Mount Vernon Gazette

Mount Vernon's Hometown Newspaper • A Connection Newspaper

November 5, 2026

The Days Leading to Election Night Results for Virginia



Screen grab via Facebook

Incumbent Democratic U.S. Sen. Mark Warner won his bid for a fourth term as U.S. senator. He made his final campaign pitch in Alexandria on Monday, Nov. 2, 2026.



Photo contributed

Fairfax County residents line up to cast early ballots outside on Friday, Oct. 30, 2026.



Photo by Mercia Hobson
The Connection

At approximately 8:30 a.m. on Election Day, Tuesday, November 3, 2026, State Sen. Jennifer Boysko, D-Fairfax, chief patron of Virginia Constitutional Amendment 1, poses outside Herndon Middle School (901 Locust St., Herndon). Boysko criticized sample ballots distributed at the site by the Fairfax County Republican Committee urging "Vote no on all three" measures, calling the GOP claims factually inaccurate.

Unofficial results as of Election Night.

By Mercia Hobson
The Gazette

Early statewide voting results in Virginia as of 8:20 p.m. Nov. 3 showed, Democratic candidates held leads for the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives, voters approved three constitutional amendments, and Fairfax County voters backed multimillion-dollar park and health infrastructure bond referenda.

Preliminary results follow a surge in early voting across Fairfax County, where voters cast 230,632 cumulative early ballots by Nov. 2. That marks a 73 percent increase over the 133,336 early ballots cast at the same point in the 2022 midterm election, according to data from the Virginia Public Access Project. There are 824,134 registered voters in Fairfax County, according to the Virginia Department of Elections.

In the statewide race for the U.S. Senate as of 8:35 p.m., incumbent Democratic Sen. Mark Warner held an expected lead in his bid for a fourth term, ahead of Republican challenger Bert K. Mizusawa, a retired Army major general. With 1,544 of 2,529 precincts reporting, Warner, a City of Alexandria resident, led the contest with 1,017,644 votes (58.42 percent) to Mizusawa's 724,244 votes (41.58 percent). Tuesday night, Warner posted, "Thank you, Virginia. It's the honor of my lifetime to serve you. Here's to six more years fighting for you."

In the 11th Congressional District centered in central and western Fairfax County, Democratic incumbent Rep. James Walkinshaw dominated preliminary returns with 83,200 votes (71.16 percent) as of 8:50 p.m., with 96 of 181 precincts reporting and 119,525 early votes left. Republican candidate Arthur Purves received 32,036 votes (27.4 percent), followed by Green Party candidate Dianne Blais with 1,691 votes (1.45 percent).

In Virginia's 8th Congressional District — covering Arlington, Alexandria, Falls Church and eastern Fairfax County — incumbent Democratic Rep. Don Beyer Jr. surged ahead in the multi-candidate field with 133,876 votes (82.32 percent) as of 8:40 p.m., with 113 of 172 precincts reporting and 60,496 early votes remaining, and declared victory. Republican challenger Tony Sabio followed with 24,751 votes (15.22 percent), while independent candidate Tim S. Sharman garnered 2,172 votes (1.34 percent) and Libertarian candidate Shelly Arnold received 1,829 votes (1.12 percent).

In statewide returns as of 9 p.m., Virginia voters showed strong support for all three constitutional measures on the ballot. For Question 1, concerning the right to reproductive freedom, "Yes" led with 1,344,030 votes (61.8 percent), while "No" received 830,723 votes (38.2 percent).

For Question 2, concerning the right to same-sex marriage, "Yes" led with 1,249,885 votes (51.21 percent), while "No" received 934,856 votes (42.79 percent).

For Question 3, concerning the right to vote and restoration of voting rights to those who have completed their sentences, "Yes" led with 1,207,671 votes (53.39 percent), while "No" received 972,548 votes (44.61 percent).

Senate Majority Leader Scott Surovell touted the historic night for Virginia:

"Virginians ratified three constitutional amendments by margins of 10 to 20 points, with those margins expected to grow as mail ballots are counted over the next five days.

See Unofficial Results, Page 15

Beyer Statement

Rep. Don Beyer (D-VA), who represents a Northern Virginia district in the U.S. House and serves as the Senior House Democrat on Congress' Joint Economic Committee, issued the following statement on Wednesday, Nov. 4:

"Donald Trump and J.D. Vance were elected on promises to lower prices and end wars. Instead, they plunged the country into an endless nightmare of inflation, corruption, and illegal military aggression. They embarrassed our good name abroad, embracing our adversaries and alienating our allies, and put our economy in a vice grip with disastrous tariffs. They dismantled the people's government, took a chainsaw to the federal workforce, and brought violence and mayhem into peaceful communities while putting violent criminals back on the street. They gutted health care and food assistance for millions while lining their own pockets and the pockets of their families and donors. Republicans in Congress were willing participants in the Trump-Vance debacle, surrendering the constitutional prerogatives of the Legislative Branch to serve as a rubber stamp. …

"People want a Congress that will listen to them, work for them, and fix their problems. … Democrats will answer that call, with a majority that fights for American values and the good of all Americans. We will fight to end Trump's illegal war, repeal his price-raising tariffs, and undo his cost-increasing health care cuts that left millions without coverage. And we will bring accountability to the most corrupt administration in American history."

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ACM ATLANTIC COAST MORTGAGE

Olmi Family Honored for Preserving Fort Willard

Fort Willard was part of the Civil War Defenses of Washington, one of the 68 Union forts in place by 1865.

By Glenda C Booth
Mount Vernon Gazette

During the Civil War, eagle-eyed Union soldiers at Fort Willard atop the hill in today's Belle Haven community scoured the landscape for Confederate enemies coming up the Potomac River or along Accotink Turnpike, roughly today's Fort Hunt Road.

On Oct. 24, the Fairfax County Park Authority honored the Olmi Family Foundation with the Eakin Philanthropy Award for preserving Fort Willard.

Fort Willard was one of the Civil War Defenses of Washington, one of the 68 Union forts and 93 batteries armed with over 800 cannons in place by 1865. After the Confederate States Army won the 1861 Battle of Manassas, President Abraham Lincoln feared Confederate attacks on Washington and ordered the military to protect the nation's capital and its 75,000 residents. His planners chose strategic heights around the city overlooking turnpikes, railroads, bridges and shipping routes. Today, the National Park Service manages 18 of the original sites, like Fort Marcy and Fort Stevens.

The Olmis

In an interview, Eugene "Geno" Olmi said that growing up in Belle Haven, "I rode my bike through Fort Willard and my father was aghast that no one was taking care of the fort." His father had built the houses in Belle Haven and died in 2021. In settling his father's estate, it was clear Geno said, that his father's intent was to preserve Fort Willard, its history and educational potential. The Olmis had purchased the land in the 1930s and 1940s, which included the fort's remains. In 1978, they gave some of the land to the Fairfax County Park Authority. (The Olmis also built the Belle View Condominiums.)

"I appreciate that my family chose to set it aside because of its historical significance to our history. There are not many left," Olmi said.

Park Authority's Plans

In today's 1.6-acre park, visitors can see the remnants of earthen fortifications and cannon platforms.

The Olmis' recent donation will support site stabilization, tree work, invasive plant management and an archeological study to confirm the location and condition of the fort's structures. The Park Authority will also install a raised walkway, viewing platform and five educational signs.

Thanks to modern technology, visitors will be able to "go back" to 1865. Andy Grabel, the Park Authority's Public Information Officer, emailed, "This is envisioned to be a state of the art, immersive, interactive, educational experience accessed through a QR code link on the sign boards that reveals a 3D virtual reality model of Fort Willard as it looked in 1865 with views out to the period landscape. This landscape would include the next ring fort in the line, Potomac River and the capitol dome visible in the distance. The scene would also include soldiers going about their tasks and narrating the views."

The Park Authority hopes to complete this work by the end of 2027.

A Redoubt

In 1863, the 742-acre Fort Willard, built by the 34th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, was the five-sided Redoubt D, an "appendage" to Fort Lyon, which was located near today's Huntington Metro Station on North King's Highway. The builders dug ditches and built 20-foot-dirt walls designed to absorb enemy projectiles, mounds still visible today.

The 400 to 500 men stationed there had two barracks, officers' quarters, two batteries, a cook house and 10 support buildings. It was named for Colonel George L. Willard who was killed at Gettysburg at age 35.

One irony is that Fort Willard was a Union fort in a state that seceded from the Union in 1861. "The northern part of the Mount Vernon area was taken over by Union forces," according to local historian, Glenn Fatzinger. He says that Fairfax County "went back and forth," was occupied by both Union and Confederate forces during the Civil War.

Union troops occupied the city of Alexandria from 1861 to 1865.

The Defenses of Washington

Fort Willard was the southernmost of the Defenses of Washington.

In building the fortifications around the nation's capital, "Soldiers and laborers worked with shovels and picks to build ramparts (walls), parapets (slopes) and bombproofs (shelters), following a standard procedure for construction. A dry moat (trench) and barricade of dead trees called an 'abatis' surrounded each fort," according to a National Park Service brochure.

To build the forts, the federal government appropriated land and at the war's end, officials dismantled most forts and auctioned off materials. The federal government returned Fort Willard's land to the original owner, Samuel Johnson.



Two visitors on one of the earthen mounds.

Photos by Glenda Booth



Today's sign at Fort Willard Park.



A cannon at the park today and youngster reading a book.



Visitors to the park.

Information:

❖ **Fort Willard Historic Site is located at 6625 Fort Willard Circle, Alexandria, Virginia 22307-1168.**
❖ **Defenses of Washington: https://www.nps.gov/cwdw**

Virginia's Fascinating Freshwater Fish

Virginia's rivers and streams are home to 225 freshwater fish species.

By Glenda C. Booth
Mount Vernon Gazette

Many people like to watch birds, hang up bird feeders and download birding apps, but unlike birds, fish are "out of sight and out of mind," said Mike Pinder in an online presentation titled "Freshwater Fishes, Exploring Virginia's Hidden Treasures" to the Friends of Dyke Marsh and others.

