



Mount Vernon Gazette

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NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

2017-2018



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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.

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.

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.

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.

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 to volunteer or learn more.

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.

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

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 to assist older adults to age in place in their homes. Its volunteers provide extra help that makes aging in place easier for seniors in their own neighborhoods.

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.

Contact Mount Vernon At Home at 703-303-4060, email info@mountvernonathome.org or visit www.mountvernonathome.org to learn more.

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NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

Route 1: A Transit Story Problems and solutions to Mount Vernon's Route 1 woes.

BY VERNON MILES
THE GAZETTE

Route 1 is the heart of Mount Vernon. It runs right through the center of the area, all of the streets and commercial areas more or less connected to it. But it is clogged. The Metro stops at Huntington, and public transit south of there is limited. Those traveling south almost always need to do so by car, but in some places the six-lane highway narrows to four lanes. It's not a roadway in a healthy condition.

But that's starting to change. The Embark Richmond Highway initiative is a series of ongoing projects and proposals to fix transit along Route 1. Some projects like highway widening are already in process, others like an extension of the Metro line are still in the early conceptual stages.

Del. Paul Krizek said there are three main challenges on Route 1. The first challenge is that narrowing to four lanes through Mount Vernon.

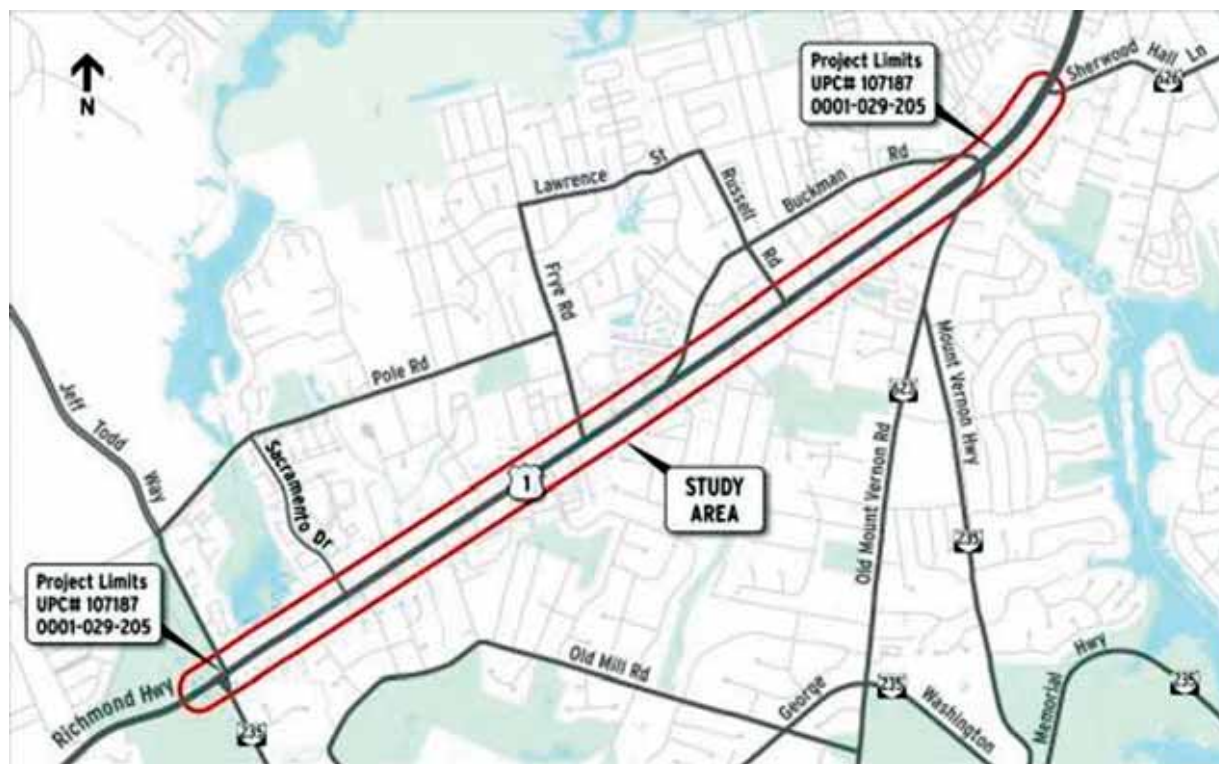
"That issue, which is fundamental to keeping traffic flowing, is being addressed with the new road widening, called the Richmond Highway Corridor Improvements Project," said Krizek.

Construction began on street widening in June 2013. On Aug. 4, 2017, officials celebrated the completion of a widening of Route 1 between Jeff Todd Way and Telegraph Road, the first stage of widening along Route 1. But the next stage is three miles of widening north of Jeff Todd Way, up to Napper Road near the border with Alexandria.

"That issue, which is fundamental to keeping traffic flowing is being addressed with the new road widening, called the Richmond Highway Corridor Improvements Project, a \$200 million plus project slated to break ground in early 2023," said Krizek.

The second major challenge for Route 1 is the limited options for north-south travel except the George Washington Parkway, which Krizek notes is not built for commuter travel and doesn't extend south of Mount Vernon. So Route 1 is one of the only options for travel in Virginia south of D.C.

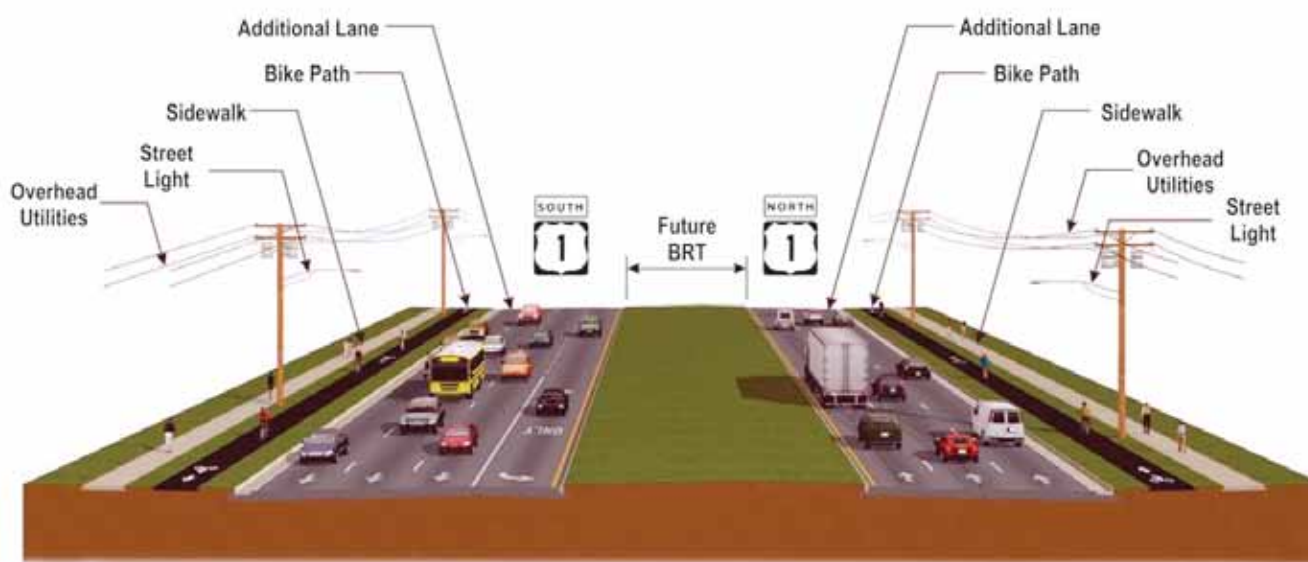
The third challenge is Ft. Belvoir, an army



Map of proposed widening.



