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Mount Vernon Gazette

Home LifeStyle

PAGE 11

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER AUGUST 9, 2018

Balancing Environment and Economics

Townhouse project seeks amendment for eight-acre site on Richmond Highway.

BY GERALD A. FILL
THE GAZETTE

Land use issues commonly present a conflict between different points of view of what one party may desire versus what another party believes ought to take place. The outcome of the debate does not always turn out the way one side or another believes it should. What are the environmental factors versus the economic factors that drive the debate?

The stakes are frequently very high if you ask Pete Sitnik, one of the owners of the site for a proposed 8800 Richmond Highway project encompassing approximately eight acres on the western side of Richmond Highway. Sitnik says, "This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to improve and sell the property."

The 8800 Richmond Highway project has different sides to the debate but it all boils down to this: Do the environmental factors in the past and identified in the most recent field inspection make building a townhouse development impractical?

The preliminary view of county officials is that extensive reengineering will be required beyond the original boundaries to stabilize an area where the townhouse foundations must be protected. In addition it



County officials and local residents tour the site at 8800 Richmond Highway on Wednesday, Aug. 1.

PHOTO BY GERALD A. FILL/THE GAZETTE

appears the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) will require detailed analysis and planning to allow for Route 1 widening, while still protecting the integrity of the stream flow, land, and floodplain in the vicinity of the Dogue Creek bridge.

The Planning Commission staff will continue to analyse community comments un-

til Sept. 13 before submitting a new report with recommendations on whether to approve an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan in the eight-acre resource protection area. Next steps are to continue to assess comments and prepare an updated Planning Commission staff report for the commission to assess on Sept. 23, and for the staff and

Dogue Creek to mitigate against the continual erosion of the streambank and roadbed.

In her testimony before the commission, Martin said, "The true value of the 8800 Richmond Highway property is as public

SEE TOWNHOUSE PROJECT, PAGE 16

Enjoying National Night Out in Mount Vernon

Annual event brings police, neighbors together.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

Ted and Mary Godbout manned the operations tent.

bring the community and police together, to thank them for all

"Such an important event to

SEE ANNUAL EVENT, PAGE 16

This year's National Night Out in the Hollin Hall area was the third year in a row that the Hollin Hall Civic Association and the Mount Vernon Park Association forged a partnership to hold National Night Out in the park. It was also the third year that Hollin Hall HOA President

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Officers John Chase and Pat Heard talk to Dakota Todd.



PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/THE GAZETTE

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In Zambia in 2016, Drusti Naik is on a walking safari and some elephants can be seen in the distance.



The same elephants up close.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Saving Elephants Connects Locally

Elephant awareness is the message at Unwined in Belle View Shopping Center.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

At the current poaching rate of elephants, the elephant as a species will become extinct in 2025, says Alexandria elephant supporter Drusti Naik, an Alexandria resident and Elephantopia board member. On Sunday, Aug. 12, Naik is holding her third elephant awareness event at Unwined, wine store in Belle View Shopping Center, to bring the plight of the elephant to the forefront in Mount Vernon even if she is thousands of miles away from elephants in the wild in Africa and India.

Naik does not like to think of what could

happen in 2025. "We, as the human race cannot let that happen," she said. "It's our responsibility, events like World Elephant Day bring this and other important issues to light and to the public who may not know what is really happening in our world."

Naik was born in India, so the elephants have always been part of her life. She became involved with elephant conservation years ago, adopted an elephant orphan through The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust in Kenya, signed petitions to ban trophy hunting and became an Elephantopia board member in 2015.

From her home in Mount Vernon, Naik participates in local animal conservation efforts, such as a dog rescue program called

"Operation Paws for Homes." She does take time off from her career in the information technology field to travel the world to elephant hotspots like Zambia in 2016, and southern Tanzania in 2017. These trips created lasting memories. "Standing in front of elephants and their herd in the African bush is surreal and moving," she said.

Elizabeth Schrank from Elephantopia noted their past success by raising awareness of the elephant plight. "Other initiatives we've led include the Global March for Elephants and a participation in a successful petition and letter to the Chinese government to halt the sales of ivory in China," she said. "China is now closing its ivory trade."

Naik's event at Unwined is listed on the Elephantopia website, along with World Elephant Day events in Gilbert, Ariz. and Houston, Texas. At the event, there will be locally contributed food "with elephant cup-

World Elephant Day

Sunday, Aug. 12 at Unwined
1600 Belle View Blvd., Alexandria
571-384-6880

cakes as dessert prepared by Hollin Hall Weddings and Events," it states.

Past World Elephant Day events at Unwined have been a success, says manager Renee Lorraine. Food and wine is put out for attendees, and that has filtered down into marketing as well as enhancing the elephant message. "We tend to sell South African wines when she's here," said Lorraine. Unwined is "quite active with all different groups here in Alexandria," said Lorraine.

At the Aug. 12 event, there will be wine-tasting, Indian cuisine such as appetizers and desserts from local businesses lending their support. "It will be an afternoon of food, fun and games testing your elephant knowledge," said Naik.

From Seattle to Virginia by Bike

Mount Vernon Trail was part of this cyclist's journey.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

Cruising down Jeff Todd Way on a hot summer afternoon did not phase Brian Phillips, who was heading back to his home in Philadelphia after a four-month ride across country.

Phillips left the Seattle area on April 20, mapped out a route on the "transamerica" cross-country bike trail, and has experienced the USA as few people have. "It's been amazing really," he said. "A bicycle is a great way to travel, you get to go to all the small places you normally just fly right by," he added.

TransAmerica Trail is a 4,223-mile route

from Astoria, Ore. to Yorktown, Va., according to its website which cyclists can access for free. The trip is divided into 12 segments, with the last one being from Christiansburg, Va. to Yorktown, which is where Phillips trip took him before his last trek up to Philadelphia. He had a map with a route that took him up the George Washington Parkway trail, across the Potomac River and further north on the Capital Crescent Trail.

"Because this route has been ridden by cyclists for years, many of the cafes, restaurants, and overnight accommodations along the route have kept journals consisting of entries written by cross-country riders from previous years, providing you with

a cyclist's history of the route," trail information stated.

Phillips, a web developer, took a sabbatical from work to do the ride. "They were great about it," he said. Although he had a computer in one of his bike packs, there was no time for dabbling in web development along the way. He had enough to worry about, all 4,223 miles of it.



PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON

After riding across country, Brian Phillips took a timeout along Jeff Todd Way on Sunday, Aug. 5

House Fire Displaces Two

On Monday, Aug. 6 at approximately 8:43 p.m., units from Fairfax County Fire and Rescue and the City of Alexandria Fire Department were dispatched for a reported house fire in the 6900 block of Vantage Drive in Groveton.

Units arrived on scene of a one-story, single family home and reported fire showing from the roof line and first floor. Crews located a fire in the attic space and extinguished it. There were no firefighter or civilian injuries reported.

Two occupants were home at the

SEE GROVETON FIRE, PAGE 5

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FCFR PHOTO

This house fire on Vantage Drive suffered approximately \$260,038 in damages.

Groveton House Fire Displaces Two

FROM PAGE 3

time of the fire. The fire was discovered by one of the occupants who called 9-1-1. There were working smoke alarms in the home. Due to the location of the fire, the alarms sounded after the fire was discovered. Both occupants evacuated prior to the arrival of the fire department.

Fire investigators determined that the fire was accidental in nature and started in the attic space. The cause of the fire was the electrical wiring supplying a ceiling light fixture in a bedroom.

The two adults were displaced because of the fire. Red Cross services were offered and declined. Damages as a result of the fire were approximately \$260,038.

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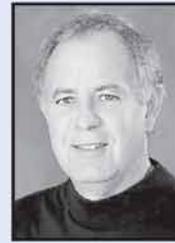
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SOLD



Alex/Riverside Estates \$559,900
8523 Bound Brook Lane
 Lovely Mt. Vernon home w/ attractive floorplan - 5BRs, 3BAs & a 2 car garage. Great curb appeal. Newer roof & windows. Beautiful kitchen w/corion counters, SS appliances, lovely cabinetry & island bar. French doors off of kitchen open to deck. Spacious Family rm w/raised hearth fireplace.

SOLD



Alex/Riverside Estates \$500,000
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OPINION

An Open Letter to Readers and More

Buy an ad in our annual Newcomers and Community Guide, please.

Adapted from a 2016 editorial ...

Has your organization been featured in the Connection Newspapers, or the Alexandria Gazette Packet or the Mount Vernon Gazette or the Centre View or the Potomac Almanac?

Have any of our papers taken note of your business when you and/or your employees pitch in to help the community? Or when you opened your doors or celebrated a milestone?

Are you an elected official whose messages are enhanced by coverage of issues in the Connection?

Do you work for a part of local government that has asked for help getting the word out about a need or a new initiative or accomplishments?

I have a special favor to ask:

Buy an ad in our 2018 Newcomers and Community Guide. Please.

Show your support for our organization which continues to be here to support the forces of good in our communities.

Our annual Newcomers and Community Guide is a pullout section that will appear in the the Aug. 22, 2018 edition of all 15 Connection Newspapers, published by Local Media Connection. Deadline is Aug. 16.

We are striving to create a quality special issue, and we need your help. Whether you invest in a small ad in a single paper (super af-

fordable), or a full page in all 15 of our papers (super value), we appreciate your help this month.

To put on my publisher's hat (and not my editor's hat) for a minute, if you have a marketing budget, and you value coverage of local newspapers (not just ours), why wouldn't you spend a portion of that budget (any portion) supporting that platform? Heed the cautionary tale in the closures of many newspapers in the last couple of years.

But this request is more than a charitable effort.

Share Tips about Community

We need help from our readers for our annual Newcomers and Community Guide.

We're hoping to share special places, activities, events, organizations and volunteer opportunities. What should someone new to your neighborhood know about? Events that should not be missed? Organizations that do a great job? Places to volunteer? Tips for navigating your PTA or your school's front office? A great place to see the sunset? We'd love to have your photos to go along with your suggestions.

What are your favorite parks? Favorite historic sites? Lunch place? Spot for coffee? What tips do you have for someone getting to know the community?

We will publish a selection of local tips along with a plethora of information useful to new-

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The deadline for the Newcomers and Community Guide is Aug. 17. Digital enhancements and support are available. Email sales@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9431 for more information.

comers and long-time residents alike, including our award-winning Insiders Guide to the Parks, and information on how to vote and more.

See last year's community guides by going to www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/ and scrolling down to Newcomers.

