

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

OCTOBER 1, 2021

River Farm is prime
land on the banks of
the Potomac River.

NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE 2021-2022

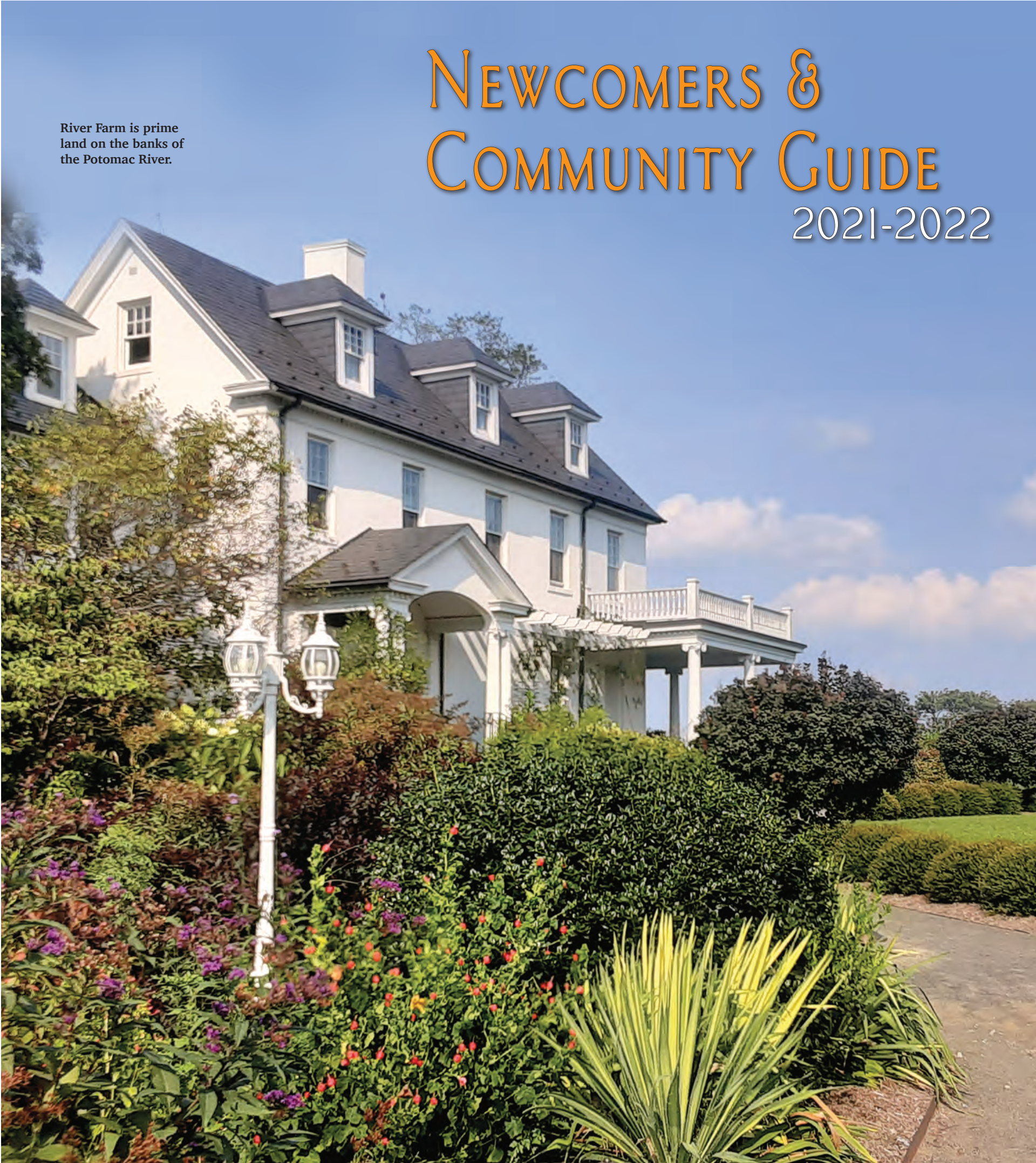


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

McEneaney Associates has always had one motto in mind... not to be the biggest, but the best. For more than 40 years, our Associates have lived in and supported Alexandria, helping to build our town into the thriving community it is today. To learn more about our Associates and our firm, visit www.WeAreAlexandria.com

#WeAreAlexandria



OPEN SUN 10/3, 2-4PM

Belle Haven | \$2,395,000

Majestically sited overlooking the grand Potomac and Belle Haven C.C., this home has been strategically positioned with 4 balconies and a deck to maximize viewing. The main level features a study, stone sunroom, and generous living and dining rooms. The eat-in kitchen is exceptional with adjacent family room overlooking the stone patio. The lower walk-out level has spectacular 1,500-bottle wine cellar. 6115 Vernon Terrace
Janet Caterson Price 703.622.5984
www.JanetPriceHomes.com



