

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

FEBRUARY 3, 2022

Gum Springs Community Building Chosen for Historical Significance

The Pride of Fairfax Lodge #298 among 13 new sites for registry in Virginia.

By MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

A cornerstone building in historic Gum Springs was recently added to the Virginia Landmarks Register for its role in bringing the sense of community to the county's oldest African American community. The Pride of Fairfax Lodge #298 building played a significant role, housing the activities of two organizations. One was the Mount Vernon Enterprise Lodge No. 3488, a fraternal order of the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows; and the other, Pride of Fairfax County Lodge #298, a chapter of the Prince Hall Masons in Virginia, according to the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

In a 40-year period from the 1940s to the 1980s, community and fraternity members and their families supported education and mentoring programs at the lodge hall, and it was the first headquarters of the Saunders B. Moon Community Action Association, starting in 1965. This was part of President Lyndon B. Johnson's Great Society program.

In the midst of the mid-1960s civil rights movement, Gum Springs residents formed the Saunders B. Moon Community Action



Many community activities took place at the lodge.

Association, named after the late principal of Gum Springs' Drew-Smith School. The Saunders B. Moon Community Action Association changed its name to the Gum Springs Community Development Corporation (GSCDC) in the mid-1980s.

In the 1990s, the building's ownership was transferred to the Pride of Fairfax County Lodge #298, which continues to use the building as a fraternal hall and community center.

The Gum Spring's building was among 13 sites named by the commonwealth's Board of Historic Resources, approved the Virginia Landmarks Register listings during its quarterly public meeting on Dec. 9, 2021. The Virginia Landmarks Register is the com-



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

This historic building is part of the rich history of Gum Springs.

monwealth's official list of places of historic, architectural, archeological and cultural significance. Others on the list include the Upperville Colt & Horse Show Grounds in Fauquier County and the Clovelly mansion in Richmond.

The Virginia Department of Historic Resources will forward the documentation for these newly listed Virginia Landmarks sites

to the National Park Service for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. This historical designation marks the entity as an authentic and significant place in Virginia's history.

The historical designation also provides an owner the opportunity to pursue historic rehabilitation tax credit improvements to the building.

MESSAGE FROM DAN STORCK

Annual Mount Vernon District Town Meeting is Back in Person

By SUPERVISOR DAN STORCK

We are very excited, after two years of pandemic challenges, to be back in-person at Mount Vernon High School with the 35th Annual Town Meeting, with virtual options as in past years. Of course, we are monitoring the COVID-19 situation, taking all CDC recommended safeguards, and will adjust our format as needed.

Join us on Saturday, Feb. 12 from 7:45 a.m.-noon to engage and learn about topics and issues that are important to you in our District, County and schools. Our very popular Exhibit Hall runs from 7:45 - 9:30 a.m. with many, many County agencies and local service providers, providing an opportunity to connect with these services and mingle with your neighbors. The Mount Vernon High School Athletic Booster Club will be on



Dan Storck

hand selling hot coffee and morning treats.

Looking for an easy, convenient way to get your COVID-19 Vaccine? The Fairfax County Health Department will be on hand to provide them. Appointments are available and walk-ins are welcome. Visit the MV District website for additional information: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon>.

The morning's program will begin at 9:30 a.m. with a year-in-review slideshow, recognition of special guests, a musical performance and an update on ALL that is happening in the District. You will hear from Supervisor Storck about District updates, Fairfax County Board Chairman Jeffrey C. McKay and County Executive Bryan Hill on County priorities and Mount Vernon District School Board Member Karen Corbett Sanders regarding schools.

George Washington Parkway Superintendent Charles Cuvelier, Congressmen Don Beyer and Gerry Connolly, and others will also make remarks. Throughout the meeting, there will be opportunities for you to question your local leaders and hear their responses.

The highlight of the morning will be taking a "virtual tour" of the changing Mount Vernon District from Huntington to Lorton.

Prefer not to join us in-person this year

and want to watch now or later? The Town Meeting will stream live on Facebook @SupervisorDanStorck, on YouTube Channel Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck and on Channel 16 www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cableconsumer/channel-16/stream.

Anyone can ask questions during the Q & A sessions, or in advance, by emailing us at mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov, commenting on Facebook or Tweeting us @DanStorck. Use #MVTownMeeting! For more information and updates on the Town Meeting, visit: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon>.

Hopefully, by now you have received our annual year-in-review Advisor mailer at your home detailing key accomplishments of the past year and our focus for 2022. I would love to hear your thoughts about it and suggestions to make it better.

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OPEN FRI 2/4, 5-7PM & SAT 2/5, 12-2PM

Vienna | \$1,200,000

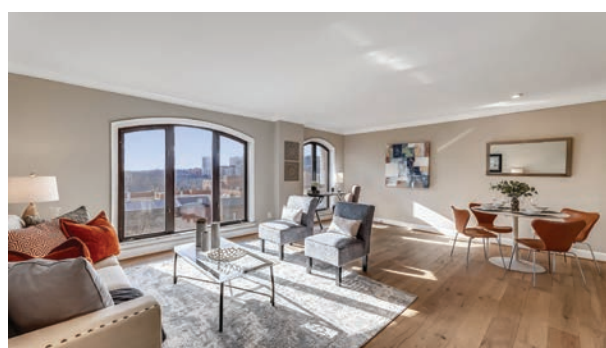
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NEWS

Coyotes Spotted in All Parts of Fairfax County

Seldom seen, coyotes have been living next to people for a long time.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

A coyote spotted in Lee District Park caused some alarm amongst nearby residents that coyotes possibly pose a threat to pets that are left unattended.

"Coyotes differ from most other wildlife species in urban areas in that they are often perceived to be a danger or a nuisance simply by being seen," says Fairfax County information on the website. "Most complaints regarding coyotes are that they occur near people, even when no incidents or damages have occurred. Simply seeing a coyote should not be cause for alarm."

A picture of the animal at Lee District Park was posted on the Nextdoor social media site, and there were several responses.

Renee Grebe, of Loft Ridge Small Side, praised the presence of coyotes. "We've got them all over here - what a joy to have! Thank you, coyotes, for helping keep our rodent population in check," she said.

In nearby Huntley Meadows Park, coyotes have been heard after dark, said one of the Friends of Huntley Meadows Park.

Marlene Koenig of Manchester Lakes said on social media, "I have seen [coyotes] in the Kingstowne area since the late 1990s. There is a pack of perhaps six that live in Huntley Meadows. You can hear the howling at times."

According to the county, coyotes are opportunistic foragers with diverse diets that commonly prey on small animals such as mice, rats, voles and rabbits but will also readily eat fruits, plants and carrion.

But coyotes may "mistake" small, unattended pets including cats and small dogs as prey.

"They will however see any small pets as food, particularly outdoor cats, when they find them wandering off in the woods," according to Alonso Abugattas in the Capital Naturalist blog. "This is just one more good reason among so many to not let cats out."

"Coyotes are remarkably shy and avoid people any way they can," Abugattas said. "Most are rarely seen, and certainly are no danger to people."

