

The MONTEBELLO Voice

an independent gazette

fierce

November 13, 2022



Ignorance of the law

By Chester Taylor

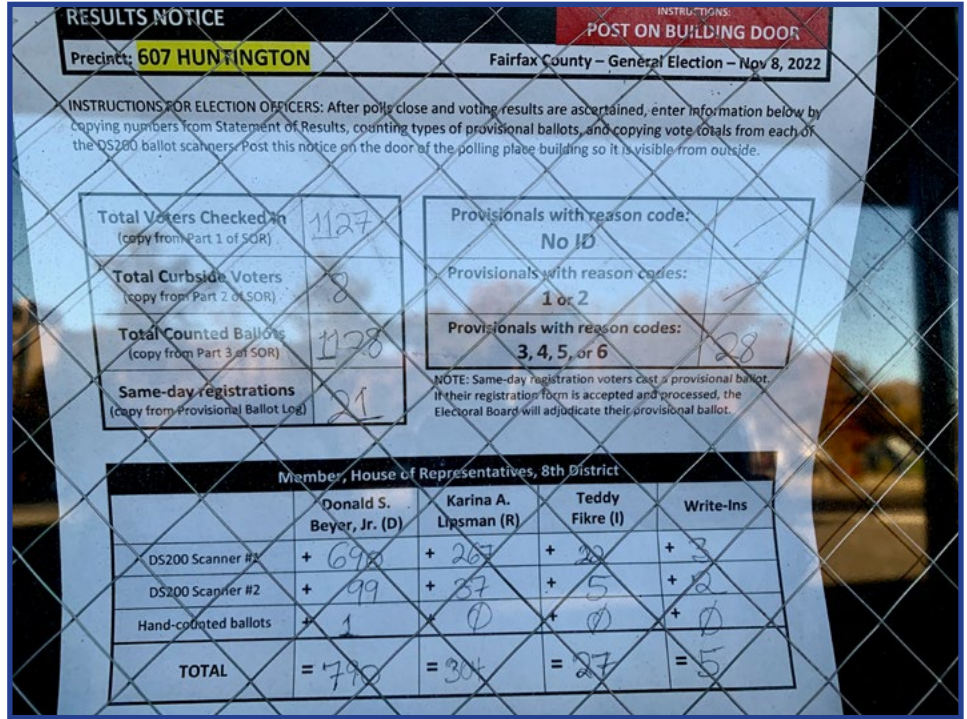
One of the first things I learned as a kid growing up was that ignorance of the law was no excuse. When you are 13, that was worrisome because there were so many laws and new ones being passed every day. Even so, I would have never told a judge, “On the advice of my lawyer, I chose to ignore the subpoena.” I wasn’t a lawyer, but I wasn’t a friggin idiot.

The Supreme Court has ruled that Congress has the power to compel either testimony or the production of requested documents. A congressional committee or subcommittee can issue a subpoena to a person to appear and refusal to do so is considered contempt of Congress. The penalty for contempt of Congress is set at not less than one month nor more than 12 months in jail and a fine of not more than \$100,000 or less than \$100.

You remember Steve Bannon, the White House’s chief strategist for President Donald Trump, the same person who tweeted that the federal government’s infectious disease expert Anthony Fauci and FBI Director Christopher Wray should be executed. In September 2022, Bannon was charged in New York state court on counts of fraud, money laundering, and conspiracy in connection to the “We Build The Wall” campaign. Bannon, along with three others, promised that all contributions would go to building a U.S.-Mexico border wall, but instead enriched themselves. President Trump pardoned Bannon for the same federal charges earlier, but that pardon doesn’t apply to state charges.

In October 2021, Bannon was held in contempt of Congress after he refused to comply with the subpoena issued by the House Select Committee investigating the January 6, 2021 attack on the Capitol. The Select Committee wanted to know what Bannon meant by, “All hell is going to break loose” the

Montebello’s votes on November 8



day before January 6, 2021 attack on the U.S. Capitol. In July 2022, he was convicted on counts of criminal contempt by a jury trial, and was sentenced on October 21, 2022, to four months in prison and a fine of \$6,500. Of course, he is appealing saying that his lawyers advised him not to comply with the subpoena.

To me this case is simple. Steve Bannon was given a subpoena to appear, and he didn’t show up. The judge’s sentence was fair. 🙏

The Montebello Voice
uncut, uncensored, unofficial

The MONTEBELLO Voice
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Cover photo by Aja White

So many questions, so few answers

By *Mikhailina Karina*

One of the foundational goals of the *Voice* is to bring to light the association's governance. Discussions about amenities, staffing, and finances must be transparent and inclusive of resident feedback. The elected members of the board are trusted to represent owners' best interests; the professional management team employed by the board (and whose salaries are paid by condo fees) is expected to maintain a certain degree of professionalism when responding to reasonable queries from the stakeholders, i.e., owners.