"Our own rivers and streams contain brilliantly colorful darters in addition to a multitude of other fascinating aquatic creatures just waiting to be discovered."
— Mike Pinder, aquatic biologist, Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources



Photo by Derek Wheaton

Male (foreground) and female candy darters



Photo by Mike Pinder

Minnows on chub nest



Photo by Mike Pinder

Mountain redbelly dace



Photo by Maddie Smith

Spotfin chub

"A bright red male cardinal pops right out," he said, and red-bellied woodpeckers and green herons have distinctive colors. Birds have colorful fish counterparts, he argued, fish like the candy darter, red-bellied dace and greenfin darter.

Pinder, an aquatic biologist with the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources, wrote in a Virginia Wildlife magazine article that people don't have to travel to tropical coral reefs to see colorful fish. "Our own rivers and streams contain brilliantly colorful darters in addition to a multitude of other fascinating aquatic creatures just waiting to be discovered."

He proved his point with photographs of a bright blue, male spotfin chub that he says likes fast water. "It looks like it's been plugged into an electrical outlet," he quipped. He also shared a picture of a three-inch long, red-belly dace with an orangey-red stripe on its belly and gold-colored fins.

The candy darter, found exclusively in southwest Virginia's New River drainage in fast-moving water, is "one of most beautiful freshwater fishes in North America," he touted. This fish can be up to four inches long and has alternating vertical greenish and red-orange bars on its sides. The female is dull, he said, perhaps because she is carrying eggs and tries to not stand out. The candy darter is on the state and federal endangered species lists.

225 in the State

Virginia's rivers and streams are home to 225 freshwater fish species in 26 families. The Potomac River watershed, one of 10 in the state, has 64 native species and one not native, the northern snakehead.

Freshwater fish are the second largest vertebrate group in Virginia behind birds. Sport or game fish like bass and bluegills may be better known, but they are "a small component of Virginia's fish," he said.

Since fish are not easy to see, they do not get as much protection as many other animals, he said. In Virginia's Wildlife Action Plan, 38 percent of the state's freshwater fish have some level of need of conservation.

Three Virginia Habitats

Pinder reviewed three habitat types in the state, starting with the western mountains or Appalachian plateau where mountain streams flow fast with churning water. Virginia's state fish, the brook trout, thrives in these waters.

In the Piedmont physiographic region streams are flatter, have lots of ripples, deep pools and a pea gravel substrate. This area is home to the stripeback darter, for example.

The coastal plain is very flat, and "at times you can't tell which way the streams are moving," he said. Beavers dam up moving water in this region and ponds accumulate leaves and logs, so the water is dark and low in oxygen. Many species adapt to these dark waters like the four-inch-long blue spotted sunfish.

Pinder zeroed in on minnows, the largest family of fish in North America with 320 species and found in lakes, ponds, reservoirs, rivers and streams. "Not all minnows are small," he said. "Colorado has a six-foot-long minnow."

What makes a minnow a minnow? "It has one dorsal fin and no teeth on its jawbone. Its teeth are way back in the throat. Some teeth are sharp and pointed for eating aquatic insects, but others are like molars for grinding vegetation," he said. Minnows are a foundational species and are eaten by other wildlife, like ospreys and kingfishers.

Viewers were captivated by videos of mound builders, fish like chubs that during the breeding season carry rocks in their mouths and make rock piles for nests. The chub digs pits in the rock nests and then mate in the pits usually between April and July. "A chub can carry 10,000 stones to make a mound. One traveled an accumulated distance of 16 miles to collect enough rocks to build a nest. They use the current to carry rocks downstream, which is pretty smart," he said.

The mounds attract other minnows, called "nest associates," that only spawn on a chub's mound so if we lose chubs, we will lose minnows, the foundation of the food chain, he said.

Pinder ended by stressing the importance of biodiversity and clean water. "If a stream has a lot of fish, snails, crayfish, salamanders and mussels, it's a healthy community. All these animals depend on each other. This is the water we drink. We cannot live without clean water. Just having water is not enough.

"To protect these animals is protecting ourselves. The more we know, the more we love it and want to protect it and its habitat," he said.

Bulletin Board

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before the event. Or email to calendar@connectionnewspapers.com

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

STEM Professionals Needed. Help assist K-12 STEM teachers as part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science's STEM Volunteer Program, stemvolunteers.org, during the 2018-19 school year. In the 2017-18 school year, there are 85 volunteers in 6 Northern Virginia school districts. Contact Don Rea at 571-551- 2488, or donaldrea@aol.com.

ALIVE! offers numerous programs that aid low-income families in Alexandria that rely on volunteers: monthly food distributions, furniture, houseware and emergency food deliveries, and community food drives. Individuals, families and groups are encouraged to participate. Students can earn community service hours by participating. Visit www.alive-inc.org/volunteer.htm or contact the Volunteer Coordinator at volunteers@alive-inc.org.

Volunteer Drivers Needed. Drivers needed by the American Cancer Society to take cancer patients to treatment in Northern Virginia. To volunteer, call 1-800-227-2345 or go to cancer.org/drive.

Mentors Wanted. Two creative programs that help transform the lives of Alexandria's preteens are seeking volunteer mentors. SOHO, which stands for "Space of Her Own," and "Space of His Own," serves vulnerable fifth graders in Alexandria. The programs pair men and women with youth in need of positive adult role models, to help support and guide youth in making healthy choices and succeeding in school and in life. Visit www.spaceofherown.org and www.spaceofhisown.org. For more information on how to become a SOHO mentor, contact Sarah Maroney at sarah.maroney@alexandriava.gov or phone at 703-746-4687.

Farmer's Market Volunteers Needed. To volunteer for the Farmer's Markets, email Brian Morreale, brianmorreale@gmail.com

SUPPORT GROUPS

Postpartum Support Virginia sponsors a free, bi-monthly support group for women suffering depression and/or anxiety during pregnancy or in the first year following childbirth. Meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at Inova Alexandria Hospital, Health Education Center, rooms 1-2, 4320 Seminary Road. Contact co-moderator Susan Doyle at suzjdoyle@gmail.com or 571-403-0673.

The Caregiver Support Group is facilitated by the Alexandria Department of Community and Human Services Division of Aging and Adult Services. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at the Adult Day Services Center, 1108 Jefferson St., 4-5:30 p.m. Participants are full- or part-time caregivers providing care locally or long distance to a family

See Bulletin, Page 13

HOLIDAY SHOP
Saturday Nov. 21st 9.30am - 4pm
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Barbie Stars in Richmond Exhibit

"Barbie, a Cultural Icon Exhibition"

By Glenda C. Booth
The Gazette



Pennant promoting the exhibit, the first Barbie, 1959.



The George Washington Barbie.



Becky, Barbie's friend.



Barbie, the astronaut, 1965.



Christie, the first Black Barbie doll, 1968, Barbie's friend



The Malibu surfers, Ken, Christie and Barbie.1973.



Ken, Barbie's boyfriend, is ready for the beach.



In 1962, Barbie wore a replica of the dress that First Lady Jackie Kennedy wore on a trip to India.



Some of the 92 Barbie hairstyles.

Our image of Barbie is likely that sleek, fashion-conscious, curvaceous, 11-½-inch doll with ruby red lips. But a tour of "Barbie, a Cultural Icon Exhibition" at the Virginia Museum of History and Culture in Richmond can dispel that stereotype.

With over 250 Barbie dolls displayed amid bright pink walls and girl anthems resonating, the exhibit is a retrospective of social change. Visitors can see Barbie the athlete, the entertainer, the elected official, the doctor, the scientist, the astronaut and more. For 65 years, Barbie has evolved, today with nine body types, 35 skin tones, 52 hair colors and over 94 hairstyles.

Barbie's creator, Ruth Handler, who co-founded Mattel, Inc., with her husband, Elliot, came up with Barbie after seeing that her daughter, Barbara, played with dolls focused on mothering and caregiving, while her son's toys encouraged him to be a firefighter or doctor. "My whole philosophy of Barbie was that through the doll, the little girl could be anything she wanted to be. Barbie always represented the fact that a woman had choices," Handler said.

Creating a Barbie requires a 10-member team, including fashion designers, makeup artists, hair stylists, sculptors, graphic and packaging designers and marketers. They also create her clothes and accessories, like miniature shoes, hats, purses, jewelry, athletic equipment and other accoutrements. A life-size replica of Barbie's hot pink Corvette offers a tempting photo op.

Barbie over the Years

A pony-tailed Barbie debuted in 1959 at the New York Toy Fair wearing a black-and-white, zebra-striped swimsuit and white-rimmed sunglasses. In 1961, her boyfriend, Ken, showed up, and they frolicked in the California surf. In the 1960s, more workplace opportunities for women emerged and Barbie became a flight attendant and even Miss Astronaut in 1965, four years before man landed on the moon.

In 1968, Christie, a talking Black doll, hit the stores, Barbie's friend. Hippies popularized denim, a fabric originally favored by working men, so Barbie donned tight blue jeans with flared bottoms, bib overalls and a denim bra and skirt.

With the feminist movement gaining steam in the 1970s, bolder Barbies wore groovy skirts – minis, midis and maxis. Mattel introduced multi-cultural Barbies and for the first time, her blue eyes faced forward. More jobs opened up and Barbie went to boardrooms and courthouses wearing power suits.

One Barbie became a chief executive officer and donned a straight skirt and power pink blazer. The first Black Barbie and the first Hispanic Barbie emerged in 1980.

In the 1990s, voters elected three women to the U.S. Senate. Barbie followed suit and in 1992 a Barbie for President doll arrived. The Dr. Jane Goodall Barbie in 2022 ventured out with binoculars. In 1997, Mattel created Barbie's friend with disabilities, Becky.

Barbie is the most diverse and inclusive doll line in the world, promoters tout.

A Virginia Angle

The exhibit spotlights several Barbie Virginians, including Katherine Johnson, a mathematician known as "the human computer" at NASA's Langley Research Center. Also Norfolk-born singer Ella Fitzgerald, including the actual steel helmet she wore on World War II tours. There's a George Washington Barbie and his actual silver shoe buckles are on loan from Mount Vernon.

"Barbie has always been more than a doll — she's a snapshot of what people wore, what they imagined and what they believed was possible," said Elizabeth Klaczynski, curator of the exhibition. "This exhibition invites visitors to enjoy themselves and create memories, while experiencing how pop culture can serve as both an illuminating time capsule and a vivid magnifying glass."

