

The **MONTABELLO** Voice

an independent gazette

truth is beauty

January 25, 2018



Early cell phones

By Joel Miller

By Ralph Johnson

Congratulations on “kicking the cable news addiction and regaining sanity.” [January 11, ed.] Policies are what mostly affect our lives. How nice if the news media would present facts to enlighten citizens rather than spending 90 percent of their time tearing apart a president elected based on our Constitution. This country should be a family. We had an election and a person was chosen for four years as our leader. Whether this person was our personal choice or not, he is our president. If not satisfied, then have someone else run on a platform so they can be elected president in 2020.

Policies and laws passed during the last year has provided us with a strong and growing economy with more people employed at higher wages and less on food stamps. The stock market is

unbelievably strong and continues to grow. Tax reform was passed allowing about 90 percent of workers to pay less taxes. How refreshing to allow those who earn money to keep the fruits of their labor. I believe those who work can better spend and enjoy their money than an overly large government.

There is more commitment to security and safety with steps being taken to implement. We do lock our doors for security in our homes, do the same for our country.

Government is being curtailed. Citizens are no longer forced to purchase what they do not want or need. Less regulations allow citizens and companies to be more productive. The list of positive changes have been many in the past year, I have listed a few.

There was much concern regarding a recent remark of the president.

It should have been said in a different way. However, much bigger than the remark, are the policy issues. Who should be future citizens – those that can contribute to our great country through their preparedness or those chosen by lottery with no consideration to our needs, cost, safety and security. Future citizens’ original country or the color of their skin is not important, only their commitment and abilities to benefit our country. That is the discussion of policy that should move forward for our consideration, not repeating ten times every hour what was said.

Mikhailina, we at Montebello greatly appreciate your work to provide *The Voice* for contributing to our knowledge and discussions. May we be a better community and country because of your efforts and issues presented. 📖

Checking political correctness

By Carole S. Appel

I cringe every time I read the words “politically correct,” because in my experience they are always used to mock people who are complaining about what I would call “common courtesy.” Maybe some of this page’s readers have seen “politically correct” used by people who want to be careful, want to be courteous in calling people and groups of people by the names they wish to be called, but I have not seen such.

Do some women complain about other people calling the adult employ-

ees of an office “girls”? Oh, they’re just being politically correct. Did a former friend accuse me of being politically correct when I asked her not to use the word “retarded” to describe a person with a learning disability? Yes. That’s why I think of her as a former friend.

The next time readers of this gazette see a complaint anywhere about political correctness, I ask them to ask themselves this simple question: could you just as easily substitute the words “courteous language” in that complaint? 📖

NIC seeks an education representative

The Montebello Neighborhood Improvement Committee seeks a volunteer to represent Montebello at the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens’ Associations Education Committee (www.mvcca.org/committees/education-committee). The committee generally meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 8 p.m. at the Walt Whitman MS on Parkers Lane. The representative would try to attend most of that committee’s meeting and then report to the NIC at its monthly meeting about any development of interest to Montebello and its student community. Anyone interested is welcome to attend the NIC February 17 meeting to discuss his or her possible appointment, roles and membership in the NIC. 📖

The Montebello Voice
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Alexandria, Virginia
This publication accepts no funding or oversight from advertisers, residents, or the Montebello Condominium Unit Owners Association. All opinions are encouraged and reflect the diversity of views in the community. All articles and photographs come from Montebello residents. To receive or contribute to this email-only gazette, contact montebellovoice@cox.net or visit on the web at www.montebellovoice.com.
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Oh dear, oh deer

By *Rebecca (from Texas) Long Hayden*

Perhaps you know the riddle of the fox, the chicken, and the bag of grain trying to cross the river.

You have a fox, a chicken and a sack of grain. You must cross a river with only one of them at a time. If you leave the fox with the chicken he will eat it; if you leave the chicken with the grain he will eat it. How can you get all three across safely?

How do we continue to enjoy the sight of a delicate doe and her fawns making their way along our by-ways in search of a nibble or two? How do we continue to love them, knowing the food is going to be thousands of dollars worth of newly-planted pansies? You see, I'm a *florafaukite*. I want the grounds to be beautiful, but I'm not fond of seeing smiling pansies one day, and sadly beheaded ones the next.

How do we keep the winsome deer and the enchanting flowers?

I have a history of crackpot ideas (that I cherish), so naturally, I've evolved some crackpot theories about dealing with the deer of Montebello.

Could we make them pets? Fence off part of our many acres and keep one or two deer for the purpose of petting and admiring? This could evolve into a local zoo, to include foxes, skunks, squirrels, and chipmunks? Could we charge a fee for near-by non-resident children to come see what will soon vanish from the wilds of the city? A positive for the purse strings!