A Board of Directors meeting took place over Zoom on November 8. Instead of writing an informative article about Montebello's governance for the nearly 2,000 residents who did not tune in, this narrative will include more questions than answers.

When contacted for clarifications (questions in italics) on five management decisions, General Manager Eric Finke responded with the following statement via email to the *Voice* on November 9: "All Management decisions are made based on resident feedback and Board guidance along with recommendations from outside experts as needed, always with the best interests of unit owners and the Montebello Association forefront. Please refer to the Board package for any additional information."

Board packet: https://drive.google.com/file/d/12C6_RHbsK5i8Q7Ni66eAbSCME-Ouf2M69/view

Below are some highlights of the meeting:

The contract with Beltway Cleaning Services, which was responsible for housekeeping in the Community Center, was canceled because their employees had trouble flipping the rooms on the weekends — quickly and correctly setting up furniture for different

events in the CC. GM Finke said BCS personnel were doing a good job with cleaning, but setting up and flipping were challenging for them because they didn't have years of experience doing it.

According to Board President Jon Kandel, he has been informed that current Montebello staff could make sure the rooms are flipped in a timely manner.

Questions for GM Finke: Please explain the plan to adjust the schedule to make the flipping efficient. Now that we have reduced housekeeping staff, do you plan to hire more people? If so, how many?

According to the board packet, management is recommending the board approve \$85,000, which is 2.2 percent of the annual budget, for bonuses for all employees to be divided by the general manager and department heads. GM Finke's rationale is "in a time of high-inflation and low unemployment, bonuses are important for employee retention and satisfaction. Additionally, rather than trying to keep up with what is hopefully temporary high-inflation, bonuses to not increase future costs for the Association the way significant wage increases would," he wrote in the board packet. The board unanimously approved the initiative.

This bonus is in addition to the annual employee holiday fund with contributions from residents for hourly employees only.

Questions for GM Finke: Since I don't know how many people we're talking about, approximately how much will individual bonus be? Will they vary in amount, and if so, what is the range?

"Additional TV's have been ordered for the fitness center and should be installed within 2 weeks," GM Finke wrote in the board packet.

Questions for GM Finke: Don't we already have two TVs in the corners? Are these additional TVs, and if so, where will they be

placed? You mentioned paying \$1,500 for cable for the machine TVs — are these the screens on the cardio machines? Please explain the TV situation in the gym — how many of each type we have (machine and wall-mounted), what channels are available, how much this service costs, and why we need TVs in the gym.

In the board packet, GM Finke wrote, "Montebello is working on the installation of solar lights for the metro access road to help with pedestrian navigation outside of daylight hours. A test light has been installed successfully and the others are ordered for future install."

Director Doug Kleine voiced concerns about installing an unauthorized light fixture on the road that does not belong to Montebello. "Mount Eagle Park is owned by Fairfax County Parks Authority, who got it as a part of a land swap between FCPA, Metro, and Stout & Teague land developers," he wrote in an email to the *Voice*. "Montebello has an easement to use the land for a bus 'route' before any unit was build. When the park was converted from parking



A 35-inch tall solar light on the Metro road

lot to park, residents in the townhouses around it were promised day use only and no group outings. Thus there are few parking spaces and no lights.” He added it was public knowledge document in land records and stated in a relevant Administrative Resolution.

At the meeting, GM Finke responded these would be small lights and not a large investment. He said it was for residents who don’t feel comfortable walking in the dark.

President Kandel appeared to support the lights. “If they tell us to take them out, we will take them out,” he said.

Questions for GM Finke: Doug Kleine said it was not Montebello’s property and was against the rules for using that road. Who owns the road and did they grant permission? Please explain why management decided to install these lights (how many?) and how much illumination they’re expected to provide.

About two weeks ago, large mirrors with gilded frames appeared over the couches in the lobbies. They are different in style from other furnishings and

residents have been wondering who and why made the decision to hang them. According to a staff member, these mirrors used to hang in the lobbies before they were remodeled a decade ago. They are not new purchases and were taken out of storage. This was a bonus question that likely had a simple answer.

In other news, GM Finke reported a lengthy to-do and done list:

- ✓ A new contractor finally fixed the back gate; the arm on the Metro road will remain in the upright position for the foreseeable future.

- ✓ The new trail bridge is about to be delivered.

- ✓ Housekeeping will purchase an automated mopping machine for the CC.

