

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

MAY 12, 2022

Community Center Opens in the Buckman Road Area

It's more than just basketball courts and shuffleboard though.



County officials cut the ribbon.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

There's an oversized chess set on the second floor of the new Lee District Community Center that is used to show the importance of making the right move. Making the right move in life is one of the lessons stressed by the center's Workforce Development and Training curriculum that this Mount Vernon facility will provide for students that live in the area.

"Chess requires patience," said Crystal Woodley, an instructor at the center. "We use chess to teach kids how to think on their feet," she added.

This was just part of the positive vibe that was in the air on Saturday, May 7 as local officials gathered with residents and others to cut the ribbon on a place where nearby residents can find opportunities and gather life skills. The building was originally the Mount Vernon Athletic Club and when it closed, Fairfax County purchased the facility in May 2020 with plans to establish a multi-service center in the Buckman Road area on the west side of Richmond Highway in Alexandria. The County made several improvements to the facility in the areas of basic accessibility, safety, and community use updates. In addition to providing recreation, the community center is also the site of the Workforce Innovation Skills Hub (W.I.S.H.), a workforce training and development center.

"Opening the door today is just

the beginning," said Supervisor Rodney Lusk (D-Lee) who was there with other officials such as Chairman Jeff McKay; U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11); David Levins, CEO at Good Shepherd Housing; Bryan Hill, Fairfax County Executive; Lloyd Tucker, Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services; and others.

Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck (D) couldn't make it because one of his grandchildren was being born; he was with family.

"The W.I.S.H. will provide residents with training and job placement in the building trades and in-demand tech jobs," Lusk said. The center is the first step.

McKay grew up around that area and noted how it was not a wealthy area at that time, but as a child he didn't realize it. "We didn't have some of the opportunities of other kids in the county," he said. With job training opportunities and a place to go after school, the area children might have some other options. "Maybe even change the trajectory of their life from activities in this center," he said.

"It's also going to bring us together as a community," added Connolly.

Nearby resident Jawara McNeil agreed. "It will bring more interaction with the people in this neighborhood," he said, "I think it's necessary."

Inside the WISH

The structure has a curved roof, and the main room offers basketball, weight machines and room



Crystal Woodley in the Highway University Lab.

for other big-space activities. Off on the side, doors lead to another space where there is a locker room, a second-floor observation room and a few activity rooms. In one of the activity rooms, called the "Highway University Lab," there are instruments, an audio system and green screen for video exercises.

"Creative ways to introduce careers," said Woodley.

One of the halls was converted to a hang-out space where there is a mural done by Eddie Harris, an artist that lives on Janna Lee Avenue, and college pennants on the wall for inspiration. The students could picture themselves going to those schools, and education is a goal of the WISH center.



Lessons include life strategies so a chess game is used to teach the importance of making the right move.



Keiva Small-Mings paints a "Growing Together" picture for the center.



Chairman Jeff McKay grew up near the community center.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/GAZETTE

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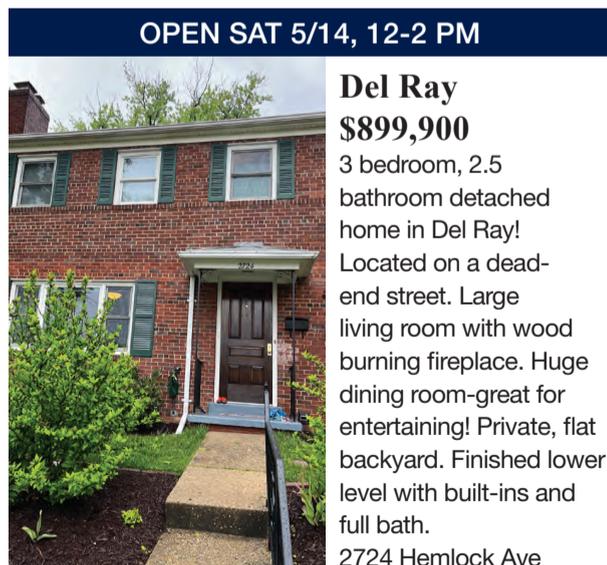
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Taking on Beyer

Five Republican candidates seek nomination in convention to challenge incumbent congressman.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Usually Republicans have to recruit candidates to run against four-term U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8). Not this year. Five Republicans are seeking the Republican nomination for the 8th Congressional District in a convention later this month. On the campaign trail, the G.O.P. candidates are calling for a prominent public health official to be jailed, undocumented immigrants to be deported, public education to be privatized and controversial issues to be banished from the classroom.

"These are make-a-statement candidates, playing to a small far-right base in that district," said Mark Rozell, dean of the Schar School of Policy and Government at George Mason University. "The real race for Congress in this district is always the Democratic nomination, the outcome of which is tantamount to election in November."

Beyer will be facing challenger Victoria Virasingh in the June 21 primary. Instead of choosing their candidate in a primary, though, Republicans will select their nominee in a May 28 convention at the Waterford Events Center in Springfield. The field includes immigrants from the Soviet Union and South Korea as well as an unsuccessful congressional candidate from the last election cycle. Most of the candidates are self-funded.

"I doubt the GOP will put any money in this race," said Rozell. "Why waste it when there are real competitive races in Virginia this year?"

KARINA LIPSOM has raised the most money out of the candidates, more than \$60,000. Her top contributor is Brian Johnson, vice president of Veterans Guardian, a consulting firm that helps veterans file for disability benefits. Lipsman has a bachelor's degree from Towson University in 2009 and a graduate degree from Johns Hopkins University in 2012. She arrived in this country as a refugee from the Soviet Union, surviving on food stamps and living in low-income housing in Baltimore. She says she's running for Congress to bring change to the country and the district. During a recent candidates forum, she called for the detention of the longtime director of the National Institute of Allergy and In-



Left to right: Karina Lipsom, Kezia Tunnell, Heerak Christian Kim, Jeff Jordan and Monica Carpio.

fectious Diseases, Anthony Fauci.

"Fauci should be jailed. We all know that," said Lipsman, prompting applause during a recent meeting of the Alexandria City Republican Committee. "We should do our own research."

Fauci has become a hated figure among certain elements of the right wing. During a recent rally in North Carolina, U.S. Rep. Madison Cawthorn (R-N.C.) also called for Fauci to be jailed. Similarly, U.S. Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-Ga.) introduced the Fire Fauci Act, which suggests the chief medical advisor to the president "failed to provide Americans with accurate information" about the pandemic. She also called for members of the Alexandria School Board to be "fired" in reaction to an alleged sexual assault involving students at the Minnie Howard campus of Alexandria City Public High School.

