

## Roy Rogers in Belle View Is Officially Reopened

After the fire in 2019, a new, brighter space welcomes the old gang.

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE CONNECTION

The coffee drinkers and neighborhood discussion gurus now have their old place back in the form of the Belle View Roy Rogers, which recently reopened after a shopping center fire in October 2019. The store had to be completely gutted, and the interior rebuilt, but the new Roy's is brighter and more modern, with large windows and a new lighting system.

"We're glad to be back," said Jason Hunt, who is the co-owner with his brother Stuart. "We're looking forward to being the community space like we did before," he added. "We're glad to see the regulars back."

The 2019 fire started in one of the spaces on the eastern end of the shopping center where the Roy Rogers is located. All the places down on that end of the shopping center closed, but many reopened in the months following the fire, except the Roy Rogers which had extensive smoke damage. Hunt summed it up as "delays and challenges," as to why it took so long, but others noted the time too.

"A year and a half is a long time," said Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon) who was all smiles on ribbon cutting day on Tuesday, June 1. "It's so much airier," he said, pointing at the large windows. "That's huge, the product was worth the time," he said. The insurance claim process was part of the delay.

Others agreed. "It was missed," said Fawn Katzbahn who's been coming to the center for the past 25 years.

Burl Downs just started his job at Spokes Bicycles next door, and had a cup of coffee in hand. "People were asking 'when's it going to be open?'" he said.



Supervisor Dan Storck, left, talks to Holly Dougherty of the Lee-Mount Vernon Chamber, and store owner Jason Hunt.



Inside there were balloons, smiles and anticipation.



Co-owner Jason Hunt and Supervisor Dan Storck man the scissors.

In the same shopping center, there is a free-standing bank building across the way, and it was offered to Roy Rogers but moving into that space would have taken more work and time than the management wanted before opening. This Roy Rogers is a member of the Lee-Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce.

### Cut the Ribbon

Although it actually opened in late May, the line-up out front to cut the ribbon happened on June 1, along with the donation of \$500

to Good Shepherd Housing, a local non profit that helps lower income families in Mount Vernon. After the ribbon was cut, the oversized check was given to David Levine, the executive director at Good Shepherd. "This is the kind of support we need for our mission," Levine said.

The corporate Roy Rogers office is in Frederick, Maryland and corporate officials were there for the opening too.

As the red ribbon fluttered to the ground, food was on many minds. "We're ready for some burgers and chicken," said Storck.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSH COHN VIA BAY JOURNAL ON TWITTER  
**Sturgeons and Dolphins and Runoff, Oh My!**  
See pages 8-9 for the state of the Potomac River.

## Don't Miss

### June 12, Second Saturdays

Supervisor Dan Storck Second Saturday Office Hours for June 12, 2021

All meetings will be at the Supervisor's office. Mount Vernon District office 2511 Parkers Lane, Mount Vernon, VA 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Supervisor Storck is available for phone and video calls, as well as in-person meetings with proper social distancing, during his regular 2nd Saturday office hours. Contact [mt-vernon@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:mt-vernon@fairfaxcounty.gov) or 703-780-7518 for more details and to schedule a meeting.

### June 12,

#### Bike Course Opening

Want to refine your bike skills and gain more confidence on two wheels? The new Brookfield Park Bicycle Skills Area in Springfield is the place to be. We're officially cutting the ribbon on June 12. Brookfield Park is located at 7417 Floyd Ave., Springfield, Virginia, and the new bicycle skills perimeter area is located in the field behind the basketball court. Find out more about the new feature at Brookfield Park. <https://bit.ly/3bnSKJG>

### June 25,

#### Laurel Hill Central Green

A ribbon-cutting ceremony is scheduled for Friday, June 25, 2021, to celebrate the opening of the expansive new picnic shelter area at Laurel Hill Central Green.

The \$3 million project included construction of four pic-

nic pavilions, an accessible asphalt loop road, parking, trails and supporting infrastructure to include storm water management facilities and related site work. Funding for the project was provided through voter-approved Park Bonds.

These reservable new shelters offer seating capacities of up to 213 people and provide a great space to host family gatherings, staff meetings and parties. Central Green is located southeast of the Laurel Hill Golf Club in Lorton, Va.

The ribbon-cutting will take place on the Central Green at 10 a.m. and will also be livestreamed to the Park Authority's Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/fairfaxparks>

Laurel Hill Central Green is located at 8780 Lorton Road, Lorton, Virginia. For more information, visit the Park Authority's Picnics web page, or email [FCPAPicnics@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:FCPAPicnics@fairfaxcounty.gov).

For more information on the ceremony, contact the Public Information Office at 703-324-8662, or send an email to [park-mail@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:park-mail@fairfaxcounty.gov).

### June 26,

#### Environmental Expo

The 3rd Annual Mount Vernon District Environment Expo: Get Outdoors! Learn and Do! is on Saturday, June 26, 2021, from 8 a.m. to noon at Fort Hunt Park, 8999 Fort Hunt Road. This year's event will be held in partnership with the National Park Service. This event will educate and inform local residents on SEE DON'T MISS, ON PAGE 12

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#WeAreAlexandria



OPEN SUN 6/6, 2-4PM

### Old Town | \$1,995,000

Exquisite Greek Revival built in stages between 1790 and 1850. The original Flounder became 3,400 SF with 4 bedrooms, 3.5 updated baths on two levels, sublime kitchen/gathering room, extensive storage, and a large wrap-around brick patio. 909 Cameron Street  
**Janet Caterson Price 703.622.5984**  
[www.JanetPriceHomes.com](http://www.JanetPriceHomes.com)



OPEN SUN 6/6, 2-4PM

### Wellington | \$1,875,000

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**Kathy Hassett 703.863.1546**  
[www.MPHHomeTeam.com](http://www.MPHHomeTeam.com)



### Del Ray | \$1,650,000

Beautifully renovated 5-bedroom, 4.5-bath home. Large kitchen with oversized quartz island opens to family room & breakfast area. 4 bedrooms & 3 full baths on upper level to include spacious primary suite. Private yard with patio & lush landscaping. 119 E Raymond Ave.  
**Jen Walker 703.675.1566**  
[www.JenWalker.com](http://www.JenWalker.com)



OPEN SUN 6/6, 1-4PM

### Riverside Gardens | \$939,500

One of the largest lots in sought-after neighborhood! Expanded kitchen open to great room featuring two sets of French doors leading to the outdoor patio. 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, rec room with fireplace, two-car garage. Community Pool. 8513 Buckboard Drive  
**Bob Martini 703.798.7400**  
[www.BobMartini.com](http://www.BobMartini.com)



OPEN SAT 6/5 & SUN 6/6, 2-4PM

### Stratford on the Potomac | \$875,000

Come see this beautifully updated and meticulously maintained home! The brand new expanded kitchen gourmet will WOW you. The Randall model is one of the largest homes with 4 bedrooms, a main level office, 2 full & 2 half baths, and a garage. 8409 Porter Lane  
**Miriam Miller 703.598.6619**  
[www.MM-RealEstate.com](http://www.MM-RealEstate.com)



OPEN SUN 6/6, 2-4PM

### Old Town | \$850,000

Renovated 2-bedroom, 1.5-bath picturesque Victorian just 1.5 blocks to King St. Features hardwoods, wood-burning fireplace, kitchen with quartz counters, stainless appliances & unique 2-story atrium design. Deck overlooks large fenced garden. 214 S. Fayette St.  
**Wendy Santantonio 703.625.8802**  
[www.WendySantantonio.com](http://www.WendySantantonio.com)



### Milway Meadows | \$759,000

Grand, spacious 5-bedroom, 4-bath, landscaped home. Abundant natural light, sumptuous crown molding, gleaming marble surfaces, expert tile work, generous closets and storage. Complete au pair suite with large bedroom and sitting area. 7513 Milway Blvd.  
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OPEN SAT 6/5 & SUN 6/6, 2-4PM

### Kingstowne | \$545,000

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### Belle View Condo | \$260,000

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PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/THE CONNECTION

Voters will be selecting Democratic nominees for governor, lieutenant governor and attorney general in the June 8 primary.