- ✓ Potomac Tennis, LLC, will repair the damaged surface on the tennis courts for \$75,000. “Multiple firms do not want to repair but replace the existing surface entirely which is a \$200k+ project,” GM Finke wrote in his report.

The company who originally did the surface went out of business and cannot honor the 25-year warranty.

- ✓ Management will purchase a pre-owned Ford F350 pick-up truck with 51,000 miles for under \$22,000.

- ✓ The dog run installation will begin later in November and take up to three weeks to complete. It will be done by Dogwood Landscaping (www.dogwoodlandscapingva.com).

Reportedly, 25 residents tuned into the Board of Directors meeting. It was impossible to know who was there because meeting administrators disabled Zoom features such as chat and who was in attendance. President Kandel said in-person meetings will resume in the lounge when the sliding doors to the restaurant are installed at an unspecified date. Board meeting remain the last hold-out for public gatherings at Montebello. Since the CC reopened in July, parties, concerts, presentations, and all social events have resumed without restrictions 🏠.

Do you know?

Owner access to association documents

By Elizabeth Card

According to the Virginia Condominium Act <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacodepopular-names/virginia-condominium-act/> (§ 55.1-1945. Books, minutes, and records; inspection), that any owner of Montebello has the right to examine any contract executed (done, final, signed) by Management or the Montebello Condominium Owners Association (MCUOA)?

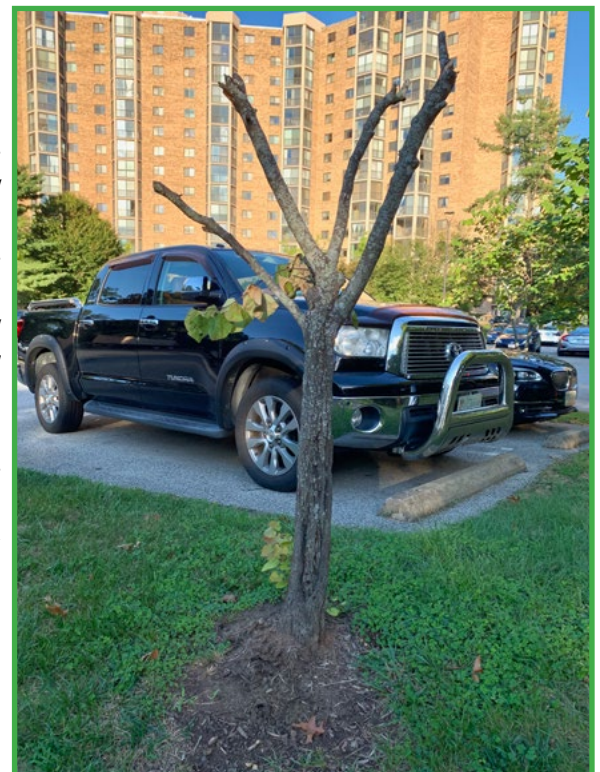
Subject to [certain] provisions ..., upon request, any unit owner shall be provided a copy of such records and minutes.

If MCUOA were to charge owners to look at contracts, that too, is covered in the Act:

Prior to providing copies of any books and records, the unit owners’ association may impose and collect a charge, not to exceed

the reasonable costs of materials and labor, incurred to provide such copies. Charges may be imposed only in accordance with a cost schedule adopted by the executive board in accordance with this subsection. The cost schedule shall (i) specify the charges for materials and labor, (ii) apply equally to all unit owners in good standing, and (iii) be provided to such requesting unit owner at the time the request is made.

This does not apply to any contract “currently in or under negotiation.” 🏠



“Montebello front desk. How may I help you?”

Aja White reflects on 25 years at Montebello

Weekends at Montebello are Aja Time. Residents come to her at the front desk with an endless array of questions and problems, to which she unfailingly finds answers and solutions. Her polished professional, yet genuinely warm demeanor, make the weekend front desk a welcoming place where neighbors can stop by to ask about anything that is taking place at Montebello and be assured by Aja’s encyclopedic knowledge they’re getting accurate information. Over the past quarter-century, Aja has formed close friendships with numerous residents and became integral to the vibrant fabric of our community. She knows all our stories – finally, we get to learn hers. – MK

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in a small rural suburb of Charlottesville, Virginia, called Greenwood (and it is literally that: green and wood). I was raised by my Grandmother, I called her Gram, who also worked two jobs most of her life. She was a cook in a country club where she was not allowed to enter through the front door, and she was a housekeeper for a family where she did all the cooking, cleaning, and raised their children. I never understood the magnitude of her experience until I saw the movie *The Help*. My Gram’s way of showing love was to feed you, so early on I developed a love of good home-cooked meals and she insisted I spend time in the kitchen with her to learn because my Mother and Aunt had not. She also instilled in me the importance of school as she wanted me to go further in life than she had with a sixth-grade education, though to me, she was the smartest woman in the world. Some of my fondest memories include our mutual love of television. She got me hooked on soap operas (I have never missed one episode of *The Young and the Restless*), and we used to sit together to watch shows like *The Carol Burnett Show* and *The Sonny and Cher Show*.