OPEN SAT 10/2 & SUN 10/3, 2-4PM

The Middleton | \$2,190,000

Modern convenience in historic Old Town! This nearly new townhome is ideal for town living with 2 off-street parking spaces, electric car charger, and solar! Almost 4,000 SF with 9-ft ceilings, hardwood floors, 2 gas fireplaces, 5 bedrooms, 5.5 baths, private patio, primary suite deck, and small top-level balcony. Located just 3 blocks from both King Street and the Potomac River. 331 N Royal Street
Bobby Mahoney 703.298.1161
TheMahoneyGroupNow.com



OPEN SUN 10/3, 2-4PM

New Alexandria | \$1,175,000

Situated on a lovely corner lot, this recently updated, elegant home is designed for today's lifestyle with an inviting living room, separate dining room, and gourmet kitchen with a large granite island that is open to the family room and breakfast room. 6428 Potomac Ave.
Mary Farrell 703.969.5522
www.choosemary.com



Riverside Gardens | \$729,000

This home has it all - location, condition, and price! The charming front yard and entry welcomes you into the bright living room with large picture windows, wood burning fireplace, and open to the dining space. 3 bedrooms and 2.5 baths. 1907 Old Stage Road
Alexis Bogdan 703.965.6556
www.AlexisBogdan.com



OPEN 9/30, 5-7PM; 10/2 & 10/3, 1-4PM

Old Town Village Condos | \$675,000

Lovely to look at, delightful to own. Beautifully updated townhouse-style condo with expansive living area, family room with gas fireplace, open kitchen, 2 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, gorgeous dark hardwoods, 2 parking space, and much more. 1314 Roundhouse Ln
Lisa Groover 703.919.4426
www.LisaGroover.com



OPEN SUN 10/3, 2-4PM

Del Ray \$775,000

Just Listed! Renovated & expanded duplex with 3 bedrooms, 2 full & 2 half baths, and new chef's kitchen (2020) steps from the heart of Del Ray & Braddock Rd Metro station. First level bedroom with bath, refinished hardwood floors, and more! 122 E Glendale Avenue

Kathy Hassett 703.863.1546
www.MPHHomeTeam.com



Warwick Village \$689,900

New Price! Updated townhome with 2 spacious bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, and great closet storage! Hardwood floors throughout the main and upper level. Nice deck and outdoor space, with an easy stroll to Del Ray shops and dining. 2529 Mosby Street

Jen Walker 703.675.1566
www.JenWalker.com



South Kings Station | \$445,000

Minutes to Huntington Metro, 495, Crystal City, Old Town & Ft Belvoir offers 2 upper level primary bedroom suites with totally remodeled baths, hardwoods in living & dining area, finished lower level, fully fenced rear yard & 2 reserved parking spaces. 6507 Brick Hearth Court

Nick Kuhn 703.671.5225
www.McEneaney.com

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NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE 2021

Features and Issues In Mount Vernon Today

A look into some Mount Vernon issues that are important to residents and newcomers.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

Mount Vernon is a community with much to offer. For the historian, there's George Washington's plantation, historic Woodlawn and the new U.S. Army museum at Fort Belvoir. For the outdoors enthusiasts, there's the bike trail along the Potomac River as well as an assortment of parks and the ice skating rink on Beacon Hill Road, and for the food lover, there are restaurants along Richmond Highway, or a short trip north to Old Town, Alexandria.

Mount Vernon has it all.

Bike Trail

For bicyclists, the Mount Vernon Bike Trail is a 17-mile paved trail from the Mount Vernon Plantation to the Key Bridge in Rosslyn. The trail is relatively flat and shaded in many spots, and it links to several other trails that go west into Fairfax County or east across the Woodrow Wilson Bridge to National Harbor. This trail is maintained by the National Park Service and is open year-round.

Potomac Riverkeeper

This river is a treasure to many in the watersports crowd, but it's also a carrier of garbage from points north, and that's where Dean Naujoks, the area's Potomac Riverkeeper focuses his efforts.

"Single use plastics," is just one culprit Naujoks' has on his radar. "Trash and single-use plastics entering the river through storm drains also poses a very serious problem and is a growing source of pollution for the Potomac River, the Bay and our Oceans," said Naujoks. He cited a Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee report "the Chesapeake Bay watershed contains numerous urban and suburban areas that, via storm drains, are sources of plastic waste" to the Potomac River and bay ecosystems. Over fertilizing and improperly disposed pet waste are on his radar too.

