

# NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

2015-2016

**Kwang Kim, of Alexandria, is one of many photographers who come to Green Spring Gardens to capture what they see. The park welcomes nature photography hobbyists.**

**Mount Vernon Gazette**

PHOTO BY RENÉE RUGGLES/THE CONNECTION



# NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

## About the Mount Vernon Gazette

**A**s your local, weekly newspaper, the Mount Vernon Gazette's mission is to deliver the local news you need, to try to make sense of what is happening in your community, to gather information about the best things in and around your community, to advocate for community good, to provide a forum for dialogue on local concerns, and to celebrate and record achievements, milestones and events in the community and people's lives.

Here in our Newcomers and Community Guide, we've included an expanded and updated version of our award-winning Insider's Guide to the Parks, plus information on local government, nonprofits and business organizations, plus tips and tidbits from the community.

We invite newcomers and long-time residents alike to let us know how we're doing and let us know what is going on in your part of the community. If you have questions or ideas, send us an e-mail or call us, contact us on Facebook or send us a tweet. We invite you to send letters to the editor or to send an email with feedback about our coverage.

We want to know if someone in your family or your community published a book, started a business, became an Eagle Scout, raised money for a good cause, accomplished some feat like running a marathon, supporting a cause or having art included in an art show. We publish photos and notes about personal milestones and community events, including births, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, awards and obituaries.

We are also interested in events at your church, mosque, synagogue, community center, pool, school, club, etc. Email us a note about the event, being sure to include when and where the photo was taken and the names of all the people who are in a photo. We also publish notes about news and events from local businesses. Notes about openings, new employees and anniversaries are welcome. It is especially important to us to let people know about events ahead of time in our calendar of events. We appreciate getting notice at least two weeks ahead of the event, and we encourage photos.

The Mount Vernon Gazette is one of 15

### Keep in Touch

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:** Email to [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com) or submit online at <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter/>

papers published by the independent, locally owned Local Media Connection LLC, serving the suburbs of Metropolitan Washington in Northern Virginia and Potomac, Md.

Our flagship paper, the Alexandria Gazette Packet, is one of the oldest continuously publishing papers in the country, beginning publication in 1784.

The Connection Newspapers have won hundreds of press awards in just the past few years, including the Virginia Press Association Award for Journalistic Integrity and Community Service, Best in Show for our Insiders Guide to the Parks, first place for our community guides, plus awards in news, art, business, special projects, sports, entertainment, design, photography and much more.

We have staff and contributors here at the Connection Newspapers with remarkable talent and experience, far greater than one might expect. We continue to publish 15 distinct papers every week that serve their communities in distinct ways.

We welcome contributing writers, with the caveat that our freelance pay is nominal; if you are interested in covering news or events in your community, email [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com). We offer summer and year-round educational internships with information at [www.connectionnewspapers.com/internships](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/internships).

In addition to our weekly coverage, we have monthly special focus pages on Wellbeing; Education, Learning, Fun; and HomeLifeStyle, plus other seasonal specials including Real Estate, Senior Living, Fall Fun, Food and Entertainment (also Winter, Spring and Summer), a twice annual Pet Connection, and others. If you have story ideas for these, email [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com); if are interested in marketing, email [sales@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:sales@connectionnewspapers.com).

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— MARY KIMM,  
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### Who Runs the Community

#### Supervisor

Mount Vernon District  
Gerry Hyland (D)

#### School Board

Mount Vernon District  
Daniel Storck

#### Delegate

Scott Surovell (D-44)

#### Senator

Linda "Toddy" Puller (D-36)

#### Associations

Sean O'Connell, chairman, Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce  
Holly Dougherty, executive director, Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce  
Paul Schray, president, Mount Vernon Civic Association

### Preview of November Elections

#### Delegate

44th District  
Paul Krizek (D)  
[paul@paulkrizek.com](mailto:paul@paulkrizek.com)

#### Senator

36th District  
Scott Surovell (D) [ssurovell@gmail.com](mailto:ssurovell@gmail.com)  
Gerald Foreman @  
[gmforeman@comcast.net](mailto:gmforeman@comcast.net)

#### Board of Supervisors Chairman

\*Sharon Bulova (D)  
[sharonbulova@gmail.com](mailto:sharonbulova@gmail.com)  
Arthur Purves (R)  
[arthur@votepurves.org](mailto:arthur@votepurves.org)  
Glenda Gail Parker (IG)  
[ggailparker@cox.net](mailto:ggailparker@cox.net)

#### Clerk of Court

Bettina Mary Lawton (D)  
[bettina@bettinalawtonforclerk.com](mailto:bettina@bettinalawtonforclerk.com)  
\*John Frey (R)  
Marisa Wissar (I)  
[mariwissar@gmail.com](mailto:mariwissar@gmail.com)

#### Commonwealth's Attorney

\*Raymond F Morrogh (D)  
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#### Supervisor

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[danielgstorck@gmail.com](mailto:danielgstorck@gmail.com)  
Jane Gandee (R)  
[jane@janegandee.com](mailto:jane@janegandee.com)

#### School Board

Mount Vernon District  
Karen Corbett Sanders (I)

[corbett.sanders@verizon.net](mailto:corbett.sanders@verizon.net)  
W. Anthony Stacy (I)  
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\*Theodore "Ted" Velkoff (I)  
[tvelkoff@cox.net](mailto:tvelkoff@cox.net)

#### Sheriff

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Bryan "B.A." Wolfe (R)  
[fairfaxwolfe@yahoo.com](mailto:fairfaxwolfe@yahoo.com)

#### Soil and Water Conservation Director Northern Virginia District

Scott John Cameron (I)  
[scott.cameron@verizon.net](mailto:scott.cameron@verizon.net)  
\*George Lamb IV (I) [gwl@cox.net](mailto:gwl@cox.net)  
Gerald "Jerry" Peters, Jr (I)  
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Stephen Pushor (I)

\*denotes incumbent

### Mount Vernon Gazette

### NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

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# NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

## Commercial, Residential Projects Reshape Area

### “Embark Richmond Highway” to meet Sept. 21.

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE GAZETTE

#### Towne Place Suites by Marriott

Baywood Hotels is planning to break ground this fall on a 92-room hotel in the Woodlawn area.

#### Penn Daw area of U.S. Route 1

The former Penn Daw Plaza shopping center was rezoned as part of a 2012 Comprehensive Plan amendment for the Penn Daw area and is set to be replaced by a mixed-use development. The development will feature 400 apartments, 41 townhomes and ground-level retail. The Shelby, a luxury apartment community at 6200 N Kings Highway, has already been built out by Insight Properties. The project team is hoping to break ground by the end of 2015



IMAGE COURTESY OF THE SOUTHEAST FAIRFAX DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

**The development in the former Penn Daw Plaza shopping center is set to include 400 apartments and 41 townhomes.**

#### North Hill area

33-acres along U.S. Rt. 1 by Lockheed Blvd.

In March, members of the Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing authority voted in favor of moving forward with interim agreement to develop the remaining 33 acres of North Hill. (Fifteen acres out of a 1981 land purchase have been developed as Woodley Hills Estates.) The Community Housing Partners of Virginia and Philadelphia-based developer Pennrose partnership have proposed building 329 multi-family apartments in two separate buildings, 144 townhomes and leaving some space for a park.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SOUTHEAST FAIRFAX DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

**Gold's Gym TKTK \$2 million expansion of its U.S. Rt. 1 location.**



IMAGE COURTESY OF THE SOUTHEAST FAIRFAX DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

**The Parker residential development is going up adjacent to the Huntington Metro station.**

A number of the units would be designated households with lower incomes.

#### New Fairfield Inn & Suites

6421 U.S. Rt. 1

The Hersha Group has finished with demolition of the Fairview Motel and obtained construction permits to move forward with a new 108-room development renamed Fairfield Inn & Suites. Construction is moving forward.

#### Gold's Gym

7770 U.S. Route 1

Once the site of Habitat for Humanity's ReStore, Gold's is undergoing a \$2 million expansion while continuing to operate. No completion date has been released, however work is finished on a new saltwater pool and construction is nearly finished.

#### Widening of Richmond Highway Still Underway

3.5 miles of U.S. Rt. 1 between Mount Vernon Memorial Highway and Telegraph Road

The \$180 million project to widen Route 1 from four to six lanes, while also accommodating mass transit, bicycles and walking, is expected to be completed in 2016.

#### “Embark Richmond Highway” transportation and land use planning team for Route 1, Bus Rapid Transit and Metro Expansion

The team is a collaboration of Fairfax County staff from various departments and agencies working with a 13-member citizen advisory group to help coordinate community input. The next meeting is open to the public and scheduled to take place Sep. 21 in the South County Government Center at 8 a.m.

#### The Parker at Huntington Station

Adjacent to the Huntington Metro on Huntington Avenue.

The decades-old VSE office building situated by the Huntington Metro was torn down and is set to be replaced a 390-unit, four-to-six-story residential development, as well as a 15-story, 260,000 square foot office-retail building and a 150-room hotel. Rezoning and a site plan were approved in 2012, and apartments and a parking garage are nearing completion. They are pre-leasing.

#### Lennar multi-family housing development “Huntington Crossing”

The project team has just applied for re-zoning for the 6.3 acres site adjacent to the Huntington Metro and right up against the water. The draft plan calls for five stories and approximately 360 units, however hearings are not yet scheduled.

#### Wegmans at Hilltop Village Center

Hilltop Village Center (corner of Telegraph Road and Beulah Street)

The long-awaited grocery experiencing destination opened June 14 The 126,000-square-foot store includes a full-service “Pub” bar-restaurant.

Sources: District Supervisor Gerry Hyland (D-Mount Vernon) and land use aide, District Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) and land use aide, and Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation.



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE GAZETTE

**From left, Bob Farr, Wegmans Virginia division manager; Jennifer Stickle, Wegmans marketing; Heather Gole, Wegmans Virginia human resources division manager; Mike Dempsey, Alexandria Wegmans store manager; Jo Natale, Wegmans vice president of media relations and Linda Lovejoy, Wegmans community relations manager.**



## NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

# Welcome to the Best District in Fairfax County

Dear Mount Vernon residents,

My name is Gerry Hyland and I have served as the Mount Vernon District supervisor for 28 years. I welcome you to the Mount Vernon District which is the best district in all of Fairfax County because of the wonderful people and the resources we have here.

Mount Vernon is blessed to have all the infrastructure necessary to serve its citizens to include recreation centers, parks, trails, the best farmers' markets in Fairfax County, the INOVA Mount Vernon Hospital which ranks in the top 10 hospitals in the metropolitan area, just to name a few.

The function of your supervisor and staff is to provide assistance in your dealing with Fairfax County, such as stormwater management, zoning issues, human service problems. We act as a liaison with permitting questions and transportation issues when involving the Virginia Department of Transportation.



portation. The bottom line is: If you need help with the county, you need to call the supervisor's office and we will respond to you and assist with what you have requested.

As to what we have here in the Mount Vernon District, we have George Washington's wonderful Mount Vernon Estate, which is the most notable historical site in the county.

