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# Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

AUGUST 29, 2019



Employees and customers march in Pathway Homes' Walk to End Homelessness.

## A Path Forward

Pathway Homes provides affordable housing to those suffering from mental illness.

BY ELISSA ESHER  
THE GAZETTE

When Susan Massey applied for subsidized housing through Pathway Homes in 1994, her paranoia caused by schizophrenia made day-to-day activities such as grocery shopping, going out to eat, and interacting in groups extremely challenging. Now, after living in group homes, an apartment, and, today, an assisted living facility through Pathway Homes and receiving counseling through the same program over the course of the past 25 years, she is able to take care of both herself and her cat, Dusty.

"When I first started with Pathway's, I was nervous about everything," Massey said. "One time I had a panic attack when a counselor took me and some others in my group home out to eat. I remember my counselor followed me to where I had gone to sit away from the group



Anna Smith, Director of Development at Pathway Homes.

and asked me, 'Are you really alright?' It really made me feel like she wanted to take care of me, and I've felt that way about Pathway's ever since."

Pathway Homes is a nonprofit seeking to provide permanent housing for those suffering from severe mental illness in Virginia, most of whom either are or have been homeless. While their homes are located throughout the state, many of their customers reside in

Mount Vernon.

"We have strong ties with the Mount Vernon area," said Director of Development Anna Smith. "It's a great area to teach our consumers how to be good neighbors and reintegrate into a community."

Smith said that one of the most important aspects of the Pathway Homes' mission is the belief that "four walls are not enough." Pathway Homes offers supportive services such as case management, counseling, and preventive medical care to help their clients remain in the housing provided, reach their

SEE A PATH, PAGE 5

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

## Children Shop With the Sheriff

Pride and positive interaction with law enforcement as students get needed gear.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE GAZETTE

The first day of school is a critical time in the lives of children. An opportunity to shop and choose new back-to-school clothes and shoes excited Yuri Duncan, 7, and Malachi Nealy, 10. On Wednesday, Aug. 21, the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office took Yuri, Malachi and thirty-eight other children shopping for back-to-school items, but not before a complimentary pizza lunch by Paisano's Pizza.

These children live right now at the Katherine K. Hanley and Patrick Henry family shelters operated by Shelter House, and the Next Steps family shelter run by Facets.

Now in its 28th year, the 2019 Shop with the Sheriff Program allowed local shelter children the opportunity to select and purchase clothing they liked, suited to their individual personalities, while interacting in a positive experience with law enforcement. "Together, we truly are changing lives," said Joe Myer Executive Director and CEO of Shelter House.

"I'd like some Jojo shoes because I wear dresses," said Yuri Duncan as she and Sheriff's Deputy J. M. Smith, Field Training Officer, ate their pizza and got to know each other.



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE GAZETTE

Shiah Allen, 8, gets to know his shopping partner, Fairfax County Sheriff's Deputy L. R. Favetti before they head out to Target in Burke for the 2019 Shop with the Sheriff Program.

FOR MALACHI NEALY, it was all about being cool. "I'm looking for stylish, cool clothes in teal and light blue." Shiah Allen, 8, who sat with Sheriff's Deputy L. R. Favetti said he wanted a hoodie with a 100 on it, and Noah Mathews, 10, knew exactly what clothing and shoes he wanted to get to dominate the game on the school courts. "I'd like themed t-shirts, shorts, and new Nike James LeBron shoes."

"I love the interaction between SEE SHOPPING, PAGE 4

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PHOTO BY ELISSA ESHER/THE GAZETTE

Children's storyteller Jim Weiss speaks to homeschool students at Harvester Teaching Services.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY STARS

STARS graduation 2019.

# Helping Hands for Homeschoolers

Co-ops and clubs support homeschoolers in and around Mount Vernon.

BY ELISSA ESHER  
THE GAZETTE

Cathy Stone, director of one of the major homeschool "co-ops" in the region, says that the biggest misconception she sees in homeschooling parents is the idea that you have to do everything yourself to be involved in your child's education. Her co-op, Harvester Teaching Services, hires teachers to instruct homeschooled students twice a week in their subject of expertise, striving to give parents the peace of mind that comes with their students learning from professionals while only meeting twice a week so as not to diminish the close supervision of the parent unique to homeschooling.

"When I was homeschooling my children, I realized I probably wasn't the most adequate teacher for certain subjects at a higher level," said Stone, mother of five. "Particularly with chemistry and biology, I knew I needed help. I really appreciated that HTS had the budget, equipment, and teachers I needed to get my children the proper class requirements I couldn't have given them myself."

Stone said there are many similar co-ops in the region as the concept has become fairly popular here. While some co-ops are run by a mutual agreement that every parent will teach a class, HTS and other "drop-off" co-ops like it pay their instructors and do not expect parents to teach if they don't want to.

Stone has been involved in HTS since its founding in the early '90s. She assumed the position of director this summer.

"Since I became director, I've been looking around at other co-ops in the area asking myself what sets us apart," said Stone. "Now that homeschooling has become more prevalent there are a lot of co-ops in the area that offer high school classes, but, to my knowledge, HTS is the only one of its kind that offers classes at an elementary level."

HTS meets at Harvester Presbyterian Church in Burke. Along with elementary



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY HARVESTER TEACHING SERVICES

Harvester Presbyterian Church, location of Harvester Teaching Services

education, the co-op provides middle school and high school classes, nursery care, and a homeschooling mother's bible study on Tuesday mornings.

"There's an importance to socialization," said Stone. "In a co-op, your children can be with other children and you can be with other parents. It makes you feel not quite so much alone on this island of homeschooling."

Anne Waters, a mother of five in the Mount Vernon area, says the resources for homeschoolers in the region have met critical needs in her children's education.

"Obviously, the buck stops with you when you homeschool, both with the state and with your child's education," said Waters. "However, the many resources in this area encourage people who might not otherwise homeschool to do it. It can be daunting for a parent to have the prospect of teaching their children every single class, but by getting involved outside of the home you're put in the sweet spot of homeschooling without feeling like your student is being gyped because you're not a calculus expert or don't have the lab equipment."

STARS, another popular co-op meeting at

The Foundry Church in Burke which boasted 116 students last year, focuses predominantly on high school education.

"High school is when external calendars become really important," said STARS director Victoria Rose. "Co-ops give students the real-world schedule and enforcement of deadlines that might be overly flexible in the home, while also providing community for battle-worn homeschooling parents."

Both STARS and HTS meet Tuesdays and Thursdays. While both co-ops celebrate the community, opportunity, and structure their programs contribute to a child's homeschooling experience, each clarified that the critical role parents play in their child's education at a co-op is what makes this experience different from that of a traditional school.

"Often parents worry co-ops will only replicate the school system they have chosen to step away from because they felt their student needed a more individually focused approach to education," said Rose. "We work specifically to not be a one-size-fits-all system, but rather to coach both the parents and the students on how to solve the

## Details

**Harvester Teaching Services:** <http://www.htslink.org>

**STARS:** <https://starsloveslearning.com>

**Other resources:** <https://www.thehomeschoolmom.com/homeschooling-in-virginia/homeschool-co-ops-academic-enrichment-classes/>

problems or gaps in their homeschooling experience."

Waters said her family has primarily used HTS and another prominent co-op, Capitol Baptist, for core classes. Her children have also participated in extracurricular activities for homeschoolers in the region such as STOA (speech and debate), SPIRE (track team) and Fairfax Homeschool Sports (FHS.) She additionally recommends Northern Virginia Players for homeschooled thespians, Classical Conversations for homeschoolers looking for classical education, and Skye Chase Academy, a Catholic co-op in the Mount Vernon area.

"There are so many great opportunities in this region and so many educated people willing to teach — the options are endless," said Waters. "If you want to homeschool here, there's a way."



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PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE GAZETTE

**Checkout time is show and tell for Yuri Duncan, 7. She holds up one of her back-to-school-purchases that Sheriff's Deputy J. M. Smith helped her choose during the 2019 Shop with the Sheriff Program.**

## Children Shop

FROM PAGE 1

our kids and our Sheriff's deputies," said Fairfax County Sheriff Stacey A. Kincaid. "These children are living in family shelters. Helping them prepare for the start of the school year with new clothes is something we can see and appreciate. Less obvious, but just as important, is the relationship building. We are law enforcement officers ... we are regular people who can tell jokes and stories. We want the children to engage with us today and in the future."

According to Sheriff Kincaid, since the program was not county-funded, the Office relied on contributions from individuals and corporate donations such as Target, Paisano's Pizza and new partner this year, Oracle in Reston.

"Each child is paired up with a Deputy Sheriff or civilian staff member and given \$250 gift cards so they can purchase items such as clothing, accessories, things that they need...on the first day and beyond, so they are able to walk in with a sense of pride and can focus on their studies."

For many of the deputies, the event was a repeat performance. "I love helping out ... This is my third or fourth time," said Deputy Sheriff J.M. Smith as she sat coloring with Yuri Duncan and eating pizza. For Deputy L. R. Favetti, it was his first time volunteering, which momentarily concerned his shopping partner, Shiah Allen, 8. That is until Favetti added: "I have lots of nieces and nephews, so I

know how to shop."

Sharon Bulova, Chairman Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and Supervisor John W. Cook (R-Braddock District) waited at Target for the children, Kincaid and the deputies to arrive. Before the children came, Bulova said, "This is one of my favorite events of the year. It's heartwarming to see the interaction between the Sheriff's deputies and these children. It changes the children's opinion of law enforcement."

When the children arrived, Cook spoke to the group. "You just show our deputies what you need, and they will be happy to get it for you. ... School is really important. ... We want you ready to learn and have fun with your fellow classmates."

**IN A FILMED INTERVIEW,** Kincaid explained while Shop with the Sheriff provided the tangible benefit of new clothes and shoes, it also provided intangible benefits. The experience gave the children a sense of control as they selected and excitedly tried on the clothing they picked out. The new clothes also gave the children a sense of pride, which would allow them to focus on their education. It also allowed positive interaction between deputies and the children.

"This is a great program, and I wish we could have it every single day. We love to interact and be the role models for the children," said Kincaid.

# A Path Forward

FROM PAGE 1

goals and get back on the road to recovery.

“Our customer-first policy means that if the client does not want the supportive services we offer along with the housing, that’s fine,” Smith said. “99% of our customers want to get better, though, so whether their goals are to reconnect with family, get back to work, or simply to get help budgeting or buying groceries, our counselors are there to help them reach their full potential.”

To make housing affordable, participants pay 30% of their adjusted income and rent. Pathway Homes then covers the difference between what the consumer can pay and what it costs to live in the given unit.

“The cost to the community of supporting a mentally ill individual without permanent supportive housing falls around \$40,000 a year when you add up all their insurance costs, medical costs, emergency care costs, and so on,” Smith said. “When they are enrolled in Pathway’s, however, and are given a home, research has shown that number drops to around \$9,300.”

Marti Kelly, a Mount Vernon area native and a customer of Pathway Homes says that the success she

has achieved through this program has given her the desire to “pay it forward.” She shared her story at a Pathway Homes event during Suicide Prevention Month and has joined with the Knights of Columbus to raise money for the nonprofit.

“I still struggle with thoughts of suicide, face multiple health issues and I get down on myself,” Kelly said in an article she wrote for Pathway Homes monthly newsletter. “However, I then think of the many people that need my help and need to hear my story. They need to know there is help for them as well. I have a purpose.”

“So many people believe these ugly cultural myths about who people with mental illness are,” Smith added.

“More likely than not, they are the victims, not the perpetrators, of violence.

Like anyone, they simply need connections and resources to guide their recovery. If you’re living in the woods without the medical care you need, it’s hard to find

those, but, by providing housing and supportive services, we help them not only to recover, but to reach their goals.

For more information on Pathway Homes, visit <http://www.pathwayhomes.org>.

**“So many people believe these ugly cultural myths about who people with mental illness are.”**

**— Anna Smith, Director of Development, Pathway Homes**

IT'S HAPPENING THROUGHOUT THE NATION, VIRGINIA, AND HERE IN FAIRFAX COUNTY...

## OPIOID CRISIS COMMUNITY DISCUSSION & DINNER

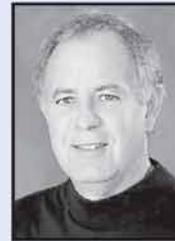
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**Alex/Oxford \$1,149,900**  
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## Residents: How To Improve Parkway

The following letter was sent to Superintendent Charles Cuvelier of the George Washington Memorial Parkway Unit National Park Service.

**D**ear Superintendent Cuvelier: I am writing to follow up on my initial comments to provide you with community feedback regarding traffic safety on the George Washington Memorial Parkway (“the Parkway”) and the Mt. Vernon Memorial Trail (“the Trail”).

Since the comment period opened, 551 respondents answered my George Washington Parkway Study Survey. These responses offer insight into how constituents are using the Parkway and how they think about proposed solutions.

First, the responses were provided voluntarily and do not represent results consistent with a poll. The vast majority providing comments live in the Fort Hunt/Mount Vernon area and in the 22306, 22307, 22308, and 22309 zip codes. Here is a breakdown of the zip codes of the respondents:

Zip Code	Number of Respondents
22308	217
22307	92
22309	88
22306	51
All others	196

Obviously, there are many users of the road who are not from the proximate community and few of those people responded.

Most of the respondents to the survey also showed they were using the road to get to Alexandria:

- ❖ 82% - To Get To/Through Old Town
- ❖ 19.3% - To Get To I-495
- ❖ 12.8% - To Get To Fort Belvoir

Among those who responded, many use the parkway every day or a few times a week for many different purposes that go beyond commuting. Many also use the parkway to enjoy nature, run errands and exercise.

Total number of respondents including the following in their list of uses:

- ❖ Running Errands 283
- ❖ Commute 333
- ❖ Enjoy Nature 293
- ❖ Exercise 62

### Source of the Problem

As I indicated in my prior letter, the problems on the Parkway originate around speed and traffic volume. That was reiterated in the survey results. Most respondents view speeding as the leading cause of injuries on the G.W. Parkway but do not support changing the speed limits.

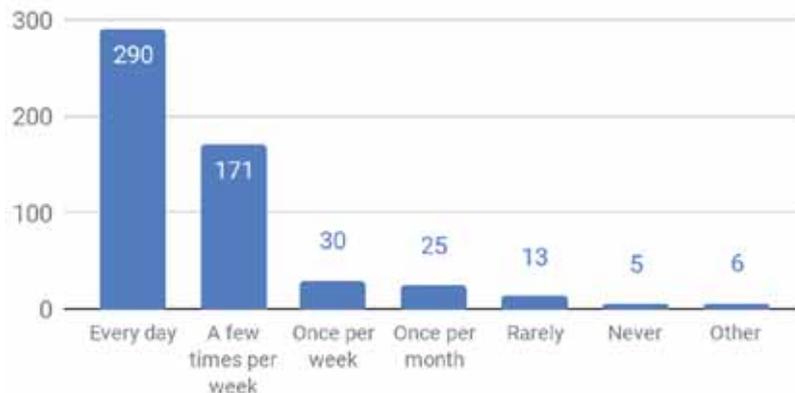
As stated in my initial comments, I support maintaining the Parkway’s status on the National Register of Historic Places, preserving its historic nature, and ensuring that it remains the historic and scenic byway that it is. Sixty-one percent of respondents agree and are opposed to delisting the Parkway from the National Register of Historic Places and transferring it to VDOT.