Email tips and photos to editors@connectionnewspapers.com or send as a letter to the editor via the website at <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter/> by Wednesday, Aug. 15.

— MARY KIMM

For information on advertising, email sales@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9431. See www.connectionnewspapers.com/advertising.

Gains from the Global Economy

BY PAUL KRIZEK
STATE DELEGATE (D-44)

Late last month, as a member of the House Appropriations Committee in the General Assembly, I came across an interesting email highlighting the work of the new optimization project at Norfolk International Terminal at the Port of Virginia. The Port is critical to the success of our Virginia economy as it acts as

a gateway for commerce at the national and international level. Today, I quickly want to walk you through new technological advancements being made at the Port of Virginia as well as highlighting its overall contribution to our economy.

The Norfolk International Terminal recently received six new Rail Mounted Gantry Cranes (RMGs) which will allow for the operation of the first three semi-automated container stacks on the southern peninsula.

The Port of Virginia purchased 86 cranes to be delivered through the next year and half, the largest RMG purchase in industry history, which is a big deal. Semi-automated container stacks are critical to the future of efficiency and safety at ports. Under traditional stacking terminals, cargo containers need 8 feet of separation while semi-automated terminals will



The Norfolk International Terminal at the Port of Virginia.

need only 18 inches. This closer stacking allows semi-automated terminals to stack five cargo containers as compared to three for traditional terminals. Additionally, cargo containers can now be stacked almost twice as high as they were in 2008 — only 10 years ago.

According to the Port, every 1,000 increase in container traffic creates 300 jobs that pay an average of \$46,000 a year. Furthermore, the higher the throughput of product, the more infrastructure, provisions and associated services will be needed which will mean even more jobs to the local economies of the areas

they inhabit. Simply put, more cargo containers equals more jobs for Virginians due to the increase of goods flowing in and out of the Commonwealth which help promote strong economic activity.

As we move towards a globalized world, it is vital that we find ways to innovate and ensure that Virginia remains prosperous. The technological advantages the RMGs and semi-automated container stacks provide to the Port of Virginia are key to that future. To learn more about the Port of Virginia and any new projects please visit: portofvirginia.com.

Mount Vernon Gazette

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Steven Mauren
Editor, 703-778-9415
smauren@connectionnewspapers.com

Jean Card
Production Editor
jcard@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Worker
Contributing Writer
aworker@connectionnewspapers.com

Jeanne Theismann
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com
@TheismannMedia

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
sales@connectionnewspapers.com
703-778-9431

Debbie Funk
Display Advertising/National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

Julie Ferrill
Real Estate, 703-927-1364
jferrill@connectionnewspapers.com

Helen Walutes
Display Advertising, 703-778-9410
hwalutes@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin
Marketing Assistant
703-778-9431
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Classified & Employment
Advertising
703-778-9431

Publisher
Jerry Vernon
703-549-0004
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Art/Design:
Laurence Foong, John Heinly,
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Legalizing Short-Term Rentals

New regulations will permit homeowners to rent out homes up to 60 days a year.

BY KEN MOORE
THE GAZETTE

Providence District Supervisor Linda Q. Smyth experienced a short-term rental operating illegally in her neighborhood. “I have the distinction, perhaps dubious, of being the board member with an Airbnb situation a half block from my house,” said Smyth.

“So I’ve seen the operation of it, it has not been a happy situation, it’s been a disruption for the neighbors, and it’s been difficult,” she said.

Smyth was one of three supervisors to vote against the short-term lodging regulations that passed the board on Tuesday, July 31, to go into effect on Oct. 1.

“If we had required that the host be present during the short-term lodging contract period, I think I could have gone along with it, because the host is the neighbor and that’s the person the neighbors would know,” she said. “But because we are not doing that I really still have major reservations because of experience.”

“I cannot support it,” Smyth said.

Despite the estimated 1,500 short-term rentals operating in the county to date, the county has only received 80 complaints about short-term lodgings, according to county documents.

“I do believe that owner operators, where they are not present during the rental, where the home isn’t the owner’s residence, are really operating a business in our neigh-

“This is the new economy, this is entrepreneurship, this is exactly what it is.”

— Mount Vernon District Supervisor Daniel Storck

borhoods,” said Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity. “And it does change the residential character of our neighborhoods, and I’ve always supported protecting those neighborhoods,” he said, during the board’s meeting Tuesday.

“But I am concerned, on the other side, that we lose tourism benefits, that this really is like Uber and Lyft, part of the new economy. It is something done across the country,” Herrity said.

Herrity, who represented the second vote against the short-term lodging plan, asked the board on July 31 to take more time to study the “complexity of the issues.”

“I think there’s good reason that the General Assembly took two years to address it,” he said.

Braddock District Supervisor John C. Cook was the final vote against the plan.



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Possible listings through short-term rental sites, including the Mount Vernon area.

“I share some of Supervisor Smyth’s overall concern with the concept, but I also recognize that we have to be responsive to a changing economy,” Cook said.

“To me, the way to address the impacts on the surrounding community are to enforce existing law,” he said. “We have a zoning ordinance and we have it for a reason.”

“Occupancy limits are designed to make sure our homes don’t overwhelm the area,” said Cook.

FOR MORE THAN A YEAR, county planning commissioners, planning staff and Board of Supervisors have been interacting with county residents about regulating rentals such as those advertised on Airbnb, VRBO and FlipKey.

Interest has been high.

More than 7,500 people took part in an online survey. Hundreds of people attended dozens of public meetings. More than 45 people signed up to speak at the Board of Supervisors public hearing on the topic on July 10, 2018, cumulatively speaking for hours. The public hearing before the Planning Commission in May lasted more than four hours.

“I am fortunate that the McLean Citizens Association, they represent 60,000 residents in my district, took this very seriously,” said Dranesville District Supervisor John W. Foust.

“And they recognize that this is going to be a balancing act, they identified the advantages, additional income for the homeowners, making homes more affordable, providing a cheaper alternative to hotels, and providing an opportunity to meet people from other states and countries,” said Foust.

“They warn that there are concerns that they wanted raised. And one was the impact on the character of the neighborhood, very legitimate, introduction of commercial uses in a residential area, parking and traffic on local streets, safety and security, noise and trash, impact on homeowner associa-

tion and condo agreements, and enforceability,” he said.

Sully District Supervisor Kathy Smith, as chairman of Development Process Committee, spearheaded the board’s efforts to finalize regulations to be passed.

“We’ve been at this for a long time. The General Assembly took a couple of years to come up with the code allowing us to do this,” said Smith.

“In reflecting, we’re really here because people change how they do things, we’ve developed a sharing economy, we have shared rides, we have this with the housing,” said Smith. “And sometimes local government is a little bit behind the changes.”

SURVEY RESPONSES revealed that 82 percent of respondents thought short-term rentals should be allowed in single family homes; 74 percent answered that they should be allowed in townhouses; 76 percent answered they should be allowed in condominiums. Fully 40 percent of respondents said they had first-hand experience with short-term rentals.

“While it would be nice to wait, I don’t think waiting is going to yield us any new information that we don’t already have today,” said Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay. “You’re going to have people who don’t understand it, you’re going to have people who love it and want no regulations, and you’re going to have people who don’t want these anywhere in the county,” he said.

The county will examine how the regulations are working after 18 months.

“I do think it is an issue that we need to set rules of engagement, put them in the ordinance, test them, see what’s happening, allow people who are doing these in a way that doesn’t impact the rest of the community, a legal means by which to do that,” said McKay.

New rules go into effect Oct. 1, 2018, allowing homes to be rented out as short-term lodgings with restrictions.

“I think the enforcement issue is going to be a big deal,” said Foust. “I do remind people that this is currently illegal, and we’ve got thousands of people doing it. So we’re going to make it legal, let’s hope that they respect that it will now be legal and they live within the confines of the law.”

These rentals will generate an estimated \$428,268 in new transient occupancy taxes a year based upon the estimated 1,500 active listings, according to the county. Of this amount, \$249,823 would go to the county’s budget fund and the remaining amount would be used to support tourism and regional transportation as required by state law.

SHORT-TERM RENTALS will be allowed in single-family homes, townhouses, condos, mobile homes and apartments with the following requirements:

- ❖ Owners or renters must be permanent

residents of the property they offer for short-term lodging

- ❖ Properties may be rented for no more than 60 days per calendar year.

- ❖ Lodgers will be limited to six adults, all be associated with the same rental contract

- ❖ Only one contract per night is allowed
- ❖ Operators must identify an authorized agent, not including themselves, who will be available in to address problems that arise while a property is being rented.

- ❖ There must be one designated parking space available for lodgers.

- ❖ Postings must include the short-term lodging permit number

- ❖ Postings must identify the location of the required parking space

- ❖ Properties may not be rented for events or commercial purposes like parties, weddings or fundraisers.

- ❖ Properties must be made available for inspection by county code enforcement inspectors upon request, and comply with state building safety rules

- ❖ Two-year permit will cost \$200

- ❖ Operators must pay transient occupancy taxes

- ❖ Homeowners associations and community associations can still prohibit short-term lodgings within their subdivision or development

MOUNT VERNON District Supervisor Daniel Storck identified short-term rentals as entrepreneurship.

“This is the new economy, this is entrepreneurship, this is exactly what it is. You’re always kind of skating near the edges of what’s legal or not legal, what the rules are or not the rules, because that’s part of what creates change in society,” said Storck.

“We’re here, and now we have to address it. As an entrepreneur I don’t want to shut it down but at the same time, I have a lot of concerns,” he said.

Chairman Sharon Bulova said the board’s decision “was not an easy one.”

“Short-term lodging, while people have been doing that sort of thing over the years, it hasn’t really had a name and hasn’t been something that’s been recognized in our zoning ordinance. But it’s becoming something that is popular and that people are doing,” Bulova said during the meeting. “Without any kind of regulation or oversight I feel that we could be interfering with the quiet enjoyment of people’s neighborhoods and homes.”

“There were many factors to consider and various ways the county could go about regulating or restricting. Through today’s decision, the Board of Supervisors aimed to strike the right balance between allowing short-term rentals to operate in Fairfax County under certain circumstances, while protecting the character and quiet enjoyment of residential neighborhoods in Fairfax County,” she said.

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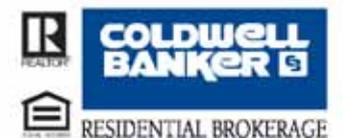


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LETTERS



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

This is the hike led by Bill and Lynn Limpert showing Miracle Ridge which is in the proposed pipeline's path.