In addition, on the Woodlawn Estate property we have the Pope Leigh House, an example of Frank Lloyd Wright's architecture, and the Arcadia Center which has a demonstration garden used to teach people how to farm and enjoy agriculture. Then there

is Gunston Hall, home of George Mason, the author of the Bill of Rights, located on Mason Neck where we also have a Federal Reserve, a state park and a regional park. Then there is the Workhouse Arts Center located on the historic D.C. prison property; also located there is the championship Laurel Hill 18-hole public golf course. Then we have two recreation centers — one located near the Belle View Shopping Center and the other located across from Mount Vernon High School; two off leash dog parks, one at West Grove on Ft. Hunt Road and one at Grist Mill Park located on Route 235. And, my favorite, Wegman's Grocery, is located at the end of Jeff Todd Way and Telegraph Road. (I love to cook.)

Finally, it is my strong belief that for government to work, it must be bottom up versus top down and that means citizens' input on issues that concerns their quality of life must be communicated to their supervisor. In that respect, we have civic associations, neighborhood watch, the Mount Vernon Civic Council Association, South

County Federation (located in Lorton) and an active Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce, Ventures in Community, a collaboration of churches in the Mount Vernon community, Southeast Health Planning Task Force, and numerous boards and commissions which have representatives appointed from the Mount Vernon District. As your supervisor, I strongly encourage you to participate individually or join those organizations so that your voice will be heard — resulting in decisions made by Fairfax County government that will benefit from your input and will represent your best interest.

Again, I welcome you to the Mount Vernon community and sincerely hope you enjoy an eclectic community that truly has something for all the people.

It has been a pleasure and honor to represent you as your Mount Vernon District supervisor.

YOURS IN PUBLIC SERVICE,  
GERRY HYLAND

# Welcome from Fairfax County Police Chief Roessler

Dear Community Members:

The Fairfax County Police Department was established on July 1, 1940 and today we have an authorized strength of 1,372 sworn law enforcement officers who protect and serve the communities of the County. On average, officers respond to over 400,000 calls for service each year. As we engage with the communities we serve, we understand our profession must always assess our services and constantly strive to challenge each other to re-engineer how we deliver essential law enforcement services in a community that exceeds 1.1 million residents. We are fortunate to have an engaged community which continues to assist us

in preventing and fighting crime, increasing the culture of safety to preserve the sanctity of life for all, and keep pace with rapid urbanization.

Your Police Department proactively undertook an independent review of its use of force training, and related policies and procedures. The review, conducted by the Police Executive Research Forum, proposed 71 enhancement recommendations. The core theme of change is adopting the philosophy of the sanctity of life in all we do. We have initiated policy changes and embarked on many training programs which embrace state-of-the-art decision making models and best practices for de-escalation and escalation techniques and new initiatives to safely interact and divert from jail those suffering mental illness. Currently 43 percent of our patrol officers are certified in Crisis Intervention Team training and all



**Chief Edwin C. Roessler Jr.**

recruits now receive parallel training.

Other recent policy changes include the concepts of being able to hold and contain events in order to develop successful resolutions to each call for service when possible.

In 2014, the Police Department began a self-assessment process to align all of its policies and procedures to comply

with several hundred national standards established by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. The on-site assessment, required to obtain accredited status, is scheduled for early 2016 and will be conducted by assessors from outside the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Department continues to maintain its accredited status from the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission.

During the last year the Department's social media presence has continued to expand in efforts toward sharing more information with the community. Recently the Department posted 10 years of officer-involved shooting case summaries and data on our public web site. Our goal is to share information on officer-involved shooting cases in order for the community to better understand the investigative processes of

these events and to engage in dialogue on these matters.

In 2013, the Department created a Chief's Council on Diversity Recruitment. Its strategic mission is to assist the Department to increase the cultural diversity of the sworn, civilian, and volunteer workforce to better reflect the diversity of the communities we serve. When visiting the Chief's web site you can view the diversity scorecard accountability measure, read the Council's strategic plan document, and learn about the varied volunteer opportunities you can engage in with the Police Department.

Several community members have graciously volunteered time from their busy personal lives to establish and serve on a Communities of Trust Committee which is comprised of all public safety agencies and reports directly to the chairman of the County Board of Supervisors. This effort aligns well with recommendations from the Task Force on 21st Century Policing. Many forums have been held throughout the community and numerous initiatives are in development to increase public engagement with the community to build upon mutual trust.

The Police Department, along with the Community Services Board, other public safety agencies, and mental health advocates have partnered to develop additional crisis intervention programs, including a drop off center which will provide a viable jail diversion alternative for those in mental health crisis. We look forward to achieving this critical strategic goal.

In recent years a majority of our homicides have been domestic related. On July 1, 2015, the Fairfax County Police Department launched a Lethality Assessment Program in which all patrol officers have been

trained to administer an assessment to provide resources to victims of domestic violence which are available 24/7. This program truly demonstrates engagement with many partners who share our goal in increasing services and eliminating domestic violence.

In early 2015 another community engagement endeavor was launched with the creation of the Ad Hoc Police Policy and Practices Commission. This Commission is comprised of five sub-committees which are conducting reviews of the Police Department as related to use of force; communications; recruitment, diversity, and applicant vetting; and independent oversight and investigations. The Commission will make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors this fall. The Police Department is highly engaged with all of the community members serving on the Commission and we look forward to positive change recommendations to better serve all of Fairfax County.

The Police Department values technology advances and we are migrating to a new records management system to assist all personnel in achieving an intelligence led community policing model. The Department is also preparing to institute an electronic summons system for issuing traffic and criminal violations. Our patrol cruisers are equipped with in-car video recording devices and we are exploring the viability of body worn cameras with community stakeholders.

To learn more about the Fairfax County Police Department, please visit

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/>  
Welcome to Fairfax County, a great place to live, work, play and grow old.

— CHIEF EDWIN C. ROESSLER JR.



# NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

## Animal Welfare League of Alexandria

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria (AWLA) is responsible for animal services in the City of Alexandria, and also trains dogs, operates an animal shelter and provides humane education classes for children. According to Megan Webb, Executive Director of AWLA, the group has 27 full- and part-time staffers and over 150 volunteers.

AWLA takes in animals that have been rescued by the city, as well as animals that have been surrendered by their owners. In the year 2013, AWLA adopted out 1,041 pets to families.

AWLA cares for wild as well as domestic animals, from deer to possums to raccoons. The group also works closely with local vet clinics, who provide medical services to sick or injured animals who need care before they are ready for adoption. Opportunities to foster puppies and kittens are also available through AWLA. For more information or to learn how to volunteer with AWLA, visit [www.alexandrianimals.org](http://www.alexandrianimals.org), or call 703-838-4774.

## Fairfax County Animal Shelter

The Fairfax County Animal Shelter (FCAS) estimates that between 4,000 and 5,000 small animals come through its doors each year, according to its website. The shelter deals primarily with dogs and cats, but also other small animals like rabbits and

birds. A foster program is available through FCAS for the care of dogs and cats, and families who wish to be part of the foster program must go through a training session before taking animals into their homes. Other volunteer opportunities with the shelter range from telephone assistant to pet groomer and bather to cat socializer. Potential volunteers may submit an online application at [fairfaxcounty.gov/animalshelter](http://fairfaxcounty.gov/animalshelter), and must attend a volunteer orientation. For information on volunteering or adopting a pet, visit the website or call 703-830-1100.

## Humane Society of Fairfax County

The Humane Society of Fairfax County (HSFC) has a main office in Fairfax and a farm in Centreville. The farm is home to horses as well as nearly 30 dogs, according to HSFC Corresponding Secretary Marlene Hammer. A full-time manager lives at the farm to take care of the animals there.

The HSFC's main office is also home to the cats available for adoption through the group. Rather than being housed in crates, the cats are allowed to roam around in rooms at the shelter.

The Humane Society operates almost entirely on a volunteer basis. Aside from sheltering animals, they offer a pet food pantry as a service to the community and operate a thrift shop next door to the Fairfax location. Aside from one paid staff member, all proceeds from sales at the thrift shop go toward the shelter's operating costs. Visit [www.hsfc.org](http://www.hsfc.org) or call 703-385-7387.

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703-799-1200 | [TheFairfaxRetirement.com](http://TheFairfaxRetirement.com)



# MEGA ADOPTORAMA

## 2015

### LABOR DAY WEEKEND



**Sunday & Monday**  
September 6 & 7 • 12-3 p.m.

Seven Corners PetSmart  
6100 Arlington Blvd.  
Falls Church, VA

More info: [www.lostdogrescue.org](http://www.lostdogrescue.org)

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—Helena Scott



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# PARKS

AN INSIDER'S GUIDE TO MAJOR PARKS IN THE AREA

## National Parks

### GF Great Falls National Park

9200 Old Dominion Drive, McLean  
www.nps.gov/grfa  
Great Falls Park is open daily from 7 a.m. until dark. The Visitor Center and bookstore are open from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. daily, spring through fall seasons. Picnic, hike along the Potomac River. Swimming and wading in the Potomac are prohibited.

### GW George Washington Memorial Parkway

www.nps.gov/gwmp  
703-289-2500  
The GW Parkway includes more than 25 sites, ranging from historic homes to wildlife preserves. Join a ranger for a free program or explore sites independently. Some park sites, including Turkey Run Park, Theodore Roosevelt Island, Great Falls Park, etc., close at dark. The Parkway itself remains open 24 hours a day to vehicle traffic.

### WT Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts

1551 Trap Road, Vienna  
www.nps.gov/wotr/  
The only national park dedicated to presenting the performing arts. From May through September, multiple amphitheatres in the park present musicals, dance, opera, jazz, and popular and country music. Explore the park without the crowds from October - April. The Barns at Wolf Trap offer indoor entertainment through the winter months.

## State Park

### MN Mason Neck State Park

7301 High Point Rd. Lorton  
www.dcr.virginia.gov/state\_parks/mas.shtml#  
703-339-2385 or 703-339-2380 (visitor center)  
masonneck@dcr.virginia.gov  
The park's visitor center was expanded in 2010 to include a new exhibit room, gift shop and meeting room. There are several exhibits in the center, and with a view of Belmont Bay. Visitor center staff can answer questions and provide information on park trails, facilities and local points of interest. Pond study, bird watching, canoe trips, nature walks and talks, and GPS adventures are just a few of the exciting programs offered by park rangers.

## Regional Parks

### BR Bull Run Marina Regional Park & Atlantis Waterpark

7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville  
www.nvrpa.org/park/bull\_run/  
www.atlantisbullrun.com/  
703-631-0552  
Main park open all year for picnicking, hiking and family camping. Bull Run Public Shooting Center open all year. Group Camping open daily Jan. 7 through Nov. 11. Mini and disc golf open April through October. Hours vary. Atlantis Waterpark features pools, a giant dumping bucket, waterslides, and fun-filled activities for all ages. Atlantis is open from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day, and is a member of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority family of Waterparks. Neptune Reef snack bar sells food, beverages and sweets.

### CR Cameron Run Regional Park/Great Waves Waterpark

4001 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria  
www.nvrpa.org/park/cameron\_run/  
www.greatwaveswaterpark.com/  
703-960-0767  
Cameron Run Regional Park offers a variety of recreation facilities in an urban area, including Great Waves Water Park. Catch a wave in the wave pool, twist and turn down four-story water slides, take a plunge down speed slides, play with friends in the shallow waters of the play

pool. The park also features a deluxe miniature golf course, a nine-station batting cage, picnic shelters, and a special events pavilion.

