

# Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

NOVEMBER 10, 2022

## Voters Come to the Polls for a Single Race

**Fairfax County citizens vote early, by mail, and at the polls.**

BY SUSAN LAUME  
THE CONNECTION

**M**ost precincts saw only short lines of 10 to 20 people at their 6 a.m. openings with a brisk, chilly breeze under a sky that had just provided the eerie beauty of a lunar eclipse. Those up early to vote or work were able to experience the first total lunar eclipse on Election Day in U.S. history.

Poll volunteers reported steady but light voter turnout through the morning and afternoon. Whether due to lower election day turnout due to expanded early voting opportunities or the traditionally lower turnout for off-year elections, will not be known until voting trends are analyzed after Election Day.

A smattering of first time voters coming for the Election Day experience, and young future voters off from school for the day accompanying parents were among those visiting polling places. Also some of those who had requested a mail in ballot were at polling places using direct drop boxes to assure their vote was received in time to

SEE VOTERS COME, PAGE 6



At the Clifton precinct, U.S. Rep Jennifer Wexton greeted voter Emma Holmes and her Envigo beagle rescued from a medical breeding facility.



First time voter Maddie Orchard, a senior at West Springfield High School, cast her vote at Sydenstricker Precinct mid-day.



State Sen. George Barker was at the Clifton precinct in support of U.S. Rep. Jennifer Wexton's bid for a reelection for a third term.

### U.S. House of Representatives Results

7TH DISTRICT		
Abigail A. Spanberger (D)	140,185	51.88%
Yesli I. Vega (R)	129,370	47.88%
8TH DISTRICT		
Donald S. Beyer Jr. (D)	189,195	73.26%
Karina A. Lipsman (R)	64,768	25.08%
Teddy Fikre (I)	3,796	1.47%
10TH DISTRICT		
Jennifer T. Wexton (D)	152,557	52.84%
Hung Cao (R)	135,575	40.96%
11TH DISTRICT		
Gerald E. "Gerry" Connolly (D)	184,593	66.19%
James G. "Jim" Myles (R)	93,460	33.51%

SOURCE: UNOFFICIAL RESULTS FROM VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS



Del. Kathy Tran, whose term along with all other State delegate and senate seats will expire January 2024, greeted voters at Newington Forest precinct in the last hour of voting.

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

### VIEWPOINTS

## What brings you out to the poll today?

VIEWPOINTS AND PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/CONNECTION



"It's election day, it's what you do."  
- Devin Pennypacker, West Springfield High School polling place



"I've got to, it's the most direct way to participate in a democracy."  
- Chris Webb, Kingstowne



"I feel like it's part of my civic duty, the direction of the country is not great."  
- Ali Stone, Franconia resident



"It's election day, my right as a citizen"  
- Ed Grullon, West Springfield High School polling place



"I have two daughters, I don't want to see any of their rights taken away, I'm not motivated by fear."  
- Amy Kean, West Springfield High School polling place



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**Beverly Hills | \$1,949,000**

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**Chatham Square | \$1,049,000**

This absolutely beautiful 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath brick townhouse checks all the boxes! Open floor plan, neutral decor, fireplace, refinished wood floors, & just 5 blocks from the river & King St. 2 parking spaces in the common garage, plus additional storage. 525 N Pitt St

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OPEN SUN 11/13, 2-4PM

**Alexandria/Waynewood | \$849,900**

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**Katie Garcia-Crouch 703.447.1345**



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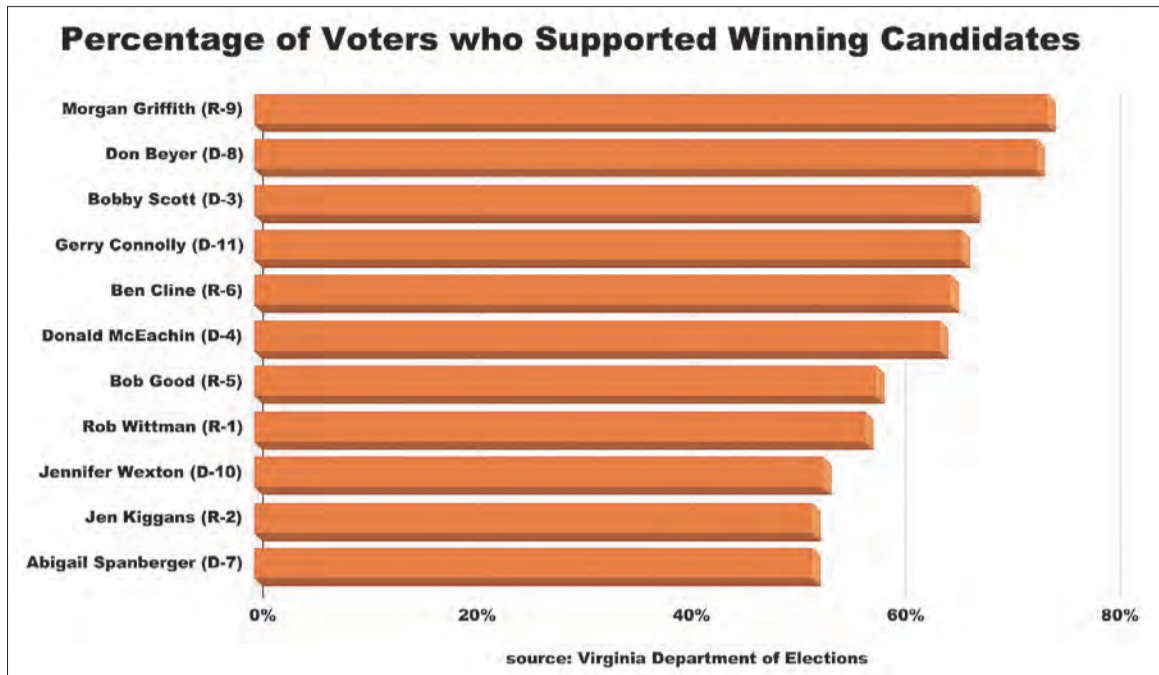
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U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8) poses for a group photo with Arlington Democrats on Columbia Pike in Arlington.



# Blue Wall Holds in Northern Virginia

Democrats push back red wave in expectations-defying mid-term election.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

Virginia's new congressional map is delivering lopsided victories to most members of the United States House of Representatives, with 73 percent of voters handing U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8) another term in Congress. But that wasn't even the largest margin of victory. On the opposite side of the commonwealth in Southwest Virginia, the so-called Fighting Ninth Congressional District, 74 percent of voters supported U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith (R-9).