Typical Section



Proposed "superstreet" — a widened highway with a built in divider for future Bus Rapid Transit development.

base in Fairfax with more workers than the Pentagon. According to Krizek, almost all of the gates into the base are off of Route 1.

"Our community is very convenient for those that work on the base, but many base workers commute from Maryland and other communities outside of ours. Congestion and travel phone apps/GPS have pushed too many commuters to cut through our secondary roads such as Old Mount Vernon Road, Fort Hunt and Sherwood Hall Lane, and, as I mentioned, the GW Parkway."

These multi-layered problems are going to take multi-layered solutions. According to Krizek, one of the major milestones was

in 2015 when state Sen. Linda Todd Puller and then-Delegate Scott Surovell were able to get funding for the Route 1 Multimodal Alternatives Analysis study. The study recommended implementation of a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system to be built through, a three-mile extension of the yellow line, widening the road and adding bicycle and pedestrian accessible travel.

But according to now state Senator Surovell, these improvements rely on \$2 billion in infrastructure funding from a combination of sources, half of which is expected to come from federal sources, particularly from the Federal Transit

Administration's New Starts program. This was zeroed out in the Trump administration's proposed budget, but Surovell said he's not concerned.

"No one is taking that seriously," said Surovell. "I don't even think Republicans are taking it seriously. The Federal [Government] is going to need to fund infrastructure."

Even without the yellow line extension, the widening, new bike lanes, new sidewalks, and a cleared space for later BRT implementation is estimated to cost \$215 million, of which only \$25 million has been allocated.

"The biggest obstacle is always about where we find the money," said Krizek. "We must compete with many regional infrastructure requests."

Of the plans for improving transit along Route 1, the extension of the yellow line seems like the most remote."

The Metro is currently facing a series of challenges related to poor maintenance and funding difficulties, but Surovell said the Metro will eventually work past those and will begin to expand again. His vision is a yellow line that extends from Huntington down to Occoquan.

"I campaigned on getting the yellow line extended down Route 1," said Surovell. "[The Metro extension] is 10-15 years from now. We can't stop planning because of current [limitations]. In 10-15 years, the Route 1 corridor is going to look like the Arlington Metro corridor. How we do that while preserving the affordable housing is another challenge here over the next six months. And in the

longer term, we need to make Mount Vernon a community that is attracting families and jobs." Public hearings on the Richmond Highway Corridor Improvements are scheduled for mid-2018. Final design is expected in late 2018 with Right of Way acquisition and utility undergrounding in 2019. If the project is funded and everything goes smoothly, construction on the highway improvements is expected to begin in 2023 for completion in 2026.

"Route 1 is the key to everything," said Surovell. "Retail, housing, development: it all starts with Route 1."

NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

About the Mount Vernon Gazette

As your local, weekly newspaper, the Mount Vernon Gazette's mission is to deliver the local news you need, to help make sense of what is happening in your community, to advocate for community good, to provide a forum for dialogue on local concerns, and to record achievements, milestones and events in the community and people's lives.

Here in our Newcomers and Community Guide, we report on the character of your community, we include details of how to vote in the upcoming elections, information on local government, nonprofits and business organizations, plus tips and tidbits from the community.

In 2016 alone, Connection papers won dozens of awards, including the top Virginia Press award — for Integrity and Community Service, for our coverage of police reform and related issues.

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 email. 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,

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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 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.

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— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Welcome to the Mount Vernon District

BY DAN STORCK
MOUNT VERNON DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

Welcome to the best place to live, work and play in Fairfax County! I look forward to meeting you at my office or in our community. I am confident that you will agree that our scenic beauty, diversity, history, hospitality and civic activism along with our great schools and vast opportunities for cultural enrichment are unique in the world. Mark your calendar for two community events – the second annual Tour de Mount Vernon on Nov. 4 and the 31st annual Mount Vernon Town Meeting on Feb. 3, 2018.

In Mount Vernon, we are fortunate to have many wonderful parks, recreational opportunities, historical sites and community events to enjoy. So start your day with a round of golf, horseback riding, kayaking, tennis, or a walk in a tree-lined park or neighborhood; enjoy brunch at our more than one hundred local eateries; boat, bike, or walk to one of our many heritage sites and then relax at a craft brewery; to round out your evening, you can see a local play, musical or concert. Here are some of my favorite places to visit:

❖ George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens: One of the nation's most visited historic sites, with lush gardens and grounds, intriguing museum galleries, immersive programs, and first-rate dining and shopping options. Hop on a bike and ride on the nearly 18 miles long and fully paved Mount Vernon Trail that follows the Potomac River's Virginia shoreline. You can



The Mount Vernon District Supervisor's Office: Office Manager, Donna Slaymaker; Intern, Betsy Slaymaker; Supervisor Dan Storck; Chief of Staff, Christine Morin; Staff Aide, Allison Miessler; and Staff Aide, Tae Choi.

also enjoy the nearby Distillery and Gristmill. (www.mountvernon.org)

❖ Gunston Hall: The home built for George Mason IV, the author of the Bill of Rights, located on Mason Neck near a state park, regional park, and federally protected land. The mansion and museum provide history and context to colonial Virginia and revolutionary America. (gunstonhall.org)

❖ Woodlawn & Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House: Operated on the same historic grounds by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, visitors are encouraged to explore the contrasting architectural and historic backgrounds of these two unique homes. (woodlawnpopeleighey.org/

home/) The site is also home to the Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food and Agriculture offering demonstration gardens used to teach people how to farm and enjoy agriculture. (www.Arcadiafood.org)

❖ Workhouse Arts Center: In addition to over 150 of the region's finest artist workspaces, art classes, exhibits by national and international artists, exciting comedy or musical performances, this nationally recognized former correctional facility explains the key role the area played in turning the tide to secure a woman's right to vote. (www.workhousearts.org)

❖ And many, many more: Potomac River marina; county recreation centers with in-

door swimming, a fitness center and ice rink; off-leash dog parks; farmers markets; "Liberty", a historical, adaptively renovated residential community; a "Top Ten" public golf course; and the 2019 opening of The National Museum of the United States Army which will tell the stories of the 30 million men and women who have served in the army since 1775.

We are a community of the past, present, and future where you can grow, play, and work. We host hundreds of small and large growing businesses, many recently renovated schools, and the Fort Belvoir Army Base with more than double the employees of the Pentagon. Taking care of your health can also be accomplished locally at our two major hospital centers — Inova Mount Vernon and the Fort Belvoir Community Hospital.