### CH Carlyle House Historic Park

121 N. Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22314  
www.nvrpa.org/park/carlyle\_house\_historic\_park/  
703-549-2997  
The historic Carlyle House was completed in 1753 by British merchant John Carlyle for his bride, Sarah Fairfax of Belvoir, member of one of the most prestigious families in colonial Virginia. Their home quickly became a center of social and political life in Alexandria and gained a foothold in history when British General Braddock made the mansion his headquarters in 1755. On the National Register of Historic Places, Carlyle House is architecturally unique in Alexandria as the only stone, 18th-century Palladian-style house. Daily tours of the house, programs for schoolchildren, special events, exhibits and lectures explore the life and times of John Carlyle in pre-Revolutionary Alexandria. The site may be rented in the evenings for private functions and weddings.

### FH Fountainhead Regional Park

7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station  
www.nvrpa.org/park/fountainhead/  
703-250-9124  
The observation deck of the Marina Building at Fountainhead commands a spectacular view of the widest point of the Occoquan Reservoir. Summer activities include catfish tournaments, children's fishing tournament, paddleboat tours and more.

### HO Hemlock Overlook Regional Park

13220 Yates Ford Road, Clifton  
www.nvrpa.org/park/hemlock\_overlook/  
800-877-0954; 571-281-3556;  
Hemlock Overlook Regional Park offers a variety of outdoor and environmental education. Programs at Hemlock Overlook are open to the public and groups by reservation. Only the hiking and horse

trails may be used without prior arrangement.

### MBG Meadowlark Botanical Gardens

9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna  
www.nvrpa.org/park/meadowlark\_botanical\_gardens/  
703-255-3631  
This 95-acre complex of large ornamental display gardens and unique native plant collections is open year round and include walking trails, lakes, more than 20 varieties of cherry trees, irises, peonies, an extensive shade garden, native wildflowers, gazebos, birds, butterflies, seasonal blooms and foliage. The Atrium's indoor tropical garden setting is a popular meeting, reception, wedding and workshop location. Interpretive displays accompany a restored 18th-century cabin.

### OR Occoquan Regional Park

9751 Ox Road, Lorton  
www.nvrpa.org/park/occoquan/  
703-690-2121  
This park offers 400 acres of recreational space and a touch of the past with its historic brick kilns and the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial. Park lands, trails and associated waters are part of the Fairfax Cross-County Trail. Kayak rentals. One hour Tour Boat Rides on the Occoquan River to Belmont Bay and back. Offered Saturdays noon-5 p.m., Sunday 1-8 p.m., April 2 through Nov. 27. \$10 adults, \$5 children 12 and under, under age 4 are free.

### PB Pohick Bay Regional Park & Pirates Cove Waterpark

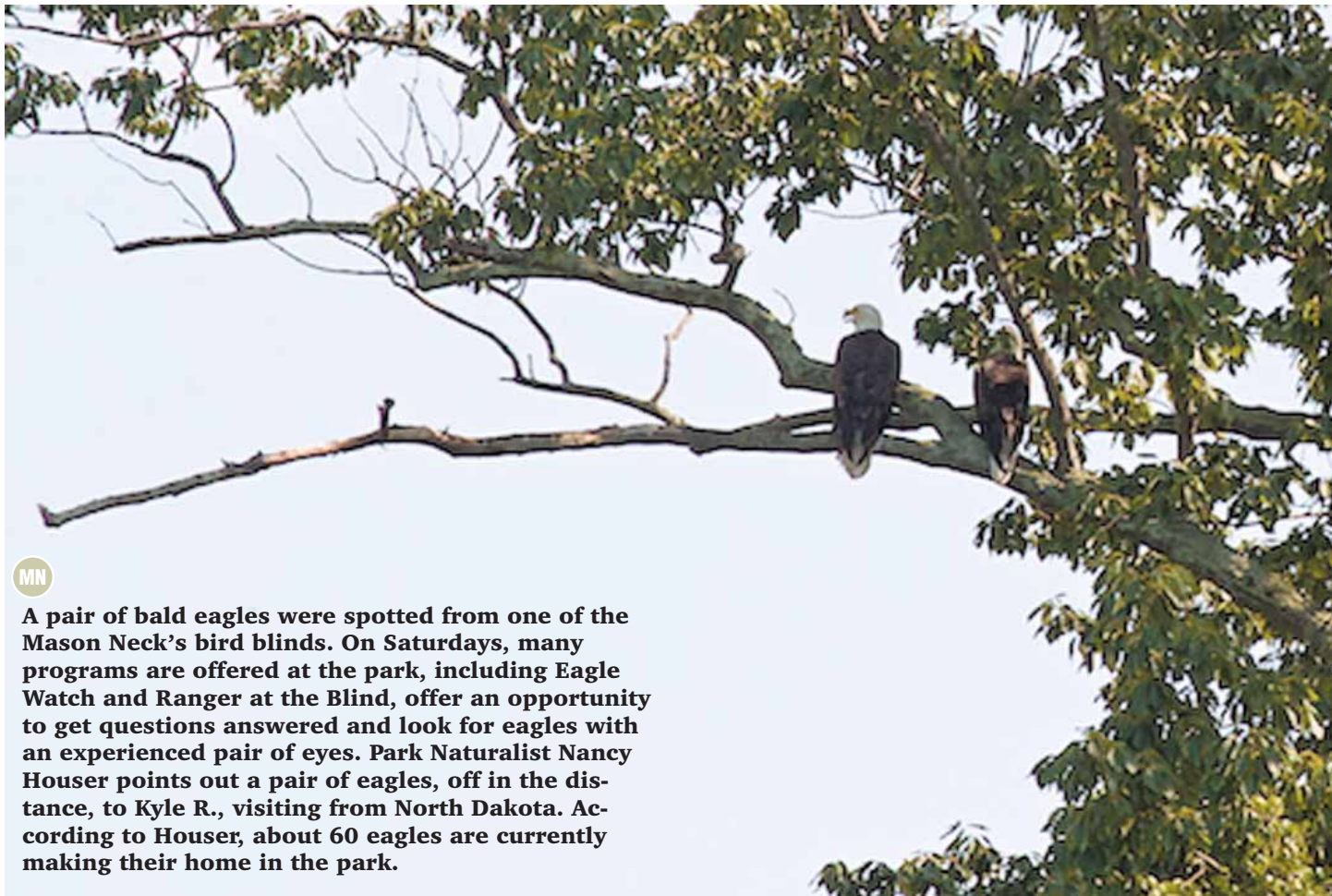
6501 Pohick Bay Drive, Lorton  
www.nvrpa.org/park/pohick\_bay/  
www.piratescovepohick.com  
703-339-6102

Pohick Bay is located on the Potomac River, 25 miles south of the nation's capital. The boat launch facility is one of only three public access points to the Potomac River in northern Virginia. Pohick Bay offers canoes, kayaks, paddle boats and jon boats for rent on the weekends, as well as family and group camping, hiking, picnic areas and a large play area for children. The park offers one of the largest, outdoor freeform pools on the east coast. Pohick Bay Regional Park, located on Mason Neck Peninsula is an ecologically fragile land that shelters an abundance of wildlife, including the bald eagle. Pirates Cove Waterpark is located at Pohick Bay Regional Park. Visitors can cool off under the 300-gallon dumping bucket, fire the water cannons and splash down the waterslide or search for buried treasure at Buccaneer Beach sand play area. Pirates Cove

**Sources:** National Park Service, Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, Virginia State Parks and Fairfax County Park Authority. Map courtesy of Fairfax County Park Authority. Designed & compiled by Jean Card and Laurence Foong. Photos by Renée Ruggles.







MN

**A pair of bald eagles were spotted from one of the Mason Neck's bird blinds. On Saturdays, many programs are offered at the park, including Eagle Watch and Ranger at the Blind, offer an opportunity to get questions answered and look for eagles with an experienced pair of eyes. Park Naturalist Nancy Houser points out a pair of eagles, off in the distance, to Kyle R., visiting from North Dakota. According to Houser, about 60 eagles are currently making their home in the park.**

also features picnic pavilions, a deck for sunning and playing, as well as plenty of shade. Captain's Galley snack bar features food, beverages and sweets. Pirates Cove is open from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day.

PB

**Pohick Bay Golf Course**  
10301 Gunston Road, Lorton  
www.nvrpa.org/park/pohick\_bay\_golf\_course  
703-339-8585

This scenic golf course is located on the Mason Neck Peninsula in Lorton. Pohick Bay's practice facility features a driving range with practice putting and chipping greens, and lessons from PGA pros. A full-service pro shop features an array of name-brand golf clubs, equipment and apparel. Other services include club making, custom club fitting, regripping, reshafting and tournament coordinating.

PO

**Potomac Overlook Regional Park & Nature Center**  
2845 Marcey Road, Arlington, VA 22207  
www.nvrpa.org/park/potomac\_overlook/  
703-528-5406

On the Potomac Palisades in north Arlington, Potomac Overlook offers 70 acres of peaceful woodland, trails, educational gardens, a small picnic area and a Nature Center. The Nature Center features brand new exhibits called the "Energerium," offering visitors a fun and accessible way to learn energy basics and ways they can help create sustainable energy solutions. The Nature Center also houses live animals and natural history exhibits.

SR

**Sandy Run Regional Park**  
10450 Van Thompson Road, Fairfax Station  
www.nvrpa.org/park/sandy\_run/  
703-690-4392

The park is open to the public for the purpose of education, training, practice, and racing for competitive and recreational sculling and rowing. Only shells and other boats authorized by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority may be launched from the docks or shoreline of Sandy Run. Sandy Run offers a facility for team training and competition for Olympic, college, high school and club canoe, kayak and crew athletes.

UH

**Upton Hill Regional Park & Ocean Dunes Waterpark**  
6060 Wilson Blvd., Arlington  
www.nvrpa.org/park/upton\_hill/  
www.oceanduneswaterpark.com/  
703-534-3437 or UptonHill@nvrpa.org

Upton Hill Regional Park offers visitors a wooded oasis in the heart of the most densely populated area of Northern Virginia. A large outdoor water-park complex is a sparkling attraction in

this wooded, urban park, which straddles the boundary line between Arlington and Fairfax counties. The deluxe miniature golf course boasts one of the longest mini golf holes in the world; the batting cages include nine baseball and softball cages. The park is open every day for hiking, picnicking, playing on the playground and enjoying the outdoors. Located within Upton Hill Regional Park, Ocean Dunes is loaded with fun features for adults and children.

## Arts Center

LAC Workhouse Arts Center

9601 Ox Road, Lorton  
www.lortonarts.org  
703-584-2900

The Workhouse Arts Center consists of seven studio buildings, the main galleries and the recently opened Youth Arts Center. Visitors are encouraged to interact with artists. In addition to visual arts, the Workhouse Arts Center is home to performing arts, including theater, film institute, musical and dance performances. The education department supports both the visual and performing arts, offering classes and workshops in a variety of disciplines. Future plans for the Workhouse include an event center, amphitheater, Workhouse Theatre, restaurants, apartments, music barn and garden/horticultural area. Other buildings on site, yet to be renovated, may provide for other activities such as a visitors center, a blacksmith shop, theatre scene shops and rehearsal space.