Wikipedia reports, "The original Barbie doll retailed for three dollars and her first range of clothes consisted of 22 ensembles priced at between $1 and $5 US dollars. Mattel designed Barbie to drive ongoing garment sales after the initial doll purchase."

An online search shows that Barbies today cost from $14 to $44, with original vintage dolls priced in the hundreds. Mattel has sold over a billion Barbie dolls.

The exhibit closes on Jan. 18, 2027. Visit www.virginiahistory.org.

Planning Commission Defers Action on Accessory Living Units

Public testimony cites parking, stormwater and infrastructure concerns.

By Mercia Hobson
The Gazette

The Fairfax County Planning Commission deferred a decision on the controversial accessory living unit (ALU) zoning amendments following a three-hour public hearing on Oct. 29, pushing the vote to Nov. 4 to allow more time for review.

County planners Casey Judge and Carmen Bishop, joined by Zoning Administrator Andrew Hushauer, presented proposed ALU zoning amendments as part of the county's housing action plan to increase flexibility while retaining standards for neighborhood compatibility. Staff described the proposal as a way to streamline ALU review. They defined an ALU as "a secondary dwelling unit that's in conjunction with and clearly subordinate to a single-family detached dwelling unit," and described interior and detached configurations. The proposal would remove the separate zoning administrative permit, the owner-occupancy requirement, and the requirement for an additional off-street parking space for an ALU. Zoning standards would still be reviewed as part of the building-permit process, and other applicable requirements would remain.

Regarding proposed updates to the county's Accessory Living Unit ordinance, Commissioner Candice Bennett, an at-large member and parliamentarian of the Fairfax County Planning Commission, confirmed with county staff after the meeting and clarified to The Connection in an email that "the amendment would not apply to areas that have their own municipal zoning codes."

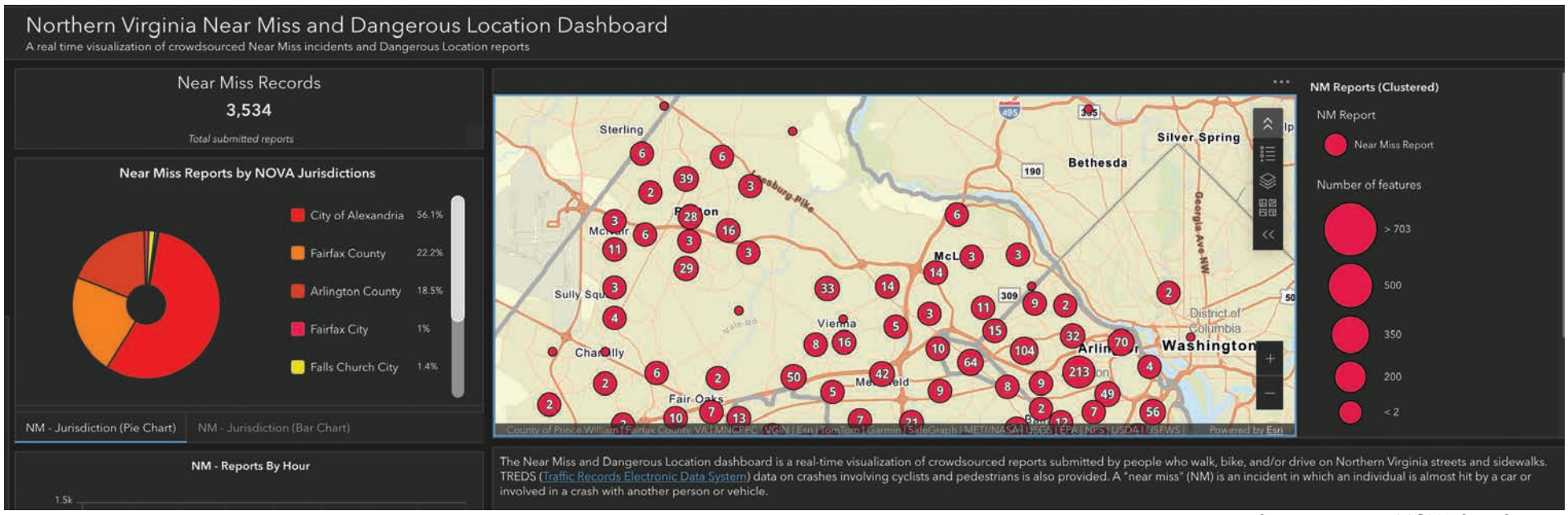
Public speakers testifying following the staff report offered differing views on the proposed changes. Among them, Clint Harris, president of the McLean Citizens Association, supported interior ALUs that do not

See Planning Commission, Page 12



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Screen grab via NOVA Safe Streets

Northern Virginia Near Miss and Dangerous Location Dashboard.

Theme: 'Invest in Safety, Not Speed'

NOVA Families for Safe Streets World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims is Nov. 15.

By Mercia Hobson
The Gazette

Northern Virginia Families for Safe Streets reports that 32 people have been killed while walking, biking, or rolling on Northern Virginia streets and highways since last year's World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims. The advocacy group will host a public memorial event at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 15, at W.T. Woodson High School, 9525 Main St., Fairfax, to honor the victims and advocate for safer regional infrastructure. This year's U.S. theme, "Invest in Safety, Not Speed," is a call to action.

The fatalities, as of Oct. 29, 2026, include 24 in Fairfax County, five in Alexandria, two in Arlington, and one in Fairfax City.

The 32 deaths recorded over the past year represent a sharp increase from recent annual figures. According to an analysis by NoVA FSS using state crash data from the Virginia Traffic Records Electronic Data System (TREDS) — the database managed by the Virginia Department of Transportation and the Department of Motor Vehicles — vulnerable road user deaths across the region totaled roughly 25 in 2023–2024 and 21 in 2024–2025.

Mike Doyle, founder and executive director of NoVA Families for Safe Streets, said outdated road designs and low visibility are primary drivers of these crashes. He noted that "Approximately 70% of Vulnerable Road User fatalities happen at night and another 15% are killed during dawn or dusk," making better street lighting and personal visibility essential.

Doyle highlighted how the rapid urbanization of major arterial roads puts multimodal travelers at risk. On high-crash corridors such as Richmond Highway and Route 7, traffic signals are often spaced 600 to 1,500 feet apart. This spacing frequently compels pedestrians to attempt dangerous mid-block crossings across four to six lanes of traffic.

A distance of 1,500 feet is the length of five football fields.

Doyle called on state and local officials to adopt tactical road modifications, lower speed limits, and safer crossing designs to protect the region's growing population of vulnerable road users. "We urge VDOT to modify their road design standards on selected high crash corridors to reflect better how increasingly urban and mixed-use development creates an environment where tactical modifications to the road design provide better protection for today's multimodal road users," Doyle said.

In conjunction with the Nov. 15 event, NoVA FSS has outlined three specific calls to action. The first is safety cameras; the group is urging local and regional policymakers to leverage "new authority to install stop-sign cameras in school zones and expand speed safety cameras across high-crash networks."

The second is "VDOT Urbanization/Modernization," calling on VDOT, as well as state delegates and senators, to "modernize VDOT's high-crash corridors so that protecting people walking, biking, and rolling is as fundamental as preserving vehicle mobility."

The third is "Victim Justice." NoVA FSS is targeting state delegates and senators to "ensure justice, accountability and fair treatment for everyone killed or injured in a traffic crash — and for the families and survivors left behind — by modifying the Contributory Negligence rule so that crash victims and their families get a fair chance at justice."

Under the current contributory negligence doctrine in Virginia, if an injured party is found to be even 1% at fault for an accident, they are generally barred from recovering any compensation, regardless of the other party's negligence. Only a few other areas in the U.S. follow pure contributory negligence: Alabama, Maryland, North Carolina and Washington, D.C.



Screen grab via NOVA Safe Streets

Northern Virginia Families for Safe Streets and national Families for Safe Streets movement use candles, flowers, and shoes or empty chairs during the World Day of Remembrance to bridge personal grief with advocacy.

Detectives Investigate Fatal Crash in Burke

Detectives from FCPD Crash Reconstruction Unit are investigating a three-vehicle crash that left one man dead in Burke.

On Oct. 31 at 5:43 p.m., officers responded to a multi-vehicle crash at Fairfax County Parkway and Burke Lake Road.

Preliminarily, a 2014 Infiniti Q-70 was traveling southbound on Fairfax County Parkway when the driver made several lane changes before veering onto the right shoulder, striking a traffic signal pole. The Infiniti then struck a 2007 Lexus RX 350 stopped at a red light on Burke Lake Road, causing the Lexus to strike a 2024 Mazda MX-5.

The driver of the Infiniti, Daniel Locke Jr., 82, of Fairfax Station, was transported to a local hospital, where he was later pronounced deceased. The occupants of the Lexus and Mazda were not injured.

Preliminarily, detectives believe speed was a factor in the crash. Alcohol does not appear to be a factor. Detectives are continuing to investigate the circumstances surrounding the crash.

Detectives would like to speak to anyone who may have information about this case. Those with information are asked to please call our Crash Reconstruction Unit at 703-280-0543. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers of Fairfax County by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477)

Mount Vernon Author Combines History, Childhood Figures and Familiar Locations in Fiction

By Mike Salmon
Gazette Newspapers

When Pete Reilly graduated from Bishop Ireton in 1974, the country around him was in turmoil with the end of the Vietnam War in sight, gas prices skyrocketing, (from $0.39 to $0.53 per gallon) President Nixon's issues and rock music evolving from the peace generation to something else. All these tidbits of history had an impact on Reilly, and they never really were exhausted so he put them in a book called "Don't Drive Left Lane in Alexandria," which he published in September.