Could we find plants and flowers the deer hate to eat? There must be some.

Or conversely, could we spray the English ivy and other invasive species with something the deer love to eat? That seems like a money-saver. Then we don't have pay to have the ivy pulled up or risk poisoning adjacent plants with Agent Killsall.

And my favorite: could we feed them quantities of Purina Deer-chow, so they have no appetite for shrubbery? And lace the food with birth control pills so the population doesn't turn into a herd? (Neutering the bucks seems impractical. At least I wouldn't want to try it.)

I checked out deer food on-line,



which led me along a trail of tears of laughter. There's Purina AntlerMax Deer Feed, 50 pounds for only \$17.99. The ad suggested I might also like the Weaver three-quarter-inch nylon goat halter for \$8.99. I guess this could be useful in the Memorial Crackpot Montebello Zoo.

And as for the food, always better to buy in bulk, which would be half a ton of said AntlerMax for \$649.99. At this point my tongue was completely ripped from my cheek by the following warning in a bright yellow box:

Laws and regulations regarding feeding or baiting wild life vary.

Always check federal, state, and local regulations before using.

Note the warning said "before using" but not "before buying," and no mention of running it by the Montebello board, the ultimate cattle guard against crack-pot ideas. So my dreams of a zoo or feeding the deer were destroyed.

However, while on the subject of a cattle guard to keep deer from entering the front gate, I'm sure those who know about such things know what they're talking about. Being from Texas, though, I never saw a cow jump over a low-lying tin can, let alone a 12-foot cattle guard. A frightened deer may be capable of sailing right over such a thing. But I'm no authority.

I wish the *flora* versus *fauna* dilemma could be solved as sensibly as the riddle of the fox, the chicken, and the bag of grain.

You simply take the chicken over first. Go back and bring the grain next, but instead of leaving the chicken with the grain, come back with the chicken. Leave the chicken on the first side and take

the fox with you. Leave it on the other side with the grain. Finally, go back over and get the chicken and bring it over.

I know. Choices must be made. Our property values are important, and the deer of Montebello are doomed. But it's a shame we human beings have ridden rough over the whole world, and now we can't allow a tiny slice of Montebello for such living, breathing, beautiful things.

So I'm a *florafaukite*. I want the flowers *and* the deer, and that's why life is funny, but you don't always laugh. 🍷

reading list

2018 Montebello Morning Book Club

January 22



IKE: An American Hero (chapters 9 - 14) by Michael Korda

February 26

A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman

March 26

Across the River and into the Trees

by Ernest Hemingway

April 23

The Last Mile by David Baldacci

May 21

The Remains of the Day by Kazuo Ishiguro

June 25

A Piece of the World by Christina Baker Kline

July 23

The Sympathizer by Viet Thanh Nguyen

August 27

A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles

September 24

Elizabeth and Hazel by David Margolick

October 22

The Irregulars by Jennet Conant

November 26

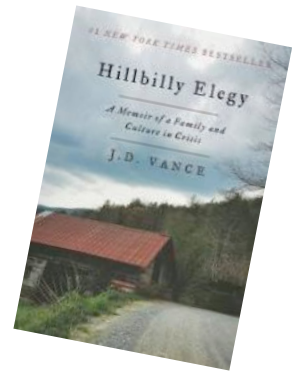
Hillbilly Elegy by J. D. Vance

December 17

New Boy by Tracy Chevalier

The Morning Book Discussion Group meets every fourth Monday of the month at 10:30 a.m. in Party Room 1 and is coordinated by Lee McMillion (lee@mcmillion.org) and Candace Cowan (cgcowan@cox.net)

2018 Montebello Evening Book Club



January 18

A Gentleman In Moscow by Amor Towles

February 15

Hillbilly Elegy by J. D. Vance

March 15

Lincoln In The Bardo by George Saunders

April 19

Hero of the Empire by Candice Millard

May 17

The Nest by Cynthia D'Aprix Sweeney

June 21

Old Filth by Jane Gardan

July 19

Across The River and Into The Trees

by Ernest Hemingway

August

No book – summer break

September 20

The Last Bus to Wisdom by Ivan Doig

October 18

My Grandmother Asked Me To Tell You I'm

Sorry by Fredrik Backman

November 15

Ordinary Grace by William Kent Krueger

The Evening Book Discussion Group meets every third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in Party Room 1 and is coordinated by sisters Anne Burke Corridan (anne1017@cox.net) and Ellen Burke Orlando (elleninva@cox.net)





The Montebello chapter of my life

By Bonnie Daniel

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear...