Growing up in a rural Southern town, my first personal experience with racism happened when I was in fifth grade. I was competing in our spelling bee and it was down to me and my advanced placement classmate, Amy Robb. It

was her turn and Amy misspelled the word “halcyon.” I spelled it correctly, and I won. I was the first Black student to win in our school’s history. Being the winner, I was supposed to go represent our school at the district spelling bee. I was told by the principal that Amy would be going instead of me

because she would provide the “proper representation” for our school. I was crushed. My Gram called the principal and requested he come to her house to meet and she laid him out.

I was an absolute nerd in school until about tenth grade. I loved school! I was able to skip kindergarten and start in first grade. I received straight As and was placed in advanced classes for all of my primary school years. Due to my fascination with all things entertainment, my life’s dream was always to be an actress. I took every drama class I could and was a member of the theatre company. I loved performing in plays, participated in our yearly fashion shows, and was a member of the high school band and the choir that did a big yearly show.

What brought you to the DC area?

In my senior year, the NAACP had started an initiative to get local colleges to accept Black students. One of the schools they came down on was the University of Virginia. As a result, they came to the local high schools in the Charlottesville area and courted the top Black students at each school in an attempt to get them to enroll. I absolutely did not want to stay in Charlottesville! I wanted to get away from home and those small town blues. My cousin had graduated from Howard University and I had visited DC several times. Therefore, I made the decision to come to Howard.



Aja’s portrait by Dian McDonald was selected for the Art League Gallery’s November juried exhibit at the Torpedo Factory

Since moving to the Montebello in 2011, I could depend on Joyce and then if she was not present, I would wait for the weekend to ask Aja. Aja is one who is so knowledgeable of the Montebello do's & don'ts. Aja is so polite with even frustrated individuals. Aja is all about "resolve," you leave with confidence that any messages will be delivered pertaining to your inquiry or issue that needed follow-up. A-Approachable, J-Joyful, A-Attentive. Aja.

Aja always shares upcoming activities that we might want to participate in on and off of Montebello's campus. If you need a restaurant for any event, Aja "knows"! And indeed, this has opened me up to more delightful dining experiences.

Of course when one looks in the dictionary for stylish, there is the picture of Aja. The latest fashion and nail design trends come to Montebello on the weekend. I know many Montebello-ens visit the Community Center just to say hello to Aja on the weekends. How wonderful!

– Lauren Pierce

Where did you attend college and what did you study?

Howard University – Marketing and Business Administration.

I was absolutely elated to be on my own in a new city. Dorm life was a whole new experience for me. Though I was energized by the sense of community, I was mortified by communal showers and no bathtubs. I most definitely began missing my Gram, her meals, my room, bubble baths, and especially my dog. I eventually adjusted to campus life. I made great friends and we formed a circle that supported one another. We fed one another, shared phone lines with one another, and partied with one another.

What is your current job?

I currently work for Arlington County Department of Human Services in the Public Health Division as a Management Analyst. I have been with the county since March of 1995

In my usual role, I supervise 12 administrative technicians that provide support for several bureaus in the public health division, including Community Health Services, Community Health Protection, School Health, Finance and Administration, and Planning.

Beginning in mid-March of 2020, I began working in the Covid Response Center as a Logistics Chief. In this role, I was responsible for ensuring clinical staff had supplies needed to run clinics, send strike teams to nursing homes and long-term care facilities, testing sites, on-site cleaning and sterilization, meals for staff, groceries and supplies for quarantined individuals, coordinating notification mailings and other logistical tasks. During the period from March until early winter, we were working 12-16 hour days seven days a week.

What brought you to Montebello?

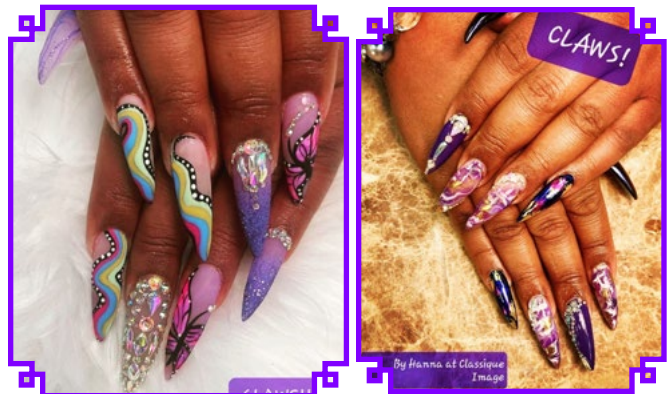
I began at Montebello in November of 1997. I just received my 25-year pin.