## Democrats Decide

Voters to determine direction of party in June 8 primary.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he June 8 primary will determine the direction of the Democratic Party in Virginia at a critical time, when the commonwealth is emerging from the pandemic and trying to recast itself as something other than a party in opposition to former President Donald Trump. Opposition to the former president helped Democrats claim the trifecta — all three statewide offices, the House of Delegates and the state Senate. Now they'll be facing a Republican ticket that has racial diversity, gender diversity and geographic diversity.

"We have the momentum, energy, and grassroots organization to send good, solid Republicans to Richmond," said Rich Anderson, chairman of the Republican Party of Virginia. "And we're going to fight harder than ever to ensure we do just that."

Democrats head into Election Day likely to nominate white males from Northern Virginia as governor and attorney general, while the election for lieutenant governor remains wide open. Voters could end up selecting a Democratic ticket that is three white males from Northern Virginia. That's one of the reasons why Gov. Ralph Northam attempted to tip the scales by endorsing Del. Hala Ayala-

### More Election Coverage

<http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2021/may/20/convention-done-primary-ahead/>

<http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2021/apr/15/running-second-command/>

la (D-51) for Lieutenant Governor, a Democrat from Prince William County who identifies as an Afro-Latina-Lebanese-Irish woman. Campaign finance records show she's struggled to raise as much money as Del. Sam Rasoul (D-11) or Del. Mark Levine (D-45).

"Establishment Democrats clearly think that Hala Ayala is going to be the better candidate in the general election," said Quentin Kidd, a political science professor at Christopher Newport University. "But that doesn't mean that she would be, and that doesn't mean that she'll win the Democratic primary."

**AT THE TOP** of the ticket is the race for governor. Former Gov. Terry McAuliffe has an outsized lead in the polls and the fundraising, although it's extremely rare for a former governor to decide to seek a non-consecutive term. It hasn't been done since 1973, when former Gov. Mills Godwin was elected to a second non-consecutive term after a four-year absence from the Executive Mansion. In his first term, Godwin was a Democrat. But eight years later, he switched parties and became a Republican during a time when both parties

were experiencing an identity crisis.

"I was moved to run [again] because I love this state," Godwin said in 1973 during a campaign speech in Southwest Virginia. "And I don't want the liberal left to take over the state and lead us down the path of ruin, and I don't think you do either."

Now, almost half a century later, the Virginia Democrats are facing a different kind of identity crisis. Do they want to return McAuliffe to power at a time when Democrats control the General Assembly, or give the nomination to a new generation? Supporters of Sen. Jennifer McClellan (D-9) point to her long record of service in the House and Senate, noting that she's been in Virginia politics much longer than any other candidate including McAuliffe. Her campaign issued a fact-check after Del. Jennifer Carroll Foy (D-2), who served one full term in the House before resigning to run for governor, repeatedly called herself "one of the most effective legislators in Virginia history."

"Jenn McClellan is the most experienced and effective candidate

SEE DEMOCRATS, PAGE 12

## Democrats On the Ballot June 8

In order as they appear on the ballot  
Some voters will also have a  
delegate race on their ballots.

### Governor



Terry McAuliffe



Jennifer McClellan



Jennifer Carroll Foy



Lee Carter



Justin Fairfax

### Lieutenant Governor



Hala Ayala



Sam Rasoul



Andria McClellan



Sean Perryman



Mark Levine



Xavier Warren

### Attorney General



Jay Jones



Mark Herring

# Fairfax Dems Clash with Supervisors

## Demand firing of FCPD Chief Kevin Davis.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
GAZETTE PACKET

**T**he Fairfax County Democratic Committee (FCDC) called on the Board of Supervisors ("Board") on May 25 to terminate Kevin Davis's employment as Chief of the Fairfax County Police Department. In its three-point Resolution, FCDC called on the ten-member Board, nine of whom are Democrats, to reopen the search for a new chief and implement a transparent hiring process. FCDC advocated that the Board use a "racial equity decision-making framework and a community screening committee comparable to the one used in Fairfax County's 2013 police chief search."

"The mission of the Fairfax County Democratic Committee, with over 1,000 members and an even larger network of volunteers is to advance and maintain the election of Democrats to public office here," said FCDC Chair Bryan Graham at a Press Conference the day after the Resolution's release.

"We have worked hard to elect the nine Democrats to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors... But it is also our responsibility as the party to promote Democratic values," Graham said.

**THE BOARD** appointed Davis on April 23, and he assumed the position on May 3. According to FCDC's Resolution, Davis was afforded the opportunity to address concerns about policing incidents in his career on May 6, [at the County's Community Input Session]. He did not. Instead, Davis "diverted" in his explanations.

Graham said, "In the survey conducted in hiring the new police chief, Fairfax County residents raised community trust as the most important issue. To hire a candidate with any racially-charged use of force incident in their past is not starting from a foundation on which trust can be built." The Resolution cited four incidents regarding Chief Davis's professional policing history.

Two occurred in the 1990s, one in 1993 and the other in 1999. Each ended with court judgments against Davis [Prince George's County Police Department]. The other two incidents occurred during Davis's last two years in a police position [Commissioner-Baltimore Police Department]. In 2016, Davis authorized secret drone surveillance of the people of the City of Baltimore. In 2017, Davis imposed a six-day lockdown of a neighborhood after an African American Baltimore detective was killed by a bullet from his service weapon the day before he was to testify to a federal grand jury regarding corruption in the Baltimore police force.

Graham said, "A year and a day after the murder of George Floyd, we should not need to remind our elected officials that as Democrats, we believe we need to overhaul the criminal justice system from top to bottom. Police brutality is a stain on the soul of our nation."

"Therefore, in the context of the events of the last year and this moment, the Fair-



Kelly Hebron is Chair of the Fairfax Democratic Black Caucus within FCDC.



Fairfax County Democratic Committee Chair Bryan Graham calls on the Board of Supervisors on Wednesday, May 26, to terminate Chief Davis's employment.



Leaders in the Fairfax County Democratic Committee stand behind FCDC Chair Bryan Graham and call for the County Board of Supervisors to terminate the police chief's employment.

**"A year and a day after the murder of George Floyd, we should not need to remind our elected officials that as Democrats, we believe we need to overhaul the criminal justice system from top to bottom. Police brutality is a stain on the soul of our nation."**

— FCDC Chair Bryan Graham

fax County Democratic Committee does not trust that Chief Davis is the right person to lead our police force," said Graham.

Kelly Hebron is Chair of the Fairfax Democratic Black Caucus within FCDC. She said at the Press Conference that the caucus was driven to act and hold the elected Supervisors accountable "to ensure the reduction and prevention of racially motivated violence against its diverse residents during po-

lice encounters."

"Transparency is the first step toward fairness and trust...We can do better in Fairfax County," said Hebron.

Rev. Dr. Vernon C. Walton, Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church, Vienna, stood with Rev. Dr. Denise Wilson, President, Baptist Ministers Conference of Northern Virginia, and Rev. Dr. Augustus Henderson, Northern Virginia Baptist Association Moderator. Walton

said he was pleased to stand in solidarity with the FCDC Caucus to support its Resolution.

"I believe it providential that the committee would take such a bold, progressive vote on the anniversary of the death of George Floyd...Many of our elected officials, those of whom supported this candidate [Davis]... held signs...kneeled in solidarity...pledged their commitment to police reform," said Walton.

According to Walton, he heard County Supervisors say, "If only I had known... I've heard them say that you matter, Black and Brown constituency matters. What you haven't said publicly is he [Davis] is the wrong choice. While many of you have said it privately, you have not said it publicly... Despite all that you knew and despite all of you are aware of, you forged ahead. And now you asked a community of people who have been profiled for years to give him an opportunity."

"I asked you today, Supervisors, how costly will the mistake have to be, or you're willing to admit that this was not the best decision," said Walton.