"We've seen it right there at Minnie Howard High School in October when the School Board and everyone associated decided to cover up an assault on a young lady, and it wasn't exposed until March of this year," said Lipsman. "Everyone on that board should be fired."

HEERAK CHRISTIAN KIM is a registered nurse who is a native of South Korea. He routinely calls himself the "MAGA America First candidate," and his website declares that he is the "Leonardo Da Vinci of our generation." He has a bachelor's degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1990, a graduate degree from UCLA in 1991 and a graduate degree from Georgetown University in 2020. He says he's running to improve

FUNDRAISING INFORMATION

KARINA LIPSOM
 ❖ total receipts: \$60,341
 ❖ total disbursements: \$16,992
 ❖ cash on hand: \$43,349

TOP CONTRIBUTORS
 ❖ \$5,800 from Brian Johnson, vice president of Veterans Guardian
 ❖ \$3,250 from Charlie Platt, cybersecurity consultant at Arete Incident Response
 ❖ \$2,900 from Graham Abell, student in Baltimore
 ❖ \$2,900 from Thomas Henry, owner of Henry Wealth Management
 ❖ \$2,900 from Neil Patel, director of Neil Patel Consulting

HEERAK CHRISTIAN KIM
 ❖ total receipts: \$12,800
 ❖ total disbursements: \$11,241
 ❖ cash on hand: \$1,623

TOP CONTRIBUTOR
 ❖ \$12,400 loan from the candidate

JEFF JORDAN
 ❖ total receipts: \$9,125
 ❖ total disbursements: \$9,125
 ❖ cash on hand: \$0

TOP CONTRIBUTOR
 ❖ \$9,125 loan from the candidate

MONICA CARPIO
 total receipts: \$8,438
 total disbursements: \$8,165
 cash on hand: \$273

TOP CONTRIBUTORS
 \$5,000 from the candidate
 \$1,288 from Joseph Messina, finance manager at Koons Ford
 \$1,000 from Jorge Carpio, retired

KEZIA TUNNELL
 total receipts: \$0
 total disbursements: \$0
 cash on hand: \$0

education, healthcare and governmental services. When asked about immigration at a recent candidates forum, Kim called for mil-

lions of undocumented immigrants to be forcibly removed from the country.

"I want to build that wall,

strengthen the borders and deport 13 million illegals who are already in America," said Kim. "Your grandchildren will pay for them if we do not deport them back to their country."

During a recent candidates forum, he said critical race theory and "LGBT grooming" are "forced upon the classroom." He said America is "plagued by fake news," adding that he trusts news sources like One America News, Newsmax and Fox News. If elected, he says, he would try to eliminate the H-1B visa program, which allows U.S. employers to temporarily employ foreign workers to specialty occupations. He routinely posts images of a Confederate flag on his social media accounts to make a point about free speech.

"Virginians have a right to fly their Confederate flag at their homes without being persecuted, without being fired from their job," said Kim. "They have the right to celebrate their cultural heritage."

JEFF JORDAN is seeking a second nomination to run in the 8th Congressional District. Two years ago, he was the Republican nominee to run against Beyer, and he received 24 percent of the vote. He served in the U.S. Army from 1998 to 2014, and he earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Montana in 1999 and a graduate degree from National Intelligence University in 2012. If elected, he says, he will work to defeat "the immoral and unjust ideology of socialism."

"Do not forgive student loan debt," said Jordan. "You will see a drastic decrease in the number of Humanities majors, and the cost of those majors."

Jordan says he's inspired by the writings of Ayn Rand, and that he's spent his life fighting against "the socialist left." He says progressives want to erase history and make people dependent on government, adding that the left "has a hard time defining what a woman is." If elected, he says, he would eliminate government programs that incentivize people who avoid work. When asked about education, Jordan said the federal government should play "no role."

"We need to move our education system to the private sector. We need to privatize it," said Jordan. "Make it a market-based system."

MONICA CARPIO is a stay-at-home parent, economist and politician. SEE FIVE REPUBLICAN, PAGE 14

Maps Tell Stories of the Past

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

“People have been making maps of the Mount Vernon area for four centuries and maps convey more than pictures,” Kevin Green began as he shared images of his historic map collection with 60 history buffs at the May 3 meeting of the Mount Vernon Regional Historical Society at Sherwood Hall Regional Library. “I’m obsessed with maps,” he said.

Green has owned the Virginia Florist in the Belle View Shopping Center since 2000 and today has reproductions of around 12 historic maps of the local area for sale amid the hundreds of gifts and flowers that fill the shop.

Noting that men generally do not buy gifts as readily as women, Green quipped that he started selling maps “to get men to the store. It worked like a charm,” he told the group.

Significant U.S. History Is Everywhere Locally

The Mount Vernon area is the most historic part of the United States except perhaps Manhattan and Charleston, South Carolina, Green believes. To make his point, he explained that English explorer Captain John Smith sailed up the Potomac River, mapped the area and “chatted up the Indians.”

The country’s first president, General George Washington, and his wife Martha, lived on the Mount Vernon estate. The General led the American colonies to independence in the Revolutionary War and chose Washington as the nation’s capital city.

Among the many local, historic tidbits Green shared were these:



Inside the Virginia Florist, the shop sells flowers, soaps, jewelry, candles, cards and more.



Kevin Green, the Virginia Florist owner, and the 1862 Sneden map.

- ❖ Arcturus Cove on the Potomac near today’s Wellington Community was a seasonal Native American campsite.

- ❖ In 1810, a causeway crossed Hunting Creek from Alexandria to Fairfax County where U.S. 1 is today.

- ❖ The first crossing of Little Hunting Creek was built in 1936 near today’s Gum Springs community.

- ❖ Collingwood Road is the oldest road in the area. Fort Hunt Road was once called “Neck Road.”

- ❖ Across from today’s Wayneswood in the low, “beachy area” along the Potomac shoreline, Clifton’s Ferry was established in 1745, but no one ever used it because without roads, it was diffi-



An 1862 map of Alexandria and Hunting Creek by New Yorker Robert Sneden, the busiest (and often mistaken) Union mapmaker of the Civil War. Shuter’s Hill is the site of today’s Masonic Memorial, west of the Alexandria train station.



Mature trees destroyed by developer Evergreene near the Belle View Shopping Center.

SEE MAPS TELL, PAGE 5



The 1890 map by Peter Hains (later Hains Point’s namesake) that first proposed, here in solid and broken red lines, alternate routes for the National Road from Washington to Mount Vernon, 42 years later realized as the Mount Vernon Parkway. Hellhole Swamp is today called Dyke Marsh.



