

# Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

FEBRUARY 15, 2024



Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck at his town hall meeting.



Traffic on Richmond Highway is always a big topic

## Mount Vernon Town Hall Meeting Celebrates 37 Years

**Supervisor Storck leads a tour from above in a virtual helicopter.**

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE GAZETTE

It was 1987 when the first Mount Vernon Town Hall meeting was held to inform residents and the topics of traffic, congestion and population were the same, but the passion to improve the district has evolved.

On Saturday, Feb. 10 residents gathered in the auditorium at the Mount Vernon High School to hear about the progress and projects that are going on that impact the residents of the Mount Vernon District. It began with one of the MVHS alumni singing the National Anthem while

the color guard and elected officials looked on.

As the colors were posted, Storck brought out a "Route One," sign as an award to former school board member Karen Corbett Sanders who stepped down this year after many years on the board. Her position was filled by Matteo Dunne, the new Mount Vernon school board member who was also present at the meeting.

Corbett was followed by U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) who noted it was his 25th Mount Vernon District Town Hall, and then Sen. Scott Surovell (D-34) who was in the middle of his first session as Virginia Senate Majority Leader down in Richmond. Somehow the discussion got around to the car tax that Virginia residents pay. This has been a topic of debate for years. "The car tax pays for \$3,500 per student in our school system," Surovell said.

Del. Paul Krizek (D-16) was on the stage

as well. Krizek was followed by Dunne, who mentioned the apparent \$250 million budget deficit this year. "I can't support that," Dunne said, and noted that he will look to spend more efficiently.

### Helicopter Ride

Then came an entertaining video where Storck got behind the wheel on a simulated helicopter, flying over the Mount Vernon District, pointing out achievements, ongoing projects and key landmarks on the map. This included the new Lorton Police Station, the Workhouse Arts Center, Mason Neck, the Museum of the U.S. Army, and Fort Belvoir, which is "the largest employer in Fairfax County," Storck said.

After the helicopter tour, Storck spoke about the Richmond Highway widening project and the Embark Richmond Highway redevelopment plan which features the bus rapid transit system called "The One." It is

scheduled to start rolling in 2031.

He also mentioned concerns that they are addressing like panhandling, the Brookside Motel eyesore, and trucks parking in various places that they aren't supposed. "It's a safety problem and looks ugly," said Storck.

Fairfax County executive Bryan Hill shared the stage with Storck and the discussion veered towards funding again, but this time it was the funding formula. "The county gets far less than we send down to the state," Storck said. This funding formula argument has been brought up at many county meetings through the past few years but it hasn't changed.

For the last part of the town hall meeting, school representatives talked about various concerns including school attendance.

Storck wrapped it up with a look ahead. "Join us for the ribbon cuttings and other events this year," he said, "we are The One," going back to the bus rapid transit that he's been behind for years.

## Justice Sunday Addresses Mount Vernon Issues

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

Dr. Vernon C. Walton, senior pastor First Baptist Church of Vienna, organized and hosted the church's 8th annual Justice Sunday this past week. Speakers addressed poverty, food insecurity, homelessness, affordable housing, public safety, health care and other areas needing an equity view.

"Jesus Christ Himself said, I've come so you might have life and have it more abundantly," Walton said. Abundance does not translate to money but to access to healthcare, education, housing, and safety, Walton said. These basic things are not generally available as they should be.

"There is no difference between my school and your school because of the color of my skin or the zip code.

... Abundance suggests ... I too am able to drive my car down the street and go to the mall, and have a reasonable expectation that my child and I are able to return home. Abundance suggests that I spent a week working [and] that I'm able to make enough to provide a roof over my head," Walton said.

Walton acknowledged the weight of the responsibility in the daily decision-making process wears him down. He spoke of how Jesus calls for accountability in stewardship in the Gospel of Matthew.

"Today, it is how one treats the poor and marginalized, Black and brown people, women, LGBTQ, and everyone else," he said. "There is importance in seeing and appreciating people's full humanity rather than focusing on their brokenness or classes."



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

SEE JUSTICE SUNDAY, PAGE 3

Affordable Housing: Mary Paden

# Spring is Around the Corner

Buyers and renters are out there looking. If you have a home you want to rent or sell, call me for guidance through the process.



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## Justice Sunday Addresses Mount Vernon Issues

FROM PAGE 1

belief that by increasing the supply of high-end housing, the market will eventually trickle down to more affordable housing, making it more accessible to lower-income buyers. Creating housing that is more accessible to lower-income buyers must be more effective in facing resistance from the local community.

“The suburbs were created for a reason,” Paden said. “You all know what that is, and they want it to stay that way.” Paden said. “We need community support.”

According to Paden, the county’s housing committee also expresses concern for those currently experiencing homelessness. She said that while Black individuals make up 10% of the overall population of Fairfax, they constitute 50% of the homeless population.

The inequities seen in the county’s criminal justice system have resulted in a significant number of Black individuals being imprisoned and then released.

They can’t rent an apartment, get a job, or get back into society. Paden characterized it as a “free fall” for the individuals, resulting in them being at “the bottom of the barrel.” Preventing individuals from being homeless is one method to combat it.

Paden referred to the availability of tax credits for developments that incorporate affordable housing units. She advocated for the current tenant bills, giving tenants more rights so landlords do not exploit them and “more support at eviction court from legal aid lawyers.” The legal aid lawyers and the



SCREENSHOT

**Supervisor Rodney Lusk (D-Franconia) talked about public safety.**

State Housing Trust Fund require financial support. The funding has increased compared to previous levels, yet more is needed.

According to Paden, the most effective way to accomplish these tasks is to contact lawmakers personally. “I encourage all of you to email me at housing@fairfaxnaacp.org,” she said.

### Public Safety

Supervisor Rodney Lusk (Franconia), chair of the board’s public safety committee, recounted growing up under his grandparents’ care and values and his experience as a public servant.

Lusk cited the three valuable teachings his grandparents imparted to him. One, if you say you are going to do something, you have to do it. Two, if you live in a community, you



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/CONNECTION

**Dr. Vernon C. Walton, senior pastor First Baptist Church of Vienna**

have the responsibility to serve that community. And, if you see someone suffering, if you see someone in need, you have the responsibility to help them, Lusk said.