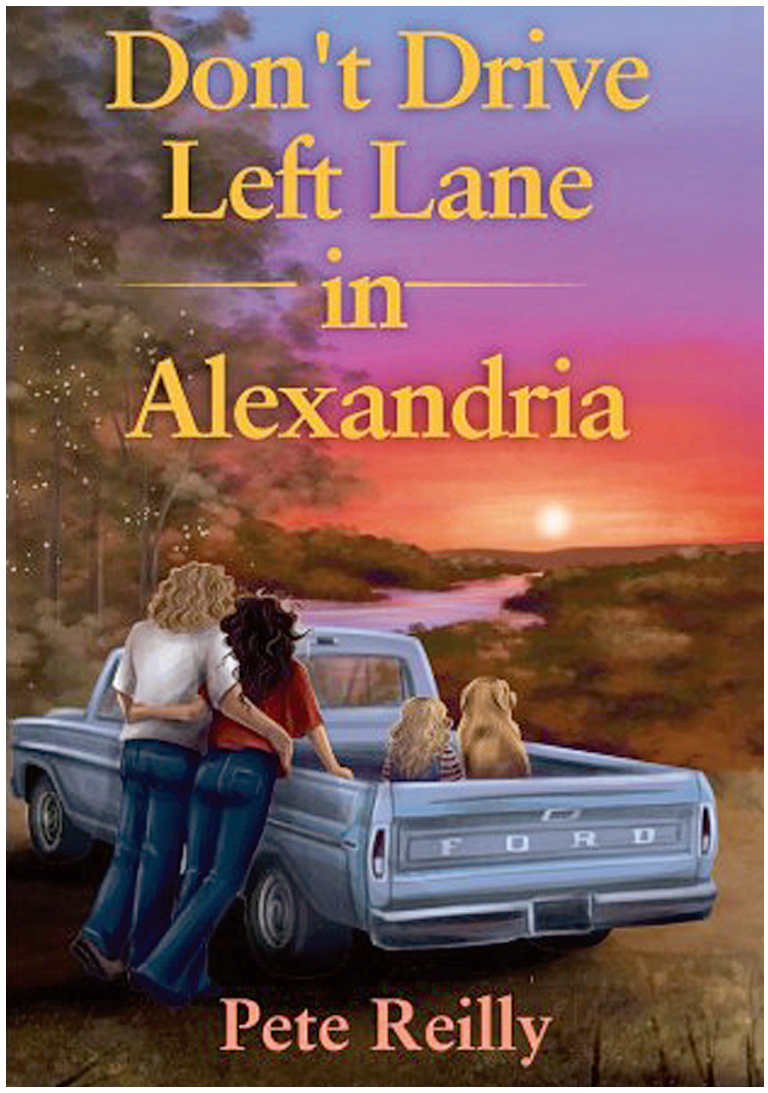
He describes it as a "blend of historical detail, family drama, friendship, romance, and nostalgia, 'Don't Drive Left Lane in Alexandria' is both a portrait of a city and a tribute to a generation coming of age during uncertain times."

"The plot basically follows a lawsuit," Reilly said, and ties it to a set of friends from Bishop Ireton and the power company that brings together two families when one of the lineman is fatally electrocuted. At the center of the story is "Cowboy Murphy," a rising senior at (then) T.C. Williams High School, whose world revolves around friendships, basketball games at "the Pitt," music, first love, and the uncertainty of a rapidly changing America.

Meanwhile, Cowboy's mother, Brigid Murphy, refuses to give up hope that her other son missing in Vietnam will one day return home. Across town, attorney Scott Jacob and his family become deeply connected to the lawsuit and the shifting cultural tensions shaping the era.

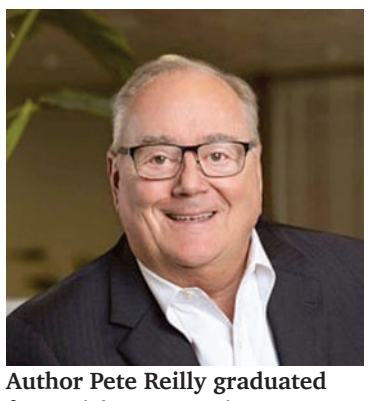
Reilly is part of the Virginia Writer's Club and that's where he met Elizabeth Merck, who ended up editing it. Merck has an editing business and noted that it's common for authors to write about what they know, so it's not unusual for someone to write about their childhood, the area they grew up in, people they knew, etc.

"Peter's book is historical fiction, which is a whole genre in and of itself," said Merck. "It's when a fictional story is crafted using a real time and place. In Peter's case, he's written a coming-of-age tale set in Alexandria in the 1970s. I think he did a great job at scene setting and creating that nostalgia many readers will feel," she said.



Photos contributed

The drive-in theater was a Mount Vernon staple back in the day



Author Pete Reilly graduated from Bishop Ireton in 1974.

Reilly's writing career is just getting started with this book. After high school, he graduated from Marquette University's School of Business where he focused on accounting. From there he spent more than 40 years with the public accounting firm Councilor, Buchanan & Mitchell (CBM). His career included uncovering fraud involving international humanitarian organizations and leading the successful acquisition of numerous CPA firms.

If you go …

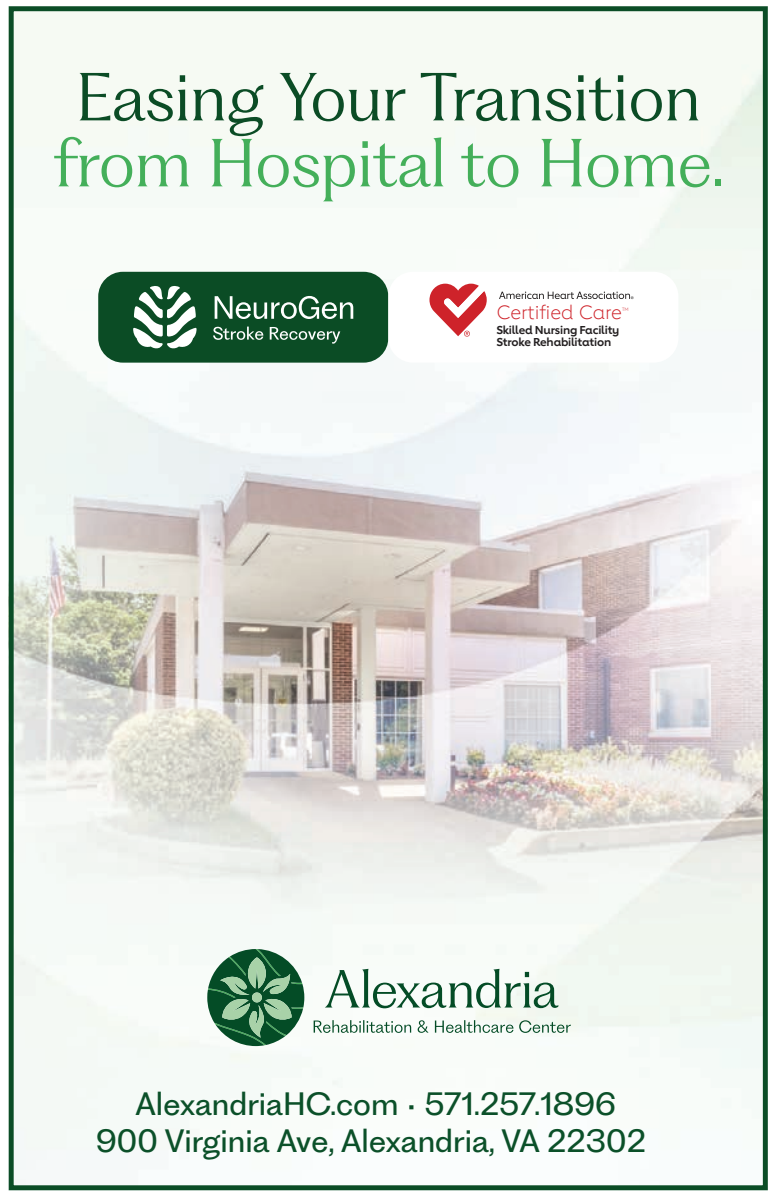
Book signing on Feb. 4, 2027
Nepenthe Gallery, Hollin Hills
7928 Fort Hunt Rd.
Alexandria, VA 22308

Reilly is also a swimmer and he has completed the demanding 4.4-mile Great Chesapeake Bay Swim 23 times.

But somewhere in there, he had this story and the characters coming to fruition. In 2023, he sat down in front of his computer and it all poured out.

He lives with his wife, Crissy, in Fort Hunt and are parents of three grown children, one who played baseball as a child on a team coached by Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon).

Reilly is just getting the book off the ground, and this starts with promoting it on social media as well as word of mouth, but so far he only has one event planned, a signing at the Nepanthe Gallery in Hollin Hills on Feb. 4, 2027.





Photos by Susan Laume/The Gazette



Offering sample ballots to voters at Franconia Government Center, Erica Sorohan, of Kingston, Terri Henry, a veteran from Alexandria, and Sabrina Williams of Fairfax, were supported by Boise the dog in his Vote cape.



Andrea Cale, of Alexandria, donned a cow costume and rang the cowbell as a reminder to vote, with Rich Brooks and his sign at a Kingstowne intersection.



Voters experienced waits of 15 to 30 minutes at some locations during the first early in-person voting, as they did here at Franconia Government Center, where lines snaked through the amble halls of the new building.

Northern Virginia Votes

Lead-up to Nov 3 sees early voting by more than 27% of Fairfax County's eligible voters.

By Susan Laume
The Gazette

In the weeks leading up to the Nov. 3 midterm election, local TV news and national newspapers reported heated campaigns across the country, with a plethora of negative political ads.

Here in Northern Virginia, however, races and airwaves were relatively quiet. In the Commonwealth, voting reliably Blue in recent years, has meant the loss of swing state status, sparing voters from much of the heat of national campaign attention.

As polls opened for mail-in and early in-person voting, support signs appeared in neighborhood yards and massed at polling locations. In its late October edition, The Connection published its voting guides to introduce candidates.

Activists and various grassroots organizations took to the sidewalks, to remind citizens who might have slept through the quieter election news, and used attention grabbers to encourage early voting. Indivisible of Franconia, a group which touts dedication to non-violent activism, held their first-day of early-voting sidewalk rally using sign messages linked to kitchen table issues. (The Connection, South edition, October 8-21, page 3). Their "Party at the Polls" event at the Franconia Government Center on Oct. 22 coincided with the first Saturday of early voting, in which the 13 additional government centers and libraries joined the initial three early voting

See Northern Virginia, Page 15



Incumbent Congressman James Walkinshaw rallied supporters at a gathering prior to Nov. 3.



State Delegate Kathy Tran (D-18) and her husband Matt, dressed in costume for her annual Halloween "Don't Boo - Vote Blue" party in Springfield.