**The Ratcliffs, of Rockville, came out to enjoy a family bike ride. Cycling is a popular activity along the parkway.**

## Major Fairfax County Parks

BLP Burke Lake Park & Golf Course

7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station  
volleyball, driving range, 18 hole, par 3, minigolf, trails, playground, campgrounds, fishing  
883.4 acres, multiple resource park

CJP Clemyjontri Park

6317 Georgetown Pike, McLean  
fitness, picnic areas and playgrounds  
18.6 acres, special purpose park

ELP Ellanor C. Lawrence Park

5040 Walney Road, Chantilly  
baseball, soccer/football (unlit), basketball (unlit), community center, nature center, amphitheater, trails  
650 acres, multiple resource park

FPF Fryng Pan Farm Park

2717 West Ox Road, Herndon  
historic structure, biking/equestrian/hiking trails, open areas, playground  
135.3 acres, multiple resource park

GSG Green Spring Gardens

4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria  
Community Center, historic structure, biking/hiking

trails, open areas, gardens  
30.9 acres, special purpose park

HPP Hidden Pond Park

8511 Greeley Boulevard, Springfield  
tennis (lit), nature center, amphitheater, hiking/nature trails, playground, fishing  
25.6 acres, community park

HMP Huntley Meadows Park

3701 Lockheed Boulevard, Alexandria  
nature center, historic structure, biking/hiking/nature trails, observation tower, boardwalk  
1444.8 acres, natural resource park

LAP Lake Accotink Park

7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield  
basketball, volleyball, minigolf, trails, picnic  
448.1 acres, multiple resource park

LFP Lake Fairfax Park

1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston  
softball (lit), soccer/football (unlit), amphitheater, carousel, campground, tour boat, picnic shelters  
479 acres, multiple resource park

FRA Lee District Park

6601 Telegraph Road, Franconia  
softball, soccer/football, tennis, basketball, volleyball, trails, treehouse, sprayground, accessible playground  
138 acres, district park

MDP Mason District Park

6621 Columbia Pike, Annandale  
softball (lit), soccer/football (unlit/lit), basketball (lit), tennis (lit), shuffleboard, dog park, amphitheater, biking/hiking/fitness  
121.2 acres, district park

NWP Nottoway Park

9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna  
baseball (lit), soccer/football (lit), basketball (lit), tennis (lit), trails, picnic  
90.9 acres, district park

RBP Riverbend Park

8700 Potomac Hill Street, Great Falls  
nature center, historic structure, biking/equestrian/hiking trails, picnic areas, craft room  
411.2 acres, multiple resource park

SRN Scotts Run Nature Preserve

7400 Georgetown Pike, McLean  
historic structure, historic/hiking/nature trails, fishing  
384.3 acres, natural resource park

SRD South Run District

7550 Reservation Drive, Springfield  
baseball, soccer/football, basketball, tennis, recenter, equestrian, playground, swimming  
196 acres, district park

WFP Wakefield Park & RECenter

8100 Braddock Road, Annandale  
softball, soccer/football, basketball, tennis, recenter, biking, fitness trail, skate park  
292.6 acres, multiple resource park



**On Sunday evenings, the community gathers in the pavilion, to enjoy a summer concert series, sponsored by the Friends of Fort Hunt Park.**



# PARKS

A GUIDE TO FAIRFAX COUNTY PARKS IN THE  
SPRINGFIELD & MOUNT VERNON AREAS

PHOTOS BY RENÉE RUGGLES  
FEATURING GREEN SPRING GARDENS



**Map Number Park Name**  
Address, City  
Property Class

- 1 Lorton**  
9518 Richmond Highway, Alexandria  
Neighborhood Park
- 2 Springfield Forest**  
6400 Kalmia Street, Springfield  
Neighborhood Park
- 3 Franconia**  
6432 Bowie Drive, Springfield  
Community Park
- 4 Lee High**  
6501 Deepford Street, Springfield  
Community Park
- 5 Monticello Woods**  
6444 Northanna Drive, Springfield  
Community Park
- 6 Trailside**  
6000 Trailside Drive, Springfield  
Community Park
- 7 Loisdale**  
7419 Loisdale Road, Springfield  
Neighborhood Park
- 8 Lynbrook**  
6005 Augusta Drive, Springfield  
Neighborhood Park
- 9 Hoes Road**  
7233 Hoes Road, Springfield  
Community Park



**The historic house at Green Spring was built in 1784 by John Moss. Inside, visitors will find an art exhibit, a gift shop, and two tea rooms. The tea rooms can be reserved for private events and tastings.**

- 10 Springvale**  
6508 Spring Road, Springfield  
Community Park
- 11 Lake Accotink**  
7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield  
Multiple Resource Park
- 12 Brookfield**  
7417 Floyd Avenue, Springfield  
Community Park
- 13 Byron Avenue**  
6500 Byron Avenue, Springfield  
Community Park
- 14 Hoes Road School Site**  
7336 Hoes Road, Springfield  
Community Park
- 15 Kings Park**  
8717 Trafalgar Ct., Springfield  
Community Park
- 16 Flag Run**  
7620 Elgar Street, Springfield  
Neighborhood Park
- 17 Leewood**  
7111 Woodland Drive, Springfield  
Neighborhood Park
- 18 Deerlick**  
6821 Braddock Road, Springfield  
Community Park
- 19 Edsall**  
6845 Edsall Road, Springfield  
Community Park
- 20 North Springfield**  
7025 Leesville Boulevard, Springfield  
Neighborhood Park
- 21 Royal Ridge**  
7417 Floyd Avenue, Springfield  
Community Park
- 22 Carrleigh Parkway**  
8020 Carrleigh Prkwy, Springfield  
Neighborhood Park
- 23 Cardinal Forest**  
6121 Roxbury Avenue, Springfield  
Community Park
- 24 Hunter Village**  
7700 Jansen Drive, Springfield  
Community Park
- 25 Hidden Pond**  
8511 Greeley Boulevard, Springfield





Guests filled the Education Center to watch the dueling floral designers create arrangements from the same flowers and greenery, without being able to see each other's work. The building also houses a 3,000 volume horticultural library and a gift shop. Classes for children and adults are held year round.

Pat Shoop, a volunteer for the past nine years, offers Amarantha Flachs some lemon with her tea. The Flachs family, of Alexandria, registered for one of the park's programs that includes a traditional English tea in the one of the historic home's tea rooms.

Community Park  
**26 West Springfield**  
 6805 Caneel Street, Springfield  
 Neighborhood Park

**27 West Springfield Village**  
 6910 Loudoun Lane, Springfield  
 Neighborhood Park

**28 Rolling Forest**  
 7019 Flax Street, Springfield  
 Neighborhood Park

**29 Cherry Run**  
 7001 Cottontail Court, Springfield  
 Neighborhood Park

**30 South Run District**  
 7550 Reservation Drive, Springfield  
 District Park

**31 Huntsman**  
 9150 Dorothy Lane, Springfield  
 Community Park

**32 Rolling Wood School Site**  
 7511 Chancellor Way, Springfield  
 Community Park

**33 Chapel Acres**  
 7900 Giles Street, Springfield  
 Neighborhood Park

**34 Saratoga**  
 8121 North Umland Rd, Springfield  
 Community Park

**35 Loftridge**  
 5549 Janelle Street, Alexandria  
 Community Park

**36 Burgundy**  
 5516 Norton Road, Alexandria  
 Neighborhood Park

**37 Heritage Hill**  
 5744 Telegraph Road, Alexandria  
 Neighborhood Park

**38 Jefferson Manor**  
 2909 Farmington Drive, Alexandria  
 Community Park

**39 Huntington**  
 2121 Fairfax Terrace, Alexandria  
 Community Park

**40 Farrington Avenue**  
 2213 Farrington Avenue, Alexandria  
 Neighborhood Park

**41 Mt. Eagle**  
 5919 North Kings Highway, Alexandria  
 Community Park

**42 South Kings Forest**  
 4505 Lantern Place, Alexandria  
 Neighborhood Park



Green Spring Gardens is a 31-acre park located in Alexandria. The park has something to offer everyone. Beyond the gardens, it is a historic site, with trails, streams, an education center, gift shops, tea rooms, plant shop, and the assistance of Master Gardeners. Approximately 20 demonstration gardens create an outdoor classroom environment for visitors of all ages.