Coyotes are territorial and may view larger dogs as potential competitors, particularly from January to June while mating and



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Coyotes have been seen in every part of Fairfax County.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

This coyote goes to the Lake d'Evereux neighborhood frequently. The neighborhood is right next to Huntley Meadows Park.

birthing pups, although actual confrontations are rare.

In May 2018 Animal Protection Police Officers and the Fairfax County Wildlife Management Specialist reported that a small dog was attacked and killed in the forested area of the Parklawn community of Alexandria.

"The best way to safeguard pets in areas where coyotes are active is to keep them indoors and do not leave them outside without supervision," said Dr. Katherine Edwards, Fairfax County Wildlife Management Specialist.

According to the Capital Naturalist blog by Abugattas, <https://capitalnaturalist.blogspot.com/> or on Facebook:

"Our Eastern Coyote (*Canis latrans*) ... was first noticed around 1930 or so spread-

can vary. They are now found in every county in the mid-Atlantic.

"The Eastern Coyote is bigger than those in the West, about the size of a border collie or even German Shepherd, often between 45 to 55lbs, though occasionally bigger. The males are usually larger than the females. They are not only larger, but often tend to be more quiet than their western cousins, not howling as much, and often in much smaller groups. Their color can be variable as well, though they're often some shade of tan, with erect ears, bushy downward-pointing



NEXTDOOR

Coyotes are in every part of the area. These were near the Potomac River on the Maryland side.

ing East near the Great Lakes, as Western Coyotes wandered over and took over the areas vacated by most gray wolves. They mixed with Algonquian Wolves and continued to travel, mixing along the way with dogs as well. What resulted was a mix of about 60% Western Coyote, 30% Algonquian Wolf, and the remainder dog, though these averages

tail with a dark tip. Most have white chins as well."

Fairfax County lists a series of tips for co-existing with coyotes:

- ❖ Never feed or attempt to "tame" a coyote.
- ❖ Place garbage and compost in an animal-proof container, such as a metal trash can with latches on the lid or secure with bungee cords.
- ❖ Do not feed pets outside or store pet food outside.
- ❖ Keep small pets inside and do not leave unattended when outside.
- ❖ Provide secure shelters for poultry, rabbits, and other vulnerable animals.
- ❖ Coyotes are most active at night and early morning hours; however, they may be active during the day in search of food or denning sites.

If you see a coyote crossing your property, and you don't want it there, let use hazing techniques to frighten

coyotes from the property or exclusion measures to restrict their access. Yell and wave your arms at the coyote. Use noisemakers such as whistles, air horns, bells, "shaker" cans full of marbles or pennies, or pots and pans banged together.

Simply seeing a coyote should not be cause for alarm."
— Fairfax County

BOOKS

Local Author Publishes Book of One-Act Plays

West Potomac alum writes to teach, and is now a playwright living on Martha's Vineyard.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

Through her work as a Montessori teacher and experience writing, Carrie Peckar came up with a series of children's plays with music that are part of the learning experience that children go through, intertwined with life's lessons that stitch it all together. The result is in her book titled "Weird and Wonderful: One-Acts and Musicals for Kids Ages 6-12," which is all about the youngsters empowering themselves with lessons, music and fun.

"I was trying to give the independent power to them," she said.

Peckar is a West Potomac High School alumna, Class of '97. She moved on to graduate from Rutgers University and then became a certified Montessori teacher. She taught pre-k and elementary in New Jersey, and Mount Vernon, where she was the Director at the Mount Vernon Community Children's Theater. She has written plays for almost twenty years before moving to Martha's Vineyard where she currently resides.

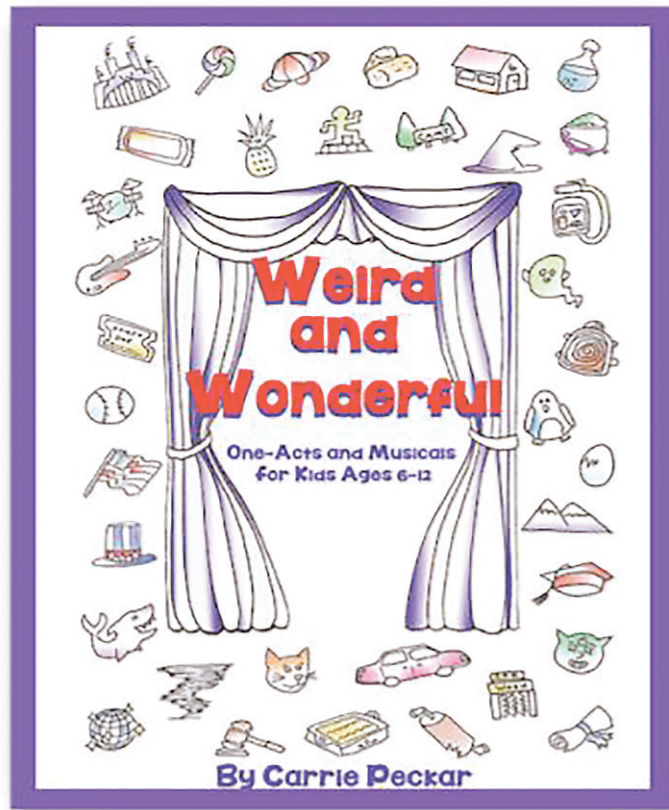
Montessori is a method of education that is based on self-directed activity, hands-on learning and collaborative play, the Montessori Northwest information said. Their description is filled with terms such as creative choices, age-appropriate activities, exploring



Author Carrie Peckar started with children on the stage in Mount Vernon.

knowledge, and maximum potential. In the late 1920s, Dr. Maria Montessori linked this teaching to music and social interactions, among other things and this is in-line with Peckar's theatrical lessons.

The various plays in her book are geared to get the students into the music through dialogue and character. The object is for a school or particular teacher to follow the lessons in the book, get the class to put on the plays, and adopt the teachings in the play even if it is on a temporary basis. The formula relies on participation, and Peckar feels the lessons and teachings will remain with the students "so they can really own



The author hopes that teachers will use the lessons in her quirky one-act plays to empower children.

their characters," she said.

"I created this book and laid out everything for an educator to run with it," she said.

"If I can reach just one educator or artist and inspire them during this challenging time for all theater arts, then I have done my job," she said.

ISLAND LIVING

Currently she's doing all this from her home in Martha's Vineyard, which is an island community off the shores of Cape Cod and Massachusetts – a distance from Mount Vernon. "I have roots on this island, I've been coming here every summer since I was a baby," she said. Peckar's family had a house on the island, and when her grandmother died, it went empty for a few years until Peckar and her boyfriend moved in a few years ago. She started substitute teaching at the Montessori school on the island, and went full time after that.

Being a summer vacation destination, Martha's Vineyard sees an additional 200,000 people there in the summer, and all the vacation amenities as well, but this isn't year round. The few full time residents form a tight community in the winter, said Peckar. "Most places close and there is a tight knit community of places that stay open and really take care of each other," she said. "We actually do something called the 'summer shuffle' where we rent the house out in the summer and we move up island to avoid all that," she said.