Debbie Wathen, of Alexandria, was out to encourage early voting.

Grand Reopening for Nepenthe Gallery



Staff of Nepenthe Gallery at the grand reopening on Oct. 29. Carrie and Jim Garland pictured in the middle are the owners of Nepenthe Gallery and Custom Frame shop. From left, Lori Welch Brown, Leah Sturgis, Carolyn Johnson, Jim Garland, Carrie Garland, Melissa Narins, Anne Fafara, Beth Hamed, Alec Dubois.

Nepenthe Gallery's Grand Reopening was Thursday night, Oct 29, at the new location on the other side of the Hollin Hall Shopping center, 7928 Fort Hunt Road. It was a packed house and a fun evening with local band 456 JazzGrass Trio providing the music, wine tasting by Unwined, and Cheese tastings provided by The Cut.



A peek into Nepenthe from outside.

Photos courtesy of Nepenthe Gallery



Jess from Unwined who provided the wine tasting for the event.



Katie from The Cut at Nepenthe Gallery grand reopening; The Cut provided cheese tastings.





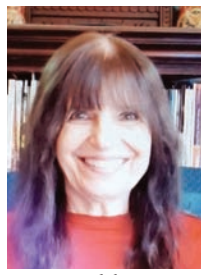
Poet and Historian Speaks at Workhouse

Learning at Lunch series recalls history of women's suffrage.

By Susan Laume
The Connection

As contemporary women prepared to vote early, in-person or by mail, for the 2026 mid-term general election, the Workhouse Arts Center provided a reminder of just how recent, and hard fought, is that right of women's suffrage. On October 16th, as part of their "Learning at Lunch" series, the Lucy Burns Gallery of the Lorton Prison Museum, featured award-winning poet, scholar, and performer, Dr. Susanna Rich, presenting her work "SHOUT! Poetry for Suffrage".

During the hour-long, free program, Rich stepped into the shoes of iconic historical figures to bring to life monologues and dialogues of those fighting at the core of the women's sufferage cause. The period between the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention and the 1920 ratification of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote, is the subject of her original collection, of specialized historical poetry.



Author's public media

Poet and lecturer Susanna Rich

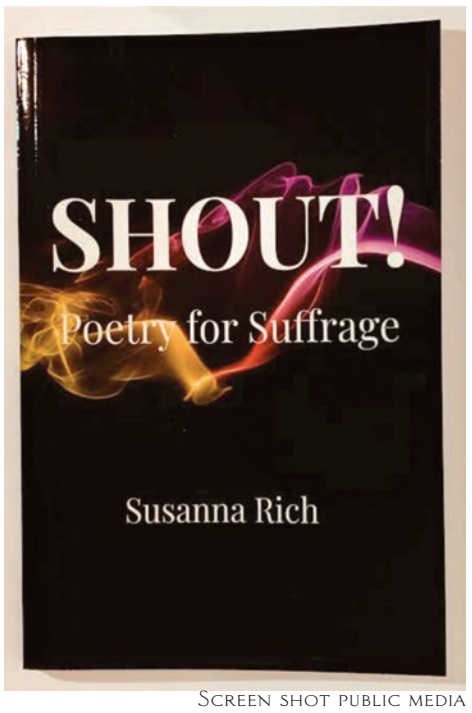
Rich shared that her inspiration for the collection began during a November 2019 visit to the museum at the Workhouse Arts Center. She was moved by the historic site and its chronicle of the brutal night of November 14, 1917, when imprisoned suffragists were tortured after their arrest for picketing at the White House. Rich gives voice to over 65 central figures of the movement in her work. "SHOUT!" was published on the 200th anniversary of Susan B. Anthony's birth, in February 2020.

"We're so excited to welcome Susanna Rich back to the place where her collection was born," said Katie Crooks, Director of Museum and Visitor Experience. "Her poetry bridges the gap between historical artifact and human emotion, offering our community a powerful way to reflect on the legacy of the women's suffrage movement."

Susanna Rich is a 2009 Mid-America Emmy Award nominee for poetry, a Fulbright Fellow in Creative Writing, and recipient of the Presidential Excellence Award for Distinguished Teaching at Kean University. With over 1,000 publications, performance, and presentation credits, she is the founding producer, writer, and principal performer at Wild Nights Productions, LLC, through which she crafts immersive visual-poetic experiences.

Workhouse Arts Center is in its fourth season of Learning at Lunch, a series illuminating aspects of the former prison's 91-year history. Each month, an expert, often an author, tackles a complicated topic related to the past.

The 30-minute talks are followed by a question /answer period. Next in the series: Nov. 13, "Prisoners After War", with professor and author, Jason Higgins; and Dec. 11, "The Foggy Bottom Gang," with author Leo Waring. Free, no registration required. See workhousearts.org for more.



Screen shot public media

"SHOUT!" A collection of historical poetry.

Planning Commission Defers Action on Accessory Living Units

From Page 7

change a home's exterior, but raised concerns about exterior units on smaller lots and their height, as well as the potential impact of removing owner-occupancy and parking requirements.

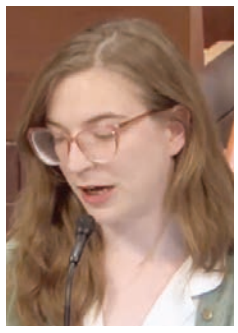
"Our concerns relate to allowing exterior ALUs on lots smaller than half an acre, and allowing overly tall exterior ALUs, eliminating the owner-occupant requirement, [and] reducing on-site parking requirements," Harris said. He said the association supported eliminating the separate administrative permit, its two-year approval period and five-year renewal requirement, and the requirement to record permits in land records.



Screen grab via Fairfax County video

Clyde Miller representing the Holmes Run Valley Civic Association testifies.

Clyde Miller, testifying for the Holmes Run Valley Citizens Association, supported adding housing options but urged the commission to consider neighbors' interests regarding occupancy, traffic, and parking.



Fairfax County video

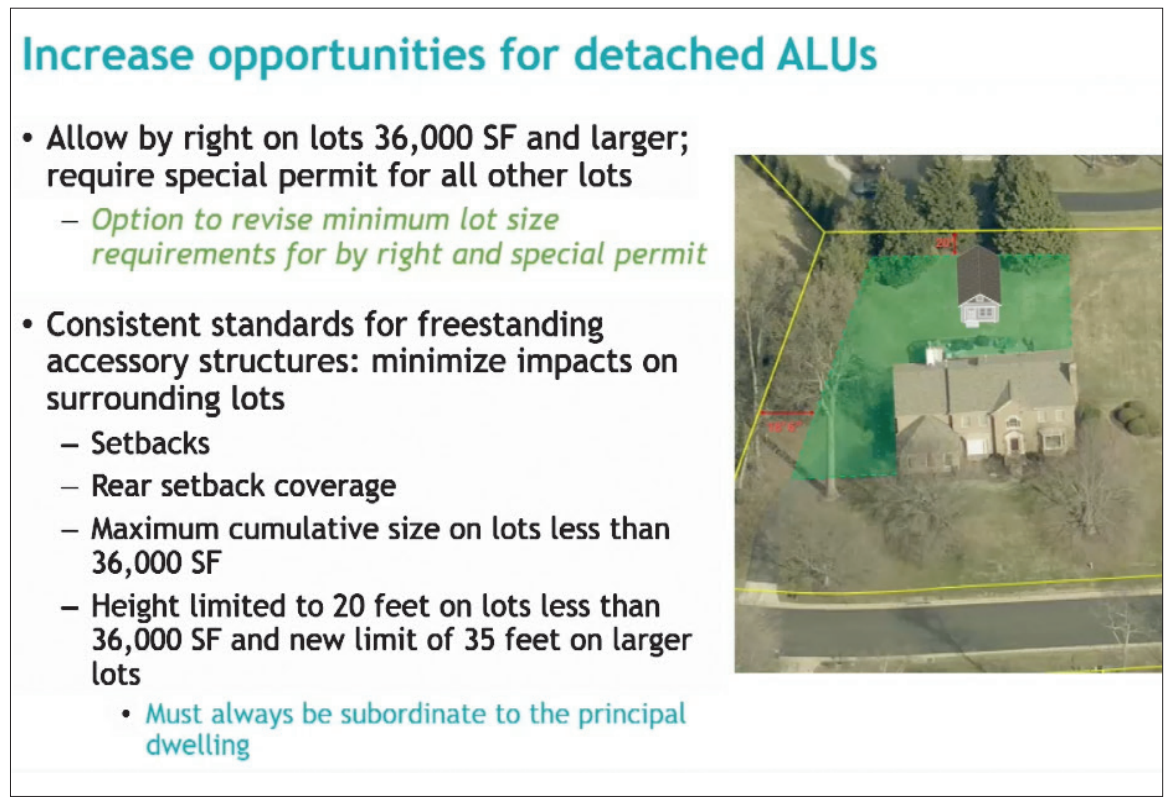
Becca Dedert, Virginia housing advocacy specialist with the Coalition for Smarter Growth, reads her testimony.

He said the owner "should be required to live on the property," and said that unrelated residents should be limited to six.

Becca Dedert, a Virginia housing advocacy specialist with the Coalition for Smarter Growth, supported staff's core recommendations and urged the commission to go further by eliminating minimum lot sizes for detached ALUs and allowing interior ALUs in attached homes by right.

"We strongly encourage the Planning Commission to meet standard practices for accessory home regulations and eliminate minimum lot size requirements entirely for detached ALUs," she said. Citing the county's housing needs assessment, Dieter said Fairfax would need 40,000 to 95,000 new homes by 2035.

Following the staff presentations, public comment, and commissioner discussion, the Planning Commission unanimously deferred a decision on the proposed ALU amendments to Nov. 4. The Board of Supervisors is scheduled to hold a final public hearing on the matter on Nov. 17.



Fairfax County video

Fairfax County explains proposed increased opportunities for detached Accessory Living Units.

As county leaders deliberate, the debate highlights the ongoing challenge of balancing regional housing goals with traditional suburban neighborhoods.

"We're hopeful the Planning Commission will take the time to seriously consider how to achieve a balanced approach that provides additional housing options through ALUs while maintaining the character of single-family neighborhoods," Tyler Ray, president of the Bren Pointe Homeowners Association and founder of the Save Bren Mar Coalition, said in an email to The Connection. "We believe this includes an owner-occupancy requirement, [retaining the] permit process, and ensuring adequate parking."

