

The **MONTABELLO** Voice

an independent gazette

freedom

July 15, 2022



Welcome to the world, precious girls



Oriana Long

Born on June 28, 2022

Came home to Montebello just in time for the July 4th parade and festivities. Her name means "light" or "horizon" in many languages. She has a full head of red hair and loves to meet people. Oriana is also looking for babysitters and a good nanny. Drop her mom (Heather.e.long@gmail.com) a line if you know anyone.

Brennae Adelle Lillian

Born on June 30, 2022

6 pounds, 3 ounces, 18 inches

Daddies Shane & Dale Davies-Lewis and big brother Bennett are ecstatic.



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an independent gazette
Alexandria, Virginia

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The Tail of Lovely Hill

By Erwin Jacobs, MD

Once upon a time there was a very pleasant community, Lovely Hill, in the land of the count of Fairway. It had an elected Council of nine members, directed by a Lordship and was pet friendly.

For some reason, the Lordship and Council decided that an area for the canines living in the community needed a place to roam – in spite of there being a dog park a short distance away managed by Fairway. A wooded site was chosen at a low portion of the property, adjacent to the neighboring land. The plans included various amenities to make the socialization of the animals and handlers comfortable. The estimated cost was \$50,000 to \$60,000.

It was soon discovered that rain occasionally occurred and a cover was needed for the handlers and an additional cost occurred.

The dog run area was found to be a long walk from the residences and coming back up hill was difficult for many dog owners. A road (\$15 a foot) and parking for about 10 vehicles (\$7 per sq. ft.) was needed.

Trees would be removed, but all of the residents will be asked to fund replacements. An alternative would be for the security vehicle to shuttle the animals and handlers to their residences. An additional cost occurred.

Because many residents were frequent travelers, there was a need to board the animals. This resulted in a number of kennels being put in place. Then there was a need to hire staff to feed the canines and care for the area. Perhaps a part-time veterinary technician would also be needed. An additional cost occurred.

When the pets died, their burial could take place in an area adjacent to the exercise-play area.

These arrangements came to the attention of a writer for the American Canine Weekly. An article featuring Lovely Hills resulted in the community

being flooded with requests to buy or rent. Some of the long-time residents preferred to leave.

The property adjacent to the pet area became upset with the noise, odor and possible run-off of surface waste and infectious organisms. Their complaints to the Duke of Fairway resulted in various sanctions and possible closure of the dog runs. The Council decided to purchase a small van and have a staff member make six runs each weekday at hourly intervals to the Fairway dog park. All of the expenses can easily be paid from the budget and replenished with annual budget increases.

The Duke suggested these remedies:

1. Limit the number of dogs – currently one (or two with permission) for each unit. The current possible total is 1,000-2,000. A limit to 10 percent of the units could have a dog.

2. Encourage dog owners to use the current exercise area and walk their lovely property trails with other dogs and handlers.

3. Forget about the dog run areas and do not change their location after complaints from the neighbors.

4. Socialization of pet owners can be at weekly scheduled group sessions of the pet club.

5. The Duke found that a review of local communities revealed that those with no pet allowed rules had no problems with values. Some increased rapidly in value, but the location was the primary factor. 🏠

James Webb Space Telescope

Recall that not so long ago we thought that our solar system was “the universe.” If our telescopes continue to improve, will we someday find ourselves looking at another universe? Until now, the pattern has been that the better our instruments become, the bigger everything gets. For gorgeous views of our galaxy, check out NOX ATACAMA at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BhIObH-N3emc>. – Richard Titus 🏠

voices on the 37

No to dog park

By Paul Bundick

I would like to express my opposition to the construction of the proposed dog run until there is a wider discussion among stakeholders on the issue rather than just going forward with the project by executive fiat. My reasons are as follows:

1. The installation of a dog run seems to undermine our long-standing commitment to keeping the woodlands natural and beautiful. How much have we spent on planting native trees and uprooting invasive species? I fear converting only a portion of our natural woodlands with its inevitable destruction of habitat is the first domino to fall in altering what is truly unique about Montebello – its natural setting.