The summer also brings in a celebrity or two, she said. "I've had run-ins with Bill Murray, Tony Shaloub, Amy Schumer, Ted Danson, Jim Irsay but no Kennedys. Most people on the island have a story or two," she noted.

Legislative Privilege

Lawmakers consider efforts to prohibit 'inherently divisive concepts' in the classroom.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

The phrase "critical race theory" is perhaps as divisive as it is elusive. It has an actual formal academic definition. But that was largely beside the point on the campaign trail. Now that a new administration is taking over, the governor's pick for education secretary — Aimee Guidera — is giving members of the General Assembly a better picture of what the new governor wants to ban from the classroom.

"We're talking about privilege walks, privilege Bingo, putting children into situations where they're playing as the victim and a supremacist," said Guidera to senators during a confirmation hearing. "Those are completely inappropriate ideas."

Members of the General Assembly are getting a crash course in privilege, learning how unconscious bias often shapes human behavior. In a privilege walk, students stand in a row and go through rounds of moving forward or backward based on things like being right handed or speaking English as a first language. At the end of several rounds, students have a sense of their relative privilege based on their physical proximity. Privilege Bingo works in much the same way, using squares that are la-



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE

Gov. Glenn Youngkin is working with Republican lawmakers to define "inherently divisive concept" as anything in violation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

"We should not be teaching our children to see everything through the lens of race. We should not use inherently divisive concepts like critical race theory in Virginia."

— Gov. Glenn Youngkin

lege based on their physical proximity. At the end of several rounds, students have a sense of their relative privilege based on their physical proximity. Privilege Bingo works in much the same way, using squares that are la-

Legislative Privilege

FROM PAGE 4

beled, for example, “white” or “Christian.”

“We should not be teaching our children to see everything through the lens of race,” said Gov. Glenn Youngkin in a speech to a joint session of the General Assembly. “We should not use inherently divisive concepts like critical race theory in Virginia.”

“I find it offensive that the Civil Rights Act is being used to support this.”

— Sen. Ghazala Hashmi (D-10)

But this agenda item on Youngkin’s “Day One Game Plan” is facing an uncertain future in a Senate controlled by Democrats. When the governor’s bill prohibiting “inherently divisive concepts” was considered in a subcommittee, Democrats laid the groundwork for rejecting the bill when it is considered in the Senate Education Committee. Sen. Jen Kiggans (R-7) struggled to define what -- exactly -- is an inherently divisive concept.

“I would say it’s just like it sounds,” said Kig-

gans, “anything that’s dividing and making one group think they’re superior to the other.”

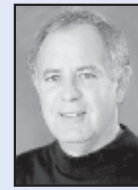
The text of the bill defines an inherently divisive concept as any idea in violation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Critics say that’s not really workable.

“The criteria are so open to interpretation that they could be interpreted to forbid teachers from accurately teaching history,” said Breanna Diaz, legislative counsel with the ACLU of Virginia. “This bill could prevent talking about racism or having open dialogue about American history.”

Groups that represent teachers are in opposition to the bill, warning that it would create an environment of fear that would be counterproductive to learning. Slavery, for example, would violate the Civil Rights Act of 1964. So how would teachers explain the reason for the Civil War? These are the kinds of issues the Senate Education Committee will discuss when they consider the governor’s bill, which was introduced on his behalf by Kiggans.

“I find it offensive that the Civil Rights Act is being used to support this,” said Sen. Ghazala Hashmi (D-10). “The purpose of an education is to make us uncomfortable, to challenge our ideas. If students are challenged on their own set of identities and values, that is a good thing.”

The governor’s bill is opposed by the Virginia Education Association, the American Federation of Teachers, the Virginia School Boards Association and the Virginia Superintendents Association.



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MOUNT VERNON DISTRICT

The 35th Annual Mount Vernon Town Meeting is back in person this year!
Join us in person or virtually to learn about ALL that is happening in our District.

Saturday, February 12, 2022
7:45 a.m. – Exhibit Hall Open
9:30 a.m. – Speakers, Q&A's and Virtual Tour
Live on Channel 16, Facebook and YouTube
More details: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon

Join Supervisor Dan Storck for the 35th Annual Town Meeting! Meet your Supervisor and many County, state and federal leaders. Have your questions answered, learn about issues important to you, connect with County agencies and service providers and mingle with your neighbors. The highlight of the morning will be taking a “virtual tour” of the changing Mount Vernon District from Huntington to Lorton.

Speakers: Board of Supervisors Chairman **Jeff McKay**, County Executive **Bryan Hill**, George Washington Parkway Superintendent **Charles Cuvelier**, Mount Vernon District School Board Member **Karen Corbett Sanders**, Special Guests Congressmen **Don Beyer** and **Gerry Connolly**, and other community leaders.

*Per COVID-19 protocols, visitors – regardless of vaccination status – are required to wear a mask while inside all Fairfax County facilities. **Looking for a COVID-19 vaccine? Get yours at the Town Meeting!**

For more information, call the Mount Vernon District Office at 703-780-7518, TTY 711, visit the office at 2511 Parkers Lane, or send your questions/comments to mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov.

To request reasonable ADA accommodations or language translation services, call the Mount Vernon District Office, 703-780-7518 or TTY 711 on or before 2/1/21.

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Connect with TEAM MVD and your Mount Vernon neighbors at the 35th Annual Town Meeting! #ConnectMVD

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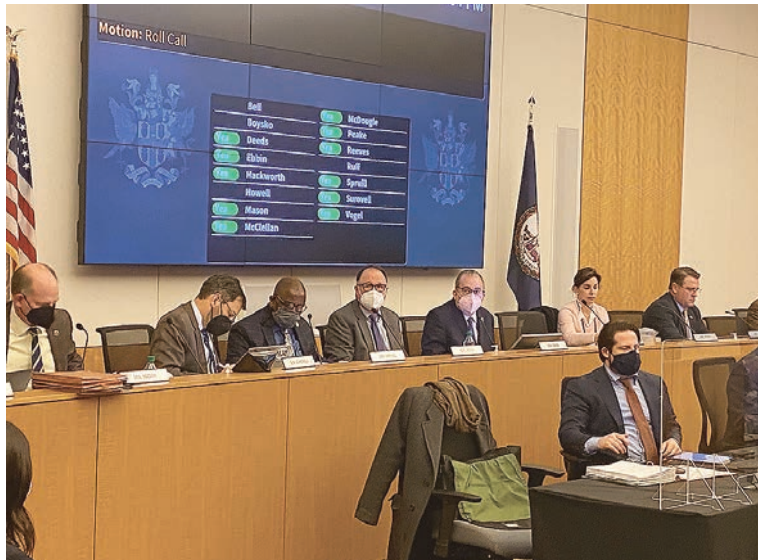
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Meet the Secretaries

BY SEN. ADAM EBBIN

The media often focuses on the legislation on the Senate floor, when bills face debate and votes by the full body. However, the majority of the General Assembly's work occurs in committee and subcommittee meetings. In these hearings, legislators present their bills for the first time, fine-tune language, and assess the fiscal and agency impact of their proposals. During the new administration of Gov. Glen Youngkin, our committees are also meeting with his newly appointed cabinet members before we vote on whether to confirm their appointments.