Please stop by my office located at 2511 Parkers Lane, Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. and Thursday evenings until 7:30 p.m. The second Saturday of each month, I have additional hours at the Lorton Library from 9-11:30 a.m. and at my office from 12:30-3 p.m. You can contact us at 703-780-7518 or MtVernon@FairfaxCounty.gov. Visit our website www.FairfaxCounty.gov/mountvernon to sign-up for our regular Mount Vernon Advisor newsletter for the latest of what's happening in the community.

Again, I welcome you to the Mount Vernon community – a destination - and sincerely hope you enjoy living in the finest district in Fairfax County. It is an honor and privilege to serve you.

NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE



Belle Haven Marina at sunrise.

The Joys of Living Here

BY JANE R. GANDEE

It is easy to take for granted the beauty of the Potomac, the stunning mansions of George Washington and George Mason as we go about our daily lives in the Mount Vernon District. An area where you can still see grazing horses and Metro stops, the mighty garrisons of Fort Belvoir and quaint shops. We live and work on an iconic Route 1 that served as the main destination corridor from Maine to the Florida Keys for generations. Our area provides an opportunity to drive by the White House on a Saturday afternoon and see one of our many professional sports teams play the next day.

The Mount Vernon area provides the historic backdrop for our rich history, a country struggling to be born; with the hopeful belief that this nation would become and remain a place where the people would never again be subject to the whims of a ruling class.

Mount Vernon still holds the charm of sleepy neighborhoods, flowering trees and Friday night football games. Yet, it is a short drive away from a brand new outlet mall and a state of the art MGM Hotel and Casino. You can see a world renowned art collection, the skeletal remains of T-Rex, the amazing accomplishments of the space program, and drive by the beautiful monuments of Lincoln, Jefferson, and Washington and be home that evening grilling on your patio for dinner. Some of the best and most renowned restaurants in the country are at our choosing. A major international airport is in our backyard with two others close by.

On any given day, you can look to the Potomac and see sail boats, dinner cruises, sightseeing tours, fisherman and yes even ocean liners. The rich history of our neighboring Old Town Alexandria dates back to the 1600s with the remaining vestiges of the cultural and economic signs of an old seaport town.

We have a vibrant business community, an active Chamber of Commerce, involved neighborhood citizen groups, a diverse offering of churches, private schools, and a devoted network of nonprofits who

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Fort Belvoir celebrates the U.S. Army birthday.

work diligently to make sure those in need receive a helping hand. We are making great progress in improving our transportation infrastructure so that living in beautiful Mount Vernon may be a reality for those who find work in our neighboring economic areas.

The Mount Vernon area is a wonderful place to live and raise children, where the opportunities for education, service and entertainment abound.

Gandee is the owner, along with her husband Greg, of ServiceMaster NCR located right off the Route 1 corridor in Alexandria. She also serves as the chairman of the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce.

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-REBECCA MCKINSEY

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Area Interstates Have Toll Lane Options

**Latest addition,
395 Express Lanes,
are scheduled to be
opened in 2019.**

BY MIKE SALMON

The introduction of the “express lanes,” on area highways have made tolls commonplace for anyone driving in the Northern Virginia area. These lanes on I-95, I-495, and I-395 are outfitted with overhead sensors instead of booths, and everything is done with the E-Z Pass or the E-Z Pass Flex which has a feature for high occupancy vehicles (HOV) to avoid the tolls by carpooling. The variable toll amount is calculated by traffic levels at that time, and this price is reflected on the overhead digital signs.

On I-495, commonly known as the Capital Beltway, the 495 Express Lanes stretch 11 miles from Springfield in the south to a point just past the Dulles Toll Road in the McLean area. These are two lanes in each direction that are in operation 24-hours a day.

The 95 Express Lanes stretch 29 miles from Alexandria inside the beltway, south to Route 610 in Stafford County. These lanes are “reversible,” meaning they are heading northbound in the morning,

and southbound in the afternoon and evenings during the week, and almost entirely southbound on the weekend.

The 395 Express Lanes are a continuation of these lanes inside the beltway, ending at the Potomac River. This project is just getting underway, and are scheduled to be opened in 2019. For now, the northern stretch of HOV lanes is still operating under the old rules, that requires a minimum of three passengers during rush hours, and open to anyone during non-rush hours.

In December this year, I-66 inside the beltway, from Arlington to Falls Church, will be a tolled facility but only on the eastbound lanes in the morning and westbound lanes in the afternoons. It will be toll-free for vehicles with at least two passengers for now, but that HOV requirement will change to HOV-3 in a few years when the I-66 express lanes outside the beltway open in 2022. In addition, the Virginia Department of Transportation is adding an additional lane on the eastbound side only, from the Dulles Access Road to Fairfax Drive, a distance of four miles.

On I-66 outside the beltway, officials are building one lane in each direction for 22 miles from Vienna to Gainesville, and there will be two express lanes on each side, similar to I-495. This project, priced at \$2.3 billion, is expected to be done in 2022.

The Dulles Access Road and the Dulles Greenway are toll facilities also but the access road still takes change as well as the E-Z Pass, and neither road has an HOV exception.



PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON

This toll gantry in Arlington is not in use yet, and is currently being tested.

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Meet Carol and MJ. Carol and MJ are great buddies. They are also next door neighbors. Carol is 88 years old and MJ is 79. Carol moved to Hermitage Northern Virginia from Arlington about a year before MJ, who came from Montgomery County, Maryland. After moving, the two friends discovered a shared love of outdoor walks on the grounds of the community and around the quiet neighborhood streets. Carol focuses on her balance with a functional fitness class 4x a week and MJ enjoys reading in the library. Carol likes the many interesting people and MJ enjoys the many excursions and the reading club. It feels like a family here at Hermitage Northern Virginia.

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PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/THE GAZETTE



17 Mile Bike Trail

The Mount Vernon Bike Trail stretches for 17 miles between Rosslyn and Mount Vernon, with a majority of the trail between the George Washington Memorial Parkway and the Potomac River.

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Striving To Make Democracy Work

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA) is a nonpartisan, volunteer organization composed of men and women who are dedicated to making democracy work. Since it is nonpartisan, it does not support or endorse candidates.

It registers voters and provides them with unbiased information about the voting process, issues of interest, and elections. It encourages active participation of citizens by holding candidate forums, so

they can meet and ask questions of the candidates who are running for office.

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area conducts studies of important community issues, has monthly meetings during which members discuss these issues, and uses education and advocacy to influence local public policy in the interest of the public. To learn more about this organization or to join, go to www.lwv-fairfax.org.

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NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE



To cut costs, some of the plants were raised from seeds.



In April, the sprouts soaked up the spring sunshine before being transplanted to the garden in May.



The strawberries were the first to be caged for varmint protection, and the first to be eaten.



In July, tomatoes appeared, although this first batch was eaten by something.



In late August, the tomatoes were BLT sandwich-bound.

Learning, Sweating, and Reaping What You Sow

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

It looked easy when I leaned over the fence of a local community garden last year, mentally planning my own garden with several types of tomatoes, corn, beans and a couple of cucumber vines overwhelming the fence, weighted down with “cukes,” that would soon be in my salad. The unseen battle with weeds, bugs, a family of groundhogs and other furry creatures that munch plants down to the nub are part of the deal too, but didn’t dampen the spirit of my community garden. My first year this year will be a learning experience for next year’s garden, and years after that.