2. The proposed location of the dog run is an offense to our neighbors. We would be putting a very noisy activity area next to their picnic gazebo and swimming pool. This will degrade their relaxing space. They might even sue us. Dog runs are very noisy places, don't forget.

3. Alternatively, for those who must have a dog run, I would have the Montebello Board lobby the Fairfax County Park Service to put such a facility in the existing Mount Eagle Park parking lot, which is mostly unused space. You could still have some parking spaces there as well as a dog run. Perhaps even a permanent bathroom facility could be constructed there, like Jefferson Manor Park off Telegraph Road. This would make the dog run available to the residents of the nearby apartments in addition to Montebello residents.

We need a complete and fair airing of the issue before we start, since it will affect our quality of life. 🏠

Correction: The July 2 edition incorrectly identified Rolf Dietrich as Board of Directors treasurer. In fact, Steve Clark is board treasurer. The *Voice* regrets the error.

There is no Planet B

By Chester Taylor

Anthropologists point out that one of the characteristics of *homo sapiens* is that we leave behind more trash than any other animal. In fact, we leave behind some 2.6 trillion pounds of waste each year. We put it in holes in the ground and leak toxic chemicals into the soil and groundwater. We dump human waste, chemicals, and plastics into oceans, rivers, and lakes. Our manufacturing processes release toxic gases and particles into the air. We haven't figured out a safe way to get rid of nuclear waste. Now we are dealing with acid rain and depletion of the ozone. Climate change is causing extreme weather, rising sea levels, and droughts.

To survive we need air and water – there is no Planet B for us. To do this, we need to promote better water management and improved sanitation and hygiene conditions. As part of this, we need to encourage corporations to move from a linear economy to a circular one to conserve natural resources. In other words, not disposing of goods after the end of its life cycle but creating a new product from it. A more diverse and inclusive workforce would better help us find innovative solutions to ensure our environmental security.

It all starts with water. Without it, nothing can grow. People are struggling to access water they need for drinking, cooking, bathing, and handwashing. An estimated 785 million people around the world today do not have access to safe drinking water. An estimated two billion people – about one-quarter of the global population – live without access to safe, sanitary toilets. Toxins from plastic found in our water and seafood are increasing the incidents of cancers, ulcers, birth defects, and weak immune systems in people. Since 1980, the plastic waste found in our oceans has increased tenfold. Approximately 80

percent of plastic garbage comes from land sources, like homes, industries, constructional sites, educational institutions, supermarkets, and hospitals and 20% of marine plastic pollution exists due to debris and discarding of trash in oceans by ships, containers, and cruises.

We can do better managing our water and waste. We need to care about every drop of water. Water conservation and consideration of the environment should be considered in all urban planning and the construction we do. By designing for water conservation and

energy is produced by the burning of biomass, including biodegradable waste. Using this technology, Denmark, in one its northern municipality called Thisted, created a near fossil fuel independent Alternative Energy City of the Future. It burns farming refuse to heat water transported in highly insulated piping to radiators in homes for warmth. The Danes use 5,900 kilowatt-hour per person per year. In California's relatively temperate climate, it is double that rate. Denmark's GDP has grown 65 to 70 percent in the last



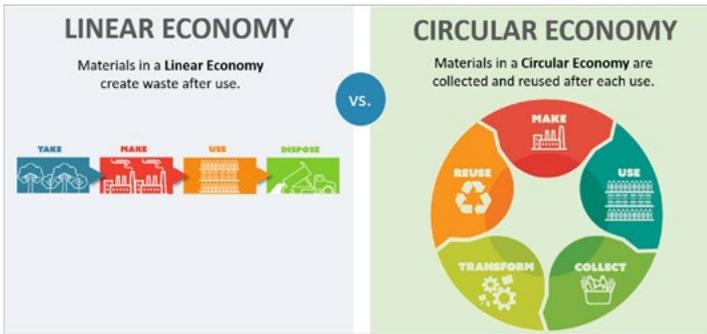
tying this to alternative water sources – such as rainwater, harvesting of parking lot runoff and recycling grey waters – owners and developers can reduce economic burdens and be safeguarded against water service interruptions.