Some may have assumed a process designed to remove gerrymandering from redistricting would lead to more competitive seats. But the cold reality is that the communities of interest reflected in the new maps reveal the geography of groupthink. Democrats cluster in Northern Virginia while Republicans have the upper hand in the Fighting Ninth, a nickname it earned for having an independent streak to buck the establishment.

"If you draw compact districts that respect existing boundaries and keep communities of interest together, they are going to tend to draw non-competitive seats," said Nicholas Goedert, assistant professor of political science at Virginia Tech. "The fact that the state Supreme Court actually drew three of Virginia's 11 districts to be competitive is relatively speaking a high number."



Former primary challenger Victoria Virasingh congratulates U.S. Rep. Don Beyer on his reelection. In the June primary, Virasingh won 23 percent of the vote.

For Virginia, the redistricting had a racial undertone that influenced the outcome of the election this year. In the hotly contested Second Congressional District, the incumbent U.S. Rep. Elaine Luria (D-2) won her seat under an old map that had gerrymandered parts of Hampton Roads. The new map divided white voters in Virginia Beach from Black voters in Norfolk, a segregation that reflects the racial geography of communities of interest in the Hampton Roads region.

"Gerrymandering largely comes at the expense of communities of color," said Jatia Wrighten, assistant professor of political science at Virginia Commonwealth University. "You are now getting less

descriptive representation, so it's more difficult to elect a person of color because those communities have been cut up and their power has been diminished."

**ABORTION RIGHTS** drove voters in Northern Virginia to the polls to reelect incumbent U.S. Rep. Abigail Spanberger (D-7), who energized Democrats by emphasizing her support for abortion rights and drawing attention to Republican challenger Yesli Vega's comments doubting pregnancy could result from rape. Spanberger went on the offense repeatedly challenging Vega on abortion rights while also making an appeal to center-right voters on her willingness to work



Colombian television interviews U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8) as he celebrates winning a fifth term to the House of Representatives.

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SOURCE: UNOFFICIAL RESULTS FROM VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS



# Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce Hosts The 17th Annual Police & Firefighters Tribute



PHOTOS BY TSARA PHOTOGRAPHY

Next, Don Cammarata, representing Covanta Fairfax, a presenting sponsor of the event, accepted the 2022 Scholarship Beneficiary plaque in recognition of Covanta's help with providing two scholarships for local high school students through the Chamber's Education Partnership Scholarship Fund. With partners like Covanta, the Chamber has given almost \$300,000 in scholarships to local high school seniors.



**SPONSORS:** The event sponsors who made the evening possible were:

**Presenting Sponsors:** 95 / 495 Express Lanes, Covanta Fairfax, Dominion Surveyors Inc., Inova Mount Vernon Hospital, Wegmans

**Honor Sponsors:** Paul Spring Retirement Community, Ourisman Automotive Dealerships

**Loyalty Sponsor:** The Fairfax Retirement Community  
**Respect Sponsor:** Pillar Systems

Many gathered together this past Friday, November 4th, at the Hilton Hotel in Springfield to help the Chamber recognize the outstanding accomplishments of our local public safety personnel and first responders at the 17th Annual Police & Firefighters Tribute.



The evening started with an introduction from Mark Murray, Chair of the Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce, as he welcomed the presentation of the colors to take place by a joint honor guard from the Fairfax County Police Department and Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department with the singing of our national anthem by 2LT Laura Redman, followed by an invocation and blessing by Chaplain Jeri Fields of the Fairfax County Police Department.

After dinner, Mr. Murray welcomed the extensive list of special guests to the event which included: Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Jeff McKay, Supervisor Dan Storck, Mount Vernon District, Supervisor Rodney Lusk, Franconia District, Chief John Butler, Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department, Chief Kevin Davis, Fairfax County Police Department, Fort Belvoir Garrison Commander Colonel Joseph Messina, James Hodges, Director, Fort Belvoir Directorate of Emergency Services, and special guest emcee Jonathan Elias, a news anchor with WJLA ABC7.

Jonathan Elias then took the stage to present the awards.

The award recipients, by department, were as follows:



## Franconia Police Station

The Franconia Station Police Officer of the Year is Sam Brown  
 Franconia Station Detective of the Year is MPO Scott Reeve  
 Franconia Station Volunteer of the Year is APO Robert Reece  
 Franconia Station Meritorious Service Award goes to Master Police Officer Sean Corcoran  
 Supervisor of the Year for the Franconia Station is Sergeant Ronald Grecco.

SEE MORE AWARD RECIPIENTS, PAGE 5

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PHOTOS BY TISARA PHOTOGRAPHY

## Fort Belvoir Fire and Emergency Services

Lt. David Wolff is the Fort Belvoir Fire Company Officer of the Year.  
John Christian is the Fort Belvoir Firefighter / Medic of the Year.  
Firefighter of the Year is Andrew Edwards



## Fort Belvoir Police Department

Civilian Police Officer of the Year Officer James Vinson  
Civilian Police Supervisor Officer of the Year Blas Robert  
Military Police Officer of the Year Staff Sergeant Jose Gonzalez  
Fort Belvoir Police Department Investigator of the Year Sergeant Cody Renner  
The Army Security Guard of the Year is Bismark Adu  
Fort Belvoir Security Supervisor of the Year is Lt. Robin Rodriguez-Camp



## Mount Vernon Police Station

PFC Larry St. Clair is Police Officer of the Year at the Mount Vernon Station  
Sergeant Scott Shafer is the Supervisor of the Year at the Mount Vernon District Police Station  
Jeremy Jarvis is the Auxiliary Police Officer of the Year at Mount Vernon Police Station  
Meritorious Service Award is Presented to Eilene Stevens

Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department (no photo)  
Master Technician John Wehr is the Fairfax County Firefighter of the Year  
Volunteer Provider of the Year is Deputy Chief Cory Lobo  
The Company Officer of the Year is Captain Steve Henry

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## ELECTION DAY 2022

# Voters Come to the Polls for a Single Race



Orange precinct started the day with 12 in line to vote at poll opening.

FROM PAGE 1

be counted. The deadline for drop box use was Election Day, 7 p.m., or if mailed, postmarked on Election Day and received by the local Registrar by Noon on Nov. 14 to be counted.

Two-term U.S. Rep. Jennifer Wexton (D) greeted voters mid-afternoon at the Clifton precinct, supported by State Sen. George Barker (D), and Del. Dan Helmer (D). Her race for the 10th Congressional District seat against political newcomer Hung Cao, a Navy career veteran, has been watched nationally as a potential bell-weather.

“We’re used to tension, but it’s pretty intense this year, and people are coming out to vote,” Wexton said. “Election officials tell us they are in good shape so we hope to know results by the end of the day.

I appreciate everyone coming out to vote.”