### Speed Cameras

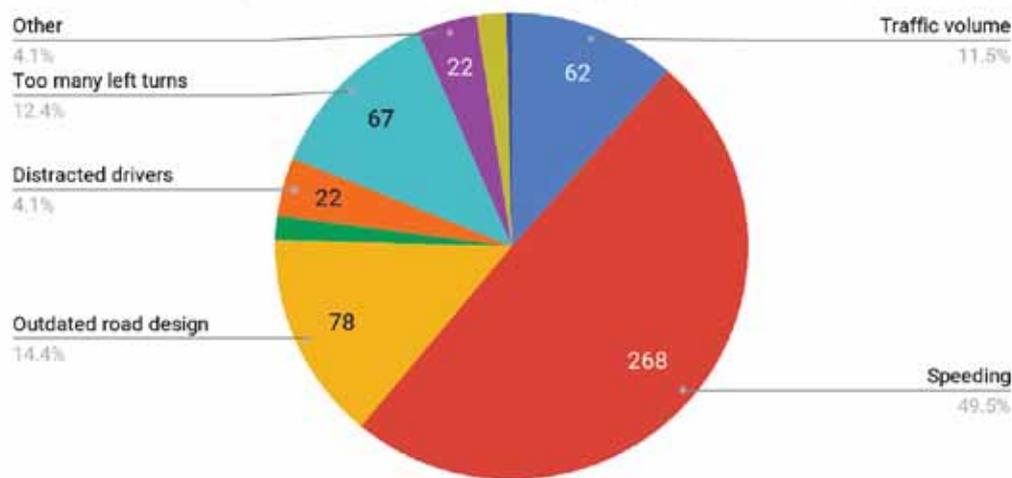
A majority of respondents support introducing speed cameras to reduce speeding. I have

SEE PARKWAY, PAGE 25

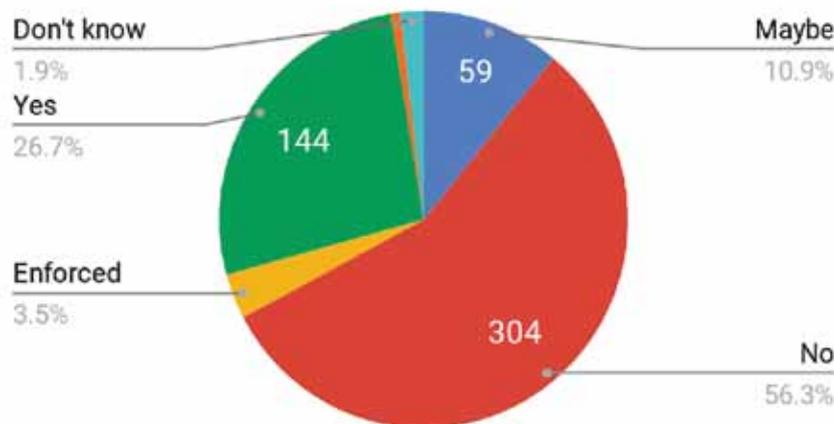
How often do you DRIVE on the Parkway?



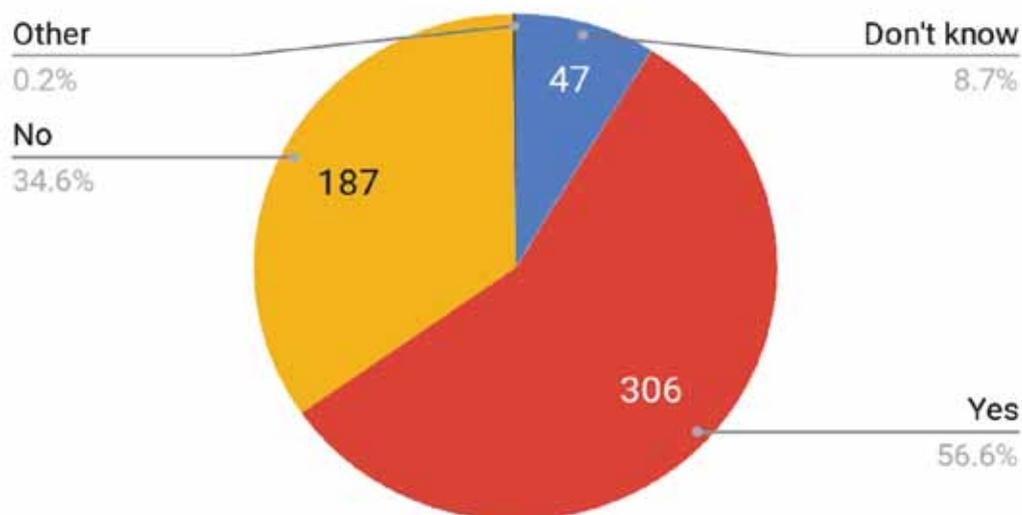
What do you think is the top factor causing injuries on the Parkway?



Do you think that the current speed limits on the Parkway should be changed?



Do you support using speed cameras on the Parkway?



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<https://bit.ly/322Yvp7>



**Lorton** | 4/3.5 | \$698,950  
**JUST LISTED!** 6840 Silver Ann Drive  
**Grace Albritton** (703) 508-0617  
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RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

# Protect Integrity of Elections

BY PAUL KRIZEK  
STATE DELEGATE (D-44)



**W**ith the Nov. 5 General Election only 10 short weeks away, I don't think it's too early to focus on the very serious topic of election security here in the Commonwealth. The sanctity of our election results is fundamental to our democracy. You can rest assured that Virginia is committed to ensuring the integrity of our elections.

Evidence of Russian government operations began to surface in mid-2016. All states were targeted but not all were breached. In Virginia, there was a scan of our public facing systems, but our security posture at the time prevented any breaches. It was the equivalent of a home invader checking the locks on a house to see if they are vulnerable but unable to actually take any action. Our system worked. There was no manipulation of votes or data. There was no compromise of vote tallies or voting systems. Any data obtained from scans of Virginia systems was used for informational purposes only.

Nevertheless, since 2016, Virginia has made a concerted effort to improve upon our security posture. And you have to do so because technology is always improving. The Virginia Department of Elections (ELECT) is making investments that will provide a more sustainable approach to improving election security in the Commonwealth. In the past General Assembly session, both the Governor and the General Assembly have pushed to make considerable investments in ELECT and our elections. Funding has been added for a variety of positions, including appropriations for training positions at the department. These positions will greatly assist in supporting local election officials and the department's efforts to ensure uniformity in election administration across the state. It also will assist ELECT with the administration of its ongoing cybersecurity and election security training program.

Virginia is using funds from the 2018 Help America Vote Act (HAVA) grant to help strengthen its election infrastructure, and are currently being used for initiatives such as increasing cybersecurity training, increasing security for elections data, and establishing more robust certification standards for voting equipment (you can see a detailed outline of the plan here: [https://www.eac.gov/payments-and-grants/hava-](https://www.eac.gov/payments-and-grants/hava-funds-state-chart-view/)

[funds-state-chart-view/](https://www.eac.gov/payments-and-grants/hava-funds-state-chart-view/)). The Department of Elections is required to submit progress reports to the Election Assistance Commission, and the next report is due in December of 2019.

Agencies such as the Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA) are assisting by providing information about best practices and security standards. The Department of Elections has also secured a project team that is drafting a security and continuity of operations plan, as well as helping manage program costs. Ongoing efforts will be rolled into existing state resources after the funds are expended. Election security is always evolving, so the Department of Elections will remain vigilant and flexible with these funds to address new and emerging threats.

Moreover, all election tabulation equipment in the Commonwealth of Virginia is required to produce a paper trail. Other than ADA compliant systems, all voters are required to vote on paper ballots which cannot be manipulated.

There will always be an audit trail that will allow for the verification of the results of any election.

HB 2178, sponsored by my colleague and fellow member of the Privileges and Elections Committee, Del. Mark Sickles, was

SEE PROTECT INTEGRITY, PAGE 25

LETTER

## School Board Derailment

To the Editor:

I can now confirm, definitively, that the lame duck Fairfax County School Board has gone completely off the rails and needs an intervention by the Board of Supervisors before their impending actions completely destroy Fairfax County as we now know it. I refer to the status of the School Board as "lame duck" with good reason. Of the 12 current members of the School Board, five of them have announced they are not running for reelection, and a sixth one is unlikely to be reelected because he has not received the endorsement of the local Democratic party. Thus, at least half the current School Board members are unlikely to be members of the School Board in January.

In recent editions of the Gazette, I have discussed the School Board's intention to change the criteria for determining justification for altering school boundaries which, if enacted, can result in county homeowners having no assurance that the home they purchased under the assumption that it is within the boundaries of a desired high school will actually be within those boundaries. I have suggested that this issue be an

SEE LETTER, PAGE 26

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# NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

2019-2020



Kayaking at Belle Haven Marina is one of life's simple pleasures, says Alison Sigethy, a die-hard kayaker at the marina.

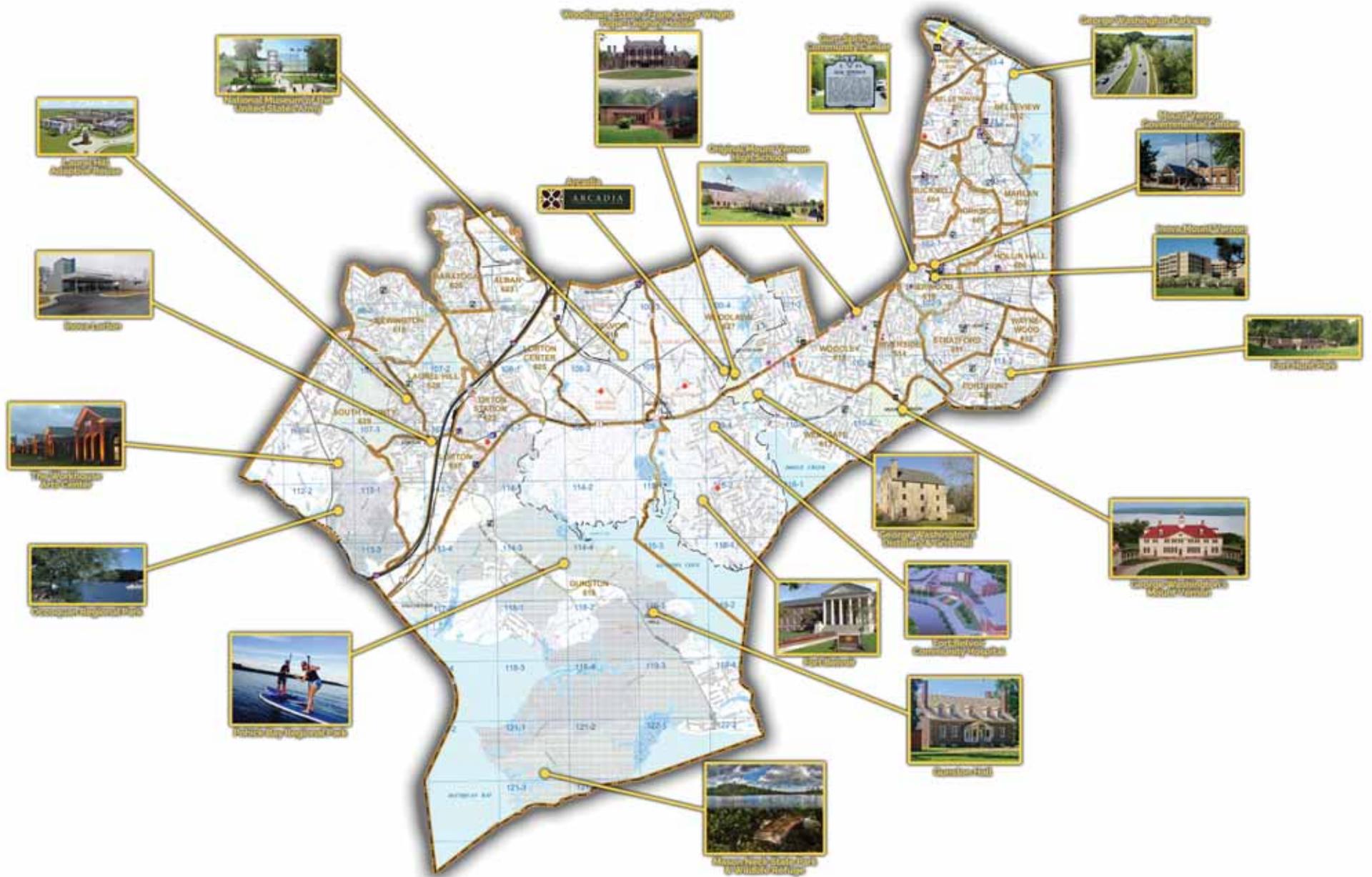
PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/THE GAZETTE

Mount Vernon Gazette

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# NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE



The Mount Vernon District abounds with history, heritage, recreation, art and community engagement. Spend some time this fall enjoying all the District has to offer.

## A Place To Live, Work, Learn and Play

BY DAN STORCK  
SUPERVISOR, MOUNT VERNON DISTRICT

**W**elcome to the Mount Vernon District! For those of us who live, work, learn and play in the District, this is a wonderful place to live. From our incredible history and heritage — the Mount Vernon Estate and the Workhouse Arts Center for example — to the exciting revitalization of Richmond Highway and the new amenities coming to Lorton — the Lorton Community Center and South County Police Station and Animal Shelter — no matter where you live in the District, the future is bright!

Even if you are new here, you likely know that Fairfax County has one of the best school systems in the country, but for us it goes beyond that. Life-long learning is important to many of our residents and I am proud to say we are bringing more opportunities through our future partnerships at Original Mount Vernon High School (OMVHS) with the Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC) and Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS). In addition, the synergy created by collocating Teen and Senior



Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck at the Mason Neck State Park Eagle Fest.

### Top 10 Places and Events

- ❖ George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate
- ❖ Workhouse Arts Center Brewfest (Sept. 14) & Fireworks (June 2020)
- ❖ Tour de Mount Vernon – Oct. 19
- ❖ Woodlawn Plantation and Pope Leighey House
- ❖ George Washington's Grist Mill and Distillery
- ❖ Fort Hunt Park
- ❖ Mason Neck State Park
- ❖ Occoquan Regional Park
- ❖ Pohick Bay Park
- ❖ Arcadia Farm

Centers, the Library, Neighborhood and Community Services, and the Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC) in the new Lorton Community Center will provide many more active and passive learning activities for residents of all ages and abilities.

Fairfax is the safest community of its size in the country, with our Police force actively engaged in our neighborhoods and communities. National Night Out was a great example of residents and Officers coming together to build relationships, trust and community spirit! The new South County Po

SEE LIVING, PAGE 16

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## NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

# How County Has Changed

BY SHARON BULOVA,  
CHAIRMAN  
FAIRFAX COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Sharon  
Bulova

When I was first elected to the Board of Supervisors in 1987 the Braddock District was called Annandale. Fairfax County's population (now 1.15 million) was approximately 746,600. There was no VRE (Virginia Railway Express Commuter Rail System) nor was there a Springfield Franconia Metro Station or a Fairfax County Parkway. When I took office as a freshman Supervisor in January 1988, Fairfax County was, for the most part, a rapidly growing suburban bedroom community. Tysons was still just a shopping mall.

I will be retiring at the end of December, after serving 31 years on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors — 11 years as Chairman and 20 years before that as the Braddock District Supervisor. What I have come to understand over these many years is that the one thing you can be certain of is that things will change. Indeed, a lot has changed over that span of time.

During the past decade while I have had the honor to serve you as Chairman, Fairfax County has:

- ❖ Navigated the financial crises caused by the Great Recession with the County's coveted triple A bond rating by all three rating agencies still intact;
- ❖ Welcomed Metro's Silver Line to Tysons and Reston, with a station at Dulles Airport to open next year;
- ❖ Ushered in new land use plans for Tysons and other aging commercial and industrial areas of the County in need of revitalization;

❖ Reengineered our police policies to include more transparency and de-escalation tactics with a focus on the sanctity of life;

❖ Created Diversion First, a program for people with mental illness or developmental disabilities, experiencing an encounter with law enforcement to receive treatment instead of incarceration;

❖ Updated the County's Environmental Vision to include a new focus on Energy Efficiency and Climate;

❖ Strengthened collaboration between the Board of Supervisors and the School Board in the areas of budget development, land use planning and joint environmental initiatives;

❖ Reduced homelessness by nearly 50% employing a Housing First strategy to put a roof over homeless individuals' heads and connecting them to resources needed to help them get back on their feet;

❖ Lastly, and most importantly, our Board, in partnership with the School Board, established One Fairfax, a social and racial equity compact, to ensure that all residents of Fairfax County have access to equitable opportunities for success.