In the Senate, we have asked each new cabinet Secretary-designate to attend a meeting of the subject matter committee most closely related to their expected role in the administration. I have enjoyed their testimony and the opportunity to question them on their plans for the next four years. The Finance and Appropriations Committee heard from the incoming Secretary of Finance, Stephen Cummings — who will oversee the financial transactions of the Commonwealth including taxes collection and distribution of state aid to localities. Mr. Cummings has an extensive background in the banking and finance industries and has chosen a talented team of deputy secretaries including a well trusted former staff member of the Senate Finance Committee. I asked several questions of him, including how the administration plans to pay for



Sen. Adam Ebbin chairing the Privileges and Elections committee.

the \$3.5 billion in new spending on tax rebates, charter schools, and economic development they have requested. His answer did not outline a clear plan for this significant change to our two year budget, which our constitution requires be balanced.

In the General Laws and Technology Committee, we have heard from Secretary of the Commonwealth Kay James and Secretary of Administration Lyn McDermid. Ms. James — who will oversee appointments to boards and commissions, manage clemency petitions, and oversee restoration of voting rights — previously served under Gov. George Allen as the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, and most recently was the president of the conservative Heritage Foundation think-tank. I was heartened by her public commitment to

“easily and seamlessly” restoring voting rights of felons who have completed their sentences. However, I had a number of questions on her public support of “natural law” — a conservative theory opposing same sex marriage, her opposition to the federal Equality Act, and whether she supported the newly formed LGBT advisory board, which makes policy recommendations on LGBTQ issues to the governor. Her responses indicated that she would uphold the laws we have established to support LGBT rights, and I look forward to working with her office to ensure that is the case in reality.

Secretary McDermid will manage procurement and state buildings, administer employee policies and benefits, and oversee elections. I complimented her focus on cybersecurity and interagency

data sharing to improve government services. However, I was concerned she may share Gov. Youngkin's support for attempts to roll back access to the ballot and use of “election integrity” on the campaign trail. I asked her if she believed Virginia's elections are free and fair and she agreed this was true despite Gov. Youngkin making “election integrity” one of his top campaign issues.

As the various Secretaries make their way through their respective committees, my colleagues and my focus is on ensuring that Virginia is in the best possible hands, and continues on a trajectory of shared success. However, some appointments are more controversial than others. My office has received over 500 emails opposing Mr. Andrew Wheeler's nomination as Secretary of Natural Resources, for example, but every appointment requires attention. We will make those final determinations when their appointments come to the floor for a final vote.

Last week I was honored to be appointed as the Chair of the Privileges and Elections Committee, which reviews and takes initial votes on these appointments. The Privileges and Elections Committee traces its historic roots back to the first Committee of the Virginia House of Burgesses, which was founded in 1619. George Washington, whose Mount Vernon Estate is in the 30th District, served as the Chair of the House Committees committee during the 1760s.

It is my continued honor to serve the 30th District.

Named Chairman of Two Subcommittees & Bills Are Moving

BY SEN. SCOTT SUROVELL



Surovell

In the state legislature's third week in session, the Senate passed and sent to the House of Delegates five of my bill and many of my other bills advanced.

First, I was named the Chairman of two different subcommittees. The Senate Commerce & Labor Committee Chairman created a Labor & Employment Subcommittee which I will chair and consider 11 bills focused on workforce issues. I was also named the Chairman of the Criminal Law Subcommittee of the Judiciary Committee which will consider 19 bills addressing criminal justice issues.

We have spent much of the last

two weeks rejecting legislation that attempts to undo much of the progress we made over the last two years, policies like making it easier to vote, modernizing workers' rights, requiring a transition to cleaner energy, making Virginia a more welcoming state and reforming our criminal justice system. We have disturbing bills coming up this week to reinstate capital punishment and to require the kinds of election audits conducted in states like Arizona and Michigan. These measures will not pass.

We passed my legislation requiring law enforcement to advise drivers why the officer has stopped a driver before asking for the driver's license and registration. Unfortunately, the debate became politicized and it passed on a party line, but I am hopeful that we can have further discussion about the

anxiety many drivers feel during traffic stops and how that can be alleviated by explaining the basis

SEE NAMED CHAIRMAN, PAGE 14

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Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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A Connection Newspaper



NEWS

Infill Development Task Force Being Formed

BY SUPERVISOR DAN STORCK
MOUNT VERNON DISTRICT

As one of my 2022 commitments, I am initiating an In-fill Development Task Force (IDTF) to include many neighborhood representatives, my office, our state elected representatives, and developers to review and evaluate County and state options for better addressing the impacts on neighbors and neighborhoods of “by-right” residential infill redevelopment projects. “By-right” development means it is a permitted use in a zoning district and, as long as the planned development meets County/state standards, the County does not have the legal right to stop or restrict that property’s development.

I have had numerous discussions with County leadership, the County Attorney’s office, and the Zoning Administrator about how we can best manage these types of developments to support their positive effects while reducing their negative impacts on our neighborhoods. This task force provides the best approach for bringing together the key community members and knowledgeable staff for addressing these generally “by-right” developments. Its work will be focused on the following areas:

- Notifications to surrounding homes and community;

- Lot sizes and setbacks;

- Building height and the measurement of building height;

- Stormwater impacts and management on a lot, in a neighborhood and its aggregate effect on the surrounding area;

- Tree cover and tree preservation existing standards, Fairfax County Tree Commission recommendations, State Tree Advisory Group’s recommendations to the General Assembly, and other environmental best practices;

- Bonding practices including types, amount and length of time;

- Zoning and historic overlay district (HOD) options; and

- Other considerations and potential solutions.

This effort will take time, continued long-term advocacy, deep involvement by our state elected officials, the strong support of my Board of Supervisors colleagues and significant County resources. Truly if it were simple, my predecessor and I would have addressed

SEE INFILL, PAGE 14

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The original U.S. Army Band at Fort Hunt in 1922.

It All Started at Fort Hunt

The U.S. Army Band centennial was Jan. 25, 2022.

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

Fort Hunt Park's visitors today hear crows cawing, chickadees chirping, airplanes descending to National Airport and vehicles buzzing up and down the George Washington Memorial Parkway. One hundred years ago, they might have heard the melodious sounds of trumpets, saxophones and flutes rippling across the rural landscape from what was then the U.S. Army's Fort Hunt.

January 25, 2022, marked the centennial of the U.S. Army Band's founding at Fort Hunt.

In 1922, the Coast Artillery Corps was stationed at the fort to help protect Washington, D.C., the nation's capital, from naval assault ships coming up the Potomac River, though one observer at the time wisecracked that this unit was not capable of attacking a dinghy.

The Army had started a music school in 1910-1911 at the Washington Barracks, today's Fort McNair, but when they organized a formal band of around 100 men, they moved to Fort Hunt because some buildings, now long gone, were available. Most of the band members were single and lived in barracks. In just nine months, September 1922, the band moved from Fort Hunt to the Washington Barracks.