Wexton, along with her northern Virginia Democratic incumbent colleagues, Beyer, Connolly, and Spanberger, would be unofficial winners on election night.

Voters moved quickly through the voting process with only one selection to make on the ballot, for House of Representatives. Several spoke of being unaccustomed to the lack of multiple candidates and ballot questions. This year’s ballot was easier for voters to research with only one seat, (unless you live in City of Fairfax or Town of Herndon).

Voters will face a full slate of state senate, delegate, board of supervisors, school board, sheriff, and commonwealth attorney positions in November 2023.



Hunt Valley precinct’s line of about 20 people felt the morning’s brisk breeze as they waited their turn to vote.

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION



Ten people were in line inside the Sydenstricker precinct’s long corridor at 6 a.m. when the polls opened.

## Fairfax County Fire and Rescue To Collect for Toys for Tots

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department (FCFRD) will participate in the Annual National Capital Region Fire and EMS Departments’ 2022 TOYS FOR TOTS Campaign. The intent of the campaign is to bring holiday joy and deliver a message of hope to children. Stations will accept donations now through Sunday, December 11, 2022.

Collection boxes will be placed outside the front door of each fire and rescue station every morning. Residents will be able to drop off toys until 8:00 p.m., each evening.

Please help us to help those less fortunate this holiday season. Thanks to the generosity of those who live and work in Fairfax County, FCFRD was able to provide the Marines with approximately 25,000 toys last year!

Children who are served by this campaign include toddlers and youths through age 17. The campaign will only accept new, unwrapped toys. Toys used as weapons or considered to be weapons (i.e., toy guns or knives of any kind) will not be accepted. Checks or money orders for donations must be made payable to TOYS FOR TOTS.

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Stations will accept donations through Sunday, Dec. 11, 2022.

## BULLETIN BOARD

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

### ADOPT A WARRIOR FAMILY FOR CHRISTMAS

So many of our Military families today find themselves in financial crisis, now more than ever. This will be especially true during this Holiday Season. To give back, Able Forces Foundation (AFF) is once again sponsoring the Adopt-A-Warrior Family Christmas program. As in years past, Able Forces Foundation will adopt families from each of the five Military Service branches. All adopted families are identified by military Advocates on military bases or military Recovery programs in the Washington, DC Metro area. These families have been vetted and referred to AFF. Based on need, financial support will ensure each family will have: • A Christmas Tree • Complete Christmas Dinner (for up to 8) • Stocking Stuffers • the ability to provide up to 5 gifts per child 100% of all donations

go directly to support this program. There are no administrative or overhead fees taken out of donations. All donations contributed between Oct. 25 and Christmas will go directly to support this program. If you can help, go to: [www.ableforces.org/adopt](http://www.ableforces.org/adopt) to make a contribution.

### 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

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 7

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# BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 6

Grace's Pastries - cakes, pastries and breads, 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  
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](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets).

## OLUNTEERS 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](http://www.seniorscientist.org). To volunteer, contact [donaldrea@aol.com](mailto: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

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11



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# Fairfax County's Rich Mix of People, Past and Present



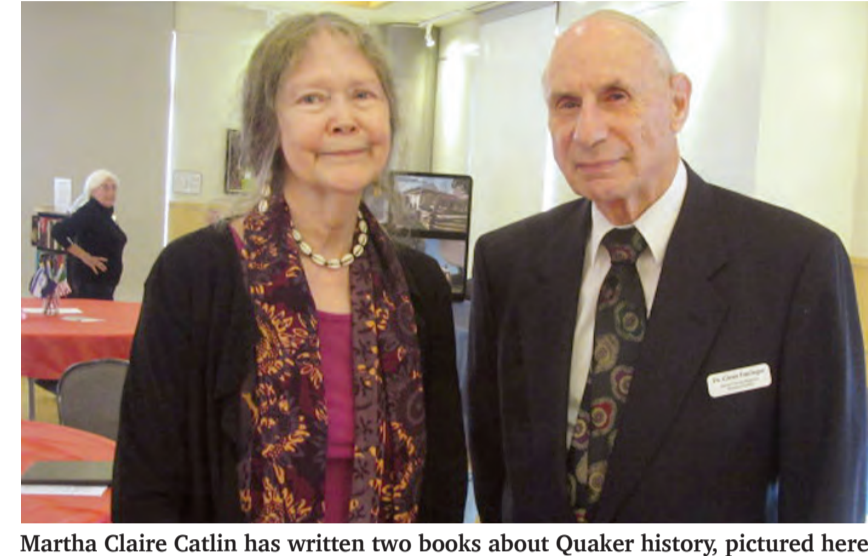
John Patrick Murphy described the experiences of Irish immigrants.



Attendees heard presentations on the diversity of Northern Virginia's residents.



Commission Vice Chair Lynne Garvey-Hodge presided.



Martha Claire Catlin has written two books about Quaker history, pictured here with Glenn Fatzinger, President of the Mount Vernon Regional Historical Society.



Esther McCullough.

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH  
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

Fairfax County has a rich history of demographic diversity and the people who came to the county over the years sowed the seeds for an even richer, multicultural community today. Over 1.1 million people live across the county's 407 square miles. Over 182 languages or dialects are spoken in elementary students' homes today, reports the county's public schools' website.

At a Nov. 5 conference, 67 history buffs learned about some of the African American, Irish, Quaker, German and Jewish people who settled in the county. Sponsored by the Fairfax County History Commission, the meeting was the second of a four-part series. Next year's gathering will focus on Asian and other post-World War II refugees.

Opening the event, History Commission Vice-Chair Lynne Garvey-Hodge invoked Emma Lazarus's famous words, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses ... send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me," and added, "Those words fit the ancestors of everyone here."

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly, whose grandfa-

ther immigrated from Ireland, reminded attendees that Americans at times have been "hostile to immigrants who sounded different and worshipped differently. It continues to infuse our debate about immigration today," he opined. On the "dreamers," children without lawful immigration status, he said, "We should be welcoming them."

Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeff McKay challenged, "True historians know our job is to tell the complete history, knowing there's bias in any story. We can remind ourselves that we can do better and improve."

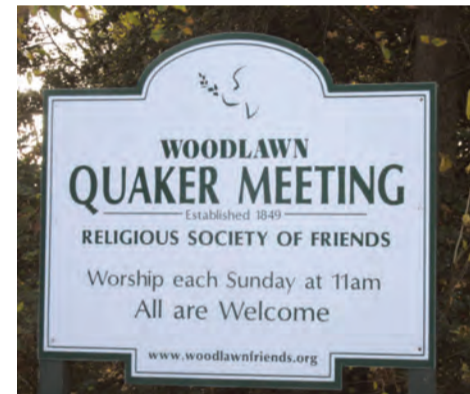
## African Americans

In a video presentation, Esther W. McCullough described some of the county's African American churches, noting that African Americans "did not choose to come here," and that "their customs were taken away, they could not speak the language and were not taught to read or write." Because enslaved people were barred from congregating, they held "bush meetings," clandestine get-togethers in the brush.