**43 Stoneybrooke**  
 3900 Stoneybrooke Drive, Alexandria  
 Community Park

**44 Groveton Heights**  
 3429 Clayborne Avenue, Alexandria  
 Community Park

**45 Huntley Historic**  
 6918 Harrison Lane, Alexandria  
 Natural Resource Park

**46 Lenclair**  
 6625 Lenclair Street, Alexandria  
 Neighborhood Park

**47 Bucknell Manor**  
 2223 Beacon Hill Road, Alexandria  
 Community Park

**48 Hybla Valley**  
 3431 Lockheed Boulevard, Alexandria  
 Neighborhood Park

**49 Huntley Meadows**  
 3701 Lockheed Boulevard, Alexandria  
 Natural Resource Park

**50 Hollin Meadows**  
 7603 Elba Road, Alexandria  
 Community Park

**51 Martin Luther King Jr**  
 8115 Fordson Road, Alexandria  
 Community Park

**52 Stephen S. Foster Intermediate School Site**  
 2500 Parkers Lane, Alexandria  
 Community Park

**53 Belle Haven**  
 6036 Grove Drive, Alexandria  
 Community Park

**54 Fort Willard Circle**  
 6625 Fort Willard Circle, Alexandria  
 Neighborhood Park

**55 Mount Vernon District**  
 2017 Belle View Boulevard, Alexandria  
 Multiple Resource Park

**56 Westgrove**  
 6801 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria  
 Community Park

**57 White Oaks**  
 7100 Devonshire Road, Alexandria  
 Neighborhood Park

**58 Gilbert S. McCutcheon**  
 7509 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria  
 Community Park

**59 Hollin Hall School Site**  
 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria  
 Community Park

**60 Kirk**  
 2206 Collingwood Road, Alexandria  
 Neighborhood Park

**61 Williamsburg Manor**  
 2213 Collingwood Road, Alexandria  
 Community Park

**62 Collingwood**  
 8200 West Boulevard Drive, Alexandria  
 Community Park

**63 Carl Sandburg School Site**  
 8428 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria  
 Community Park

**64 Stratford Landing**  
 2301 Stirrup Lane, Alexandria  
 Neighborhood Park

**65 Fort Hunt**  
 8822 Linton Lane, Alexandria  
 Community Park

**66 Muddy Hole Farm**  
 7941 Kidd Street, Alexandria  
 Community Park

**67 Mount Vernon Woods**  
 4014 Fielding Street, Alexandria  
 Community Park

**68 George Washington**  
 8426 Old Mount Vernon Road, Alexandria  
 Special Purpose Park

**69 Walt Whitman School Site**  
 8333 Richmond Highway, Alexandria  
 Community Park

**70 Mount Zephyr**  
 8601 Richmond Avenue, Alexandria  
 Neighborhood Park

**71 Washington Mill**  
 4341 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy,  
 Alexandria  
 Community Park

**72 Grist Mill**  
 4710 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy,  
 Alexandria  
 District Park

**73 Vernon Heights**  
 8225 Central Avenue, Alexandria  
 Neighborhood Park

**74 Bush Hill**  
 5417a Waycross Drive, Alexandria  
 Neighborhood Park

**75 Mark Twain**  
 5920 Larpin Lane, Alexandria  
 Community Park

**76 Clermont School Site**  
 4100 Franconia Road, Alexandria  
 Community Park

**77 Franconia Forest**  
 6013 Bitternut Road, Alexandria  
 Neighborhood Park

**78 Ridgeview**  
 4111 Duvawn Street, Alexandria  
 Community Park

**79 Wilton Woods School Site**  
 3701 Franconia Road, Alexandria  
 Neighborhood Park

**80 Tara Village**  
 6417 Joyce Road, Alexandria  
 Neighborhood Park

**81 Virginia Hills School Site**  
 6520 Diana Lane, Alexandria  
 Neighborhood Park

**82 Manchester Lakes**  
 6775 Beulah Street, Alexandria  
 Community Park

**83 Greendale Golf Course**  
 6700 Telegraph Road, Alexandria  
 Special Purpose Park

**84 Lee District**  
 6601 Telegraph Road, Franconia  
 District Park

**85 Dowden Terrace**  
 5616 Bradley Boulevard, Alexandria  
 Community Park

**86 Glasgow**  
 3935 Arcadia Road, Alexandria  
 Neighborhood Park

**87 Parklawn**  
 6454 Lincolnia Road, Alexandria  
 Community Park

**88 Glen Hills**  
 6090 Larstan Drive, Alexandria  
 Neighborhood Park

**89 Heywood Glen**  
 6210 Larstan Drive, Alexandria  
 Neighborhood Park

**90 Pinecrest Golf Course**  
 6600 Little River Turnpike, Alexandria  
 Special Purpose Park

**91 Green Spring Gardens**  
 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria  
 Special Purpose Park

**92 Bren Mar**  
 6324 Edsall Road, Alexandria  
 Community Park

**93 Backlick Run**  
 5590 First Statesman Lane, Alexandria  
 Community Park

**94 Beulah**  
 7119 Beulah Street, Alexandria  
 Community Park

**95 Amberleigh**  
 7516 Beulah Street, Alexandria  
 Community Park

**96 Hayfield**  
 7611 Hayfield Road, Alexandria  
 Community Park

**97 Wickford**  
 7331a Wickford Drive, Alexandria  
 Neighborhood Park



## NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

# Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve, a Watery Wonderland

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH  
PRESIDENT, FRIENDS OF  
DYKE MARSH

**T**housands of drivers whiz through a Mount Vernon jewel every day, harried commuters and soccer parents zipping through a national park and a rare, freshwater, tidal, vanishing wetland. Few stop to watch a Halloween pennant dragonfly patrol the waters, a bald eagle eviscerate a fish, planthopper bugs suck sap or swamp mallow blossoms open to the sun.

The George Washington Memorial Parkway splices through the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve in northern Mount Vernon along the Potomac River shoreline. It is the “nearest thing to primeval wilderness” in the Washington area, wrote Louis J. Halle in 1947 when he biked from the city at dawn to watch the wetland awaken. It was one of largest tidal, freshwater marshes in the Washington area and one of largest tidal, freshwater, temperate, climax, riverine, narrow-leaved cattail in the National Park Service (NPS) system.

Congress added the 485-acre preserve to the national park system in 1959 “so that



The Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve

acres, but it has shriveled to a 60-acre, fragile remnant. Erosion eats away almost two acres a year, at an accelerating rate which means it will be gone in 20 years, concluded the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

Dredging from 1940 to 1972 that hauled away almost half of the marsh destabilized the whole system, changing it “from a semi-stable net depositional environment into a strongly erosional one,” reported USGS.

Dyke Marsh is getting hit from all sides. On the west side, uncontrolled, mucky sediment flows into the marsh like lava during storms and turns the marsh orange.

Dyke Marsh has endured years of excavation, dumping, pollution, invasive species, poaching, illegal bow fishing, hunting, runoff, off-leash dogs and endless trash.

The good news: NPS is designing a restoration plan and has some funding.

Fairfax County has a plan to fix the gush of sediment pouring in from the west. Funds are needed.

Newcomers and old timers can enjoy some of Dyke Marsh’s wonders and help save this special place. Visit [www.fodm.org](http://www.fodm.org) to learn more.

PHOTO BY GLENDA C. BOOTH

fish and wildlife development and their preservation as wetland wildlife habitat shall be paramount.”

Dyke Marsh has 300 known species of

plants, 6,000 arthropods, 38 fish, 16 reptiles, 14 amphibians and over 230 birds. Parts of it are 2,000 years old.

The wetland once stretched to over 200

### VIEWPOINTS

“What do you like most about living here?”

COMPILED BY NINA RANESES  
AND DUNCAN HOAG

“Proximity to the river. Belle Haven Marina is fun to go kayaking. Huntley Meadows is fun for walking and Cosmopolitan Grill is great for eating.”

— Kara O’Connell

“The best thing is nature. Waking up with a five point buck on the lawn, seeing bald eagles on the drive to work, staring down foxes and squirrels on morning runs, and having baby birds hatch on your lamp post.”

— Sandra Darville

“Geography. The land here is flat and it makes it easier to see the beautiful colors of the sunrise and sunset.”

— Augusto Lejano

“I love how much there is to do here. We’re so close to D.C. and there’s so many cool museums and places to eat and honestly it’s just so much fun.”

— Peter Skudlarek

“[Alexandria] is like the perfect city. You have everything nearby, you have museums, you have the river, you have parks, and theatre ... you have everything.”

— Marcela Nader

### SERVING THE COMMUNITY

#### Mount Vernon At Home

2501 Sherwood Lane. Looking for a way to make a difference in the Mount Vernon community? Consider Mount Vernon At Home, a non-profit organization that relies on volunteer time and talent as it assists older adults to age in place in their homes. Its volunteers provide that extra help that make aging in place easier for seniors in their own neighborhood.

Volunteers are needed for local transportation to medical and personal appointments, errands, and grocery store trips; light handyman chores and home technology to name just a few. No minimum number of volunteer hours are required.

Call Mount Vernon At Home at 703-303-4060 or email [info@mountvernonathome.org](mailto:info@mountvernonathome.org) to learn more. Visit [www.mountvernonathome.org](http://www.mountvernonathome.org).

#### Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington Fairfax Area

5901 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Aims to help youth become confident, civic-minded, responsible adults through programs focused on education/career development, health and life skills, leadership, the arts, sports and recreation, and mentoring. Call 703-304-8631 or visit [www.bgcgw.org/fairfax/](http://www.bgcgw.org/fairfax/).

#### Mount Vernon Recreation Center

2017 Belle View Blvd. A fitness center with a 25-meter heated indoor pool with poolside spa, a

beach area with play features, locker rooms with showers and sauna, Fitness Center with Cybex VR2 equipment, pro shop items for sale, dance room, multi-purpose rooms and a year-round 200 foot by 85 foot indoor ice arena. Call 703-768-3224 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/rec/mvrec.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/rec/mvrec.htm).

#### Christian Relief Services

8301 Richmond Highway, Suite 900. Incorporated in 1985, in Virginia, through partnership with 14 agencies, Christian Relief Services offers up to 24 months of transitional housing, case management and supportive services for homeless people. Around the country, operates the affordable housing units. Call 703-317-9086 or visit [www.christianrelief.org](http://www.christianrelief.org).

#### Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services

8305-17B Richmond Highway. The goal of Good Shepherd, created in 1974, is to help bring an end to homelessness while promoting the self-sufficiency of homeless individuals with programs in counseling, grant services and housing location assistance. Call 703-768-9494 or visit [www.goodhousing.org](http://www.goodhousing.org).

#### New Hope Housing

Founded in 1977, New Hope Housing is an award-winning nonprofit agency in Northern Virginia committed to finding creative and lasting solutions to end the cycle of homelessness by offering homeless men, women, and children the services they need to change their lives and succeed.

Each year, New Hope Housing serves more than

1,500 people in outreach, shelter, and housing programs. Call 703-799-2293 or [www.newhopehousing.org](http://www.newhopehousing.org) to volunteer or learn more.

#### United Community Ministries (UCM)

7511 Fordson Road. Founded in 1969 as a grassroots movement to assist low-income families and individuals living along the Route One Corridor, UCM provides four different housing programs as well as a Workforce Development Center to help prepare people for moving forward with their jobs. Call 703-768-7106 or visit [www.ucmagency.org](http://www.ucmagency.org).

#### Progreso Literacy and Citizenship Center

A program of United Community Ministries, Progreso empowers immigrants to improve the quality of their lives and of their communities through education, immigration services, and leadership development. Visit [www.ucmagency.org/progreso-center-for-literacy-citizenship.html](http://www.ucmagency.org/progreso-center-for-literacy-citizenship.html).

#### Mount Vernon Rotary Club

The club works to provide educational scholarships, educate the next generation to motivate them to pursue world peace, and to simply care about human needs and be willing to take steps to help meet them.

Visit [www.localrotaryclub.com/MountVernonVirginiaRotaryClub](http://www.localrotaryclub.com/MountVernonVirginiaRotaryClub).



# NEWCOMERS GUIDE

## BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS

### Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce

6821 Richmond Highway. The chamber serves over 425 businesses in the Mount Vernon and Lee districts. Call 703-360-6925 or visit [www.mtvernon-leechamber.org](http://www.mtvernon-leechamber.org).

### Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation (SFDC)

6677 Richmond Highway, Second Floor. SFDC is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the redevelopment and revitalization of Richmond Highway/U.S. Route 1 from I-495 to Fort Belvoir. In the past 32 years, SFDC has helped direct nearly \$2 billion of private investment to the Richmond Highway corridor. Call 703-360-5008 or visit [www.sfdc.org](http://www.sfdc.org).

### Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Association

MVCCA is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization of citizens' associations in the Mount Vernon Magisterial District of Fairfax County which represents and promote the interests of its member associations with eight standing committees including Budget and Finance, Consumer Affairs, Education, Environment and Recreation, Health and Human Services, Planning and Zoning, Public Safety and Transportation. Visit [www.mvcca.org](http://www.mvcca.org).

### Pakistan American Business Association Inc. (PABA)

9302 Old Keene Mill Road, Suite B, Burke. PABA is a non-profit, bilateral trade association that promotes business opportunities between Pakistan and the United States of America, and nurtures leadership skills within the Pakistani American business community. Call 703-627-1500 or visit

[www.pabausa.org](http://www.pabausa.org).

### Northern Virginia Black Chamber of Commerce.

The Alexandria-based organization provides resources to black-owned businesses in Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William counties. Visit [www.northernvirginiabcc.org](http://www.northernvirginiabcc.org)

### Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Northern Virginia

Located in Herndon, the organization serves businesses lead by and those that work with the Hispanic community in the area. Visit [www.hccnva.org](http://www.hccnva.org).

### Asian American Chamber of Commerce

8300 Boone Blvd., Suite 450. Located in Tysons, it offers programs to Asian and Pacific business communities in the region. Call 703-752-6292 or visit [www.asian-americanchamber.org](http://www.asian-americanchamber.org).

### U.S. Lebanese Chamber of Commerce

A privately held business association founded in 2010 offering networking and resources to Lebanese Americans. Call 703-761-4949.

### Afghan American Chamber of Commerce (AACC)

8201 Greensboro Drive, Suite 103, McLean. AACC provides resources to members through business advice, conferences, seminars, networking events, publications and other avenues to stimulate U.S.-Afghanistan business and investment; also, sector-based Working Groups seek to reduce impediments to business and market progress for members. Call 703-442-5005 or visit [www.a-acc.org/](http://www.a-acc.org/).