To view the video, visit https://video.fairfaxcounty.gov/player/clip/4325?view_id=10&redirect=true.

Entertainment

MEETS EVERY SUNDAY

Bird Walks. 8 a.m. At 6401 George Washington Memorial Parkway, Alexandria. Friends of Dyke Marsh organizers lead bird walks every Sunday morning. Meet at 8 a.m. in the south parking lot of the Belle Haven picnic area. Walks are led by experienced birders and everyone is welcome to join.

MEETS EVERY MONDAY

Monday Morning Bird Walk. 7 a.m. Meets at 3701 Lockheed Boulevard
Alexandria. The Monday Morning Bird Walk is sponsored by the Friends of Huntley Meadows Park and takes place every Monday at 7 a.m. April-September and 8 a.m. October-March. Following the walk, members of the group gather at the nearby Denny's for breakfast and to compile the morning's bird list. Call (703) 768-2525.

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Wednesday Night Bingo. 7 p.m. At Atlas Brew Works, 2429 Mandeville Lane, Alexandria. The Capital City Showcase, the company that brings you some of the DC area's best events, is hosting an amazing night of everyone's favorite game at Atlas Brew Works Alexandria. Win prizes on every round, and the winner of the final round gets a $50 Atlas Brew Works gift card for your next visit! There's also $6 select Atlas drafts! Plus pizza served from the world famous Andy's Pizza! Email at capitalcityshowcase@gmail.com

MGNV PLANT CLINICS ARE OPEN

The Alexandria Old Town Farmer's Market Plant Clinic at 301 King St., Alexandria operates on Saturdays from 7 - 9:30 a.m. Del Ray Farmers Market Plant Clinic at Oxford & Mt. Vernon Avenues, Alexandria operates on Saturdays from 8:30 11 a.m. The Arlington Farmers' Market at N. 14th and N. Courthouse Roads, Arlington operates on Saturdays from 8 - 11 a.m. The Fairlington Farmers' Market Plant Clinic at 3308 S. Stafford St., Arlington, operates on Sundays from 9 - 11 a.m.

YEAR ROUND ON SUNDAYS

Farmer's Market. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. At Casa Chirilagua Community Center, 4109 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Experience fresh foods, native plants, artisan crafts, music and community at Four Mile Run Farmers & Artisans Market in the heart of Arlandria outside the Casa Chirilagua Community Center, every Sunday 9-1 p.m.

OCT. 17 TO NOV. 7

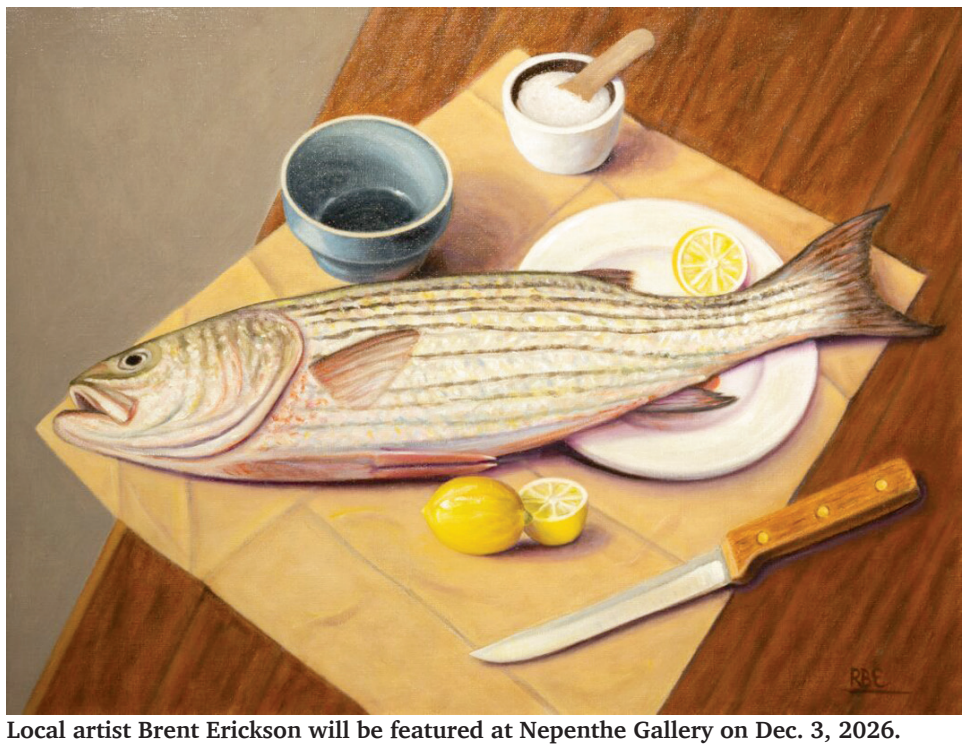
"She Loves Me." At The Little Theatre of Alexandria. In 1934 Budapest, co-workers Georg and Amalia seemingly despise one another at Maraczek's Parfumerie. After both respond to a "lonely hearts ad" in the newspaper, they now live for the letters that they exchange, not knowing that the stranger they're falling in love with is their own worst enemy. Based on the play, Parfumerie, which inspired the films The Shop Around the Corner, In the Good Old Summertime, and You've Got Mail and from the creative team behind Fiddler on the Roof, many theatre-goers feel this effervescent, witty, romantic show is the perfect little musical. Show times Thursdays to Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sunday matinee at 2 p.m.

NOV. 6-29

Del Ray Artisans "$125 & Under" exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. The exhibit showcases members' artwork all priced at $125 or less. The art is 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, Nov. 6, 7-9 p.m. Open Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays 12-6 p.m. Closed Thanksgiving Day. Visit DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits.

SATURDAY/NOV. 7

First Saturday Used Book Sale: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Selection of over 20,000 gently used children's books, fiction, history, biography, home and garden, cooking, crafts, sports, religion, travel, CDs, DVDs, and more. Unless specially priced, $1 for hard backs and large paperbacks, and 25 cents for mass market paperbacks. Open every day, various hours. Visit https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-sherwood-regional for information on other days and times for the library's ongoing book sale.



Local artist Brent Erickson will be featured at Nepenthe Gallery on Dec. 3, 2026.

SATURDAY/NOV. 7

The Chamber ALX's CareerCon: A Post-Grad Masterclass, presented by Virginia Tech. 10 a.m.-1:15 p.m. At Virginia Tech's Academic Building One, Alexandria. CareerCon is a guide for high school and undergraduate students in their pursuit of professional goals. Meet and hear from pros in the industry of your choice and learn skills that never appear on the syllabus. Attend the entire event and you'll be eligible for scholarships totaling $4,000. Winners will be selected at random during the closing session.

NOV. 7-8

Alexandria Symphony Orchestra: Pictures at an Exhibition. Conductor Chia-Hsuan Lin and pianist Dinara Klinton join the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra for a program filled with color, energy, and imagination. Lin leads ASO through music by Polina Nazaykinskaya, Sergei Prokofiev, and Modest Mussorgsky, while Klinton takes center stage for Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 3.

- Saturday, Nov. 7 at 7:30 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall;
- Sunday, Nov. 8 at 3 p.m. at George Washington Masonic Memorial.

THURSDAY/NOV. 12

The Chamber ALX's Professional Women's Network. 5:30 to 7 p.m. Evening of Perfect Pairings: Wine + Chocolate, Women + Business. At Goodwin House Alexandria. Get ready for an evening of wine, chocolate, delicious bites, and great connections at this Perfect Pairings event. Featuring wines and perfectly paired bites inspired by destinations across the globe—all while celebrating the connections, accomplishments, and possibilities that make our business community so special. Raise your glass. Expand your network. Indulge a little. Celebrate a lot.

FRIDAY/NOV. 13

Northern Virginia Community Orchestra - Stories in Sound. 7:30 p.m. At Thomas Edison High School, 5801 Franconia Road, Alexandria. The Northern Virginia Community Orchestra presents its annual Fall Concert, Stories in Sound. The orchestra will present a night of narrative music where the instruments leverage their natural storytelling qualities. The concert is free and open to the public. Goodwill donations are graciously accepted.

SATURDAY/NOV. 14

Ashes, Sacrifice & Remembrance: The History of the Firemen's Monument Lecture. 1 p.m. At Ivy Hill Cemetery, 2823 King Street, Alexandria. The lecture, presented by Catherine Weinraub, will explore the devastating fire that claimed the lives of seven firemen and the community's efforts to honor their sacrifice. The tragedy left a lasting mark on Alexandria, prompting an outpouring of grief and a determination to ensure that the men who lost their lives in service to their community would not be forgotten. The Firemen's Monument stands as an enduring reminder of their courage and the dangers faced by those who answered the call to protect the city.

EVENTS AT NEPENTHE GALLERY

The Nepenthe Gallery, located at 7928 Fort Hunt Road in Alexandria, had a grand re-opening last week with almost 200 people in attendance. The December Art, Wine and Cheese events are scheduled:
December 3 : Local Artist Brent Erickson
December 10 : Opening of Holiday Art Market. Open until December 22nd.
December 17: Holiday Bluegrass with Dogwood Hollow

SATURDAY/DEC. 5

Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights. Parade starts at 5:30 p.m.; Dockside festivities 2 to 8 p.m. At Old Town Alexandria Waterfront. Illuminated boats will cruise along the Potomac River waterfront as part of Alexandria's annual holiday celebration. Public viewing information, participating-boat details, and the final event schedule will be posted shortly.

SATURDAY/DEC. 5

2026 Alexandria Scottish Walk Holiday Parade. 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. In Old Town Alexandria. The Alexandria Scottish Walk Holiday Parade started as a community event more than 50 years ago to highlight the city's Scottish heritage and support the mission of the Campagna Center, then known as the Community Y. The Campagna Center partnered with St. Andrew's Society Washington, DC, Old Presbyterian Meeting House and the City of Alexandria to produce the parade and associated events led by Junior and Supporting Friends of the Campagna Center. In 2026, to elevate this signature event as an ongoing source of civic pride and celebration of Alexandria and its communities, the City of Alexandria took on the role of lead parade producer, with additional support by the Campagna Center and Visit Alexandria.

