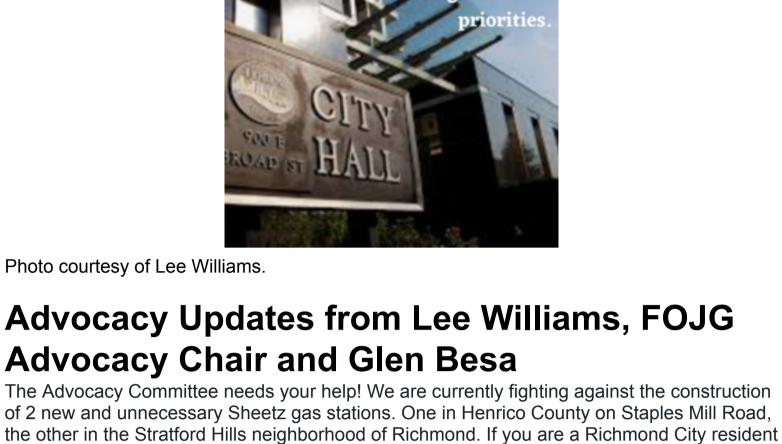


December 2022 Newsletter

Falls of the James Group



dgets are choices hat affect people. **Budgets reflect**



in District 4, please consider signing this petition to stop the Sheetz in the Stratford Hills

Neighborhood. Look for more info and petitions on our Facebook and Twitter pages. Following the unanimous passage by Richmond City Council of the Climate and Ecological

Emergency Resolution in September of 2021, working groups were created in an effort to make the resolution's passage the starting line, not the finish line. Our health - and our climate - can't wait! Communities across Richmond face unaffordable energy and housing costs, disproportionately higher energy burdens, exposure to poor indoor and outdoor air quality and the worst impacts of our changing climate. Richmond's FY2024 budget is an opportunity to advance the city's commitment to equity and justice by upholding the vision of the resolution. Climate action must be a priority, as the budget is a significant

opportunity to take meaningful steps to reduce emissions, mitigate heat island effects, and offer equitable and transformative solutions in four key areas where investment is critically needed, especially in historically underserved neighborhoods. Housing: Affordability, living conditions, tenant rights, weatherization, renewable energy and efficiency, electrification, and reducing energy burden. • Infrastructure: Invest in healthy streets, green spaces, and parks, expand sidewalks and increase safety and access for pedestrians and transit users, and protected bike lanes for scooter and bike users. • Transportation: Improve access to public transit by increasing routes and frequency. Economic Development: Build grocery stores in Richmond neighborhoods that lack healthy food access, create new green jobs and incentives for real estate developers to electrify their utilities and appliances, and utilize/implement solar. Falls of the James Group members have been volunteering their time and talents alongside

- other locally based organizations this past year to prepare these Policy and Budget Recommendations. Everyone who lives within the City of Richmond should have received an action alert that would send a letter directly to their city council representative and the mayor. If you missed it, you can access the action alert here. Tell Richmond decision-makers to prioritize a budget that supports cross-sector solutions that
- protect the health and safety of ALL our communities. You can see the full list of recommendations, as well as the list of supporting organizations at: vasierra.club/FY2024budgetrecs To get involved with the advocacy committee, email_Lee_Williams_. We will need more

members to get involved in advocacy work if we want to see changes to "business as usual" from city council and surrounding counties board of supervisors in the New Year! Join us!