Naujoks started his environmental work as the riverkeeper for other rivers in the North Carolina area before joining Potomac Riverkeeper Network in 2015 as the Potomac Riverkeeper responsible for the stretch of river that includes Mount Vernon.

Hot Housing Market

All signs point skyward in the real estate market for Northern Virginia. It has been this way throughout the summer and data points to it being a sellers market in Alexan-



River Farm is prime land on the banks of the Potomac River.



Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon) tried his hand at pickleball.

dria, Mount Vernon and Fairfax County.

According to the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors, the average price of a home in August was at \$697,334 which is up 4.4 percent.

The average price of a home in Arlington is \$741,020, and in Alexandria, it's \$653,329.

The good news to a newcomer is that there is more out there to choose from. There were 2,337 homes sold in the NVAR region, representing a 1.7% increase above the number of homes sold in August of last year according to Bright MLS, the region's multiple listing service. The number of total

listings in the NVAR region was about 26% higher than last August, with 2,678 homes available for sale.

Old Mount Vernon High School Project

Dating back to 1939, the Original Mount Vernon High School stood as a classic example of Colonial Revival architecture and was listed on the National Registry of Historic Places in May 2018. It is now being trans-

SEE FEATURES AND ISSUES, PAGE 14

VIEWPOINTS

What do you like best about living in Mount Vernon?

PHOTOS AND VIEWPOINTS BY
MIKE SALMON/THE GAZETTE



"I love the Mount Vernon Trail, I love to walk it, bike it, it's magical."

— Gabrielle Kaufman, Alexandria, Volunteer with National Opera



"Fort Hunt Park, it's quiet, a place of my childhood, I like to go when it's snowing."

— Rebecca Stites, Mount Vernon, retired zookeeper



"The community, it feels very homely, you feel at home, the sense of community and family."

— Peter Navarrete, Roseinas worker, parents are owners



"George Washington's house, and the walk by the river, the deer roaming around my backyard."

— Barbara Mathews-Gieleszky, Mount Vernon, mom and textile designer

NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

Supporting Local Businesses Connects You With the Community

BY HOLLY HICKS DOUGHERTY
PRESIDENT, MOUNT VERNON LEE CHAMBER

Welcome to your new home in this community. You will be looking for new stores, restaurants and professional services and the Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce can help you connect with quality local businesses. Everything you need can be found locally.

The local business community consists of small unique retailers, family-owned and operated service providers, and large national chains. A directory of businesses connected to the community is found on the Chamber website <https://mountvernonleechamber.org>.

This community is a place rich in history and natural beauty with close proximity to our nation's capital and national defense installations. It is a place where you can live, work, play, worship and feel a sense of community.

Representing local businesses, the Chamber's Board of Directors has as its priorities encouraging economic growth, advocating for business needs, and helping businesses develop trusting relationships and increased visibility.

From I-95 and east, Fairfax County has seen significant economic growth in the past twenty years. Some development resulted from the growth at Fort Belvoir, which is now the largest employer in Fairfax County.

Other growth is coming from zoning changes now in place including the Embark Comprehensive Plan Amendment, Opportunity Zones, Richmond Highway widening, a new Bus Rapid Transit System, and the Economic Incentive Program for tax abatement on new development. Projects in the development pipeline may also be found on the Chamber website <https://mountvernonleechamber.org/economic-development>.



The Chamber's leadership class visited Richmond during the General Assembly session and discussed important business issues with Senator Scott Surovell and other elected officials.



The Shops at Belle View have many locally owned and operated unique stores.

The Chamber has worked with elected officials and community stakeholders to help mold these initiatives in a way that will benefit the community while preserving neighborhoods and businesses.

As legislative issues rise the Chamber carefully considers the impact and reaches



Village Hardware in Hollin Hall Shopping Center is loved by locals who appreciate the personal help along with quality products at the store.

out to our elected officials to communicate the needs and concerns of local businesses. Sharing important information on resources and new guidelines during Covid has been a Chamber priority. These resources may be found at <https://cca.mountvernonleechamber.org/covid-19.aspx>



Local business DeLune Corp. provided needed commodities for local food banks and food distribution efforts. Left, Stanley Koussis, Chamber chairman; Alison DeCourcy, United Community; Rodney Lusk, Lee District Supervisor; Gaddafi Ismail, DeLune Corp.



Local restaurants like The Skrimp Shack in Mount Vernon Plaza are open and ready to serve delicious food. The Skrimp Shack is Veteran owned and operated.

Mount Vernon Lee Chamber is ready to be a resource to you in your new home.

Teen Center Opens, Offering Options for Learning and Recreation

County saves historic structure and land from the development monster.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

Dating back to 1939, the Original Mount Vernon High School stood as a classic example of Colonial Revival architecture and was listed on the National Registry of Historic Places in May 2018.