Almost 15 years ago, I moved to Montebello, with one large dog and one arrogant cat. I was pleased to find a place with wooded trails for me and the dog as well as a home spacious enough to accommodate my accumulated belongings.

I didn't move to Montebello (MB) for the usual reasons. I didn't need Metro access; I wasn't working in D.C. I probably wouldn't use the amenities; I wasn't going to be around much. I had no idea of the community make-up beyond my real estate agent's comment, "There are lots of elderberries there like you." I moved to Alexandria

to be Granny Nanny to my then 10-month-old granddaughter Stella, the only grandchild I have on the East Coast. Choosing to upend a life that had been lived in Columbia, Maryland, for thirty years, I astounded family and friends. But I had astounded my family when I moved to Columbia in 1970 as a single mom with two small girls. So the Alexandria move was just another road less traveled.

For my first ten years at MB, I was tending granddaughter on weekdays and teaching college courses on Saturdays. Still, I managed to attend many board meetings, enjoy many events, take Stella to the pools, become active in the Pet Club, and occasionally enjoy the café's liver and onions – yum. But my most treasured MB times were on the wooded trails with my German shepherd Rex, an incredible canine that I brought home when he was just eight weeks old and trained relentlessly

ly in his early years. He and I were often accompanied on our wooded walks by granddaughter Stella, who played hide and seek, tag, and chase with him; he was a superb playmate.

Through Rex I met other MB dog owners as well as residents who had owned German shepherds in an earlier life and loved the breed. A true gentle giant, Rex was a community favorite. He was unfailingly good-natured and did impressive tricks. Many residents remember that he always carried something in his mouth – toy, stick, branch. The boy had the breed's instinctive need to work.

Like most residents at MB, I enjoyed living here. I had my gripes – one being the inconsistency of the condo fee – high one year, minimal the next. I could grumble with the best of them about the same pan-sies year after year at the front gate, the challenge of crossing an icy street to a pet area or to the Community Center, the seeming lack of resident interest in governance, the seeming distance between board members and residents, and the dismissive attitude of management regarding resident concerns and problems. But I was always impressed by the housekeeping staff. Office staff were always responsive. Things were routinely painted and repaired. The grounds were unfailingly lovely year round. Coming up the hill at MB was a wonderful relaxer any time. I was home, and home was good.

I have found truth in the saying "Life is what happens when you have made other plans." Over the past several years, life happened to me, first subtly, then substantively. My granddaughter needed me less as her mother's job change resulted in more mother availability. My wonderful Rex died, and deciding I was good for at least one more

dog, I adopted a rescue dog, an abused, aging animal, Miss Mona, who has needed hours of training and emotional care. I had a serious bout with shingles that really humbled me. Suddenly, I was taking a hard look at my future. What next? What really mattered to me? What did I still want to do?

I am by nature a quiet person, but can be very vocal. After enduring one of my orations on the Montebello issue of the moment, friends often told me I should run for the board. Although I had mused about how to get younger residents involved in committees and service on the board, I didn't consider myself in those musings. My schedule hadn't allowed me the experience of committee participation. If I thought about board membership, the sometimes unbelievably technical aspects of board meeting discussions simply confirmed for me that I had little to offer in that arena.

Then 2016 came with a raft of board openings. I didn't initially see myself as a candidate, but, with encouragement from some residents, I decided, why not run? My work as a high school administrator had given me a rudimentary understanding of things technical and structural. I had effectively managed teachers – always an interesting bunch – and teenagers – a totally unpredictable bunch. I was a good listener and a persistent advocate for causes I valued. So I jumped into the race on a platform of restoring our grounds and improving communication between the board/management and MB residents. Much to my surprise, I was elected.

My board time has been an in-depth learning experience about what I often wryly call “Montebello World.” I discovered that I can digest reams of technical material, make sense of most of it, and know when I need clarification. I discovered that my out-of-the-box approach to my own life provided an alternative viewpoint often useful and thought-provoking to my colleagues. I enjoyed getting to know the board members and felt supported and encouraged.

So here's the deal for residents who might think they have nothing to offer as a board member: **you do.** We will always have members who thrive on the technical stuff and are experts in their areas. We need board members whose interests fall more in the human relations realm: who enjoy chatting with any resident anywhere, any time, who insist on keeping the needs and concerns of residents front and center whatever the topic, who have a knack for considering the impact of decisions on the whole community. Even a resident still working can handle a couple hours of meetings twice a month and 1-3 hours of reading for each meeting. A former general manager often referred to MB as a small town. And if one agrees – and I do – then the best board will reflect the diversity of this small town and always have that concept in mind as a nudge to broad-based, inclusive decision-making.