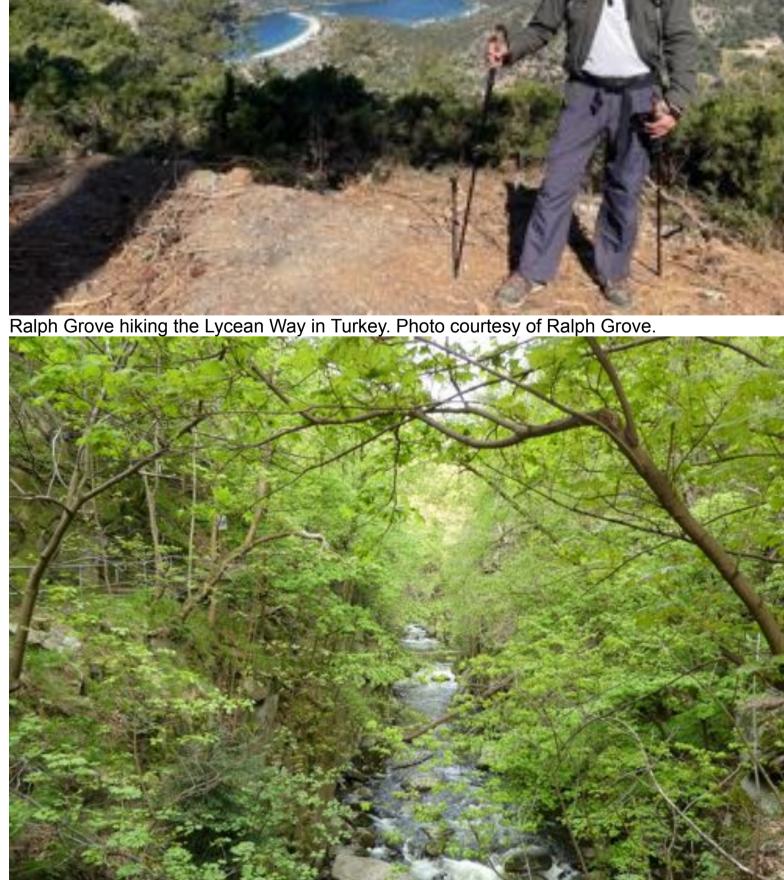
Governor Youngkin's ruthless dismantling of Virginia's nascent climate protections continues on Dec 7th in Richmond when the State Air Pollution Control Board takes the next step in repealing the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). Jessica Sims, Lee Williams and Glen Besa are among those organizing a protest at the state air board meeting that day and invite everyone to attend and show your support for climate protections. Join us at the protest at 9:30 am 12/7 outside the Community College Workforce Alliance, 1651 East

#RESIST Governor Youngkin's Attacks on Climate and Clean Energy

Parham Rd, Richmond VA 23228 at Reynolds Community College.

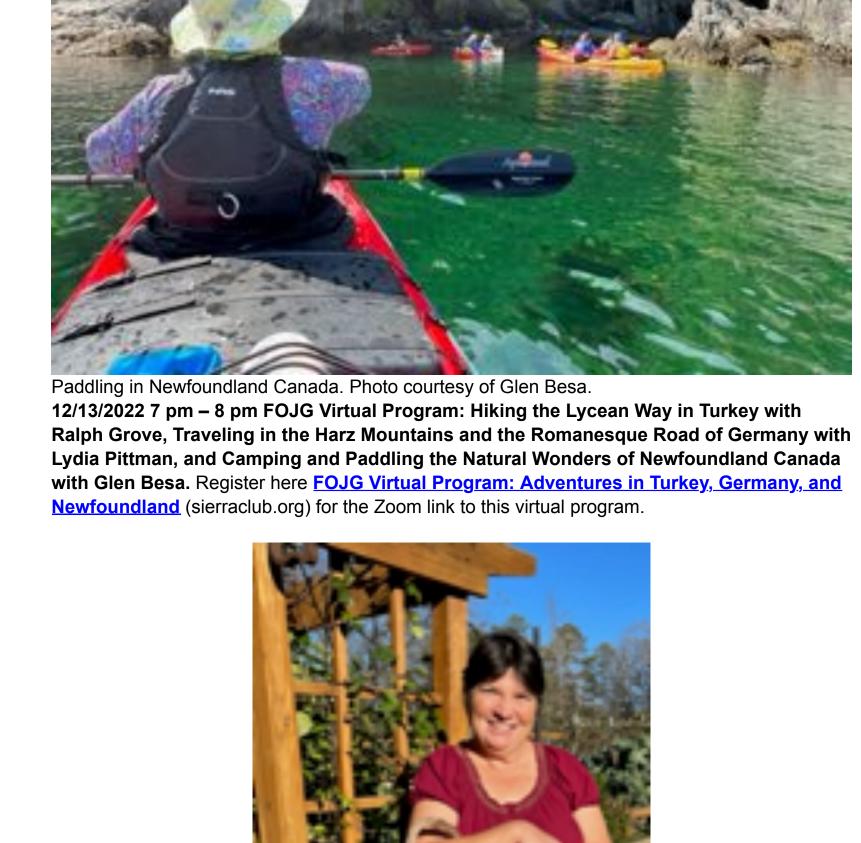
The coming General Assembly Session starting in January will include other attacks by Youngkin and Republicans on Virginia Climate protections such as repeal of Virgina Clean Cars legislation and weakening of the Virginia Clean Economy Act standards for renewable energy. With the General Assembly Session starting on January 11th, we are planning

a demonstration at the Bell Tower on Jan 13th at 12 noon. Watch our Falls of the James Facebook and Twitter pages for updates. Register for our Upcoming Programs



Traveling in the Harz Mountains and The Romanesque Road - Hexen. Photo courtesy of Lydia

Pittman.