Fracked Gas? No Thanks

To the Editor:

Mount Vernon residents — this affects you. Did you know that the 600-mile pipeline carrying “fracked gas” proposed to extend from West Virginia to North Carolina, and traverse our Blue Ridge mountains would be paid for by us? The \$6.5 billion proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline would be largely financed by ratepayers of Dominion and Duke. The pipeline lobbyists have done a great job of selling this boondoggle to the public, regulators, and politicians, including Governor Northam and some of our local representatives, by promoting the position that natural gas is a preferred energy source over coal. This is a last century viewpoint. Comparing one harmful energy source as being preferred over a second harmful source is a misleading choice that ignores better alternatives. The lobbyists also claim that jobs will be created, but permanent pipeline-related jobs are projected to be less than 40. Construction jobs are usually brought in by out of state contractors and are temporary. The lobbyists also claim that natural gas is needed for business expansion in Virginia, ignoring the fact that modern businesses want to be supplied by renewable energy.

Dominion appears to be planning based on profit for executive salaries and stockholders, rather than the long-term health of our children, grandchildren, and the planet. Imagine what a \$6.5 billion investment in

renewables would do to create jobs, preserve our air, water, and environment, and reduce utility bills.

Become informed and let your local county and state officials know that this is our business, and we do not want it. Refer to pipelineupdate.org for a well-organized, factual, science-based summary.

Or better yet, visit Bill and Lynn Limpert's beautiful land in Bath County, as we did, to see for yourself the old growth forest and

steep mountain ridges as an example of what would be devastated by this Project. Visit CCAN.org to register.

Bruce and Pam Tinker
Alexandria

Supporting Project

To the Editor:

The following letter was sent to the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors.

The purpose of this email is to formally support a proposed residential development (SE 2016-MV-016; RZ 2016-MV-016; FDP 2016-MV-018) at 8800 Richmond Highway, Alexandria.

Although there are environmental concerns that identifies the property as being in an Environment Quality Corridor and/or Resource Protection Area (corridors), such corridors perform different functions under different environments. As such, functions provide considerations that allows certain compromises for residential development with limited disturbances that may accommodate both development and environmental objectives. Therefore, the proposed development should be reviewed on its own merits.

The proposed plan and design appears sensitive to the natural conditions by providing more than one mitigation and compensation proposal to include keeping the area performing its valuable natural functions and private parks or open spaces are formally preserved.

Finally, realizing that common ground exists in environmental corridors, particularly since it would not be practical or even possible to preserve every last natural remnant in the Mount Vernon District, the most affected surrounding communities have pledged their support for the proposed residential development based on precision planning to include viable solutions to mitigate and resolve environmental concerns. Those communities include, but not limited to, Engleside, Woodlawn, Gillingham, Timothy Park, Rosemont, Woodlawn Gables, The Villages, Oaks of Woodlawn and Abbotts Run. As a result of those communities' support and involvement in the planning process, I support the proposed development as currently presented.

Queenie Cox
Gum Springs

Reject Proposal

To the Editor:

In my testimony at the July 19 public hearing, I discussed all the ways that the proposed development at 8800 Richmond Highway fails to meet the Comprehensive Plan's environmental guidance. It doesn't come close, and the Plan Amendment should be turned down for those reasons. Amending the Comp Plan to allow residences at 8800 Richmond Highway would

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WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Preparing for New School Year

Home organizing saves space and time.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

The sight of store shelves overflowing with school glue sticks and crayons signals that the beginning of school is just around the corner. While squeezing in one last vacation, the thought of turning an eye to getting one's home in order before the school bell rings might be met with dread.

"It can feel like a daunting task to organize when artwork overflows from school or small trinkets come home from birthday parties, the end of summer is a great time to purge a lot of unnecessary items to make way for new school year ahead," said Allie Mann, designer-senior interiors specialist, Case Design/Remodeling. "And it's always a great time to donate gently used items as well."

"Especially now as families are preparing to get back to school, it's so important to get organized," added Anne M. Walker, Esq., Allied ASID, Owner + Principal Anne Walker Design LLC. "Nothing is more stressful than searching for something when you're already five minutes late, it's pouring down rain, it's picture day at school, and you have a big work meeting in 45 minutes."

Now that organization is often considered a part of interior design, the tools and hacks available are more stylish and innovative than ever, say local designers. "In a kitchen in Old Town, Alexandria I installed four shallow drawers underneath the countertop at the island — one for each family member," said Sarah Glenn, interior designer and project manager, Braswell Design+Build, Alexandria. "I designed the drawers to be just large enough to store school papers and a laptop so that each family member would have a dedicated temporary storage space without creating four individual junk drawers."

A Potomac, Md. family recently enlisted Walker's help in redesigning and reorganizing their home from top to bottom with an eye toward all things chic and stylish. She began in the bedrooms of the family's teenage daughter, creating custom closets.

"After the new closet was installed, I spent the better part of two days helping this teen fill the closet with all of her belongings, putting things where they were visible and readily accessible," she said. "Organization is important primarily because of the time it saves. If you can find what you need to get out the door right away, you can sleep 20 minutes later."



PHOTO COURTESY OF NICELY DONE KITCHENS AND BATHS

This kitchen by Nicely Done Kitchens and Baths features custom cabinets of painted Maplewood and quartz countertops. An abundance of drawer space helps with organization.



PHOTO BY STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG

Hooks for backpacks and jackets, like this one by Allie Mann of Case Design/Remodeling, are a must for an organized mudroom.

A similar closet was created for the family's middle school aged son. "Amazing how even young children can keep their rooms tidy as long as there's a system in place that they can understand and is practical enough for them to use," said Walker. "If you know exactly where all of your clothes are, and exactly where to put them back after laundering them, it will seem like you just won the lottery. You won't believe how many things you have, many of which have been long forgotten, stuffed in the back of some drawer or under the bed."

One of the most important tasks on Walker's agenda was organizing a large basement space with abundant shelving to create a home office. "In an office this size, children could easily use it for homework while the parent was working there, also," she said. "Sometimes it's calming and comforting just to be in the same space, even if you aren't actually helping the child with their work."

A home's mudroom is supposed to serve as a gateway into the main house, creating order and keeping clutter from overflowing into the home's interior, but often that isn't the case as clutter overtakes the space. In a recent mudroom project, Mann incorporated elements into the design that addressed the family's lifestyle. "Cubbies and bench storage for sports and after-school activities for older children are a must," she said. "If space allows, allocating a designated cubbie for each child is best to keep things separated and from getting lost."

"With organization, you are constantly trying to strike a balance between carving out enough space for a specific function without over-organizing to the point that you lose flexibility to change what you store as your life evolves," added Glenn.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANNE WALKER

Interior designer Anne Walker installed a custom closet by Capitol Closet Design in the bedroom of this Potomac, Md. home to create an organized space in time for school.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

Fine Art Photography Exhibit.

Through Sept. 2 at Multiple Exposures Gallery, located in Studio 312 at the Torpedo Factory Art Center in Alexandria. Show features 30 images juried by Mark L. Power. Exhibition hours are 11 a.m.-5 p.m. daily, except Thursdays, 2 p.m.-8 p.m. Visit www.multipleexposuresgallery.com.

Art Exhibit: "A Murder in Bruges: A Cast of Characters." Through Sept. 2, gallery hours at The Art League Gallery, 105 North Union St., Studio 21. Artist Ito Briones's whodunit pays homage to the great mystery writers, from Sir Arthur Conan Doyle to Agatha Christie. This interactive exhibit, inspired by classic murder mysteries, presents viewers with a trail of clues that lead to a suspect hidden in plain sight; the murderer's portrait is among the twenty five characters on display. Opening reception Thursday, Aug. 9, 6:30-8 p.m. Visit www.theartleague.org or call 703-683-1780.

New Works by Ken Strong. Through Aug. 9, gallery hours at Broadway Gallery, 5641-B General Washington Drive. Shipped straight from his studio in Australia, Ken Strong's new works represent a variety of subjects from Australia and the United States. Call 703-354-2905 or visit broadwaygalleries.net.

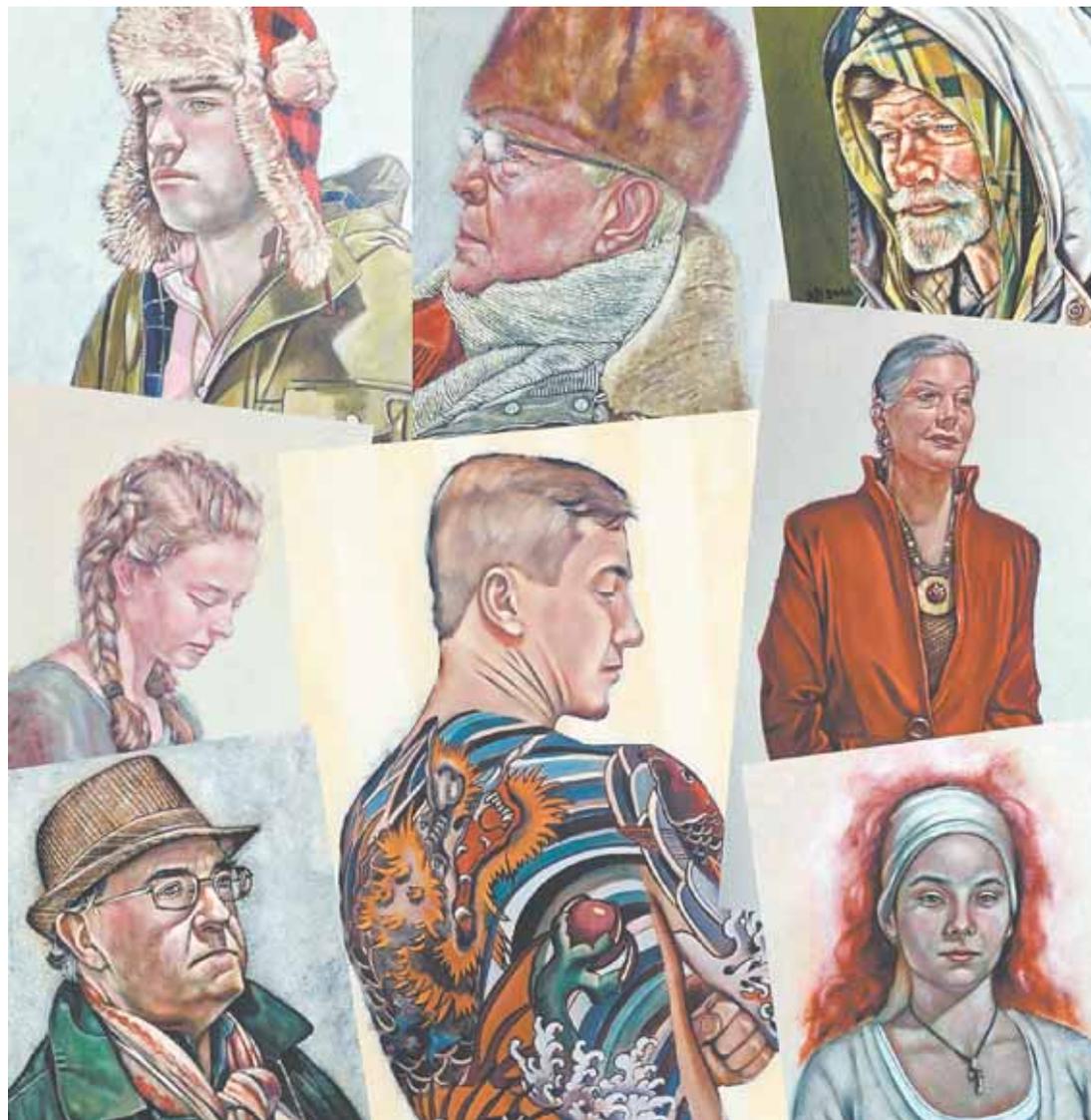
Life Under the Sea. Through Aug. 26 at Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, in Torpedo Factory Art Center, Studio 29, 105 North Union St., Alexandria. Real or imagined, the world beneath the waves calls to the artists for this show: Enchanted mermaids, coral, shells, sunken ships, fish, and glorious colors. Free. Visit www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com or call 703-548-0935.