THE BIRCHMERE

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

NOVEMBER
Wed. 4: Ashley Monroe & Charlie Worsham $35.00
Thu. 5: Euge Groove $45.00
Fri. 6: Paula Poundstone $59.50
Sat. 7: Paula Poundstone $59.50
Sun. 8: Jake Shimabukuro $49.50
Wed. 11: Jamal Roberts $59.50
Thu. 12: Marty Stuart and His Fabulous Superlatives $80.50
Fri. 13: Chante' Moore $89.50
Sat. 14: Chante' Moore $89.50
Sun. 15: Hiroshima $59.50
Mon. 16: Rachael Yamagata w/ Will Dailey $39.50
Tue. 17: Judy Collins: Sweet Judy Blue Eyes – Farewell Tour, with Oakland Rain $79.50
Wed. 18: Judy Collins: Sweet Judy Blue Eyes – Farewell Tour, with Oakland Rain $79.50
Thu. 19: Jesse Cook $49.50
Fri. 20: Trae Crowder $49.50
Sat. 21: Trae Crowder $49.50
Sun. 22: Marshall Crenshaw w/ Sarah Borges & Eric Ambel $49.50
Fri. 27: An Evening with The Seldom Scene $45.00
Sat. 28: The Manhattans featuring Gerald Alston $69.50

Bulletin Board

From Page 5

member or friend. Participants share their experiences, provide support for each other and receive resources to assist them with caregiving. The next Caregiver Support Group meeting is June 7. For more information or to register, contact Jennifer Sarisky at 703-746-9999 or email DAAS@alexandriava.gov.

FACE Center Support Groups provide parents with a space to share their daily parenting frustrations and triumphs while offering new strategies for helping parents to cope, build positive parent-child relationships and best support their children's learning.

- Support Group in English, every Monday, 6-7:30 p.m. at ARHA Main Building, 401 Wythe St.
- Support Group in Spanish, every Wednesday, 6-7:30 p.m. at Community Lodgings Brookside Center, 614 Four Mile Road.

Registration not necessary. A light dinner and childcare services provided free. Contact Krishna Leyva at 703-619-8055 or krishna.leyva@acps.k12.va.us for more.

Divorce Workshop for Women. Second Saturday of each month, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Hilton Alexandria Old Town, 1767 King St. The workshops are designed to provide education on the legal, financial, family and personal issues of divorce in a logical, yet compassionate way. The workshop fee is $25. Visit www.novasecondsaturday.com for more.

ONGOING

Backflow Preventer (BFP) Assistance Program. The City of Alexandria has

See Bulletin, Page 14

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To Advertise in This Paper, Call by Monday 11:00 am 703-778-9411



Employment

Registered Behavior Technician – Implement plans designed by behavior analysts to assist children diagnosed with ASD & ADHD in achieving more effective personal, social, educational & vocational development & adjustment. Reqd Bachelor of Health Science + RBT certification. Resume by mail to Global Healthcare Services, TIBS for Kids, ATTN: Kavita Arora, Director, 5427B Backlick Rd., Springfield, VA 22151.

Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE

U.S. Army Garrison Fort Belvoir Seeking Public Interest in Establishment of a Restoration Advisory Board

The U.S. Army Environmental Command, in coordination with U.S. Army Garrison Fort Belvoir (USAG-FB), invites interested community members to participate in the environmental cleanup process at USAG-FB in Fairfax County, Virginia. The Army is seeking community volunteer participation in the establishment of a local Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) at the Installation. RAB members will participate in a variety of ways by contributing local perspective, reviewing information, and sharing community interests or recommendations. Persons interested in volunteering to establish the Fort Belvoir RAB are asked to contact Mr. Paul Lara by December 4, 2026.

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Desk: 520-672-6412
PAO Mailbox: usarmy.belvoir.id-sustainment.mbx.public-affairs-office@army.mil
The RAB is intended to provide a forum for residents, government representatives, regulators, and environmental experts to discuss ongoing cleanup activities on the Installation.

The RAB will support Fort Belvoir's ongoing environmental cleanup efforts by creating a means for community members to provide input and receive updates. Depending on the level of interest, the frequency of RAB meetings could range monthly, quarterly or twice per year to provide project updates, receive community input, and discuss ongoing environmental cleanup activities. Participation in the RAB is voluntary but does require a time commitment from participants to ensure a sustained, constructive dialogue. Additional information regarding the establishment criteria for a RAB, purpose, membership, and responsibilities is available at https://www.epa.gov/fedfac/1994-restoration-advisory-board-implementation-guidelines and https://aec.army.mil/Cleanup/Restoration-Advisory-Boards/.

The requirements for establishing a RAB are formalized in accordance with 10 U.S.C. § 2705, 32 CFR 202.10, and applicable Department of War (DOW) and Army policies. Environmental cleanup activities at Fort Belvoir are conducted under federal and Commonwealth of Virginia environmental cleanup requirements in accordance with environmental laws as implemented through the DOW's Environmental Restoration Program (DERP). The program addresses environmental concerns resulting from past activities at Fort Belvoir and supports efforts to protect people, property, and the environment. The program includes cleanup of contaminated sites through the Installation Restoration Program (IRP) and assessment of former military training areas through the Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP). Addressing these environmental concerns supports continued military operations and long-term sustainability at Fort Belvoir.

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News

Fairfax County and SFDC Pair Commons Leasing with Free Business Promotion

Richmond Highway businesses can explore space at The Commons Mount Vernon and participate in the ONE Richmond Hwy campaign.

Fairfax County is seeking business tenants for approximately 13,100 square feet at The Commons Mount Vernon. Alongside those leasing opportunities, the county and the Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation (SFDC) are offering Richmond Highway businesses free promotion through the ONE Richmond Hwy campaign.

"Supporting local businesses means helping them find the right place to grow while also making sure customers know about the excellent businesses that call Richmond Highway home," said JoAnne Fiebe, Division Manager for Fairfax County Department of Economic Initiatives. "The Commons and ONE Richmond Hwy approach that goal from different directions, but they share the same purpose: creating more opportunities for businesses and strengthening the Richmond Highway corridor."

At 8333 Richmond Highway, approximately $120 million in public investment is transforming the 22-acre campus of the former Original Mount Vernon High School into The Commons, a 149,000-square-foot destination for business and community programs. Construction is scheduled for substantial completion in early 2027; availability will depend on individual lease negotiations and tenant buildout requirements.

Two commercial spaces are being marketed, both of which can be subdivided:

❖ The Annex offers approximately 4,000 square feet in a separate building near the campus entrance, with a dedicated entrance, high ceilings, floor-to-ceiling windows, abundant natural light and an adaptable industrial-loft layout.

❖ The lower level of Building 2 offers approximately 9,100 square feet with concrete floors, exposed ceilings and a flexible configuration for offices, classrooms, studios, small-scale production, collaborative work, training, demonstrations or other specialized uses.

Potential tenants include technology and professional-services firms, retailers, food and beverage businesses, creative enterprises, education and workforce-development providers, health and wellness operators, and nonprofits with the experience and financial capacity to operate successfully.

The mixed-use campus will bring businesses together with planned education and workforce-development programs, early-childhood services, teen and senior programs, visual and performing arts, recreation, community events, meetings and conferences, and business-support activities. Businesses can review the spaces and submit an inquiry at sfdc.org/commons-lease-space, or view the property listing on LoopNet.

For businesses already serving Richmond Highway, ONE Richmond Hwy offers a way to reach residents and visitors as major infrastructure investment reshapes the corridor. The newly launched campaign supports business retention by showcasing local businesses, people, food, culture, destinations and experiences through professional photography, videos, business stories, digital advertising, social media and community partnerships.

Through the campaign's new Get Involved page, local businesses and organizations can share their information, express interest in being featured and connect with future promotional opportunities at no cost. Participation information is available at onerichmondhwy.com/get-involved.

Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck said, "As Richmond Highway continues to evolve and prepare for 'The ONE' Bus Rapid Transit system, we need to support both the businesses already here and create opportunities for new businesses to put down roots and grow here. The Commons Mount Vernon will also provide opportunities for new businesses and spaces along Richmond Highway."

Bulletin Board

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reinstated its sewer Backflow Preventer (BFP) Assistance Program for homeowners in designated areas that historically experience basement back-ups or flooding. The program reimburses homeowners for up to 50 percent of the cost of installing a BFP device by a licensed plumbing contractor, up to a maximum of $2,000. The current program period is through Dec. 31, 2019. Alexandria homeowners should call the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services at 703-746-4014 or visit www.alexandriava.gov/tes.

Robust Walking. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 9 a.m. at Mount Vernon Recreation Center, 2701 Commonwealth Ave. Free 55+ robust walking 1-hour exercise class (with chair exercise option). No class on holidays. Contact jjkingconsulting@yahoo.com.

Seeking Donations. Computer CORE, which is dedicated to helping low-income adults become computer literate is seeking donations. Visit www.computercore.org/contribute.

Senior and Job Programs. 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Queen of Apostles Church, 4650 Taney Avenue, Alexandria. St. Martin de Porres Center offers senior and job placement programming Monday through Friday at the parish. Email Kathryn Toohey, ktoohey@ccda.net.

Be Heard at the City's Monthly Public Hearings. A schedule of the meetings can be found at www.alexandriava.gov. Voice opinions, speak about something on the docket or just speak about something you are concerned about. Sign up in advance to speak through the city's website. Anyone is welcome at any of the public hearings.

Public Space Recycling. Alexandria has placed more than 80 bright blue recycling containers next to public trash cans in the commercial districts along Mount Vernon Avenue and King Street, as well as other public spaces, including parks, recreation fields, and other high-traffic pedestrian areas. Visit alexandriava.gov/Recycling.

Unofficial Results as of Election Night

From Page 1

"They enshrined reproductive freedom in the Constitution of Virginia, ending the era when politicians in Richmond could threaten a woman's right to make her own decisions about pregnancy," Surovell said in a statement. "That fight is over.