Churches, like the First Baptist of Vienna, built by former slaves, became community centers. Dinners after services are a longstanding church tradition, she said, featuring foods like fried chicken, ham, corn on cob, biscuits and sauerkraut. Other staples: pork (enslaved people did not get best cut), corn, squash, greens (collard, turnip, mustard, kale, usually cooked together) and fruit cobbles. Enslaved people brought okra to this country, she said, "They put away seeds on their person."

## Quakers

Author Martha Claire Catlin, historian for the Alexandria Quaker Meeting at Woodlawn, recounted the 19th century Alexandria and Mount Vernon-area Quakers in 1846 purchased a 2,000-acre tract and created small "demonstration" farms at Woodlawn that successfully functioned without enslaved labor, in contrast to the plantations of that period. The Quakers built a meetinghouse, still in use today. It is the "home of seekers of freedom, equality and the blessings of a free society" and "still a living tradition," Catlin said.



The Quaker Meetinghouse at Woodlawn today.

## Jewish Immigrants

Susan Dilles explained that Jewish people have immigrated into the United States and have "traveled through here" since colonial times. Since colonial days, the country has experienced four major waves of Jewish immigration, people largely from eastern and central European countries and the Soviet



Union, often fleeing violence and intolerance. Dilles co-authored a book titled The Jewish Community of Northern Virginia

with her husband, Shawn, which will be published on Nov. 14.

The first synagogue in the state was Beth El Hebrew Congregation, established in 1859 on Alexandria's King Street above a store. Jewish people who came to Northern Virginia often started businesses and many post-World War II companies ring familiar: Rosenthal Chevrolet, Hechinger's home improvement stores, Giant Food and Hecht's Department Store. Theodore Lerner and Isadore Gudelsky developed the Tysons Corner shopping center. Charles Smith, son of Russian immigrants, built Crystal City. Robert E. Simon designed and built Reston.

Today, Northern Virginia has over 120,000 Jews and 25 synagogues, Dilles said. The Jewish Community Center affiliated with Congregation Olam Tikvah, formed in 1967 in Fairfax, is "the heart of Jewish Fairfax," says its website.

## The Irish

Fairfax County's earliest Irish citizens have long fascinated John Patrick Murphy, a grandson of immigrants and retired Fairfax

attorney. He recounted that in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, generally, two groups of Irish people immigrated from Ireland, the Gaelic or Irish people native to the island of Ireland and the Scots-Irish. Wars, famine and harsh treatment by the British drove them from their homeland. Some came as indentured servants. "They knew little about America, but it was better than the hell they left," Murphy commented. In America, they often had menial, low-paying jobs. In the 1840s, nativists and others "considered the Irish and Catholics to be subhuman," he said.

"The center of the Irish community is the church," Murphy explained, and St. Mary's in Alexandria, founded in 1795, is the oldest Roman Catholic church in Virginia. In 1858, leaders laid the cornerstone for St. Mary of Sorrows Church as a mission church in Fairfax Station. After the Civil War's 1862 Battle of Second Manassas, the church was a field hospital where legendary nurse Clara Barton cared for the wounded.

Recalling over three centuries of immigration, Murphy said, "The Irish did not look back at the discrimination suffered in the 19th century. They were able to go past it

with hard work, political participation and community service, a trait passed on to descendants' generation to generation to the present day."

## The Germans

Dr. Eric Larsen, Director of Archaeology at the Germanna Foundation, told the story of Fort Germanna, built in the 1700s between Fredericksburg and Culpeper by Virginia Lieutenant Governor Alexander Spotswood to counter possible French aggression. He recruited German-speaking indentured servants to live and farm there.

## Diverse Cuisine Too

Conferees enjoyed a lunch menu reflecting the day's theme, dishes like corn muffins (African American), shepherd's pie (Irish), potato salad (German) and pasta salad (Italian). The Commission provided recipes for kugel (Jewish), corn pudding (Quakers) and other dishes.

## Honoring Achievements

The Commission gave three awards:

- ❖ The Mayo Stuntz Award to Mike Salmon and Ean Eschenburg for their documentary, "The Gravel Pits: Before There Was Kingstowne," about gravel pits where 1970s youngsters fished, hung out and rode dirt bikes and motorcycles. You can view the documentary here. <https://youtu.be/qK-I-SB-5Wfk>

- ❖ The Distinguished Service Award to seven George Mason University students who created an online inventory of African American Fairfax County locations, people and events. Visit <https://silverbox.gmu.edu/fairfaxaahi/>.

- ❖ The Lifetime Achievement Award to Debbie Robison who researched over 500 county historic sites to support roadside markers and created [www.novahistory.org/](http://www.novahistory.org/), articles documenting area history.

More Information: <https://www.fairfax-county.gov/history-commission/>



Chairman Jeff McKay and U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly presented a Commission award to Debbie Robison.



U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (far left) and Chairman Jeff McKay (far right) presented a Commission award to Ean Eschenburg and Mike Salmon.



The Commission gave seven GMU students an award for creating a website of African American history. Pictured here, U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly, Steve Cheuka, Roman Patrick, Akbar Suri, Brian Do and Chairman Jeff McKay.



# Starry Nights

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## ANIMAL HOSPITAL



PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/GAZETTE

Dr. Jane Owel

## Dogs and Cats Keep Them Busy at the Mount Vernon Animal Hospital

Pets are an important part of the family.

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE GAZETTE

It's been 50 years since the Mount Vernon Animal Hospital opened their doors along Richmond Highway. The area has exploded since then, with the value of the pets to families in Mount Vernon growing too.

The work at this 50-year-old hospital never lets up. "People are seeing pets as part of the family," said Dr. Jane Owel, who leads the effort with Dr. Myra Miller. "We've kept that small town family doctor appeal," she said.

The old light-up sign on the front as well as the no-frills interior says it all. "With some families, we've been through three or four generations of pets," Owel said. "It's nice to have that kind of relationship."

Owel has been there since 1988 when she graduated from Michigan State University and moved into Lorton. Miller was also a graduate of the same college, a few years after Owel. Initially Owel started at the Springfield Animal Hospital, which was owned by the same person, and moved over to Mount Vernon shortly after that. Like many in Mount Vernon, she's a witness to the area's growth.