Lusk provided an overview of the committee’s accomplishments since 2020. Following the police murder of George Floyd and nationwide and local protests, Lusk, Chairman Jeff McKay and others solicited community input on police reform and received hundreds of responses, recorded in a matrix.

One early recommendation was to implement police body worn cameras, which have proven beneficial for transparency and accountability, Lusk said.

Lusk with Supervisor Walter Alcorn put together a co-responder motion that the board approved. “We’re talking about the very beginning of the process of the 911 dis-

patch; we have to figure out if people have mental health or substance abuse issues. We’re going to send a trained clinician out with a police officer to help them,” he said.

In 2023, Lusk created the Police Reform Matrix Working Group which reviewed the community input and developed a proposed action plan.

The Matrix Working Group took hundreds of recommendations recorded in the matrix. After synthesizing them down to 50, Pastor Walton presented the committee’s findings to the public safety committee.

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/boardofsupervisors/sites/boardofsupervisors/files/assets/matrix%20action%20plan%2005-12-23.pdf>

Lusk said that the police department is, as a result of that matrix, in the process of changing the General Order that deals with the pointing of a firearm. “We’re going to now look at a way to capture and record that as a reportable use of force,” Lusk said.

In addition, they created the Courthouse Self-Help Resource Center inside the Public Law Library. The public, on an ad hoc basis, can access informational materials, forms, and legal resources and receive referrals to legal services or other agencies and services that may be available, among other things. “There are people who don’t understand the language, going into the courts, and they have no idea what’s being said in the courtroom,” Lusk said.

For more on Justice Sunday, see page 10-12 <https://connectionarchives.com/PDF/2024/021424/FxCo.pdf>



PHOTO FROM BUDWEISER AD

**Owen, a professional actor dog, who appears in this year’s Super Bowl beer ad**



PHOTO BY BILL BELETSKY

**Local Lab, Bogey, a look alike, shows his emulation of the on-screen hero stanc**



PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

**King’s signature move, a death feint**

## Aspiring To Be Super Dog

BY SUSAN LAUME  
THE GAZETTE

The annual football Super Bowl is a phenomenon of American culture like no other. There’s something for everyone; sports fan or not. The event is also a pinnacle of music entertainment showcasing the best known singers and showmen, and even a show place for the most clever marketing appeals. Those

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watching might dream of one day playing in such a game, singing in such an arena, or in some way emulating those seen on the screen during the event.

And if your family counts a yellow Lab in its number, that pup may also see a hero on the screen worthy of emulating. Consider the latest Budweiser beer commercial that features the Clydesdale horses have become annual stars of the company’s ad time. Invariably a doggo also has a part.

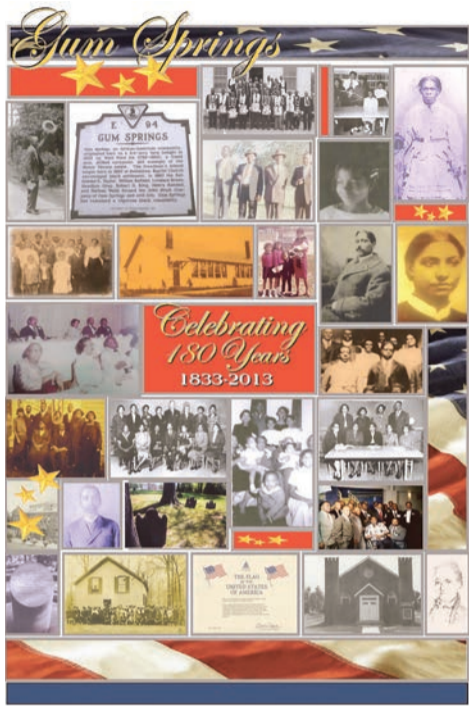
In the story line, a severe snow storm impacts the planned highway delivery of beer kegs to a pub, forcing delivery using a Clydesdale team and wagon. As the snow and plot thickens, a hero dog at the pub senses that the horses need help finding their way. The yellow Lab races to meet them and lead them on. A happy ending for the horses, drivers, dog, and especially the pub’s beer drinkers.

We reached out to the star, Owen, who

lives where all the big stars live, near Los Angeles, CA, in Acton, with his trainer. Now six years old, earlier in life In need of rescue, his potential was recognized by the animal training agency which took him into their family. Budweiser says he was selected for the role based “on his looks and experience.” A willing performer, Owen has done other national marketing ads, including for Sub

SEE SUPER DOC, PAGE 8

MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE ❖ FEBRUARY 15-21, 2024 ❖ 3



Gum Springs celebrated the 180th anniversary of its founding last year.



Gum Springs Museum.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

## Celebrating Black History Month In the Mount Vernon District

BY SUPERVISOR DAN STORCK

History is all around us in Fairfax County, and especially when you live here in the Mount Vernon District! We are fortunate to have so many well-known historic sites such as Mount Vernon Estate, Gunston Hall, Woodlawn & Pope Leighy House, the Workhouse Arts Center and more. But have you ever taken a moment to think about some of the history left out of books that shaped our District and our country? Nearly 191 years ago,

Gum Springs was founded by the patriarchal Freedman West Ford. Gum Springs began as a place for Black individuals to prevail, assimilating runaways and freed slaves who migrated there by way of the nearby port of Alexandria.

Gum Springs is the oldest African American community in Fairfax County, and it was and is a space where Black individuals can raise a family, get an education for their children and feel a sense of community. According to Gum Spring Museum founder Ron Chase, Gum Springs had five schools for Black

students. The most well-known, Drew-Smith Elementary School, was located where the Gum Springs Community Center and Museum are today. At the time, the only other institution available for Black students to attend was the Manassas Industrial School which meant students had to wake up at 5 a.m. to get there on time. Having schools nearby provided the ability for students and families to stay in the area. Today, Gum Springs continues to be a thriving community with over 2,500 residents with as many as 500 being descendants of

the original families.

A great place to learn more about Gum Springs is the Gum Springs Museum. This Museum was founded and continues to be operated by Ron Chase, whose great-great grandfather moved to the community in the 1840s. Ron has lived in Gum Springs nearly his entire life after going to school at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts and Virginia Commonwealth University. He opened the museum in 1966 and has dedicated every day since then ensuring the legacy of

SEE CELEBRATING, PAGE 11

## Crossover Report

Concerns on transit infrastructure, labor agreements and the impact on our greater metro area lead to “no” vote on the Arena bill.