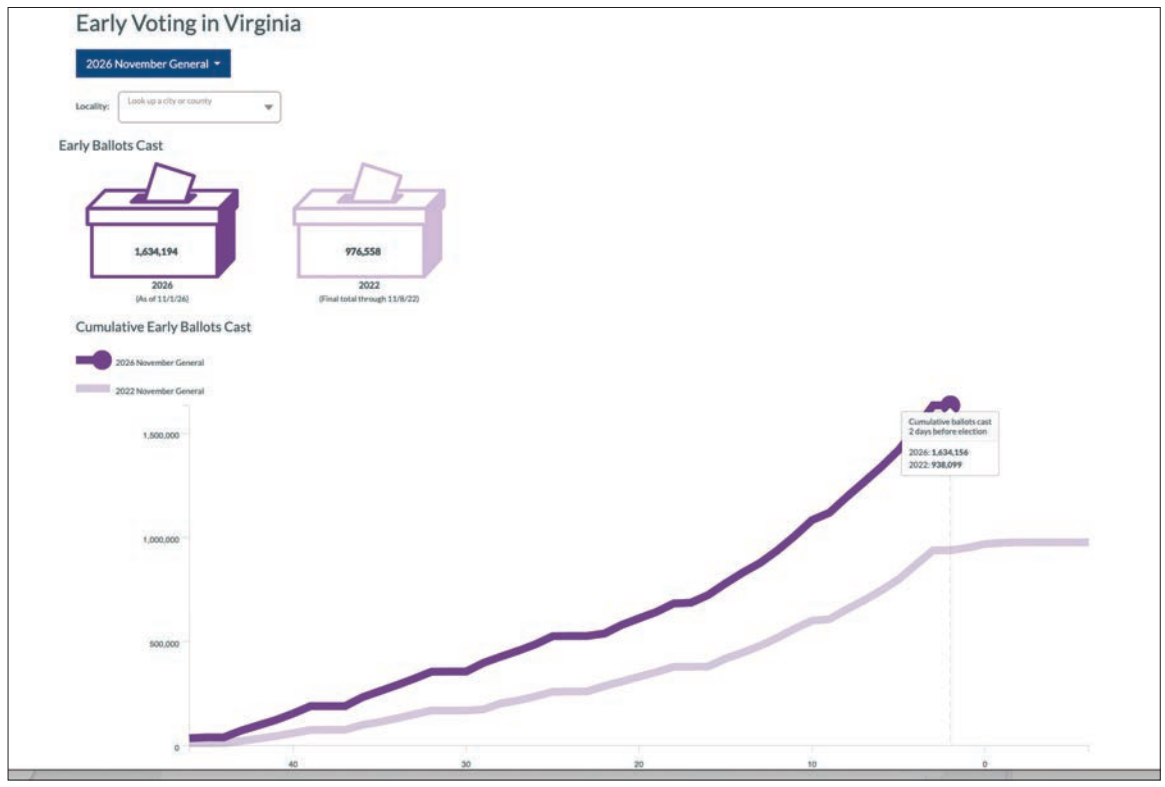
And we won. They removed the last constitutional barrier to marriage equality, affirming that every Virginian has the right to marry the person they love.

And, for the first time in our nearly 400-year history, they enshrined the right to vote in our Constitution and guaranteed the restoration of voting rights to those who have completed their sentences.

Tonight, we finally removed the stain of Jim Crow from the founding document of the Commonwealth that gave America its Bill of Rights."

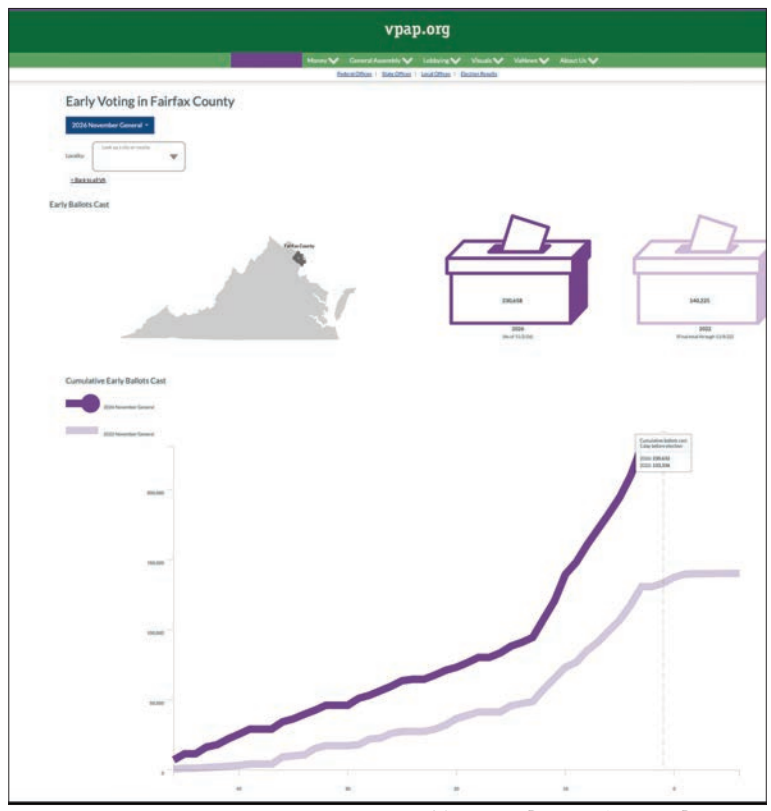
In local referenda, Fairfax County voters approved both general obligation bond referendums on the ballot. For the $180 million Parks and Park Facilities Bond, "Yes" received 143,432 votes (67.82 percent), while "No" received 68,043 votes (32.18 percent). At the time of publication, 214 of 265 precincts had reported, with 208,164 early votes still to be counted. The measure would allocate capital for countywide park upgrades, including $89 million to rebuild the Audrey Moore RECenter at Wakefield Park.

For the $75 million Community Health and Human Services Bond, "Yes" received 142,273 votes (67.42 percent), while "No" received 68,761 votes (32.58 percent), with 214 of 265 precincts reporting and 208,186 early votes still to be counted.



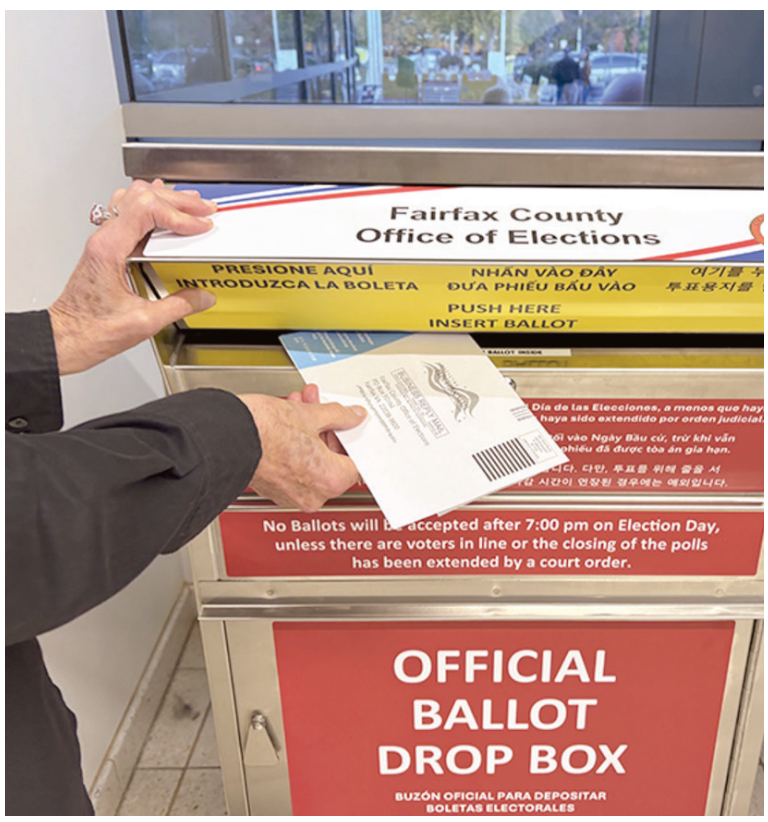
Virginia Public Access Project

Early voting in Virginia reaches 1,634,194 cumulative early ballots cast for the 2026 November general election as of Nov. 1, 2026, compared with a final total of 976,558 cast in the 2022 midterm election, according to data from the Virginia Public Access Project.



Virginia Public Access Project

Fairfax County voters cast 230,632 cumulative early ballots by Nov. 2, a 73% increase over the 133,336 early ballots cast at the same point in the 2022 midterm election.



Screenshot Fairfax County

A new, permanent ballot drop box for returning mail-in ballots was installed in the North County Governmental Center.



Kenny Lourie's column will return in the Nov. 18 editions.

Mount Vernon Gazette

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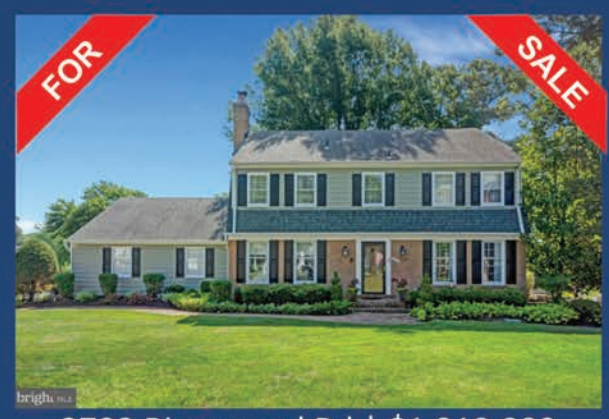
95 Homes SOLD in 2026 so far!



6410 Potomac Ave | $1,295,000



9404 Forest Haven Dr | $1,495,000



3723 Riverwood Rd | $1,319,999



8629 Curtis Ave | $724,500



4217 Scotland Rd | $999,000



7609 Midday Ln | $1,049,000



2008 Mason Hill Dr | $1,050,000



9344 Mount Vernon Cir | $975,000



4200 Pickering Pl | $890,000



9020 Beatty Dr | $1,825,000



9305 Reef Ct | $1,199,000



4008 Robertson Blvd | $920,000



9400 Ludgate Dr | $1,375,000



8704 Greystone Pl | $759,000



8010 Candlewood Dr | $749,000



4429 Neptune Dr | $999,500



9502 Ferry Hall Ct | $1,575,000



6404 Potomac Ave | $887,000

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