Israel, known as the country that made the desert bloom, recycles 90 percent of its water, uses drip irrigation, established desalination plants, and harvests water from the air. Israel has shared this technology with the state of California and is now sharing its water technology with millions of people in developing nations through a deal with the World Bank Group.

Denmark has 6,228 wind turbines that provide 57 percent of their electricity. Eighty percent of its electricity comes from renewables. Even more

30 years, about the same growth rate as the United States, but Denmark has done so without any increase in energy consumption. With the most environmentally friendly cities in the world, Denmark has 700 clean-tech companies and 46 research institutions employing more than 60,000 people. Denmark is net exporter of electricity.

Water is heavy at 62.428 lbs. per cubic foot. For most municipal governments, drinking water and wastewater plants typically are the largest energy consumers, often accounting for 30 to 40 percent of total energy consumed and contributing to over 45 million tons of greenhouse gases each year in the United States. To move water, we need the most reliable, efficient water pumps available. A company headquartered



economic system in environmentally friendly ways by minimizing negative environmental impacts.

To conquer the water and waste problems (as well as the many other

in Denmark, called Grundfos <https://www.grundfos.com/us>, makes some of the best products for efficiently moving and recycling water and waste. One product that it makes is called Bio-Booster, a complete waste treatment facility that is containerized and expandable for sizing. It takes human waste and wastewater and processes them into unpotable water suitable for irrigation. Grundfos also offers a containerized solution water-pumping station that comes with solar and wind generators and can be up and running within a few hours. It comes fully equipped with everything – wiring, controls, solar panels, and wind turbine. This piece of kit has played a role in infrastructure rebuilding/nation building.

Through education and regulation, we need to transform most manufacturing processes away from the cradle-to-grave linear economy model to a cradle-to-cradle circular economy. In the cradle-to-grave model resources are extracted to create a product which is disposed of after the end of its lifecycle. This has led to an extensive resource exploitation that is diminishing our remaining scarce and valuable resources, while also creating a global waste problem. In the cradle-to-cradle model, an item is designed in a way so that it can be repaired or reused without any loss of value. Think recycled or biodegradable. For example, a cardboard box that can be refilled or recycled into a new cardboard box or a shirt made of natural fibers can be placed in a compost pile and used to fertilize plants. Corporations have already begun moving away from what is called a linear economy (take, make, use, and dispose) to a circular economy aimed at shaping the

world problems), we need to leverage the knowledge and perspectives of a diverse workforce, particularly, increasing the female leadership role in industry and government. As work at home demonstrated during the pandemic proved it can work, this goal is even more achievable. I believe this is happening. We need to encourage more women into science, technology, engineering, and math. Individually, we are beginning to do our part to support the Zero Waste Movement where we are reducing our trash with less plastic, wrappers, and food. We are using shopping bags (long done in Europe and other regions).

A lot of work still needs to be done in regulating corporations, most significantly in the building industry that accounts for 50 percent of worldwide material consumption. We need stricter urban planning, to consider water and waste management as well as to protect agricultural land, expand parks and forest, and restrict building near beaches, rivers, arroyos, ravines, and other waterways. Building codes, just updated by the International Code Council, are already being issued to improve housing insulation, high-performance

windows, more efficient lighting, and stronger focus on water efficiency addressing maximum showerhead flow, drain testing, water harvesting and re-use systems. Some manufacturers are already labeling their products as cradle-to-cradle certified, particularly in Europe.

At the federal government level, they have started, but still have a lot of work to do. Executive Order 13514 dated October 5, 2009, mandated that at least 15 percent of existing federal buildings and leases should meet the Guiding Principles for Federal Sustainable Buildings by 2015, and that annual progress be made toward 100 percent conformance of all federal buildings, with a goal of 100 percent of all new federal buildings achieving zero-net-energy by 2030. It also addressed improving buildings' impact on storm water runoff, recycling or diverting 50 percent of their waste, and meet sustainability requirements in 95 percent of all applicable contracts.