BY DELEGATE PAUL KRIZEK

We have officially reached Crossover in the 2024 General Assembly session!

Now, we in the House will turn our attention to the bills that the Senate has sent to us to consider. This will certainly be a significant number of bills, as over 200 more than ever were introduced during this legislative session. I have had the opportunity to vote on many measures that impact our district, and I thank all of my constituents who have reached out or visited

Richmond to voice their views on legislation.

One of the bills that is crossing over to the Senate from the House that generated a lot of discussion and media attention is HB1514, creating the Virginia Sports and Entertainment Authority in order to move the Caps and Wizards to Potomac Yard in Alexandria. As the Delegate of the next door district directly impacted by this proposed arena, I’ve expressed in my meetings with the Adminis-



Krizek

tration numerous concerns regarding transit infrastructure, labor agreements, the impact on our greater metro area community, funding, and environmental impacts. Unfortunately, the proposal from the Governor especially lacks both a comprehensive transportation plan and meaningful labor agreements for construction and hotel workers, two critical issues for me. While negotiations led by the Democratic leadership offer a path forward

that improves the bill, including an amendment containing a re-enactment clause requiring passage again next year, my major concerns are not assuaged, leading me to vote against the bill yesterday on the floor and last Friday in the Appropriations Committee where I sit. The bill passed on a vote of 59-40 and is moving across to the Senate.

Over recent weeks, I’ve heard strong and reasoned opposition from hundreds of constituents, raising points that I share and find compelling. Concerns per-

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# 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.

## OSTER PARENTS NEEDED

Interested in becoming a foster parent? There is always a need for caring foster parents looking to open their homes to foster youth. Get in touch to learn more. Visit [fcsvanow@gmail.com](mailto:fcsvanow@gmail.com) or [www.FCSVA.org](http://www.FCSVA.org). Or call 703-817-9890.

## 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](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 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).

Volunteer Adult Mentors Needed. Help assist the Department of Family Services' BeFriendA-Child mentoring program. The mentors provide opportunities for companionship, guidance and support to children who have been abused and neglected, or who are at risk of abuse and neglect. Contact Ibrahim Khalil ([Ibrahim.khalil@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Ibrahim.khalil@fairfaxcounty.gov)) at 703-324-4547.

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

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 10



## Public Notice

### Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

In accord with state and federal law, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has imposed new or changed existing weight restrictions and installed new signage indicating the updated weight restrictions on the following bridges and culverts (structures) in Virginia within the last 30 days.

Jurisdiction	Fed Struc Id	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Posted Date
WASHINGTON	18852	19	PORTERFIELD HWY	LITTLE MOCCASIN CREEK	1/22/2024
GREENE	8985	624	BEASLEY ROAD	BLUE RUN	1/17/2024
GREENE	8996	633	AMICUS ROAD	SWIFT RUN	1/17/2024
GREENE	8997	633	AMICUS ROAD	PARKER BRANCH	1/17/2024
GREENE	9002	634	MUTTON HOLLOW ROAD	SWIFT RUN	1/17/2024
BLAND	3057	605	ROUTE 0605	BIG WALKER CREEK #2	1/8/2024
GRAYSON	8754	58	HIGHLANDS PKWY	MILL CREEK	1/4/2024

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.

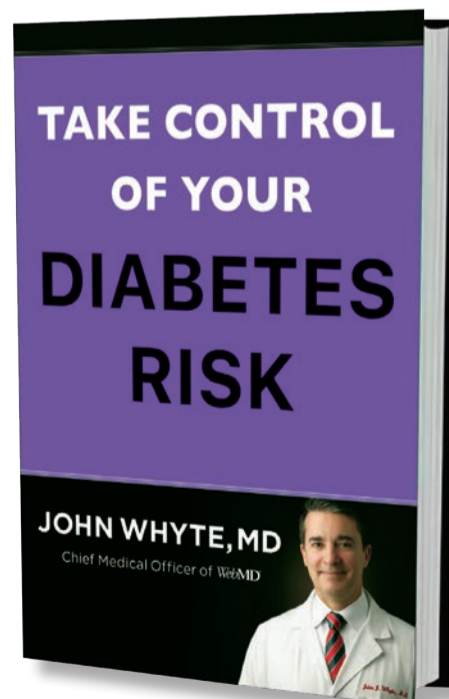
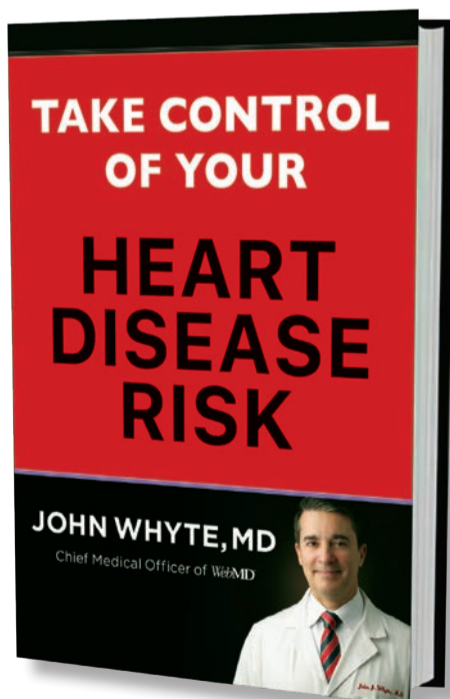
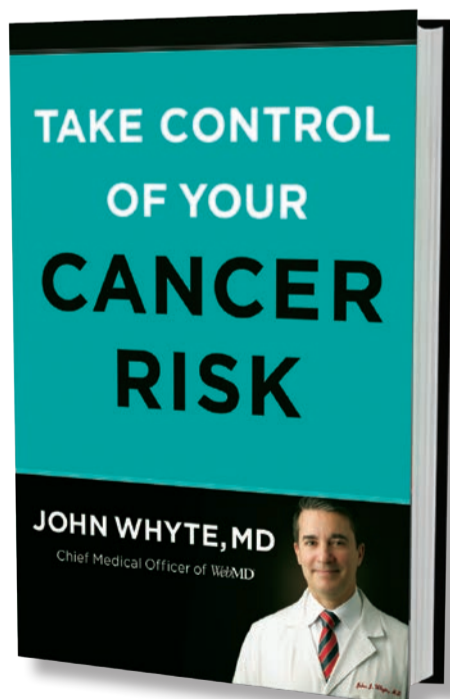
For a full listing of all bridge and culvert weight restrictions with detailed information about specific structures, including location data and actual weight limits, visit <https://www.virginiadot.org> and navigate to Info Center/Trucking Resources. This page references a posted structures report and 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](mailto: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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Kim Deberadinis, a Gunston Hall docent, and Don McAndrews, portraying George Mason.