Early Dutch map based on Captain John Smith’s 1608 chart of the Potomac River showing Native American villages.



John Savage’s 1737 map of the Potomac River, showing Piscataway and Hunting Creeks, Alexandria, the sites of the Washington and Fairfax family homes (“Belvoir”) and, above the Eastern Branch, the future location of the nation’s capital. “Eastern Branch” refers to the Potomac River, today’s Anacostia River.

PHOTOS BY
GLENDA BOOTH

Maps Tell Stories of the Past

FROM PAGE 4

cult to access. Washington created Posey's Ferry near today's Ferry Landing neighborhood.

❖ A mid-1800s map shows Dyke Marsh as "Hell Hole."

❖ Peter Jefferson, father of third U.S. president Thomas, made a map of Virginia.

Green shared a 1776 map that had few roads but showed what he called "Indian paths." Rivers and streams are prominent on many old maps. "Rivers were the roads of the day until the 1800s," he said.

French military commander Rochambeau, who collaborated with Washington and led French expeditionary forces in the Revolutionary War, drew maps of villages and his camps from Newport, Rhode Island, to Yorktown, Virginia, including areas near today's Telegraph Road and the former village of Old Colchester.

An 1862 map of Alexandria and environs by Robert Sneden "misplaced" Gunston Hall, home of George and Sarah Mason, siting it just south of Hunting Creek, 10 miles north of its actual location.

During the Civil War, the local area was a "no man's land," Green said, because Fairfax County voted "to be associated with the Union" and did not secede. Union troops occupied Alexandria. An 1861 Union intelligence map shows Mount Vernon-area homes designed with a "U" for "Union sympathizer" or an "S" for "secessionist." Today's Belle View area and Fairchild Park near U.S. 1 were both sites of Union encampments.

An 1890 map, four feet by 15 inches by Peter Hains, shows plans for what was called "the national road" from Washington, D. C., to Mount Vernon Estate, a road that was never built, but superseded by a streetcar line in 1892 where 22 trains ran up and down its tracks daily. In 1932, the first segment



Roxanna Diaz and Ledis Reyes, designers, and Green readying flowers in the shop.



Green discussed a 1753 map of Virginia by Joshua Fry and Peter Jefferson, Thomas Jefferson's father. It shows the Potomac River north of today's Prince William County to today's Theodore Roosevelt Island (Mason's Island) and Maryland creeks.

of the Mount Vernon Parkway replaced the streetcar line.

A Local Returned

Green grew up on Fort Hunt Road in the Hollin Hall subdivision, graduated from high school

in Connecticut and got a bachelor's degree from Eisenhower College in Seneca Falls, New York, and a master's in business administration from William and Mary. Armed with a journalism major, he worked

SEE MAPS TELL, PAGE 10

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'Don't Just Sit There'

Many of us viewed the Washington Post's folding of its week-day Express news digest as a reflection of its new ownership, but surely Washington City Paper's decision to cease publishing its print edition and transition to on-line only with a smaller staff sent shudders down the spine of every weekly in the Washington metropolitan area.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Connection Newspapers cannot just sit there waiting for the shoe to fall for the country's oldest newspaper in continuous publication. You have to do something — not just any something — the right something, that recognizes that print is still relevant and the public still needs it, maybe now more so than ever in a polity beset by algorithmically driven division which is causing some observers to worry about the polity sundering into civil strife or even civil war.

"A physical paper has a presence in the community in a way that a website just doesn't," insists former Loose Lips writer Will Sommer. Former City Paper

intern Reginold Royston laments, "With everything being so digital and competing for your attention through streams of data or media, you lose something that is tangible, static ... that cements the conversation ... you can get that by the immediacy of commenting and blogs, but our attention span moves way too quickly now. And we move through news way too quickly. ... [But] with something that sits around and demands your attention with something that's tangible, with these great images, photographs, that's what we've lost. We've lost the ability to have a common conversation in one space and there being an object of that conversation. Now ... everything is overwhelming us."

Former staffer Eddie Dean lamented, "Good night, sweet print. You were a blast while it lasted."

Former editor Jack Shafer, though, took a longer view; he has "been waiting for this to happen for a long time because so many of the other papers in the country have fallen. Mortality seems to have been built into these papers, and they have expired as both a cultural and as a business force."

He is "sure that people were really upset when horse and buggies departed," but sees City Paper's print edition's demise as "an inevitable end."

Print newspapers will meet "an inevitable end" only if they fail to rise to the challenge which technology and the changed business practices it has wrought pose. Of all the great technological advances in the 19th and 20th Centuries, Time-Life and several other sources ranked Johannes Gutenberg's printing press in the 15th Century as the most influential invention of the Millennium. Nothing better exemplifies the public role of the written word than the printed newspaper which brings a diverse society together in a common cultural, commercial, and social platform helmed by journalists who take seriously an ethical responsibility to report news and strive to keep opinion and perspective in editorials and op-eds where they belong. In trying to emulate on-line platforms, many of which blur news, analysis, and opinion, many newspapers have sacrificed objectivity, while online media turn objectivity into a bad business practice because advertising

revenue requires algorithmically driven bias-confirmation against which an on-line only news site which attempts to maintain objectivity cannot successfully compete.

Newspapers, especially those like local weeklies most vulnerable to the trend which has claimed City Paper's print product, owe both themselves and their loyal readers more than waiting like deer in the headlights for the next shoe to fall. Newspapers are still needed -- they are not obsolete, but their business model of relying on dwindling sources of advertising revenues, when advertisers can find cheaper, more effective on-line tools to target consumers, might be obsolete.

Newspapers may need to explore becoming charitable non-profits, still deriving advertising revenue, but covering losses with tax-deductible contributions. Because doing so may require adjustments to tax and incorporation laws, newspapers need to start planning now for new ways to support their continuing existence for the reading public they serve.

Dino Drudi
Alexandria

Within the Framework of the Constitution

This letter from Chairman Jeff McKay to Gov. Glenn Yougkin concerning homes of Supreme Court Justices in Fairfax County is shared with our readers:

Dear Governor Youngkin,

Thank you for your letter and our conversations regarding the recent and anticipated demonstrations at the homes of Supreme Court Justices residing in Fairfax County.

As you may be aware, both pro-life and pro-choice gatherings have occurred at Justice Samuel Alito's home over the last several days. On each of these two occasions, the groups peacefully assembled for a matter of minutes and self-dispersed without incident.