The Fairfax County community gardens are available through the park service for \$125 a year. On the county website, I read the long list of rules for this project, and then found a plot that is relatively close to my house and got on the waiting list for one to be available. I was finally matched up with a 20x30 foot plot in the Grist Mill Park near Mount

Fairfax County Park Garden Plot Locations

Baron Cameron, 11300 Baron Cameron Ave., Reston – 32 plots
Broyhill Crest Park, 7128 Murray Lane, Annandale – 15 plots
Eakin Community Park, 8515 Tobin Road, Fairfax – 20 plots
Franconia Park, 6432 Bowie Drive, Springfield – 86 plots
George Mason Park, 9700 Braddock Road, Fairfax – 46 plots
Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria – 45 plots
Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean – 142 plots
Nottoway Park, 9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna – 128 plots
Bo White Gardens (Pine Ridge Park), 3401 Woodburn Road, Annandale – 156 plots

Vernon that would soon be my home away from home for the duration of the summer. In January, the plot was nothing but weeds and grass that was about 3 feet tall. After hours of hacking away, I discovered that there were six beds underneath that would be perfect for my plan. I read books, watched videos on YouTube, talked with other gardeners and came up with a loose plan that wouldn’t cost me too much.

March came around, and I researched the planting process that began with soaking seeds in wet paper towels, putting them in a pitch black closet for a few weeks, then to empty egg cartons and biodegradable pots, and then to the garden. May 1 is the preferred date for the freeze line, and off I went with my shovel and seedlings. Disappointment set in later in May when I dis-

covered my corn stalks nibbled off to the dirt, and the same with my zucchini, sunflowers and 20 tomatoes that were still green. Chatter around the garden pointed the blame at the family of groundhogs that lived in the barn. So out came the chicken wire and soon every plant left had a cage over it.

During the summer, I watched the weather, the holes in the fence, and the



PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON

From the community garden at Grist Mill Park in the Mount Vernon area, the barn creates a farming atmosphere.

birds that were tough to defend against. The strawberries were the first to get picked for us to eat, followed by a few blueberries, and then tomatoes. The peppers, which I had grown from seed, along with the cucumbers, didn’t come until later in August, but were good to eat as well. The two beds that went without plants became a mass of weeds in a matter of weeks, and it was soon discovered that a layer of newspaper with mulch on top was a good way to fight the weeds, although some in the garden did use weed killer, a practice frowned on by the die hard gardeners.

This fall, when the tomatoes are dried and shriveled, and the weeds have died down, next year’s plan will come together and the work will start all over again. I can hardly wait.

To get your own garden, go to the Fairfax County website, (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/plots.htm), find a location near your residence and get on the waiting list. Similar to the whole gardening experience, this takes patience as well, and then a certain level of commitment when taking over a plot.



When first taking over Plot 29 at the Grist Mill Park community garden, the weeds ruled.



Under the weeds, there were raised beds.



This community garden continues to thrive into late summer.

NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

Welcome to Fairfax County: 'Work Hard, Play Hard'

BY SHARON BULOVA
CHAIRMAN
FAIRFAX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Welcome to Fairfax County, one of the greatest places in the nation to live, work, play and raise a family. Fairfax County is home to a thriving business community, vibrant entertainment and shopping destinations, a world class university, beautiful parks and a diverse population of engaged residents. Whether you are a long time resident or new to the county, I hope you'll take some time to visit some of our most popular spots and enjoy what Fairfax County has to offer.

Tysons Corner Center, Fair Oaks Mall, Reston Town Center, Fairfax Corner, Springfield Town Center and the Mosaic District are great places to shop, eat and spend time with friends. For cultural destinations, George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate, Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts and the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton are some of my favorites. For fresh air and exercise, I recommend our extensive network of trails, parks and RECenters.

While there are a lot of fun things to do in Fairfax County, our community is notorious for our "work hard, play hard" ethic. Time Magazine has described us as the epicenter of the Washington region's job boom



and one of the great economic success stories of our time. Fairfax County is home to nine Fortune 500 company headquarters, approximately 9,000 tech businesses and over 116 million square feet of

office space. Fairfax County has one of the best public school systems nationwide with a graduation rate of nearly 93 percent. Fairfax County Public Schools is the third largest employer in Virginia and the 10th largest school system in the country with more than 189,000 students. After high school graduation, George Mason University and Northern Virginia Community College are located just down the road for affordable higher education opportunities in many different subject fields. Our business-friendly economy offers a wide array of impressive career opportunities for both our older and younger residents.

On the local government level, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors is constantly hard at work to ensure quality public services for our residents. Our 10-member Board of Supervisors strives to maintain positive community engagement, while strategically planning for the future with land use and infrastructure decisions.

Some recent Fairfax County accomplish-

ments include updating many of our police policies, establishing a Diversion First program for people with mental illness who become involved with law enforcement, and successfully extending Metrorail to Tysons and Reston. Phase 2 of Metro's Silver Line is currently under construction and will extend all the way to Dulles Airport and into Loudoun County.

Fairfax County offers opportunity and quality services for residents of all ages. People from all over the globe have made Fairfax County their home, enriching our community with their diverse cultures and entrepreneurship. In Fairfax County, we believe we must all do our part to set a posi-

tive tone of acceptance, inclusiveness and kindness.

As chairman of the Board of Supervisors, I am elected at-large by Fairfax County residents. My office is here to serve you. If you have any questions or concerns, please email me at chairman@fairfaxcounty.gov or give my office a call at 703-324-2321. I hope you will sign up to receive my monthly Bulova Byline newsletter that will keep you up-to-date on what is happening in your new community. I also encourage you to visit fairfaxcounty.gov and fxva.com to see what Fairfax County has to offer you and your family every season and every day. Welcome to your new home.

Service for Seniors Who Want to Serve

RSVP is the region's largest volunteer network for people 55 and older, providing individualized support to seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria.

RSVP offers opportunities for volunteers including providing rides, support and meals to older neighbors, assisting local veterans in need and helping prepare communities for disasters. RSVP also recruits volunteers for community

events throughout the year.

RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to group projects and social gatherings with other RSVP volunteers.

To sign up for an upcoming RSVP orientation email Carly Hubicki at chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-403- 5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit www.rsvpnova.org.

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"The Fairfax is like a cruise ship."

—Colonel Philip (Phil) J. Saulnier, USA, Retired and Judith (Judy) Saulnier, Residents at The Fairfax for 3.5 Years

"There are many reasons that we moved to The Fairfax. The beautiful and spacious grounds, the activities, medical care, not having to cook anymore... The Fairfax is like a cruise ship—you have everything available to you. Most important was the true financial value of the LifeCare program as well as the potential tax advantages available to us. It was the smartest lifestyle and financial decision we ever made."

Visit TheFairfaxRetirement.com for more information or call to schedule a personalized tour today.



The Fairfax is a LifeCare Community in Fort Belvoir, VA, offering luxury retirement living.