Rev. Lynn Ronaldi recognized the event's chairperson, Micheyl Bartholomew.



Don Franciso, a fifer, and Mount Vernon-area resident, Cindy Hubbard.

# Pohick Church, Still Thriving after 250 Years

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH  
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

**O**n Feb. 10, 210 enthusiasts gathered to celebrate Pohick Episcopal Church's 250th anniversary at a symposium and gala at Mount Vernon. Multiple speakers recounted that the church, known as "the Mother Church of Northern Virginia," was the first permanent church in the colony to be established north of the Occoquan River, sometime prior to 1724, in Truro Parish. "Its history is as rich as any church in America," wrote the late Michael Bohn in the Mount Vernon Gazette in 2005.

Pohick Church has been a revered place of worship since George Washington's day, a target of British raiders in the War of 1812 and a Civil War horse stable and observation outpost. At 9301 Richmond Highway in Lorton, it's the spiritual home of 500 members today and a national historic site.

The Very Reverend Dr. Lynn Ronaldi, the church's rector, said that passersby often mistake it for a meeting house or a museum. It is a meeting house, she clarified, "but not a museum." Having suffered damage and neglect at times, "It has always been resurrected to life," she told attendees.

Saying "we can all learn from each other," Doug Bradburn, President of Mount Vernon, observed that the group was "celebrating 250 years of freedom." The Right Reverend Mark Stevenson, Bishop of Virginia, came from Richmond and commented that the

church was "called to be a living temple."

Sen. Scott A. Surovell presented a resolution from the Virginia General Assembly, noting that the church is a "spiritual haven" and "one of the most historically significant churches in Virginia and the nation."

Mount Vernon Board of Supervisors' member Dan Storck gave the congregation a resolution honoring the church's "centuries-long contributions to our community, American history and for carrying forward the spiritual legacy of its founders to current and future generations."

## Religion and the Revolution

In a pre-dinner symposium titled "Religion in the Age of the American Revolution" and chaired by Dr. Patrick Spero, Executive Director of the George Washington Presidential Library, historians highlighted how religion was a driving force behind the American Revolutionary War. Bradburn said that colonial patriots believed that the "inalienable right of freedom of conscience was given to you by God." Dr. John Fea said that Americans viewed breaking from England through "a religious lens. God was on the side of the American Revolution."

Several speakers described George Washington's evolution that led him to free his slaves in his will. He wrestled with slavery and acknowledged that as a slaveholder, he was a sinner, Dr. Richard Newman said, and "he anticipated the moment of reckoning." Noting that Washington was a Pohick Church vestryman at age 27, Dr. Ronaldi



Several church artifacts were displayed at the event, among them a Bible and Book of Common Prayer that came from the Church of England in 1774 and a 1716 silver chalice from London used for wine during communion.



said, "He struggled and was willing to be transformed."

## The Building

The Georgian-style church, measuring 66 feet by 45 1/2 feet and completed in 1774 just before the outbreak of the Revolutionary War, is a rectangular, two-story, brick building crowned by a modillioned cornice and hipped roof. It was built by enslaved laborers under contractor Daniel French and probably designed by John Wren because it is similar in design to Christ Church in Alexandria and Christ Church in Falls Church. Building specifications called for bricks to be "well burnt."

Listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places, the 1969 federal nomination noted, "The distinguishing feature of Pohick's exterior is

its especially fine stonework, which includes the large quoins at all four corners and the three doorways."

The churchyard has burials from 1698 to 1957 and a vestry house erected in 1931.

## A Storied Church

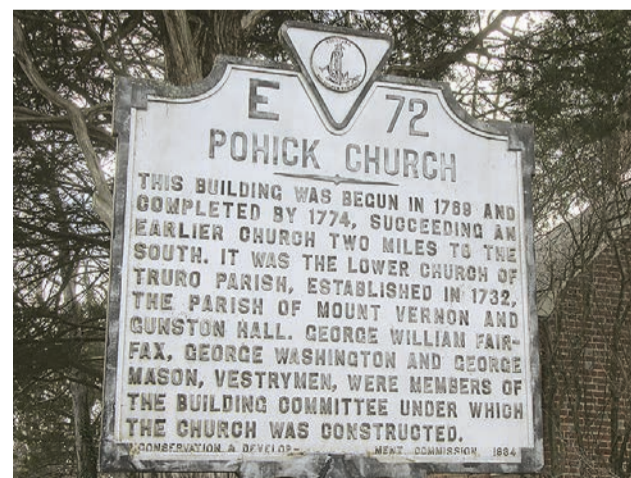
"The origin of 'Pohick' is the Algonquin Indian word for the hickory tree -- 'powcohicora,' which evolved first to 'pohickory,' then finally hickory," wrote Bohn.

The original frame church was built in 1767 close to Gunston Hall. George Mason and George Washington argued about the relocation site; Washington prevailed. Washington, Mason and George William Fairfax were on the vestry and the building committee.

SEE HELPING, PAGE 7



Saturday's gala-goers got a small jar of Pohick Church apple butter.



The historic marker at the church on U.S. 1.



The Feb. 11 reception was held "in the shadow" of George and Martha Washington.

# Pohick Church, Still Thriving after 250 Years

FROM PAGE 6

Local wealthy landowners purchased pew boxes and today brass markers bear the names, Washington and Fairfax. The box-like pews were designed to block drafts and retain warmth from heated bricks.

Still in use today is a baptismal font, likely shipped from England where it was used as a mortar in a monastery kitchen in the eleventh or twelfth centuries. The pipe organ, built by Fritz Noack in the 1960s has 880 pipes, 13 stops and 17 ranks.