My officemate at Arlington County, Cecile Gates, had been working at Montebello and informed me that they were looking for someone to work part-time on weekends and evening shifts. I told her that I really was not looking to work another job. She went on and on about how nice the atmosphere was,

that there were lots of wonderful people here, and she thought I would be a perfect fit because of the way I manage people. I agreed to an interview. I will never forget my first day accessing the property. I was struck by the lush greenery and the well-manicured grounds. It was autumn, but there was not a stray leaf to be found. I interviewed with the head of security, Dennis Ouellette, and afterwards had a brief meet-and-greet with General Manager Manju Gulati. After meeting with her, I did not think I had landed the job, but I did. Many are surprised to hear that I am the longest-serving employee in the office. I have been here through four general managers: Manju, Liz, George, and now Eric.

What is it like working seven days a week? How do you manage to find "me" time?

People are often taken aback when they realize how many hours a week I work and how long I have been doing so. I do 40 plus hours at Arlington County and 16 hours at Montebello per week. I often work many days con-



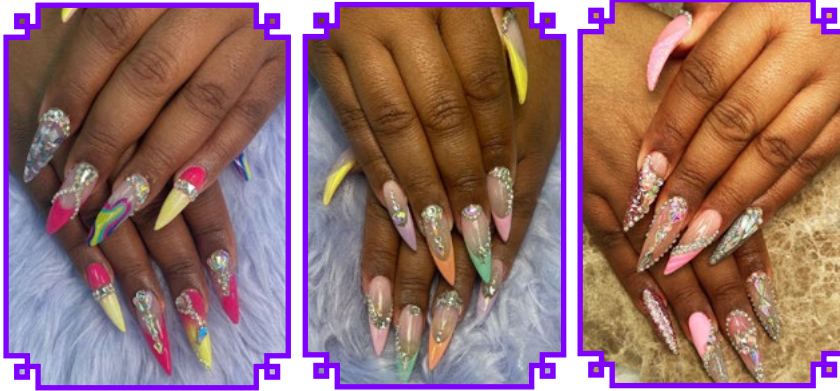
secutively without a day off. Honestly, I have worked the same schedule for so long, it has become routine. For the record, in my 25-year run at Montebello, I have only missed two shifts, one was during the blizzard of 2006 and the other was when my Gram passed in 2004.

In order to stay sane and have some quiet time, I strategically schedule

events and activities into my current schedule and occasionally switch shifts with my coworkers.

What have you learned about managing difficult people?

One of the reasons I enjoy my role at Montebello is it keeps me humble and relatable to my staff at Arlco. There, I am the supervisor, but here I am the front desk receptionist. In this role, I am constantly reminded as to what



they deal with on a daily basis and it gives me the insight to coach them through scenarios. It is important to me that they provide excellent customer service to the citizens of Arlington and that I do the same here in representing the MCUOA. My staff are well aware, though, that they are not to be mistreated or disrespected by anyone and I operate under the same premise.

I have dealt with many difficult situations behind this desk over the years. Managing difficult people can be challenging. Some of my lessons learned are to not take anything someone says personally. It is typically not about you, it is about their access or lack of access to something they want. When someone approaches me in an inappropriate or aggressive manner, I typically make an attempt to diffuse the situation by first letting them talk and get it all out. Then, I make an attempt at inserting some logic and perhaps policy into the situation. The individual often does not want to hear logic, but I make the effort. One thing is certain, you cannot please everyone.

What changes have you observed in Montebello's population over the years?

My main observation about the population of Montebello over the time I have been here is the number of young people that moved here, especially during Covid. When I began here, so many people referred to Montebello as a retirement facility. I used to correct people all the time

and tell them otherwise. Within recent years, there has definitely been an influx of Millennials and families with young children that has changed the landscape of Montebello. There is also definitely more diversity here than ever before and I find that refreshing.

Tell us about your stunning nails.

Ooohhhh the nails!! I began getting my nails done when I lived in Chicago. I was working for a designer out there doing some runway modeling. One of my colleagues had just received a nail tech license and wanted to practice on me for free. At that time, they were called "sculptured nails." After she did them one time, I was completely fascinated. No more simple French manicures for me. The nails have really taken on a life of their own. For me, it is just something I do for myself and I am always shocked by others' reaction to them. There are people who don't know my name and just refer to me as the lady with the fancy

in her own words

nails. I do not have tattoos or multiple piercings, but I consider my nails to be a type of artistic expression. My nail stylist, Hanna at Classique Images in Arlington appreciates that I typically give her complete control as to design and color scheme, though she is well aware that I am a purple fanatic. I do photos and videos for her that are displayed on their Instagram page.