So here I am, having left Montebello World, seemingly suddenly. But this decision didn't happen suddenly. It crept up on me – a “life is what happens” event. I wasn't using MB's highly visible amenities; I am not a swimmer, tennis player, bowler, or gym rat. Even the woods had lost their pull as Miss Mona could no longer walk the paths; a couple of hard falls on the new rocky surface had also made me wary. I began to want more space – yard space for my own flower beds and a small garden, neighborhood space with sidewalks, personal space less regulated by rules. I could still manage shoveling snow, raking leaves, mowing the yard, taking out the garbage, replacing the smoke detectors. Thus came about my October move to a “tiny house,” which simply came available at the right price at the right time in a quiet neighborhood. Thinking out of the box, I took the road less traveled.

I am not leaving my MB friends; I will continue to see them. But leaving the board is difficult. I have made

small contributions in this short term. I could make more in a second term. I know my colleagues better and have found them to be truly expert in many areas, deeply committed to MB, always helpful to this rookie, and a lot of fun, especially in executive sessions, those secretive get-togethers where we are supposedly plotting and agreeing to all vote the same way! We're plotting all right – how to manage the latest burst pipes, lackadaisical handling of landscaping, county demands for permits for erosion plans, and complaints about dog accidents in garages! Be grateful you are spared these sessions.

Be grateful also for your remarkable board members, who are in your corner, protecting your interests, devising ways to improve property values, working to enhance a sense of community. Keeping this beautiful property at showcase level requires a huge investment, both human and financial. You have a dedicated board and a host of residents who volunteer for everything. You have a gifted general manager to help keep things moving forward. You have a staff whose dedication is unmatched. And the reserve funds are solid! Smile. The sun is shining upon Montebello!

**I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I –
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.**

Robert Frost

Thirty years ago Montebello, too, took a road less traveled. That has made all the difference – and will continue to do so. Bless you, wonderful community, as you continue on this road. Thank you, colleagues, friends, and neighbors, for allowing me to be a small part of the trip. 🏡

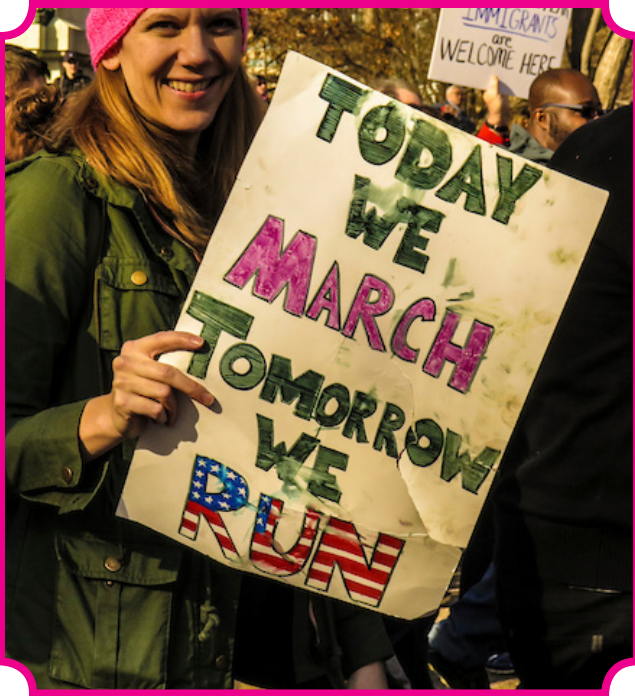
women's march

On the one-year anniversary of the first Women's March the day after Trump's inauguration in 2017, the resistance digs in with more women running for office and continuing to protest the Republican administration. These images were made of marchers outside the White House, where they had moved after speeches at the Lincoln Memorial. There seemed to be as many men and children as women alone, in an amiable but determined atmosphere. Most signs were hand-made, home-made, and heartfelt. – Jeanne Tift www.jldtiff.com