Art Exhibit: "Off the Grid." Through Aug. 31, gallery hours at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. "Off the Grid" is an exhibit of artwork by Fairfax County and City of Alexandria inmates. The inmates vary in age, background and artistic experience, with most having never drawn before their lessons with volunteer art instructor Kelli Schollard-Sincock. Visit torpedofactory.org.

Art Exhibit: Art, Light, and Metaphor. Through Sept. 2 at Target Gallery in the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. New exhibition explores the connections between art, light, and metaphor. The opening reception will be the cornerstone of the Torpedo Factory Art Center's Late Shift: Bright Lights on Friday, July 20, 7-9 pm. A Gallery Talk with select artist comments will take place at 8 p.m. There will also be a special Illuminate pop-up exhibition in the Grand Hall. Learn more at torpedofactory.org/target.

Ceramics Combust. Through Sept. 2 at Scope Gallery, 105 North Union St., Studio 19, Torpedo Factory Art Center, Alexandria. Featuring "Brilliance: An Exploration of Heat and Light." Hours are Monday through Sunday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., with Thursdays open until 9 p.m. Call Scope Gallery at 703-548-6288, visit www.scopegallery.org, www.torpedofactory.org/galleries/scope.

Ancestry Art Exhibit. Through Sept. 2, at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. The "Ancestry" exhibit at Del Ray Artisans showcases how the diverse, vibrant cultures of our members come



Portraits in Briones' Exhibit

A Murder in Bruges: A Cast of Characters

Artist Ito Briones's whodunit pays homage to the great mystery writers, from Sir Arthur Conan Doyle to Agatha Christie. This interactive exhibit, inspired by classic murder mysteries, presents viewers with a trail of clues that lead to a suspect hidden in plain sight; the murderer's portrait is among the twenty five characters on display. Through Sept. 2, gallery hours at The Art League Gallery, 105 North Union St., Studio 21. Opening reception Thursday, Aug. 9, 6:30-8 p.m. Visit www.theartleague.org or call 703-683-1780.

together to form one strong community. Visit www.DelRayArtisans.org/event/ancestry/.

Honoring Our Veterans Exhibit.

Through Labor Day, at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St., Alexandria. Included in museum admission - Adults: \$5, Children (ages 5-12): \$3. After his service in the Revolutionary War, Hamilton went home to contribute to his community and nation. As part of the World War I 100th Commemoration, learn how returning veterans served Alexandria, including American Legion Post #24, which restored

Gadsby's Tavern in honor of WWI veterans. See how the museum looked under their care and hear about the contributions veterans still make to the City of Alexandria today. Visit www.gadsbystavern.org.

"Dredging The Lethe." On view through Sept. 14 at The Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Free admission. Visit www.torpedofactory.org. Wrapped around the interior wall of a smokestack of the former munitions factory, Kara Hammond's mural, "Dredging the Lethe," uses recycled book-pages, collage, charcoal, gesso and ink to create large-scale

drawings of Greek goddesses amid contemporary human events. Free admission. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

Art Exhibit: Makers in the Mansion.

Through Oct. 22 at Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House Historic Site, 9000 Richmond Highway. Six installations of work by local African American makers hosted in an 1805 mansion owned by Nelly Parke Custis and Lawrence Lewis, once a prominent plantation home. Stories of a transformed African American community through the artisan eye. RSVP to Woodlawnevents@savingplaces.org.

WFUMC Farmers Market. Tuesdays through Oct. 23, 4-7 p.m. at Washington Farm United Methodist Church, 3921 Old Mill Road. Orchard Country Produce, from Gardners, Pa., will operate a Farmer's Market from the west parking lot of WFUMC. They also operate from the St. Luke's parking lot on Fort Hunt Road on Saturday mornings. They have a very wide offering ranging from fresh vegetables to meat and desserts. Admission is free. Visit www.washingtonfarmumc.org or call 703-780-4696.

Row by Row Junior. Through Oct. 31, local quilt shops like Artistic Artifacts (4750 Eisenhower Ave.) are

welcoming children participating in Row by Row Junior to their shops. It's the junior version of the summertime travel event for quilt making fans known as Row by Row Experience. Kids visit shops in person, collect a free sewing pattern, and find inspiration in colorful, creative world of sewing. At home, families can find free tutorial support and activities online by visiting www.rowbyrowexperience.com or www.artisticartifacts.com for local quilting.

Mount Vernon Farmers Market.

Wednesdays, 8 a.m.-noon at Sherwood Hall Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Every Wednesday (through Dec. 19), 15 local farmers and producers will sell fresh produce and fruits; meats; breads and pastries; honey, jams and jellies; dairy products and eggs; herbs; and more. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets.

Open for Tours.

Through December. At 9000 Richmond Hwy., Alexandria. Woodlawn and Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House is open for tours Friday through Monday, from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. (last tour at 3 p.m.) Not open to the public Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. To learn more about National Trust Sites, visit savingplaces.org/historic-sites.

Tours of the Freedom House

Museum. Saturdays and Sundays, 1-5 p.m. at Freedom House Museum, 1315 Duke St. The Freedom House Museum was once the headquarters and holding pen for the largest domestic slave trading firm in the United States, Franklin and Armfield. The building is currently owned by the Northern Virginia Urban League and together with the Office of Historic Alexandria. Visit the museum in this historic reminder of slavery. Admission is \$5 per person. Tickets can be purchased at the door. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Museums.

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Community Dance. 7:30-9:30 p.m. every third Friday at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Live music. Tickets are \$4. Call 703-765-4573.

Life Drawing. Del Ray Artisans offers a range of open life drawing sessions for anyone to develop life-drawing skills further. Drop-in for the session and bring supplies to draw or paint live models. Fee ranges from \$8-\$12. All skill levels are welcome. Del Ray Artisans is located at 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org for a schedule.

The Harmony Heritage Singers (Mount Vernon Chapter of Barbershop Harmony Society), a daytime, a cappella, Chorus, rehearses on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, monthly, at Sherwood Hall Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Newcomers welcome for fun or to book for a performance. visit www.HHSingers.org, or call Bruce at 703-352-5271.

THURSDAY/AUG. 9

SummerQuest Maker Camp. 2-3 p.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St., Alexandria. Ages 8-14. Come explore STEAM concepts with high-tech and low-tech activities and challenges. Class size limited to 20 children, pick up a ticket starting at 1:30 p.m.

Opening Reception: "A Murder in Bruges: A Cast of Characters." 6:30-8 p.m. at The Art League Gallery, 105 North Union St., Studio 21. Artist Ito Briones's whodunit pays homage to the great mystery writers,



An Evening with KaNikki Jakarta

KaNikki, an award winning poet, offers a performance poetry, storytelling, an author read, and Q&A. KaNikki will read from her memoir, A Peace of Mine, How to be the Wife of an Epileptic, Honor Your Vows, and Honor Yourself. Thursday, Aug. 9, 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. RSVP to admin@nvfaa.org.

ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTO BY JAMES RYLES

Participants in the Swim for Engie Against Breast Cancer Swimathon in 2016.

Swim for Engie

Lap-swimmers of all ages welcome to participate in swimathon in honor of Engie Mokhtar to raise money for breast cancer research. Sponsored by Alexandria Masters Swimming and Alexandria West Rotary. \$10 suggested donation. Sunday, Aug. 26, 8 a.m. at Waynewood Pool, 1027 Dalebrook Drive, Alexandria. Contact Madeline Muravchik at swimforengie@gmail.com or call 202-262-0184. Visit secure.metavivor.org/page/contribute/swimforengie for more.

from Sir Arthur Conan Doyle to Agatha Christie. This interactive exhibit, inspired by classic murder mysteries, presents viewers with a trail of clues that lead to a suspect hidden in plain sight; the murderer's portrait is among the twenty five characters on display. Exhibit runs Aug. 8-Sept. 2. Visit www.theheartleague.org or call 703-683-1780.

An Evening with KaNikki Jakarta. 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. KaNikki, an award winning poet, offers a performance poetry, storytelling, an author read, and Q&A. KaNikki will read from her memoir, *A Peace of Mine*, *How to be the Wife of an Epileptic*, *Honor Your Vows*, and *Honor Yourself*. RSVP to admin@nvfaa.org.

FRIDAY/AUG. 10

After Work Concert Series. 6-8 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 South Washington St., Alexandria. Two bands: Cat and the Fiddle (Joe & Syd Shelby) and Maelstrom. Suggested donation for the musicians, light refreshments available, and a cash bar. Sponsored by The Folklore Society of Greater Washington and The Office of Historic Alexandria. Visit www.alexandriava.gov.

Trivia Night. 7-9 p.m. at Lee-Fendall House Museum, 614 Oronoco St., Alexandria. Staff members at Carlyle House Historic Park and Lee-Fendall House Museum have combined their random nerd knowledge to create bi-weekly trivia nights. Test knowledge on all things from pop culture to history. \$5 a person; includes one drink ticket. Additional drinks can be bought at the cash bar. Teams may have up to six members. Registration slots are first come, first served; pay ahead to save a spot. Every other Friday June-August. Purchase tickets through eventbrite.com.