I have been deeply honored to serve the residents of Fairfax County for these many years. I will really miss this job! Jurisdictions throughout the country look to Fairfax County as a leader and innovator, and I am proud, working with my colleagues on the Board and our excellent County staff, to have led our county to where it is today.

Fairfax County is an awesome place, with a culture of engagement, acceptance of different cultures and backgrounds and a willingness to work together to resolve conflicts. Fairfax County is poised for many exciting opportunities ahead. I am confident the next Board of Supervisors, in partnership with members of the community, will continue the positive momentum we are known for.

## About the Gazette

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

Here in our Newcomers and

Community Guide, we include details of how to vote in the upcoming elections, information on local and regional fairs and festivals, plus tips and tidbits from the community.

We invite newcomers and longtime residents alike to let us know how we're doing and let us know what is going on in your part of the community. If you have questions or ideas, send us an email. We invite you to send letters to the editor or to send an email with feedback about our coverage.

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

We are also interested in events at your church, mosque, synagogue, community center, pool,

## Keep in Touch

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school, club, etc. Email us a note about the event, being sure to include when and where the photo was taken and the names of all the

SEE ABOUT, PAGE 16

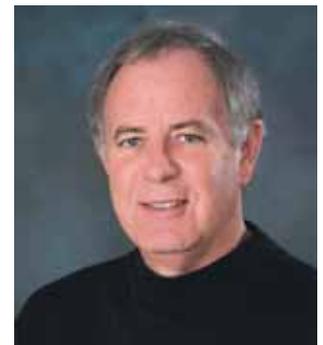
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**Mt. Vernon is Rex's hometown.** He moved here in 1960 when his father, an Air Force pilot, was stationed at the Pentagon. Rex also became a pilot, graduating from the Air Force Academy and flying for 20 years with the Air Force and Eastern Airlines.

Rex returned to his roots in Mt. Vernon where he and his wife, Doris, raised their four children, and where Rex embarked on a second career in Real Estate.

**www.RexReiley.com**  
1300 Lafayette Dr. #200  
Alexandria, VA 22308  
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Mount Vernon Gazette

NEWCOMERS  
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## NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE



Alison Sigethy is a die-hard kayaker at the marina.



Dockmaster Chip Johnston helps teens get out to the open water.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE GAZETTE

# Marina Caters to the Waterman in Everyone

Cove right off the marina is sheltered for beginners and veteran sailors.

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE GAZETTE

**B**oating in Mount Vernon is as popular as ever and the Belle Haven Marina is the boating Mecca for many in this part of Alexandria. With Labor Day approaching, it's a busy place during the good weather, and a windy day is good for the sailing community.

"Go down river, don't go up because the way the tide is," said dockmaster Chip Johnston to a group of teenagers getting on a "Flying Scot," the model of beginner sailboats available for rental at the marina. Johnston is a veteran of the facility where he has been giving sailing lessons for over 20 years, and knows everyone there. "Boating here is fantastic through the fall," he said, "lots of bass boats."

Belle Haven Marina is a spot just south of Old Town Alexandria, off the George Washington Parkway. The main office is in a trailer on the premises, spots for about 100 boats, and 35 more that are kept in moorings off shore in the cove. The fishing for catfish and bass is good there in the cove, and it's tidal waters, so anyone launching a boat, or keeping one on the docks should know their way around the waters.

Alexandria resident Alison Sigethy is a kayaker at the Marina and has been coming for years. "I love the connection with the water, feels very free," she said. Sigethy had lessons in Maryland years ago, right across the river, and has met many people at the marina since she's had her boat



**Boats of all sizes fill the docks year round.**

### Details

**BELLE HAVEN MARINA**  
703-768-0018  
www.saildc.com

there. "It's a very friendly marina," she said.

There are sailboat rentals for the Flying Scots or Sunfish, and canoe, kayak and Jon Boat rentals as well, with a minimum of two hours.



**A group of teenagers that had taken lessons at the marina in the past get situated on a rental Flying Scot boat.**

# NEWCOMERS GUIDE

## My Community

To the Editor:

in 2013 when my son encouraged me to move to Alexandria after my husband died, I looked at several apartment and condominium complexes in the Belle View and Huntington areas. I was leaving a large house in New Hampshire on an acre of land near the Piscataqua River that separates New Hampshire and Maine. In Virginia, I visited a lovely retirement village in Mt. Vernon — but I didn't feel ready to live only with people who were all around my age.

To my great delight, a cousin recommended Montebello, a condominium community for people of all ages, with four tall buildings on a high hill near the Richmond Highway and the Huntington

Metro.

Montebello has trees, grass, flowers, and wooded walking trails.

It has a cafe I can visit when I want to be with other people — the monthly condo fee doesn't include a required visit to the restaurant, but it does cover the cost of having other people mow that lovely grass! Like one of the other communities I first saw, Montebello has many interest groups — book groups, a music club, art club, indoor and outdoor pools, a bowling alley, tennis courts, and a great fitness center. I feel lucky to live here.

**Carole Appel**  
Alexandria



FCHARD PHOTO

Residents can sign up for the **Community Fire and Rescue Academy**.

## Learn about Firefighting

**W**ant to learn more about the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department? Want to participate in a fun-filled, eight-week program that will show what firefighters and paramedics do every day?

Residents can now apply to the Community Fire and Rescue Academy (CFRA). The CFRA is open to persons 18 and older who live in Fairfax County. Each session will cover different aspects of the organization, providing an in-depth overview of the department and

its uniformed and civilian workforce. Program topics include: fire suppression, emergency medical services, training, recruitment, special operations, and other interesting topics.

CFRA Application will be accepted until Sept. 13. The Academy will begin Sept. 26, and will meet for eight consecutive Thursdays, from 6-9 p.m. and ending on Nov. 14. To learn more about the program and to sign up, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fire-ems/cfra](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fire-ems/cfra).

# MOUNT VERNON DISTRICT

Our office is here for you! Did you know you can contact us with any County concerns or issues, and we can connect you with the answers? Here are just a few ways we can help:

- Connecting you with County services.
- Sharing information about important issues in our community.
- Communicating meetings and events happening near you.
- Answering questions about property, roads, taxes, public safety, health & human services, solid waste, recycling and more.

**There are many ways to CONNECT WITH TEAM MVD!**

**Stop by:** Mount Vernon Governmental Center  
2511 Parkers Lane, Mount Vernon, VA 22306

**Keep informed! Sign up for the Mount Vernon Advisor and follow us on social media!**  
**Visit:** <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon/>  
**Call:** 703-780-7518 (TTY 711)  
**Email:** [mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov)

**Office Hours:** Monday - Friday: 8:30am-5pm; Thursday: 5pm-7:30pm  
 Second Saturday Each Month: Lorton Library: 9am - 11:30am • MV District Office: 12:30pm - 3pm  
 Walk-ins and by appointment

We also have Community Use Rooms Available. To reserve: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon/community-meeting-rooms>

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*Westminster at Lake Ridge is changing! Transformations are currently underway and will bring a renewal of amenities and décor to the community. Near the historic town of Ocoquan, the serene location has all the small town charm and friendliness you desire, yet is just a few miles from the excitement of our nation's capital.*

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# FAIRS & FESTIVALS

## September 2019

### MONDAY/SEPT. 2

**Herndon Labor Day Festival.** 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. at Herndon Town Green, 777 Lynn St., Herndon. Great music, a craft show, food, 12 wineries and micro-brews and culinary demonstrations. Visit [herndon-va.gov/recreation/special-events/labor-day-festival](http://herndon-va.gov/recreation/special-events/labor-day-festival) for more.

### SATURDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 7-8

**Burke Centre Festival.** 9:30 am-5 pm at Burke Centre Conservancy 6060 Burke Centre Parkway Burke. Festival includes an Arts & Craft Fair, festival food vendors, amusement rides, pony rides, musical entertainment provided by local and nationally recognized performers, nature shows, after-hours Wine Garden. Visit [www.burkecentreweb.com/schedule](http://www.burkecentreweb.com/schedule) for more.

### SATURDAY/SEPT. 14

**Dulles Day Plane Pull.** At Dulles International Airport, Dulles. The 2019 Dulles Day Family Festival & Plane Pull is a full day of excitement with airplane and auto exhibits, the children's zone and bus pull, varied displays and activities, vendors, food and entertainment. Visit [www.planepull.com](http://www.planepull.com) for more.

### SATURDAY/SEPT. 28

**Reston Multicultural Festival.** 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Lake Anne Plaza, Reston. The Reston Multicultural Festival celebrates all the entertainment, dress, food, and cultural treasures from all over the world that are all here in Reston. Rain or shine. Free. Visit [www.restoncommunitycenter.com/attend-shows-events-exhibits/reston-multicultural-festival](http://www.restoncommunitycenter.com/attend-shows-events-exhibits/reston-multicultural-festival) for more.

## Farmers Markets

Vendors will offer seasonal plants, produce, baked goods, meats and more; all sold by local growers and producers. Some area markets also include seasonal events and entertainment.

### FARMERS MARKETS 2019

#### WEDNESDAYS

**Oak Marr Farmers Market.** 8 a.m. - noon. Wednesdays, May 1- Nov. 13. Oak Marr Park & RECenter, 3200 Jermantown Road, Oakton. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/oak-marr](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/oak-marr) for more.

**Wakefield Farmers Market.** 2-6 p.m. Wednesdays, April 17-Oct. 30. 8100 Braddock Road, Annandale. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/wakefield](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/wakefield) for more.

#### THURSDAYS

**Annandale Farmers Market.** 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Thursdays, May 2-Nov. 7. Featuring a master gardener plant clinic on site to answer questions about plants and landscaping. 6621 Columbia Pike, Annandale. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/annandale](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/annandale) for more.

**Herndon Farmers Market.** 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Thursdays, April 18-November 14. Vendors sell a variety of products including pastries and vegetables. Old Town Herndon, 700 Block of Lynn St, Herndon. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/herndon](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/herndon) for more.

**Fairfax's Government Center Farmers Market.** Thursdays, May 3-Oct. 26. 2:30-6:30 pm. Fairfax



PHOTO BY ALI KHALIGH/THE CONNECTION  
PERSIAN DANCERS CELEBRATE THE NOWRUZ FESTIVAL 2018 AT TYSONS CORNER CENTER.

## Persian New Year Celebration 2020

The Nowruz Festival celebrating the Persian New Year will include entertainment from musicians, dancers, artists, costumed characters, and traditional players. About 55 street vendors will be offering traditional and exotic foods, as well as jewelry, crafts, and other traditional Persian products. Has previously taken place in March at Tysons Corner Center. Visit [www.nowruzfestival.org](http://www.nowruzfestival.org) for details.

## October 2019

### THURSDAY-SATURDAY/OCT. 10-12

**Fairfax's Fall for the Book Festival.** 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Enjoy literature and hear authors give readings at the Fall for the Book Festival. Visit [www.fallforthebook.org](http://www.fallforthebook.org) for more.

### SATURDAY/OCT. 5

**Taste of Annandale.** 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tom Davis Drive in central Annandale, between Columbia Pike and John Marr Drive. The fifth annual Taste of Annandale will showcase local restaurants during a daylong family-friendly celebration aimed at building community spirit,

engaging young people, and promoting local businesses. Other activities include a 5K; multicultural music, dance, and other live entertainment; a chili cook-off; and much more. Visit [tasteofannandale.com](http://tasteofannandale.com) for more

### THURSDAY-MONDAY/OCT. 24-28

**Washington West Film Festival.** Screening events in Reston, Arlington and other local areas. For tickets and schedule visit [wwfilmfest.com](http://wwfilmfest.com).

## November 2019

### FRIDAY/NOV. 29

**Reston Holiday Parade** at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. Reston. Holiday parade with tree lighting, sing along, and more. Visit [www.fxva.com/event/reston-holiday-parade-tree-lighting-sing-along-%26-more/22348/](http://www.fxva.com/event/reston-holiday-parade-tree-lighting-sing-along-%26-more/22348/) for more.

## December 2019

### SUNDAY/DEC. 1

**Great Falls Celebration of Lights** at Village Field. 3:45-6:30 p.m. Celebrate the beginning of the season with a Christmas Tree Lighting. Enjoy hot chocolate and seasonal music. Visit [celebrategreatfalls.org/event/celebration-of-lights/](http://celebrategreatfalls.org/event/celebration-of-lights/) for more info.

### SATURDAY/DEC. 7

**Living Saviour's Holiday Bazaar** at 5500 Ox Road Fairfax Station. Event is 9: a.m-3 p.m. This is a family event with free admission. Shop a variety of vendors including small business and homemade arts and crafts. There will also be a Silent Auction with proceeds benefiting local hypothermia shelters this winter. Visit [www.eventbrite.com/e/living-saviors-third-annual-holiday-bazaar-tickets-64259195985?aff=ebdsbdestsearch](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/living-saviors-third-annual-holiday-bazaar-tickets-64259195985?aff=ebdsbdestsearch) for more.

### SUNDAYS

**Lorton Farmers Market.** 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Sundays, May 5-Nov. 17. 8994 Potomac Bend, Lorton. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/lorton](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/lorton) for more.

**Tysons Farmers Market.** 9 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday. May 12- Nov. 17. 8400 Westpark Drive, Tysons. Visit [www.fxva.com/event/tysons-farmers-market/20189/](http://www.fxva.com/event/tysons-farmers-market/20189/) for more.

**Fairfax Farmers Market.** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sundays, May 12-Oct. 20. 10500 Page Ave., Fairfax. [www.fairfaxsundaymarket.com/](http://www.fairfaxsundaymarket.com/)

### FRIDAYS

**McLean Farmers Market.** 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Fridays, May 3 -Nov. 15. 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/mclean](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/mclean) for more.

**Kingstowne Farmers Market.** 4-7 p.m. Fridays, May 3-Oct. 25. 5844-5862 Kingstowne Towne Center, Alexandria. Vendors products include fresh organic honey and hand held pies and rolls. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/kingstowne](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/kingstowne) for more.

### SATURDAYS

**Burke Farmers Market.** 8 a.m.-noon. Saturdays, April 12-Dec. 21. 5671 Roberts Parkway, Burke. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/burke](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/burke) for more.

**Reston Farmers Market.** 8 a.m.-noon. Saturdays, April 20-Dec. 7. Named the best farmers market in Northern Virginia by Virginia Living Magazine. Lake Anne Village Center, 11401 North Shore Drive, Reston. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/reston](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/reston) for more.

**Oakton Farmers Market.** 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Year round. Unity of Fairfax Church, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Visit [www.community-foodworks.org/oakton/](http://www.community-foodworks.org/oakton/) for more.

## April 2020

### APRIL 18-25

**Historic Garden Week.** This eight-day statewide event provides visitors with a unique opportunity to see elaborate gardens with more than 2,000 flower arrangements created by the Garden Club of Virginia Members. Visit [www.va.gardenweek.org](http://www.va.gardenweek.org) for more.

## May 2020

**Great Falls Artfest on the Green.** On the Great Falls Village Green. Great Falls Studios Spring Art Show and Sale under the big tent and a few little tents, too. This annual event is a show and sale highlighting Great Falls Studios members both at Great Falls Grange & Schoolhouse and in the working studios in Great Falls Village Centre. Visit [www.greatfallsart.org/artfest/](http://www.greatfallsart.org/artfest/)

**Great Falls Annual Charity Golf Tournament.** Hidden Creek Country Club. 1711 Club House Road, Reston. Join for a morning or afternoon round of golf and support three Great Falls elementary schools. Opportunities for sponsorships and volunteering are available. Visit [www.celebrategreatfalls.org](http://www.celebrategreatfalls.org).

### THURSDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 28-31

**Herndon Festival 2020.** Thursday, 6-10 p.m.; Friday, 5-11 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-11 p.m.; and Sunday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Northwest Federal Credit Union, 200 Spring St., Herndon. Four day outdoor festival with three entertainment stages, two fireworks displays, Kid's Alley with children's art area, arts and craft show and more. All ages. Visit [www.herndonfestival.net](http://www.herndonfestival.net) for more.

### THURSDAYS/MAY-AUGUST

**Take a Break Concert Series.** 7-9 p.m. Lake Anne Plaza, 11404 Washington Plaza W, Reston. On Thursdays, take a break with this outdoor concert series. Visit [www.restoncommunitycenter.com/take-a-break](http://www.restoncommunitycenter.com/take-a-break) for a weekly lineup.

### FRIDAYS/MAY-AUGUST

**Herndon Friday Night Live!** 6:30 p.m. 777 Lynn St., Herndon. Listen to great music on Friday nights during the summer. Visit [herndonrocks.com/schedule.php](http://herndonrocks.com/schedule.php) for more.

## June 2020

**Springfield Days.** South Run Park, 7550 Reservation Drive, Springfield. Springfield Days is a community-wide celebration that includes a 5K run, "Pet Fest" and car show. Visit [www.springfielddays.com](http://www.springfielddays.com) for more.

**Cardboard Regatta.** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Featured during Springfield Days, witness the cardboard boat creations race along Lake Accotink's shoreline at 2 p.m. \$4 vehicle fee. Call 703-569-0285 or email [julie.tahan@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:julie.tahan@fairfaxcounty.gov). Visit [www.springfielddays.com](http://www.springfielddays.com) for more.

**Vintage Virginia Wine and Food Festival.** 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Bull Run Regional Park, 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville. A fun-filled day with food, musical entertainment and more. Visit [www.vintagevirginia.com](http://www.vintagevirginia.com) for more.

**Lake Anne Chalk on the Water Festival.** 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Lake Anne Plaza, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. Chalk on the Water is a two-day street-painting festival where participants will create street art. Festival goers can purchase a "plot" of brick space on the plaza and paint

# FAIRS & FESTIVALS



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

The whirl and twirl of rides by Cole Shows Amusement Company attracted crowds during the Fairfax County 71st 4-H Fair and Carnival held at Frying Pan Park in Herndon.

## Fairfax County 4-H Fair and Carnival

Enjoy old-fashioned family fun with carnival games, rides and tempting foods. Friday features the free Big Truck Night event from 5-7:30 p.m. "No Horn" hour is from 5-6 p.m. Tractor Pull at 4 p.m. on Saturday. Stop by the 4-H Fair throughout the weekend as exhibitors display their winning entries and get their farm animals ready to show. Try a turn at farm chores, watch stage entertainment and enjoy horse and livestock shows. In August at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Admission to the 4-H Fair and Carnival is free; \$10 per car parking fee on Saturday and Sunday. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/frying-pan-park/4-h-fair](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/frying-pan-park/4-h-fair) for details.

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to their hearts delight whatever flows from their imagination. Visit [www.chalkonthewater.com](http://www.chalkonthewater.com).

**Taste of Reston.** Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Carnival games and rides with a family fun zone. Visit [www.restontaste.com](http://www.restontaste.com) for more.

**Love Your Body Yoga Festival.** Yoga studios and wellness centers of Northern Virginia will be offering classes, services, and information on ways to care for your body, along with live entertainment and activities for children. Donations to participate in classes benefit Cornerstones. Presented by Beloved Yoga. [www.belovedyoga.com](http://www.belovedyoga.com).

### FRIDAY-SUNDAY/JUNE 5-7

**Celebrate Fairfax! Festival.** Friday, 6 p.m.-midnight; Saturday, 10 a.m.-midnight; and Sunday, 11 a.m.-7p.m. Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Musical performances, rides, games and food. Call 703-324-3247 or visit [www.celebratefairfax.com/](http://www.celebratefairfax.com/).

### JUNE-AUGUST

**Reston Concerts on the Town.** Fridays, 7:30-10 p.m. Reston Town Center Pavilion. Bring lawn chairs or picnic blankets and enjoy live music in the Pavilion Saturday nights. Free. Rain or shine. Presented by Reston Town Center, Boston Properties, and Reston Town Center Association. Alcohol permitted at restaurants only. 11900 Market Street, Reston. Visit [www.restontowncenter.com/concerts](http://www.restontowncenter.com/concerts).

**Great Falls Concerts on the Green.** Sundays, 6-8 p.m. Great Falls Village Centre Green. Come out with your picnic baskets and chairs for an entertaining evening of free, live music! 776 Walker Road, Great Falls. Visit [www.celebrategreatfalls.org/concerts-on-the-green/](http://www.celebrategreatfalls.org/concerts-on-the-green/).

**Arts in the Parks.** Wednesdays & Saturdays, 10 a.m. Performance venues include Burke Lake Park Amphitheater, E.C. Lawrence Park Amphitheater, Mason District Park Amphitheater, and Frying Pan Farm Park Visitor Center. Entertain children, teach them the importance of protecting our natural resources, introduce them to live entertainment in an informal kid-friendly atmosphere, and forge a connection between kids and parks. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/arts-in-the-parks](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/arts-in-the-parks) for more.

## July 2020

**Herndon 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration.** Bready Park at the Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. A family-fun event featuring games, arts and craft activities, bingo, food face painting, balloon artists, and fireworks. Visit [www.herndon-va.gov/recreation/special-events/4th-of-july](http://www.herndon-va.gov/recreation/special-events/4th-of-july) for more.

**Great Falls 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration & Parade.** 5K Walk Run, Blood Drive, Little Patriot Parade, and floats, horses, antique cars and pets making a loop in the Main Parade. Fireworks start after dusk. [www.celebrategreatfalls.org/4th-of-july-celebration-parade/](http://www.celebrategreatfalls.org/4th-of-july-celebration-parade/)

**Vienna 4<sup>th</sup> of July Festival and Fireworks Show.** Live musical entertainment, arts and crafts for kids, antique and classic car show and fireworks. Visit [www.viennava.gov](http://www.viennava.gov) for more.

**Fairfax's Independence Day Celebration.** In the Downtown Fairfax Historic District. Independence day parade, historical tours, games, entertainment and fireworks. Visit [www.fairfaxva.gov/about-us/special-events/independence-day-celebration](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/about-us/special-events/independence-day-celebration)

**Obon Festival.** Highlighting Japanese culture at Ekoji Buddhist Temple, 6500 Lakehaven Lane, Fairfax Station. Visit [www.ekoji.org](http://www.ekoji.org) for more.

### JULY-AUGUST

**Braddock Nights Concert Series.** Fridays, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield or Royal Lake Park, 5344 Gainsborough Drive, Fairfax. Listen to musical performances in the great outdoors. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/braddock-nights](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/braddock-nights) for location and schedule.

## August 2020

**Fairfax County 4-H Fair and Carnival.** At Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Enjoy old-fashioned family fun with carnival games, rides and tempting foods. Friday features the free Big Truck Night event from 5-7:30 p.m. "No Horn" hour is from 5-6 p.m. Tractor Pull at 4 p.m. on Saturday. Stop by the 4-H Fair throughout the weekend as exhibitors display their winning entries. Admission to the 4-H Fair and Carnival is free; \$10 per car parking fee on Saturday and Sunday. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/frying-pan-park/4-h-fair](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/frying-pan-park/4-h-fair) for details.



**A MUST READ**

This family owned business is the best! Coming from a stressed out newly engaged bride-to-be, they went out of their way to accommodate my ring redesign requests, in a timely manner. Then we bought my wedding band there. I now take all my jewelry to King's to have it repaired, appraised and love the beautiful and unique jewelry that they carry. Everyone is very knowledgeable and friendly. I wouldn't go anywhere else but King's Jewelry." — Lynne Williams



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**203 Strand Street Alexandria, VA**  
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**703.836.4442**







## NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

# Living in Mount Vernon District

FROM PAGE 10

lice Station and Animal Shelter will enable even greater community engagement in Southeastern Fairfax County.

**WHILE A DECADES LONG PROCESS**, the revitalization of the Richmond Highway corridor will bring Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), higher density urban living with ecologically sensitive, walkable, livable neighborhoods. A focus on community development, preservation of existing community character, urban design and a variety of transportation modes will bring new residents, businesses and partnerships to the corridor. My Strategic Economic Development Team (SEDT) is working hard to bring the best commerce partners to the region, while my Tourism Task Force is working to enhance and grow our tourism market and our Embark Housing Advisory Committee keeps us grounded in the need for more affordable and workforce housing.

The District is rich with parks and recreational opportunities. Put on your walking shoes and head to River Farm, Huntley Meadows (OK, not technically in the District, but very close) or Fort Hunt Park. Spend the day paddling on one of the many rivers and creeks at Pohick Bay Park, Dyke Marsh, Occoquan Regional Park or Mason Neck State Park. Ride some of the best bike trails in Northern Virginia at Laurel Hill Park and Meadowood, or use the many trails along our roadways for your daily commute. To find your adventure, checkout our parks page on the Mount Vernon District webpage: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon/).

If site-seeing and history are your interests, visit George

Washington's Mount Vernon Estate, the Woodlawn Plantation or Historic Pohick Church, to name a few. If arts and culture inspire your creative spirit, spend a day at the Workhouse Arts Center visiting over 70 artists working in their studios, learning about the historic Lorton Prison, attending a concert or theater performance or joining your partner for ballroom dancing. Shopping at Farmers Markets, listening to free summer concerts and strolling along the river are all part of the experience in our corner of the county. I hope this small sampling of all that is available to explore in the Mount Vernon District encourages you to take the time to find the many experiences awaiting you.

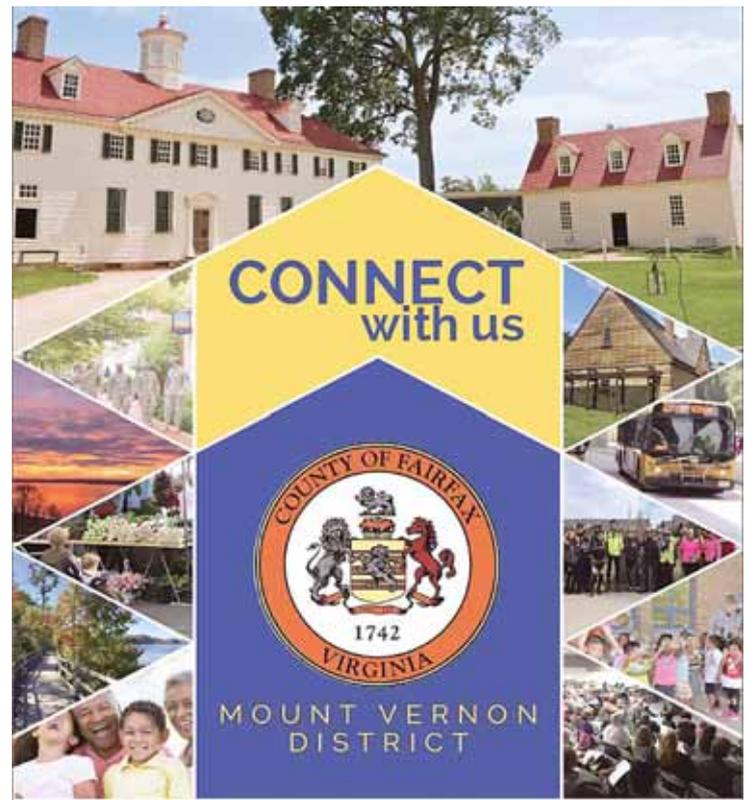
**PRESERVING OUR ENVIRONMENT** by addressing climate change, energy efficiency and resiliency planning will continue to be a focus as Fairfax engages in these important world-wide issues. The initiation of a Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP), the Joint County and School Boards Environmental Task Force (JET) and accelerated County initiatives to mitigate climate impacts, as guided by my Fairfax Green Initiatives Board Matter, are important to the health and wellbeing of all our people, places and property. Watch for more about how you can get involved and make a difference, one person at a time!

My number one priority is always you and our office is here to help! I strive to engage deeply and frequently with the people of Mount Vernon. TEAM MVD provides timely constituent service as we continue to build the ideal community in which to live and thrive. We are committed to per-

formance standards that ensure we are a responsive, transparent and informative office. We are here to answer your questions and will respond to your communications within two business days or less.

Have a question about road construction, snow removal, trash collection, stormwater runoff or voting precincts? Email us at [MTVernon@FairfaxCounty.gov](mailto:MTVernon@FairfaxCounty.gov). Want to book a community room for a meeting, or not a fan of email? Call us at 703-780-7518. Need a document notarized or just want to visit your District Governmental Center to see local government in action? Stop by our office at 2511 Parkers Lane, Mount Vernon. I also have extended office hours on Thursdays and the second Saturday of each month, walk-ins and appointments are always welcomed.

TEAM MVD will also be hosting several signature events throughout the fall. Join us on Sept. 20, at 1 p.m. at the South County Center for the dedication of that building as the Gerry W. Hyland Governmental Center. Our 4th Annual Tour de Mount Vernon Community



Connect with TEAM MVD

Bike Ride will take place on Oct. 19, at 8:30 a.m. at the Workhouse Arts Center. More information and registration can be found here: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon/tour-de-mountvernon-2019>.

On Nov. 16, learn how to lessen

your environmental impact at the 2nd Annual Environment Expo. And, finally, join us to celebrate the holidays at the Mount Vernon District Holiday Open House on Dec. 5. More details on all these events will be available on our website and in our newsletter.

If you haven't figured it out already, you have chosen a great place to live, educate your children, grow your career and engage with your neighbors. Welcome to the Mount Vernon District, where history, heritage, outdoor living, educational opportunities and public safety come together to support our exciting future! Visit our website ([www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon)) to sign up for our newsletter, follow us on Facebook and Twitter and learn about the myriad of District projects, important topics, area activities and upcoming events in your new community.



Tour de Mount Vernon at the Workhouse Arts Center

## About the Gazette, a Connection Newspaper

FROM PAGE 11

people who are in a photo.

We also publish notes about news and events from local businesses. Notes about openings, new employees and anniversaries are welcome. It is especially important to us to let people know about events ahead of time in our calendar of events. We appreciate getting notice at least two weeks ahead of the event, and we encourage photos.

Your community Connection newspaper is one of 15 papers published by the independent, locally owned Local Media Connection LLC, serving the suburbs of Metropolitan Washington in Northern Virginia and Potomac, Md.

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

### CONTACT

For advertising and marketing information, see [www.connectionnewspapers.com/advertising](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/advertising) email [sales@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:sales@connectionnewspapers.com) or call 703-778-9431.

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Fairfax Connection [www.twitter.com/FFXConnection](http://www.twitter.com/FFXConnection) @FFXConnection

Fairfax Station-Clifton-Lorton Connection: [www.twitter.com/LFSCConnection](http://www.twitter.com/LFSCConnection); @LFSCConnection

Great Falls Connection: [www.twitter.com/GFConnection](http://www.twitter.com/GFConnection); @GFConnection

McLean Connection: [www.twitter.com/McLeanConnect](http://www.twitter.com/McLeanConnect); @McLeanConnect

Oak Hill/Herndon: [www.twitter.com/HerndonConnect](http://www.twitter.com/HerndonConnect); @HerndonConnect

Reston Connection: [www.twitter.com/RestonConnect](http://www.twitter.com/RestonConnect); @RestonConnect

Springfield Connection: [www.twitter.com/SprConnect](http://www.twitter.com/SprConnect); @SprConnect

Vienna and Oakton Connection: [www.twitter.com/ViennaConnect](http://www.twitter.com/ViennaConnect) @ViennaConnect

— MARY KIMM

[MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](mailto:MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

# Enjoy and Save Dyke Marsh

GLEND A C. BOOTH,  
PRESIDENT  
FRIENDS OF DYKE MARSH

**F**or respite from suburbia's hubbub, newcomers may need what Henry David Thoreau called, "the tonic of wildness." The Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve on the Potomac River's Virginia shoreline, just south of Alexandria, can offer some of nature's restorative elixir.