By 1830s, the church was in great disrepair and “had become so dilapidated that the door to George Washington’s old pew had come to adorn a free black’s chicken house,” according to Fairfax County, a History.

### Wars’ Ravages

The British raided the church in the War of 1812, reportedly because of its affiliation with George Washington.

During the Civil War, occupying Union forces stripped the building’s interior except for the crown molding, used it as a stable and used the exterior walls for target

practice. Soldiers carved graffiti onto the doorposts. Today’s visitors can see an “M” from that era scrawled on one wall.

Also during that war, Professor Thaddeus S. C. Lowe, an aeronaut with the Union Army Balloon Corps, tracked Confederate movements from Intrepid, his hydrogen-filled balloon, soaring 1,000-2,000 feet above the church courtyard. On March 6, 1862, he reported, “Saw fires at Fairfax Station; some on the road near the Occoquan. This morning cavalry scouts are visible on this side of the Occoquan below Sandy Run.”

The church has undergone several restorations, the last between 1901 and 1916, which returned it to its colonial state.

### To Visit

The church is open Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Sundays, 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., following morning services. Group guided tours can be scheduled in advance. Entry is free. For more semi-quincentennial events, visit <https://pohick.org/250th/>.



Pohick Church today.



The church’s interior and box pews.

# Local Rock Band’s Original Song up for Award

With a handful of original songs and a show every weekend, the Mojo Aces have an ace in the hole this time around.

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE GAZETTE

Local rock band Mojo Aces are hitting the right chord on the local heavy metal scene and are now approaching Wammie status too. Their latest song “Too Late” has just been announced as a finalist in the category of “Best Hard Rock/Metal Song” for the DMV Wammie Awards.

“Too Late,” is about cheating and betrayal on one level, and then a fatal car crash and it is too late. The song was partially inspired by experience of one of the band members and by teen tragedy songs of the early 1960s. Throw in some Guns N’ Roses guitar riffs and turn it up to 11.

“Overall the song took us about six months on and off of getting it to a place where we felt good about it,” said Ean Eschenburg, the singer.

The 36th Annual Wammie Music Awards will take place Saturday, April, 20 at the Capital One Hall in Tysons. At the event, nearly 50 awards will be presented throughout the evening, representing a multi-genre playlist in categories like Best Music Venue, Best Music Video, Best Youth Artist, Music Educator of the Year, and Hit-maker of the Year Award.

A local music entity called “The Musicianship,” is part of the Wammie 2024 production and their mission is to envision a future where all young people have access to the joy and opportunities made possible by the transformational power of music, they said. The Mojo Aces experienced the power of music through the past few years around Arlington, D.C. and at least one performance in Old Town, Alexandria.

Some of their other originals rose to the top like foam in a beer glass. Songwriting is very much an evolutionary process for the Mojo Aces and they bounce ideas off each other. “Drinking and Smoking,” was penned by their lead guitarist on the way to Costco. “Running to You,” is another original that they released last fall.

They started out with some originals but a lot of cover tunes



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Mojo Aces



Singer Ean Eschenburg belts out the lyrics for the college-aged crowd.

## The Mojo Aces are:

- Jake Simon - Drummer
- Ean Eschenburg - Vocals
- Jakob Markham - rhythm guitar
- Jon Kraft - lead guitarist
- Derek Tay - Bass

## New Name, New Attitude

The song ended up being their first release after they re-branded themselves from “The Summer of George” to “Mojo Aces.” At that point they were really looking to put something out that said ‘hey, we’re ready to stop messing around and want to start being taken seriously as a band.’ “Too Late” was a great first song to release to reflect that change, Eschenburg said.

In October 2022, they shot a music video on an Arlington rooftop adding a touch of the Beatles rooftop concert to their repertoire. The roof was the home of rhythm guitarist Jakob Markham, but the rest of the band lives across the river in Virginia. Singer Eschenburg lives in Burke, Jon Kraft, the lead guitarist and songwriter, lives in Arlington.

that everyone knows at the clubs. Led Zeppelin covers are always part of the playlist, and other covers from the 1970s best-of list like Elton John, AC-DC and more recent pop-punk tunes. They throw in a country song occasionally.

“You’ve got to play to these kids what they want,” said Eschenburg after a past performance. Sometimes they open up with “Too Late,” because it immediately sets a tone with the audience, and “definitely let’s you know immediately who the real rockers are in the crowd each night,” he added.



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**NEWS**

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE GAZETTE



Bogey training for future hero rescue scenes.



Local Lab, King, a mature dog and seasoned actor off the screen, strikes a convincing hero pose.

**Super Dog**

FROM PAGE 3

aru, Walmart, Hilton, BarkBox, and he appeared on the TV show “Shrinking” on Apple TV; also starring Harrison Ford. When not working, he lives a normal dog’s life. That is if your dog normally enjoys the run of the house and all the family comforts. Like many celebrities, Owen could not be reached for comment.

What self respecting Lab wouldn’t aspire to be just like that T.V. dog, using its skills and coming to the rescue to make everyone happy? We interviewed two such local yellow Labs, Bogey, 1 1/2 years old, and King, 10 years old, to assess their skills and readiness for television hero work.

Young Bogey could be a dead ringer for Owen, with the same size and coloring. He’s part of the Beletsky family of Springfield. Bogey trains for whatever life may bring with daily long walks at Burke Lake Park trails and afternoon play dates with his doggo

pals near Lake Mercer. As a young pup he’s never tasted beer or met any horse, let alone a huge Clydesdale, but his confidence is such that he could likely take such a meeting in stride. He’s never met a person or dog he doesn’t like. He can strike a pose with the best of them and is surely star material.

King, though older, has maintained his enthusiasm for life and trail walks. He lives with Jess Copland in Lorton and frequents Laurel Hill Park. While his pace might have slowed and he might have difficulty with the running in rescue scenes, his nose is fine tuned, with expertise in finding any treats in his vicinity. He has tasted beer in moderation, though has no favorite brand. As for acting chops, his death faint is impressive; sure to win notice on any casting call. His preference actually may be to perform his signature move, and all his moves, on the casting couch.

We can all dream. Some of us do it while thumping a tail.