**CANDIDATE** for Virginia H-34, Jennifer Adeli stood in solidarity with those assembled at the May 26 Press Conference. Afterward, she said, "I was proud to vote in favor of this Resolution...and stand with FCDC and members of the FCDC Black caucus today. Every elected leader, or candidate asking the community to trust them to lead, should have an opinion on this vital issue. We need a Chief who reflects our values and the community and starts off their tenure with a clean slate. Davis does not meet those basic requirements."

A spokesperson for the office of Chairman Jeffrey C. McKay (D-At Large) Fairfax County Board of Supervisors said, "We have no comment."

Instead, she attached the May 20 open letter from the nine Democratic members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors -- Jeff McKay-Chairman of the Board of Supervisors; Rodney Lusk-Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, Lee District Supervisor; Penny Gross-Chairman of the Personnel Committee, Mason District Supervisor; James Walkinshaw-Braddock District Supervisor; John Foust-Dranesville District Supervisor; Walter Alcorn-Hunter Mill District Supervisor; Dan Storck-Mount Vernon District Supervisor; Dalia Palchik-Providence District Supervisor; and Kathy Smith-Sully District Supervisor -- sent to the members of the Fairfax County Democratic Committee.

The letter from the Democratic Supervisors to the members of FCDC read in part, "The police chief is hired by the Board of Supervisors, serves at our pleasure, and as such, his performance will be evaluated regularly. He is well aware of our expectation that he deliver smart and meaningful reforms that benefit all in our community... Chief Davis has already been talking and most importantly, listening, to members of our community. He has his line of communication open to any community member who wishes to speak with him."

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# BULLETIN

Submit civic/community announcements at [ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar](http://ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar). Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

## TUESDAY/JUNE 15

MV Genealogical Society Meeting.  
1-3 p.m. Via Zoom. Legal Scholar Natalie Ram will discuss the legal landscape of consumer genetic data during the June 15 meeting of the Mount Vernon Genealogical Society. Email: [contact-us@mvge-nealogy.org](mailto:contact-us@mvge-nealogy.org)

## CITY OF ALEXANDRIA RESPONSE TO CICADA EMERGENCE

The City of Alexandria will experience the 17-year cycle of the emergence of millions of the Brood X Cicadas from underground to mate and lay eggs in trees throughout the City now through mid-summer. The egg laying will be concentrated on smaller diameter twigs and branches. Impacted trees will exhibit clusters of dead leaves and branches that droop and turn brown as their circulation is cut off by the implanted eggs.

For most trees, this damage will be unsightly but superficial. The trees will shed their damaged portions and continue growing. Some trees, particularly young, newly established trees, may succumb to their injuries.

The City is taking the following steps in response to the cicada emergence:

Delay spring tree plantings to be planted alongside fall trees to avoid cicada damage.

Water recently planted trees to improve their health and ability to cope with cicada damage.

The City will not:

Apply pesticides to deter cicadas as they are not considered effective.

Install netting to protect trees. While effective, netting is not economical at the municipal scale. Individual property owners should still consider netting as a potential protective measure for small or newly established trees.

## ONGOING

Local, farm-fresh produce – including strawberries and asparagus – and more will be featured at the now-opened McCutcheon/Mt. Vernon Farmers Market. From 8 a.m. to noon every Wednesday (through December 22), 16 local farmers and food 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. The market is located at the Sherwood Hall Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. All of the items sold at the market are grown or produced by the vendors and come from within a radius of 125 miles.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) EBT cards can be used. As a bonus, the market will match up to \$20 per market visit in SNAP dollars for fruits and vegetables.

This year's vendors are:

Arnest Seafood – crab cakes, scallops, shrimp, rockfish, oysters and more  
Grace's Pastries - cakes, pastries and breads, with a Caribbean touch  
Great Harvest Bread - breads and pastries

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 14

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## Observing Memorial Day

BY DELEGATE PAUL KRIZEK

**O**n Monday, Delegate Krizek gave the following address at the Hollin Hills Memorial Day Observation:

Thank you fellow Hollin Hillers. It is my honor as your neighbor and elected Delegate to the Virginia General Assembly to be speaking to you today at this, the inaugural Hollin Hills Memorial Day Observation.

When this community starts a new tradition it often lasts forever! The home and garden tour started in 1953 and the 4th of July picnic has been going on for as long as I can remember, and I've lived here since 1974.

And, in Richmond today, at the Virginia War Memorial that looks out over the James River, the Com-

monwealth of Virginia will be celebrating its 65th Annual Memorial Day Ceremony both in-person and online to honor the nearly 12,000 Virginians since WWII, men and women, who served our country with distinction and made the ultimate sacrifice defending our freedom.

"Memorial" according to the dictionary is something established to ensure that we do not forget. This Memorial Day, a day like no other, with its somber tenor, allows us to not just remember, but to pay our respect and to honor all of the American soldiers who died in service to our nation, paying with their very lives, for our freedom. These are soldiers from all walks of life: rich and poor, new immigrants



Krizek

to Native Americans, young and old, Black, White, and Brown, men and women -- all our fellow Americans.

Now, people just like us, all over this Commonwealth and our great nation are coming together as we are to dutifully observe the meaning of this day.

Without those soldiers' sacrifices, we would not even be here, nor allowed even to gather like this, let alone have the opportunity to include a flag and wreath-laying ceremony as we will shortly.

If recent history teaches us nothing else, it is that we cannot take our freedom for granted and that we must never forget what those who came before us had to sacrifice to defend our freedom.

That is why voting is so sacred and no one should lose that freedom to choose who should lead them.

That is why a free press, freedom to worship, and our freedom of speech must never be abridged. And we must continue to fight for equality for all who call our country home. None of these freedoms happen without our soldiers defending them -- those men and women who fought and died for us, like my grandfather who died during WWII and is buried in France, and like many of your parents, uncles and aunts, children, and grandparents who sacrificed for us and our country.

So, let's take one final moment to observe, honor, and never forget all those patriotic soldiers who are no longer here today, and to salute those veterans still with us.

## June Is the Deadliest Month for Teen Drivers

### Parental involvement urged to prevent underage drinking this summer.

**C**iting the facts that June is the single deadliest month of the year when it comes to teen driving and that summer's arrival also ushers in that contiguous period (May - August) when the greatest number of U.S. teen traffic deaths occur [i], a Washington-metropolitan area alcohol education group is urging parental involvement to combat both teen drinking and drunk driving this summer.

Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) is providing area parents of teens with "Ten Tips for Prevents to Prevent Underage Drinking" (which are available as a downloadable and or printable

pdf at [wrap.org/tips2021.pdf](http://wrap.org/tips2021.pdf)). WRAP's ten annual summer tips, designed to inform Greater Washington parents on how best to deter teen drinking during the dangerous summer months, include:

Understand the Dangers... Drinking underage not only increases the chances of dependency later on in life but also leads to short and long-term consequences as well as leading to other risky behaviors.

Know the Law...The District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia all have zero-tolerance laws, making it illegal to consume, possess or purchase alcohol under the age of 21.

Be a Role Model...Parents should be role models to their teens and make sure their own behaviors are appropriate. Use alcohol moderately, serve as a responsible host and never drink and drive.

Know your Liability...In most cases, its unlawful for parents to allow their children's friends to consume alcohol in their home. Parents or adults may face criminal charges later on if these same "friends" are involved in a crash.

"In 2019, an average of four-dozen teenagers died in U.S. motor vehicle crashes every single day during the summer months (May - August)," said WRAP President Kurt Erickson. "For too many

parents, unfortunately, summer's unstructured time may also be a deadly time for their teenage children and their friends."

In 2018, 24-percent of young drivers (ages 15 to 20 years old) killed in U.S. crashes had been drinking (with a blood alcohol concentration [BAC] level of 0.01 grams/deciliter or higher according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration). That same year, nearly one-in-five (19%) young drivers killed in U.S. traffic crashes has a BAC of 0.08 g/dL or higher.[ii]

According to the 2020 Monitoring the Future survey sponsored

SEE JUNE 15, PAGE 7

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Don't Sell Us Down the River

BY CATHERINE MACAULAY  
CO-PRESIDENT, MOUNT VERNON  
GARDEN CLUB

The American Horticultural Society's (AHS) decision to sell off its River Farm headquarters in Alexandria, Va., hardly seems in keeping with its mission to "blend education, social responsibility and environmental stewardship with the art and practice of horticulture."