There's another local connection: Fort Belvoir's Army Institute of Heraldry created the Army Band's uniform, one authorized exclusively for this band.

The original band had both professionals and novices. The first leader, Warrant Officer Francis Leigh, graded the musicians.

"Some could barely play an instrument," snickers Adam Lessard, today's head of the band's collections and archives.

The band's first public performance was at an April 27, 1922 dedication of a statue of General Ulysses S. Grant at the U.S. Capitol. To travel from Fort Hunt to performance sites members had to be



Members of the U.S. Army Band "Pershing's Own" march down Pennsylvania Avenue during the 59th Presidential Inauguration in Washington, D.C., Jan. 20, 2021. Military members from across all branches of the armed forces of the United States, including Reserve and National Guard components, provided ceremonial support and Defense Support of Civil Authorities during the inaugural period.



The U.S. Army Herald Trumpets pose for a photo on the White House lawn. The Herald Trumpets are The Official Fanfare Ensemble to The President of The United States.

"creative," Lessard says, navigating over muddy roads, using street cars and taking water taxis across the Potomac River. (The south section of the George Washington Me-

morial Parkway to Mount Vernon Estate was completed 1932.)

They had their first radio broadcast in 1923 and in the 1930s averaged four a week. In 1927, they

performed at a ceremony honoring Charles Lindberg's historic Spirit of St. Louis flight from New York to Paris, France.

In 1942, Fort Myer in Arlington

became their home installation and is still their home today, near Arlington National Cemetery where they often play for funerals and ceremonies. Fort Myer today is called Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall.

Starting as a mostly concert band of around 86 musicians, today the band has 256 professional musicians who stage 6,000 performances or missions a year. There's a concert band, ceremonial band, strings, chorus, herald trumpets, blues band and a band that plays rock, pop, country, rhythm and blues and inspirational music.

Pershing's Own

The band is called "Pershing's Own" because General John "Black Jack" J. Pershing believed the U.S. Army should have a band like the polished ones he had seen in Europe in World War I. He ordered the band's formation and believed it could boost the troops' spirits.

MAKING HISTORY

Today's Pershing's Own is a group of highly-trained, professional musicians who perform at some of the nation's most high-profile events, for U.S. Presidents, the U.S. Congress and foreign dignitaries.

They are the official band for full honor ceremonies at Arlington Cemetery's Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. They provide buglers for wreath layings and do the fanfare for arrivals of foreign heads of state. They perform patriotic programs, for example, at the U.S. Capitol with the National Symphony Orchestra.

Mount Vernon resident Sergeant First Class Paul Tucker, a saxophonist, loves the camaraderie, shared sense of mission and playing with world-class musicians, he says. "Performing in the Army Band at important ceremonies and concerts in our nation's capital has been an incredible honor, whether it is the Presidential inaugural parade or a Medal of Honor recipient ceremony or an outdoor summer concert. It is personally very re-

SEE IT ALL STARTED, PAGE 7
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



PHOTO BY ANDREA HANKS

The U.S. Army Strings perform in the Rose Garden of The White House.

It All Started at Fort Hunt

FROM PAGE 6

warding to both make music and also represent the U.S. Army.”

The band welcomed John Glenn back from his historic space flight in 1962 and played for the Apollo 11 astronauts’ return from the moon in 1969. Pershing’s Own performed at the 1987 summit of U.S. President Ronald Reagan and the Soviet Union’s General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev.

After the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, band members helped with recovery efforts at the Pentagon and a month later, participated in a memorial service at New York City’s Ground Zero. They performed for the 50th anniversary of NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) in 2005.

In 2021, they played for the post-inauguration wreath-laying ceremony for President Joseph Biden at Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Their brass quintet, one of the band’s ensembles, played for people arriving for the late General Colin Powell’s funeral this past November.

Diplomacy

The musicians have also practiced diplomacy. In World War II, the band had a two-year deployment to North Africa and Europe. It came under a German V-2 rocket bomb attack in Antwerp, Belgium, in 1944. Rockets aside, “Playing concerts in countries like Algiers and Morocco, they were representatives of the American liberating force,” Lessard says.

In 2002, some band members did a six-day USO tour of Kuwait, Afghanistan and Uzbekistan to support Operation Enduring Freedom.



The U.S. Army Herald Trumpets for the White House arrival of Chinese President Hu Jintao with U.S. President George W. Bush.



Staff Sgts. Adrienne Doctor and Sidonie McCray play taps for a wreath-laying at The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

dom.

The band had a memorable exchange with China’s Military Band of the People’s Liberation Army in 2011 and 2012, performing together at the Kennedy Center, at

the United Nation in New York and in China, playing both American and Chinese pieces. “We are more similar than we are dissimilar,” commented then Major General

SEE THE U.S., PAGE 10



The Rotary Club of Mount Vernon, VA

The Mount Vernon Rotary Club is initiating the “You Make a Difference Award” to support community service by organizations in the Mount Vernon area.

Specifically, the purpose of the Mount Vernon Rotary “You Make A Difference” Award is to:

- 1) Recognize individuals and organizations who support service to others
- 2) Support community service within the Mount Vernon area

This local support is consistent with the Rotary International Motto: “Service Above Self.”

A single award and associated grant of \$1000 will be presented once a year. The goal is to recognize a single individual who sustains community service and to contribute financial support to keep that service continuing.

Nominations will be accepted until noon on March 23, 2022. To receive a nomination form or more information, email rcmvva@gmail.com

Rotary is where neighbors, friends, and problem-solvers share ideas, join leaders, and take action to create lasting change. Visit www.rotary.org for more information.

The Rotary Club of Mount Vernon meets via Zoom on Wednesday evening from 6:30 to 7:30. To request an invitation link email mikej1013@verizon.net

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U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY PFC. GABRIEL SILVA

The U.S. Army Band Centennial Was Jan. 25, 2022

FROM PAGE 9

Michael Linnington.

When dignitaries visit the U.S., the band plays the national anthem of the visitor's home country.

Hollin Hall resident and percussionist Larry Ferguson found his two USO tours to Iraq and Afghanistan to be very rewarding. For him, the band has been a capstone of his musical pursuits that started 36 years ago.

At age 10, he began playing drums and he's been a percussionist playing instruments like the drum, cymbals, xylophone, triangle and tambourine for 20 years. "The Army and the Army band have been an amazing career. I've been fortunate enough to pursue my passion while giving something back to the nation through concerts and high-profile ceremonies," he says.

Emily Ross, who handles band operations, played the clarinet with the band for 17 years. "It's a great way to serve your country and perform the music that you love," she believes. Band members surely agree.