Transitioning to better water and waste disposal systems and a circular economy takes planning, coordination, and resources (money). Much of the infrastructure we use to accomplish this is reaching the end of its useful life. We need to replace it with new and better products. Doing this smartly and developing a cradle-to-cradle mentality, we can improve our environmental security. 🏡



Adventures in Inflation Land

By Sarah Newcomb

Today I ventured out in 90 degree heat to do my grocery shopping. I had put it off as long as possible – that being until we were almost out of food and totally out of gas for the car.

It's a good thing that Priceco is located down hill from here. I was running on fumes as I joined the lines already forming at its pumps at 9:30 on a Thursday morning. Someone finished at the pump ahead of me. I moved around another car to get a pump.

I had to try a couple times to get the machine to take my Priceco card, and a few more to take my credit card. Finally, it told me I could select a grade and pump gas. So, pump I did. Alas, no gas came out. I fiddled around with the machine unsuccessfully. Then I looked around for the attendant. No luck. I went back to the machine. I was trying the whole thing again when a young man pumping gas at the pump behind me approached and asked if I needed help.

You bet I did. This guy turned out to be not only a Good Samaritan, but an expert in successfully pumping gas at Priceco. He said the pumps may not be working right. He told me that you need to pull your Priceco card out *really fast*. He tried three times, but it worked. Then he got the machine to take my credit card after a couple more tries.

He selected cheap gas and the machine gave us some. And stopped. The young man showed me how to set the nozzle lever to pump on its own, but warned me it would stop before it finished pumping. It did. He then showed me how to wiggle it back into place so it would pump a little more. He started it again. At just under \$50 to fill my Honda, the machine finally said the tank was full.

The young man pressed the button to get a receipt. He looked closely at it,

then handed it to me. "This looks OK, but be sure to get a receipt. Sometimes the pumps will charge you three times (maybe for every stop and start) he said, and you have to call them with the receipt."

I thought, "The price, and lines, and then the machines charge you three times?" I said: "REALLY??" This guy was an angel. Can you imagine getting charged three times for your gas at today's prices because the pump is faulty?

On to Walmart. There, I had a scavenger hunt: I was armed with my carefully prepared shopping list and Walmart was armed with whatever they could get delivered lately. At least



I could get Kleenex, paper towels and toilet paper.

Whoever was stocking the toilet paper had punctured the plastic wrap on each and every package of the size I usually buy with their fingers instead of grabbing the package by its ends and lifting it into place. I wondered if the employee had washed their hands after using the rest room. Not wanting to find out, I bought a different package large enough to outlast a voyage on a nuclear sub.

The meal plan I had in mind went out the window as I scoured the store for ingredients. It was "yes" on one of the last cans of expensive black beans and reasonably priced tomato sauce, but "no" on tortillas. "Yes" on one of the two remaining dented cans of coconut milk, but "no" on Asian oil. It was "no" on a small can of tuna unless it

was soaked in oil and cost almost \$2. So it went.

At Walmart, I usually check out in the garden center because the line is shorter. Today the line wound into the store. So, I checked out up front. The nice checker took my paper bag filled with plastic bags for her use. She then dumped all my checked items into the paper bag – right on top of the plastic bags I needed for the next stop. This created a single parcel trapping these bags and that weighed about 8 or 9 pounds. I had to lift it over the counter into my cart, hoping neither it nor I would break.

I spent quite a while unpacking all my Walmart items in the 90 degree heat of the parking lot and removing the plastic bags I needed to use next. I deleted the visit I planned to Wegman's, resolving instead to get just what I needed for dinner and breakfast and go home. Then, on to Giant.

A similar hunt ensued at Giant. My doctor likes me to eat high fiber cereal for breakfast. After my pup ate three raisins and we had to rush to Annapolis to get emergency care on Christmas weekend, I no longer allow raisins or raisin bran in my home.

I had found a Post product that was OK, so I substituted that. In the beginning, I paid just under \$4 for a tall, very skinny box. Then, about \$4.79 at Wegman's. Last week, Wegman's wanted over \$5, but I bought two boxes anyway. When I located it on the shelf at Giant and checked myself out today, Giant charged *over* \$7 for that same box.