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lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way. 2. not appreciated or understood. 3. no longer owned or known

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## September 2015

### ONGOING

**Wine in the Water Park.** Every Friday in September, beginning Sept. 4. 6-10 p.m. Crystal City Water Park, 1750 Crystal Drive. Combines sips and sounds to create an outdoor event featuring interesting wine varietals and music in the neighborhood's signature Crystal City Water Park. Visit [crystalcity.org](http://crystalcity.org) for more.

### FRIDAY/SEPT. 4

**Big Chalk Draw 2015.** 8-10 a.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. School supplies donations are welcome at this chalk art community event. Free. Call 703-360-4220 or visit [www.staidanepiscopal.com](http://www.staidanepiscopal.com).

### SATURDAY/SEPT. 12

**25th Annual Rosslyn Jazz Festival.** 1-7 p.m. Gateway Park, 1300 Lee Highway, Arlington. Artists to headline the festival include The Funk Ark, Sonny Knight and The Lakers, Debo Band and The Dirty Dozen Brass Band. Check [www.rosslynva.org/culture#events](http://www.rosslynva.org/culture#events) for updates.

**Memorial 5K.** 6 p.m. in Crystal City, Arlington. Honors the victims, firefighters, and public safety who responded on Sept. 11, 2001. \$35, \$40 entry fee. [www.wwww.arlington911race.com/](http://www.wwww.arlington911race.com/).

### SEPT. 12-25

**33rd Annual Senior Olympics.** Various times at various locations. Participants over 50 years old will participate in track and field, swimming, diving, tennis, table tennis, golf, miniature golf, ten pin bowling, Wii bowling, scrabble, duplicate bridge, cribbage, Mexican train dominoes, pickleball, racquetball, handball, volleyball, badminton, bocce, eight ball pool, cycling, horseshoes, yo-yo tricks, American style Mah Jongg, 5K run



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON

and more. Admission varies based on event. Visit [www.nvso.us](http://www.nvso.us).

### SATURDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 19-20

**Colonial Market And Fair.** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway. Visit the 18th century at this colonial celebration featuring crafting demonstrations, puppet shows, military drills, and traditional food and music. Tickets are \$9-17. Children age 5 and under are free. Visit [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org).

**King Street Art Festival.** Saturday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., 480 King St. In its 13th year, the festival features art displays, art giveaways and sales and live music. Free. Visit [www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/artfest](http://www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/artfest).

**Scottish Highlander Festival.** 10 a.m.-2:15 p.m. on Saturday; 11 a.m. on Sunday at Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N Fairfax St. Attend a fashion show, highland dance performance, or Celtic concert on Saturday or an Outlander Tea and Tour on Sunday. Prices vary based on activity. Visit [www.carlylehouse.org](http://www.carlylehouse.org) for more.

### SATURDAY/SEPT. 26

**St. Luke's Annual Craft Fair.** 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 8009 Fort Hunt Road, Mount Vernon. Connect with old friends and neighbors. Cold drinks and luncheon items from the St. Luke's grill will be available, along with a bake sale featuring cakes, pies, cookies and brownies. Also fresh produce from a

nearby farm, entertainment provided by a guest guitarist and two local pianists. For children, there will be a moonbounce, face-painting and games. Visit [www.saintlukeschurch.net](http://www.saintlukeschurch.net) or call 703-765-4342 for more.

### 74th Annual Historic Alexandria Homes Tour.

10 a.m.-3 p.m. in Old Town Alexandria. For the 74th annual Historic Alexandria Homes Tour, the public may visit six historic homes and gardens in Old Town Alexandria, all within walking distance of one another. Proceeds benefit Inova Alexandria Hospital. Tickets are \$35 through Sept. 25 and may be purchased online. Thereafter, tickets are \$40 and may be purchased at The Twig's Thrift Shop, 106 N Columbus St. Visit [www.thetwig.org/homes-tour](http://www.thetwig.org/homes-tour) for more.

### 3rd Annual Community Celebration and Business Expo.

11 a.m.-3 p.m. at INOVA Mount Vernon Hospital, 2501 Parkers Lane. Learn more about the community and local businesses. Take part in the chili cook-off, cute baby contest, ugly dog contest and scavenger hunt. Free to attend. Visit [www.mtvernon-leechamber.org](http://www.mtvernon-leechamber.org).

### SUNDAY-THURSDAY/SEPT. 27-OCT. 3

#### Fall for the Book Festival at GMU.

Times vary. Select locations throughout Northern Virginia, D.C., and Maryland. This week long regional celebration of literature and the arts, connects readers and authors at all levels. Offering bookworms the chance to meet their favorite writers. Free and open to the public. Visit [www.fallforthebook.org](http://www.fallforthebook.org).

## October 2015

### FRIDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 2-4

**Wine Festival and Sunset Tour.** 6-9 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Learn about the successes and failures of George Washington's wine endeavors, listen to live music and tour where Washington stored his wine. Tickets are \$36-\$46. Visit [www.mountvernon.org/calendar](http://www.mountvernon.org/calendar).

### SATURDAY/OCT. 3

**Charity 5k.** 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at Cameron

## George Washington's Mount Vernon

A popular tourist destination, George Washington's former estate-turned-museum, Mount Vernon regularly hosts special tours, dinners, and other educational events. Throughout the year guests may find a Colonial Fair and Market, Wine Festival, Christmas celebrations, a naturalization ceremony celebrating new U.S. citizens, and more. The estate is open for regular tours 365 days a year, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Regular admission tickets are \$17 for adults, \$16 for seniors (aged 62 and over), \$9 for youth (aged 6-11), and free for children (younger than 5). Visit [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org) to learn more.

Run Park, 4001 Eisenhower Ave. Run or walk to promote traffic safety. \$20-35 per person, depending on when you register. Visit [www.theartofdriving.org/ART\\_5K/](http://www.theartofdriving.org/ART_5K/).

**Art on the Ave.** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. along Mt. Vernon Avenue, Del Ray. Multi-cultural arts festival featuring music, art, and food. Rain or shine. Free. Visit [www.artontheavenue.org](http://www.artontheavenue.org).

### FRIDAY/OCT. 16

**Art on Tap 2015.** 7-10:30 p.m. at The Art League Gallery, 105 N Union St. Craft brews from local breweries get paired with a work of art by an Art League instructor, and local restaurants choose a brew/artwork coupling to serve as their muse for an appetizer. Guests vote on their favorite trifecta. Tickets are \$35-45. Visit [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org).

### FRIDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 16-18

**FreedomWalk Festival.** The U.S. FreedomWalk Festival is a weekend long, non-competitive, social walking challenge bringing participants of all ages and abilities together for fun, fitness, and international friendship. Different trails will be offered each day, and a variety of distances ranging from 3-27 miles. Visit [www.usfreedomwalk.org/](http://www.usfreedomwalk.org/).

### FRIDAY-SATURDAY/OCT. 23-24

**Halloween Pumpkin Hunt.** 5:30 p.m. on Friday and 1:30 p.m.; 3:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. on Saturday at Lee-Fendall House Museum, 614 Oronoco St. Elementary school-aged children and younger may participate in the hunt and will receive a toy pumpkin. The event will also feature Halloween crafts, food and drink, ghost stories and a costume parade. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$12 for children participating in the hunt. Visit [www.leafendallhouse.org](http://www.leafendallhouse.org) or contact John Christiansen at 703-548-1789 or [contact@leafendallhouse.org](mailto:contact@leafendallhouse.org).

### SATURDAY/OCT. 24

**VolunteerFest.** A region-wide day of community service helps nonprofits accomplish tasks they would not have time or resources to do on their own. Visit [www.volunteerfairfax.org/individuals/volunteerfest.php](http://www.volunteerfairfax.org/individuals/volunteerfest.php) for more.



PHOTO BY RENEE RUGGLES

**Young Kaelin concentrated on her work at a past Big Chalk Draw. It takes place each year at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church. The church accepts donations of school supplies for the upcoming school year.**



## SATURDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 24-25

**Fall Harvest Family Days.** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Pioneer Farm in George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Celebrate the beginning of autumn with the family at Mount Vernon with activities including wagon rides, apple-roasting and a straw bale maze. The event is included with purchase of admission to Mount Vernon; tickets are \$17 for adults, \$9 for children, \$16 for seniors and free for children 5 years and younger. Visit [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org) for more.

## November 2015

### TUESDAY/NOV. 3

**Election Day.** General election. Visit [www.sbe.virginia.gov/](http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/) and [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/upcoming.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/upcoming.htm).

### FRIDAY-SATURDAY/NOV. 6-8

**Alexandria Film Festival.** AMC Hoffman Center 22, 206 Swamp Fox Road and Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. The Alexandria Film Festival brings together short and feature length films of all genres from emerging and established, local and international filmmakers. Last

year, the festival brought more than 60 films and 50 filmmakers to Alexandria from as far as Sri Lanka and Uruguay. All ticketed events will be held at the AMC Hoffman Theater 22, with Beatley Central Library offering free programs to the public. Visit [www.alexandriafilm.org](http://www.alexandriafilm.org) for more.

### WEDNESDAY/NOV. 11

**Mount Vernon Salutes Veterans.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Honored guests (veterans) are invited to place a flower at Washington's tomb, enjoy a concert by the Harmony Heritage Singers and the United States Air Force String Orchestra. Free for veterans and active duty military members, \$9-17 for everyone else. See [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org) for more.

### Arlington National Cemetery

**Veterans Day Ceremony.** Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington. About 5,000 visitors attend the annual remembrance ceremonies in the Memorial Amphitheater. Visit [www.arlingtoncemetery.mil](http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil).

### FRIDAY/NOV. 27

**Tree Lighting Ceremony.** 6 p.m. at Market Square, 301 King St. Attend

the ceremony in which the City Tree is lit and visited by Santa, the Town Crier, and other city officials. Free. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov](http://www.alexandriava.gov) for more.

### NOV. 28-JAN. 6

**Christmas at Mount Vernon.** 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon. Mount Vernon decks the halls with themed Christmas trees on the estate and festive greenery in the Mansion. Visit [www.mountvernon.org/christmas](http://www.mountvernon.org/christmas).

## December 2015

### FRIDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 4-6

**Fine Art & Fine Craft Holiday Market 2015.** Colasanto Park, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. The market offers handmade fine arts and fine crafts from local artists (including pottery/ceramics, photography, jewelry, cloth, paper crafts, and glass). Free. Visit [www.thedelrayartisans.org](http://www.thedelrayartisans.org).

### SATURDAY/DEC. 5

**45th Annual Campagna Center Scottish Walk Parade.** 11 a.m. Old Town Alexandria, the parade begins at St. Asaph and Wolfe Streets. More than 100 Scottish Clans, pipe and drum bands, Scottish dancers, re-enactment groups, Scottie dogs, dignitaries and, of course, Santa Claus will march through the streets of Old Town. Visit [www.campagnacenter.org/scottishwalkweekend/parade](http://www.campagnacenter.org/scottishwalkweekend/parade).

### THURSDAY/DEC. 31

**First Night Alexandria.** Events take place throughout the day at numerous venues around the City of Alexandria. Visit [www.firstnightalexandria.org](http://www.firstnightalexandria.org) for more.

## February 2016

### MID-FEBRUARY

**Community Tax Assistance Day.** Fairfax SkillSource Center, 7611 Little River Turnpike, Suite 300 West, Annandale. The IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offers free assistance with 2015 Federal and state tax returns for households with a total income of \$52,000 or less. Visit [www.volunteerfairfax.org/individuals/vita.php](http://www.volunteerfairfax.org/individuals/vita.php).