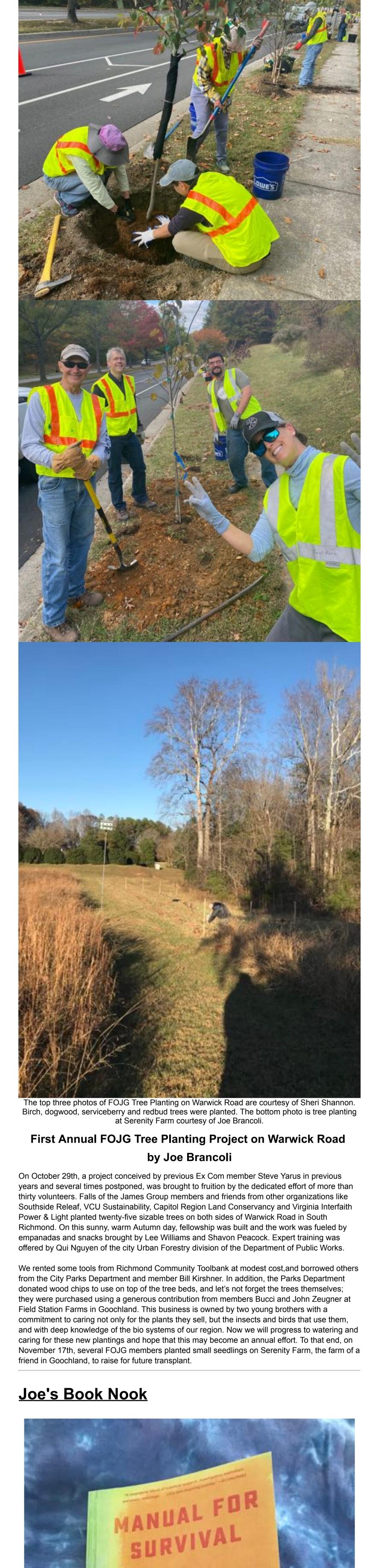


out and the Sierra Club Virginia Chapter Calendar for Sierra Club events around the state.

Missed our 11/8/22 FOJG Program on BioBlitzes and Community Science at the Science Museum by Devin Jefferson? Go here to see the recording of this program. Stay tuned for an FOJG BioBlitz activity as part of the City Nature Challenge April 29-May 2.

FOJG Tree Planting in Southside Richmond on

Warwick Road October 29th



KATE BROWN

Photo courtesy of Joe Brancoli.

Hello eager readers,

Thank you,

Joe Brancoli **FOJG Chair**

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others despite government suppression and the collaborative coverups by agencies, corporations and organizations, even in competing nations. The analogy to climate efforts is clear and makes this a relevant work, even though direct mention of effects on animals and biomes is not as prevalent as I expected from the title. Frankly, this is a haunting book, set in Ukraine, Belarus and Russia not long ago, but before their recent prominence in the news. As the author states that underestimating the damage from Chernobyl has left us unprepared for the next disaster, I think of our Governor's enthusiastic championing of nuclear power in Virginia, and when she calls the era of nuclear testing the most unhinged and suicidal chapter in human history, I wonder if we are not writing an even worse one now in our environment. Please enjoy in moderation and support your local independent booksellers.

This month, we bring to your attention 'Manual for Survival: An Environmental History of the Chernobyl Disaster' by Kate Brown. This book goes far beyond the titular disaster to paint a picture of a world soaked in radioactive fallout by testing of nuclear weapons between 1945 and 1998. This is a portrait of numerous courageous individuals who persevere in helping

AN ENVIRONMENTAL

HISTORY OF THE

CHERNOBYL DISASTER

environmental organization in the nation for as little as \$15. Join_Today_and_help_fight_Climate Change and Environmental Justice! If you want to give a gift membership, go here! **How the Sierra Club Does it!** Since 1892, we know actions speak louder than words. That's why we've built a national community of volunteers, advocates, and grassroots activists who show up when and where it counts. Our supporters have the tools and resources to make themselves heard in nearly every district in every state across the country. From securing protection for 439 parks and monuments, to winning passage of the Clean Air and Endangered Species Acts, to putting over 281 coal plants on the path to replacement with clean energy, to securing the right of

Not a member of the Sierra Club yet? You can join the oldest and largest grassroots

every kid in America to visit a national park, we have an unmatched record of success and impact. Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

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> This email was sent by the Sierra Club Virginia Chapter 100 W Franklin St, Mezzanine, Richmond, VA 23220-5048