It begs the question: how does one promote horticultural excellence when

the land upon which its very

mandate rests is being sold?

Enid Haupt, arguably America's foremost horticultural patron, contributed \$1 million to purchase the 27-acre Potomac riverfront property back in 1973, thereby laying the foundation for the AHS's national headquarters. There were no deed restrictions or covenants placed on River Farm. Haupt asked only that admission be free and the grounds remain open to the public, in keeping with her similar philanthropic gifts to other public gardens. Nature to Haupt was religion, one best shared with others.

SEE DON'T SELL, PAGE 7

### Let Us Know Your View

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A Connection Newspaper



## June Is the Deadliest Month for Teen Drivers

FROM PAGE 6

by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, alcohol remains the “substance most widely used by today’s teenagers.”

In addition, the most recent national survey of adolescent drug use reports increases in binge drinking amongst all three surveyed age groups (8th, 10th and 12th grade students). [iii]

In addition to its tips for parents to deter underage and drunk driving this summer, WRAP also encourages parents to be aware of social networks which their children use. Party promoters often prey on youth via social media sites and by promising a good time and access to alcohol for a fee, according to WRAP.

“Make no mistake about it, parents play an integral role in when and if their children drink alcohol,” said Erickson. “These tips are

simply meant to reinforce their efforts to foster a healthy and safe summer for them and their teenage children.”

Founded in 1982, the nonprofit [501(c)(3)] Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) is a coalition of diverse interests using effective education, innovative programs and targeted advocacy to end alcohol-impaired driving and underage drinking in the Washington, DC metro area.

Through public education, innovative health education programs and advocacy, WRAP is credited with keeping the metro-Washington area’s alcohol-related traffic deaths historically lower than the national average. WRAP, however, may best be known to area residents via the organization’s popular free safe ride service for would-be drunk drivers, SoberRide®. For more information, visit WRAP’s web site at [www.wrap.org](http://www.wrap.org).

## Don’t Sell Us Down the River

FROM PAGE 6

It appears the AHS is now re-writing that covenant, claiming high operating expenses, outworn facilities, and COVID-restricted attendance as part of its motivation to sell at a price of \$32.9 million.

Multiple stakeholders have since stepped forward to keep the property intact and open to the public — The Northern Virginia Conservation Trust, NOVA Parks, Virginia Governor Ralph Northam, senators, congressmen.

Millions of dollars have been raised and put on the table in an effort to keep River Farm open to the public.

Lately, serious negotiations have been entered in to, along with assurances from the AHS that it holds the highest of intentions. Several board members have changed their original position about selling the property. It gives one reason to hope.

“You can’t save River Farm,” my neighbor assures me. It’s prime real estate. It’s business.”

This makes no sense—certainly not to us members of the Mount Vernon Garden Club, and to others in the Greater Washington Area’s 63 garden clubs.

To us, the issue is foundational. Beyond the 18 species of butterflies, the 10 species of dragonflies, and 32 species of birds who call River Farm home, as well as the Bald eagles and ospreys flying along its shoreline, we gardeners know that in order to protect nature, one must first fall in love with her. For that, a sense of wonder needs to take root—one experienced, not witnessed in 2D photos or viewed on Zoom.

In selling historic River Farm, AHS not only falls short of its environmental stewardship, but also shears itself of its own, horticultural roots. By removing its headquarters from the grounds of George Washington’s Mount Vernon estate, where he garnered a reputation as the “father of American agriculture”, the AHS denies his influence in helping usher a vital branch of horticulture onto the world stage.

Faithful to the scientific method and committed to growing an agri-based economy, Washington transformed his beloved property into an experimental laboratory, working in lockstep with fellow planters, nursery-

men, seed merchants and naturalists, part of a group of influencers who formed perhaps, the largest plant and seed exchange in American history, leaders of the original farm-to-table movement, their enthusiasm underwritten by an abundance of land and the diversity of flora and fauna it supported.

They learned as they went, creating schools, institutions, agricultural groups and horticultural societies, eager to educate America’s citizenry. In a country lacking any national identity, leaders like Washington understood that serving the public good served the principles of self-determination so vital to any democracy. Against king and country, ours was the better value system, our shared prosperity the best revenge against Old World tenets of privilege and exclusivity.

Enid Haupt recognized the value of River Farm. So, too, does its exclusive listing agent, describing it as a “Once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to own 27 plus acres of riverfront property in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area ... an estate renowned for its unobstructed views of the Potomac River and impeccably maintained gardens.”

In its proposed \$32 million dollar reboot, the AHS promises to reduce a

horticultural story to fairy tale — the property Haupt funded for public benefit privatized to those best able to afford the view.

In contrast, Britain’s Royal Horticultural Society never sold off its heritage. On the contrary, despite all measure of challenge, the world’s leading plant charity has grown from one to four historic gardens, presiding over the growing appreciation of nature amidst a time of global urbanization, environmental degradation and habitat loss.

Engaging Millennials and Z/Alpha generations into a new relationship with horticulture will be a grand task — one likely to require multiple stakeholders on multi-levels, much in the same way Washington nurtured a diverse community of gardeners and growers, everyone jointly staked to a common faith in opportunity.

This is America, money doesn’t talk, it roars. Which is why it’s crucial that non-profits like AHS pay their debt forward, not divest themselves of any hard earned capital.



See what's new with a river view.



There's now more to do at the Old Town waterfront. Enjoy brand new waterfront dining spots. Take a tour of the tall ship *Providence*, a reproduction of the first ship authorized to serve in the Continental Navy. Wander among the 102 shimmering pilings of *Groundswell*, the 2021 public art installation at Waterfront Park. Or stroll the riverside African American Heritage Trail with a new online trail guide.

Explore more at [VisitAlexandriaVA.com/Waterfront](http://VisitAlexandriaVA.com/Waterfront)

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# More to Do to Clean Up the Potomac River

Stormwater runoff from urban and suburban areas is the major culprit today polluting the Potomac River, the fastest growing pollutant.

By Glenda C. Booth  
Mount Vernon Gazette

On April 9, Connor Lynch, an angler fishing on the Potomac River near Fletcher's Cove, hooked and released a shortnose sturgeon, a fish not seen in the river since 2007. The Potomac Riverkeeper called the finding "Increasing evidence that the health of the Potomac River is improving."

Common bottlenose dolphins are spotted in the river too, seen as far from the Atlantic Ocean as the U.S. 301 Harry W. Nice Memorial Bridge which connects Charles County, Maryland to King George County, Virginia.

These sightings are indicators that efforts to restore water quality in what George Washington called "the nation's river" are making a difference, Hedrick Belin, President of the Potomac Conservancy, told attendees of a May 26 Zoom meeting of the Friends of Dyke Marsh.

The river is much cleaner today than it was in 1964 when then U.S. President Lyndon Johnson called it "a national disgrace."

But "it's not in the clear," warned Belin. "It is still too polluted for swimming and fishing." The Potomac's health worsened for the first time in a decade, according to Conservancy's latest report card analyzing 2020



Forest and vegetation that come to the edge of the Potomac River help to protect water quality from polluted stormwater runoff.



Potomac River below Old Town Alexandria.



Common bottlenose dolphins are spotted in the Potomac River, seen as far from the Atlantic Ocean as the U.S. 301 Harry W. Nice Memorial Bridge.



what are called "combined sewer overflow" (CSO) systems, like the sewer system in Old Town, Alexandria, dating to the 1890s. "The volume has to go somewhere," Belin said, noting that historically engineers designed urban infrastructure to get water off streets. Alexandria and Washington, D.C., are upgrading their combined overflow systems, building underground holding tanks and then treating runoff at AlexRenew on Cameron Run or for Washington, D.C., the Blue Plains Wastewater Treatment Plant on the Maryland side of the river. Eliminating CSOs "will have a big impact," Belin predicted. "Otherwise, you'd be swimming in sewage."

