’s a set of instructions you want a significant person/people to have in hand when push comes to shove; and as a formerly (perhaps still) “terminal” cancer patient, I could get shoved at any time. The question remains: When I no longer can speak for myself, literally, do I want a document in place which speaks for me? If I don’t have such a document in place, my peaceful transition might be anything but.

Some of you may be more familiar with a less formal but nonetheless effective expression of your intent called a “D.N.R.,” “do not resuscitate.” An order to whomever: doctors, lawyers, family, friends, emergency medical personnel who might be summoned to your house/ place of business, et cetera. It means no life-saving measures shall be performed on the patient. Let the patient succumb to his or her condition/affliction. An “advanced directive” ratches up this wish to an entirely new level. It clarifies for all interested parties exactly what the patient wants to happen to him when he’s incapable of making his wishes known. No guessing. No disagreements. No equivocation whatsoever. Clarity and direction – from the dying patient.

Not that I think my doctor is prescient in some way or is reading my medical tea leaves per se, still; as prudent as having an “advanced directive” or a “D.N.R. or a Power of Attorney in place is, it does give one, especially this one, pause. Not that my doctor knows anything particularly time-sensitive/time-relevant about my condition, but he does know an awful lot more than I do about all things medical. And he also knows how it all fits together in ways that I certainly don’t. What I know could fit on the diaphragm of a stethoscope. Moreover, he understands context and timing and the evolution of my health issues as they progress. I have no doubt that he’ll know when I’m heading south before I do.

As I consider this underlying reality, what indication might I receive – from him, that my cancer has taken a turn for the worse? Oh, I don’t know. What about multiple emails encouraging me to gather and complete documents that will assist Team Lourie when my final bell has rung. “For whom the bell tolls?” It tolls for thee, as in me. If it looks like a duck and quacks like a duck, it must be a duck. If I’m being advised – by my doctor no less, to get my things in order, which is pretty much what an “advanced directive” is, then perhaps I shouldn’t duck my responsibilities and go ahead and advance my directives?

On the contrary, if this email about a directive was not directed at me specifically, but rather a courtesy advisory to an entire patient population of a certain age, then I can live with that. My question is though: for how long?

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

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NEWS



PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE GAZETTE

Supervisor Dan Storck with officers and cadets from the Mount Vernon station.

Mount Vernon Pets Ruled at This Fourth Annual Event

FROM PAGE 1

(D-Mount Vernon) organized and he had to cancel it the last two years because of the pandemic, but he liked the look of all the smiling dog owners this year. “Please make your rounds and break out of the covid funk,” he said.

Storck estimated there were a couple of hundred dogs each year. “People love it,” added his Chief of Staff Christine Morin.

A newcomer to the scene was Reasa Currier who recently took over as Director of Fairfax County Animal Shelters. She noted the animal projects in the county including the new shelter that’s being built in Lorton that’s scheduled to open in the summer of 2023. “It’s exciting,” Currier said.

Ides of Bark was set up at the Grist Mill Park where there’s also a dog park. The Fairfax County Police Department had about eight officers on duty, directing traffic and



“Blue,” a rescue Dalmatian noses around at the park.

parking. The Humane Society was there along with a Doberman Pinscher Rescue Group, McGruff the Crime Dog and others handing out dog treats to all the participants.

One nearby resident had a Greyhound rescue dog from one of the few dog race tracks left in the country. “Blue,” was the dog’s name and his fur had a blue brindle pattern. “He retired from West Virginia,” his owner said.

Dog racing has been on the decline due to concerns about the treatment of the racing dogs. According to the Humane Society, racing greyhounds endure lives of confinement, are subject to standard practices that

are cruel and suffer injuries and even death. Greyhounds used for racing are kept in cages, barely large enough for them to stand up or turn around, for up to 23 hours per day, the Humane Society of the United States said on their website.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 13

Hubicki at chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-403- 5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit www.rsvpnova.org.

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

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

www.volunteerfairfax.org or call 703-246-3460.

The Northern Virginia Long Term Care Ombudsman Program needs volunteer advocates for residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Contact Lisa Callahan at 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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.



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