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# ENTERTAINMENT

## NOW THRU FEB. 18

**A Delicate Balance Sculpture.** At the Athenaeum, Alexandria. Curated by Jackie Hoysted and produced by Veronica Szalus, A Delicate Balance is an all-sculpture show that explores the idea of achieving equilibrium. Perhaps more than ever, today we have a greater awareness of how everything operates in such a delicate balance - be it ecosystems, politics, relationships or personal well-being. We must navigate life without tipping too much in one direction so that we can strive for harmony, but at times something radical is required to achieve it.

## NOW THRU FEB. 29

**Love Is In the Air Exhibit.** At Van Landingham Gallery, Torpedo Factory, Gallery 311, 105 North Union Street, Alexandria. The Torpedo Factory Artists' Association presents a group exhibition including jewelry, paintings, photography, mixed media work, hand pulled prints, and more during the month of February. Visit <https://www.torpedofactoryartists.com/> to learn more about the Torpedo Factory Artists' Association.

## NOW THRU APRIL 15

**Exhibit: "Searching for Truth in the Garden" at Freedom House Museum.** At Freedom House Museum, 1315 Duke Street, Alexandria. Gonzaga High School's groundbreaking research on slavery, "Searching for Truth in the Garden," found new life at the Freedom House Museum. The traveling exhibition, on view through April 15, 2024, delves into the life of Gabriel, a teenager enslaved at Washington Seminary (now Gonzaga) in 1829. Gabriel's story offers a poignant lens through which to examine the complexities of slavery and its lasting impact.

## WEDNESDAYS THROUGH SATURDAYS

**Tours Aboard Tall Ship Providence and Sen. John Warner Maritime Heritage Center.** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Alexandria's Waterfront Park, 1A Prince Street, Alexandria. Guests of all ages are recruited into the Continental Navy aboard Tall Ship Providence with legendary Captain John Paul Jones. Recruits are assigned jobs on the ship, learn where they will work and live, how to load a cannon, etc... Tours conclude in the Naval History Theatre with a film about the ship. The Heritage center is a floating museum on the Alexandria waterfront. Visit <https://tallshipprovidence.org/>

## NOW THRU MARCH 2

**Native American Culture & Experience Exhibit.** At Nepenthe Gallery, Hollin Hall Shopping Center, Alexandria. This special exhibit includes works by renowned photographer, Cara Romero, and historical painters, Bryant and Pamela White, among others. The exhibit will be up until March 2nd at Nepenthe's flagship gallery at the Hollin Hall Shopping Center in Alexandria.

## NOW THRU FEB. 24

**The "Visible Touch: A Look at Texture" exhibit features art that explores texture through physical form or visual illusion.** Visitors will be allowed to touch some of

the art (pieces are marked). Enjoy the visual and the tactile experience! View at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria VA. Opening Reception: Friday, February 2, 7-9 p.m. Open Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays 12-6 p.m. (Closed February 25). [DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits](http://DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits)

## SATURDAY/FEB. 17

**Manumission Tour Company Black History Bus Tour.** Feb. 17, 2024, from 1:30 to 3 p.m. and 3 to 5 p.m. Tour meets at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe Street, Alexandria. Ride with Manumission Tour Company on a 90-minute guided bus tour to visit various African American historic sites in Alexandria. You will hear stories of both enslaved and free African Americans prior to the Civil War as well as understand the stories behind some of Alexandria's most well-known African American historic sites. Sites will include the Alexandria National Cemetery, Alfred Street Baptist Church, Shiloh Baptist Church, Church Alley, the African American Heritage Park, the Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery, Barrett Library and more.

## SUNDAY/FEB. 18

**Concert: Washington Revels Jubilee Voices.** 2-3 p.m. At Alexandria's History Museum at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington Street, Alexandria. Join Washington Revels Jubilee Voices for an exploration of the Gullah-Geechee culture and life in St. Simons Island, Georgia. This multimedia program, "Wade in the Water," was developed in partnership with Mercer University, blending songs and stories of the Gullah Geechee community and featuring six student films that capture the history, lives and spirit of these proud people, whose numbers are dwindling due to several factors, including increasing development. The event is free, but online registration is encouraged.

## WEDNESDAY/FEB. 21

**Virtual Documentary Viewing: "Still Bill."** 7 to 9 p.m. Virtual via Zoom. For African American History Month, enjoy a virtual screening of the documentary "Still Bill" about music legend and Hall of Famer, Bill Withers. Please register with an email address to receive the screening link. Registration closes at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, February 20, 2024. Visit [alexandrialibraryva.org](http://alexandrialibraryva.org)

## THURSDAY/FEB. 22

**Black Dance: Housing the Past and the Present.** 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Virtual via Zoom. Join a virtual presentation exploring how colonialism brought an end to



"The Power of Two" Exhibit will run at Del Ray Artisans Gallery from March 1-30, 2024.

authentic African dance with Associate Professor of Dance at George Mason University Lawrence M. Jackson, who in 2011 co-authored and edited a special edition on Black dance in the Journal of Pan African Studies. In this presentation, he explains how Black dance keeps those African cultural traditions alive and is an affirmation of identity and independence. Visit [alexandrialibraryva.org](http://alexandrialibraryva.org)

## SUNDAY/FEB. 25

**Finding the Family of Joseph McCoy.** 2 p.m. At Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe Street, Alexandria. Genealogist Char McCargo Bah will lecture on "Finding the Family of Alexandria's Lynching Victim Joseph McCoy." Join the Black History Museum staff in learning how Ms. Bah, the official genealogist for the Alexandria Community Remembrance Project, discovered the family of the first of Alexandria's lynching victims, Joseph McCoy, who was lynched in Alexandria on April 23, 1897. Learn the secrets to investigating a family tree that does not have many leads. The lecture is suited for beginners or established genealogists. The lecture is free, but space is limited, so register to attend. Registration at Finding the Family of Joseph McCoy - shop. [alexandriava.gov](http://alexandriava.gov).