## March 2016

**Persian New Year Celebration.** The Nowruz Festival celebrating the Persian New Year will include entertainment from musicians, dancers, artists, costumed characters, and traditional players. About 55 street vendors will be offering traditional and exotic foods, as well as jewelry, crafts, and other traditional Persian products. Visit [www.nowruzfestival.org](http://www.nowruzfestival.org) for more.

### SECOND TUESDAY IN MARCH

**Clarendon Mardi Gras Parade.** Annual parade to celebrating Fat Tuesday. Visit [www.clarendon.org/mardi-gras](http://www.clarendon.org/mardi-gras).

### FRIDAY/MARCH 20-SUNDAY/APRIL 17

**National Cherry Blossom Festival.** Enjoy world-class entertainment from the U.S. and Japan as they welcome springtime and celebrate the anniversary of the gift of trees from Tokyo to Washington, D.C. Visit [www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org](http://www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org).



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT

Thousands of residents and guests watch the firework display from Oronoco Bay Park at the conclusion of the annual Alexandria Birthday Celebration.

## April 2016

### APRIL - JUNE

**Relay for Life.** Fundraisers participate in all-night-long events to help those affected by cancer through the American Cancer Society. Visit [www.relayforlife.org](http://www.relayforlife.org) for specific events and details.

### SATURDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 16-17

**4th Annual Arlington Festival of the Arts.** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Highland Street in the Clarendon District, Arlington. More than 100 artists will showcase their work including paintings, jewelry, pottery, glass, and much more. Visit [artfestival.com](http://artfestival.com) for more.

### SATURDAY/APRIL 23-30

**Historic Garden Week.** This eight-day statewide event provides visitors an opportunity to see gardens, as well as houses with more than 2,000 flower arrangements created by Garden Club of Virginia members. Visit [www.vagardenweek.org](http://www.vagardenweek.org).

## May 2016

### MONDAY/MAY 23

**Memorial Day Jazz Concert.** 1-6 p.m. at Waterfront Park, Alexandria. A variety of jazz performances take place throughout the concert. Waterfront Park features lawn seating and the attendees may bring

lawn chairs and blankets. Food, such as barbeque, fried chicken, hot dogs, hamburgers, snow cones and funnel cakes are available for purchase, but everyone is welcome to pack a picnic lunch. Pets should be left at home. Admission is free. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation](http://www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation) for more.

## July 2016

### SECOND SATURDAY IN JULY

**USA and Alexandria Birthday Celebration.** Oronoco Bay Park, 100 Madison Street, Alexandria. Celebrate Alexandria's 265th birthday along the Potomac waterfront with fireworks, cake and live music. Visit [www.visitalexandriava.com/events/USA-Alexandria-Birthday-Celebration/6607](http://www.visitalexandriava.com/events/USA-Alexandria-Birthday-Celebration/6607).

## August 2016

**Summer Restaurant Week.** Mid-August, in neighborhoods throughout Alexandria, including Old Town, Del Ray, Carlyle and West End. Menu options vary by location. Visit [www.AlexandriaRestaurantWeek.com](http://www.AlexandriaRestaurantWeek.com) or call 703-746-3301 for more.

**Ice Cream Making.** Saturdays in August. 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at 3200 Mt. Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. Cool down with 18th century ice cream making demonstrations. Admission: Adults, \$18; Children, \$9; Under 5, free. Visit [www.mountvernon.org/](http://www.mountvernon.org/) for more.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

## Celebrate The Persian New Year

The Nowruz Festival, a colorful celebration of the Persian New Year, visits Alexandria each year in March. Hundreds gather to partake in traditional Iranian food, art, music, and performances. Admission to the festival is usually free, and well-attended by vendors offering food, crafts, books, and more. Visit [www.nowruzfestival.org](http://www.nowruzfestival.org).



# NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

## OUT & ABOUT

### Mount Vernon Community Children's Theatre (MVCCT)

1900 Elkin St., Alexandria. MVCCT's programs are twofold: each year three to four productions are presented, directed by professionals and featuring children in all roles. Additionally MVCCT, a nonprofit, has an active education program which includes

after-school programs in Fairfax County Public Schools (both PTA sponsored and outreach/grant based), as well as a spring break and summer camp. Call 703-360-0686 or [www.mvcct.org](http://www.mvcct.org).

### Mount Vernon Inn at George Washington's Mount Vernon

Mount Vernon Inn at George

Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon.

Listen to live music while enjoying a meal on the grounds of the first president's home.

### The Birchmere

3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. World-famous concert venue for classical, blues, jazz as well as up-and-coming artists from various genres.

Call 703-549-7500 or visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com).

## Demographic Snapshot of Mount Vernon

**Zip code:** 22309  
**Population:** 33,220  
**Race:** White-15,865 (47.8%), Black/African American-8,585 (25.8%), American Indian and Alaska Native-222 (0.7%), Asian-2,503 (7.5%), Hispanic or Latino (of any race)-9,260 (27.9%)  
**Total housing units:** 12,006  
**Owner-occupied housing units:** 7,487 (64.5%)  
**Households with individuals under 18 years:** 4,507 (38.8%)  
**Households with individuals 65 years and over:** 2,349 (20.2%)  
**Median household income:** 83,092  
**Mean family income:** 121,989  
**Population 5 years and over who speaks a language other than English at home:** 41.6%

**Zip code:** 22306  
**Population:** 32,326  
**Race:** White-14,594 (45.1%), Black/African American-8,811 (27.3%), American Indian and Alaska Native-159 (0.5%), Asian-2,760 (8.5%), Hispanic or Latino (of any race)-9,508  
**Total housing units:** 12,295  
**Owner-occupied housing units:** 5,562 (47.4%)  
**Households with individuals under 18 years:** 4,640 (39.5%)  
**Households with individuals 65 years and over:** 2,056 (17.5%)  
**Median household income:** 59,243  
**Mean family income:** 96,773  
**Population 5 years and over who speaks a language other than English at home:** 41.8%

**Zip code:** 22307  
**Population:** 9,581  
**Race:** White-8,012 (83.6%), Black/African American-588 (6.1%), American Indian and Alaska Native-31 (0.3%), Asian-334 (3.5%), Hispanic or Latino (of any race)-990 (10.3%)  
**Total housing units:** 4,823  
**Owner-occupied housing units:** 3,391 (76.8%)  
**Households with individuals**

**under 18 years:** 1,084 (24.5%)  
**Households with individuals 65 years and over:** 1,222 (27.7%)  
**Median household income:** 103,026  
**Mean family income:** 191,979  
**Population 5 years and over who speaks a language other than English at home:** 13.5%

**Zip code:** 22308  
**Population:** 12,737  
**Race:** White-11,716 (92%), Black/African American-274 (2.2%), American Indian and Alaska Native-21 (0.2%), Asian-329 (2.6%), Hispanic or Latino (of any race)-521 (4.1%)  
**Total housing units:** 4,816  
**Owner-occupied housing units:** 4,239 (92%)  
**Households with individuals under 18 years:** 1,893 (41.1%)  
**Households with individuals 65 years and over:** 1,444 (31.3%)  
**Median household income:** 161,953  
**Mean family income:** 202,299  
**Population 5 years and over who speaks a language other than English at home:** 9.9%

**Zip code:** 22303  
**Population:** 12,601  
**Race:** White-7,754 (61.5%), Black/African American-1,611 (12.8%), American Indian and Alaska Native-65 (0.5%), Asian-1,219 (9.7%), Hispanic or Latino (of any race)-2,940 (23.3%)  
**Total housing units:** 7,108  
**Owner-occupied housing units:** 2,880 (46.2%)  
**Households with individuals under 18 years:** 1,095 (17.6%)  
**Households with individuals 65 years and over:** 1,092 (17.5%)  
**Median household income:** 76,950  
**Mean family income:** 98,342  
**Population 5 years and over who speaks a language other than English at home:** 39.2%  
 Source: U.S. Census 2010; American Community Survey 2012

"Community" is our middle name!



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We mobilize the power of community to equip, educate, and empower people to measurably improve their lives.



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## Join Us at the Heart of Community!

UCM is truly a network of connected and engaged individuals, supporting each other, helping neighbors in need – and creating a successful Mount Vernon community.

- We help with the basics, including counseling, food and financial assistance, referrals.
- Children are our future. We provide education and enriching programs for the next generation, including early learning, youth development and leadership programs, computer skills.
- We help adults find work, including job coaching, skill-building classes, ESL, citizenship.

### UCM's Back Porch Thrift Store

Mon.-Sat. 10am-6.30pm, Sun. 12pm-6.30pm

- Values on clothing, furniture, collectibles, more!
- 100% of proceeds stay in our community
- Our truck can pick up your large donations

[backporchthrift.org](http://backporchthrift.org)

8794-A Sacramento Dr., Alexandria VA 22309  
703.799.7015

### UCM Early Learning Center

Enrolling now: ages 6 wks - PreK

- Educating children for more than 25 years
- Compassionate & credentialed staff
- Located between Fort Belvoir & the Beltway

[ucmearlylearning.org](http://ucmearlylearning.org)

2709 Popkins Lane, Alexandria VA 22306  
703.765.0909



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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

### Animal Control Officer Siobhan Chase

## Rescued

A Great Blue Heron was rescued by an animal control officer after it was injured in Huntley Meadows Park recently. Officer Siobhan Chase received the call for the injured bird around 6:45 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 6. A passerby saw the bird standing in the wetlands when a snapping turtle bit its leg. Chase located the bird in the wetland water near the boardwalk but when she approached, the bird moved deeper into the water, unable to fly. Chase walked into the water and rescued the injured bird. The bird was then taken to a local veterinarian, who contacted a wildlife rescue league to assist in its recovery.



## NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

# Road Projects in Region To Keep Traffic Moving

In Northern Virginia, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is working to keep up with growth in the area with transportation projects at both ends of the spectrum. Whether it's a new highway overpass, intersection improvement, or high occupancy toll lanes, the goal at VDOT is to keep the traffic moving.

On the Capital Beltway (I-495), the 495 Express Lanes opened in 2012 to give motorists an option when traveling through this corridor. Two additional lanes were constructed on the beltway in each direction between the Springfield Interchange (where I-95, I-495 and I-395 meet south of Washington) and a point on the beltway just north of the Dulles Toll Road. These lanes are free to vehicles with three or more occupants, while vehicles with one or two occupants will be able to use the lanes by paying a toll electronically. The express lanes use dynamic pricing to manage the flow of traffic and keep motorists moving, and roadside equipment monitors traffic, adjusting toll prices periodically to maintain free-flowing travel. As traffic increases, the toll price goes up to manage demand.

In December 2014, VDOT opened a 29-mile stretch of express lanes on I-95/395 between a point just north of Edsall Road in Alexandria, to Garrisonville Road (Route 610) in the south. These express lanes are reversible: on weekday mornings, the lanes



**In the over-night hours, crews pour the deck for the Seminary Road bridge over I-395.**

PHOTO BY VDOT

head-north to cater to commuters heading to busy employment centers like Tysons Corner and Washington, D.C.; and in the afternoons, the lanes head south. Again, vehicles with three occupants can use the 95 Express Lanes for free, while cars with one or two occupants can choose to use the lanes by paying a toll, which varies depending on the number of cars in the lanes at that time. All vehicles using the 495 or 95 Express Lanes need an E-ZPass, or an E-ZPass Flex, which has a switch to engage the toll-free option when there are three or more occupants.