I asked the Giant employee to take it off my bill and drove home. My mind is boggled still. I don't know what I will eat next for breakfast – until I venture out to Inflation Land again. 🍷

Can we walk and chew gum at the same time?

By Bob Shea

I am mad. No, I am infuriated. No, outraged is a better description of how I feel.

We have a group of elected officials who have decided that we are incapable of dealing with more than one issue at a time. Shame on them! We are smarter than that. We can and do handle and process more than one event at a time every day in our lives.

We are told repeatedly that factors such as high gasoline prices and inflation are all-consuming for the electorate. So much so that we cannot intelligently comprehend any other issue in our lives. We are deemed to have a one-lane brain and are incapable of mentally wrestling with more than one dilemma at a time. I disagree and feel offended that some politicians relegate us to sitting in a corner

wearing a dunce cap, waiting for someone much smarter than we are to tell us what to be concerned about. Sorry, guys, you do not know us.

Can we be economically upset when we pay \$5 plus per gallon at the gas station and also be upset when the ex-president's lawyer tells a new New Mexico state official that "we have a lot of theories, but no evidence of election fraud?" I think that both concerns are within our collective powers to reason and think hard about.

When the cost of a dozen eggs goes up dramatically, are we capable of worrying about inflation and also being angry when a Georgia Secretary of State is asked to "just find 11, 870 votes, give

me a break?" Why do some elected officials feel that we are so dumb that we cannot consider both events as threats to our well-being? Cheap gasoline and eggs are good to have, but what are we being asked to give up when we are repeatedly told that only gas and eggs are important and worthy of our intellect and our votes?

I have more faith in the average American. We are not limited intellectually to an "either/or" choice when we think about our lives. We should be collectively outraged, as I am, that we are

almost made the top law enforcement official in the United States? I think we can intellectually process both dilemmas, debate, and reach our own decisions.

I am offended when we, the electorate, are told that we cannot chew gum and walk at the same time. Economic challenges and civics 101 cannot co-exist in our brains. Wrong! A thinking and well-informed electorate can handle both. Some in elected office may choose to wear self-serving partisan blinders, but by doing so they are

paragating the intellect of the average voter. Hey, America, we are smarter than that! Right?

Most of us can really simultaneously chew gum, walk a dog, carry on a conversation, and look at the world around us. Anyone who thinks we cannot do that has a very low opinion of the American voter and does so at his or her peril. Some forms of power are truly scary, but the truest form of power in a democracy is exercised

in the voting booth. Voters react when we are collectively told that we are stupid and have to be told what we should be worried about.

I am outraged. Are you? 🗳️



told that we are capable of only considering pocket-book issues when we see evidence that our democracy is being threatened. Worrying about our fragile checkbook is certainly a valid concern, but so should be protecting our fragile experiment in democracy (small d).

Recall the Maytag repairman in television commercials of the past. He was described as the "loneliest man on Earth" due to having no repair calls. I would suggest an environmental lawyer in the last Justice Department was almost as lonely at a time when most environmental concerns were back-burnered or ignored. Should we also be concerned about, along with gas prices and the cost of eggs, when such a law-

*The Montebello
Voice
uncut, uncensored,
unofficial*

Coming to America

By *Mikhailina Karina*

🍏🍏 I hear an accent. Where are you from?" I know where this is going. I smile and feign naïveté.

"I grew up in St. Louis, Missouri," I honestly respond and wait for the inevitable follow-up question. "But where are you *really* from, where were you born?" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=crAv5ttax2I>

I feel for the guy, and it's always a guy. A white guy. He's racking his brain trying to place me on the world map and coming up blank. I look white, so I could be from Europe, although white people live on all continents. My accent is subtle enough not to give any obvious clues – not Spanish, not French, not...oh, heck, what other countries are there? Are Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia still a thing?

I quickly get bored with this game and reveal that my first language is Russian. Don't get me wrong. I love talking about my culture and sharing my experience. But it needs to be done within a context relevant to our conversation, as opposed to being randomly asked about my accent while talking about asparagus. When I hear a regional American accent, I may be curious whether it's from Georgia or Alabama, but I wouldn't dream of asking the speaker to reveal their background unless it was part of our discourse.