Our Fairfax County Police Department remains committed to keeping the Justices, their families, the affected neighborhoods, and demonstrators safe. We will enforce laws that serve to protect persons and property. Our police officers are equally committed to protecting the First Amendment

guarantees afforded to those who gather to exercise their freedom of speech. These two endeavors are not mutually exclusive.

Your suggestion to establish a "perimeter" for the purpose of "limiting unauthorized vehicle and pedestrian access" to neighborhoods surrounding the homes of the Justices is paramount to a checkpoint that federal courts have held violates the Fourth Amendment. There are obvious First Amendment concerns as well.

Our well-trained, sophisticated Fairfax County Police Department stands ready as always to take necessary action, if needed, to protect public safety. They do this without consideration of politics or the opinions expressed by any group demonstrating in the County.

Chief Kevin Davis remains in contact with Virginia State Police Superintendent Gary Settle, Supreme Court Police Chief Paul Coleman and Fairfax County Commonwealth Attorney Steve Descano. I know we too will stay in

communication.

Thank you again for your letter. We are committed to working within the framework of the U.S. Constitution to ensure the safety of the Justices, their families, af-

ected neighborhoods and those gathered to express a variety of viewpoints.

Jeffrey C. McKay
Chairman

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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





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From left, Dr. Johnnie L. Abram of Harvest Assembly Baptist Church, Pastor Charles A. Hall of St. John Baptist Church, and The Reverend Dr. Darrell Keith White of Bethlehem Baptist Church.

Burglaries and Destruction of Property at Black Churches

MERCIA HOBSON
GAZETTE PACKET

At first, four crimes within days at two Black churches and a tripped alarm at a third Black church, all located on Fordson Road in Mount Vernon's Gum Spring Community, looked ominous. The burglaries and property destruction alarmed, confused, and ultimately led Pastors Charles A. Hall of St. John Baptist Church, Reverend Dr. Darrell Keith White of Bethlehem Baptist Church, and Dr. Johnnie L. Abram of Harvest Assembly Baptist Church, as well as Queenie Cox, president of the New Gum Springs Civic Association onto a new path, seeking data sharing between Fairfax County Police Department and the community.

According to Cox, the alleged burglar entered St. John Baptist Church and rummaged through items. Nothing appeared to be missing; even offering envelopes with currency were not disturbed. Cox said that police would increase patrols in the Fordson Road area and places of worship within the Mount Vernon Police District.

In a Zoom interview on Friday, May 6, the four provided updated information on the crimes with the goal of getting the facts out to the community along with their proposed next steps.

The pastors each believe just one person was responsible for the destruction of property and burglaries, despite early concerns. They had been worried what seemed to be "serial" burglaries might include the possibility that the individual might harm someone if surprised or agitated.

"Everybody told the police, don't shoot," Pastor Abram said.

On Wednesday, April 27, Fairfax County Police received the first incident call. According to Sergeant Tara Gerhard of the Fairfax County Police Department's Public Affairs Bureau, they were contacted at 8:27 a.m. for the destruction of property at 7836 Fordson Road, Bethlehem Baptist Church. Sgt. Gerhard reported that officers responded after a

glass door had been damaged overnight. No entry was made.

Shortly after noon on the same day, Wednesday, April 27, at 12:57 p.m., FCPD received its second call concerning another church, St. John Baptist Church, located at 7730 Fordson Road. It is within walking distance of Bethlehem Baptist. "The glass on one side of the double-side door of the church was found shattered," Pastor Charles A. Hall of St. John Baptist Church, said.

FCPD responded and discovered that someone forced their way inside the church overnight. Hall said that the person(s) who entered smoked in various parts of the church, opened the refrigerator, ate half of a sweet bun before returning it, and placed their hand on a cake.

"When smoking, the person gets a cup of water for the cigarette butts. I guess he didn't want the church to catch on fire," Hall said.

According to Sgt. Gerhard, the Fairfax County Police Department, was called back to 7730 Fordson Road (St. John Baptist Church) the following evening, Thursday, April 28, at 6:27 p.m. for a burglary. This is the third Black church incident. Pastor Hall says, "The other half of the door is broken." He describes how the individual must have gone into the sanctuary this time and smoked there, as cigarette butts are present.

The police report by Sgt. Gerhard reads, "BURGLARY: 7730 Fordson Road, 4/27/22 & 4/28/22, 12:57 p.m. and 6:27 p.m. Officers responded after someone forced entry into the church overnight on two occasions. Nothing was taken."

Pastor Hall said that the congregation prayed at their Sunday service that the person would come back, admit to his actions, and ask for forgiveness. "We didn't add to break in," Hall says.

A few days later, the fourth incident occurred. Sgt. Gerhardt reports, "DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY: 7730 Fordson Road (St. John Baptist Church), 5/5/22, 5:49

SEE BURGLARIES, PAGE 10

2nd Annual

ALEXANDRIA OLD TOWN Springtime Art festival

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Over the Edge

Rappellers raise funds for New Hope Housing.



Lois Cook, vice president and wide receiver for the D.C. Divas, rappels down the Crystal City Hilton May 6 to support New Hope Housing.



Alexandria resident John Bordner celebrates after rappelling down the Crystal City Hilton May 6 for New Hope Housing.

By JEANNE THEISSMANN
THE GAZETTE

Excitement was mixed with tinges of fear as more than 80 volunteers rappelled down the 14-story Crystal City Hilton as part of the Over the Edge fundraiser for New Hope Housing.

Held May 5 and 6, rappellers included Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chair Jeff McKay, who descended side by side with Arlington County Board member Matt de Ferranti.

McKay admitted he was hesitant but wanted to draw attention to the homeless situation throughout Northern Virginia.

"I was terrified when we started but as we went down it went a little bit easier," McKay said. "But even as scared as I was at the top of the building, it wasn't as scary as sleeping outside in the freezing cold, dead of winter like too many of our homeless people have to each night. So if I can raise awareness and overcome a fear of my own here today it is worth it. Most importantly I wanted to support New Hope and what they are doing."

Based in Alexandria, New Hope Housing is a nonprofit operating homeless shelters and housing programs across Northern Virginia. The event was an alternative to a traditional gala in the wake of the uncertainties of the pandemic.