Forthcoming Events

The U.S. Army Band will have several centennial events, including an April gala concert at Washington's Constitution Hall, virtual and outdoor concerts and possible tours. Visit usarmyband.com, Facebook www.facebook.com/usarmyband, Instagram [@usarmyband](https://www.instagram.com/usarmyband), and YouTube www.youtube.com/c/usarmyband

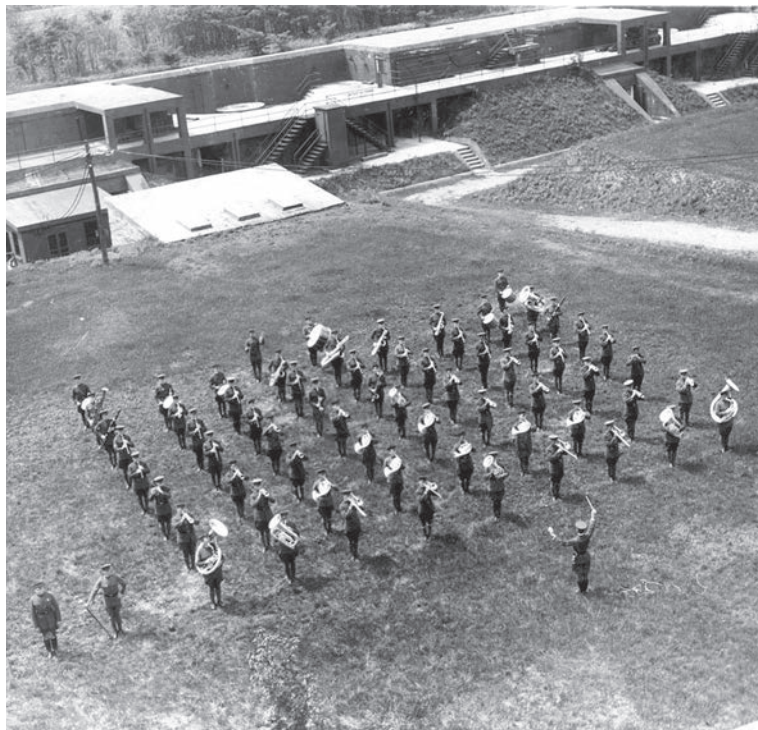
In China

See the YouTube documentary, "In China," the U.S. Army Band's trip to China, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BL5VJ9o7y6g>



U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. VICTORIA CHAMBERLAIN

Sgt. Major Christal Rheams sings with The U.S. Army Blues.



The Army Band rehearses in their parade formation, conducted by Warrant Officer Francis Leigh, first leader of the band. To the left of the formation, First Sergeant Willis S. Ross, first drum major and Captain Perry Lewis, first Commander of the band, look on.



President Reagan presides over the internment of the Vietnam War Unknown Soldier at the amphitheatre in Arlington National Cemetery while The United States Army Chorus looks on.



1981: The United States Army Herald Trumpets announce the arrival of President Ronald Reagan to the reviewing stand during the 1981 Presidential Inaugural Parade.



The United States Army Strolling Strings provide music for President Gerald Ford and first lady Betty Ford at the White House.



All five living Presidents at the time were present including Presidents George H.W. Bush, Ronald Reagan, Jimmy Carter, Gerald Ford, and Richard Nixon.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF PATRICK FITZSIMMONS



Ron Fitzsimmons surveying the damage at a daycare center.



From left, Lenny Whalen, Superintendent of Dawson Springs School District; Ron Fitzsimmons; and Todd Marshall, Principal of Dawson Springs High School.

Alice's Kids Delivers Gift Cards to Dawson Springs High Schoolers

On Dec. 12, 2021 the small town of Dawson Springs, Kentucky was one of the hardest hit by the F4 tornado that swept through the state. On Jan. 13, Ron Fitzsimmons, the Executive Director of the charity, Alice's Kids, personally delivered 250 Walmart gift cards in \$100 denominations to Lenny Whalen, the Superintendent of Schools of Dawson Springs and Todd Marshall, the Principal

of Dawson Springs High School.

"Coincidentally, there are approximately 250 students in the high school so each kid will get a gift card to go out and replace that lost sweatshirt, the destroyed furniture or buy new clothing. The hope is that it will help them feel just a little more 'normal,'" said Fitzsimmons.

Alice's Kids is a national charity that provides targeted financial assistance to

children in need.

Fitzsimmons was accompanied by his son, Patrick Fitzsimmons, who photographed the exhausting tour of the town. They both also visited the town of Mayfield. Whalen, who led the private tour, related how he had lost some staff people during the event. His house was one of the few that remained standing in the rubble. About 75% of the town was destroyed and 13 people were

killed. About a third of the town's population of 2,500 lives below the poverty line and many don't have insurance.

Marshall announced that he will be personally giving each student at the school a gift card when they return on Tuesday.

"It's sure to be an emotional event but the kids could use this kind of lift. We appreciate Alice's Kids being here for us," said Marshall.

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ENTERTAINMENT

4 Dates to Circle in February

BY HOPE NELSON

February has all the holidays, from George Washington's Birthday to Valentine's Day to, yes, even Super Bowl Sunday. Here are some can't-miss events coming up at eateries around town.

Citywide Cherry Challenge, Feb. 1-15

To get into the spirit of George Washington Birthday Weekend, 16 local eateries are facing off in the 2022 Cherry Challenge. The challenge pits (see what we did there?) restaurants against each other to see who can come up with the most inventive – and tasty – cherry-inspired dish. From Alexandria Pastry Shop to Whiskey and Oyster, from Café 1823 to Café 44, the entries are bound to surprise and delight. Scope out the whole list of participating restaurants at <http://washingtonbirthday.com/cherry-challenge>.

Valentine's Cookie Decorating Class at Lost Boy Cider, Feb. 8

Get into the spirit of love with some fancy cookies. Lost Boy is teaming up with Sugarcoated Bakery for another decorating class,



Cherry-themed cocktails, cherry turnovers and more, all part of the 2022 Cherry Challenge.

this one with Cupid right at the center of the proceedings. Participants will decorate a half-dozen cookies in three different Valentine's-themed styles, which you can then give to a loved one or eat (we won't tell). All supplies (and cookies) come with registration, so get ready to put your artistry on display. \$60. 6:30 p.m. 317 Hooffs Run Drive.

Barolo Wine and Truffle Dinner at Elo's Italian, Feb. 10

Elo Chef Justus Frank helms the menu for a dinner pairing featuring four courses of Italian cuisine alongside Fontanafredda Barolo wines and Umbrian black truffles. Pasta, truffles and wine – it's a winning combination from age to age. \$150.

Cookie and Beer Pairing at Port City Brewing, Feb. 13

What would Valentine's Day weekend be without some sweet treats (and maybe a beer)? Anticipating the needs of the community, Port City has solved the problem for you. Joining forces with Scuttlebutt Bake Shop, the brewery is hosting a cookie-and-beer tasting featuring flights of brews as well as a special

cookie made with spent grain from Port City's Optimal Wit. Each flight comes with four beer tastings and four cookies. Prepping for the Super Bowl? Take a to-go kit instead. \$15. 1-4 p.m. 3950 Wheeler Ave.

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

CALENDAR

THURSDAY/FEB. 3

Virtual Tour of Local Black History. 5-7 p.m. Virtual. Join Manumission Tour Company to (virtually) travel the streets of historic Old Town Alexandria and hear the little-known stories of Africans and African Americans, both enslaved and freemen, at a time when Alexandria, Virginia was one of early American's main centers for the international and domestic slave trade. This program will give participants insight into Alexandria's pre-civil war history of urban slavery, and highlight runaway enslaved individuals, like stepbrothers Oscar and George Ball, free African Americans like Moses Hepburn and early abolitionists, such as pharmacist Edward Stabler, who pushed back against the "Peculiar Institution" of slavery. Visit alexlibraryva.org.