I've observed that some Americans have a powerful urge to know where people are from, *what* they are. They need to associate foreigners with a place on a map, a culture, a religion, a political ideology, a dish. Unfortunately, this ethnographic shorthand ends up reducing people to stereotypes. In the United States, different immigrant groups were branded with ugly terms that normalized discrimination and violence. We are still living with remnants of these quaint nicknames that meant no harm, why is everyone so sensitive, right?

Well, I *am* sensitive. Call me woke, bleeding heart liberal, snowflake, CRT, PC, or godless commie (the latter is something I was called in college, which ironically is historically accurate for several members of my family in the early years of the Soviet Union).

At a recent Montebello meeting, a phrase was used at least three times that made me wince. I've debated writing about it, but then realized that silence is complicity and it's my calling as a woke snowflake commie to call out tone-deafness in defence of immigrants. The phrase was "the Laotian pipeline," which referred to Montebello's housekeeping staff. The context was the attrition of long-time housekeeping



staff, many of whom are related, and the lack of new arrivals interested in the job.

Commonly, a pipeline is an underground structure for transferring resources over long distances. Its job is to supply oil, water, or gas to those who buy it. Obviously, Montebello is not buying people in Laos to work as housekeepers; likewise, we can't expect that once someone retires, another family member will hop on the pipeline and take his or her place. I understand the sentiment, but I take issue with the clumsy language and what it implies.

So who are these Laotians at Montebello? In his terrific September 13, 2018 piece in the *Voice*, Chuck Amorosino described his memorable visit to Laos, where he was warmly greeted by the extended family of Khamveng Somchanmavong, Montebello's manager of housekeeping. The article lists the family members who take care of our buildings and grounds:

"Veng had one more treat on the final day of my six days in Laos. We had lunch with two matriarchs of several Montebello staff, Thongmee Singharath and Mai Vongs. The abundant luncheon was at the home of Thongmee. The array of food was prepared with the help of family members who included one of Thongmee's daughters, grandchildren, and relatives.

Thongmee is the mother of One V. (assistant manager of housekeeping), Kamsay K. (housekeeper), Saly S. (engineer), mother-in-law of Lampang K. (engineer), Keomay S. (housekeeper) and grandmother of Jonathan V. (housekeeper), Brandon S. (housekeeper), Annie V. (front desk). Mai Vongs is the mother of Souk V. (engineer).

With pride, Veng also informed me of his family's connection with Montebello. His sons Viraxay, Virasouk, and Sak; son-in-law Sisavat; Veng's brother, Thongdam, and sister-in-law, Simmaly, cousins Nith and Brandon, and nephew Paul S. (chief engineer) and Paul's wife, Vatsana, have all contributed to the well-being of Montebello's surroundings."

That's the *mishpocha* that has been taking care of Montebello – cousins, parents, siblings, in-laws, spouses. They are not a pipeline, a caravan, or a chain migration. They are people whose long names most of us haven't bothered to learn and whose services we take for granted. Reducing people, especially immigrants, to a mild pejorative is not cool. I believe it was not done with any malice or prejudice, but was an unfortunate instance of tone-deafness. This editorial should not be misconstrued as a personal attack on the speaker, but a heartfelt reminder that we all come – accents included – from someplace on the world map. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W3RYzVcevs> 📺

Board approves dog run, some housekeeping to be outsourced

By Mikhailina Karina

Jn a 5 to 4 vote, the Board of Directors approved the construction of the dog run in the woodlands' northeast corner that abuts Huntington Gateway. The vote took place at the July 12 meeting.

According to the resolution in the board packet, management is to negotiate and conclude contracts with multiple vendors at a cost not to exceed \$60,000. The money will come from the Capital Improvement Fund. The annual service and operation of the site, up to \$2,500, will be covered by the Operating Budget.

"I am excited that the Dog Run Working Group members' efforts paid off. After more than 20 years of Montebello owners desiring an onsite off-leash area for their dogs to exercise, it will finally be a reality. Thank you to all the advocates and board members," said Lauren Pierce, president of the Montebello Pet Club and co-chair of the working group.