Storms can erode streambanks and send sediments into waterways. Cloudy water impairs the growth of submerged aquatic vegetation that help filter nutrients and pollutants and provide food and habitat for fish, waterfowl and other wildlife. Underwater aquatic plants garnered a C- in the report card. Some fish species are in decline, the Conservancy reported last year. What happens on the land affects the river, Belin said, whether it's parking lots, suburban yards or farm fields. "Healthy communities start with clean water," he said. "Healthy water means healthy people." The Potomac provides drinking water to over five million people in the Washington metropolitan area.

## Solutions

On the way forward to a cleaner river, Belin advised, "We need to work with nature, not against it, replicate it." More trees and healthy forests can help capture stormwater runoff. We need to build in smarter ways, strengthen clean water laws and restore degraded areas, including wetlands and flood-



PHOTO COURTESY OF HEDRIK BELIN, POTOMAC.ORG/ RIVER-UPDATE

## CLEAN WATER CHALLENGES

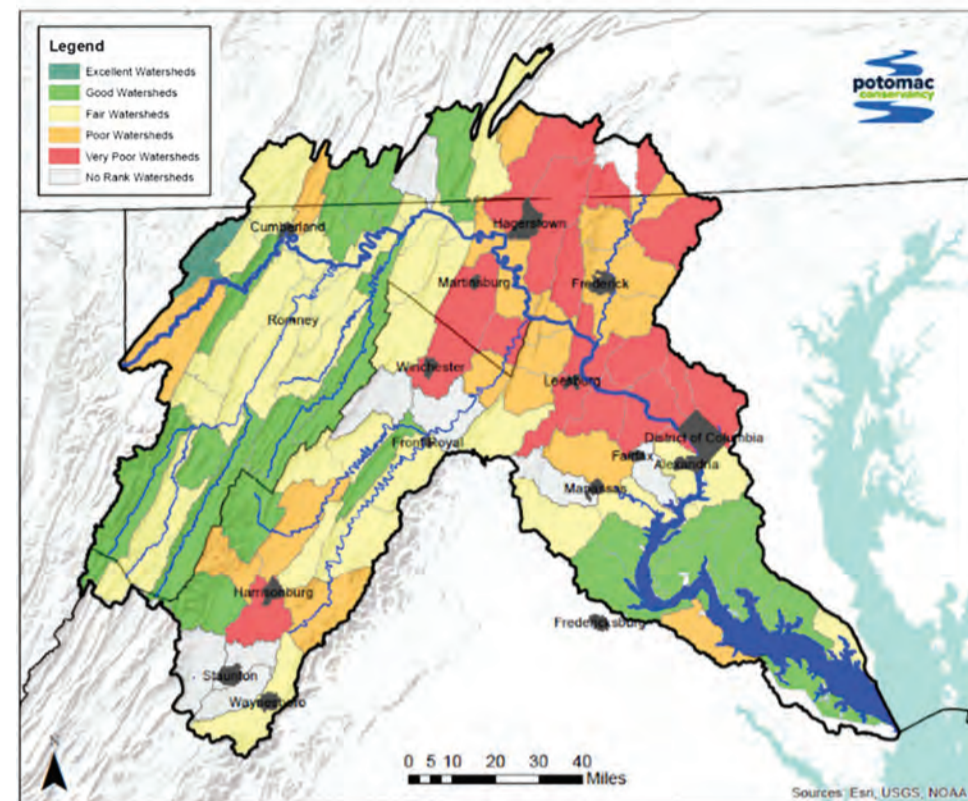


PHOTO COURTESY OF HEDRIK BELIN, POTOMAC.ORG/ RIVER-UPDATE

Challenges to the health of the Potomac River remain.

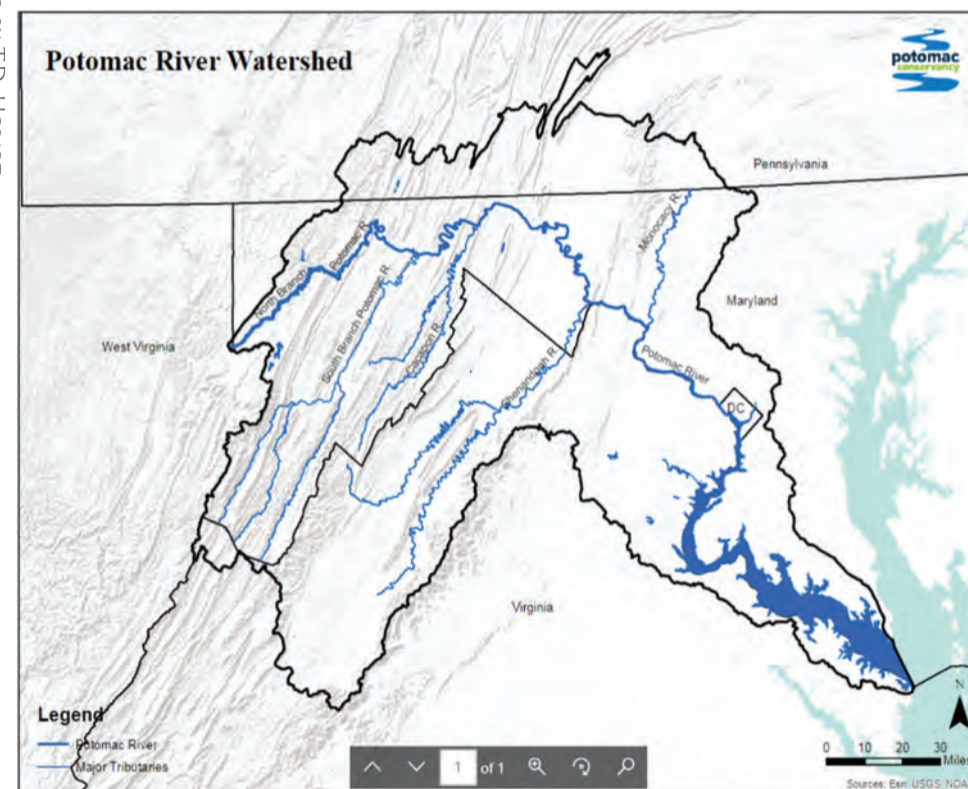


PHOTO COURTESY OF HEDRIK BELIN, POTOMAC.ORG/ RIVER-UPDATE

Map of the Potomac River watershed.

plains. He challenged attendees to be Potomac River advocates.

The Conservancy works on multiple fronts to protect and restore the river, like tree planting and influencing public policy. The organization has protected over 60,000 acres and over 100 stream miles in the 14,670-square-mile Potomac River basin. "Clean water's our north star," Belin said. "The river's the star of the show. It's our backyard," adding, "the Potomac's making a comeback but there's still more work to do to get the river to an A."

Cosponsors of the meeting were the Four Mile Run Conservancy, the Friends of Little Hunting Creek, the Friends of Mason Neck State Park, Porto Vecchio Condominium and the Washington, D. C., chapter of the Society for Conservation Biology.

## Sturgeons and Dolphins

Shortnose sturgeons (*Acipenser brevirostrum*) live in rivers and coastal waters from Canada to Florida, but spend little time in the ocean, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. They can reach up to 4.5 feet in length. In 1967, the federal government classified the fish as endangered.

Common bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) live close to the shore and throughout coastal and estuarine waters around the world. They are not considered to be endangered. In the 1840s, dolphins were seen as far upriver as Alexandria, Virginia, Karin Bruillard reported in the Washington Post.



Anglers Josh Cohn and Connor Lynch snapped a photo of the shortnose sturgeon they caught in the Potomac River at Fletcher's Boathouse, keeping it in the water to prevent harm.