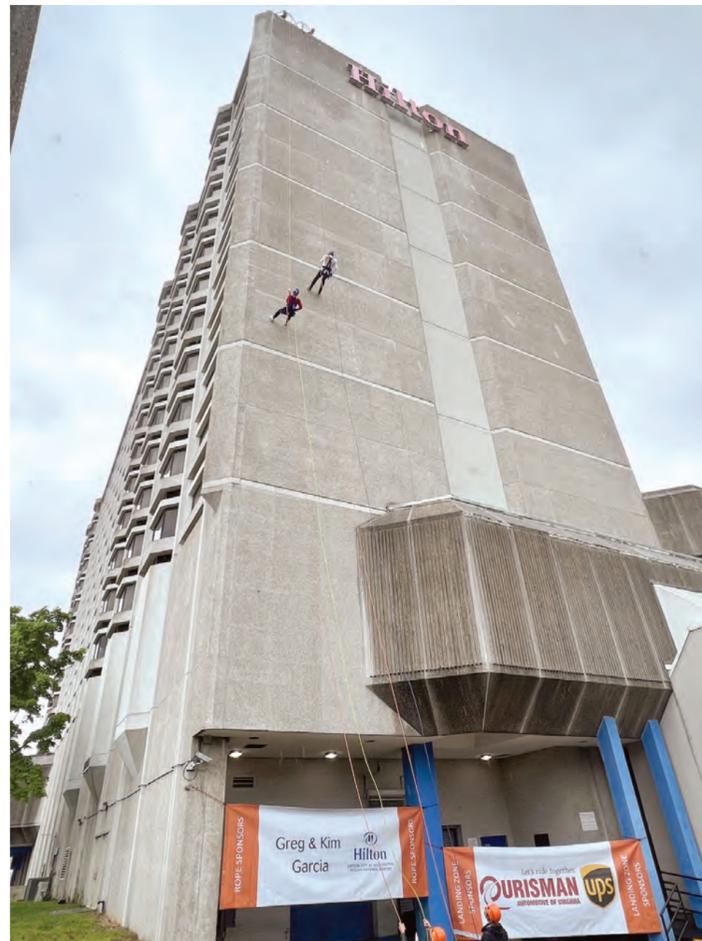
"This was a COVID-friendly way to raise funds that are desperately needed to support our mission," said Jan-Michael Sacharko, Director of Development for New Hope Housing. "Because of our partnerships with the Crystal City Hilton, Keller Williams Metro Center, sponsors and volunteers we were able to raise more than \$225,000."

Alexandria resident Christine Sennott of KW Metro Center was co-chair of the event and also descended 160-feet down the side of the hotel.

"I am petrified of heights," Sennott said. "But if I was going to ask agents and others to participate I had to put my money where my mouth is so I committed to doing this death-defying act."

Sennott said that the tag line for the event was "going over the edge for people who live on the edge."

"I tried to convince myself that my fear of heights was all in my mind," Sennott added. "That worked until I got up on the roof. The most terrifying part was step-



Alexandria resident John Bordner, on right, and Christy Keder of KW Metro Center rappel down the side of the Crystal City Hilton May 6 as part of the Over the Edge fundraiser for New Hope Housing.



Fairfax County Board of Supervisors chair Jeff McKay waves after descending 160-feet down the side of the Crystal City Hilton May 5 in support of New Hope Housing.

ping up on that ledge but struggling for a few moments to raise money for those who are struggling and suffering every day was something I could do to help them. It was still scary but the cause was worth it."

Added McKay, "It was an amazing experience and an opportunity to bring awareness to the urgent need to support the homeless population of Northern Virginia."

More than 40 members of the KW Metro Center team were on hand as volunteers coordinating the event, which attracted crowds despite the dreary skies.

"Even in the rain you couldn't chase the crowds away," Sennott said. "People were there cheering and supporting us and having a good time so along with the funds raised, our mission was accomplished."

"This was a COVID-friendly way to raise funds that are desperately needed to support our mission"

— Jan-Michael Sacharko,
Director of Development
for New Hope Housing

Crystal City Hilton General Manager Charles Hill and Rosemary Hughes with UPS Community Relations finish their 160-foot descent down the side of the Hilton May 5 as part of the Over the Edge fundraiser for New Hope Housing.

PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISSMANN
THE CONNECTION
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



The KW Metro Center team poses for a photo at the New Hope Housing welcome reception for the Over the Edge fundraiser May 5 at the Crystal City Hilton.



New Hope Housing Director of Development Jan-Michael Sacharko, at right, and Over the Edge co-chair Christine Sennott, third from left, pose with KW Metro Center volunteers at the May 6 Over the Edge rappelling fundraiser at the Crystal City Hilton.



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PHOTOS COURTESY OF VIVIANE PEDRUCO

Marymount University Interior Design student Viviane Pedruco maximized light to create an airy master bedroom for a Bethesda family.

When Accessibility And Style Collide

Award-winning Marymount University student combines universal design and bold colors to create the dream home for a Bethesda family.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

When Juliette Blanche and Chris Willows relocated from Antibes, France to Bethesda, Maryland they wanted the interior of their new home to incorporate natural light, bold colors and universal design that would accommodate one of their three children who is wheelchair bound.

Blanche, who is French, and Willows tasked Marymount University Interior Design student Viviane Pedruco with making that vision a reality.

"The owners wanted a design for that combined natural elements [like] wood, plants, flowers with a Cote D'Azur aesthetic and pops of bright corals, oranges, yellows, blues, teals and greens," said Pedruco, who was recently named a "Future100 Interior Design Graduate Winner," an honor bestowed upon students who advocate for openness, equality and inclusion through their work. "The goal of the Blanche-Willows project was to deliver a comfortable space, with a relaxing atmosphere for the entire family, where coastal meets winter, garden meets cozy interiors, and



The bold colors and universal design in this dining room by Marymount University Interior Design student Viviane Pedruco meets the needs of a Bethesda family of five.

good quality meets unpretentiousness."

Pedruco left her native country of Brazil where she worked as a helicopter pilot, to pursue a career that gave her an opportunity to explore her penchant for creativity. The Blanche-Willows project allowed her to meet the family's needs with her design style.

"I had to incorporate clever systems to maximize storage and ac-

cessibility," said Pedruco, who is from Rio de Janeiro. "I am passionate about color and I like to think that I have a sunny personality. I am also a mix of many cultures. I am the daughter of a Brazilian mother and a Portuguese father who was born in Macau, China and raised in Rio de Janeiro. I love my hometown, its colors, sounds, scents, contrasts, vibrancy and chaos."

Maps Tell Stories of The Past

FROM PAGE 5

for a Seneca Falls newspaper and eventually became an editor for the American Institute of Architects, where he met his future wife, Kathy Deierlein from Columbia, South Carolina. Then working for Leo A. Daly, an architecture and interior design company, he traveled the world and was part of the team that designed the World War II Memorial and terminals B and C at National Airport.