This national park preserve is one of the last tidal wetlands on the river. Tidal, freshwater marshes less common than tidal, are saltwater marshes. In 1959, Congress designated Dyke Marsh as a preserve "so that fish and wildlife development and their preservation as wetland wildlife habitat shall be paramount." Today, it has at least 300 known species of plants, 6,000 arthropods, 38 fish, 16 reptiles, 14 amphibians and over 230 birds. Like all wetlands, Dyke Marsh provides ecological services: flood control, water quality enhancement, storm buffering, fish nursery, shoreline stabilization and passive recreation. Newcomers today can see two restoration projects. Over half of the marsh was hauled away by dredgers from 1940 to 1972, which destabilized the whole hydrologic system, two U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) studies confirmed. Said USGS: "Analysis of field evidence, aerial photography, and published maps has revealed an accelerating rate of erosion and marsh loss at Dyke Marsh, which now appears to put at risk the short-term survivability of this marsh." It will be gone by 2035 without action, USGS scientists concluded.



A crane lowers a marine mattress into the river to support the breakwater.

The armor stone breakwater under construction in the south marsh is the first phase of restoration and stabilization, designed to replicate a protective promontory removed by dredgers. The breakwater would "redirect erosive flows in the marsh, particularly during strong storms and would re-establish hydrologic conditions that would encourage sediment accretion," says the National Park Service's restoration plan.

Another restoration effort is underway as well. Many of the upland areas of the marsh, especially along the trails, are overrun with

invasive plants, like much of Northern Virginia's habitat. Invasive plants usually outcompete native plants that native insects and other wildlife need to survive. University of Delaware entomologist Douglas Tallamy explains, in his book, "Bringing Nature Home:" "When a plant is transported to an area of the world that contains plants, animals and diseases with which it has never before interacted, the coevolutionary constraints that kept it in check at home are gone, as are the ecological links that made that plant a contributing member of its ecosystem." Tallamy urged, "In order to let nature take its course, we must first recreate nature."

In 2018, FODMers and National Park Service staff planted over 3,500 native trees and plants. Keeping the invasives out until the native plants are well established is now the challenge. A dedicated cadre of volunteers is tackling the invasives. More people are welcome. We hope newcomers and long-termers will come out, enjoy nature's tonic and help us save and restore Dyke Marsh. Visit [www.fodm.org](http://www.fodm.org).

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



A tiger swallowtail butterfly nectars on the blossom of the native hairy leafcup plant.

## Good Shepherd Catholic Church International Festival - Three Days of Celebration

8710 Mount Vernon Highway, Alexandria VA 22309

**Saturday, August 31, 2019**

- 5K Race and 1 Mile Fun Run Fun and fitness for a great cause! Sign up online today, go to: [gs-cc.org](http://gs-cc.org)
- Yard Sale Early Bird Entry, 8am - 9am, \$10  
Regular Entry, 9am - 2pm, free

**Sunday, September 1**

- Join us for Mass (see schedule at [gs-cc.org](http://gs-cc.org))

**Monday, September 2 Festival Day!**

- 11am - 5pm Food, music, games, bingo, raffle, entertainment & more! • Free admission
- Food and some activities require ticket purchase
- Parking & shuttle at Mt. Vernon HS. No pets except service animals
- Win \$10,000! Raffle Tickets on Sale at the Festival!
- Net proceeds go to charities.
- Visit [gs-cc.org](http://gs-cc.org) for information.



## NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

# Dates and Deadlines for Election Day

❖ On or About Sept. 20: Absentee Voting begins at the Office of Elections, 12000 Government Center Pkwy., Conference Rooms 2/3, Fairfax

❖ Oct. 15: Voter Registration Deadline. In-person: 5 p.m., online: 11:59 p.m.

❖ Oct. 29: Deadline to request an absentee ballot by mail, 5 p.m.

❖ Nov. 2 Final day to vote absentee in-person, 5 p.m.

❖ Nov. 5: Deadline to return your ballot to the Office of Elections, 7 p.m.

❖ Nov. 5: Election Day, Polling Places open 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Fairfax County Office of Elections,

Hours: Monday-Wednesday, Friday 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Thursday, 8 a.m.-7 p.m.

12000 Government Center Parkway Suite 323

Fairfax, VA 22035

703-222-0776 TTY 711

voting@fairfaxcounty.gov

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/

When you register to vote in Virginia, you DO NOT register to vote by party. Virginia is an Open Primary state which means that any registered voter in Virginia can vote in either a Democratic or Republican primary. When both parties are holding a primary election, you will be asked which primary you want to vote in when you check in to vote with your photo ID. Note, you may only vote in one primary.

## Voter ID Requirements:

Per Virginia law effective July 1, 2014, all residents must provide valid photo identification when they vote in-person. Please consult the VA Department of Elections for



**On or About Sept. 20: Absentee Voting begins at the Office of Elections, 12000 Government Center Pkwy., Conference Rooms 2/3, Fairfax.**

the most up to date information regarding acceptable forms of voter photo ID.

Many types of photo ID are acceptable for voting in Virginia. You only need to show ONE acceptable photo ID to vote.

Photo IDs can be used to vote up to one year after the ID has expired. Acceptable forms of valid identification: Virginia driver's license, Virginia DMV-issued photo ID, United States passport, Em-

ployer-issued photo ID, Student photo ID issued by a school, college, or university located in Virginia, Other U.S. or Virginia government-issued photo ID, Tribal enrollment or other tribal photo ID, Virginia Voter Photo ID card

If you get to your polling place without acceptable photo ID, you can vote a provisional ballot.

You will be given instructions on what to do so your vote can count.

## Offices on the Ballot, Fairfax County

❖ Member Virginia Senate, vote for one in your district

❖ Member House of Delegates, vote for one in your district

❖ Commonwealth's Attorney, vote for one

❖ Sheriff, vote for one

❖ Chairman Board of Supervisors, vote for one

❖ Member School Board at Large

❖ Member Board of Supervisors, vote for one in your district

❖ Member School Board, vote for one in your district

❖ Soil and Water Conservation Director Northern Virginia District

❖ School Bonds Referenda

## Registration and Voter Photo ID Opportunities

The Office of Elections is open during normal business hours to provide residents the opportunity to register to vote or obtain a free voter photo ID if needed. The Office of Elections also provides residents opportunities to attend offsite events throughout the year.

## Upcoming Voter Photo ID Events

❖ Sept. 7 and Oct. 5, 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306

❖ Aug. 27, 3 p.m. until 5:30 p.m., Burke Lake Gardens, Thursday, 9608 Old Keene Mill Rd., Burke, VA 22015

❖ Sept. 10, 1 p.m. until 4 p.m., Leewood Healthcare Center, Tuesday, 7120 Braddock Rd., Annandale, VA 22003

❖ Sept. 11, 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., Arleigh Burke Pavilion, Wednesday, 1739

Kirby Rd., McLean, VA 22101

❖ Sept. 16, 10:30 a.m. until 2 p.m., Chesterbrook Residences, Monday, 2030 Westmoreland St., Falls Church, VA 22043

❖ Sept. 20, 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., The Virginian, Friday, 9229 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax, VA 22031

❖ Sept. 23, 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., Goodwin House Bailey's Crossroads, Monday, 3440 South Jefferson St., Falls Church, VA 22041

❖ Sept. 24, 10 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., Sunrise at Reston Town Center, Tuesday, Sept. 24, 10 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., 1778 Fountain Dr., Reston, VA 20190

❖ Sept. 24, 2:30 p.m. until 5 p.m., Hunters Woods at Trails Edge, Tuesday, 2222 Colt Necks Rd., Reston, VA 20191

❖ Sept. 25, 1 p.m. until 4 p.m., Tall Oaks Assisted Living, Wednesday, 12052 North Shore Dr., Reston, VA 20192

❖ Sept. 26, 11 a.m. until 1 p.m., The Crossings at Chantilly, Thursday, 2980 Centreville Rd., Herndon, VA 20171

❖ Sept. 28, Noon until 4 p.m., Reston Multicultural Festival - Lake Anne Plaza, Saturday, 2310 Colt Necks Rd., Reston, VA 20191

❖ Oct. 1, 10 a.m. until 1 p.m., The Woodlands Retirement Community, Tuesday, 4320 Forest Hill Dr., Fairfax, VA 22030

❖ Oct. 5, 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., 2019 First Baptist Church of Merrifield Harvest Festival, Saturday, 8122 Ransell Rd., Falls Church, VA 22042

❖ Oct. 5, 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306

❖ Oct. 7, 10:30 a.m. until Noon, Heatherwood/Burke Health Care, Monday, 9642 Burke Lake Rd., Burke, VA 22015

## Candidates, General Assembly

### House of Delegates

#### District 34

Kathleen J. Murphy (D), incumbent,  
Gary G. Pan (R)

#### District 35

Mark L. Keam (D), incumbent, unopposed

#### District 36

Kenneth R. "Ken" Plum, incumbent, unopposed

#### District 37

David L. Bulova (D), incumbent, unopposed

#### District 38

L. Kaye Kory (D), incumbent, unopposed

#### District 39

Nick O. Bell (R)  
Vivian E. Watts (D), incumbent

#### District 40

Dan I. Helmer (D)  
Timothy D. "Tim" Hugo (R), incumbent

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SEE CANDIDATES, PAGE 19

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# NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

FROM PAGE 18

## District 41

Eileen Filler-Corn (D), incumbent  
John M. Wolfe (I)  
Rachel D. Mace (L)

## District 42

Kathy K. L. Tran (D), incumbent  
Steve P. Adragna (R)

## District 43

Mark D. Sickles (D), incumbent  
Richard T. Hayden (R)

## District 44

Paul E. Krizek (D), incumbent  
Richard T. Hayden (R)

## District 45

Mark H. Levine (D), incumbent,  
unopposed

## District 46

Charniele L. Herring (D), incumbent,  
unopposed

## District 47

Patrick A. Hope (D), incumbent,  
unopposed

## District 48

Richard C. "Rip" Sullivan (D),  
incumbent, unopposed

## District 49

Alfonso H. Lopez (D), incumbent  
Terry W. Modglin (I)

## District 53

Marcus B. Simon (D), incumbent,  
unopposed

## District 67

Karrie K. Delaney (D), incumbent,  
unopposed

## District 86

Ibraheem S. Samirah (D), incumbent,  
unopposed

## Virginia State Senate

## District 30

Adam P. Ebbin (D), incumbent,  
unopposed

## District 31

Barbara A. Favola (D), incumbent,  
unopposed

## District 32

Janet D. Howell (D), incumbent  
Arthur G. Purves (R)

## District 33

Jennifer B. Boysko (D), incumbent  
Suzanne D. Fox (R)

## District 34

J. C. "Chap" Petersen (D), incumbent,  
unopposed

## District 35

Richard L. "Dick" Saslaw (D),  
incumbent, unopposed

## District 36

Scott A. Surovell (D), incumbent,  
unopposed

## District 37

Dave W. Marsden (D), incumbent,  
unopposed

## District 39

George L. Barker (D), incumbent  
S. W. "Dutch" Hillenburg (R)

## School Bond Ballot Question

This is the text of the public school bond question that will be on the Nov. 5, 2019, general election ballot:

Shall Fairfax County, Virginia, contract a debt, borrow money, and issue capital improvement bonds in the maximum aggregate principal amount of \$360,000,000 for the purposes of providing funds, in addition to funds from school bonds previously authorized, to finance, including reimbursement to the County for temporary financing for, the costs of school improvements, including acquiring, building, expanding and renovating properties, including new sites, new buildings or additions, renovations and improvements to existing buildings, and furnishing and equipment, for the Fairfax County public school system?

## Candidates, Fairfax County

### Chairman, Board of Supervisors

Jeffrey C. McKay (D)  
Joseph F. Galdo (R)

### Commonwealth's Attorney

Steve T. Descano (D)  
Jonathan L. Fahey (I)

### Sheriff

Stacey Ann Kincaid (D)  
Christopher F. De Carlo (I)

### Board of Supervisors, District Representatives

**Braddock District**  
James R. Walkinshaw (D)  
S. Jason Remer (R)  
Carey Chet Campbell (I)

### Dranesville District

John W. Foust (D) incumbent  
Ed. R. Martin (R)

### Hunter Mill District

Walter L. Acorn (D) unopposed

## Lee District

Rodney L. Lusk (D) unopposed

## Mason District

Penelope A. "Penny" Gross (D) incumbent  
Gary N. Aiken (R)

## Mount Vernon District

Daniel G. "Dan" Storck (D) incumbent, unopposed

## Providence District

Dalia A. Palchik (D)

## Springfield District

Linda D. Sperling (D)  
Patrick S. "Pat" Herryty (R) incumbent

## Sully District

Kathy L. Smith (D) incumbent  
Srilekha R. Palle (R)

## School Board

### School Board At-Large (vote for three)

Abrar E. Omeish  
Cheryl A. Buford  
Priscilla M. DeStefano  
Rachna Sizemore Heizer  
Vinson Palathingal  
Ilryong Moon, incumbent  
Karen A. Keys-Gamarra, incumbent

### Braddock District, School Board

Zia Tompkins  
Megan O. McLaughlin, incumbent

### Dranesville District, School Board

Anastasia S. Karloutsos  
Ardavan Mobasheri  
Elaine V. Tholen

### Hunter Mill District, School Board

Laura Ramirez Drain  
Melanie K. Meren

### Lee District, School Board

Tamara J. Derenak Kaufax, incumbent

### Mason District, School Board

Ricardy J. Anderson  
Tom L. Pafford

### Mount Vernon District, School Board

Pamela C. Ononiwu  
Steven D. Mosley  
Karen L. Corbett Sanders, incumbent

### Providence District, School Board

Andrea L. "Andi" Bayer  
Jung Byun  
Karl V. Frisch

SEE SCHOOL BOARD, PAGE 20



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## NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

# School Improvement Projects In 2019 FCPS School Bond

**New Construction** (Locations to be Determined)

- ❖ Fairfax/Oakton Area elementary school (construction) \$ 35,330,490
  - ❖ Silver Line elementary school (planning) \$ 2,007,500
- New Construction Subtotal: \$ 37,337,990

**Capacity Enhancement** (Additions and other modifications)

- ❖ Relocation of 1 Modular Addition \$ 2,000,000
  - ❖ West Potomac High School Addition (construction) \$ 22,298,143
  - ❖ Justice High School Addition (construction) \$ 14,595,641
  - ❖ Madison High School Addition (construction) \$ 19,543,731
- Capacity Enhancement Subtotal: \$ 58,437,515

**Elementary School Renovation**

- ❖ Hybla Valley (construction) \$ 27,302,053

- ❖ Washington Mill (construction) \$ 28,727,060
  - ❖ Braddock (construction) \$ 33,039,232
  - ❖ Fox Mill (construction) \$ 28,379,862
  - ❖ Oak Hill (construction) \$ 33,497,669
  - ❖ Wakefield Forest (planning) \$ 1,172,318
  - ❖ Louise Archer (planning) \$ 1,728,657
  - ❖ Crossfield (planning) \$ 1,416,325
  - ❖ Mosby Woods (planning) \$ 1,717,009
  - ❖ Bonnie Brae (planning) \$ 1,615,034
- Elementary School Renovation Subtotal: \$ 158,595,219