# ENTERTAINMENT

## NOW THRU JUNE 27

Timeless Tradition. 12-4 p.m. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. The copyist program at the National Gallery of Art offers a unique opportunity for artists to study the techniques of old masters through intimate study in the galleries. This exhibit presents the work of members of this program alongside a color photo of the original and an artist's statement explaining why the work was chosen and what was learned through copying. Visit the website: [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org)

## CALENDAR

## MAY 25 TO JUNE 27

Birds of a Feather. Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery announces the opening of its juried show "Birds of a Feather," which opens on May 25, 2021 and runs through June 27, 2021. The birds are back, and they are celebrating. Themed work will be eligible for recognition by the jurors. Non-themed work may also be exhibited. Visit the website: <http://torpedofactory.org/visit/>

## CYCLEBOATS TO BEGIN OPERATION

Potomac Paddle Club is a pontoon pedal boat or "Cycleboat" in the nation's capital region that will begin service from Old Town beginning May 28. This social adventure is the perfect way

for friends to hop between waterfront locations and take in the sights. Passengers will be able to take a cruise from Old Town to National Harbor and back. Boats will dock at Old Town's Waterfront Park behind the Torpedo Factory. Visit [www.PotomacPaddleClub.com](http://www.PotomacPaddleClub.com).

## JUNE 1 TO AUG. 31

Creative Summer Programs is a series of workshops exploring the arts. Learn techniques in painting, sculpture, collage, mixed media, sketching, and more from local artists. Delve into your creative consciousness solo or with friends. Online and in-person, for children and/or adults, free and paid programs are offered. Sign up for what inspires you! Held at Del Ray Artisans (2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria VA) unless noted. Details: [DelRayArtisans.org/programs/creative-summer/](http://DelRayArtisans.org/programs/creative-summer/)

## THURSDAY/JUNE 3

Secrets of D-Day. 7-9 p.m. Virtual. Dr. Kim Bernard Holien, U.S. Army Historian, retired will discuss D-Day secrets, known and unknown. A 'Rest of the Story' presentation about the secrets that made the Allies victorious on the 'day of days'.

Website: [https://zoom.us/join/register/WN\\_c09H1FqN-S8anHYIEwqpYrA](https://zoom.us/join/register/WN_c09H1FqN-S8anHYIEwqpYrA)

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

# Dates to Circle in June

BY HOPE NELSON  
GAZETTE PACKET

**A**tasting tour of Del Ray, a beer garden with all the fixings and – get ready – yoga with cats. June is shaping up to start the summer season off right. Here are some of the city's best bets in the food-and-drink world this month.

## Taste of Del Ray, June 4-6

Del Ray's famous food festival is back – in a pandemic-friendly way. The Taste of Del Ray event is switching things up a bit this year, extending to a weekend-long format and routing orders through the restaurants themselves rather than via a central hub of offerings. But through it all, the sentiment remains: The neighborhood's best and brightest restaurants are on display for all to taste, with a menu for everyone at the ready. Evening Star Café, Hops n Shine, Spice Kraft, Stomping Ground – more than a dozen eateries are on offer, just waiting for you to give them a try. Online registration is \$5.

## APPETITE



## Cat Yoga at Mount Purrrnon Cat Café, June 6

Yoga. Cats. Yoga AND cats? Maybe it won't be quite the relaxing yogic experience you're used to, but it will certainly be entertaining. Mount Purrrnon is offering its first ever Cat Yoga event on June 6. Haven't found your enlightenment yet? No problem. This yoga class is open to all experience levels. (The cats will teach you all you need to know.) 11 a.m.-noon. \$25.

**North Payne Beer Garden, June 12**  
Rocket Frog Brewing is teaming up with The Loop Coworking to bring the beer garden ambiance to

## Old Town.

This month, the reggae will be pumping, the Soul Rebel food truck will be on hand to dish up some food and, of course, the beer will be flowing. Can't make it this month? The beer garden will be going strong once a month through September, so mark your calendar for June 12, July 10, Aug. 7 and Sept. 25. Noon-6 p.m. \$10 includes entrance and a beer..

Hope Nelson is the author of "Classic Restaurants of Alexandria" and owns 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).

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# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

## THURSDAY/JUNE 3

"I Hear America Singing." 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. At The Secret Garden of the Rectory, 711 Princess Street, Alexandria. The Secret Garden welcomes singers from the Choral Arts Society of Washington and Music Director Scott Tucker for a celebration of choral music by American composers, including a world premiere by B. E. Boykin celebrating Mary Church Terrell, an activist in the movements for civil rights and women's suffrage, commissioned by Classical Movements. Visit the website: <https://www.classicalmovements.com/secretgardenconcerts/>

## THURSDAY/JUNE 3

First Thursdays in Del Ray. 6 p.m. Various locations in Del Ray in Alexandria. Held the first Thursday from April to September along Mount Vernon Avenue in the Del Ray neighborhood of Alexandria, First Thursday is a series of free outdoor street festivals that bring the community together around a fun theme, benefiting a local nonprofit.

## JUNE 3-5

Celebrate Pride Workshops. June is Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) Pride Month, and the Alexandria LGBTQ Task Force and Alexandria Library is hosting Celebrate Alexandria Pride Workshops online June 3-5. Twelve workshops will be offered over three days. Some workshops are creative and some are educational, but they all celebrate the resiliency and beauty of the LGBTQ+ community in Alexandria.

## FRIDAY/JUNE 4

D-Day's Black Heroes. 12 p.m. Virtual. Linda Hervieux, Paris-based American journalist, photographer, and author of "Forgotten: The Untold Story of D-Day's Black Heroes, at Home and at War," the critically acclaimed story of D-Day's only African-American combat soldiers, who were effectively written out of the history of the Norman invasion. Website: [https://zoom.us/join/register/WN\\_WkYEcl8BRBSfQ-g8EuaHEuA](https://zoom.us/join/register/WN_WkYEcl8BRBSfQ-g8EuaHEuA)

## FRIDAY/JUNE 4

Green Home and Garden Tour. 12-1:30 p.m. Virtual. This virtual tour features homes with energy-efficient technologies, solar panels, and green renovations; watershed-friendly gardens, native plants, rain gardens, rain barrels, and edible landscaping; videos highlighting each location, Zoom breakout rooms where you can interact with tour hosts and other local experts. The suggested donation is \$5 per household.

## JUNE 4-6

12th Annual Taste of Del Ray. At various restaurants in Del Ray, Alexandria. Top area restaurants are slated to participate in the 12th Annual Taste of Del Ray, which will shift to a take-out format from Friday, June 4 to Sunday, June 6. Throughout the weekend, each participating restaurant will offer participants up to three select "tastes" for just \$5 each. Restaurants are also encouraged to offer cocktail pairings to complement their dishes. Online registration is \$5 and includes the exclusive



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**PLAY BALL** - Clay Clarke, a senior at West Potomac High School, signs a commitment to play baseball for Virginia Wesleyan University on May 24 signing day. Clarke is surrounded by his parents, Walter and Kelllye Clarke, sister Kameron Clarke, and WPHS coaches.

menu of available tastes and specialty cocktails, plus a ballot for the People's Choice Award. Website: [visitdelray.com](http://visitdelray.com).

## JUNE 4-26

"The Naked and the Newt: Studies in Human and Herpeton Anatomy" art exhibit explores human and animal bodies, investigating conceptions of anatomy, texture, and conservation with our partner, the Virginia Herpetological Society (VHS). Special workshops taught by local artists and free talks by VHS are offered in conjunction with the theme. The exhibit runs June 4-26, 2021 at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria VA. Details at [www.DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits](http://www.DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits)

## SATURDAY/JUNE 5

Garden Tools and Perennial Maintenance. 10-11 a.m. (16-Adults) Join horticulturalist Karen Rexrode outdoors for an educational walk through the gardens focused on perennial maintenance and useful gardening tools to get the job done. Learn what the garden professionals see and do to ensure a happy, healthy, and beautiful garden. \$18 per person. Register online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktaks](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktaks) (E9K.HSNA) or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

## SATURDAY/JUNE 5

Plants & Design: Herbs—A Baker's Dozen. 1-2:30 p.m. (16-Adults) Green Spring staff teach you how to grow common culinary herbs and creative ways to use them in the kitchen. Learn about cultural requirements, harvesting, preservation, propagation methods, resources, and recipes. Herbs will be available in the plant shop to get you started. \$22 per person. Register online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktaks](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktaks) (A57.4JZM) or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

## SATURDAY/JUNE 5

Drag Queen Storytime with Citrine. 10 a.m. What do drag queens and children have in common? They love dressing up and all things

sparkly and fancy! Drag Queen Story Hour (DQSH) is just what it sounds like—drag queens reading stories to children in libraries, schools, and bookstores. Enjoy songs and stories for kids ages 3-8. View other events part of Celebrate Alexandria Pride and register at [alexandriava.gov/LGBTQ](http://alexandriava.gov/LGBTQ).