Congratulations on a quarter of a century!

There have been at least two times during my time here that I was seriously ready to leave and reclaim my weekends. The reason I stay, really, is the people. I know and feel that there are individuals here that rely upon me and I try my best to not let them down. 🙏



Photo by Dian McDonald
Photos of nails via Instagram
November 13, 2022

Money down a rabbit hole

By Bob Shea

By the time this is published, the November elections will be behind us. Voting is important. Fair and transparent elections are what sets us apart from many places in the world. Usually, just as in an athletic contest, someone wins and someone loses. There are rarely ties. That's what elections are all about. Unlike youth soccer, there are no trophies for participating. Voting is and always will be crucial.

That said, what really irks me are the millions of dollars that are spent on political advertising. In one recent broadcast of the local news at 6 p.m., there were 13 political ads in 30 minutes. Some of them back-to-back-to-back-to-back for opposing candidates. How much is too much?

A study released on November 7 of this year stated at over \$15,000,000,000,000.00 (count the zeros, that is billion with a B). Why would we collectively spend that kind of money to be elected to a position that rarely pays more than \$200,000 a year? One then creates a lifestyle that includes too many rubber chicken dinners at civic dinners, spending two days a week flying or driving home from D.C., carefully learning to never directly answer the question asked, waving from a convertible in countless Fourth of July parades, and attending as many county fairs and livestock shows as possible? Why do that? Who wants that? The answer seems to be to polish one's resume for your next position and an overwhelming desire for power. Power is like Oxycodone as it is addictive.

Only a select few are real crusaders who want to make a difference and who will not compromise personal values to step up another rung on the

power ladder, but even they have to create and appear in the political ads that flood our living rooms. They become victims of the system in order to continue to practice their art of "crusading." Somehow that seems like a broken system.

One wonders if any minds are changed by the loud and often skewed 30-second spots on TV. I would assume that 45+ percent of the electorate have already made up their minds one way, and another 45+ percent have an opposing mindset. As we get closer and closer to Election Day, more and more voters have already cast early ballots.



Thus there are fewer and fewer undecided voters to learn about the candidates from the ads.

One thing we all know is that such television ads are horribly expensive. I would love to have a candidate proclaim that in lieu of ego or attack ads, they have donated an amount equal to the cost of advertising to some reputable charity. Now that would catch my attention, and if I were undecided, it might make me consider that candidate to be possibly someone who is interested in real progress, positive change and committed public service. They would stand alone in a clown circus of puffery and negativity.

With the hurricane in Florida, wildfires in the West, homelessness nationwide, and on and on, think of the impact these millions of dollars could do for the welfare of real flesh and blood

citizens. A noted children's research hospital asks for a pledge of just \$19 per month to aid kids with life-transforming diseases. What could they do with the millions of dollars spent on political ads that most of us do not listen to anyway?

Children in these hospitals could benefit far more than the slick creators of dubious political ads and the television stations that run them almost on an endless loop.

How uplifting would it be to know that these dollars are being spent to help real citizens via the American Red Cross or other proven charities?

Picture a one-time ad on TV in which the candidate asked for your vote, but promised that in lieu of traditional endless advertisements that he/she would donate the cost of further ads to a specified charity. How novel would it be to hear the end "tag line" saying, "This advertisement was paid for by Homer Schmidtlap, and

I approved this message." Now that would be a real public servant speaking to us. It would get my attention.

Am I naive? Probably. In the meantime I am wearing out the mute button on my TV remote to silence ads that sometimes insult my intelligence and do little to advance polite political discourse. A candidate wants to be the most junior voting member of the 435 voting members of the House of Representatives and wants us to believe that "I have a plan that will solve the nation's problems." What intellect, what charisma, what strategic planning! Give me a break! That claim falls just below the veracity of the myth of the Tooth Fairy.

The rabbit hole into which all this money is streaming seems bottomless. Is this really how democracy is supposed to work? Money should be too valuable to waste on political rubbish. 🐇

Elements of style

Traditional vs. transitional furniture styles

By Scott Compton

Traditional space is characterized by ornate interiors inspired by a 17th or 18th-century European countryside home, such as French Country and Baroque style eras. The look is often warm and inviting, and sumptuously luxurious, typically used in large historic homes, museums, and country cottages.