Another highway construction project is underway at Seminary Road and I-395 in Alexandria. There VDOT is building a multi-faceted project that include a new 0.8-mile auxiliary lane on I-395 North between Duke

Street and Seminary Road, as well as a new ramp from the HOV lanes to the Seminary Road bridge overpass, and a new pedestrian bridge over I-395. These projects are intended to improve the flow of traffic associated with the Mark Center, a federal government building located in that area. The auxiliary lane opened in February with the HOV ramp and the stand-alone pedestrian bridge scheduled to open later this fall.

**OTHER** recently opened "Megaprojects" include the Fairfax County Parkway Extension, linking Springfield to Richmond Highway in southern Fairfax County; the fourth lane-widening project, which added an extra lane on I-95 North and South between Springfield and Occoquan; the Telegraph Road interchange on the Capital Beltway

in Alexandria; and the 495 Shoulder Lane project on the inner loop of I-495 between the 495 Express Lanes' northern endpoint and the George Washington Memorial Highway. Similar to the shoulder lane on I-66, this shoulder lane is open during the morning and evening rush hours, with a red "X" or green arrow signaling its availability for travel.

In Arlington, just west of I-395, VDOT is putting finishing touches this summer on a new bridge carrying Washington Boulevard over Columbia Pike. This new bridge replaces a 1940s-era bridge, and includes bike and pedestrian access along Columbia Pike plus room for a future streetcar if needed. The bridge was renamed the Freedmans Bridge after the historical "Freedmans Village," a community the Federal government established in 1863 for newly freed slaves, that once occupied this area of Arlington.

VDOT officials are now looking to transform Northern Virginia's Interstate 66 into a multi-modal corridor that moves traffic and people quicker and in a more reliable way. The project, known as Transform 66, is a multi-modal proposal that will to incorporate transit, carpooling and express lanes. The project is divided into a 25-mile stretch between Haymarket and the Capital Beltway, and a separate project inside the beltway with a toll option for travel through Falls Church and Arlington.

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## NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

# Getting To Know Mount Vernon Sports

## Softball, boys' lacrosse teams reached conference finals.

**School:** Mount Vernon High School

**Mascot:** Majors

**School Colors:** Maroon, gray and white

**Athletic Director:** Greg Miller, 703-619-3140

**Football Coach:** Barry Wells (sixth year)

The Majors finished 0-10 in 2014. It was the second time in six seasons the program failed to win a game.

**Field Hockey Coach:** Jessica Edwards

**Volleyball Coach:** Amy DeBok

**Golf Coach:** Sam Hedenberg.

**Boys' Basketball Coach:** Lou Golden.

**Girls' Basketball Coach:** India Thomas.

**Boys' Soccer Coach:** Tony Garza.

**Softball Coach:** Daniel Coast.

**Rival School:** West Potomac

**What happened last year:** Bill Adusei-Poku, then a junior, won the 5A 138-pound state wrestling championship. The field hockey team finished 12-6-3 and qualified for the 5A North regional tournament. The girls' basketball team reached the regional quarterfinals. The boys' basketball team qualified for the regional tournament. The softball team lost to

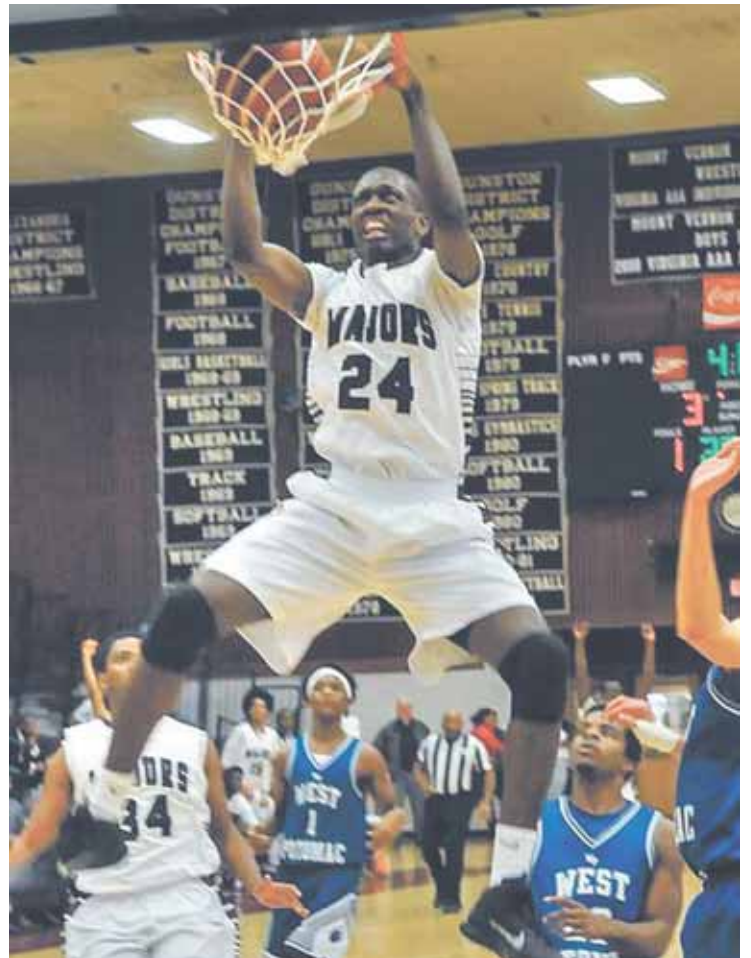
Marshall in the Conference 13 championship game for the second straight year and advanced to the region tournament. The boys' lacrosse team lost to Marshall in the conference final.

**Notable:** Mount Vernon, a member of the 5A North region's Conference 13 for the previous two seasons, transitions to the 6A North region's Conference 7 — a move based on an increase in enrollment. It will be the Majors' third different district/conference in four years.

**Quotable:** "It's great to throw one down in front of the crowd. It felt pretty good. I was glad I was able to get the crowd hyped and my team hyped." — Then-senior Earnest Jones, talking about his dunk during the boys' basketball team's 72-63 overtime victory over rival West Potomac.

**Mount Vernon then-senior Earnest Jones throws down a dunk during the Majors 72-63 overtime victory over West Potomac on Dec. 9, 2014.**

GAZETTE FILE  
PHOTO



# Getting To Know West Potomac Sports

## Boys' soccer team won the Conference 7 championship.

**School:** West Potomac High School

**Mascot:** Wolverines

**School Colors:** Royal blue and silver

**Athletic Director:** Aaron Helmick, 703-718-2560

**Football Coach:** Jeremiah Ross (second year)

The Wolverines finished 4-6 in 2014, including 1-5 against Conference 7 opponents.

**Cross Country Coach:** Jenn Dietz

**Volleyball Coach:** Nancy Nixon

**Boys' Basketball Coach:** David Houston III

**Girls' Basketball Coach:** Lauren Arthur

**Baseball Coach:** Jim Sullivan

**Softball Coach:** Craig Maniglia

**Boys' Soccer Coach:** Ahmad Sasso

**Girls' Lacrosse Coach:** Cindy Lopez-Yusuf

**Rival Schools:** Mount Vernon, T.C. Williams

**What happened last year:** Joshua Carter, then a senior, won the 160-pound 6A North region wrestling championship.

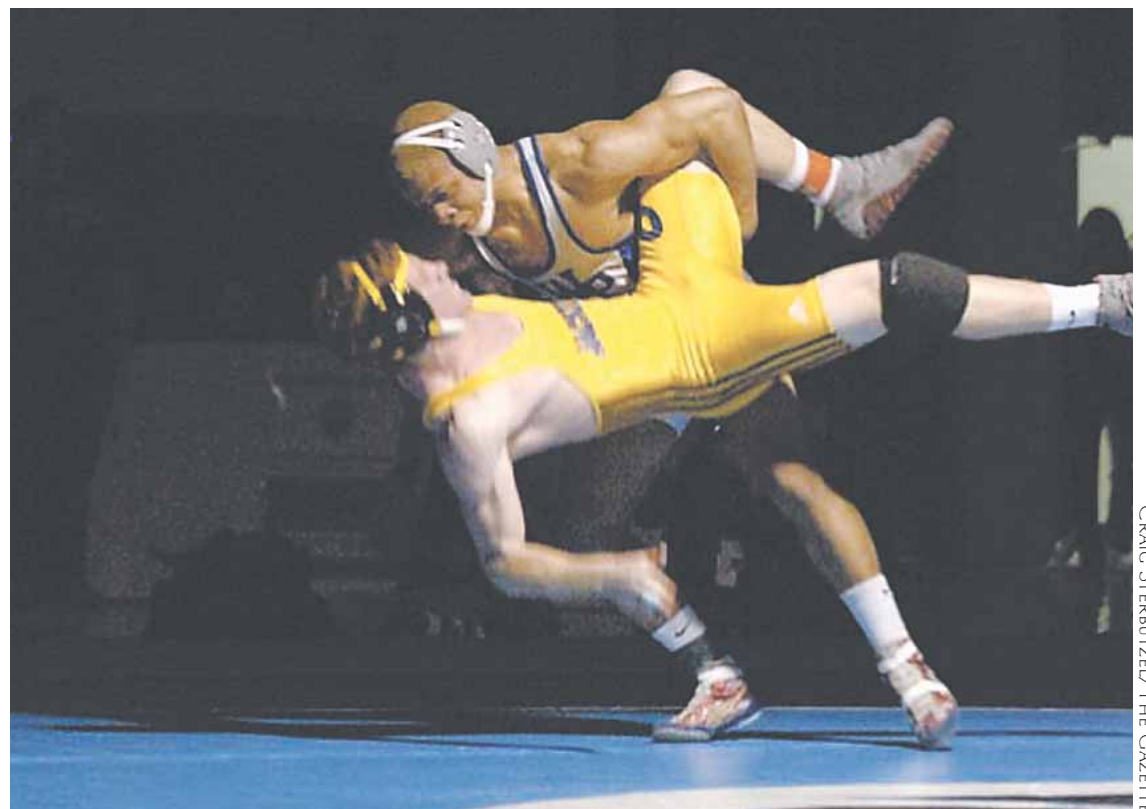
The boys' soccer team won the Conference 7 championship. The girls' lacrosse team reached the conference final, losing to Woodson.

The softball team qualified for the region tournament.

**Notable:** The 2015 West Potomac girls' lacrosse team hosted a regional tournament game for the first time in at least a decade.

The Wolverines finished 7-6-4 and reached the Conference 7 championship game, losing to Woodson. West Potomac lost to McLean in the opening round of regionals.

**Quotable:** "I think that we have become a team that is more skilled than what it has been in the past. I think our biggest issue and what we're looking to overcome in the next season is our mental



**Former West Potomac wrestler Joshua Carter, then a senior, won the 160-pound 6A North region championship in 2015.**

toughness and being able to handle these high-pressure situations. These girls, especially the ones who are in leadership, aren't used to being in these types of situ-

ations where they're in high-pressure games. And my hope is as we continue to grow the program that they'll be able to handle these tough, tight, high-competition

games better and better." — Girls' lacrosse coach Cindy Lopez-Yusuf after the Wolverines lost in the opening round of the regional tournament.

CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE GAZETTE