## SATURDAY/JUNE 5

Edible Garden Tour. 10-11:30 a.m. (Adults) Explore the bounty of Green Spring's Edible Garden with an Extension Master Gardener docent who showcases many food plants—from vegetables to fruit trees—suitable for home landscapes. See how edibles can grow in containers and small spaces and discover their ornamental value in the garden. \$15 per person. Register online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktaks](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktaks) (96U.YX7Y) or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

## MOVIES IN ARLINGTON

Join the Rosslyn BID this summer for the Cinema series to enjoy your favorite movies on the lawn in Gateway Park, 1300 Lee Hwy., Arlington on Fridays in June.

Friday, June 4 – La La Land;  
Friday, June 11 – Monsters Inc.;  
Friday, June 18 – Wonder Woman 1984;

Friday, June 25 – Cool Runnings. Attendees must register in advance of each showing via Eventbrite and check-in will begin at 7:15 p.m., with movies starting at sundown (approximately 8 p.m. in June).

## JULY 1-17

John W. Hiller Retrospective Photography Exhibit is a special two-week exhibit that showcases over four decades of photography from longtime member John W. Hiller, an Oscar and Emmy winner. Works include solitary landscapes of the American West, tranquil Japanese gardens, and contemporary experiential imagery. View exhibit at Del Ray Artisans Gallery (2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria VA) during special hours: Thursdays/Fridays/ Saturdays 12-8 p.m., Sundays 12-4 p.m. Details: [DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits](http://DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits)

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PHOTOS BY CHAYA NEJAR PHOTOGRAPHY. COURTESY OF BRACHA GOETZ

Bracha Goetz, author of the book, “Searching for God in the Garbage”, believes that the pandemic offered an opportunity to reconnect with one’s faith. Here, she is reading to grandchildren.

## Faith Sustained Many During COVID-19 Crisis

How a belief in a higher power helped some people cope with pandemic.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
GAZETTE PACKET

As she experienced the emotions and uncertainty around the coronavirus pandemic, Bracha Goetz turned to the tenets of her faith. As an Orthodox Jew, following the guidelines set forth in the Torah were already part of her daily life. As the outlook on COVID-19 begins to look more optimistic, Goetz says that she can reflect on the ways in which her faith helped safeguard her mental and emotional wellbeing.

“The basis of Judaism is gratitude, and gratitude is essential for enjoying life, said Goetz, a Maryland based author of the book “Searching for God in the Garbage.” “When going through a difficult time, focusing on being grateful for just one thing can help to uplift us.”

Like Goetz, more than a third of Americans say that the COVID-19 crisis strengthened their faith in a higher power and offered lessons from God, according to a report by Pew Research Center. Practicing those beliefs during a crisis can help support mental and emotional health and wellbeing.

“Religious faith or belief in a higher power gives personal meaning, explanations for world events. They may help us make sense of suffering and distress from our experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Jerome Short, Ph.D. Associate Professor of Psychology at George Mason University. “Belonging to a faith community can offer support from other members and reassuring rituals that soothe our distress.”

The presence of a higher power can help believers feel that they are not alone, says Brian Flanagan, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Theology at Mary-



Bracha Goetz says that gratitude is the basis of her faith and has sustained her during the coronavirus pandemic.

mount University and author of the book, “Stumbling in Holiness: Sin and Sanctity in the Church.” “Christianity teaches us about a God who is present, even in the worst of circumstances,” he said. “But Christianity also proclaims a God who never abandons creation, and is present in our suffering in a way similar to that of a mother who suffers when her child is sick or hurting.”

“Faith for me means trusting in a God who is close and not distant, and in a certain sense is closest to us when we most need divine comfort,” continued Flannigan.

Belief in a higher power has long been linked to improved physical and mental health, such as a recent study by the Mayo Clinic. “Religious and spiritual practices are associated with greater life satisfaction, less anxiety and depression, and longer life,” said Short.

The increase in the practicing of faith that occurred during the COVID-19 crisis offers religious leaders an opportunity to sustain that momentum. “We all got a huge push forward spiritually, as we have stopped taking so many things for granted that we may not have appreciated before,” said Goetz. “Now that we have seen how many of the precious blessings in our lives can be gone in a moment, we have become more grateful people.”

## Democrats Decide

FROM PAGE 3

for governor. Full stop,” said Del. Kathy Tran (D-42). “As a delegate, I’ve seen the difference between legislators who lead when the going gets tough and those who don’t. Jenn McClellan is a leader who lifts up all Virginians.”

**THE RACE FOR** lieutenant governor is the race that will determine the missing third of the statewide Democratic ticket. Sam Rasoul has raised and spent more money than any other candidate, a notable achievement considering he refuses to take money from special interest PACs or lobbyists. During a televised debate on WJLA last week, anchor Dave Lucas asked if Rasoul believed he could represent Virginians of all faiths. The televised question caused a firestorm because Rasoul is Muslim, and the question employed anti-Muslim tropes.

“Sadly, this isn’t what Virginians are wanting to hear about,” said Rasoul. “They’re wanting to hear about how we’re going to improve access to their health care, about broadband issues, how we are going to safely get kids back in school.”

WJLA eventually apologized, calling the question “inappropriate and disrespectful.” Meanwhile, Rasoul picked up new endorsements and gained a ton of free publicity. But he wasn’t the only candidate to seize on a moment from the WJLA debate. When the candidates were asked if critical race theory should be taught in Virginia classrooms, former Fairfax NAACP president Sean Perryman seized the moment to explain that the law-school concept wasn’t being taught in K-12 classrooms.

“Critical race theory is not even being taught in our schools,” said Perryman. “It’s a Republican dog whistle where anything they disagree with is critical race theory.”

**ATTORNEY GENERAL** Mark Herring is the only statewide incumbent seeking reelection. He’s being challenged by Del. Jay Jones

(D-89). Herring was the town attorney in Lovettsville and served on the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors before being elected to the state Senate in a 2006 special election after Attorney General Bob McDonnell appointed Sen. Bill Mims (R-33) chief deputy attorney general.

Herring was elected attorney general in 2013, and he’s now seeking a third term in office. During his time as attorney general, he created a new Office of Civil Rights as well as a new conviction integrity unit and a new worker protection unit while also reorganizing the consumer protection section. He opposed Virginia’s ban on gay marriage, fought against Trump’s Muslim ban, and overturend Republican gerrymandering in the United States Supreme Court.

“I’ve transformed the job into a progressive powerhouse,” said Herring. “I have proven that I can win even the biggest fights.”

Jones was first elected in 2017, part of the first Democratic wave that began the transformation of the House of Delegates.

Since that time, he’s been seen as a rising star in the party. Jones says it’s time to hand the office to the next generation, and as an African-American man he says he would be able to bring his lived experience into conversations about criminal justice reform and equity. During a televised debate, he avoided answering questions about a bill he introduced that would have allowed predatory lenders to charge 350 percent interest — a point of distinction that provides contrast with Herring, who worked with lawmakers to pass the Fairness in Lending Act. Jones never withdrew his bill which died in committee, although he ended up voting for the bill that Herring supported.

“The attorney general knows that he and I supported the exact same bill,” said Jones. “I was happy to work with Delegate Bagby, the chair of the Legislative Black Caucus, who has endorsed my campaign.”

## Don’t Miss

FROM PAGE 1

environmental challenges that we face on a daily basis. Attendees will leave the Expo with simple actions you can take to make an impact on climate change and our environment.