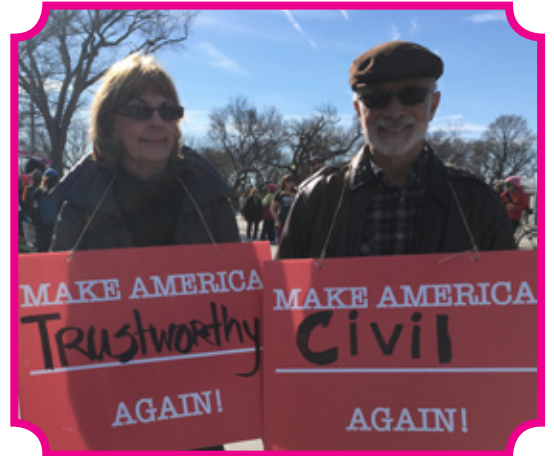
Photos by Jeanne Tift

women's march



Photos by Jeanne Tiff

women's march



women's march



Photos by Carole Appel and Carolyn Strano

coming attractions



and



Invite you to our film & discussion



THE BICYCLE THIEF

THURSDAY JANUARY 25 7:30 P.M. PARTY ROOM 2



This landmark (1948) Italian neorealist drama became one of the best-known and most widely acclaimed European movies, including a special Academy Award as "most outstanding foreign film" seven years before that Oscar category existed. Written primarily by neorealist pioneer Cesare Zavattini and directed by Vittorio DeSica, also one of the movement's main forces, the movie featured all the hallmarks of the neorealist style: a simple story about the lives of ordinary people, outdoor shooting and lighting, non-actors mixed together with actors, and a focus on social problems in the aftermath of World War II.

Joel Miller will introduce the film and lead the post-movie discussion



Chess Game Night with Chess Club

All Levels & All Ages!
All Welcome!
Beginners to Grandmasters!
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4th Thursday, Each Month
(generally*)
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7:00pm to 9:30pm (latest)



Make your move and stop by to see a joust! The Queen doesn't even mind tardiness!

Bring your own Chess Set if you like! – And, if you're brand new to Chess, but you'd like to check out our Chess Club while playing a relatively "quiet" or "cerebral" game that doesn't "compete" with the ancient game of Chess from a noise perspective, you may bring such a game and hang out with us! (Examples of Games that partner well with Chess: Scrabble, Checkers, Othello, etc.)

Contact Lisa J. Stedge at lisa@stedge.com and/or Nick Nickerson at fnixson@gmail.com for more information.

* (e.g., most holidays and holiday periods are excluded.)



Wednesday, FEBRUARY 21, 2018

Montebello CLASSIC MOVIE NIGHT

On the Big Screen in the Community Center at 7pm



All the romance, drama, and fantasy you can handle, just for Valentine's Month ...

The Montebello Big Screen has seen nothing to match this for heart-tugging, hankie-filling romance since, well, our last movie night.

FREE old-time Movie Night refreshments, popcorn, and confectionery!

With a brief introduction and back-story on this 1947 movie by Pamela Copley, in this, the sixth of our regular Classic Movies

And as a Valentine's Special, we have a Classic Movie Night raffle — no charge to enter — to win the wonderful new book of the romance of Hollywood's longest-lasting couple.

As Montebello Classic Movie Night moves to a new year, we thank you all for making these evenings so special.

Polymer Clay Play Roses And Hearts

Make And Take A Valentine!



Polymer Clay is a synthetic clay that can be cured in a home toaster oven. You can make home decor, jewelry, gifts for the holidays — anything you can imagine with ease!!! Anyone can do it!

This time, we'll make valentines and cute animals to carry them! Valentines can be heart pendants, bracelets, or small canvases displaying your valentine image made in clay!

Join us — even if you have never used clay before!

If you'd like to bring your own supplies, email me for a supply list. If this is your first time and you want to just check things out, just bring yourself!!!

If you have any questions, please email me at psrinivasan@icloud.com.

Hope to see you in February;

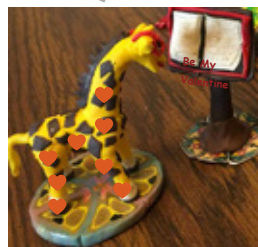
Tuesday Feb 6 (first Tuesday every month)

Party Room 4 6:00pm - 9pm

Pratibha Srinivasan 4/1412

psrinivasan@icloud.com

AiM Polymer Clay Group



montebello marketplace



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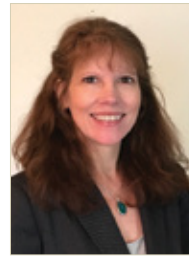


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I've always owned dogs. Now I have both a dog and a cat.

My services include dog-walks, cat-care, pet feeding and playtime, kitty litter clean-up, giving meds and other special requests.

I send brief reports to pet-owners via text or email after each visit.

My rates are competitive. Checks are accepted as well as cash.

References from Montebello clients can be provided on request.

I've been a Montebello owner/resident in Bldg. #2 since 2006.

From 2012 to 2016, I served as Montebello Pet Club Coordinator.

CONTACT: Deborah Rowell
Cell Phone/Text: 703-283-2666
Email: compassionatepetservices@gmail.com

promote your services with free ads for all residents

final glance



How's the weather?