"When I started here, that was all woods," she said, referring to the area north of the animal hospital that is now commercial buildings.

To the south, a new 7-11 is being built, replacing the parking lot of the Denny's years before.

Owel is familiar with the plans for the Embark Richmond Highway project, but at the animal hospital, they have enough dogs and cats to worry about. "We're pretty busy," Owel said.

The health maladies pets are faced with these days are over-feeding, arthritis, allergies and obesity, more now than in 1988, Owel said. Many of these situations can be helped with medicine, but these days, the concentration is on preventive care for the pets. There is



The sign has a 1972 look from when the business started.

### MOUNT VERNON ANIMAL HOSPITAL

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health insurance available for pets, and they recommend it since the bills can get expensive. If there is no insurance and a problem comes up, they never turn anyone away. Instead, they work out something.

Although cats and dogs are their main concentration, there have been a few situations with animals of other varieties have come through the door. They've worked with area wildlife rehabilitators in the past.

"I did an amputation on a fox, it had a compound fracture," she said. It was released to a farm and the people at the farm reported seeing footprints from a three-legged fox, so it must have adapted. Another time, a fawn was brought in after the mother got hit by a car. "He had to be bottle-fed for a while, but it was okay," she said.

In the dog arena, bulldogs are one of the breeds she sees a lot. They can struggle breathing because of the configuration of their short noses and mouths, but they are a popular breed. "They have a lot more health problems, especially with the heat," Owel said.

When she's home, in front of the television, she has watched "The Incredible Dr. Pol," from time to time. It's good to see someone else in the same industry, but the horses and cows that Dr. Pol works with add another element. "Large animals are very different than small animals, we had to do all that in school though," she said.

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## NEWS

# Blue Wall Holds in Northern Virginia

FROM PAGE 3

across the aisle. In her victory speech, she struck a decidedly nonpartisan tone.

"Tonight we must recommit ourselves to the cause of our country, to the communities we live in and to our neighbors whether they align with us politically or not and to our great country," said Spanberger. "Our children and our grandchildren deserve that."

While abortion was energizing voters in Northern Virginia, threats to democracy proved to be a muddled message in Virginia Beach. Luria leaned into her role on the committee investigating the Jan. 6 insurrection at the United States Capitol, and Republican challenger Jen Kiggans bullishly avoided answering questions about the legitimacy of President Biden's victory in 2020. In her victory speech, Kiggans also struck a bipartisan tone.

"We ran a positive race," said Kiggans, whose state Senate seat in Virginia Beach will now be up for grabs. "We ran a race that was based on facts, and we also ran a race where we were outspent but we were never out-worked."

**THE MISSING MIDDLE** discussion in Arlington was not missing from the campaign trail. Candidates for the Arlington County Board were constantly asked about the controversial rezoning proposal now under consideration. The rezoning plan is known as the "missing middle" for its efforts to make sure a

range of housing types are available to people who want to live in Arlington. Incumbent County Board member Matt de Ferranti beat back a challenge from his left that accused him of not being aggressive enough with the rezoning and a separate challenge from the right from people who resist changes to single-family zoning.

"In an election that was framed as a vote for Matt was a vote for the Missing Middle, 60 percent of Arlingtonians cast a vote for Matt and another 10 percent cast a vote for someone who was even more in favor of the missing middle," said County Board member Katie Cristol, one of the proposal's chief advocates. "I think you're seeing about 70 percent of Arlingtonians telling you how they feel about the policy."

Young people were a key source of strength for Democrats this year, cranking out double-digit margins for progressives and securing victories across the country. According to an Edison Research exit poll, the national youth vote choice for Congress was 63 percent for Democrats and only 35 percent for Republicans. High turnout among young voters helped Democrats win in Pennsylvania and Wisconsin and may have even helped secure a victory in Georgia.

"We elected a couple of amazing people in Arlington County," said Sasha Bernac, Northern Regional Chairman of Virginia Young Democrats. "Young people want change now."

## BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 7

community members to contribute to helping those in need. To learn more, email [info@alnv.org](mailto:info@alnv.org), or visit [www.alnv.org](http://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](http://ucmagency.org/volunteer-opportunities) or email [volunteer@ucmagency.org](mailto:volunteer@ucmagency.org).

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

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 Hubicki at [chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org](mailto:chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org) or call RSVP at 703-403-5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit [www.rsvpnova.org](http://www.rsvpnova.org).

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

Volunteer Fairfax makes it easy for individuals and families, youth and seniors, corporate groups and civic clubs to volunteer. Fulfill hours, give back, or pay it forward through a variety of service options. Visit [www.volunteerfairfax.org](http://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](mailto:Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov).

## CAN the Bird 5K Turkey Trot

Thanksgiving Day, Thurs, Nov 24th

Race Starts 8:00 a.m.

Walmart, 5885 Kingstowne Boulevard



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[potomac.enmotive.com/events/register/2022-can-the-bird-5k-turkey-trot](http://potomac.enmotive.com/events/register/2022-can-the-bird-5k-turkey-trot)

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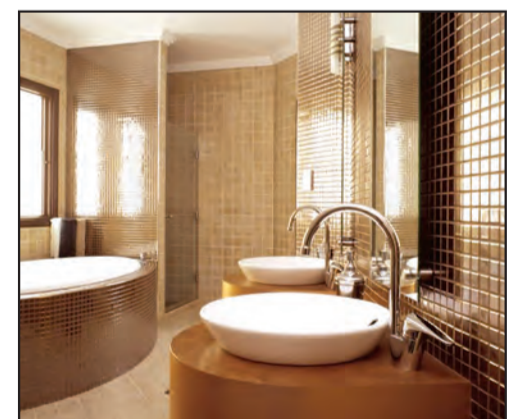
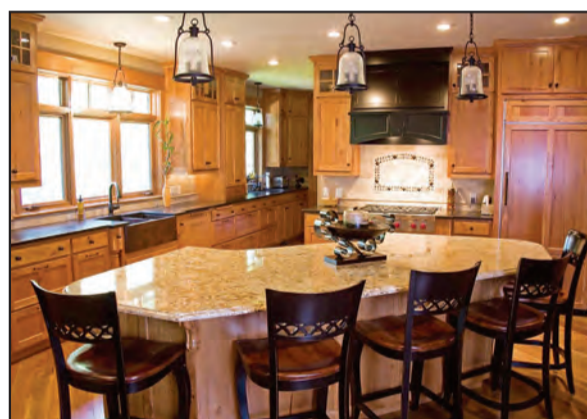


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# ENTERTAINMENT



## Art on the Avenue

ART ON THE AVENUE returns Nov. 12 to Mount Vernon Avenue in Del Ray. The multicultural arts festival takes place on Mount Vernon Avenue between Hume and Bellefonte Avenues. Parking is extremely limited. Free trolley transportation is available from the Braddock Road Metro. [www.artontheavenue.org](http://www.artontheavenue.org)

## CALENDAR

### NOW THRU DECEMBER

Nightly Spirits. Thursdays through Sundays from 7:30 to 10 p.m.; 8:30 to 11 p.m. Admission: 21 and over at \$25 plus tax. Tours meet at The Alexandrian, 480 King Street, Alexandria. Sip a local beverage and listen to the secret and spooky lore of Alexandria's haunted past. Hear tales of the ghosts that wander the streets of Alexandria and haunt local establishments. These tours are for individuals ages 21 and over. Haunted private tours are also available for all ages.