Mount Vernon Nights. 7:30 p.m. at Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway. This series of

free, public concerts features a variety of musical performances reflecting Fairfax County's diversity, culture and community spirit. Bring a picnic dinner and a blanket and enjoy one of Fairfax County's special summer traditions. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/mt-vernon-nights.

LIT! Festival. 7:30-11 p.m. at Waterfront Park, 1A Prince St., Alexandria. All ages are welcome to come and experience two musical acts - R&B vocalist Elle Pierre and The Peace & Body Roll Duo BOOMscat. There will also be an Electric Garden's Caterpillar Lounge by The Foam Collective boasting solar charging stations, listening stations equipped with headphones, and sandbox light table. Participants can enjoy henna tattoos, marble skin painting, food truck vendors for bites to eat and flavored frozen treats. Hosted by the City of Alexandria's Mobile Art Lab. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation or contact Tia Bural at 703-746-5517 or tia.bural@alexandriava.gov.

Art and Dance Party. 7-10 p.m. at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, Alexandria. Summer Fling is an end of dance party celebrating the five decades of the Art Center's history. DJ Starchild gets the night started with retro hits from the 70s, 80s, 90s, 00s and today. Visitors are encouraged to get into the spirit with retro dress from their favorite decade. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/AUG. 11-12
9th Annual Summer Sidewalk Sale. Hours vary by retailer. Throughout Old Town and Del Ray. Features 50 Alexandria boutiques stepping out of their storefronts offering discounted summer merchandise at up to 80 percent off. Participating stores such as The Shoe Hive, The Lucky Knot, 529 Kids

Consign, Periwinkle, The Dog Park, fibre space, Pacers Running and Kiskadee will have bright yellow balloon markers outside of their storefronts. New boutiques to Alexandria such as Threadleaf, Forge Industrial Works and Twist Boutique will also participate. For a complete list of all participating businesses and examples of sale items, visit VisitAlexVA.com/SidewalkSale.

SATURDAY/AUG. 11

Backyard Composting Basics. 9:30-10:30 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Mother Nature can help you compost plant material into luscious amendment for lawn and garden. Visit Green Spring's composting station to learn different composting methods, materials to use and not use, proportions, aeration, screening, critter control and compost use. \$15/person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes using code 290-388-3901 or call 703-642-5173.

A Culinary Adventure. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at 532Yoga, 532 North Washington St., Alexandria. Indian cooking class; includes cookbook. \$65. Visit www.532yoga.com.

Telling Their Story: Museum Specialty Tours. 10 a.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St., Alexandria. Tour the halls where Washington, Lafayette, Jefferson, Madison and Burr partied and made history. Consider the ideas debated in the rooms where it happened... for some, but not for all. \$12. Visit www.gadsbystavern.org.

The General's Tour. 10 a.m.-noon at Lee-Fendall House Museum, 614 Oronoco St., Alexandria. Guided walking tour of Robert E. Lee sites in Alexandria's Historic Old Town highlighting the Confederate general's complicated legacy. Cost is \$10/advance; \$15/door. Visit www.leeendallhouse.org

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THE CONNECTION
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SPECIAL PULLOUT TAB

Newcomers & Community Guide
August 22, 2018

The annual Newcomers and Community Guides for each of our 15 communities with inside facts on what makes each community special, their secret places, the real power players, how to get involved and more.

Including the history, schools, parks, libraries, local people, elected officials, county/city offices, how decisions are made, a calendar of events and other vital community information.

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ENTERTAINMENT

www.leefendallhouse.org

Purple Heart Day. 10:30 a.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon on the east lawn overlooking the Potomac River. Members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart will commemorate National Purple Heart Day. All Purple Heart recipients receive free daytime admission to Mount Vernon every day of the year. Visit www.mountvernon.org/purpleheartday.

Rocknocos. 11-11:45 a.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St., Alexandria. Children will enjoy bopping along to Coach, Williebob, and Boogie Bennie's catchy tunes. All ages with an adult. Free.

Floral Design Demonstration: Color Confidence. 1-2:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Join floral designer Betty Ann Galway in this demonstration on color theory in floral design, including different combinations that demonstrate the monochromatic, analogous, complementary and triadic color combinations in cut flowers, along with the when's and why's of choosing these combinations. Program only. No supplies. \$43/person. Adults. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakesusingcode2903015801 or call 703-642-5173.

Luau on the Potomac. 6 p.m. at 2000 George Washington Parkway, turn in at Lucia Lane. Authentic Polynesian entertainment and food. Sponsored by the Mount Vernon Community. Bring salad, chopped fruit or ethnic side dishes. Free to attend; no alcoholic beverages permitted. For information, contact Nafetelai Kioa, kioa.nafitalai@gmail.com, 571-217-7663, or Sean O'Connell, mvbishopoconnell@gmail.com, 540-604-4318.

Kate Campbell Live. 7 p.m. at Focus Mount Vernon at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road, Alexandria. Appearing with Lynn Hollyfield. Kate Campbell's vocal delivery and her gift for storytelling have drawn comparisons to Flannery O'Connor, Eudora Welty, and William Faulkner. Tickets are \$18/advance; \$20/door. For tickets, visit www.focusmusic.org/buy-tickets.

Boardwalk Astronomy. 8-10 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Want to know what's new in the night sky? Join park naturalists for "Boardwalk Astronomy" – a tour of constellations, comets and other current happenings in the heavens above. For participants age 12 to adult. \$9 per person. The sky tour will be canceled in the event of rain or other severe weather. Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows.

SUNDAY/AUG. 12

Meet the Junior Docents. 2-5 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal St., Alexandria. These young historians, grades 4 and older, will be on hand to share highlights of the tavern and answer questions as guests journey through the museum. Great for families as children connect with the building through their peer tour guides as well as for adults looking for some inspiration. Included in regular admission: \$5 adults (\$4 with AAA), \$3 children ages 5-12, and 4 and under are free. Call 703-746-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org.

Concert. 3 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. The Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association presents the Mellifera String Quartet playing the music of Schullhoff, Shaw, and



Photo by Fred Zafran

Fine Art Photography Exhibit

Show features 30 images juried by Mark L. Power. Exhibition hours are 11 a.m.-5 p.m. daily, except Thursdays, 2 p.m.-8 p.m. through Sept. 2, at Multiple Exposures Gallery, located in Studio 312 at the Torpedo Factory Art Center in Alexandria. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

Haydn. Free. Visit www.wmpamusic.org.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 15

Summer Reading Puppet Show. 10:30-11:15 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Young story lovers will be entertained by a story-time puppet show presented by a professional puppeteer. Children and their accompanying adult(s) must register. Ages 3-adult. \$4/person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakesusingcode2903856301 or call 703-642-5173.

Cool Yoga 2018. 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Del Ray Psych & Wellness Lot, 1900 Mt. Vernon Ave. Maureen Clyne teaches Cool Yoga – Del Ray's free summer outdoor yoga, Wednesdays through Aug. 29. Chill out after class with the Cool Yoga After-Party featuring refreshments courtesy of Bon Vivant Cafe + Farm Market. Email yoga@prasadayoga.com.

THURSDAY/AUG. 16

Summer Garden Tour and Tea. 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Reservations required. Tour the glorious demonstration gardens with a master gardener docent who will inspire you with stories of Green Spring past and present. Afterward, enjoy a traditional English afternoon tea. Programs are by reservation only. \$32/person. Adults. Call 703-941-7987, TTY 703-324-3988.

Zine Share. 5-6:30 p.m. at the Kate Waller Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St., Alexandria. Zines (zeens) are self-published booklets that can be easily reproduced and shared with others. Working on a zine? Bring it to trade with other zine makers. The library will run copies and supplies will be available for final touches. Ages 12 and older. Visit www.alexlibraryva.org.

FRIDAY/AUG. 17

Mount Vernon Nights. 7:30 p.m. at

Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway. This series of free, public concerts features a variety of musical performances reflecting Fairfax County's diversity, culture and community spirit. Bring a picnic dinner and a blanket and enjoy one of Fairfax County's special summer traditions. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/mt-vernon-nights.

AUG. 17-26

Summer Restaurant Week. Spans for 10 Days. In neighborhoods throughout Alexandria, including Old Town, Del Ray and the West End. Featuring 50 restaurants offering a \$35 three-course dinner or a \$35 dinner for two; and select locations offering lunch from \$15 or \$22 per person lunch and brunch specials. New restaurants include: Mia's Italian Kitchen and Café 44. Returning participants include: Hank's Pasta Bar, Evening Star Café, BRABO, Vermilion, Hummingbird, Del Ray Café and Virtue Feed & Grain. Restaurants with lunch offerings include: The Majestic, Vola's Dockside Grill, Bastille Brasserie & Bar, Blackwall Hitch and Society Fair. Restaurants with brunch specials include Chadwicks, Cheesetique, Cedar Knoll, The Wharf and Vermilion. Visit www.AlexandriaRestaurantWeek.com; call 703-838-5005.

SATURDAY/AUG. 18

Clear the Shelters Pet Adoption. At 4101 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria. The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria partners with NBC4 and Telemundo44 for a pet adoption event at the Vola Lawson Amlinal Shelter. On this day, the AWLA will waive adoption fees for dogs, cats, rabbits, mice and other animals. More information can be found at AlexandriaAnimals.org/ClearItForward, and a live record of all animals adopted as part of Clear the Shelters can be found at AlexandriaAnimals.org.

How to Help Fruit Trees Thrive.

9:30-11 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Fruit trees make a wonderful addition to any landscape, small or large, flat or hilly. Horticulturalist Nancy Olney will showcase unusual fruits like figs, dates, persimmons, and blueberries that can be grown without pesticides, and will teach you how to care for these plants while optimizing fruiting. Participants will receive a rooted cutting from a fig tree to get your personal orchard started. Cost is \$22. Call 703-642-5173 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring.

Blue Sky Puppet Theatre. 10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. at Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St., Alexandria. The City of Alexandria's Office of the Arts has collaborated with the National Capital Puppetry Guild for a series of monthly family-friendly shows. Tickets are \$5. Visit alexandriava.gov/webtrac and search keyword "puppet."

Walking with Washington Tour. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Alexandria Visitors Center, 221 King St., Alexandria. This guided walking tour of historic Old Towne covers significant people and events in George Washington's life and in American history, with stops at Ramsay House, Market Square, the Carlyle House, Wise's Tavern, Duvall House/Tavern, Gadsby's Tavern, Washington's townhouse, The Lord Fairfax House, "Light-Horse" Harry Lee's house and Christ Church. Sponsored by the City of Alexandria's George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee. Free. Call 703-379-7460 or visit www.washingtonbirthday.com.