THURSDAY/FEB. 3

Viva George - Celebrating Washington in Laredo and Alexandria. 7-8:30 p.m. Virtual. Alexandria has celebrated George Washington for hundreds of years with parades and balls. Another city in America that has also celebrated with pomp and parade? Laredo, Texas. Learn from Dr. Elaine Peña, Associate Professor of American Studies at The George Washington University, about these extensive festivities along the border. Tickets are available through AlexandriaVa.Gov/Shop.

FEB. 4-26

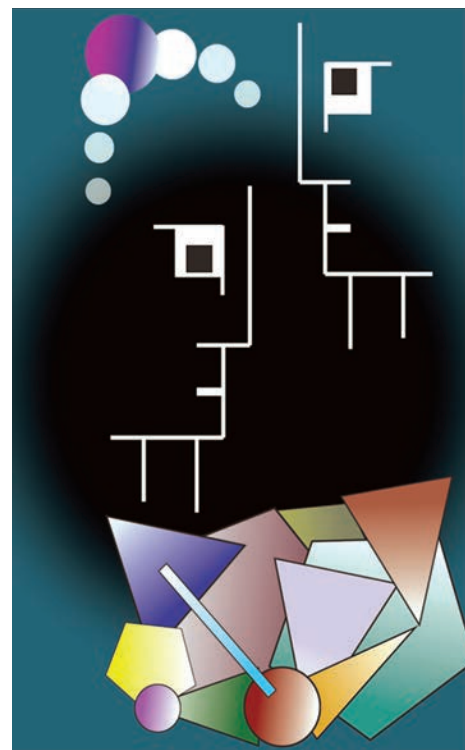
The "DADA 2.0" Exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Features art that expresses absurdity and discontent through the lens of Dada. Open Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays 12-6 p.m. (Closed February 27, 2022). Details at DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

SATURDAY/FEB. 5

Washington Gardener Seed Exchange. 12:30-4:30 p.m. At Green Spring Garden, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (Adult) Washington Gardener Magazine is co-hosting the annual seed exchange at Green Spring Gardens with lectures, a face-to-face seed swap and more. Bring your extra seeds to swap and leave with a bag full of seeds, new garden friends, and expert planting advice. \$15 for verified Friends of Green Spring members (use code C1E.C9DL) and Washington Gardener subscribers; \$20 for guests (use code C1E.I01D). Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes or call 703-642-5173.

FEB. 5-6

Alexandria Warehouse Sale. In Old Town Alexandria. The 18th Annual Alexandria Boutique Warehouse Sale returns in a walkable format once again to maintain social distance while shopping for the best deals. The popular longest-running winter affair featuring 60



The DADA 2.0 Exhibit will be held at the Del Ray Artisans Gallery in Alexandria from Feb. 4-26.

boutiques will take place over two days the weekend of February 5-6, 2022 throughout Old Town. Visit the website: www.AlexandriaWarehouseSale.com

SUNDAY/FEB. 6

"Winter Lecture: Thomas Rainer Garden Design." At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Renowned landscape architect and design blogger Thomas Rainer will talk about going beyond the basics of good garden design. Take lessons from his garden creations to improve your own planting plans for an ecologically diverse and beautiful garden. Call 703-642-5173, or visit Green Spring Gardens.

FEB. 6, 13, 20, 27

"George Washington's Alexandria" Tours. 2 to 4 p.m. Explore historic Old Town Alexandria as George Washington knew it. This popular two-hour guided walking tour will visit sites associated with Washington and his closest colleagues, including Christ Church, Light Horse Harry Lee's house, the Lord Fairfax home, Washington's townhouse, Gadsby's Tavern, Duvall Tavern, Wise's Tavern, the Carlyle House, Market Square, Ramsay House, the Apothecary Shop and Gentry Row. To register, visit eventbrite.com and search George Washington's Alexandria. Free.

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 12

TUESDAY/FEB. 8

An Afternoon Lecture with the Equal Justice Initiative. 4 to 5 p.m. Virtual. Attend an afternoon with Trey Walk, project manager with the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI). Join the Alexandria Community Remembrance Project (ACRP) to learn more about EJI and the ACRP's work with them to educate Alexandria citizens about Alexandria's two lynchings that occurred in 1897 and 1899. Visit alexandriava.gov/historic.

THURSDAY/FEB. 10

The Life and Times of Colonial Charles Young. 7-8 p.m. Virtual. Join Park Ranger Roger Osorio, from the Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers National Monument, to learn the story behind Colonial Young's life and the legacy he created. Charles Young, born to enslaved parents, persevered through racism and prejudice to become one of the first African American graduates from West Point Military Academy and went on to serve in many capacities and missions throughout the United States and the world at a time when opportunities for Black Americans were severely restricted. Contact mzimmerman@alexlibraryva.org. Visit alexlibraryva.org

FRIDAY/FEB. 11

Sing Willow by The Thirteen. 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Alexandria. Throughout musical history, composers have long turned to the natural world for inspiration and solace. Chief among equals is English composer Ralph Vaughan Williams, who was born in 1872 and whose 150th birthday we

celebrate in this program. The Thirteen will pair Vaughan Williams' music with works that explore the concept of the natural world and humankind's place in it by beloved composers including Trevor Weston, Caroline Shaw, Benjamin Britten and more. Visit the website: www.TheThirteenChoir.org.

SATURDAY/FEB. 12

Storytime with the Alexandria Black History Museum. 10 a.m. Virtual. Educated kids during story time with the Alexandria Black History Museum, a collaboration with the Alexandria Library. Join Mrs. Lillian Patterson for story time and hear about African American history. The event is great for children ages 4 to 8, but all are welcome. Recurring story times occur on the second Saturday of each month. Visit alexlibraryva.org.

SATURDAY/FEB. 12

A White Historian Explores "Race Riots." 11 a.m. Virtual. Violent clashes between large crowds of different races have disturbed the social order in the United States since long before the Civil War, and the phrase "race riot" has been used to describe such disparate events such as the Tulsa massacre of 1921, the 1968 uprisings following the assassination of Martin Luther King and the anti-Chinese riots of the 1870s. Susan Strasser investigates the term and a history of racially-charged violence that has framed American discussions of race throughout the nation's history. Visit alexandriava.gov/historic.

SATURDAY/FEB. 12

Chocolate with General Washington.

At 2 p.m. At George Washington Masonic National Memorial, Alexandria. Children (and accompanying adults) are invited to spend an hour with General Washington to talk about the events of the revolution, ask questions of our first citizen, and enjoy hot chocolate and delicious comestibles. Free. Visit washingtonbirthday.com.

SATURDAY/FEB. 12

Starting from Scratch with Seeds. 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. (16-Adult). At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Grow flowers, vegetables and herbs from seed and expand your garden. Be inspired by Green Spring staff members as they discuss potting mixes, containers, seed treatments, lighting, fertilization, watering, seed sources and timing. Then take home a few seeds to start your own collection. \$22 per person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes or call 703-642-5173. Code J1VD6BU.