### OCT. 6-NOV. 13

Woodcuts Exhibit. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Featuring works by Joan Mayfield and Ruth Trevarrow. Woodcuts is a mixed-media exhibition that focuses on different types of wood, how we view it, and its transformative properties as part of nature. Mayfield and Trevarrow came up with the concept for the show because they saw a lot of affinity for their individual work as a commonality in their practices. Artist Reception, Sunday, October 16, 4-6 p.m.; Artist Talk, Sunday, November 13, 2 p.m.

### NOV. 4-27

\$100 & Under Exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Del Ray Artisans' "\$100 & Under" exhibit showcases members' artwork all priced at \$100 or less. The art will be sold on an art-to-go basis. The gallery walls are packed with great art at prices all art-lovers can afford. Opening Reception: Friday, November 4, 7-9 p.m. Open Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays 12-6 p.m. Visit [DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits](http://DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits)

### NOV. 11 - DEC. 29

An Eye for Nature Exhibition. At Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. Nina Tisara and Steven Halperson have teamed up for an exhibition of Tisara's mosaic art and Halperson's fine art photography. The exhibit may be seen from 10 a.m. to noon, Mondays and Tuesdays

and 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursdays except for Thanksgiving. To schedule other hours contact [ninat@ninatisara.com](mailto:ninat@ninatisara.com).

### SATURDAY/NOV. 12

Art on the Avenue. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. In front of the Del Ray Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. Del Ray Artisans will present artist demonstrations, sell upcycled tote bags made from exhibit banners, and share information about our nonprofit organization (booths W-192 and W-193). Visit

<https://delrayartisans.org/calendar/#event=art-on-the-avenue-2022>

### SATURDAY/NOV. 12

Get Creative This Holiday Season. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Join artist Marni Maree in the Watercolor Workshop "Yippee Yup!" Forget everything you know about painting on paper and enjoy the spontaneity of painting on a plastic surface, such as yupo. You will learn how to create various textures as you paint and "unpaint" your subject using your regular watercolor supplies. A supply list will be emailed before class. Bring a lunch. The program runs from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and is appropriate for those 16 years and older. The cost is \$110 per person. Call 703-642-5173.

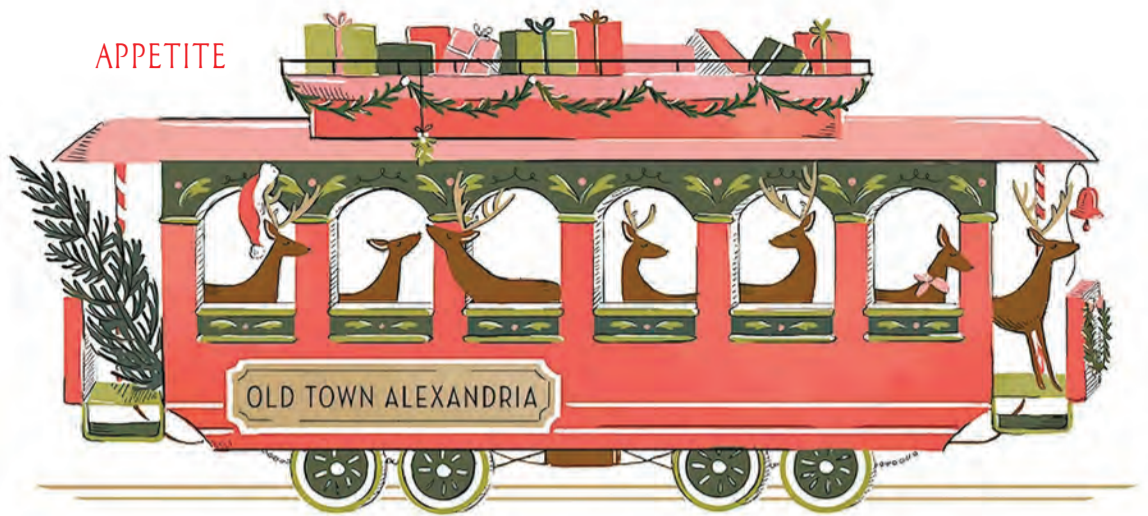
### SATURDAY/NOV. 12

Life, Love, Loss, & Everything Else. 1 p.m. At The Athenaeum, Alexandria. Join musician-poets Neal Learner and Martin Graff for an entirely unique, moving, and inspiring multimedia experience of opera, piano, spoken word, and projected artwork to move your soul and light your imagination.

### SATURDAY/NOV. 12

Scouting Food Drive. Alexandria-area youth of the Boy Scouts of America's Colonial District will hold their 34th annual Scouting for Food drive on Saturday, November 12. Local residents are invited to leave bagged donations on their doorstep

## APPETITE



# 4 Dates to Circle in November

BY HOPE NELSON  
GAZETTE PACKET

\$65 at the door. 1-5 p.m. 220 N. Washington St.

### Old Town Alexandria Cookie Crawl, Nov. 19-20

It's back for another year! Forget the pub crawl – that's SO Halloween 2022 – and instead indulge your sweet tooth with this tasting tour of the city's best cookies. Stop by all 25 participating stores to combine your holiday shopping and cookie tasting in one sugary weekend. Load the treats up in your commemorative cookie tin and let the holiday season begin in style. Pre-registration required. \$40.

### Holiday Maker's Market at Port City Brewing, Nov. 26

In conjunction with Small Business Saturday, Port City is hosting its Maker's Market to feature Alexandria-based creators – and have a bit of fun in the process. From candles to jewelry, home décor to toys, there will be something for everyone on your holiday shopping list. And who's to say you can't pick up a little something for yourself while you're out? Refresh yourself with something from one of the food trucks stationed out front – and wash it down with a Port City beer, of course. Noon-5 p.m. 3950 Wheeler Ave.

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

From hot melty raclette to tangy cider tastings, there's a wealth of activity in Alexandria's food and drink landscape this month. Here are some of the month's best bets.