## TUESDAY/FEB. 27

**Bright Star Theatre: George Washington Carver and Friends.** 6 to 7 p.m. At Charles E. Beatley Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria. Meet Black entrepreneurs and groundbreakers like George Washington Carver, Madame CJ Walker, Thurgood Marshall and more in this interactive theater performance. The event is

for children grades K to 5. Visit [alexandrialibraryva.org](http://alexandrialibraryva.org)

## WEDNESDAY/FEB. 28

**Burke Book Club: "Invisible Man" by Ralph Ellison.** 3:30 to 5 p.m. Virtual via Zoom. In honor of Black History Month, join a virtual Zoom discussion put on by Ellen Coolidge Burke Branch Library on the 1952 classic novel, "Invisible Man" by Ralph Ellison. This program will take place by Zoom and registration is required. After registering, you will be emailed the link to join this Zoom meeting. If you have questions about the program or need help with set up, please contact Caroline at [cpak@alexlibraryva.org](mailto:cpak@alexlibraryva.org). Visit [alexandrialibraryva.org](http://alexandrialibraryva.org)

## MARCH 1-30

**"The Power of Two" Exhibit.** At Del Ray Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Features art that showcases two related items in one piece of art; for example, two-of-a-kind, complementary items, double-exposures, duos, twins, or multiple generations. "Double your pleasure, double your fun." Opening Reception: Friday, March 1, 7-9 p.m. Open Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays 12-6 p.m. (Closed Sunday, March 31). Details: [DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits](http://DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits)

## MARCH 5 THRU APRIL 28

**Mosaics by Nina Tisara and Photographs by Steven Halperson.** At Green Spring Gardens, 4601 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. The Opening Reception is Sunday, March 10, 1-3 p.m. The mother-son team had worked together at Tisara Photography in Old Town for three decades. Steven now manages

the Alexandria portrait studio as well as creating painterly photographic images and unique etched copper art. Nina creates intricate mosaics of unglazed porcelain tile which are widely exhibited and collected. Their work may also be seen by appointment at Serenity Place Gallery, Nina's in-home gallery,

## FRIDAY/MARCH 8 Women's Leadership Forum.

7:45-10:30 a.m. At The Westin Alexandria Old Town, 400 Courthouse Square, Alexandria. The forum will bring together women (and men) at all stages of their careers for an interactive, "straight talk" panel discussion filled with inspiration and insight. Cost is \$80 for Members | \$105 for Prospective Members.

## MARCH 12-18

**Spring Book Sale - At Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria.** The Friends of Beatley Central Library will hold their Spring Book Sale from Tuesday, March 12 through Monday, March 18. Members'

Preview on Tuesday, March 12, 3:00 -7:30 p.m. (\$15 memberships available at the door); Wednesday, March 13, 10:00 a.m.-7:30 p.m., Thursday, March 14, 10:00 a.m.-7:30 p.m.; Friday, March 15, 10:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Saturday, March 16, 10:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sunday, March 17, Half Price Day, 1:00-4:30 p.m.; Monday, March 18, \$10 Bag Sale, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. \$4 or less, unless specifically marked: hardbacks, paperbacks, children's books, and media. All genres. Visit [www.beatleyfriends.org](http://www.beatleyfriends.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).

## FEBRUARY

Wed. 14: Kevin Ross \$65.00  
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Fri. 16: NRBO \$45.00  
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FROM PAGE 5  
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 service options. Visit [www.volunteerfairfax.org](http://www.volunteerfairfax.org) or call 703-246-3460.

Fairfax County's Community Services Board is seeking volunteer office assistants. Volunteers are needed to assist CSB staff with greeting guests, making reminder phone calls, data entry, filing, shredding, stocking shelves, and other duties as needed. Hours are flexible, but would be during normal business hours. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb/viva/volunteers.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb/viva/volunteers.htm) for more.

Yoga Teachers are needed. Help improve a person's well-being by teaching yoga classes to adults who are staying in a residential facility. The day/time is flexible, but would be during the week. Prior yoga instruction is required. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb/viva/volunteers.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb/viva/volunteers.htm) for more.

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).

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

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

The Gum Springs Senior Program in Alexandria is looking for a Line Dance Instructor. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Kingstowne Center for Active Adults in Alexandria needs In-

SEE HELPING, PAGE 11

# Celebrating Black History Month

FROM PAGE 4

Gum Springs continues to live on.

"The knowledge of African American history is essential to the history of our nation. The contributions of individuals who came from Gum Springs helped change the lives of so many such as Annie Smith, the first teacher at Drew-Smith Elementary School who taught students that would later go on to be doctors and lawyers," said Ron. He also says that when he walks around the Museum and sees photos of people like Samuel Taylor, who bought land on Fort Hunt Road and re-

sold it to Black families (at cost) to build up a community, he is inspired by their perseverance to create a lasting presence.

During Black History Month, take a moment to stop by the Gum Springs Museum to learn about the men and women who made contributions to not only our District, but the whole nation. For those who know Ron, he pours his heart and soul into the Museum and always has a welcoming smile for everyone, especially new visitors. The Gum Springs Museum is open Tuesday - Friday from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Saturday 1:30 -

5 p.m. You can keep up to date on upcoming events and programs on their website <https://gumspingsmuseum.blogspot.com/>, Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/gumspingsmuseumronchase/> and keep an eye out for their new magazine coming out in March - History In Motion the Gum Springs Historical Society Magazine.

The next time you drive down Sherwood Hall Lane and Fordson Road into Gum Springs, take a moment to reflect on the vast history we are fortunate to have here in the District.

## Crossover Report

FROM PAGE 4

sist regarding the significant and long-term impacts on not just the Mount Vernon community but the greater regional community, particularly regarding traffic conditions, affordable housing, and the negative effect on Chinatown. The potential increase in rent prices would disproportionately affect working-class families, exacerbating existing challenges. Furthermore, the argument that relocating a sports team equates to economic development fails to acknowledge the true essence of economic growth to the region in its entirety. This is not bringing in new capital so much as moving it five miles down the road and across the river. In my

role as your Delegate, I prioritize the best interests of our community but cannot ignore that we are a part of the greater metro region, and unfortunately, this legislation falls short of meeting the needs and concerns of my constituents. Therefore, I did not support this bill.

In addition to hearing Senate bills over the next few weeks, House members must also travel to the Senate side to present our bills before their committees. This process can get tricky, as many of us are chairing House subcommittees at the same time that we must attend Senate committees to present our bills. As you can see, there will be a lot of hurrying from place to place, and I may

have to pass my gavel to another colleague on my subcommittee from time to time.

Just to give you an idea of how the floor votes went on my 15 bills headed to the Senate, below are the bills with the voting results. To learn more about each bill you can find them on LIS at <https://lis.virginia.gov>. These bills now start all over again in Senate Committees this week. We are making progress!

