

The MONTEBELLO Voice

an independent gazette

the blue wave

September 12, 2019



Photo by Azita Mashayekhi

A moment to ponder

By Catherine Cooke



Miracles do happen. I saw one with my own eyes. I smelled it with my nose and heard it crackle with my ears. It is truly a miracle I happened to be sitting right near my phone charger the moment it caught fire and billowed smoke into my unit.

I have heard of chargers overheating and causing fires but had the “it will never happen to me” attitude that so many have. How many times have I left the house with gadgets charging or gone to sleep with my phone on the bedside? Not anymore! Please be careful and unplug your charger after use. Don’t leave it unattended. My phone was not even plugged into the charger when it went up in smoke. I am so grateful that my angels were watching over me and hope they will watch over you also. 🙏

Ding me not

By Leslee Levy

I know that it is a common courtesy not to slam your car door into someone who is parked next to you. I carefully exit my car even in the tightest spaces as not to inflict damage to other cars. This does not seem to be the practice of some of my neighbors. Over the years my car has been dinged and scratched in the Montebello outdoor parking lots. I have been dismayed but up until now said nothing. Recently, the length of my car had a long mark of paint residue and a dent because someone slammed their car door into mine. I think it’s time to remind people to take care when exiting their vehicles. 🙏

Bible study continues

By Donald and Karen Barnes

For nearly two years, a small group has been gathering weekly for an hour of interdenominational Bible study and short prayer time in our apartment in 1-506 at 6:30 on Tuesday evenings. We are finishing a study of the Gospel of Luke and are preparing for our next study.

If you are interested in reading and discussing what the Bible has to say, come visit us and see what makes us go and grow. For additional information, call us at 703-960-4936. 🙏

Time to plant the bulbs

By Chuck Amorosino

On Saturday, October 12, from 9 to 11:30 .m., the three circles planters will be planted with mixed, colorful daffodil bulbs in time for spring 2020 bloom. The Grounds Committee once again invites Montebello residents to join in with the volunteer community gardening fun.

Please sign up with an email to project coordinator Chuck Amorosino, camorjr@cox.net. Provide your name, building and unit number, and your email address. Toil in the soil and watch the daffodils pop up in the spring! 🙏

Check out the latest Community Center schematic design, which is currently under review by the CC renovation ad hoc committee.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1J3gNXieIUef9x-uu43szLvqopt0Cu0v4f/view>

S - T - R - E - T - C - H

is for everyone!

Mondays, Wednesdays,

and Fridays

9-10 a.m.

Community Center

down the spiral stairs



The **MONTABELLO** Voice

an independent gazette

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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Dance like John Travolta with free disco lessons

By Peter "Tall Tex" Blackledge and Laura "Lady Tex" Foy

Disco is stayin' alive at Montebello with upcoming free disco dance lessons and parties. *The first lesson will take place this Sunday, September 15 from 1 to 2 p.m. in the Community Center lounge. The next disco party will be on October 27.*

Lessons will initially focus on the dances performed by John Travolta in his classic movie Saturday Night Fever, specifically the New York Style (Manhattan) Hustle partner dance and the

Brooklyn Shuffle line dance. Eventually, depending on how quickly class participants progress, we could also teach the Latin Hustle and the Sling Hustle, with the possibility of branching out in the future to salsa and bachata.

Our classes will be progressive – each class lesson will build on the previous lesson, beginning with a review, then adding one-to-two new turns/steps, then practicing what we have learned. The September 15 lesson will review the four elements we taught at the September 7 disco party – the basic New York Hustle step, the couple turn, the partner open turn, and the partner closed turn.

We will also start learning the fabulous Brooklyn Shuffle, which

you will find is more challenging and complex than most country-Western line dances and the Electric Slide.

Then, four times a year, you will be able to implement what you've learned in these classes when you participate in the free disco parties as we impress the room by performing the Brooklyn Shuffle en masse. It will be epic!

An attendant objective will be to bring Montebello residents the many extraordinary benefits which medical experts tell us dancing brings: happiness, health, and community connect- edness.