These spaces usually feature furnishings and fixtures that have curved shapes and more exquisite design. Traditional style is also recognized for its elegant fixtures, ornate woodwork designs, rich tones, heavy drapery, bold frames on artwork, and varying patterns, making it a perfect route for those seeking to inject Old World glamor into their homes.

Traditional style interior design is inspired by 18th and 19th-century European décor. It's a timeless style exemplifying comfort and elegance, characterized by antiques and classic art pieces. Traditional decorating style prides itself on its approachable and harmonious charm.

If you're into the dark wood and rich tones, then traditional style is perfect for you. These spaces often feature brown, red, and green tones as accent colors. Paisleys, florals, damasks, and plaids are also common in traditional style interior design.

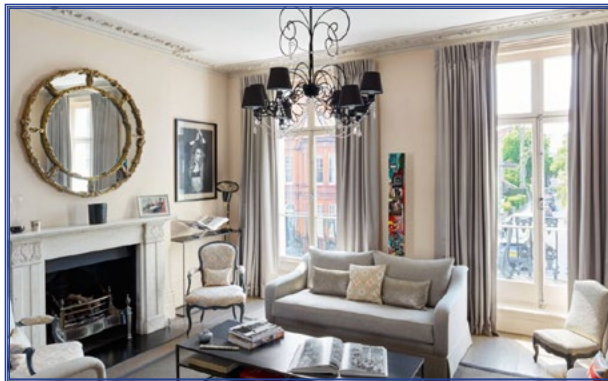
Traditional style is far from minimal, and its furnishings are no exception. Most traditional homes feature substantial fabrications and deluxe furnishings. You'll notice plenty of tufted sofas, claw foot chairs, carved furniture, and furniture inlaid with metallic details.

Frames on artwork is heavy, bold, and typically gold and brass.

Traditional decorating style is about the finest of details. You'll find that a space is filled with grand gestures such as elegant china cabinets, grandiose chandeliers, decorative pillows, sconces, mirrors, vases, and candle holders aplenty. It's also common for traditional style interior design to have a flash of metallic hints in any of its accessories, which adds sophistication and drama to any space, thus why brass and gold paints are popular in these ornate styles.

Traditional styles

French Country



Baroque

Baroque furniture pieces had a very elaborate ornamentation, plenty of details, and the designs featured an exuberant and sometimes exaggerated



decoration with the details integrated with harmony and balance in symmetrical compositions. Some common elements included twisted columns, pedestal feet and heavy moldings and frames on artwork, and mirrors. Heavy and glossy paints such as gold and brass are the standards for this very traditional style of décor.

Transitional styles

A transitional style decor blends well with both contemporary and traditional style. While traditional spaces are known for their neutral foundations of cream, beige, and gray, transitional style mixes a combination of classic and modern furniture and finishes.

Since transitional style leans more on contemporary design, the look is less uptight and more relaxed. Earth-tone textiles, wood tones, and other decorative textures provide depth in these rooms. Color and pattern used for transitional style is subtler.

Transitional style interior design is a combination of modern lines and classic curves in a neutral setting. However, it's not to be thought of as lacking in color as accessories are featured to bring in life while the focus is kept on a minimal, neutral palette.

Transitional decorating style embraces soft lines and comfortable furnishings, yet it does not come with fussy styling such as furniture legs, frames on artwork, mirrors, or accessories. The color palette is somewhat like the contemporary design and is usually kept to a minimum.

Transitional style boasts an elegant and timeless look that combines the old with new, and feminine with masculine – in a fresh way.

In a transitional space, solids are often featured while patterns are mostly subtle. Patterns on throw pillows and earth tone fabrics on furniture pieces are standard for this popular style of design.



Differences between the two styles and why they are not typically mixed

Transitional style frequently consists of a mixture of wood tones in one single space. Detailed mill work may also be present; however, it does not necessarily define the overall feel. With traditional style interior design, these décor elements are usually toned down by adding modern lines, which perfectly contrast with wooden tones.

Transitional decorating style tends to mix different textures to create depth. In a traditional vs. transitional kitchen, the kitchen featuring transitional style interior design features wood tones and subtle geometric patterns to create a warm and inviting feel. A traditional style kitchen is also cozy; however, the colors and patterns are more varied, which creates a more luxurious feel.

Transitional style interior design is usually recognized for its neutral background without having to sacrifice color. If a bold tone is used, it's usually repeated for consistency. A transitional space may be symmetrical although it can also break this rule. In a traditional room, however, there is often a mixture of patterns and colors. One is bolder and the other is remains neutral. Symmetry is key in traditional style interior design.