SATURDAY/FEB. 12

Rachmaninov Rhapsody. 7:30 p.m. At Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, Alexandria. The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra is joined by renowned soloist Sara Daneshpour with Rachmaninov's romantic Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini. Strings take center stage with George Walker's Lyric for Strings and Beethoven's Quartet for Strings in C-sharp minor, expanded for full orchestra. The program also features Sibelius' epic tone poem, Finlandia. Cost: \$20-\$85. Visit the website: https://alexsym.org/

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 14

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The Time is Now

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



For the first time in nearly 13 years, I forgot I had cancer. More specifically, I nearly forgot I had quarterly scans next week. In fact, I only remembered them the Friday before the Wednesday, five days ahead. And I only remembered them because of a bone-strengthening injection I get every four weeks which requires lab work. Lab work which must be completed one to two days prior to the injection. Lab work which determines whether I receive treatment or not. If levels of any number of measures are too high (creatinine, magnesium, calcium, as but a few examples) or too low (potassium, white blood cells), I'm not treated and sent back home with a re-scheduled injection date weeks or even a month later. The logic for the delay, as best I understand it, is to allow one's body to rest and recuperate, sort of, from previous treatments and overall cumulative cancer wear and tear. Nevertheless, the protocol for these injections is every four weeks so it's recurring enough that the thought of it, the preparation for it, never leaves my mind. But the scans however, are something else entirely and easier to misplace, if you know what I mean? Three months doesn't come around nearly as regularly as monthly.

Over the course of months, one can get caught up in life and the miscellaneous responsibilities involved. And before you realize it - or before I realized it, my quarterly scans were a mere five days away, Wednesday, Feb. 2, the day this column publishes. Never in my cancer-patient history had I ever been this late to the party. Fortunately, these appointments are always made by my oncologist immediately after we discuss the results of the previous scans. It's never left to this patient's chance which I imagine is a good thing considering the likelihood of finding available appointments this close to my oncologist's timeline. (And it's been my experience that adhering to the doctor's timeline might be important for my diagnostic health.) And though typically I receive electronic and text reminders from my provider, it just so happened that I remembered I had forgot before I received any reminders. Fortunately, all is not lost and there's no actual harm done. However, for a cancer patient who takes great pride in navigating the entire cancer treatment/appointment process, this temporary oversight has been quite surprising.

As a cancer patient, I've kept the pedal to the metal thinking that letting off the gas might be harmful to my health. I've never stopped treatment or took a break - as my oncologist occasionally suggested, always worried that a delay might be bad for my health. I've always been aware of my appointments and responsibilities and have been "compliant," as my provider says, meaning I've done what they've told me to do and never missed an appointment (apparently some do). When I woke up this past Friday and it hit me that my lab work and scans were next week, I couldn't believe I had totally forgot about it.

The experience of nearly forgetting my cancer care has shaken my confidence a bit. I thought I was "Charles in charge" and on top of my cancer business. I knew who, what, where when and why. I didn't exactly take it all for granted but I had assimilated it all into my routine and thought I had a handle on it. Perhaps my subconscious was taking a much-needed break. I will readily admit that being a cancer patient is all it's cracked up to be. Sometimes, a brake in the action is exactly what the patient needs.

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

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OPINION

Named Chairman of Two Subcommittees & Bills Are Moving

FROM PAGE 6

for the stop.

I am working on two bills to curb Virginia's methane emissions. Two months ago, President Biden attended the United Nations Climate Change Summit called "COP26" in Glasgow, Scotland, and emerged with a pledge to reduce American methane emissions by 30 percent. Methane is 85 times more potent than carbon dioxide at capturing the greenhouse gas that is warming the planet at unsustainable rates. I am carrying two bills to address this.

First, I introduced a bill to clarify the legal treatment of the byproduct of organic waste digestion. One way to create methane without hydraulic fracturing or "fracking" natural gas, a greenhouse gas, is to put organic materials in a digester so it can decompose in an enclosed environment. The end products are methane or "biomethane" which can be used interchangeably with fracked methane. The residual sludge can be applied to farm fields. However, the end product does not contain consistent nutrient content so it needs to be sold and labeled as a soil amendment like vermiculite instead of fertilizer. My bill passed out of committee unanimously.

Second, I am also working with Virginia's five natural gas companies on legislation which would allow the companies to purchase biogas from composting facilities, landfills or other composting facilities and sell it to consumers. It would also allow compa-

nies to obtain credit for methane reduction by capturing "fugitive methane" from leaky pipelines, compressor stations or closed wells.

The legislation basically gets methane out of the atmosphere and into the pipes where it can be used to power your furnace, hot water heater or stove top. A Senate committee will consider the bill next week.

The Senate Rules Committee approved my legislation to conduct what I am calling a "COVID-19 Pandemic Autopsy." This is the first pandemic our government has responded to since 1918 and our existing rules and systems adjusted, but there are always lessons to be learned. Our state-of-emergency laws are designed for short-term events like hurricanes and snowstorms. Many of us feel that the General Assembly should have a role in addressing more extended situations. We need to examine the responses of our education, health, regulatory and legal systems and look for lessons learned, approaches we need to keep and changes we need to continue to make.

The next ten legislative days will be some of the busiest we face as we approach "Cross-over" - the day that we must complete work on all legislation in our respective chambers and switch to work on bills from the other chamber. We usually save the most difficult bills for the last few days.

If you have any feedback, you can reach me at scott@scottsuovell.org. It is an honor to serve in the Virginia Senate.

Infill Development Task Force Being Formed

FROM PAGE 7

it a long time ago, as we know the impacts it has and has had on our neighborhoods for decades. Things are changing with our greater understanding of these development impacts, the importance of our trees to reducing local/climate heat, absorbing rainfall and keeping us all healthier, and the increased intensity of our storms, stormwater runoff and flooding.

The timeline and frequency of the Infill Development Task Force meetings have yet to be determined, but I am anticipating commissioning this group for a period of about 6

months, with monthly mostly virtual meetings. Anyone wanting to be a Task Force member would need to commit for the full 6-month period. Since these meetings will be open to the public, anyone may attend, though non-member in-meeting comments would be more limited.

If you are willing to commit your time and efforts for six months as a formal member of this Task Force, please email Nick Rinehart in my office at Nicholas.Rinehart@fairfax-county.gov. Please also let Nick know if you would just like to be added to the Task Force meeting notices and notes distribution list.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 13

performance/rachmaninov-rhapsody/

SUNDAY/FEB. 13

Rachmaninov Rhapsody. 3 p.m. At George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra is joined by renowned soloist Sara Daneshpour with Rachmaninov's romantic Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini. Strings take center stage with George Walker's Lyric for Strings and Beethoven's Quartet for Strings in C-sharp minor, expanded for full orchestra. The program also features Sibelius' epic tone poem, Finlandia. Cost: \$20-\$85. Visit the website: <https://alexsym.org/performance/rachmaninov-rhapsody/>

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