**Middle School Renovation**

- ❖ Cooper (construction) \$ 49,660,553
  - ❖ Frost (construction) \$ 53,468,723
- Middle School Renovation Subtotal: \$ 103,129,276

Project Subtotal \$ 357,500,000  
Bond Cost \$ 2,500,000

REFERENDUM TOTAL \$ 360,000,000

## School Board

FROM PAGE 19

**Springfield District, School Board**

- Laura Jane H. Cohen
- R. Kyle McDaniel
- Elizabeth L. Schultz, incumbent

**Sully District, School Board**

- Stella G. Pekarsky
- Tom A. Wilson, incumbent

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

**Reston District**

- Vote for Three
- C. Jane Dudik
- Chris E. Koerner
- Christopher A. Bowen
- Edward F. McGovern
- Jonah E. "Jet" Thomas
- Monica A. Billger
- Gerald Owen "Jerry" Peters Jr., incumbent

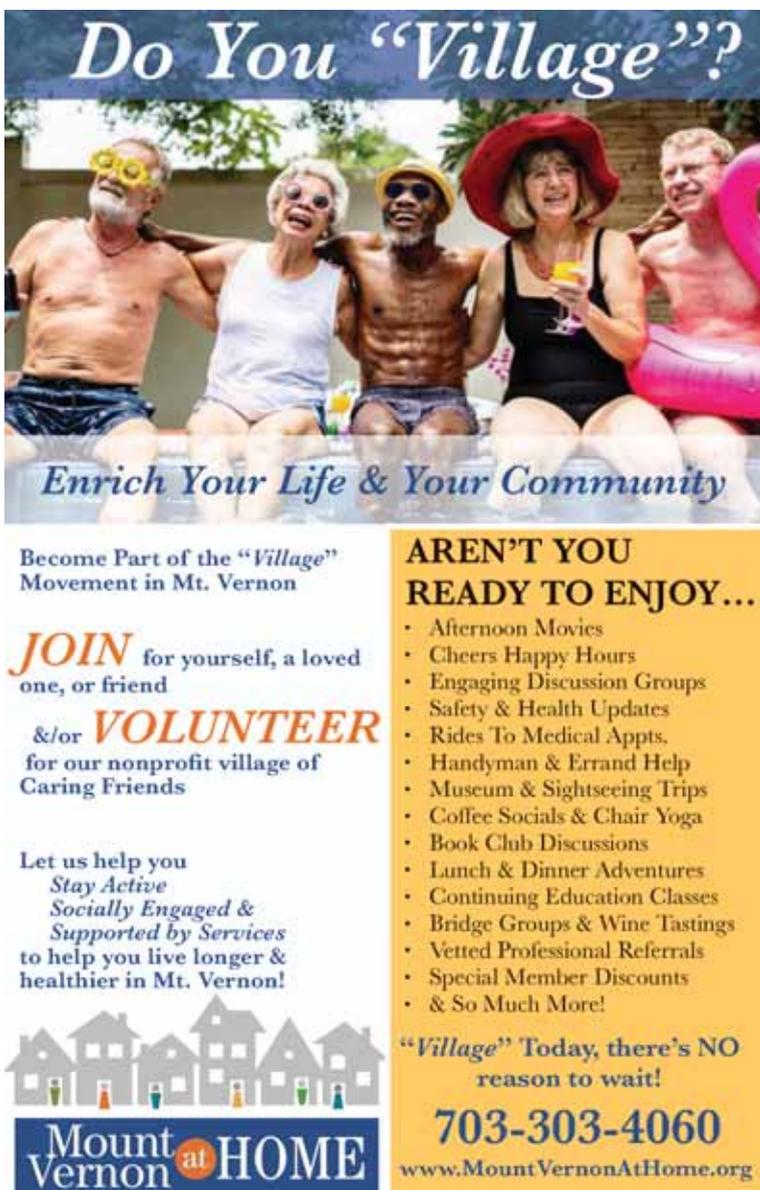
## Changes on Board of Supervisors

Fairfax County has an elected Board of Supervisors consisting of nine members elected by district, plus a chairman elected at-large. The law requires that districts be of approximately equal population and that the supervisors (other than the chairman) be residents and qualified voters of their districts and be elected only by voters living in those districts. All voters in the county may vote for the chairman.

All seats on the Board are on the ballot in November, and in December, the new members will be sworn in. Chairman Sharon Bulova, John Cook (Braddock), Cathy Hudgins (Hunter Mill), and Linda Smyth (Providence), did not seek reelection. Jeff McKay (Lee) is giving up his district seat to run for Chairman.

The Board elects the vice chairman annually from among its members at its first meeting in January.

Board members are elected for four-year terms.



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- Rides To Medical Appts.
- Handyman & Errand Help
- Museum & Sightseeing Trips
- Coffee Socials & Chair Yoga
- Book Club Discussions
- Lunch & Dinner Adventures
- Continuing Education Classes
- Bridge Groups & Wine Tastings
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# ENTERTAINMENT

Submit entertainment announcements at [www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/). The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

## ONGOING

**Registration Open: NVSO.** The Northern Virginia Senior Olympics features more than 60 events that challenge the mind as well as the body. New games this year: jigsaw puzzle and line-dancing. The games run Sept. 14-28. There will be no on-site registration. Online registrations must be completed by Aug. 31 at [www.nvso.us](http://www.nvso.us).

**Creative Summer Programs.** Through Aug. 31 at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Del Ray Artisans' Creative Summer Programs is a series of workshops exploring the arts. Learn techniques in photography (macro and SmartPhone), painting, sculpture, mixed media, jewelry-making, sketching, and more; and discover how to use art for affirmation, communication, and intention. Details and registration at [DelRayArtisans.org/programs/creative-summer/](http://DelRayArtisans.org/programs/creative-summer/).

**Art Exhibit: Fresh Meat.** Through Sept. 1, gallery hours at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. "Fresh Meat" features artwork by Del Ray Artisans' newest members from 2018-2019. "Fresh Meat" highlights new faces and new techniques. Visit [DelRayArtisans.org/event/fresh-meat](http://DelRayArtisans.org/event/fresh-meat) for more.

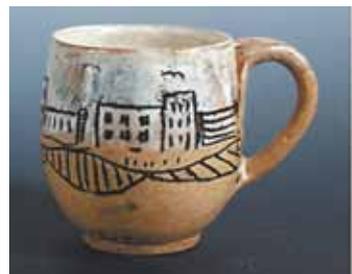
**Art Exhibit: Piercings, Clay Body Art and Carving.** Through Sept. 1, gallery hours at Scope Gallery, Studio 19 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St. The season is shaping up to be steamy as designs are working out, clay bodies are shaping up, donning some fierce detailing in "Piercings, Clay Body Art and Carving." Ceramic Guild art becomes less hippie and more hipster as artists go epic with an aggressive take on decoration outside the bowl. Call 703-548-6288 or visit [www.scopegallery.org](http://www.scopegallery.org).

**Art Exhibitions.** Through Sept. 15, Wednesday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Artists @ Mosaic, 105 District Ave., Fairfax. For the first time, the Torpedo Factory Artists' Association is sharing its gallery space with a group of student artists. The Torpedo Factory Artists @ Mosaic is a satellite gallery sponsored by the Torpedo Factory Artists' Association. Visit [www.torpedofactoryartists.com/mosaic/](http://www.torpedofactoryartists.com/mosaic/) for more.

❖ "Make Your Mark" is part of the Torpedo Factory Artists' Associations' effort to provide exhibit opportunities for gifted artists in the community. In this show, each of the 13 students taking classes from TFAA artist and arts educator Marsha Staiger present one painting that represents their body of work.

❖ "Animal Kingdom" is the theme of the Torpedo Factory artists' exhibit and will showcase the best of what nature has to offer, including the wild and the tame.

**Art Exhibit: Habitats.** Through Sept. 22, gallery hours at Target Gallery at the Torpedo Factory,



**High-fire mug with hand-decoration of urban landscape by Linda Bernard of Laurel, Md.; blue and gold contrast crystalline-glazed porcelain vase by Lorraine Colson of Alexandria; stoneware spotted woodfired cups by Roni Polisar of Burtonsville, Md.; High-fire tan and sapphire stoneware plate by Chris Coyle of Glenn Dale, Md. The "Patterns & Prints" Ceramic Guild show at Scope Gallery runs Sept. 2-27.**

## "Patterns & Prints"

Ceramic Guild potters turn to hot togs as artistry en vogue, showing embossed patterns, aggressive elaborate exteriors and groovy grooving. Colors are confident with saturated statements and contrasts of black and white. Hand-painted touches are the headline talk of the season, with abstracts, urban touches and industrial adornment paving the way. Sept. 2-27, gallery hours at Scope Gallery, Studio 19, the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St. Call 703-548-6288 or visit [www.scopegallery.org](http://www.scopegallery.org).

105 North Union St., Studio 2. The newest group exhibition Habitats in Target Gallery, the contemporary exhibitions space of Torpedo Factory Art Center, poses the question, "What makes a habitat a home?" The selected artists address these questions and raise new ones. Work is presented in a diversity of media, from sculpture and photography to video and virtual reality. Visit [torpedofactory.org/partners/target-gallery](http://torpedofactory.org/partners/target-gallery).

**Mount Vernon Farmers Market.** Wednesdays (through Dec. 18), 8 a.m.-noon at Sherwood Hall Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. The McCutcheon/Mount Vernon Farmers Market opened May 1 with an array of farm-fresh produce and local foods, plus some new features (fresh brewed coffee!). 17 local farmers and producers will sell fresh, locally grown vegetables and fruits; meats; Chesapeake Bay seafood; breads and pastries; honey, jams and jellies; milk, cheese and eggs; herbs and plants; and more. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets).

**Band Members Needed.** Join the Mount Vernon Community Band, a group of players who enjoy playing many styles of band music in a relaxed atmosphere. Rehearsals are Tuesdays 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the Mount Vernon High School Band Room, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road. No auditions. All instruments needed. Contact Eric Leighty directly 703-768-4172 or visit [www.mvbands.com/join-us/](http://www.mvbands.com/join-us/).

## AUG. 27-SEPT. 29

**Art Exhibit: "It's a Jungle Out There."** Through Sept. 29 at Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, Studio 29, Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St. Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery presents its juried show, "It's a Jungle Out

There." Cheetahs, lions, rhinos, monkeys, hippos, and the lands that they inhabit serve as inspiration for the pieces in this show. Themed work will be eligible for recognition by the jurors. Non-themed work may also be exhibited. Visit [www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com](http://www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com) or call 703-548-0935.

## THURSDAY/AUG. 29

**Fort Hunt Meetup, Walk with a Ranger.** 10:30-noon at Fort Hunt Park, 8999 Fort Hunt Road. Join a national park ranger on a 1.5 mile walk through historic Fort Hunt Park, be prepared to learn about some World War II secrets. Meet at Area E parking. Free. Call 703-235-1530 for more.

## FRIDAY/AUG. 30

**Mount Vernon Nights: Mars Rodeo (rock).** 7:30-8:30 at Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Performances will feature musical styles from soul to and pop and bluegrass and rock. Bring a picnic dinner and a blanket and enjoy one of Fairfax County's summer traditions. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/mt-vernon-nights](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/mt-vernon-nights) for more.

## SATURDAY/AUG. 31

**Youth Bike Classes.** 10 a.m. at William Ramsay Recreation Center, 5650 Sanger Ave. The City of Alexandria is sponsoring a Youth Learn to Ride bike class, led by the Washington Area Bicyclist Association, for children 6-12. Youth Learn to Ride classes are intended for children who have either never tried to ride a bike or have tried but have not been successful. Each student must bring their own bike and helmet. Students will

ride for approximately three hours, with breaks every hour. \$10. Register at [waba.org/blog/2019/07/youth-learn-to-ride/](http://waba.org/blog/2019/07/youth-learn-to-ride/).

**Dyke Marsh Meetup, Walk with a Ranger.** 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Belle Haven Park/ Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve. Enjoy the outdoors on this 2-mile walk with a national park ranger to see the largest freshwater marsh in the nation's capital. Bring a pair of binoculars for viewing an eagle's nest and other marsh life. Free. Call 703-235-1530 or visit [www.nps.gov/gwmp/planyourvisit/dykemarsh.htm](http://www.nps.gov/gwmp/planyourvisit/dykemarsh.htm).

**Summer Saturdays.** 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton. Join Gunston Hall for a summer of fun. Each Saturday in June, July, and August, stop by for a historic adventure on the grounds and in the Visitor Center. Included with regular admission. Call 703-550-9220 or visit [www.gunstonhall.org/visit/guide/upcoming-events](http://www.gunstonhall.org/visit/guide/upcoming-events).

**Chamber Concert Series.** 3-5 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. The Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association sponsors a chamber music series, weekly through Sept. 15, at the Lyceum in Old Town featuring small ensembles and soloists. This week's performance features Sasha Beresovsky, piano. Free. Donations are appreciated. Visit [www.wmpmusic.org](http://www.wmpmusic.org) or call 703-799-8229.

**Mount Vernon Nights: The Slocan Ramblers (bluegrass).** 7-8 p.m. at The Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Performances will range from disco to Indian Bollywood and acoustic blues to big band. Bring a picnic dinner and a blanket and enjoy one of Fairfax County's summer traditions. Come early to the Workhouse Arts Center to explore its vibrant arts scene. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/mt-vernon-nights](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/mt-vernon-nights) for more.

## 4 Dates to Circle in September

BY HOPE NELSON

From Ethiopian cuisine to Virginia spirits, from crab feasts to Oktoberfest, there's a lot for a foodie to do around the city in September. Here are some of our top picks.

### APPETITE

#### Second Annual Taste of Ethiopia, Sept. 14

Immerse yourself in the culture and cuisine of Ethiopia with a waterfront festival showing off all the country has to offer. While taking in dance demonstrations, listening to live music and cheering on models during a fashion show, inhale the aroma of spicy Ethiopian food — and then settle in for a serving or two. Food, beer and wine as

well as dry goods will be available for purchase, so bring an appetite and prepare for a trip across the world without leaving Alexandria. Oronoco Bay Park, 100 Madison Place. 2 p.m.-10 p.m. Free.

#### Port City Brewing Crab Fest, Sept. 14

Think you'll only get beer at Port City Brewing? Think again. Along with Quarterdeck, the brewery is co-hosting a crab fest with all the fixings. Festival-goers have four options from which to choose, ranging from an all-you-can-eat crabs-only selection to all-you-can-eat crabs with shrimp, clams, mussels, cole slaw, hush puppies, potatoes and corn. Bring an appetite — and wet your whistle with \$5 pints or \$15 pitchers of several of Port City's flagship beers. 3950

Wheeler Ave. 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. seatings. Tickets range from \$65-\$95.

#### Oktoberfest Kickoff Party and Hops N Shine, Sept. 21

Those familiar with the German holiday season of Oktoberfest will know that contrary to the celebration's name, the feast begins in September each year, not October. Hops N Shine is following suit with the schedule and launching a kickoff party on the first day of Oktoberfest, Sept. 21, at their Del Ray pub. Along with food and drink specials, Hops N Shine will play host to eating and stein-hoisting competitions and more. 3410 Mount Vernon Ave. 2-5 p.m.

#### Virginia Craft Spirits Roadshow, Sept. 21

The Commonwealth's distillers take center stage at the Virginia Craft Spirits Roadshow, hosted by the Building Momentum co-op space on Eisenhower Avenue. Take a taste of spirits from ten distillers, hailing from the likes of Charlottesville and Richmond, Newport News and Purcellville, and numerous towns in between. Prefer a little more mixer with your spirits? Craft cocktails will also be on offer. 5380 Eisenhower Ave. 3-8 p.m. Tickets ranging from \$20-\$35.