On Sept. 22, 2021, the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services, along with Supervisor Dan Storck and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, cut the ribbon on this center, dubbed the South County Teen and Senior Centers at a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by many.

Back in 1939, the school was part of President Roosevelt's "New Deal," program, and now there's even a newer deal in the form of an adaptive reuse plan by the county.

The approximately 140,000-square-foot facility consisting of the main high school building and several smaller buildings to the

west and south is being used to complement this part of Mount Vernon and provide a new outlet for learning.

Officials on hand to celebrate the event included Supervisor Dan Storck (D- Mount Vernon), Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeffrey C. McKay (D), Supervisor Rodney Lusk (D-Lee), Mount Vernon District School Board Representative Karen Corbett Sanders, NCS Director Lloyd Tucker, and Department of Public Works and Environmental Services Director Chris Harrington. Afterward, there were tours of the facility.

Fairfax County acquired the historic Original Mount Vernon High School, located at 8333 Richmond Highway, in fall 2016 and started the project with a renovation of a 9,000-square-foot portion of the building for the Teen and Senior Centers core. The combined centers serve as a multigenerational facility to accommodate clients of diverse ages and abilities. The vision was to



The ribbon cut is at the door to the new community facilities in the Old Mount Vernon High School.

create shared, multi-generational community spaces for "Pathways to Opportunity," efforts through education, workforce development and life skills development programs at the center. In addition, the plan is to be an incubator for nonprofits and

businesses to develop in the area. A second phase of long-term development is currently underway.

This project is managed by the Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

Local Nonprofits

Many nonprofits in the city and nearby need your help to continue to rise to the need during the dual health and economic crisis of the pandemic.

There are literally hundreds, probably thousands, of ways to give locally, financially, food and other goods, volunteer time. Here are a few ideas. Please let us know what we have missed.

Where to Give Locally

❖ **ALIVE! Alexandria**; 2723 King St, Alexandria, VA 22302; 703-837-9300; ALIVE! serves thousands Alexandrians annually with shelter; low-cost early childhood education and childcare; financial help for rent, utilities, medical care and other critical needs; emergency food; and deliveries of donated furniture and houseware. www.alive-inc.org

❖ **Alice's Kids** (@alicewillhelp) aliceskids.org P.O. Box 60, Mount Vernon, VA 22121 When a child is raised in poverty they suffer both publicly and privately. When there is no food in the refrigerator, no electricity or heat, these are hardships that they can keep hidden from their peers. But, when that same child can't afford to pay for the band field trip, a pair of glasses, a chorus outfit or a new pair of shoes, these are indignities that are evident to their classmates. Alice's Kids pays for these relatively inexpensive items in the hopes of preserving the dignity of the child. It helps children from all over the Mount Vernon area through small acts of kindness. Alice's Kids aliceskids.org 703.746.8108 contact@aliceskids.org

❖ **At Home in Alexandria (AHA)** is a nonprofit village that builds and sustains a 55+ community to successfully navigate aging. Together, we share activities, programs and services, including access to needed assistance. Our vision is for AHA to be an advocate for older Alexandrians to live safe, active and connected lives. AHA is a membership organization, which means you pay an annual membership fee that, in turn, entitles you to request services from AHA for an entire year. These services include transportation, errands, technical support, light maintenance, organizing and decluttering, short-term pet or lawn care, and much more. 3139 Mt. Vernon Ave. Alexandria, VA 22305-2669 (703) 231-0824 Email: aha@athomeinalexandria.org Website: www.athomeinalexandria.org

❖ **Animal Welfare League of Alexandria**, 703-746-4774, www.alexandrianimals.org, Pet adoptions, spay and neuter assistance, education and community service and outreach.

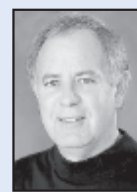
❖ **ACT for Alexandria**, 703-739-7778, www.actforalexandria.org, Nonprofit and donor services.

❖ **Alexandria Tutoring Consortium**, 703-549-6670 ext. 119

<https://alexandriatutors.org/>, Tutoring for Alexandria City Public Schools kindergarten and first grade students who are struggling to read. Mission: To help Alexandria City Public School students read on or above grade level by the end of kindergarten and first grade. Donate now to fund its mission of making sure that every child in Alexandria can read and succeed.