Games of Yesteryear. 11 a.m.-noon at Historic Huntley, 6918 Harrison Lane, Alexandria. Play games that the children who once lived at Historic Huntley might have enjoyed, participate in a scavenger hunt, take a special children's tour of the home, and make a simple toys to take home in this fun-and-games event. \$7 per person. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/

parks/historic-huntley/ or call 703-768-2525.

11 Steps to Toxic Free Living with Essential Oils. 2-4 p.m. at 532Yoga, 532 North Washington St., Alexandria. Free. Visit www.532yoga.com.

Cinema Del Ray Outdoor Movies. 7 p.m. at Mt. Vernon Recreation Center, 2701 Commonwealth Ave., Alexandria. Free. Bring family, friends, neighbors and a blanket to watch these open-air movies including The Lion King, The Lego Batman Movie, Toy Story 3, Cars 3 and Coco at Cinema Del Ray, sponsored by The Jen Walker Team. Visit www.facebook.com/cinemadelray.

SUNDAY/AUG. 19

Heart on Your Sleeve. 1-3:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Sleeves have been designed in myriad styles over the centuries and defined the fashionable silhouettes of their day. Artist and collector Caroline Hottenstein presents the history and different forms of this vital element of fashion and displays beautiful examples from her antique clothing collection. By reservation only. Adults. Cost is \$42/person (program + tea); \$18 (program only). Call 703-941-7987, TTY 703-324-3988.

Meet the Junior Docents. 2-5 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal St., Alexandria. These young historians, grades 4 and older, will be on hand to share highlights of the tavern and answer questions as guests journey through the museum. Great for families as children connect with the building through their peer tour guides as well as for adults looking for some inspiration. Included in regular admission: \$5 adults (\$4 with AAA), \$3 children ages 5-12, and 4 and under are free. Call 703-746-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org.

Lyceum Concert. 3-4:30 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 South Washington St., Alexandria. Soprano Nancy Scimone sings music from Spain, Italy, France and USA. Sponsored by Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Summer Series (Ulysses James, Director) in historic Old Town. Donations accepted at the door. Visit www.wmpamusic.org.

MONDAY/AUG. 20

Send a Kid to Camp Golf Classic. 9 a.m. at The Piedmont Club, 14675 Vista Drive, Haymarket. Proceeds will provide opportunities for Alexandria City Youth to attend summer camp. The Alexandria Police Youth Camp offers a unique opportunity for the children of Alexandria to experience the joys of the outdoors, the comradery of friendship, and the fulfillment of learning new skills. Living just minutes from one of the largest urban areas in America, the Alexandria Police Youth Camp provides youth with the chance to visit a more rural setting. \$99/player. Call Ed Dougherty at 703-746-6697.

MONDAY-WEDNESDAY/AUG. 20-22

Wildflower Hike and Sketch Class. 10 a.m.-noon at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Cost is \$45/person. The "Wildflower Inspect & Sketch" program is a three-morning exploration of art and summer wetland wildflowers. Participants age 10 to adult will learn about flower identification, seed development and dispersal, anatomy and pollination while observing and drawing in the park's wetland. Parent-child participant pairs are welcome. Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/

ENTERTAINMENT

huntley-meadows.

TUESDAY/AUG. 21

Ellis Island History. 1-3 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Free. Sponsored by Mount Vernon Genealogical Society. Dr. Alan Traut, American University history professor, will speak about immigration through Ellis Island and the Government's effort to protect against the spread of infection by Immigrants. Visit www.mvgenalogy.org.

Library Sit-In. At Kate Waller Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St., Alexandria. Celebrating the 79th Anniversary of the 1939 Library Sit-In. One of the nation's most little-known historical events involved leadership from native Alexandrian, attorney Samuel W. Tucker, and five young African American men who demonstrated an act of civil disobedience at the Barrett Branch after being denied library cards. Every year, Alexandria Library hosts events honoring the anniversary of the peaceful protest. Beginning Friday, Aug. 17, Local History/Special Collections Branch and the Kate Waller Barrett Branch will host the 'Anniversary of the 1939 Sit-In' exhibit to honor Samuel W. Tucker and the five men. Visit alexlibraryva.org.

Twilight & Tipple Tuesday Tours. 6-9 p.m. at Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway. A rare opportunity to experience Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House by twilight. This tour is a chance to see one of Wright's houses illuminated against a night sky, bring a new dimension and radiance to the typical tour experience. Grab a drink, included in the price of the ticket, and take an informative and fun guided tour with plenty of time to take stunning photos. Visit www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org.

Book Buzz. 7-8:30 p.m. at Kate Waller Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St., Alexandria. Attention book lovers: want the inside scoop on the upcoming books for fall release? Library staff will give a presentation on the newest titles from Penguin, Random House, and Macmillan. Free. Attendees will receive a free book bag tote and excerpts of upcoming books. Visit alexlibraryva.org.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 22
Cool Yoga 2018. 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Del Ray Psych & Wellness Lot, 1900 Mt. Vernon Ave. Maureen Clyne teaches Cool Yoga – Del Ray's free summer outdoor yoga, Wednesdays through Aug. 29. Chill out after class with the Cool Yoga After-Party featuring refreshments courtesy of

Bon Vivant Cafe + Farm Market.
Email yoga@prasadayoga.com.

THURSDAY/AUG. 23

Westlaw Training. 3-4 p.m. at Alexandria Law Library, 520 King St., Suite LL34, Alexandria. Designed for those researchers who have some experience with Westlaw, this seminar reviews basic legal research techniques and then builds on terms and connectors advanced searching, West Topics and Key Numbers, using filters, Copy with Reference, and explores features within KeyCite. Free. Email aprice@alexlibraryva.org.

Fall/Winter Vegetable Gardening. 7-8:30 p.m. at the Ellen Coolidge Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Fall is a delightful time to garden, with cool autumn days and waning pest populations. Learn inexpensive techniques to extend the harvest and even how to enjoy crops in the dead of winter. Free. Call 703-228-6414 or Visit mgnv.org.

FRIDAY/AUG. 24

Children's Art Workshop. 1:30-3 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Join artists on the Athenaeum staff for a hands-on art workshop. Explore techniques in creating mixed-media collages and then create your own masterpiece. Recommended for children ages 5-12, children must be accompanied by an adult. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

Teen Comic Book Club. 4-5 p.m. at James M. Duncan Jr. Branch Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave., Alexandria. Teens will discuss great comic books and graphic novels. Snacks provided. Free. Visit alexlibraryva.org.

Mount Vernon Nights. 7:30 p.m. at Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway. This series of free, public concerts features a variety of musical performances reflecting Fairfax County's diversity, culture and community spirit. Bring a picnic dinner and a blanket and enjoy one of Fairfax County's special summer traditions. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance/mt-vernon-nights.

SATURDAY/AUG. 25

Mount Vernon Flea Market. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at 8717 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Flea Market will take place every fourth Saturday of the month through September. Vendors will sell items such as: homemade goods, lavender sachets, jewelry, soap, antique and vintage items; books, CD's and DVDs, comic books and more. Refreshments will also be on sale. Hosted by the Mount Vernon Masonic Lodge No. 219. Rain or shine. Visit www.facebook.com/



Blue Sky Puppet Theatre

The City of Alexandria's Office of the Arts has collaborated with the National Capital Puppetry Guild for a series of monthly family-friendly shows. Saturday, Aug. 18, 10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. at Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St., Alexandria. Tickets are \$5. Visit alexandriava.gov/webtrac and search keyword "puppet."

mountvernonfleamarket/
Summer Kayak Cleanups. 9 a.m.-noon at the Conservatory Center at Four Mile Run Park, 4109 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. The Four Mile Run Conservatory Foundation will deploy its fleet of kayaks to collect litter along the streambank of Four Mile Run. Volunteers will have access to a water refill station, snacks, gloves, trash grabbers and bags, and a limited number of kayaks with life-vests, but are asked to bring their own reusable water bottle, sunscreen, bug spray, and water shoes. A limited number of boats may be reserved. Participants can use their own as well. Visit www.fourmilerun.org/.

Yappy Hour. 10 a.m.-noon at James M. Duncan Jr. Branch Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave., Alexandria. Light refreshments for people and dogs, and give away of free Alexandria Library frisbees for kids and dogs. Alexandria Animal Welfare League will join in with some of their adoptable animals. Free. Visit alexlibraryva.org.

War of 1812 Walking Tour. 10 a.m.-noon at Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden, 614 Oronoco St., Alexandria. A guided walking tour of people and places in Old Town associated with the War of 1812 and the British occupation of Alexandria in 1814. \$10/advance; \$15/door. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org.

Alexandria Irish Festival. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. at Waterfront Park, 1-A Prince Street in Old Town Alexandria. There will be vendors, crafts, food, beverages, pipe bands, Irish Dance Schools and Irish entertainment. The Festival is a fundraiser to support Alexandria's St. Patrick's Day Parade. The Ballyshanners have organized and hosted the Parade for over 35 years. This year, they will be celebrating Pat Troy, the organization's founder. Without Pat, there would be no Ballyshanners. Visit www.ballyshanners.org.

Container Workshop: Geometric Garden Terrarium. 1-2:30 p.m. at

Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Enjoy the outdoors inside by creating a beautiful, hanging, geometric terrarium. Begonia enthusiast Johanna Zinn provides information on this versatile genus and teaches you techniques for creating the perfect terrarium. Modern, metal terrarium, plants, soil and care instructions provided. Ages 16-adult. Register for program (\$38, code 290 384 7001) and supply fee (\$25, code 290 384 7002). Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes or call 703-642-5173.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/AUG. 25-26

33rd Annual Begonia Show and Sale. Saturday, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; and Sunday noon-3:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Sponsored by the Potomac branch of the American Begonia Society. Be tempted with splashes of color and shape for homes and greenhouses that last long after frosts have put outdoor gardens to bed. The sale offers a wide variety of begonias, including subtropical species. Free admission. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring/begonia-show-and-sale/082518.

SUNDAY/AUG. 26

Swim for Engie. 8 a.m. at Waynewood Pool, 1027 Dalebrook Drive, Alexandria. Lap-swimmers of all ages welcome to participate in swimathon in honor of Engie Mokhtar to raise money for breast cancer research. Sponsored by Alexandria Masters Swimming and Alexandria West Rotary. \$10 suggested donation. Contact Madeline Muravchik at swimforengie@gmail.com or call 202-262-0184. Visit secure.metavivor.org/page/contribute/swimforengie.