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## BULLETIN

FROM PAGE 5

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### COVID UPDATES

Quick Facts for Older Adults about COVID-19 Vaccine Appointments  
 Vaccine eligibility is occurring in phases per the CDC and Virginia Department of Health. More information about vaccine rollout in Fairfax can be found at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/covid19](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/covid19).  
 As more vaccine becomes available, there will be more options where to access it. In the future, you will likely be able to access vaccine via your doctor, a health clinic or pharmacy. It takes two doses. Follow the directions of your vaccine provider to schedule your second dose.  
 One caregiver can attend a vaccine appointment with their loved one. Vaccine-eligible people can register for appointments online or over the phone (no need to do both).  
 Online: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/covid19](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/covid19). Click on "Vaccination" at the top of the page and you will see registration information. After your registration is accepted, a scheduling link will be sent to you as vaccine becomes available.  
 Call: 703-324-7404 to register for a vaccine via phone.  
**Vaccine Appointment Tips**  
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### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Assistance League of Northern Virginia is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that feeds, clothes and provides reading assistance and books to children in need. Assistance League's programs touch the lives of hundreds of children in Fairfax and Prince William Counties and the City of Alexandria. There are many volunteer opportunities for community members to contribute to helping those in need. To learn more, email [info@alnv.org](mailto:info@alnv.org), or visit [www.alnv.org](http://www.alnv.org).  
 United Community (formerly UCM), 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, seeks volunteers for Food Pantry assistance, Early Learning Center teacher aides, basic needs counselors, youth tutors and mentors, office administration/data entry, and community outreach. Flexible hours and schedules. Opportunities for all ages to serve, including community service hours. More info at [ucmagency.org/volunteer-opportunities](http://ucmagency.org/volunteer-opportunities) or email [volunteer@ucmagency.org](mailto:volunteer@ucmagency.org).

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PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

Community members join police and county officials in the official groundbreaking in Lorton.

## South County Police Station and Animal Shelter Breaks Ground

BY SUSAN LAUME  
THE CONNECTION

County officials, police, and community members joined in breaking ground for the new South County police station and animal services shelter on May 22 at its future site on Lorton Road, between Hooes and Workhouse Roads. The \$30 million, dual use facility includes 34,000 square feet for police, 23,000 square feet for animal services, and 20,000 square feet of outdoor space for use by animals, a fuel island, and parking. The facility, a two year project, is scheduled for completion in Spring 2023.

Many see the irony of building a police station on the former Lorton Workhouse/Prison site, including Fairfax County Supervisor, Dan Storck, whose District (Mount Vernon) will be home to the facility. Storck said that in 1910, the workhouse concept envisioned a “place of rehabilitation,” a concept he notes, the County has applied to the area with “investment of hundreds of millions in this community to create a 21st century community.”

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman, Jeff McKay promised the gathered community members, “more resources are coming to South County”.....the Board is “investing here — all corners of the county must succeed if the county as a whole is to succeed.”

The creation of the new police station is expected to have a ripple effect throughout the county, by making a full police redistricting possible. The area is currently served by the Franconia and West Springfield Police Stations. Major R.A. Blakely, Commander, Patrol Division II, indicates that the new plan will allow all districts, not just the two current servicing stations, to shrink, resulting in greater police presence, faster response times and better service to citizens throughout the county.

The new South County station will include

Animal Protection Police presence on site for significantly improved response times to locations distanced from their current West Ox Road location. Animal Protection Police currently cover all 391 land acres of the county from that single location.

**ANIMALS OF ALL TYPES**, and their families, too, will have better access to shelter services with addition of the second shelter. Dr Karen Diviney, Director, Fairfax County's Department of Animal Sheltering, credits the Board of Supervisors with understanding the value of pets in peoples' lives; a lesson learned elsewhere in difficulty, such as during the Katrina hurricane disaster. The county's current shelter was renovated and expanded to 2700 square feet under Diviney's guidance, about ten years ago, changing it to “a state of the art operation on a par with the best facilities across the country; with an increased positive release rate, and a vibrant 300+ person volunteer and foster program.”

The new 2300 square foot shelter, slightly smaller than the West Ox Road facility, will have a slightly smaller kennel area but with a different design for improved cat and dog housing, and a larger veterinary surgery suite, anticipating increased neutering services. Innovations include a secure outdoor “catio” play area, “real life rooms” simulating homes after adoption, and a large fenced play yard with shade trees for dog walks outdoors.

Upon completion the facility will have space for public art, infrastructure for solar energy, electric vehicle charging stations, and natural landscaping with a bird friendly design.

**THE POLICE STATION AND ANIMAL SHELTER** facility joins a long list of new development in the South County area, championed by Storck and the Board over the 17 years of his tenure as supervisor and school board member.

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## Nearly Nicked



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Recently, I made the mistake of clicking on an email from an unfamiliar sender. It said “Membership Renewed,” as in money had been spent by yours truly. But I hadn’t spent any money renewing a membership that I knew of, and there is, I imagine, the axis on which some phishing scams are turning: By peeking your instinct to know where and what one’s money is doing. Maybe I forgot something? Maybe my wife, Dina, paid for something and forgot to mention it? Maybe, maybe, maybe - so I clicked. The email looked as if it had been sent by “Geek Squad” with whom I have a service contract so I called to inquire further about this ‘paid membership.’

The conversation began innocently enough. They confirmed my membership and seemed to have my pertinent data as well so I continued. When I couldn’t recall this money being spent - and they couldn’t tell me the last four numbers of the account which had been debited, I grew cautious, as I had been down this road once before. Nevertheless, I persisted. Since I had “Geeks” (or whomever, unbeknownst to me) on the phone, I figured I’d ask if they could fix a computer problem (no volume) and asked if the repair was covered by my service contract. They assured me that it was. And so, I gave them access to my computer so they could address the problem remotely. After computer fits and starts, and curious delays, they confessed that they were unable to fix the problem. So, and here it is, the hook: since they were unable to fix my computer, they wanted to refund me the ‘membership’ fee. That was excruciatingly familiar so I knew it was time to exit stage right.

What had happened to me previously is that I didn’t get out soon enough. I didn’t know then what I know now so I agreed to the refund and gave them the last four of my account, and sure enough they electronically deposited the money into my checking account (or so it appeared. I later learned that no actual money had ever been transferred). However, they made a mistake, they said. They deposited \$3,000 instead of \$300. They apologized profusely at their mistake and requested that I pay them back \$3,000, which I thought was odd; why not just withdraw the money the same way they deposited it? They said they couldn’t and I needed to pay them back. When I refused to follow their directions on how to pay them back (again, since they couldn’t withdraw the money/stop payment, whatever), by getting cash and then going to a Western Union office and sending it back that way, I knew I was hooked. Then they threatened to disable my computer unless I paid them back exactly as I had been instructed. Then they erased all the icons on my desktop as a last attempt to coerce me to pay up. At this point, it had been nearly two hours since I made first contact, and I could see/feel where the conversation was going, so I risked it and hung up. Sure enough, my computer was wiped clean and locked. I couldn’t access anything. The next day, I called Best Buy and explained the problem and how it had happened. They suggested I bring in my computer tower for an analysis. Within a day, they had identified the problem and offered a solution. They could unlock my computer, no problem, but the computer would have to be reset to the way it was when I first bought it. It wasn’t a total disaster as most data was retrievable. As “The Three Stooges” would have said: “It wasn’t a total loss.”

This recent caller was once again leading me down the garden path. A path which would have ended at a rabbit hole into which me and money would have disappeared. The caller tried desperately to keep me on the line. I said I was at work and had to go. I told him I didn’t expect the call to last so long and I promised to call him back. He had access to my computer - remotely, so I was afraid he could cause similar computer trouble as had happened before under eerily similar circumstances. He confirmed - so he thought, that I had his phone number and so I hung up, cautiously optimistic that I hadn’t earned his wrath. I never called him back but for the next four hours, he called me back several times, a number from Los Angeles. I never answered, obviously. If I had I might not be pleased with myself.

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



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