9140 Belvoir Woods Parkway, Fort Belvoir, VA
703-799-1200 | TheFairfaxRetirement.com



The Fairfax
A SUNRISE SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY
Developed for the Army Retirement Residence Foundation-Former

PARKS

AN INSIDER'S GUIDE TO MAJOR PARKS IN THE AREA

PHOTOS BY MARK MOGLE,
FEATURING GREAT FALLS NATIONAL PARK
MAP BY LAURENCE FOONG AND DESIGN BY JEAN CARD

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 amphitheaters 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 bathing 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

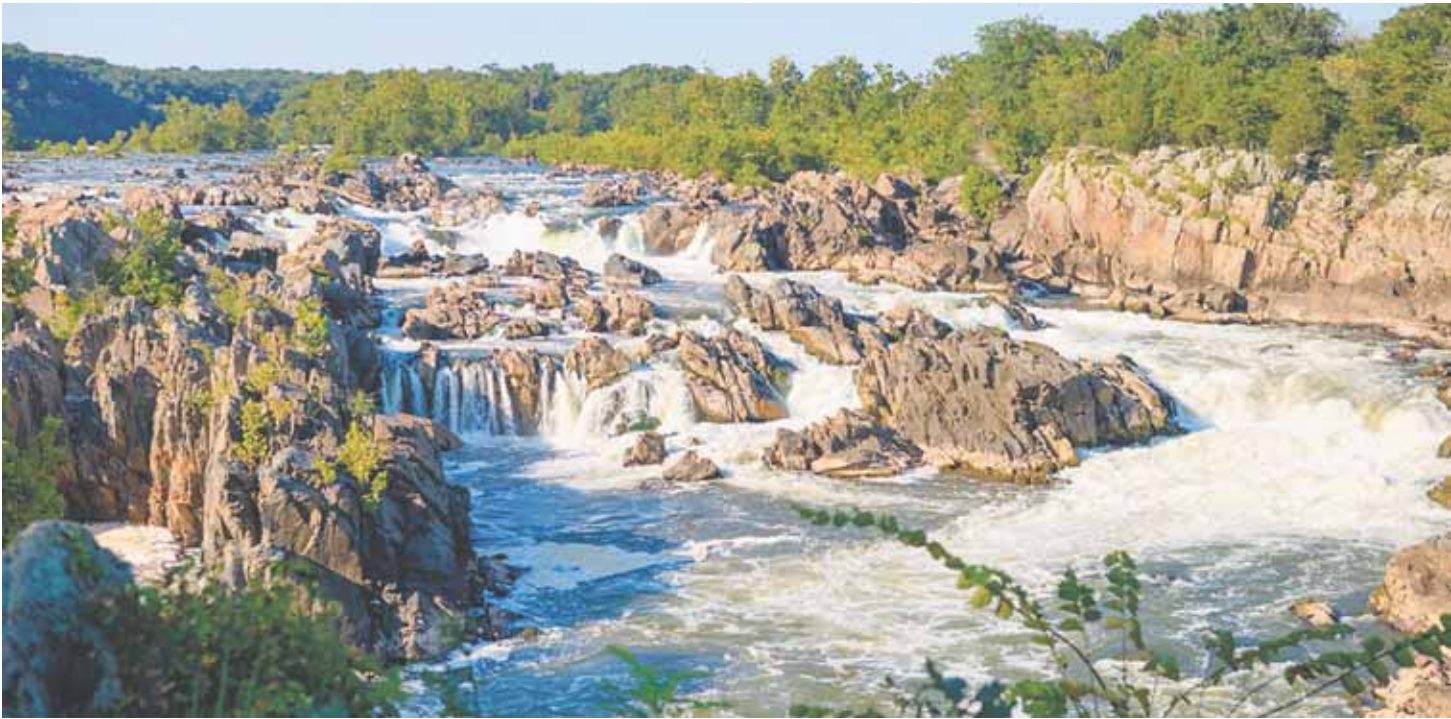
9751 Ox Road, Lorton
www.nvrpa.org/park/occoquan/
703-690-2121
This park offers 400 acres of recreational space and a touch of the past with its historic brick kilns and the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial. Park lands, trails and associated waters are part of the Fairfax Cross-County Trail. Kayak rentals. 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.



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.

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 Frying 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

RRP 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

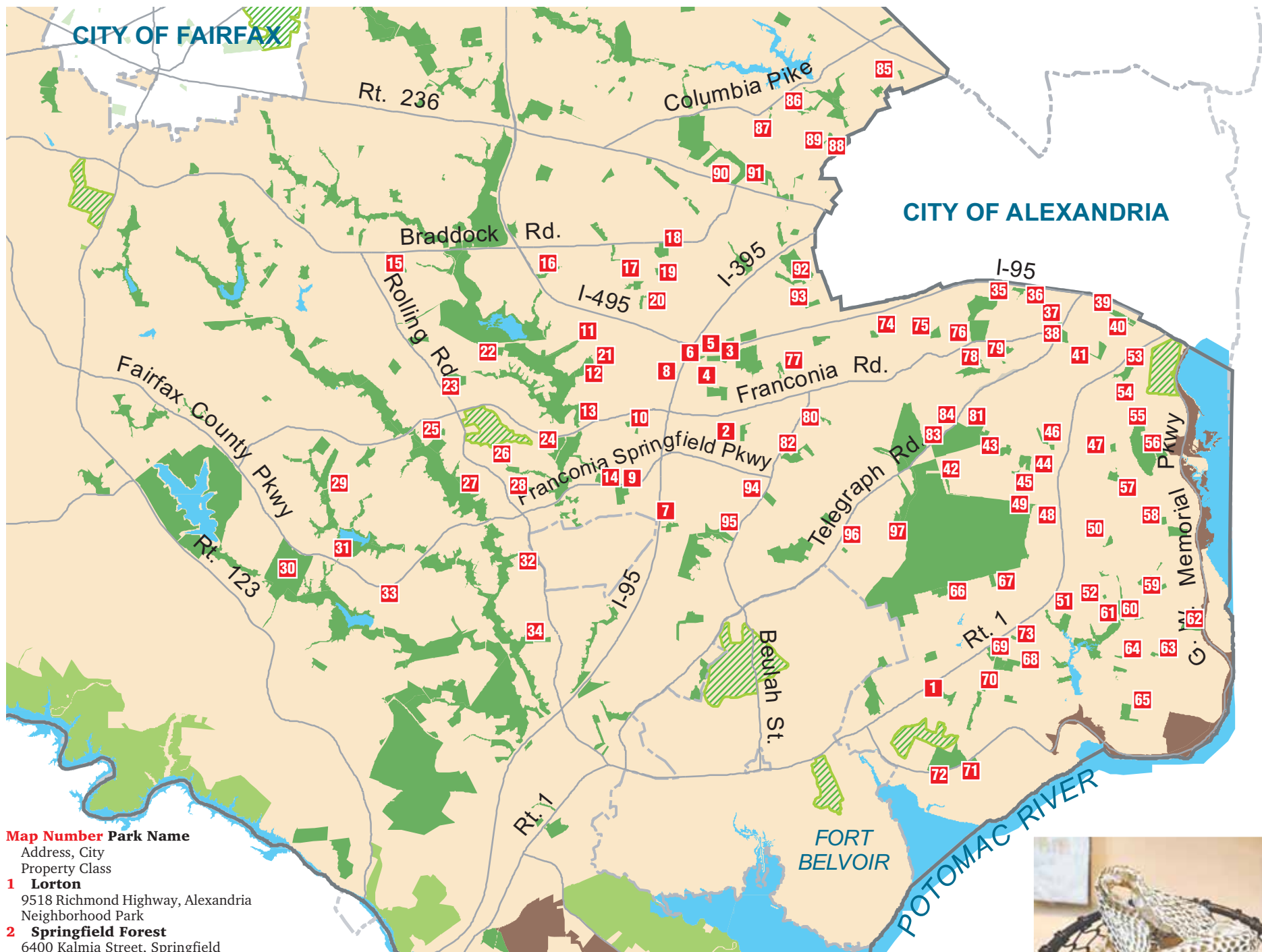
8100 Braddock Road, Annandale
softball, soccer/football, basketball, tennis, recenter, biking, fitness trail, skate park
292.6 acres, multiple resource park