Meet the Junior Docents. 2-5 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134

North Royal St., Alexandria. These young historians, grades 4 and older, will be on hand to share highlights of the tavern and answer questions as guests journey through the museum. Included in regular admission: \$5 adults (\$4 with AAA), \$3 children ages 5-12, and 4 and under are free. Call 703-746-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org.

Andes to Romances. 2 p.m. at Alexandria Historical Society, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. Join in an afternoon of authentic Andean melodies from the Latin-American repertoire and international song book of Joan Cyrampompa and Ernest Bravo, performing as Andes to Romances. Using an array of traditional Andean and contemporary instruments, they perform music that embodies the soul of the Andes while paying homage to love, hope, romance and their native land. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 29

Cool Yoga 2018. 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Del Ray Psych & Wellness Lot, 1900 Mt. Vernon Ave. Maureen Clyne teaches Cool Yoga – Del Ray's free summer outdoor yoga, Wednesdays through Aug. 29. Chill out after class with the Cool Yoga After-Party featuring refreshments courtesy of Bon Vivant Cafe + Farm Market. Email yoga@prasadayoga.com.

FRIDAY/AUG. 31

Four Mile Movies: Space Jam. 6:30 p.m., film begins at dusk, Four Mile Conservatory Center 4109 Mt. Vernon Ave. A summer tradition in Arlandria returns with a host of new and old favorites on the last Friday of the month this summer. Fun with friends and family, a picnic dinner, and a blanket or chair. Free. Visit www.fourmilemovieseries.com.

Mount Vernon Nights. 7:30 p.m. at Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway. This series of free, public concerts features a variety of musical performances. Bring a picnic dinner and a blanket and enjoy one of Fairfax County's special summer traditions. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance/mt-vernon-nights.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 6

First Thursday Del Ray. 6-9 p.m. Along Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. First Thursdays is a series of free outdoor street festivals along Mount Vernon Avenue. Every first Thursday of the month, the Del Ray Business Association features businesses along Mount Vernon Avenue, special events, food and music. Activities for children, live music and a festive atmosphere. Visit www.visitdelray.com.

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Townhouse Project Seeks Plan Amendment

FROM PAGE 1

access to Dogue Creek and its wetlands north and south of the highway, areas that are virtually inaccessible now. Pole Road Park really should be a water trail and birding site, and 8800 would be a perfect public access point. ... the use of the land as a wildlife habitat would do far more to revitalize the corridor than yet another townhome development.” She also said that Environmental Quality Corridor (EQC) disturbances should only be approved that accomplish the following five purposes: conservation of open space; protection of wildlife habitat and protection of biodiversity of species; protection of riparian corridors; protection of water quality; and aesthetic values.”

John Thillman, environmental consultant to developer Landmark Atlantic, said, “This site’s environmental elements need both restoration and protection and not some time in the future but now. ... The site functions as a non-point source of water pollution into the Dogue Creek and in no way functions as a EQC or resource protection area or a ‘functioning’ flood plain. ... It’s a pollution source and not an EQC or RPA (resource protection area). The opponents of the Comp Plan Amendment make a no development argument and not an environmental restoration argument.”

Voicing concern, Marianne Gardner, director of the Fairfax County Planning Division, said, “The Amendment creates con-



Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck and Mary Cortina, at-large planning commissioner, at the proposed townhouse project site.

PHOTO BY
GERALD A. FILL
THE GAZETTE

flicts with established Comprehensive Plan policy and would create adverse precedent relating to new residential development within floodplains. Adequately addressing the concerns regarding the stability of the Dogue Creek channel, erosion, and VDOT’s Richmond Hwy project requires further coordination and discussion. Staff does not support this Amendment.”

Judy Harbeck, co-chair, Mount Vernon Council of Citizens’ Associations (MVCCA), said, “This is not a perfect solution ... but there are no losers in this proposal.”

Karen Pohorylo, Engleside Civic Association, said, “The importance of this CPA is that we are urging that passage will allow some form of a residential option to this

suburban neighborhood area surrounded by a CBC (Woodlawn Community Business Center). The passage of a CPA will allow the private sector to clean up this property through redevelopment. There is nothing illegal about the existing conditions, it’s just undesirable from an environmental, aesthetic, and community building standpoint. So you create a community vision and incentives for the private sector to find solutions.”

A number of individuals and organizations are also adamant that building the townhouse development is not only a good idea, but long overdue, and believe that the supervisors should support the CPA to allow, as an option, residential development.

The thinking of the developers and builders is that, as a first step, a CPA will bring value to the region, value to the Route 1 corridor, and advances the potential that the townhouse development and surrounding area will be sustained and protected. The advocates for the development argue that the threat of erosion or flooding will be overcome by the reengineering, such as drainage systems installed, and dumping fill dirt in the immediate vicinity to the degree needed to stop erosion of the surrounding area where the townhouse development will take place. According to the developer proposal, the action to create the townhouses will impact approximately three acres; five other acres will be left undeveloped and those acres will be deeded to the Fairfax County Park Authority for its stewardship. One of the additional factors in deciding whether or not to move ahead is the willingness of the developer to spend the money to create a protected resource area.

In opposition, former Mount Vernon District Tree Commissioner Eleanor Quigley said, “By allowing up to 13 unlicensed businesses to operate for years, the owners ... created a junkyard that lowered property values up and down the highway. Now they are seeking special privileges to add 5 feet of fill dirt in the floodplain and build housing in the former floodplain. The Planning Commission should not consider special privileges that do not remedy and likely further damage this important watershed.”

Annual Event Brings Police, Neighbors Together

FROM PAGE 1

they’ve done,” said Mary Godbout.

Officers John Chase and Pat Heard were happy to be at the event, although it was brief; they were attending six more in the Mount Vernon District.

They liked the conversation. “We’re people too,” said Chase.

Early on, there were dark clouds and thunder but once the band went on, things began to settle down.

Past Hollin Hall HOA President

Kendra Chambers was the fiddle, violin and vocals for the group “Current Situation,” whose music style was described as “a mixed bag of contemporary acoustic,” she said. Other band members included Lance McLean on the guitar and bass, and Chad Artz on the banjo and percussion.

Saratoga was just one of 217 neighborhoods around Fairfax County that held National Night Out events, according to the Fairfax County Police Department.

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make neighborhoods safer. National Night Out enhances the relationship between

neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a sense of community.

It began in 1984 when Matt Peskin, founder and executive director of National Association of Town Watch, introduced it in

Philadelphia, Pa. as a way to break down the boundaries between law enforcement and the community. “Today, 38 million neighbors in 16,000 communities across the nation take part in National Night Out,” according to its website.



Ted and Mary Godbout



The group Current Situation consists of mostly Mount Vernon residents.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE GAZETTE

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

set a terrible precedent that would pave the way for development in sensitive riparian areas along Dogue Creek, Little Hunting Creek, and all over the county. If this Plan Amendment is passed, you might as well rip up the Comp Plan's environmental policies and several county ordinances intended to protect streams and riparian areas.

I'd also like to point out what potentially great opportunities this site offers if it is not developed with townhomes.

Directly behind 8800 Richmond Highway, to the north and west, are 48 acres owned by the Fairfax County Park Authority. This large expanse of beautiful marsh and wetlands is called Pole Road Park, and it is almost completely inaccessible. You might never know it was there, unless you went looking for it. It is landlocked by developments on Jeff Todd Way and Sacramento Drive, and, although it is bounded by Pole Road, it is impossible to get to the park from there, because the parkland is far below the level of the roadway and bridge, and there are no trails. It can be seen and accessed from the IMP property (8850 Richmond Highway), which of course is private property. One has to bush-whack through multiflora rose etc. to get onto, or walk through, the parkland from there.

Directly north of Pole Road Park is Jackson M. Abbot Wetland Refuge (another 150 acres, part of Fort Belvoir), and beyond that, the 1,425 acres of Huntley Meadows Park. We have a watery wilderness of close to 2,000 acres, right in the middle of Fairfax County! All of this contiguous land and wetland along Dogue Creek provides wonderful, connected habitat for birds and wildlife.

Connectivity for wildlife along Dogue Creek is currently choked off by the undersized culvert at the Richmond Highway crossing, and by the former junkyard at 8800. Allowing 43 townhomes to be built in this floodplain would permanently reduce the value of this area as a wildlife corridor, and would make Pole Road Park even more inaccessible to the public.

The true value of the property at 8800 Richmond Highway is as public access to Dogue Creek and its wetlands north and south of the highway, areas that are virtually inaccessible now. Pole Road Park really should be a water trail and birding site, and 8800 would be the perfect public access point.

Just imagine—the commercially zoned parcel at 8800 Richmond Highway could be developed as a

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 18

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Legals

The Virginia Department of Historic Resources will conduct a public information hearing of the Woodlawn Cultural Landscape Historic District on August 16, 2018. The meeting begins at 6:30 pm, at the South County Government Center, 8350 Richmond Hwy, Alexandria, VA 22309. Public comment regarding the proposal will be taken at the time of the hearing or can be sent to: Director Julie Langan, VA Department of Historic Resources, 2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, VA 23221. This proposal has been recommended eligible for the Virginia Landmarks and National Registers. This proposal will be presented to the State Review Board and the Board of Historic Resources on September 20, 2018 in Petersburg, VA. For a copy of the proposal and/or a boundary map, contact Aubrey VonLindern at 540.868.7029 or aubrey.vonlindern@dhr.virginia.gov.

Announcements

Obituary



JENIFER ANNE KOHOUT

Jenifer Anne Kohout lived competitively and passionately. She hiked, camped and traveled extensively in Alaska, Europe, Antarctica, and South America. "I've had a wonderful life," she would often say. Jenifer passed away July 23, 2018 in Anchorage, AK with her partner and spouse of 22 years, Karen Konopacki, by her side.

Besides Karen, Jenifer is survived by her brother Richard and his wife Stephanie, her sister Caroline and husband Mark, many brothers- and sisters-in-law, nieces and nephews, great-nieces and nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins, her parents John and Joan, mother-in-law Lynette, and life-long friends both in Alaska and elsewhere.

Jenifer was born in Northampton, Massachusetts on April 15, 1964 and moved with her parents to homes in Paris, France; Clark AFB, Philippines; Colorado Springs, CO; Norfolk, VA; Loring AFB, ME; Alexandria, VA; Blytheville, AR; and Omaha, NE.