❖ **Assistance League of Northern Virginia** is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization that feeds, clothes and educates children in need. As a result of closures relating to the coronavirus, the organization has reshaped its

SEE GIVE LOCALLY, PAGE 8



Rex Reiley
RE/MAX Allegiance
703-768-7730
rex.reiley@rmxtalk.com

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4



Wellington Estates \$694,500
7968 Bolling Drive

A wonderful opportunity for someone who is looking for a rare one-level Rambler in the coveted community of Wellington Estates which has homes selling in the upper \$600,000s to as high as \$1,600,000! You can move into this charming 3 bedroom, 3 bath home & update to match your specific taste, or... If you are a contractor you can do a complete remodel & flip. Or...like many contractors have done in this community, you can start over & build a 1.5-million-dollar home like the neighbors across the street which just sold for \$1,625,000. One block to the bike path & GW Pkwy-8 mins to Old Town, Alex, 15-20 mins to National Airport & 25-30 mins to the Pentagon & D.C. Take advantage of this wonderful home, location & endless possibilities! Home being sold AS IS -



Vienna/Acadia Condo \$382,500
9480 Virginia Center Blvd. Unit 120

Beautiful 2BR, 2BA Condo located in South Vienna. Good Sized Bedrooms each with their own walk-in closet and bath. Kitchen is open to the eating area and family room & has beautiful corian countertops. Attractive laminated flooring through the kitchen, family room and hallways.

Don't miss the office station and the lovely balcony off the family room. 2 convenient garage spaces below are reserved for this unit. Tremendous community amenities highlighted by a wonderful swimming pool, gym, recreational room and office room. Finally, a perfect location with quick and easy access to Rt. 66, 495 and Rt. 50. If you want to leave your car behind, a quick 2 block walk will put you at the Vienna Metro Station. This wonderful property can be yours to enjoy!!



Alex/Mt. Vernon \$412,500
4125 Buckman Road

Contractors/Investors, come take a look at this beautiful potential work of art. A traditional Cape Cod: 4BRs, 2BAs & a full sized, unfinished basement that is waiting for you to work your magic on. What will also get you excited is the gorgeous .49A lot! It adds so much charm & has just the right number of trees & open spaces. Many

years ago, the owners had a nice firepit adjacent to a volleyball court & hosted many parties there-- it is perfect for entertaining both friends & family. There is constant bird activity around the feeders & just the other day, while sitting on the deck w/the owners, we watched a beautiful Doe graze in the backyard. Great location: 5-minute drive to Ft. Belvoir (S), 15 minutes to Huntington Metro & Old Town (N), 27 minutes to National Airport (N), & 30-35 minutes to Pentagon/D.C. (N). Finally, adjacent to the house is an oversized 1 car garage w/room for both your car & a workshop. This house & lot has so much potential & is waiting for the right person to come along & to restore it to its beautiful former life. Selling "As Is" @ \$414,900 & looking for a cash buyer. Come by & take a look.



For more information: www.RexReiley.com

Each Office Independently Owned and Operated



MOUNT VERNON DISTRICT

Meet Your MVD TEAM!

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 issues in our community.
- Communicating meetings and events happening near you.
- Answering questions about voting, property, roads, taxes, public safety, health & human services, solid waste, recycling and more!
- Bilingual staff in Spanish and Greek.



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

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Thursday: 5 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Second Saturday Each Month:

MV District Office: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Walk-ins and by appointment



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NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE



Artwork is on display at the Ward home in Hollins Hills.



Attendees wait to tour the Ward home on Marthas Road home as part of the Sept. 25 Hollin Hills House + Garden tour.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/THE GAZETTE

Hollin Hills Heaven

House + Garden tour makes sold-out return.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE GAZETTE

The historic community of Hollin Hills played host to more than 1,500 visitors during a sold-out House + Garden tour that featured 13 of the 450 distinctive homes designed by noted mid-century modern architect Charles Goodman.

The Marthas Road home of Ann and Richard Ward was one of the featured destinations on the Sept. 25 self-guided walking tour.

"We are the third owners of the property," said the Wards of the 1957-built home they have named Hilltop. "We believe Hilltop is a pivotal and masterful example of Good-

man's architectural and artistic genius. His concepts and the principles of design to which he adhered are clearly manifested and reflected here."

The Ward home, which has 140 windows, showcased an impressive art collection including several significant pieces in an outdoor sculpture garden.

With homes built between 1946 and 1971, the Hollin Hills community was the brainchild of Goodman and developer Charles Davenport. Groundbreaking for its time, the neighborhood is now on the National Register of Historic Places and is a Virginia Landmark Historic District.

Presented by the Civic Association of Hollin Hills, the House + Garden tour is the largest tour of mid-century homes on the East coast. It is traditionally held every two years and returned this year after the 2020 tour was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. www.hollinhillsmodern.com



Visitors in the kitchen of the Ward home in Hollin Hills.



Visitors tour one of the living spaces in the Ward home on Marthas Road.



The pool area of the Ward home in Hollin Hills.



A feature wall of art in the Ward home in Hollin Hills.



A colorful bedroom space in a Marthas Road home.