In 1989, he returned to Mount Vernon and designed and built his house. There the couple raised their three, now-adult children -- Caitlin, William and Pledger -- all of whom graduated from West Potomac High School.

In 2000, he bought the florist shop, inspired by his grandfather who had the largest florist business in Seattle, Washington. Green likens the business to architecture because it requires designing and making what the client wants. He has up to five designers who make floral arrangements for customers like Washington's Watergate building, ten large law firms in the city and the National Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center. The night after Russia attacked Ukraine,

he provided the symphony with blue and yellow flowers, Ukraine's national colors.

The mostly long-stemmed flowers come from all over the world, with roses arriving by airplane from Ecuador and Columbia, tulips from the Netherlands, orchids from Singapore and dahlias and orchids from Virginia. After getting fresh water, the flowers go into a cooler to await their sale.

Green estimates that he has 10,000 customers and grosses over \$1 million a year.

Trees Are Part of History Too

Green lamented the recent destruction of many mature trees by the ironically-named Evergreene Homes at the former Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church at the Fort Hunt Road and Belle View Boulevard intersection, trees "so big I could barely put my arms around them," he remarked. "When we lose trees, we lose the physical reminders of our history." Maps can help us remember and hopefully learn from some of that history.

To learn about John Smith's Virginia and the Chesapeake Bay maps, visit

<https://www.nps.gov/cajo/learn/smith-maps.htm>

Burglaries and Destruction

FROM PAGE 7

p.m. Officers responded after a glass door had been broken sometime in the afternoon. No entry was made."

"From my perspective, this is a person crying out for help," Pastor Hall said on Friday, May 6, in a ZOOM call. He believed the three incidents at St. John Baptist Church and the one at Bethlehem Baptist were the work of the same individual. His concern had been that the individual could harm church workers and others. "God showed us favor in that not happening," Hall said.

The Reverend Dr. Darrell Keith White of Bethlehem Baptist Church said, "Any attempt on any house is a threat to everyone's homes, more so if it is an attempt on the Church of God. Because if anyone feels that they can break into God's house, our own homes are at risk." White's second concern was that the incidents had gone on for over a week. "I don't know if our community has been made aware of this," White said.

In terms of what comes next, Queenie Cox, who organized the pastor's Zoom interview, recommended making public a "Crime Corner," a count and information of incidents in the neighborhood. "Perhaps the police may be a little

more forthcoming and give us the information and let us determine whether it is irrelevant," she said.

Pastor Abram pointed out that the system is broken. He said, "Until we get all the data, we're never going to be able to use it. Police got to release the data. We've got to have someone to communicate the data out. ... Our ability to help the homeless and do a lot of things [depends on this]. This may be an opportunity to get this out there."

The pastors said that a person had come forward to authorities, was getting help, and requested that their apology message and ask of forgiveness be shared. The pastors said they heard the person's request and acknowledged it. They also decided not to seek restitution.

What could have been a tragic episode involving a Gum Springs resident did not make the evening news. No one was injured or threatened. According to Cox, a homeless individual in crisis ultimately sought help at a hospital and is receiving care.

The Gum Springs Community is the oldest African American community in Fairfax County, established in 1833 and continues to thrive with over 2,500 residents, up to 500 direct descendants of the original families.



Dr. Patel, board-certified general surgeon, and Inova Mount Vernon Hospital's surgical team gear up to perform their first case in a few weeks.

Expanding Robotic Surgery at Mount Vernon Hospital

Inova Mount Vernon Hospital (IMVH) is expanding its robotic surgery capabilities with the addition of the da Vinci Xi Surgical System, which arrived earlier this month. This state-of-the-art equipment will further streamline surgeries and treatments.

"We are thrilled to offer our patients the latest in minimally invasive surgical treatment," said Hiral Patel, MD, board-certified general surgeon at Inova who is specially trained in robotic surgery. "Patients who have robotic-assisted surgery often recover faster, have less postoperative pain, require less narcotics and have fewer complications compared to those who have open or laparoscopic surgeries."

Robotic-assisted surgery puts the surgeon's hands at the controls of a robotic platform so refined that even the most complex, deli-

cate procedures can be performed through very small incisions with unmatched precision, according to Inova. The platform acts as an extension of the surgeon's eyes and hands, giving the physician 3-D magnified vision and 360° dexterity with four robotic arms, resulting in more effective, precise surgical movements.

"Providing robotic-assisted surgeries to our patients is part of IMVH's focus on growing services for the communities we serve," said Roberta Tinch, IMVH President and Administrator of Inova musculoskeletal services.

In 2021, IMVH announced the arrival of MAKO SmartRobotics for hip and knee procedures. With the addition of the da Vinci Xi, IMVH can now offer minimally invasive procedures for various general, colorectal, gynecological and urological surgeries.

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.

MT. VERNON FARMERS MARKET IS NOW OPEN

The market is located at the Sherwood Hall Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. From 8 a.m. to noon every Wednesday (through December 21), 18 farmers and local food producers will sell fresh, locally grown vegetables and fruits; meats; Chesapeake Bay seafood; breads and pastries; honey, jams and jellies; milk, cheese and eggs; herbs and plants; and more.

This year's vendors are:
Arnest Seafood - crab cakes, scallops, shrimp, rockfish, oysters and more
The Fermented Pig- charcuterie and gourmet bacons
Grace's Pastries - cakes, pastries and

bread, with a Caribbean touch
Great Harvest Bread - breads and pastries

Honey Brook Farms - meats and vegetables raised with no chemicals, gluten-free baked goods

House of Empanadas - variety of empanadas

King Mushrooms - variety of locally grown mushrooms

Layla's Lebanese Restaurant - Lebanese hummus, eggplant dip, garlic sauce and more

Linda Vista Farm - fruits and vegetables, specializing in Asian and Latin produce