"We're a pet-friendly facility," said Director Bruce Shaw. "So let's be pet friendly."

Directors Shaw, Doug Kennett, Heather Click, Steve Clark, and Jon Kandel voted for the dog run. Directors Doug Kleine, Tom Harrelson, Jack Quick, and Rolf Dietrich opposed.

The opposition thanked the working group for their research but cited not giving enough forum to opposing voices, and not being sure how much use the park will have. Kleine argued that the request be considered with potential other projects that need funding and may have higher priority.

Directors who supported the dog run said the money for the facility was approved last year and it's not an unreasonable expense. Addressing noise concerns, President Jon Kandel said it's not as if a pack of hound dogs will be barking eight hours a day – it would be the same dogs that currently use pet areas.

Director Click concurred, "It's not a kennel." There is probably more noise coming from traffic than from Montebello dogs.

Jackie Fleming, a member of the working group, commented that numerous new residents moving in have dogs. She said that on her floor alone are eight dogs. Barking occurs when

dogs are in a protective mode; once they get to know each other, as they will in the dog run, they will bark a lot less.

Outsourcing housekeeping

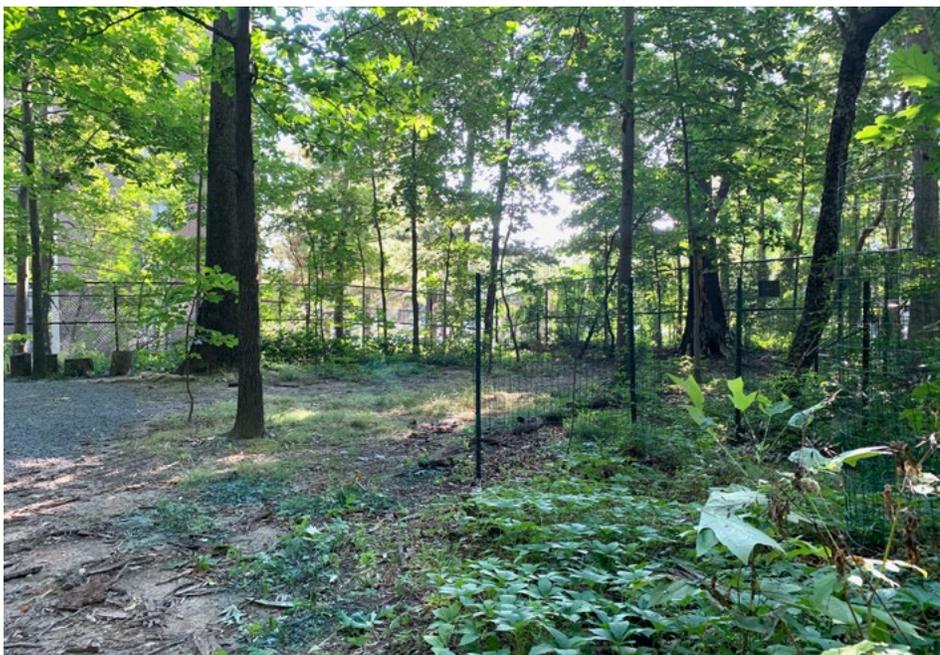
In his report, General Manager Eric Fink said he would be outsourcing Community Center housekeeping to Beltway Cleaning Services (<https://www.beltwayservices.com>), a company he had used for more than a decade at multiple properties.

"We are currently experiencing significant hiring challenges for housekeeping staff which Beltway will help alleviate," he wrote in his report published in the board packet. "We no longer have the Laotian pipeline and it's difficult to find people," he said at the meeting. For decades, immigrants from Laos, many of them members of extended families, have provided Montebello with housekeeping and engineering services. "At no time is there a planned reduction of existing staff but the transition will occur naturally through attrition," GM Finke stated.