*Hope Nelson owns and operates the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at [www.kitchenrecessionista.com](http://www.kitchenrecessionista.com). Email her any time at [hope@kitchenrecessionista.com](mailto:hope@kitchenrecessionista.com).*

# ENTERTAINMENT



**High-fire contrast stoneware jewelry holder with earring hanger and ring basin by Chris Coyle of Glenn Dale, Md.; High-fire stoneware bowl glazed ocean blue with spiraled peek-a-boo detailing by Klaudia Levin of Silver Spring, Md.; Impressed porcelain ceramic collander for berries, cherries and more by Ana Cavalcanti of Bethesda, Md.; High-fire sgraffito contrast platter with etched turtle by Shirley Gromen of Arlington, Va.; Petite woodfired geometric vase with pricked detailing by Roni Polisar of Burtonsville, Md.**

## Art Exhibit: Piercings, Clay Body Art and Carving

The season is shaping up to be steamy as designs are working out, clay bodies are shaping up, donning some fierce detailing in "Piercings, Clay Body Art and Carving." Ceramic Guild art becomes less hippie and more hipster as artists go epic with an aggressive take on decoration outside the bowl. The exhibit runs through Sept. 1, gallery hours at Scope Gallery, Studio 19 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St. Call 703-548-6288 or visit [www.scopegallery.org](http://www.scopegallery.org).

### SUNDAY/SEPT. 1

**Chamber Concert Series.** 3-5 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. The Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association sponsors a chamber music series, weekly through Sept. 15, at the Lyceum in Old Town featuring small ensembles and soloists. Free. Donations are appreciated. Visit [www.wmpmusic.org](http://www.wmpmusic.org) or call 703-799-8229.

[www.nps.gov/gwmp/planyourvisit/jonespoint.htm](http://www.nps.gov/gwmp/planyourvisit/jonespoint.htm) for more.  
**Ethiopia: Sights, Culture.** 7-8 p.m. at Kate Waller Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St. In anticipation of Enkutatash, the Ethiopian New Year, Dr. Chernet Weldeab and author Esubalew Meaza, associates of Skyline Travel and Tour, will take us on a remote tour of Ethiopia. Free. Registration preferred. Call 703-746-1714 or visit [alexlibraryva.org/event/3052418](http://alexlibraryva.org/event/3052418).

required to sing. Singers learn vocal technique, proper breathing and posture, and music literacy. All concerts are free and open to the public. Fee is \$175 for weekly rehearsals, sheet music, practice CD, and performances. The Encore Chorale repertoire includes traditional and secular holiday music. Visit [www.encorecreativity.org](http://www.encorecreativity.org) or call 301-261-5747.

Community is sponsoring a four-part series of talks about racism: Meaningful Conversation about Racism and What To Do About It. The first discussion is titled: What did we learn from El Paso? Email [alexandriavabahais@gmail.com](mailto:alexandriavabahais@gmail.com) for more.

Visit [www.encorecreativity.org](http://www.encorecreativity.org) or call 301-261-5747.

### FRIDAY-SATURDAY/SEPT. 6-7

**Mirror Mirror: Orange Grove Dance.** Friday, 8 p.m.; Saturday, 6 and 8 p.m. at Waterfront Park, 1 King St. The City of Alexandria commissioned a series of original site-specific performances for the sound-responsive, interactive installation Mirror Mirror. Composer and violinist David Schulman and Orange Grove Dance will perform on select dates between July and October. All performances are free and feature lawn seating. Lawn chairs and blankets are encouraged. Leave pets at home. Visit [alexandriava.gov/publicart](http://alexandriava.gov/publicart) for details.

### SEPT. 2-27

**Art Exhibit: "Patterns & Prints."** Gallery hours at Scope Gallery, Studio 19, the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St. Ceramic Guild potters turn to hot togs as artistry en vogue, showing embossed patterns, aggressive elaborate exteriors and groovy grooving. Colors are confident with saturated statements and contrasts of black and white. Hand-painted touches are the hemline talk of the season, with abstracts, urban touches and industrial adornment paving the way. Call 703-548-6288 or visit [www.scopegallery.org](http://www.scopegallery.org).

### SEPT. 3-30

**Art Exhibit: Revival.** Sept. 3-30 in the Van Landingham Gallery, Studio 311 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St. While looking at the darkened doorway of the ruins of Ephesus, a Greek city in what is now Turkey, Marian Van Landingham suddenly envisioned a window to the sky and an innate sense of hope and revival. In her studio in Alexandria's Torpedo Factory Art Center, founded by her as an art center in 1974, Van Landingham refines the images that first piqued her interest. A reception is planned for Thursday, Sept. 12, 5-8 p.m. RSVP at [www.eventbrite.com/e/revival-by-marian-van-landingham-tickets-69925869157](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/revival-by-marian-van-landingham-tickets-69925869157). Visit [www.torpedofactoryartists.com](http://www.torpedofactoryartists.com) for more.

### THURSDAY/SEPT. 5

**Yacht Haven Garden Club Meeting.** 10 a.m.-noon at Mount Vernon Yacht Club, 4817 Tarpon Lane. Join the Yacht Haven Garden Club. Meetings are the first Thursday of the month (except January, June-August). Annual dues are \$25 (first year is \$35). Contact Patsie at [pmuchello@aol.com](mailto:pmuchello@aol.com) for more.

**Fort Hunt Meetup, Walk with a Ranger.** 10:30-noon at Fort Hunt Park, 8999 Fort Hunt Road. Join a national park ranger on a 1.5 mile walk through historic Fort Hunt Park, be prepared to learn about some World War II secrets. Meet at Area E parking. Free. Call 703-235-1530 for more.

**BBQ and BINGO.** 6 p.m. at Friends of Guest House - Old Town Location, 120 South Payne St. Celebrate 45 years of helping thousands of women successfully reenter the community from incarceration and the opening of a new location.

\$45. Visit [www.eventbrite.com/e/friends-of-guest-house-45th-anniversary-bbq-bingo-tickets-62864199513](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/friends-of-guest-house-45th-anniversary-bbq-bingo-tickets-62864199513) for tickets. Email [marisa@friendsofguesthouse.org](mailto:marisa@friendsofguesthouse.org) or call 703-549-8072 for more.

**Discussion Series.** 7-9 p.m. at Alexandria Black History Museum in the Watson Reading Room, 902 Wythe St. The Alexandria Baha'i

### FRIDAY/SEPT. 6

**Patriot Day Golf Classic.** Registration and lunch, 11:30 a.m.; shotgun start, 1 p.m.; reception and awards; 5-7:30 p.m. at Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road. This year the Patriot Day Golf Classic will benefit the Yellow Ribbon Fund Foundation. The Yellow Ribbon Fund provides support to wounded military men and women and their caregivers. Guest speaker will be 1st Sgt. Matt Eversmann (retired) whose story of survival was immortalized in the book and epic film, Black Hawk Down. Visit [www.bellehavenc.com/golf/patriot](http://www.bellehavenc.com/golf/patriot) for more.

**Goodwin House Bailey's Crossroads Encore Chorale.** Weekly rehearsals, Fridays, 1-2:30 p.m. at Goodwin House Bailey's Crossroads, 3440 South Jefferson St., Falls Church. Encore's mission is to provide an excellent and accessible artistic environment for older adults, 55 and over, regardless of experience or ability, who seek arts education and performance opportunities under a professional artist. No auditions are required to sing. Singers learn vocal technique, proper breathing and posture, and music literacy. All concerts are free and open to the public. Fee is \$175 for weekly rehearsals, sheet music, practice CD, and performances. The Encore Chorale repertoire includes traditional and secular holiday music. Open to residents and non-residents.

### SEPT. 6-29

**Art Exhibit: High Note.** Gallery hours at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mt Vernon Ave. Experience "High Note," exploring the connection between music and the mind. Music can unleash powerful memories, transporting listeners in space and time. Meet the artists, juror Britt Conley, and enjoy live music at the opening reception: Friday, Sept. 6, 7-9 p.m. Also enjoy for a musical performance benefiting the nonprofit Friends of ROAM Friday, Sept. 20, 8-9:30 p.m. Visit [www.DelRayArtisans.org/event/high-note](http://www.DelRayArtisans.org/event/high-note) for more.

### SEPT. 6-30

**Solo Painting Exhibition: Draftsman 2019.** Gallery hours at Gallery Underground, 2100 Crystal Drive, Suite 2120-A. Draftsman 2019

### TUESDAY/SEPT. 3

**Back to School.** Alexandria City Public Schools first day of the 2019-2020 traditional calendar school year. Visit [www.acps.k12.va.us](http://www.acps.k12.va.us) and click Calendar.

**Jones Point Meetup.** 11 a.m.-noon at Jones Point Park, Jones Point Drive. Join a national park ranger to explore the long history of this little piece of land and see the last remaining inland lighthouse on the Potomac River, once a beacon to boat captains and commerce on the river. Free. Call 703-235-1530 or visit

### WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 4

**Encore Rocks Alexandria.** Weekly rehearsals, Wednesdays, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Convergence, 1801 Quaker Lane. Encore's mission is to provide an excellent and accessible artistic environment for older adults, 55 and over, regardless of experience or ability, who seek arts education and performance opportunities under a professional artist. No auditions are

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# ENTERTAINMENT



Revival by Marian Van Landingham.

## Art Exhibit: Revival

While looking at the darkened doorway of the ruins of Ephesus, a Greek city in what is now Turkey, Marian Van Landingham suddenly envisioned a window to the sky and an innate sense of hope and revival. In her studio in Alexandria's Torpedo Factory Art Center, founded by her as an art center in 1974, Van Landingham refines the images that first piqued her interest. Read more about Marian Van Landingham in Living Legends of Alexandria at [alexandrialegends.org/marian-van-landingham/](http://alexandrialegends.org/marian-van-landingham/). The exhibit runs Sept. 3-30 in the Van Landingham Gallery, Studio 311 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St. A reception is planned for Thursday, Sept. 12, 5-8 p.m. RSVP at [www.eventbrite.com/e/revival-by-marian-van-landingham-tickets-69925869157](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/revival-by-marian-van-landingham-tickets-69925869157). Visit [www.torpedofactoryartists.com](http://www.torpedofactoryartists.com) for more.

is the solo painting exhibition for the month of September of Arlington Artists Alliance member and T.C. Williams graduate Barry Barnett Keith. An opening reception is planned for Friday, Sept. 6, 5-8 p.m. Free. Visit [galleryunderground.org](http://galleryunderground.org) or call 571-483-0652.

### SATURDAY/SEPT. 7

**The Buzz about Bees.** 10 a.m.-noon at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. "Celebrate Honey Bee Day." Meet a beekeeper, look inside a beehive, learn a bee dance, go on a bee scavenger hunt and discover how important bees are to the food supply. Members of the Northern Virginia Beekeepers Association will be on hand to offer tips on how you can help these important pollinators. Free. All ages. Call 703-642-5173 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring) for more.

**Used Book Sale.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Selection of over 20,000 gently used books, including children's books, fiction, history, biography, home and garden, cooking, crafts, sports, religion, travel, CDs, DVDs, and more. Unless specially priced, \$1 for hard backs, 50 cents for large paperbacks, and 25 cents for mass market paperbacks. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-sherwood-regional](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-sherwood-regional).

**Story Time for Little Historians.** 11 a.m. at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St., Alexandria. Enjoy cultural stories and creative craft activities that introduce world history and folklore. Featuring "The Dot" by Peter Reynolds. Afterwards, explore the museum exhibits to learn about local Black history. All ages welcome, but most suitable for children 4 and older. Admission is \$3

per person. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Call 703-746-4356 or RSVP at [shop.alexandriava.gov/Events.aspx](http://shop.alexandriava.gov/Events.aspx).

### Dyke Marsh Meetup, Walk with a Ranger.

11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Belle Haven Park/ Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve. Enjoy the outdoors on this 2-mile walk with a national park ranger to see the largest freshwater marsh in the nation's capital. Bring a pair of binoculars for viewing an eagle's nest and other marsh life. Free. Call 703-235-1530 or visit [www.nps.gov/gwmp/planyourvisit/dykemarsh.htm](http://www.nps.gov/gwmp/planyourvisit/dykemarsh.htm).

### Annual Crab Feast Dinner.

3:30-6 p.m. at Historic Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. The Pohick Church Annual Crab Feast Fundraiser, sponsored by the Brotherhood of St Andrew, will be held in the Parish Hall. The menu will include crabs, fried fish, steamed shrimp, potato salad, cole slaw, pork and chicken barbecue sandwiches, and hot dogs for the kids. All are welcome. \$30 per adult (ages 18 and older), \$15 for children ages 12-17, and children under 12 are free. Call 703-339-6572 for tickets.

### Essay and Poetry Contest

**Deadline.** 5 p.m. Alexandria Library and the For Love of Country Foundation present the Annual Essay and Poetry contest, "Who has influenced your life, and why?" Rising 7th, 8th and 9th graders - enter and win up to \$100. Visit [alexlibraryva.org/floc](http://alexlibraryva.org/floc) for details.

### Country-Western Dance.

7-9:30 p.m. at Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 North Chambliss St. The Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association will hold a dance with lessons, 6-7 p.m. and open dancing, 7-9:30 p.m. A DJ provides music. Couples and singles of all ages welcome. Admission for members \$10; non-members \$12; children

under 18 accompanied by a paying adult \$5. Smoke-free, alcohol-free. BYO refreshments. Visit [www.nvcwda.org](http://www.nvcwda.org) for more.

### SUNDAY/SEPT. 8

**Gallery Tour and Talk: Memory.** 2 p.m. at the The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. With Catherine Day, Amelia Hankin, and Zofie King. Join the artists as they walk around this thought-provoking show on its last day and discuss some of the elements that are alluded to - as well as their development and creative processes. Visit [www.nfaa.org](http://www.nfaa.org) or call 703-548-0035.

**Downton Abbey Tours.** 2-3 p.m. at Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden, 614 Oronoco St. Explore the surprising connections between people and places of the world of Downton Abbey and those of the Lee-Fendall House through special "Downton Abbey" themed tours of the museum this fall. \$10. Visit [www.leefendallhouse.org](http://www.leefendallhouse.org) or call 703-548-1789.

**Chamber Concert Series.** 3-5 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. The Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association sponsors a chamber music series, weekly through Sept. 15, at the Lyceum in Old Town featuring small ensembles and soloists. Free. Donations are appreciated. Visit [www.wmpamusic.org](http://www.wmpamusic.org) or call 703-799-8229.

### MONDAY/SEPT. 9

**Alexandria Encore Chorale.** Weekly rehearsals, Mondays, 10:30 a.m.-noon at Convergence, 1801 Quaker Lane. Encore's mission is to provide an excellent and accessible artistic environment for older adults, 55 and over, regardless of experience or

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# ENTERTAINMENT



**The First Morning of Winter Vacation, acrylic, 2019, by Barry Keith.**

## Solo Painting Exhibition

Draftsman 2019 is the solo painting exhibition for the month of September of Arlington Artists Alliance member and T.C. Williams graduate Barry Barnett Keith. The exhibit runs Sept. 6-30, gallery hours at Gallery Underground, 2100 Crystal Drive, Suite 2120-A. An opening reception is planned for Friday, Sept. 6, 5-8 p.m. Free. Visit [galleryunderground.org](http://galleryunderground.org) or call 571-483-0652.

ability, who seek arts education and performance opportunities under a professional artist. No auditions are required to sing. Singers learn vocal technique, proper breathing and posture, and music literacy. All concerts are free and open to the public. Fee is \$175 for weekly rehearsals, sheet music, practice CD, and performances. The Encore Chorale repertoire includes traditional and secular holiday music. Visit [www.encorecreativity.org](http://www.encorecreativity.org) or call

301-261-5747.