So if you want to learn how to dance like John Travolta, simply send me an RSVP at longtalltexan@icloud.com (an email RSVP to me each week is the only requirement to participate), put on your boogie shoes, and join your other wonderful Dancing Queens and Disco Dudes as we together take a fabulous ride on the Bodacious Boogie Train To FunkyTown! Ya gotta Get On to Get Down!!! 🎵



Photos by Kim Santos



Directors Kandel and Zanni explain CC renovation finances

By Mikhailina Karina

For nearly 30 minutes, board president Jon Kandel and director Guido Zanni disputed financial analysis in the August 15 *Voice* article, “Major concerns with Reserve Balance require cuts to the CC renovation proposal,” by Brian Goldberg. (http://montebellovoice.com/TheMontebelloVoice_19_08_15.pdf) Kandel said the *Voice* article and subsequent emails were erroneous and misleading.

Kandel and Zanni, both former board treasurers, offered detailed explanations of the Reserve Budget, how the CC renovation is funded, Virginia condo laws, stellar annual audits, cash flow analysis, and condo fee increases. No other board members or attendees engaged in the discussion.

About 20 people, mostly committee chairs and meeting regulars, attended the September 10 session. Director Monica Sangbong was absent and Raymond Goodrich was on the phone.

Without stating a dollar amount, Kandel said the total cost of the renovation will go up due to two additions: relocation of the air system and a new walk-in cooler. He expects the demolition to begin in April at the earliest and for the project to be completed in six and a half months. 🏠



The Montebello Film Society, a cinematic wing of Art in Montebello, is going strong with monthly screenings of films that range from classic to foreign to quirky.

*Marsha Weiner and Joel Miller with props from last month’s presentation of chicken-themed documentaries, **The Jewish Chicken Farmers of Petaluma: Why Remember?** and **Mad City Chickens**.*

*This month’s presentation of Franco Zeffirelli’s of the Verdi classic, **La Traviata**, on September 26 is co-sponsored by the Montebello Music Club.*

Photos by Dian McDonald

The Montebello Voice wants to hear from you

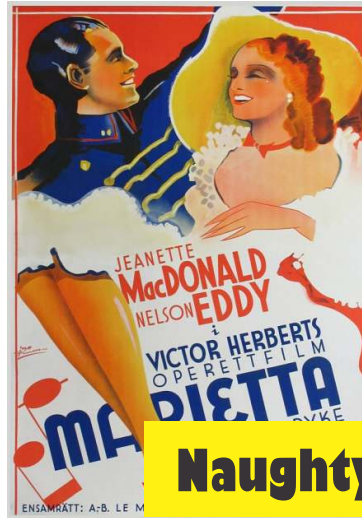
Blossoming at Montebello
 digital photo-prints by
Jeanne Tiff

Montebello Cafe
 Aug. 24 - Oct. 4
 2019

opening reception
 Saturday, August 24, 4pm - 6pm
 cash bar & nibbles
 all are welcome!

Montebello Classic Movie Night

Wednesday, September 18, 2019, at 7pm
on the Big Screen in the Community Center



**Romance! Playfulness!
 Drama! Adventure!**
 Let Victor Herbert's exquisite music, sung by the incomparable Jeanette MacDonald and Nelson Eddy, sweep you to smiling new heights.
 Winner of Photoplay's Gold Medal for the Best Picture of 1935.



Naughty Marietta

FREE popcorn, candies, and soft drinks for a great classic movie night!

Your host, Pamela Copley, will give you a pre-show briefing on the stars and the production, and then give you all the post-screening "back story" highlights. Pamela can be contacted at PVonGruber@aol.com.