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NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

Welcome to the Mount Vernon District

BY DAN STORCK
MOUNT VERNON SUPERVISOR

Welcome to the Mount Vernon District! While it has been a challenging COVID year, and an eventful year in Mount Vernon, we have come together as friends and neighbors coming together to protect and support each other. Thank you to everyone who has gotten their vaccine – over 80% of Fairfax residents over the age of 18 are vaccinated! If you are not, please consider doing so as soon as possible.

Recently, we celebrated the ribbon cutting for the new Teen and Senior Centers at Original Mount Vernon High School (OMVHS), the reopening of Belle View Shopping Center and the unveiling of the Ona Judge Historic Marker at Mount Vernon Estate. We continue to work to Save River Farm, plan for the Penn Daw Fire Station, Emergency and Affordable Housing at Beacon Hill and, finally, the long-awaited safety improvements to the GW Parkway are beginning.

Planning continues for the revitalization of the Richmond Highway corridor with a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system and future urban living with ecologically sensitive, walkable, livable neighborhoods. A focus on communi-



ty development, preservation of existing community character, urban design and a variety of transportation modes will bring new residents, businesses and partnerships to the corridor. In Mount Vernon where our history and heritage are very important to us, careful planning for redevelopment is central to ensuring all who live here will continue to be able to do so.

Even if you are new to the area, 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).

Our area abounds with parks and recreational opportunities. Put on your walking or running shoes and head to River Farm or Huntley Meadows. Spend the day paddling on one of the many rivers and creeks at Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve or Belle Haven Park. Ride some of the best bike trails in Northern Virginia on the Mount Vernon Memorial Trail and at Fort Hunt Park 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/.

If sightseeing and history are your interests, visit George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate, the Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House or the Grist Mill, to name a few. If arts and culture inspire your creative spirit, spend a day at the Workhouse Arts Center. 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.

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 here to answer your questions and will respond within two business days. Email us at MTVernon@FairfaxCounty.gov, call 703-780-7518 or stop by our office at 2511 Parkers Lane, Mount Vernon. I also have extended office hours to meet with you on Thursdays and the second Saturday of each month, walk-ins and appointments are always welcomed. I invite you to join us for our upcoming annual signature events: Tour de Mount Vernon Community Bike Ride on Oct. 23; Holiday Open House on Dec. 9;

Mount Vernon District Town Meeting on Feb. 12; and Environment Expo on April 23.

You have chosen a great place to live, educate your family, 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/) 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. More information about the Mount Vernon District can be found in our Newcomer Guide.

Links:

<https://www.saveriverfarm.com/>
<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/capital-projects/penn-daw-fire-station-and-supportive-housing>
<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning-development/embark-richmond-highway>
<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/capital-projects/original-mount-vernon-high-school>
<https://www.mountvernon.org/>
<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mount-vernon/tour-de-mount-vernon-2021>

Welcome to the Lee District

BY RODNEY LUSK
LEE DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

On behalf of Fairfax County, and especially Lee District, I welcome you to our community. Lee District is a uniquely diverse and vibrant community. As a 20-year resident of the district, I never cease to be amazed by the strength of the relationships throughout the neighborhoods in Lee. I take incredible pride in representing such an invested and engaged community.

I'm particularly proud of the beautiful parks and recreation amenities in Lee. Huntley Meadows in Alexandria, for example, offers fantastic opportunities for observing wildlife and experiencing our County's truly

unique natural resources. The Lee District Recreation Center boasts many outdoor activity spaces, including tennis and softball fields, as well as an indoor pool, fitness center, and gymnasium.

Additionally, there are several exciting projects underway in Lee District: First is the expansion of the Inova Springfield Hospital. The patient-centered medical campus will bring many new jobs and opportunities to the area while also expanding and elevating the level of care provided to the community.

Another project currently underway is the redevelopment of the Historic Richmond Highway Corridor. It will begin with the addition of the Bus Rapid Transit. The BRT, as we call it, will increase connectivity between

the two ends of the highway, provide safe, reliable transportation for those who do not own a vehicle or cannot drive, and offer a convenient alternative to reduce carbon emissions along the corridor.

Richmond Highway will also soon feature an Emerging Tech Center focused on attracting business and talent in the tech industry. In addition to providing job training to residents who are looking to switch careers or level-up their skills, this innovative center will expand the boundaries of human learning and serve as an inspirational, creative space for the designing and launching of new technologies. The goal is to shift the mostly retail job market the corridor now offers to a robust, high skill, high paying job market. The Emerging Tech Center will be housed

in a newly renovated 50,000-square-foot facility that will serve as a community center, providing recreational amenities, youth programming, and other needed services to residents in the surrounding communities. My office will continue to provide updates as we move through different phases of the various projects.