### TUESDAY/SEPT. 10

**Simpson Gardens Stroll.** 10-11 a.m. at Simpson Park Gardens, 420 E. Monroe St. Stroll through Simpson Gardens with Extension Master Gardeners as they describe the gardens' variety of demonstration beds that combine sustainable gardening practices with appealing aesthetics: waterwise gardening,

scented plants, plants that attract pollinators, plants that prefer shade, and plants that have appealing structure and texture. Free. Questions? Telephone 703-228-6414 or email [mgarlalex@gmail.com](mailto:mgarlalex@gmail.com). To reserve a spot, visit [mgmv.org/public-education-events/vce-horticulture-programs-registration/](http://mgmv.org/public-education-events/vce-horticulture-programs-registration/).

**Jones Point Meetup.** 11 a.m.-noon at Jones Point Park, Jones Point Drive. Join a national park ranger to explore the long history of this little

piece of land and see the last remaining inland lighthouse on the Potomac River, once a beacon to boat captains and commerce on the river. Free. Call 703-235-1530 or visit [www.nps.gov/gwmp/planyourvisit/jonespoint.htm](http://www.nps.gov/gwmp/planyourvisit/jonespoint.htm) for more.

**Twilight & Tipple Tours.** 6-9 p.m. at Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway. Experience Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House by twilight. This tour series is a rare chance to see one of Wright's houses illuminated against a night sky. Grab a drink, included in the price of the tour ticket, and walk through the house on a leisurely, open house style tour with plenty of time to take stunning photos. \$35. Visit [www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org/](http://www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org/) for more.

### WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 11

**Garden Club Welcome Coffee.** 9:30 a.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Mount Vernon House and Garden Club will have a Welcome Membership Coffee. Join to learn about the variety of programs. Annual dues are \$20. Visit [www.hollinhallseniorcenter.org](http://www.hollinhallseniorcenter.org) for more.

**The Songs of Insects—a Talk and a Walk.** 7 p.m. (talk), 8 p.m. (walk) at the Norma Hoffman Visitor Center, Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Join the Friends of Dyke Marsh to hear Wil Hershberger, naturalist, award-winning nature photographer and nature sound recordist, who will explore the world of singing insects with images and sound recordings. Free, open to all. The walk is limited to 20 people, register in advance by emailing [info@fodm.org](mailto:info@fodm.org). 8 p.m. walk, please register in advance by emailing [info@fodm.org](mailto:info@fodm.org). FODM will host an informal social gathering at 6:30

p.m. Visit [www.fodm.org](http://www.fodm.org) for more.

### THURSDAY/SEPT. 12

**Fort Hunt Meetup, Walk with a Ranger.** 10:30-noon at Fort Hunt Park, 8999 Fort Hunt Road. Join a national park ranger on a 1.5 mile walk through historic Fort Hunt Park, be prepared to learn about some World War II secrets. Meet at Area E parking. Free. Call 703-235-1530 for more.

**Fall Lawn Care and Turf Alternatives.** 6:30-8:30 p.m., Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Fall is the ideal time to restore cool-season grass, the most common turf grass grown on lawns in our area. This program describes how to improve a lawn and the underlying soil, and outlines steps for preventing and controlling weeds to ensure a beautiful lawn, with an emphasis on sustainable practices that minimize the impact on native pollinators and wildlife. Free. Questions? Call 703-228-6414 or email [mgarlalex@gmail.com](mailto:mgarlalex@gmail.com). To reserve a spot, visit [mgmv.org/public-education-events/vce-horticulture-programs-registration/](http://mgmv.org/public-education-events/vce-horticulture-programs-registration/).

### SEPT. 12-NOV. 10

**“Board | out of our minds!”** Gallery hours at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. “Board | out of our minds!” relates to the games we play. The included works exhibit the creative means in which people developed board games to reflect their thoughts and reflections on the role of chance in life. While some are actual games, some refer to the role of games in life. \$2,500 in prizes awarded during opening reception on Sunday, Sept. 15, 4-6 p.m. (free). Visit [www.nfaa.org](http://www.nfaa.org) or call 703-548-0035.



**The Harmonizers perform at the annual Barbershop Harmony Society convention in Orlando, Florida in July 2018.**

## Circle of Life

The award winning 80-man Alexandria Harmonizers present “The Circle of Life” with Broadway hits from “The Lion King” and others. The award-winning Sweet Adelines quartet “GQ” and 2015 Barbershop Harmony Society International Champions “Instant Classic” will also perform. Saturday, Sept. 14, 4-6:30 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, 4915 Campus Drive. \$35. Tickets available at [www.eventbrite.com/e/circle-of-life-tickets-606671219](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/circle-of-life-tickets-606671219). Visit [www.harmonizers.org](http://www.harmonizers.org) for more.

# How To Improve Parkway

FROM PAGE 6

supported a speed camera solution from the beginning, and I believe speed cameras at problem intersections — perhaps positioned in stone boxes — would go a long way toward reducing speeds. Many respondents support speed cameras but have reservations about them becoming so well-known that they are rendered ineffective. That is why many constituents who support speed cameras support placement both Northbound and Southbound with a nearly even split between placement in intersections and straight sections of road.

There is overwhelming support for a speed camera solution. I understand the budget constraint that the NPS experiences and the federal prohibitions on revenues benefiting specific park units. As stated in my initial comments, I am willing to advocate for financial support with Virginia's Congressional delegation.

## Traffic Diet

I did not have specific traffic diet options to suggest, but I solicited open feedback. Many people suggested lane narrowing and left turn lanes at problematic intersections.

## Stoptlights

Most respondents did not support adding stoplights on the Parkway and believe that if this solution is put in place, a maximum of fewer than five stoplights should be erected. Twenty-five respondents that support stoplights believe that there should be 11 stoplights.

The area where people want stoplights considered is consistent with accident history:

- ❖ 65.1% - Belleview Boulevard
- ❖ 58.4% - Morningside Lane
- ❖ 47.8% - Belle Haven Road
- ❖ 24% - Collingwood Road
- ❖ 12.6% - Vernon View Drive
- ❖ 9.7% - Tulane Drive
- ❖ 8.2% - Waynewood Boulevard

## Pedestrian Safety

The chart demonstrates that the vast majority of respondents support adding infrastructure geared toward pedestrian safety. The Mount Vernon trail is a valuable resource for our community. People use the trail on a regular basis for many purposes. Allowing pedestrians and cyclists to safely access the trail is crucial to preserving this community asset.

Most respondents support adding more pedestrian infrastructure on the Parkway.

Most crosswalk locations have support:

- ❖ 82.3% - Belleview Boulevard
- ❖ 56.6% - Belle Haven Road
- ❖ 43.4% - Collingwood Road
- ❖ 39.6% - Tulane Drive
- ❖ 29.6% - Morningside Lane
- ❖ 29.4% - Vernon View Drive
- ❖ 26.2% - Stratford Landing
- ❖ 25.2% - Wellington Road
- ❖ 23.3% - Waynewood Boulevard
- ❖ 12.9% - West Boulevard Drive
- ❖ 10.9% - Northdown Road

I was surprised that Northdown Road did not have more support because I view the current situation as being extremely dangerous for users of the 11-Y Metrobus.

While almost a quarter of respondents were open to the idea of closing the Parkway to vehicle traffic to allow exclusive use for pedestrians and cyclists on weekends similar to the Rock Creek Parkway, most were opposed.

## Mount Vernon Estate Parkway Terminus

There is significant sensitivity to make changes to the end of the Parkway where it intersects with Mount Vernon Memorial Highway and Mount Vernon Highway. Few people suggested that we do nothing:

- ❖ 27.9% - Stop Light
- ❖ 27.5% - Traffic Circle
- ❖ 18.4% - Officer Directing Traffic
- ❖ 13.5% - Don't Know
- ❖ 12.8% - Do Nothing
- ❖ 8.2% - Eliminate Stop Sign and Eliminate Left Turns from Mount Vernon Highway

## Mount Vernon Trail

As I stated above, the Mt. Vernon Trail is also a community asset. About half of respondents use the trail at least once per week. Respondents use the trail for a mix of activities. Surprisingly, only 50 of the 551 respondents responded that they did not use the trail. The Trail is a critical part of the overall park infrastructure and respondents are very sensitive to protecting it.

Looking toward the future for our community, safety is the top priority for respondents. We absolutely must find ways to lower speeds and provide protections for pedestrians and cyclists. Thank you for undertaking this study and I look forward to hearing further as you move forward.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

**Scott A. Surovell**  
State Senator (D-36)

# Protect Integrity of Elections

FROM PAGE 8

recently passed and enacted. This legislation puts Virginia on the forefront of states who are assisting localities with their cybersecurity and election security posture.

It provides the state broad authority to ensure that local governments and local election offices are

implementing the necessary security standards and practices to protect our election systems.

These initiatives support Virginia's continued efforts to work with local, state, and federal partners to ensure the safety and security of our electoral process. You can rest assured that your vote will be secure and counted. Don't forget to vote on Nov. 5!

## BULLETIN BOARD

### WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 4

**Fairfax County 2019 Candidate Forum: Mt. Vernon District.** 7 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane,

Alexandria. These candidate forums are nonpartisan. The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area does not support or oppose any party or candidate. They invite all certified candidates competing for office in

their respective districts. After a moderated discussion, there will be time to meet the candidates. Volunteers, including students, are welcome. Visit [www.lwv-fairfax.org/candidateforum](http://www.lwv-fairfax.org/candidateforum) for more.

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- Potomac Alliance
- Reston Connection
- Springfield Connection
- Vienna/Daleville Connection

## Side-Splitting But Not Very Funny



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

The most recent near-having-to-think-about-death experience I wrote about last week ("Barbosoul") was quite a shock to my system.

In spite of all the ups and downs and all-arounds I've experienced over the past 10 and a half not-fun-filled cancer years, I had never gone emotionally to the place I went to last week. Certainly I've thought about death and dying before: heck, I'm a cancer patient having been given a "terminal" diagnosis.

Nevertheless, I had never really put two and two together to equal four. It had always equaled three and a half, if you know what I mean? (Maybe you don't. Sometimes I'm not sure what I mean.) But last week's column was different. I went there.

It's not as if I haven't experienced pain before. I have. Most notably in the area of my lungs (the mediastinum) where my non-small-cell-lung-cancer-stage-IV tumors take up primary residence. Sometimes, the pain I felt was that of the tumors growing. Other times, the pain was that of scar tissue which had grown over tumors.

Any of which I would never know until my oncologist discussed with Team Lourie the radiologist's report from the preceding CT scan. Moreover, these assessments were never given with any kind of arithmetical-type certainty. Still, if it could have been worse, I was happy and if it could have been better, I was hopeful. Never too high and never too low.

As you regular readers know, I roll with the punches, wherever they land.

For the past week, those punches (pain) were in the identical (so far as I knew) place where my non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV symptoms first manifested in late December 2008. As such, I was rolling like I had never rolled before – and without any kind of mat to soften the fall.

Aside from experiencing headaches/pain in my head (which I haven't), which might indicate progression (in 30 percent of lung cancer patients the cancer moves to the brain), a recurrence in the same area as 10 and a half years ago likewise scares out the daylight living inside of me.

And, just like when a little knowledge in the wrong hands can be a dangerous thing, so too does zero knowledge in the right hands (mine) become a dangerous thing. Why else would I be experiencing pain in my left side by my rib cage if it wasn't the cancer, only worse? But that wasn't the case.

As those of you who read to the end of last week's column know, I have survived to fight another day, or I should say, fight another two months because that's when my next CT scan is scheduled. At present, that's my cycle: bi-weekly immunotherapy followed by bi-monthly scans of my neck down to my lower abdomen, followed by an office visit with my oncologist to discuss the findings and plan for the immediate future.

Might that be palliative care? Apparently, if the inference/suggestion made by my oncologist in our last face-to-face meeting had any basis in fact? I suppose that's the problem with inferences/suggestions made in the medical "whirlwind."

I'm sure there are facts and figures and years of research supporting recommendations upon which one's treatments/protocols are based. Moreover, they're unlikely "made up of whole cloth," to quote the late Washington Redskins' owner Jack Kent Cooke commenting on some football rumor I can't remember.

Nevertheless, it's not exactly a straight line from the oncologist's mouth to the patient's estate planner. It's more like a roller coaster – without the safety bar (I wish it were more like the merry-go-round, but it's not.). Often times, it's more like whack-a-mole.

Now that the pain and discomfort has subsided, I feel like I've dodged a bullet. It reminds me of my elementary school gym classes when we played a game called "Bombardment" where dodge balls were thrown across the gym from one half of the class at the other. As random as it was, it was only a matter of time until you couldn't dodge any more, and then you were out.

I realize that was only a game and this is life, but cancer has a way of intertwining fact and fiction with the past, present and future whether you like it or not.

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

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## LETTER

FROM PAGE 8

election issue and not be addressed until a newly constituted School Board is in place in January 2020.

Now, it has become evident that the School Board intends to revise the criteria set forth in Regulation No. 8170.7 for renaming schools. Under the current regulation, the School Board is required to find a "compelling need" to rename a school before commencing the process and if such a compelling need is found and the process commences, the result cannot be the renaming of the school unless "sufficient support" is found in the community where the school is located.

The School Board is now proposing revising the regulation to eliminate these requirements. First, the School Board is proposing to replace the requirement to find a compelling need before the process commences with the mere determination by the School Board "that it is appropriate to do so," whatever that means. The requirement to find sufficient support in the affected community has been completely eliminated. The proposed revisions will permit the affected community to submit suggested school names to the School Board but there is no requirement that the affected community sufficiently support the proposed change.

What this all means is that if the proposed revisions to Regulation No. 8170.7 are enacted, when citizens elect their School Board members, they are essentially giving those School Board members "carte blanche" to make any changes in school names that they so desire and the only check on their ability to do so will be at the ballot box after the fact.

When the School Board was considering the issue of whether to rename J.E.B. Stuart High School, they ignored the "compelling need" requirement, commenced the renaming process, and renamed the school even though the affected community overwhelmingly opposed the name change. This resulted in litigation filed to compel the School Board to go back and restart the process in compliance with Regulation No. 8170.7. The School Board eventually won because the Circuit Court decided that taxpayers including parents of students enrolled in the school lacked standing to require the School Board to follow its own regulation. Apparently, the School Board now wishes to avoid future litigation by leaving citizens only the recourse of the ballot box to remove, after the fact, School Board members who defy the communities they represent.

As in the case of the boundary issue, the School Board should not change the regulation until the current lame duck School Board is replaced by a newly constituted School Board in 2020. The Mount Vernon representative on the School Board, Karen Corbett Sanders, who is also its chairman, should demonstrate her leadership skills and urge the School Board to refrain from changing Regulation No. 8170.7, make the issue an election issue, and leave it to the newly constituted School Board to decide what to do.

H. Jay Spiegel  
Mt. Vernon

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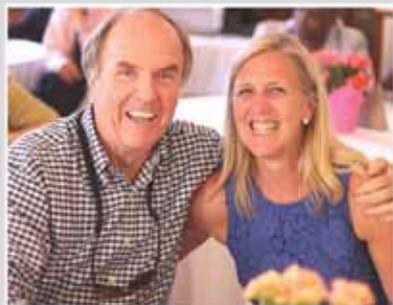
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**\$950,000**

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**POTOMAC RIVER VIEWS!**



**9003 Patton Blvd**  
**\$589,500**

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Numerous special features include updated kitchen & baths, hardwood floors, 4 BR's, finished lower level, and covered parking for 1 car + storage. Unique combination of size, features and prime location make this one of the area's best values!

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**4401 Ferry Landing Rd**

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**POTOMAC RIVER VIEWS!**



**3717 Carriage House Ct**  
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**RIVERWOOD GEM!**



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