### Raclette Scraping at Cheesetique, Nov. 12

Cheesetique is pulling out all the stops – and the cheese – for Saturday's Art on the Avenue event. From 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., swing by the shop and feast on an Alpine treat of raclette, which you can take to go as you peruse the event vendors or plunk down at Cheesetique to rest your legs (and maybe enjoy a glass of wine). Feeling creative? Cheesetique is also offering a "Spin Your Own Wine Label" workshop during the event from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Booths E109-111, on Mount Vernon Avenue between Oxford and Uhler.

### Alexandria Cider Festival, Nov. 19

Virginia Cider Week is on the docket for Nov. 11-20, and what better way to celebrate than with a Saturday cider festival? Pop over to the Lloyd House and enjoy cider tastings, live music, a historical jaunt through Virginia's cider history and a commemorative glass to mark the occasion. Local cideries like Lost Boy Cider, Albemarle Cider Works, Big Fish and more will be on hand, as will the Rocklands food truck. \$55 in advance,

by 8:30 a.m. that morning for pick-up by the Scouts. Held annually prior to Thanksgiving, Scouting for Food is an important program for many local food banks which rely on it to stock shelves for the upcoming holiday months when demands are the greatest. On the weekend of November 5, Scouts will canvass neighborhoods across Alexandria and surrounding areas placing notes on doors reminding residents about the Scouting for Food pick-up to take place the following weekend. Residents may reach out to [colonial@ncacbsa.org](mailto:colonial@ncacbsa.org) until Saturday, November 19, to coordinate a missed pickup.

### SUNDAY/NOV. 13

Del Ray Urban Sketchers. 1-3 p.m. At St. Elmo's Coffee Pub, 2300 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Bring your supplies and join them outside at the cafe to produce still life, figure, or architecture subjects in your sketchbook. Del Ray Urban Sketchers operates on a drop-in basis and typically meets the second Sunday of each month at St.

Elmo's Coffee Pub in Del Ray. Visit <https://delrayartisans.org/programs/sketchbooking/#event=urban-sketchers-2022>

### MONDAY/NOV. 14

Pen/Watercolor Workshop. 6-8:30 p.m. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Learn traditional and contemporary pen and ink drawing techniques including hatching, cross-hatching and stippling, and explore wet-into-wet techniques in watercolor. More details at: <https://delrayartisans.org/workshops/#event=pen-ink-watercolor>

### TUESDAY/NOV. 15

Life Drawing Session. 7-9 p.m. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Drop-in and practice life drawing on one Tuesday evening each month. Bring your supplies and join us at the gallery to draw or paint a nude model. Details: <https://delrayartisans.org/programs/life-drawing/#event=life-drawing-nov-2022>

### SUNDAY/NOV. 27

Sunday Funday. 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. At Ainslie Arts Center, 3900 West Braddock Road, Alexandria. This event will feature a cast of local musical theater talent and singing drag queens, a three-piece band, as well as bottomless signature drinks. Presented by the Monumental Theatre Company. Tickets will be available online at <https://www.monumentaltheatre.org/>.

### THE BIRCHMERE

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

### NOVEMBER

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## Give Me Some Credit, Will You?



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As a former C.F.P. (Certified Financial Planner) and insurance broker prior to joining Connection Newspapers as an advertising representative in late February 1997, I have an above-average familiarity with stocks, bonds, mutual funds, insurance, annuities, and money matters in general. It's not as if I could teach a class on any of these topics, but I'd likely have a pretty good understanding of what I was being taught. Moreover, debt consolidation, mortgage refinancing and the use and abuse of credit was similarly familiar to me. I understood their pros and cons, and their do's and don'ts. They were not exactly products I could sell. Rather they were situations I could possibly discuss/utilize to provide clients some unexpected financial relief/assistance.

Speaking of credit cards: I got my first credit card in 1977. How do I know that year? Because that was the year I got engaged and I used my brand new "Central Charge" card (a credit card local to the DMV) to pay for the dinner the night I surprised my wife, Dina with the engagement ring that I had laid away. Once I experienced the convenience of using a credit card to pay for something I couldn't readily afford, I was hooked, like so many of us; and I've been on a slippery slope ever since. Over the ensuing years, I've cash-advanced and consolidated mountains of debt enabling me to navigate the many cross currents of familial and financial ups and downs. And from my perspective, I should receive a lifetime achievement award for keeping our credit history as clean as it still is. Unfortunately, my wife, Dina has never agreed with this assessment. Not that the mundane world of income and outflow ever interested her; nevertheless, she expected results.

So here we are, almost 45 years since that engagement still having differences of opinions concerning money; made even more significant now that we're both over age 65 and I'm only working part time and Dina is, as she's fond of saying: "Presently not working." There's enough money to go around but after it has completed its journey, it's kind of tucked out and the few dollars remaining make very little sense.

Consolidating credit card debt into one lower monthly payment at a lower interest rate is on paper a reasonable and mostly prudent action. However, as a practical matter, I don't see how, given today's online lifestyle and new consuming patterns, it could work, especially if the goal is to have fewer monthly payments; not the same number, just with different lenders/cards. Albeit at a lower rate – for a while. Still, fewer monthly obligations are the goal, not having the same amount. Consolidate doesn't mean differentiate.

As a few examples of my dilemma: Many of us shop at Costco. A membership is required to shop there. A membership card, with your picture on it is also required. For convenience, and miscellaneous other benefits, it makes sense to use a Costco Visa credit card as your method of payment. Not using their card wouldn't be a hardship per se, but it would minimize the gains realized shopping there. Since it serves its own unique purpose, I feel compelled to keep it.

Many of us also shop online with Amazon. To facilitate your online transactions, using their Amazon-brand Visa makes an otherwise arduous process, simpler. If I consolidate it elsewhere, that next Amazon purchase won't be as easy or as beneficial. Again, that card is a keeper.

Our everyday Visa is a United Miles Visa. We've used it for over 20 years. Fortunately, or not, due to years of accumulating debt, we've earned multiple airline trips for free to California, Idaho, Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, and Montana, expensive trips, especially to Bozeman in Montana. The West is amazing, but it usually requires an airline flight to get there. If we have to carry/accrue debt, I'd rather there be some benefit to it, considering the interest isn't as deductible as it used to be.

Lastly, my wife has her own American Express card. It provides her independence – from me. If we consolidate, it must go. Do I really want to sacrifice her independence for my financial gain. As you can see, there are other consequences/extenuating circumstances, to consolidating. It's not always about the money.

If I were to consolidate, it seems to me, given the consuming world in which many of us live, I'd be stuck with more cards, more payments, less convenience, and more aggravation. The exact opposite of what I intended. "Too much for anybody's nerves," to quote my late mother.