At Fort Hunt High School in Virginia Jenifer played soccer and field hockey and won an athletic scholarship to Duke University, where she graduated with honors in Public Policy and Economics. After Duke and a year as a paralegal in a DC law firm, Jen enrolled in law school at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and graduated with a J.D. and a M.S. in Natural Resource Policy and Planning. Award of a Henry Bates International Travel Fellowship took Jen to Sydney, Australia and the Environmental Defenders' Office there.

Upon returning to the U.S. and passing the Michigan Bar, Jen received a clerkship with the Alaska State Supreme Court and worked for Justice Warren Matthews. This was the start of a life-long passion for Alaska where she could apply her legal skills to environmental issues. After the lawyer in her found expression as an Assistant Attorney General for Alaska and Assistant Director of the Alaska Public Offices Commission, Jenifer moved to the field she loved with the Alaska Region of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. There she enjoyed a rewarding 18-year career working in a variety of positions dealing with spill restoration, marine mammal conservation, and endangered species listing and recovery. Jenifer met and worked with tribal elders, state officials and dedicated federal workers. She worked on budget and policy issues and served as co-chair for a diverse group of Alaska stakeholders in creating the Polar Bear Conservation Management Plan.

For entertainment, Jenifer hiked and competed in long-distance races including the Susitna 100, Boston Marathon, Ironman Arizona, several 70.3-mile triathlons, Crow Pass & Lost Lake Runs, and many favorite local races. She expressed her artistic talents in pottery, acrylics and multi-media pieces that will decorate her families' homes for years to come.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 3:00 p.m. on August 18, 2018, in St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Anchorage, AK. Jenifer's favorite charities were Alaska Public Telecommunications, Everytown for Gun Safety, and Alaska Animal Care and Control.

Announcements

Announcements

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An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.

-Werner Heisenberg

"Slow Progression"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

OKAY. It's not exactly what I wanted to read in the email from my oncologist interpreting the results of my July 25 CT Scan.

Since August 2013 when I was hospitalized for a week with fluid in my lungs, "CT stable" has been the recurring message. Now the message is different.

My question, which will be addressed Monday afternoon: can I live with 'slow progression?' I would imagine that there are more aggressive characterizations of 'progression.' Nevertheless, I have to wait three more days to find out.

What has been suggested so far by my oncologist is simple enough: reduce the interval of my infusions or change medications. Sounds reasonable and not particularly drastic. What's distressing (but not at all drastic) however, is the fear of the unknown.

Not having had a reason to change in five years, I've grown awfully comfortable and confident in the ebb and flow of my life vis-à-vis my cancer treatment/side effects. I've known what to expect and when to expect it.

For a terminal cancer patient still undergoing treatment, this kind of regularity/normalcy is as good as it gets. Accordingly, I've been able to live a relatively manageable life.

And by 'manageable' I mean a life worth living and one not consumed by, if I may retrieve a phrase from last week's column: "cancer centrality." Not that I don't have deficits or spiritual, emotional or psychological problems/complications, I do, but I have so much more than that. I not only have a present, I have a future too.

No small caveat when one considers I was given a "13 month to two year" prognosis on Feb. 27, 2009. Over nine years ago – and counting. As Maurice Chevalier sang to Hermione Gingold in "Gigi" (1958): "I remember it well."

So life has indeed gone on and I'd like to think that despite this most recent email from my oncologist, life will continue to go on. I have to think positive; I'm my father's son, and deceased though he may be, he wouldn't have it any other way.

Besides, as Dr. Mobley said to Augustus McCray in the epic mini series, "Lonesome Dove," (1989) when Gus refused to let him amputate his remaining leg: "I assure the alternative is gloomy."

Well, Gus was rarely gloomy and considering my circumstances, neither have I been gloomy. There's just no future in it.

Right now, it's the present I'm concerned about. Specifically, Monday afternoon when my oncologist and I (we, actually; my wife, Dina will be on the phone as well) will talk.

Having a three participant phone conversation is a little awkward. The questions and answers might not flow as easily as if the three of us were sitting together in an examining room. But since that's what's happening/been scheduled, we'll endeavor to make the best of it.

What probably will help, oddly enough, is the three days Dina and I will have to think about what concerns we have, what questions we'll ask and what answers from the oncologist we anticipate hearing.

Then, with the doctor's encouragement, together we'll be able to make an intelligent decision concerning a prudent course of action/treatment going forward. A discussion we've had many times before.

And given our respective history over the last nine-plus years, there's no reason to think we can't achieve similar success living forward.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 17

canoe livery/parking area/concession stand or restaurant. People could launch there to canoe or kayak north to explore Pole Road Park. Once the new high Richmond Highway bridge over Dogue Creek is installed, people could canoe or kayak south to the Grist Mill (perhaps beyond). After their return, canoeists and kayakers could repair to the restaurant at 8800 for a beer or a meal while looking out over the woods and wetlands behind the property. It would be a little like having a smaller version of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in our own backyards—except, it would be enhanced by access to historical sites, such as the Grist Mill.

In my opinion, this use of the land would do far more to revitalize the Corridor than yet another townhome development. (Why would this townhome development revitalize the Corridor, if others nearby, along Jeff Todd Way, Pole Road, and Sacramento Drive, haven't?) It would be far better to "develop" this uniquely situated property in a way that preserves and improves recreational access to the exceptional natural and historical features of the Corridor, which are currently degraded and ignored. Paddling through history, and the beautiful Dogue Creek wetlands, could be a powerful attraction for both tourists and residents.

Betsy Martin
 President, Friends
 of Little Hunting Creek

CRIME REPORT

The following incidents were reported by the Mount Vernon District Police Station.

BURGLARY: 7400 block of Mount Vernon Square Ctr., Aug. 2, 3:46 a.m. An employee reported a man entered his business by breaking the front glass door. The employee saw the man on his camera system. He's described as a black man, wearing a red baseball hat, a black shirt, and black pants. The man ran away from the business after stealing an item.

AUG. 6 — LARCENIES
 2000 block of Belle View Boulevard, purse from vehicle

2900 block of Furman Lane, tools from vehicle
 8400 block of Hallie Rose Street, cash from vehicle

Huntington Avenue/Old Richmond Highway, laptop computer and purse from vehicle

8000 block of Pantano Place, property from residence

6300 block of Richmond Highway, cash from business

6800 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business

8500 block of Sky View Drive, cash from vehicle
 2500 block of Windbreak Drive, cell phone from location

AUG. 3 — LARCENIES
 1500 block of Belle View Boulevard, liquor from business

7700 block of Richmond Highway, tool from business

AUG. 2 — LARCENIES
 3100 block of Lockheed Boulevard, bag from residence

6200 block of North Kings Highway, bicycle from residence

2500 block of Parkers Lane, cash from location
 7900 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business

8700 block of Walutes Circle, license plates from vehicle

AUG. 1 — LARCENIES
 7700 block of Eagle Avenue, bicycle and wheeler from residence

8700 block of Old Colony Way, passport and gun magazine from residence

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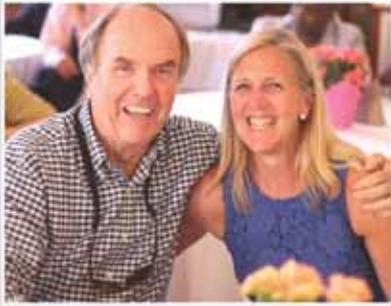
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3601 Drews Ct.
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4417 Neptune Dr.
Updated Colonial!

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Coming Soon!



9411 Mount Vernon Cir.
\$985,000
Mt. Vernon on the Potomac!

Stately brick colonial in area's premier water front community. Over 6,000 sq ft of luxury! Features Include: Estate size rooms, high ceilings, three finished levels, four BR's including 3 room master suite with stunning bath, elegant trim detail, hardwood floors, extensive rear decking, oversize 2 car garage. Located in cul-de-sac with river access.

New Price!



4204 Mt. Vernon Memorial Hwy
\$649,000
Classic Colonial!

Classic Southwood Colonial in one of area's premier communities. Home is in fabulous condition and has many substantial upgrades including: roof, windows, kitchen, stainless steel appliances, granite countertops and gorgeous hardwood floors. Other features include two car garage and expansive exterior deck. Home Warranty! Great value!

Southwood!



5100 Burke Dr.
\$899,000
Unique Custom Flair!

Gigantic tastefully expanded and updated home in prime river front community just steps to Potomac River. Updates include: \$140k Master BR addition, roof (2016), Kitchen redesigned including appliances (2015), Windows (2016 & 2005), Exterior HVAC unit (2010), the list goes on! This custom gem offers it all!

Just Listed!



8900 Camden St.
\$685,000

Generous square footage 6 Bedroom/3 Bath home with stately columned front portico! Expansive bright open floor plan enhanced with family room/sunroom addition with cathedral light oak ceiling. Deck off sunroom addition overlooks expansive back yard. Paved driveway leads to oversize two car garage with work area. Great value!

Just Listed!



4519 Dolphin Ln
\$565,000
Great Potential!

Fabulous large rambler with huge potential. Gorgeous half acre lot just steps from Mt. Vernon Yacht Club. Features include large room sizes, open floor plan, replacement windows, finished lower level with direct outside access, sun room and over sized carport. Excellent value in Yacht Haven

Yacht Haven Estates!



4306 Robertson Blvd
\$795,000
Well updated Colonial!

Privately situated 5 Bed/3.5 Bath colonial in prime Mount Vernon area bordering parkland. Over \$150k invested by current owners in updates and improvements. Updates include: Kitchen, all baths, roof, finished basement, HVAC, professional landscaping, and the list goes on! Great opportunity for more in ready fully updated 3,500+ sq ft home!

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Large Colonial!

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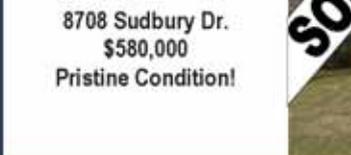
3610 Drews Ct.
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Impeccably Maintained!

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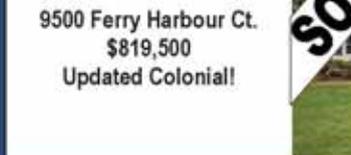
4118 Robertson Blvd
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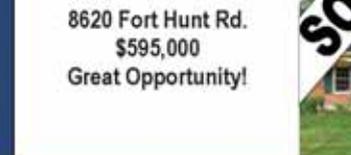
8708 Sudbury Dr.
\$580,000
Pristine Condition!

SOLD



9500 Ferry Harbour Ct.
\$819,500
Updated Colonial!

SOLD



8620 Fort Hunt Rd.
\$595,000
Great Opportunity!

SOLD



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