Finally, I want to highlight the hidden gem that is the Franconia Museum. Located at the Franconia Governmental Center, the one room museum features artifacts, books, and pictures that trace the history of Franconia and surrounding neighborhoods since the early 1900s. I encourage anyone, and especially newcomers, to visit. The Franconia Museum is open on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesday 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Where to Give Locally

FROM PAGE 5

Weekend Food For Kids program to assist the struggling families of the students we serve. Since April, Assistance League has provided 1031 grocery store gift cards, valued at more than \$20,000, for four of the Title I schools that we serve in Fairfax and Prince William Counties and the City of Alexandria. Contact info@alnv.org or visit www.alnv.org

❖ Bethany House, 6121 Lincoln Rd #303, Alexandria, VA 22312; 703-658-9500; <http://www.bhnhv.org/>; Bethany House provides emergency shelter and supportive services to victims of domestic violence throughout Northern Virginia and the surrounding DC metro communities.

❖ The Campagna Center, 703-549-0111, www.campagnacenter.org, Educational and social development programs for children, teens, and adults.

❖ Carpenter's Shelter, 703 548-7500, www.carpentersshelter.org, Homeless services and programs including education and case management.

❖ Center for Alexandria's Children, 703-838-4381, www.centerforalexandriaschildren.org, Child abuse and neglect and parent support.

❖ Child and Family Network Centers, 703-836-0214, www.cfnc-online.org, Provides caring, high-quality, free early education and related services to at-risk children and their families in their own neighborhoods to prepare them for success in school and life

❖ Community Lodgings, Inc., 703-549-4407 Transitional and affordable housing, youth education, adult edu-

cation, bilingual staff assistance.

❖ The Community Foundation of Northern Virginia, www.cfnova.org The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia works to respond to critical need and seed innovation in the region. Make grants in its focus areas of interest while also bringing a spotlight on the benefits of community philanthropists.

❖ Computer C.O.R.E. 703-931-7346, www.computercore.org, Adult education, computer training and career development. Email: info@computercore.org

❖ Comfort for America's Unemployed Services (CAUSE) ensures that recuperating service members have opportunities for recreation and social interaction and receive concrete signs of appreciation for all that they have done. Mailing address: 4201 Wilson Blvd., #110-284, Arlington, VA 22203, CFC #33011, Phone 703-591-4965, cause-usa.org

❖ Hopkins House, 703-549-8072, www.hopkinshouse.org, Preschool academy, family budget SEE GIVE LOCALLY, PAGE 11

NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE 2021

About the Alexandria Gazette Packet and Sister Papers in 2021

This year, 2021 in the time of the pandemic, has been brutal for so many. Life is vastly different than it was pre-pandemic.

Families of all backgrounds are facing food insecurity and demand at food pantries has skyrocketed.

Thousands of families could be facing eviction.

Many small businesses are still in economic crisis, and some employees are facing unemployment.

Local newspapers, including the Gazette Packet and the Connection Newspapers, are facing an existential threat from the combination of nationwide downturn in newspaper advertising that has been worsening over several years, compounded by the economic crisis of coronavirus.

We turned to GoFundMe at a critical point, and our readers answered, raising nearly \$50,000 to get us through a terrible time until we received some PPP funding. We thank all who gave, as well as all who wished us well.

Now, though, we are back to great difficulty. Revenue has not nearly rebounded to pre-pandemic levels, and we are going to need more help to keep going. We have

applied for Rebuild VA funds, but the timing is uncertain and certainly not when we needed it (in the summer). We will renew calls for contributions shortly to try to carry on.

We will also likely begin a membership program soon, so watch for new links. Here is the link to the past GoFundMe which is still working. <https://www.gofundme.com/f/save-america-oldest-newspaper>

IN THE MIDST of this, we at the Gazette Packet and Connection still hear the call to continue to serve our communities. We still seek to fulfill our mission by continuing to publish, even with reduced resources. It's still our mission to provide information about where to get help and how to help; to disseminate information about the virus and efforts to stem its spread; to tell the stories of those who are helping, of those who are hungry; of those who have gotten sick with the virus, of those who are caring for the sick; and those who are performing essential jobs, from grocery clerk to firefighter to nurses and doctors. It's still our mission to tell the sto-

Mount Vernon Gazette SENIOR LIVING

NPS Safety Changes To Begin on G.W. Parkway



The National Park Service has announced safety changes along the G.W. Parkway to improve traffic flow and safety. The changes include one-way traffic on the parkway, which will be implemented in the fall of 2021. The parkway is a major thoroughfare in Mount Vernon, and the changes are expected to reduce congestion and improve safety for all users.