PARKS

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

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON
FEATURING HIDDEN POND NATURE CENTER
MAP BY LAWRENCE FOONG; DESIGN BY JEAN CARD



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 Hooes Road**
7233 Hooes Road, Springfield
Community Park
- 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 Hooes Road School Site**
7336 Hooes Road, Springfield

- 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
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



Snakeskins found
around the park indicate
the snake population at
this wooded park.



A slider turtle are one of the species living in Hidden Pond.



At Hidden Pond Nature Center, a tree bows out over the still waters of the pond.

The pond is surrounded by a community so it is a natural refuge for birds in the area.

- 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 Umlerland 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
- 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 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 Blvd., 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



In the nature center, a park volunteer handles a black rat snake.



How To Vote

Every year is election year in Virginia; mechanics and details of voting require attention to detail.

Absentee Voting in Person in Fairfax County

Voting early if you qualify is a good choice.

There are 19 valid reasons to vote absentee in Virginia, including working and commuting to and from home for 11 or more hours between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Election Day. Check the Virginia Department of Elections list to see if you are eligible: elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/absentee-voting/index.html

There are two ways to vote absentee, in-person and by mail. To do either, you should first check your voter registration status to make sure it is up-to-date. Then you will need to apply for an absentee ballot. Note: If you vote absentee in-person you will fill out the application when you arrive at the in-person absentee location (see locations below). Voting absentee by mail? Read below for the process of applying for your mail-in ballot.

You can now apply for an absentee ballot online with the state's new Citizen Portal. You will need your Social Security Number and information on your Virginia Driver's License to complete the application. Information is also provided on how to apply if you do not have a driver's license.

Virginia Voter ID

Virginia has voter identification requirements, plan to bring photo identification with you to vote, whether that is absentee or on Election Day.

Among accepted ID: valid Virginia Driver's License or Identification Card; valid Virginia DMV issued Veteran's ID card; valid U.S. Passport; other government-issued photo identification cards issued by the U.S. Government, the Commonwealth of Virginia, or a political subdivision of the Commonwealth; valid college or university stu-

dent photo identification card from an institution of higher education located in Virginia; valid student ID issued by a public school or private school in Virginia displaying a photo; employee identification card containing a photograph of the voter and issued by an employer of the voter in the ordinary course of the employer's business.

Any registered voter who does not have one of the required forms of identification can apply for a free Virginia Voter Photo Identification from any general registrar's office in the Commonwealth.

Voters applying for the Virginia Voter Photo ID complete the Virginia Voter Photo Identification Card Application, have their picture taken, and sign the digital signature pad.

Once the application is processed, the card will be mailed directly to the voter.

A voter who does not bring an acceptable photo ID to the polls will be offered a provisional ballot.

Provisional Ballot Process for Voters Who Arrive Without Identification

If you arrive at your polling place on Election Day without an acceptable form of photo identification, don't panic or give up. You will be given the opportunity to vote a provisional ballot. After completing the provisional ballot, the individual voting will be given written instructions from the election officials on how to submit a copy of his/her identification so that his/her vote can be counted.

A voter will have until noon on the Friday following the election to deliver a copy of the identification to the local electoral board or to appear in person to apply for a Virginia Voter Photo ID Card. Voters may submit a copy of their ID via fax, email, in-person submission, or through USPS or commercial delivery service. Please note that the copy of the ID must be delivered to the electoral board by noon on Friday, or the provisional ballot cannot be counted.

Also by noon on Friday following the election, the voter may appear in-person in the

School Bonds On Ballot

There is a \$315 million public school bonds referendum on the Nov. 7 general election ballot. If approved by voters, the Fairfax County Public Schools' current plans to use this bond money are to:

- ❖ Plan and/or construct two new elementary schools, one in Fairfax/Oakton area and another in the Northwest county area.

- ❖ Relocate one modular building
- ❖ Plan additions at three existing high schools to add capacity at Madison, Stuart and West Potomac.

- ❖ Plan and/or construct renovations of 10 elementary schools, three middle schools and two high schools.

See www.fcps.edu/about-fcps/facilities-planning-future/2017-school-bond-referendum.

Special Election

Aug. 29, 2017 Special Election, School Board At-Large

All county polling places will be open on Aug. 29 to fill a vacancy for member, School Board At-Large for the remainder of the present term of office which expires Dec. 31, 2019.

In-Person Absentee voting is underway until Aug. 26

- ❖ Aug 26: Final Day In-Person Absentee Voting

- ❖ Aug 29: Absentee Ballot Return Deadline, 7 p.m.

Four candidates are on the ballot:

Chris S. Grisafe
Sandra D. Allen
Karen A. Keys-Gamarra
Michael H. Owens

For more on the school board race, see www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2017/jul/31/low-turnout-high-stakes-special-election-school-bo/

General Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 7

On Election Day Polls are open from 6 a.m.-7 p.m., Nov. 7.

To determine whether eligible and registered to vote in this election, visit the Virginia Department of Elections website at elections.virginia.gov/ or call Fairfax Elections office at 703-222-0776.

To vote on Tuesday, Nov. 7, 6 a.m.-7 p.m. (General Election)

- ❖ Register/update address by: Monday, Oct. 16.

- ❖ Request absentee ballot by mail by: 5 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 31.

- ❖ Vote early (in-person absentee ballot by appearing in person by 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4.

For more information on voting in Fairfax County:

Voter Registration: 703-222-0776, TTY 711

Absentee Fax: 703-324-3725

Email: voting@fairfaxcounty.gov

Election Officer Info: 703-324-4735, TTY 711

Public Schools Are Ready for Students' Return

KAREN CORBETT SANDERS
VICE CHAIR AND MT.
VERNON DISTRICT
REPRESENTATIVE
FAIRFAX COUNTY
SCHOOL BOARD



It is a pleasure to welcome you to the Mount Vernon Magisterial District and Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS). When students in Alexandria, Lorton, Mount Vernon and Springfield attend school in the region, they can be assured that creating opportunities for their success is a top priority for our devoted principals, teachers, staff, and the greater community. We recognize that it is difficult for students to move homes and schools and are commit-

ted to providing a safe, nurturing environment for all of our students to succeed.