Although transitional decorating style has roots in traditional mindsets, it usually incorporates modern interior design trends. Its contemporary side makes it possible to infuse other interior décor trends with ease, such as a modern-designed lighting fixtures, art-

work, and frames on pieces. On the other hand, traditional style spaces will stick to older style, classic, vintage, or ornate heavy-looking furniture and fixtures. Thus, the reason mixing the two styles typically is avoided as they make different statements of periods and styles in furnishings.

The tone and colors of a traditional space are more intense and saturated, while a transitional space consists mostly of neutral earth tone and natural feel colors with some pops of soft pastels. A transitional space feels light and airy while a traditional space exudes a warm and heavy feel and can give off a stuffy atmosphere. 🏠

The Traditional-Baroque style mirror in the lobbies does not match any existing décor, color, or style palette



Halloween



Halloween







Photos by Dian McDonald
The Montebello Voice

women's club fashion show



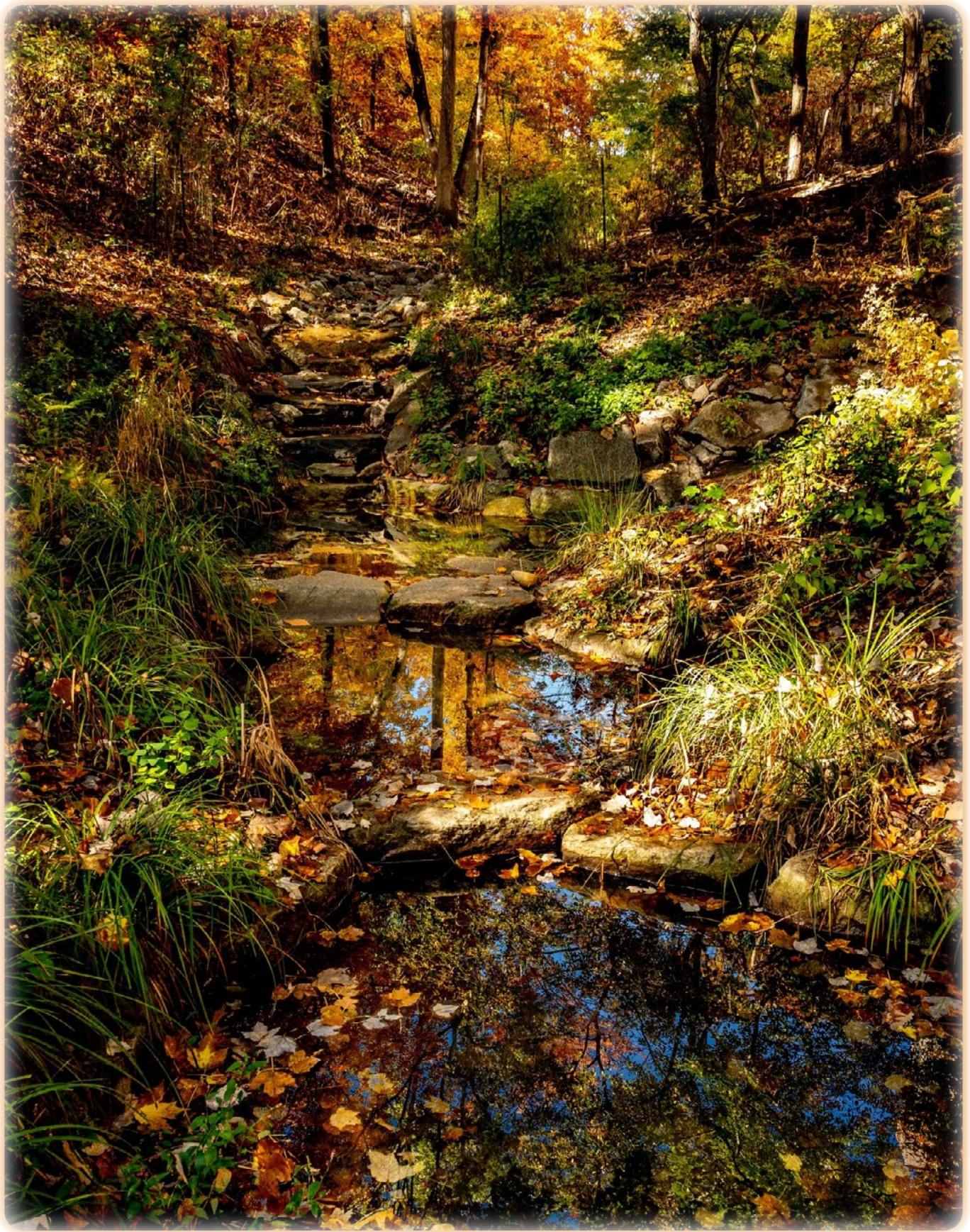


Photo by Don Savage