Memis - gluten-free paellas, quiches and more

Misty Meadow Farm Creamery - milk, ice cream, cheese and eggs

Ochoa Produce - vegetables, herbs and flowers

Salsa Las Glorias - fresh salsas, guacamole and chips

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 14



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. Dist. Id.	Route	Structure Name	Crossing	Post#/Date
NORTON	22454	58	EBL/ROUTE 58A	BEAR CREEK	4/28/2022
NORTON	22455	58	WBL/ROUTE 0058	BEAR CREEK	4/28/2022
ALLEGHANY	1199	710	STONEWALL LANE	DUNLAP CREEK	4/27/2022
BUCHANAN	4003	1020	GREAT OAKS RD	LEVISA FORK	4/26/2022
SCOTT	16808	670	HALES SPRING RD	VALLEY CREEK	4/26/2022
SCOTT	16698	623	SPEERS VALLEY RD	N FORK CLINCH RIVER	4/20/2022
HALIFAX	9317	716	DRYBURG RD	DIFFICULT CREEK	4/16/2022
SMYTH	17552	633	BEAVER CREEK RD	BEAVER CREEK	4/12/2022
BLAND	3045	602	SPUR BRANCH RD	SPUR BRANCH #1	4/8/2022
FRANKLIN	7951	739	GAP GATE RD/ROUTE739	GREEN CREEK	4/7/2022
BLAND	3111	625	CERES SCHOOL RD	N FORK HOLSTON RIVER #1	4/5/2022
RICHMOND	21310	7542	GROVE AVE	ROUTE 195 & CSX RR	4/1/2022

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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Don't Overlook These 4 Longtime Favorites

BY HOPE NELSON
GAZETTE PACKET

The restaurant may have opened in 1978, but its menu is fresh today.

It's human nature: We're drawn to new and novel things. Concepts, people, hobbies and, yes, restaurants don't escape this "shiny new" viewpoint. But along with its fair share of upstarts, Alexandria is also home to many longtime stalwarts in the restaurant space that are just as good today as they were on the day they first opened. Here are four to jog your memory.

**Ramparts,
1700 Fern St.**

Politicians love it, neighbors love it, sports fans love it: Ramparts is indeed many things to many people. And why not? With American fare, intimate dining-room seating and a bar sporting multiple large televisions, it's got a setting (and a meal) for everyone. Burgers, salads, ribs and steak – from lighter meals to the heartiest, the menu runs the gamut. Peruse the extensive beer list for a libation to accompany your feast and settle in.

**Los Tios,
2615 Mount Vernon Ave. and
241 S. Van Dorn St.**

As the weather warms up, the patio at Del Ray's Los Tios location looks better and better. There's hardly a night that goes by when there's not a crowd hanging out enjoying the spring or summer air, sipping larger-than-life margaritas and noshing on chips and salsa. And several years ago, Los Tios expanded its business to the West End, opening its doors at a plum spot off Van Dorn Street. At either location, enjoy an array of enchiladas, burritos, fajitas and more – no matter the season.

**Landini Brothers,
115 King St.**

Landini Brothers just screams Old Town Alexandria. The Italian outpost has been a stalwart of the city for decades, sitting as it does on the first block of King Street. The interior, at once elegant and cozy, gets diners in the mindset for the menu, which offers up an array

of penne, linguine and tortellini, as well as chicken, beef and seafood. Toast the day with a glass of wine from Landini's extensive wine list – and don't skimp on dessert.

**Hard Times Café,
1404 King St.**

Speaking of comfort food, there is no better place to look for such fare than Hard Times Café. The chili joint, which has been serving up heaping helpings on King Street since 1980, is warm and inviting, beckoning diners on the coldest winter day and the hottest weeks of August. Whether you like your chili straight-up in a bowl, atop spaghetti, soaking into tater tots or on a hot dog, your needs will be met at Hard Times (and then some). Post up to one of the downstairs booths, or venture upstairs to a table – either direction will offer an inviting spot to kick back with friends and family.

Hope Nelson is the author of "Classic Restaurants of Alexandria" and owns the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at www.kitchenrecessionista.com. Email her any time at hope@kitchenrecessionista.com.



Landini Brothers: This Italian outpost has been a stalwart of the city for decades, sitting as it does on the first block of King Street.

CALENDAR

NOW THRU MAY 28 (SATURDAYS)

Washington Whiskey Tasting. 2-5 p.m. At George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy, Mount Vernon. At this outdoor event, sample George Washington's whiskey and other distilled spirits made at Washington's Distillery. Enjoy a rare opportunity to taste Mount Vernon's one-of-a-kind distilled Spirits. Sample 3 distilled spirits, made using 18th-century distilling methods and techniques. Hear from Mount Vernon's Historic Trades team about the history of distilling spirits, and tour George Washington's Distillery. This event is held at George Washington's Distillery & Gristmill which is located 2.7 miles from the main estate entrance

NOW THRU MAY 28

The "Drips, Lines, Splatters, and Splash: A Celebration of the Washington Color School" exhibit channels art spotlighting this movement. Juror Barbara Janusz-kiewicz selected artwork exhibiting remarkable use of color, movement, line, and sense of space, both representational and abstract. View at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. Open Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays 12-6 p.m. Details at DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

NOW THRU MAY 29

Canvas Meets Curve. At the Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Sabiha Iqbal and Paul Cunningham have been painting, critiquing, and exhibiting with a group of local artists since they met at



The Bookmaking and Binding Workshop will take place May 16-18 at the Del Ray Artisans Gallery in Alexandria.

the Corcoran School of Art and Design seven years ago. The Athenaeum show is the first joint exhibition for the two artists. While the formal aspects of their work appear very different, they have always been struck by the ways in which their bodies of work echo each other. At times their color palettes converge serendipitously, while the abstract figurations in Sabiha's canvases play off the bends and curves of Paul's three-dimensional pieces. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

NOW THRU 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.

NOW THRU 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.

NOW THRU JUNE 17

Vietnam Memorial Traveling Exhibit. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's traveling exhibit Panel 44: 8 Days in March will be on display at the National Museum of the United States Army through June 17, 2022, as a part of the 40th anniversary commemoration of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The centerpiece of the exhibit is the Memorial's original Panel 44, produced in 1982 but not placed in the Memorial because of a crack in the upper-right edge. It is inscribed with the names of 337 American service members who died

between March 9-16, 1968. Two hundred fifteen of the inscribed names were Army Soldiers, ranging in age from 18 to 46. All those remembered by the panel represent 44 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Visit <https://www.thenmusa.org/visit/#get-tickets>,

NOW THRU JULY 9

Retrospective Art Deco Exhibition. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. At George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive in Alexandria. The first retrospective on the work of Art Deco designer Edgard Sforzina will open April 30th at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial during the Art Deco Society of Washington's 39th annual Washington Modernism Show. Discount tickets are available at www.washingtonmodernismshow.com.