HB 199 (92-7), HB 200 (99-0), HB 201 (100-0), HB 522 (93-5), HB 523 (97-3), HB 525 (99-1), HB 526 (100-0), HB 527 (92-6), HB 698 (52-48), HB 1157 (62-36), HB 1167 (54-45), HB 1273 (51-48), HB 1349 (96-3), HB 1397 (51-46), HJ 10 (97-0).

## Accommodate This



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Cancer hasn't changed the way most people greet me. Typically, it's the standard "Hello. How are you doing?" Occasionally, the look on their faces or even their body language will give them, and their concern/fear for me, away. Usually, I will respond; accordingly, not too many details though, but something of substance. How do you address a person who's not fine? Most of the time however, people treat me "normally," or at least treat my like other non-cancer/non-terminal types in their social circle. Rarely do I take their questions as encouragement to drone on about my latest cancer blip. For most people who know me and my diagnosis, I must be prodded a bit to speak about it. It's way too heavy a subject (my likely premature death) for introductory-type conversation.

The other day, I saw a good friend who's aware of my condition/challenges and to whom I've uttered some of my usual responses to innocent queries: "Glad to be here. Glad to be anywhere. I'd be crazy to complain," et cetera, as but a few examples. He responded respectfully/sincerely saying I should really be graded on a curve (allowing for my miscellaneous but likely adverse consequences). Immediately, I said "Absolutely! I couldn't agree more."

Let's be honest. Fifteen-year cancer survivors don't exactly grow on trees. And if that survivor, hasn't stopped treatment during this entire decade plus (since Feb. 2009), which I haven't, there's going to be some damage; mentally, physically, spiritually, and/or emotionally. Moreover, as the old joke says: the experience is going to leave a mark. It certainly has. To invoke my friend Frank's self-assessment: "I'm in pretty good shape for the shape I'm in." Nevertheless, I am hardly 'normal. After nearly 15 years of cancer treatment, I'm not exactly a shell of my former self, but neither am I fit as a fiddle. As such, I'm always grasping at anything that can lighten the emotional load of being a cancer patient in treatment. And Jim's suggestion about grading my health on a curve resonated. Compared to non-cancer/non-serious health survivors? "Damn straight" I should.

A "terminal" diagnosis. A "13 month to two years" prognosis. An apparent mistake/misdiagnosis which caused my oncologist to treat me for non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV (non-curable) when the revisionist culprit was slow-moving papillary thyroid cancer, stage IV (curable). But that's a reality, a what-if scenario that given my life now, I can't (to quote the late Don Imus) get "torqued" off about. I must leave it in the past and be grateful for the present/future. A 'present/future' that was not at all guaranteed to me when Team Lourie first met my oncologist and heard my original diagnosis.

And to live in the present, I can't revisit the past. I must accept my circumstances which also means, I must accept the fact that I'll never be normal again - compared to my fellow man, and there's nothing wrong with that. It's sort of like some sports (ski racing, horse racing and/or track and field) where adjustments are made to the starting point or time or weight to make the competition fair for all the participants. Not that I feel as if I'm in a race/constant competition with my fellow man, but I do feel, I am due some accommodations: "This is as fast as I can walk." "Give me a sec., I can't get up that quickly." "Sorry. I'm tired. I need to go lie down." And so many more. Despite this reality, I want to be treated as normally as possible. However, practically speaking, I can't be treated like everyone else. I need to be treated like me: a 15-year cancer survivor still undergoing treatment." In summary, who am I kidding? I haven't been normal for years. 'Normal' left the building in early 2009.

Not that I'm ever meant to feel bad because of my deficits or lack of mobility (bending over/tying my shoelaces is torture) but when you're slowing the group down, it's obvious who's the culprit. Not that I can do much about what ails me, I can live with it. I've been living with it/them for almost 15 years. It seems more difficult for other people though. I must modify expectations for myself, and others must do the same. I'm happy to be involved and I promise I won't play the cancer card (the ultimate Get-out-of-jail-free card/excuse for not doing a million things). Nevertheless, just because I don't talk too much about what it's like having cancer, possibly being misdiagnosed, and likely dying before my time doesn't mean I'm not preoccupied with it. It just means I'm comfortable with it. And the sooner others are as comfortable with it as I am, the sooner the positive vibrations I'll receive in kind will help get me to the finish line with an attitude with which I can be proud.

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

## BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 10

structors for the following classes: Country-Western Line Dance, Hula Hoop and African Style Dance. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

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

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

The Advisory Board of the Joe and Fredona Gartlan Center for mental health is looking for volunteers. The board meets the second Tuesday of the month from 9-11 a.m. at Gartlan Center 8119 Holland Road.

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

Volunteer Advocates for Nursing Home & Assisted Living Residents needed

throughout Northern Virginia. Contact the Northern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltombudsman/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltombudsman/), or email [Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov) or call 703-324-5861, TTY 711.

Hollin Hall Senior Center is looking for a DJ ballroom and dance instructor. The Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. The Mount Vernon Adult Day Health Care Center is looking for social companions for participants on Fridays from 3-5 p.m. and front desk volunteers on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 11 a.m.-noon and 3:30-4:30 p.m. Located at 8350 Richmond Highway. For these and other volunteer opportunities call 703-324-5406 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults).

### ONGOING

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

Art Making as Meditation. 7-8:30 p.m. St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. Art making as meditation can be an active form of contemplative practice. Each session begins with a short reading and a brief introduction to materials. Silence for making and meditation lasts an hour followed by sharing images or insights gained through the process, if desired. Children able to par-

ticipate in silence are welcome to come with a parent's quiet supervision. RSVP not necessary for attendance, but helpful for planning purposes. Call 703-360-4220, email [info@centerforspiritualdeepening.org](mailto:info@centerforspiritualdeepening.org) or visit [www.staidansepiscopal.com/Center-for-Spiritual-Deepening](http://www.staidansepiscopal.com/Center-for-Spiritual-Deepening).

### Mount Vernon Preservation Challenge.

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

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



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9499 Lynnhall Pl | \$1,295,000



3104 Battersea Ln | \$775,000



8832 Fort Hunt Rd | \$1,195,000



8909 Dogue Dr | \$683,800



1904 Mallinson Way | \$1,800,000



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