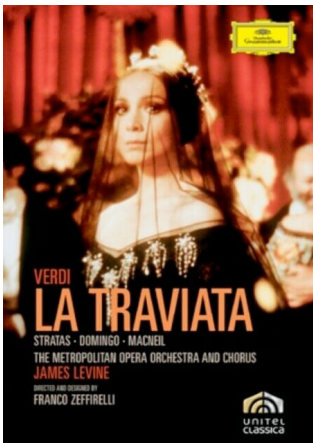
AIM ART IN MONTEBELLO **MONTEBELLO FILM SOCIETY** and **MONTEBELLO MUSIC CLUB**

Invite you to our film & discussion



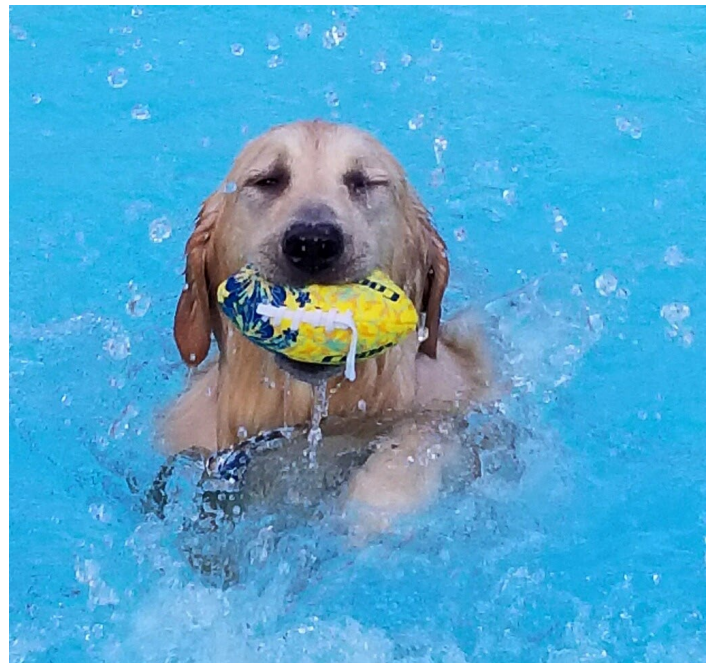
LA TRAVIATA

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 26 7:30 P.M. PARTY ROOM 2



A Parisian courtesan and a gentleman from a conservative family fall in love. Verdi, in his most popular, lyrical and most performed opera, demonstrates how certain societal norms of the time were destined to result in tragedy. Plácido Domingo, Teresa Stratas and Cornell McNeil give voice to his glorious melodies in a film directed by the always imaginative Franco Zeffirelli.

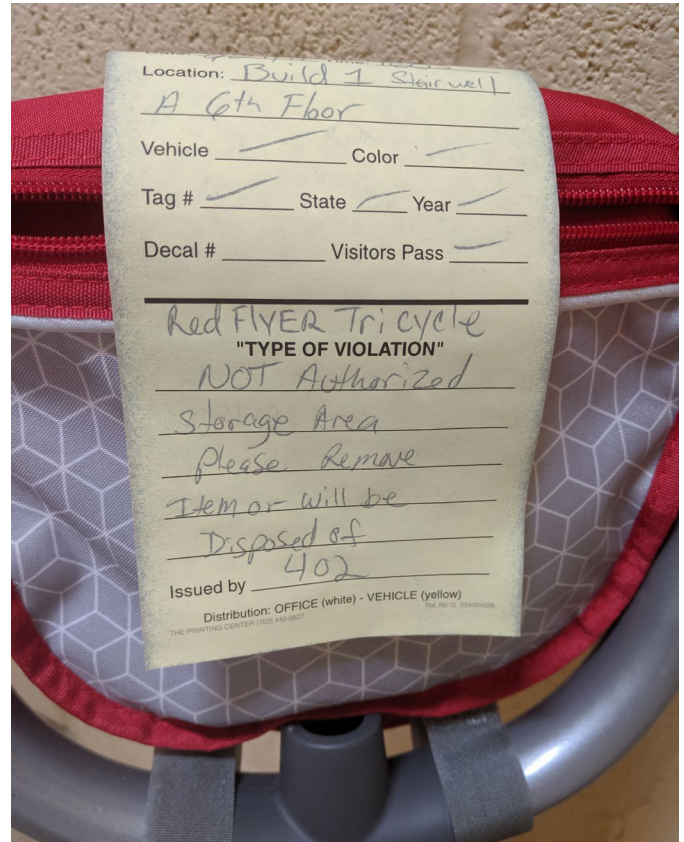
Caryl Curry will introduce the film and lead the post-movie discussion.



Sloan Ranger enjoyed the doggie swim on the last day of the outdoor pool.

Photo by auntie Catherine Cooke

A toddler gets his first parking ticket



A 2 1/2-year-old resident, aided and abetted by his parents, has committed his first criminal offense by parking a bright red trike in the corner of the stairwell. Magnanimously, Officer 402 neither booted nor impounded this tricked out Red Flyer tricycle with a safety belt and a wagon attachment. – MK
Photo by Alex Beiro