We know that in the classroom, on the field, on the stage, and in the community volunteering, our students demonstrate the best of what our country has to offer. As a community, Fairfax County Public Schools is always there to support these efforts. This past June's graduating seniors from Edison, Hayfield, Lee, Mount Vernon, South County and West Potomac High Schools were awarded over \$20 million in scholarships and are attending some of the best universities and conservatories in the country. Other outstanding graduates committed to military and civil service. Fields of study include the arts, engineering, sciences, and teaching. We encourage students to use the high school experience to explore their in-

terests by taking participating in the many clubs, sports, arts, academy, career, technical education classes, or volunteering in the community. These opportunities exist to develop and amplify the characteristics of our Portrait of a 21st Century Graduate: critical thinkers, collaborators, ethical decision makers and global citizens.

Fairfax County Public Schools is committed to ensuring that each child is known in their school by name, need, and interest. However, we need your help as educational partners to achieve this goal. When you register your child for school, please make sure that you introduce yourself to the principal, the front office staff, and if possible your child's teacher. We want to know who your child is and how we can best meet their needs in the classroom. Please continue this

engagement with your student's school by attending back to school night, school functions and joining the PTA or PTO.

Students are encouraged to pursue their passions in the arts, athletics, and academics. Inside and outside the classroom, adults throughout the community are committed to creating opportunities for your student. This is evident in the thousands of hours that community members volunteer in our schools, our athletic organizations, libraries, and organizations supporting children such as the Boys and Girl Scouts, the performing arts organizations, and church groups. I encourage you to volunteer with these organizations as well. If you are a business owner or executive, please consider partnering with our schools.

Warm wishes for a great school year.

NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

August 2017

SATURDAY/AUG. 26

Mount Vernon Flea Market. 8 a.m.-1 p.m., at 8717 Fort Hunt Road. Features furniture, art, china, glass, porcelain, pottery, books, photographs, lighting, tools, etc. Refreshments will also be on sale. Admission is free. Visit mountvernonfleamarket.wordpress.com.

Ballyshaners Irish Festival. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. at 1A Prince St. A celebration Irish history and culture in Alexandria, and a fundraiser for the Alexandria St. Patrick's Day Parade. Visit www.ballyshaners.org/festival/.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/AUG. 26-27

Begonia Show and Sale. 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Show sponsored by the Potomac branch of the American Begonia Society. Free. Call 703-642-5173 or visit fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring.

MONDAY/AUG. 28

7th Annual Charity Golf Tournament. 8 a.m. at Fort Belvoir Golf Club 8450 Beulah St., Fort Belvoir. Benefit for America's "Adopt A Soldier," an established nonprofit organization who has through grassroots volunteerism, donations, and partnerships; provides a positive impact to our nation's wounded, deployed service members, hospitalized military children, homeless veterans, veterans and their families. Email golftournament@americasadoptsoldier.org.

September 2017

FRIDAY/SEPT. 8

Patriot Day Golf Classic. 11:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. at Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road. 4th Annual Patriot Day Golf Classic to benefit two veteran and wounded warrior organizations. Visit www.bellehavencc.com/golf/patriotday.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 16-17

Street Art Festival. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at 480 King St. King Street from Washington Street to the waterfront is transformed into an outdoor art gallery with original artwork by more than 200 artists from the U.S. and abroad. Featuring live music, and interactive art activities, as well as The Art League's Ice Cream Bowl Fundraiser. Visit www.artfestival.com/festivals/alexandria-king-street-art-festival.



On Independence Day, George Washington's Mount Vernon is the site of fireworks and festivities in honor of the first president.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 30

Alexandria Seaport Foundation Festival. noon-6 p.m. at Waterfront Park, 1 Prince St. Community festival celebrating the mission and programs of the Alexandria Seaport Foundation featuring live music, wooden boat display, Anything that Floats race, children's activities, nautical activities, beer/wine and local food. Visit www.alexandriaseaport.org.

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.

SUNDAY/OCT. 29

Del Ray Halloween Parade. 2-4 p.m. at Mount Vernon Ave. All are welcome to march in the parade. Parade ends in a party at the Mt. Vernon Recreation Center fields featuring live music, free refreshments, games, best costume awards, and more. Free. Visit www.visitdelray.com/halloween.

October 2017

SATURDAY/OCT. 7

Arts on the Avenue. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on Mount Vernon Ave., Del Ray. Art on the Avenue is a multi-cultural arts festival in the Del Ray neighborhood in Alexandria, Virginia. This festival is held on the first Saturday in October, rain or shine.

SATURDAY/OCT. 28

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.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY /OCT. 21-22

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

November 2017

TUESDAY/ NOV. 7

Election Day. General election. Visit www.sbe.virginia.gov/ and www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/upcoming.htm.

SATURDAY/ 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.

NOV. 10-19

Virginia Cider Week. 7-9:30 p.m. at

The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. In partnership with the Alexandria-Caen Sister Cities Committee, the Lyceum offers a cider tasting as part of Virginia Cider Week. Tickets are \$50-75. Visit www.show.alexandriava.gov/events.

FRIDAY/NOV. 24-SATURDAY/JAN. 5

Christmas in 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 mountvernon.org.

December 2017

SATURDAY/DEC. 2

47th 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.

SUNDAY/DEC. 31

First Night Alexandria. Events take place throughout the day at numerous venues around the City of Alexandria. Visit www.firstnightalexandria.org.

March 2018

TUESDAY/MARCH 20

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.

April 2018

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 for specific events and details.

Historic Garden Week. This weeklong 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 vagardenweek.org.

June 2018

Vine on the Waterfront Festival.

Late June, 12-6 p.m. at Oronoco Park, 100 Madison St. Formerly known as the Alexandria Food & Wine Festival, the festival will expand to include both restaurants within Alexandria and other eateries throughout the region. The event is free to attend, but tickets are \$15 per area (food or wine), \$20 after June 18. Visit vineonthewaterfront.com.

July 2018

SUNDAY/JULY 1

Independence Fireworks. 6 p.m. at Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon. Greet "General and Mrs. Washington" in the historic area before trying a turn at bocce ball and 18th-century dancing demonstrations. Mount Vernon's colonial artisans will reveal how 18th-century ice cream was made in the days before freezers. Enjoy a performance by Yorktown Fife & Drum and the National Concert Band. Also enjoy a fireworks show. Tickets are \$30 for adults, \$20 for youth. Visit mountvernon.org.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 4

An American Celebration. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon. Watch made-for-daytime fireworks shoot off over the Potomac River. Admission is \$9-20, free for children 0-5. Visit mountvernon.org.

August 2018

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. Visit www.mountvernon.org/.

Youth Arts Festival. Early August, 1-5 p.m. at Mount Vernon Recreation Center, 2701 Commonwealth Ave. This festival will showcase the talents of youth around the city and serve as a forum of expression for both visual and performing arts. Free. Call 703-549-7115 ext. 370.