THURSDAY/MAY 12

Outdoor Lute Concert. 6:30-7:30 p.m. At The Rectory on Princess Street, 711 Princess St., Alexandria. The splendor of luteist Ronn McFarlane returns to the Secret Garden, joined by Carolyn Surrick for an imaginative program of early music for the combination of lute and viola da gamba, the Renaissance precursor to the modern cello, including iconic works by Dowland, Telemann and Bach. Visit the website: <https://www.classicalmovements.com/secretgardenconcerts/>

FRIDAY/MAY 13

The Thirteen Presents. 7:30 p.m. At Episcopal High School Chapel, Alexandria. Presenting Molly Netter, Soprano, and Emily Marvosh, Mezzo Soprano. The Outer Edge of Youth is a new choral opera from composer-writer-director Scott Ordway commissioned by The Thirteen.

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Announcements

Announcements

Happy Birthday to the Walkman of Mount Vernon!

Congratulations, TDF, on 75 years and to all those miles logged. Honk if you see him rain or shine, winter or summer. With mileage exceeding the earth's circumference, Finnigan is already working on his second lap. Best of luck and sincere birthday wishes.



Back to School

If your child is entering 7th grade they must have the **Meningitis, HPV, and Tdap** vaccines in order to enroll. Talk to your doctor and vaccinate them now!



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An Uncomfortable Month

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



In an odd juxtaposition of events/months, I find myself adrift, sort of, with no medical appointments whatsoever on the previous or future horizon; compared to the previous month when I had a medical something-or-other practically every other day. And I can't help fearing that this calm is ahead of some storm. I mean, I have cancer. Shouldn't I be doing something (other than taking my daily thyroid cancer pill), going somewhere, being tested, being scanned, having my blood drawn and/or having a telephone or video appointment with one of my doctors? I'm not exactly unsettled by this lack of activity, but I can't help thinking, to quote Shakespeare: "something is rotten in the state of Denmark."

Not that I have any symptoms that are new or have persisted for three weeks (the advisory timeframe I was given for such cause/concern). But how do I go about my daily business (life) without any substantial cancer-related activity/inquiry, other than my daily lenvima? Cancer is a very serious situation, maybe more serious than a heart attack (as the old expression says), yet here I am unsupervised – sort of, and untethered (to quote one of my late father's Sid Caesar references) as if I don't have a care in the world. Not having any cancer-centric activity or preoccupation; it's almost as if I'm on holiday from my disease, and I'm not expected back for another few weeks. Moreover, given the rarity of this emotional interval I can't help wondering: "What's wrong with this picture?" I have an incurable from of thyroid cancer, shouldn't there be more hands on me?

The juxtaposition is that instead of worrying/planning for all the cancer activity ahead, I'm worrying/not-having-to-plan since I have no cancer activity ahead. Somehow, it feels wrong, or at least something is missing somewhere. I'm used to having lots of cancer stuff on my schedule. That's my normal. It's abnormal – now when I don't have to schedule anything. Not that I'm paranoid (which to quote Major Frank Burns from M*A*S*H: "I wouldn't be if everybody wasn't looking at me"), but this silence is not golden.

I can't imagine any medical professional on my quasi team is assuming anything about my health/status (after all, we know what assuming does). And cancer is hardly best left unattended. As my oncologist said years ago in response to my question about what happens if I stop the medication: "I know what happens. The cancer grows." Is it really the process that I take a pill every morning and then call the doctor in the morning, three months hence? Granted, I have been on this thyroid cancer track going on two years since I was re-diagnosed and I do know the drill, but as I felt in the early days of being a non-small cell lung cancer "diagnossee," am I closer to the beginning or the end?

I don't feel neglected, exactly. I feel like I'm not doing something I – or someone else, should be doing. Cancer is rarely better left to its own devices. My dilemma is, I just don't know if the devices I'm left with and/or which are being left on my behalf, are enough to meet the challenges ahead because cancer never takes any days off, so I shouldn't be taking any days (certainly not months) off either, right?

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

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NEWS

Five Republican Candidates Seek Nomination in Convention

FROM PAGE 3

KEZIA TUNNELL is a co-founder of Tunnell Enterprises, which she says specializes in "large commercial builds and remodels." She says the deficit is "astronomical and unsustainable," adding that she would support "smaller packaging of bills so that we can better evaluate where your money is being spent."

When asked about immigration, Tunnell said she visited the southern border and saw cartels working with border control agents to bring undocumented immigrants into the country.

"Illegal immigration affects our immigrant communities, and it affects the safety of our communities," said Tunnell. "We have to say no human trafficking and to the drug problems that are coming across our borders every day."

If elected, she says, she would support school choice and a reduction in federal regulation of schools, including decisions about curriculum. She says she supports increasing the budget for national defense and increasing sanctions to curb threats to national security. She also says she supports American energy independence, which she says would provide jobs, lower energy costs and national defense.

"I grew up in the 90s, and they told us that we were running out of natural resources. I actually believed that until I became an adult," said Tunnell. "But that is not the case, and that is not truth. They continue to renew, and we must use those so we can get costs down immediately."

If elected, she says, she would reduce the budget for the United States Agency for International Development because she believes the U.S. spends too much money helping other countries. She says she would like to see that money moved to the Department of Defense. She says America needs "strict border control," and that she can help achieve this goal because she speaks Spanish. When asked about education, she said some of the money diverted from USAID could be used to purchase metal detectors for public schools.

"Controversial issues should not be taught in public schools," said Carpio. "The government should try to promote old-fashioned subjects in schools like math, reading, science, music and literature."

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 11

Sharkawi Farm - herbs, spices, teas, plants and flowers

Three Way Farms – vegetables, melons and herbs

Traveling Shepherd Coffee Co. – variety of freshly roasted coffee

Twin Springs Orchard - fruits, vegetables, cheese and more

Valentine's Bakery & Meats - meats and baked goods.

All of the items sold at the market are grown or produced by the vendors and come from within a radius of 125 miles. The McCutcheon/Mt. Vernon market is one of 10 farmers markets run by the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA); for more information, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets.

TUESDAY/MAY 17

MV Genealogical's 30th Anniversary. 1-3 p.m. At 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. If you've ever been interested in finding your family history, there's no better time to give us a visit. The Mount Vernon Genealogical Society is celebrating 30 years of helping neighbors and friends find their family history. Visit the website: www.mvgenalogy.org

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.

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.

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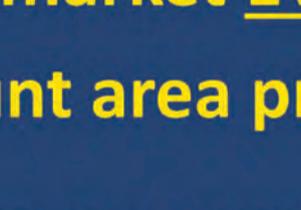
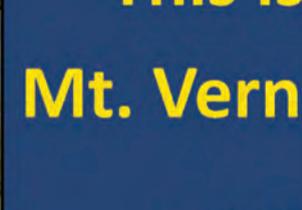
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