According to GM Finke's memo, (https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YdB_E5qS1opT2z6zsDPG7Ch-MiKd_Pu3/view) Beltway Cleaning Services will be providing janitorial staff in the Community Center Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. with two persons on-hand for four hours to perform setup duties, if necessary. On the weekends, one Beltway employee will work 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. with Montebello housekeeping and engineering assisting with any setup or takedown needs.

"The long-term goal is to eventually outsource Housekeeping completely because of the changing demographics of the industry and HR challenges that are involved," he wrote.

GM Finke further stated that Beltway Cleaning Services will be used on a trial basis, with a plan to eventually transition them into buildings. Currently,



Future dog run location in the northeast corner of the woodlands

Montebello
Sponsored by the Activities Committee

GRAND RE-OPENING
YOU ARE INVITED

DANCE PARTY

Featuring
Resident
DJ Music
By:
Scott's Music Place

Join us on Saturday, July 23rd from 6:30-9:30pm in the newly renovated Community Center and return of the long-awaited DJ'd Montebello Music Nights. This evening will feature a blended mix of dance music to celebrate the Grand Re-Opening!

Montebello housekeeping earn \$16.50 an hour, plus \$3-\$4 worth of benefits, he said; it would cost Montebello \$18.50 an hour for Beltway employees. In addition, Beltway would assume HR and worker comp responsibilities for their staff.

Director Shaw expressed his concern about moving away from long-time housekeeping staff, who have their hearts in this place and are conscientious about their jobs. Director Click wondered whether a rotating staff would impact the quality of work.

GM Finke responded that it would be a consistent staff and “Beltway will be held to the same high standards.” He plans to have a “smooth integration”

between current Montebello staff and Beltway employees.

“Beltway Cleaning Service is a local leader in the field of Janitorial Services specializing in multi-family communities in which they serve over 500 different communities in the DC Metro area since 2005. From my experience, they focus on not only exceeding the expectations of their clients but also providing excellent customer service catered specifically to each property’s needs throughout all levels of the organization,” GM Finke wrote in an email to the *Voice*. He declined to comment on *Voice* questions about Beltway salaries and benefits, as well as long-term cost savings from outsourcing services.

New head of security and IT

GM Finke announced that next Monday, Andrew Gaylord will start at Montebello as new director of security and IT infrastructure. “He has a breadth of experience in the security field with several private sector firms including Marriott and the International Spy Museum. His strengths are in process improvement, policy and procedure development, and emergency management principles,” GM Finke wrote.

Gaylord will take over from Quinyardo McClain, safety and access control manager, who plans to leave the area.

Fun and games

Pickleball (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pickleball>) is coming! GM Finke announced that tennis court 1 will be outfitted for this popular game, which will be available later this month. If there are any problems with noise, they will be addressed, he said.

Could shuffleboard and bocce be far behind?

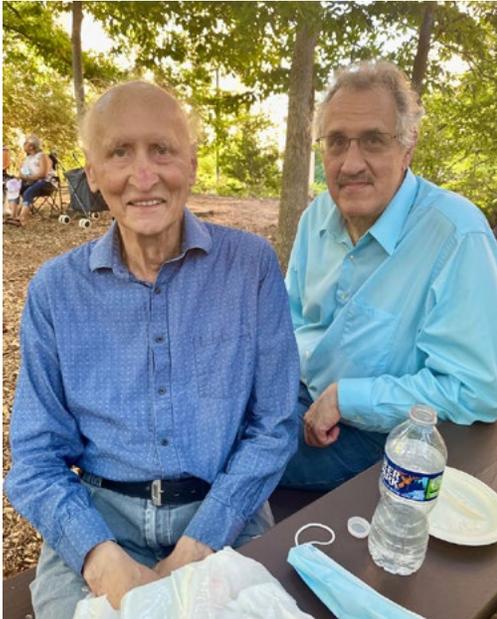
Up-close and personal

During owners’ forum after the meeting, a resident asked whether people could still tune in to board meetings via Zoom after the Community Center reopens next week and meetings are in-person.

President Kandel replied that technology was in place to allow for virtual attendance. 📺



Photos by Dian McDonald



Photos by Casey Hartman



ice cream social



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The Montebello Voice



Photo by Lisa Lowe