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

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Thank you to the hundreds of supporters who helped to keep all our Connection Newspapers alive throughout Alexandria, Fairfax County Arlington County and Potomac, Md. along with affiliated websites and digital media. Now we need help again in 2022.

Each local newspaper's mission aspires to provide greater community service, and we do know that our communities are better off if we continue to publish. Last year's financial support from readers and supporters like you bridged the shortfall before Federal PPP funding arrived, and both made our survival possible. We now await a decision for a grant from Rebuild Virginia in early February that we hope will help us in 2022 and beyond. But we need help to survive the first quarter, always a brutal time for cash flow in weekly newspapers. Thank you.

Please, help save these historical papers. All gifts will be used to fund our printed newspapers and websites and to meet obligations to our loyal and patient employees, writers, contractors and suppliers.

The ongoing pandemic continues to crush many newspapers across the country, and our newspapers continue to be at risk. The Northern Virginia area's best read and most trusted source for community news includes the Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette and all Connection Newspapers in the metropolitan region.

The pandemic has hit small businesses hard, which in turn has reduced advertising revenue that keeps these local newspapers alive to provide hyper local news to residents. It feels like no small miracle to be looking forward into 2022.

The pandemic has been a bear, financially and otherwise. Revenue plummeted at the beginning in 2020. Some beloved advertisers have stayed the course supporting us and both made our survival possible. We now await a decision for a grant from Rebuild Virginia in early February that we hope will help us in 2022 and beyond. But we need help to survive the first quarter, always a brutal time for cash flow in weekly newspapers. Thank you.

Connection Newspapers has been offering these local newspapers to residents for over 200 years. Countless residents have grown up with these papers covering significant moments in the lives of family and children, news, community events, school activities, and even pictures of your dogs and cats. Internet news and large national newspapers cannot provide the local connection or historical connection that local papers like Connection Newspapers and the Alexandria Gazette Packet provide. If your child, dog, mother, father, neighborhood, school has been featured, you understand the value of local community newspapers.

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## HIGHWAY



PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/GAZETTE  
Signs, signs, everywhere signs.



Trucks are allowed to park in certain areas.

# Roadside Marketing Efforts Rampant on Richmond Highway

Some say it is unsightly.

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE GAZETTE

With all that's going on along Richmond Highway these days, there are parked cars and temporary signs with slogans such as "cash4cars," fastened to whatever is available. The proliferation of signs doesn't improve this up-and-coming area in southern Fairfax County.

Daniel Selnick is a longtime resident that was so fed up with all the signs, he wrote to elected officials, Fairfax County and the Virginia Department of Transportation. His complaint: the signs and the trucks parked on this road, which runs parallel to Richmond Highway in front of the shopping area.

"It looks so horrible," Selnick said, "with so much positive growth happening, seeing this is not good."

Another longtime resident John Crofoot was catching a bus in front of Beacon Shopping Center where the trucks were parked on a county street.

"They put a lot of signs here, it's been going on for a long time," he said. The only visible popsicle stick sign that could be seen was about apartment rental.

According to VDOT, this is on their radar. In a memo dated June 29, 2020, "Non-permitted signs within the right of way are illegal and considered a public and private nuisance," it read. "When a sign is found within the right of way it may be removed without giving written notice to the sign owner," the memo said.

Selnick spoke with VDOT and it may have had an impact. On a drive from Jefferson Manor to Jeff Todd Way, there weren't many

signs except one at the North Kings Highway interchange, addressing vehicles traveling north on Kings Highway.

"It's not only an eyesore, it's a driving hazard," Selnick said.

The county did respond to Selnick's concerns. Aaron Campbell, the Constituent Service and Transportation Aide in Supervisor Rodney L. Lusk's (D-Franconia) office noted the road designation is not as clear cut as it appears. Many public roads allow some commercial vehicle parking and almost all have commercial trucks that use them. "They are more impactful to the road but are necessary for the function of our economy," Campbell noted.

Any public road that adjoins an industrially or commercially zoned area is viable for commercial parking as long as there is not a specific restriction. Campbell admitted that the road is not wide enough for parking and travel, but without yellow lines indicating the travel lane, or no parking signs, police say they cannot ticket.

## Embark

The stretch of Richmond Highway where the signs were seen is part of a revitalization project called "Embark Richmond Highway." Embark Richmond Highway is a multi-faceted project promoting revitalization along a 7.5 mile segment of the Richmond Highway Corridor by creating a series of mixed-use activity centers supported by a Bus Rapid Transit system; roadway, pedestrian and bicycle improvements; enhanced open space and park systems; and ultimately a three-mile extension of the Metrorail Yellow Line from Huntington to Hybla Valley, project information stated. The Beacon Shopping Center is one of the mixed-use activity centers in the project.

**"Non-permitted signs within the right of way are illegal and considered a public and private nuisance. When a sign is found within the right of way it may be removed without giving notice to the sign owner."**

— VDOT Memo

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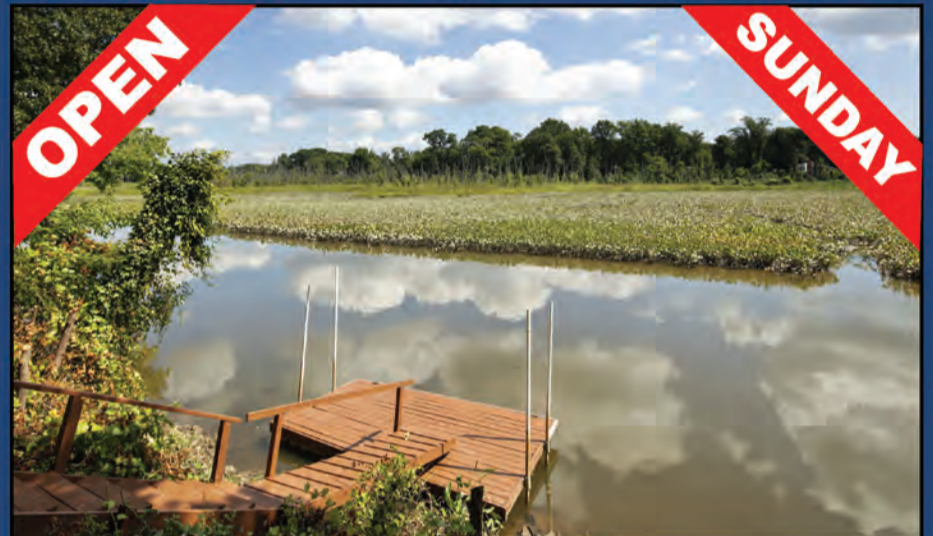


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