Friendship Firehouse Festival. Mid-August, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Friendship Firehouse Museum, 107 S. Alfred St. Held at the historic Friendship Firehouse, the festival celebrates the special role firefighters have played throughout history, especially those of Friendship. The event will feature a collection of antique fire equipment and a display of modern fire trucks and apparatus. Other attractions include craft booths, food vendors and free birthday cake. Free. Visit www.friendshipfire.net.

The Alexandria Harmonizers and Howard Gospel Choir of Howard University Present



Rock My Soul - Celebrating Barbershop's Gospel Roots

Featuring Grammy Award Winners "The Fairfield Four"



October 13th 2017, 8:00PM 1st Congregational United Church of Christ, 945 G St NW, Washington DC, and
October 14th 2017, 2:00 PM Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 4915 East Campus Dr. Alexandria, VA
Tickets on sale beginning September 1st, 2017 at www.harmonizers.org

Are you interested in joining the East Coast's best and most exciting A Cappella male chorus?

Visit us on Tuesday nights from 7-10 PM at the Durant Arts Center
1605 Cameron St. Alexandria, VA 22314 or email info@harmonizers.org

The Alexandria Harmonizers, Inc. gratefully acknowledges the operational support it receives from the Commission for the Arts of Alexandria, Virginia. Partial funding for Rock My Soul is provided by the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts, and by the Barbershop Harmony Society, underwritten in part by Harmony Foundation International and its generous donors.



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NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

Missing Out on Mount Vernon At Home?

BY BARBARA HUGHES SULLIVAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MOUNT VERNON AT HOME

Perhaps you have seen our sign when you visit Sherwood Regional Library or noticed Mount Vernon At Home brochures displayed in local businesses. If you don't belong to, volunteer for, or share information about Mount Vernon At Home, you are missing out on a unique experience in our community.

In 2007, a group of Mount Vernon neighbors and friends in their retirement years gathered to discuss their common goals of leading vibrant, engaged lives in their homes and communities here in the Mount Vernon area. With an eye to the future, our founders also wanted to create a network to provide the support they might need in

the future as they age in place. After much planning, Mount Vernon At Home, a volunteer-powered nonprofit "village," was born!

Ten years down the road Mount Vernon At Home has 160 members, 70 volunteers and offers a full array of activities and services. Our staff and volunteers take great pride in offering solutions to each call our office receives. Monthly event calendars are planned with many social, cultural and educational events for a variety of engaging activities.

Mount Vernon At Home is one of over 300 villages across the country developed by neighbors interested in redefining the aging experience, creating community connections, and helping older adults retain their independence with practical help.

As a nonprofit membership organization, Mount Vernon At Home volunteers assist our members with transportation to local

appointments; errands; grocery shopping; light handyman help in the home; technology problem-solving (printers, computers, smart TVs and cell phones, etc.); home organization and decluttering; friendly visits and much more. Through the generosity of our donors, financial assistance with annual membership fees is available for those with limited incomes that reside in the Mount Vernon At Home geographic boundaries.

Judy Rosen, one of Mount Vernon At Home's founding members, sums up the value of her Mount Vernon At Home membership: "Mount Vernon At Home has been a lifesaver for me. They take the place of my family who live too far away to help. Their handyman volunteers are terrific and if the job is too involved for a volunteer, office will refer me to a reliable preferred provider to get the job done. The happiest surprise for me, however, has been the so-

cial aspect. Mount Vernon At Home events are always stimulating and the best part is that I have met some very interesting people who I now call friends. Mount Vernon At Home continues to be one of my best investments."

Most of our members are very active. Some join for the activities and programs and others rely on dependable volunteer services to help them remain independent. Many see Mount Vernon At Home membership as "insurance" so that if they need extra help, we are just a phone call away.

Don't wait to get involved with this exciting nonprofit organization. Call our office today at 703-303-4060 or email us at info@mountvernonathome.com to join or volunteer. We welcome visitors at our office on the second floor of the Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Check us out when come check out books.

Where to Give Locally: A few of the nonprofits in Fairfax County

* **United Community Ministries**, Mount Vernon, 703-768-7106, 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, VA 22306 assists low-income families and individuals living along the Route 1 Corridor, UCM provides four different housing programs as well as a Workforce Development Center to help prepare people for moving forward with their jobs. Last year, for the holidays, donations of nearly 10,000 toys, books, games, clothing,

and other gifts ensured a joy-filled holiday for more than 1,200 children in 600 families. 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria VA 22306.

* **National Capital Food Bank**, 6833 Hill Park Drive, Lorton, serving all of Northern Virginia, 703-541-3063. www.capitalareafoodbank.org

* **Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services**, 8305-17B

Richmond Highway, PO Box 15096, Alexandria, VA, 22039. 703-768-9419, www.goodhousing.org/ The mission of Good Shepherd Housing (GSH) is to reduce homelessness, increase community support, and promote self-sufficiency. GSH housing manages more than 70 housing units.

* **Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington Fairfax Area** operates clubs in two of the neediest

areas of the county, Culmore and Mount Vernon/Route 1 corridor.. www.bgcgw.org/fairfax

* **Christian Relief Services**, 8301 Richmond Highway, Suite 900, Alexandria, VA 22309, 703-317-9086, 703-317-9690 christianrelief.org/

* **Alice's Kids** (@alicewillhelp) aliceskids.org P.O. Box 60, Mount Vernon, VA 22121 When a child is raised in poverty they suffer both

publicly and privately. When there is no food in the refrigerator, no electricity nor heat, these are hardships that they can keep hidden. When that same child can't afford to pay for the band field trip, a pair of glasses, a chorus outfit or a new pair of shoes, these are indignities that are evident to their classmates. Alice's Kids helps children from all over the Mount Vernon area in hopes of preserving the dignity of the child.



Everyone is welcome at St. Luke's
Please join us for
Homecoming Sunday, September 10
and learn about our programs
for children, teens, and adults.

Holy Eucharist at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.
Sunday School and Adult Forum at 9 a.m.
Nursery Available from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

St. Luke's is a warm and nurturing church
where all are welcome, known, included and
loved and where relationships grow.

<http://www.saintlukeschurch.net>

Good Shepherd Catholic Church International Festival - Three Days of Celebration

8710 Mount Vernon Highway, Alexandria VA 22309

Saturday, September 2

- **White Elephant Sale** – Early Bird Entry, 8:30 – 9:30 am, \$10 Regular Entry, 9:30 am – 4 pm, Free
- **5K Race and 1 Mile Fun Run** – Fun and fitness for a great cause! Sign up online today! Go to: gs-cc.org

Sunday, September 3

- Join us for Multicultural Mass (see schedule at gs-cc.org)

Monday, September 4 Festival Day!

- 11 am – 5 pm food, music, games, bingo, raffle, entertainment & more!
- Free admission
- Food and some activities require ticket purchase
- Parking & shuttle at Mt. Vernon HS.

No pets except service animals.

Win \$10,000! **Raffle** Tickets on Sale
at the Festival!

Net proceeds go to local charities.

Visit GS-CC.ORG for information.