Down with Plastic Bags

Alexandria City Council has passed a resolution to ban single-use plastic bags from city-owned facilities. The ban is intended to reduce waste and promote environmental sustainability. The resolution applies to all city-owned facilities, including libraries, community centers, and government offices. The ban is expected to take effect in the fall of 2021.

communities.

We publish photos and notes about personal milestones and community events, including births, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, awards and obituaries. Tell us: how are you surviving in the pandemic?

We also publish notes about news and events from local businesses. Notes about openings, new employees and anniversaries are welcome.

For many months, there were no calendar listings in our papers. Everything was cancelled. Now there is a return of many face-to-face events. If you are planning an event, we appreciate getting notice at least two weeks ahead of the event, and we encourage photos.

Your community weekly newspaper, the Gazette, is published by the independent, locally owned Local Media Connection LLC, serving the suburbs of Metropolitan Washington in Northern Virginia and Potomac, Md. This is our flagship paper, the Alexandria Gazette Packet, and is one of the oldest continuously publishing papers in the country, beginning publication in 1784.

We suffered a tragedy recently here at the papers, the unexpected death of our beloved Managing Editor Kemal Kurspahic. He died of a stroke following minor surgery.

Kemal Kurspahic was the legendary wartime editor of the daily newspaper in Sarajevo, Oslobodjenje. You can read some of the story of his life and how we came to be lucky enough to have him in our newsroom for decades in his obituary, <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2021/sep/22/courage-journalism/>.

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For more locations and times:
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44th House District

★ CRITICAL RACE THEORY / EDUCATION

I oppose anti-American indoctrination and want to focus on academics

No more teaching hatred and division to our children in the name of "equity" and One Fairfax, official policies adopted by Fairfax County and FCPS.

★ OPEN SCHOOLS

I fully support parental rights and in person learning

I will fight to keep our schools open, for vouchers and for school choice. Money follows the student.

★ PUBLIC SAFETY

I will NEVER vote to defund the police

We must fully support our men and women in uniform who protect and serve. I will vote for qualified immunity and increased funding to include pay hikes. I fully support Second Amendment rights.

★ PROTECT THE MOST VULNERABLE

I will be your champion in Richmond!

I respect the sanctity of life at all stages. I believe educational opportunities for our special needs students must be expanded. I will proudly stand against extremist DEMOCRATS who support physician assisted suicide and infanticide.

haydenfordelegate.com



Lucky To Call Fairfax County Home

BY JEFF MCKAY
CHAIRMAN, FAIRFAX COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Welcome to Fairfax County. You are moving here under unusual and unprecedented times. That said, this last year and a half reminded me why I'm proud to lead Fairfax County as Chairman of the Board of Supervisors and why I have been so fortunate to be able to call it home for all of my life.

In Fairfax County, we take COVID-19 and vaccinating our population seriously. As of Sept. 24, 2021, we are proud to have 81.2% of people over the age of 18 vaccinated with at least one dose and 83.6% of adolescents 12-17 vaccinated similarly with at least one dose. While we have made great strides in slowing the spread of COVID-19, Fairfax County is experiencing a high transmission of COVID-19 cases due to the infectious Delta variant. Unfortunately, there are many (particularly young students) who are not eligible to be vaccinated. We need everyone to do their part and get vaccinated to help protect those who are not able. This is especially important to keeping our students in school. Schedule your appointment at <http://vaccine.gov/>

As we navigated (and continue to navigate)



the pandemic, Fairfax County has been on the frontlines of providing the support our residents and businesses need. Thanks to federal dollars, our Board of Supervisors has invested millions to help get people back on their feet through emergency rental and food assistance. We have awarded \$87 million in grants for small businesses and non-profits who have been impacted. We deliberately targeted

businesses that historically don't have access to these types of funding opportunities, including veteran- women- and minority-owned organizations.

Now, it's time to look to recovery. We will continue to target our efforts to make sure families have the access to assistance they need. This is particularly important in the portions of the County most hit by COVID.

We have exciting projects down the pipeline for our businesses including the Fairfax Founders Fund which will provide capital to entrepreneurs in the County who are focused on emerging technologies and will be targeted towards those who have less access to capital.

In addition, in line with the One Fairfax policy I co-authored in 2017, which puts equity at the center to every decision we make, I convened a Task Force on Equity and Opportunity. It was clear from the inequities of the pandemic

coupled with the movement fighting for racial justice that it was time to take the next step. My Task Force looked at systemic obstacles standing in the way of equity and recently provided its recommendations to the Board.

Despite all the uncertainty around us, we are lucky to live in Fairfax County. We have a caring and diverse population and great resources. For example, we have 23,000 acres of parkland, which includes 427 public parks and 325 miles of trails to enjoy when you want to be outside safely. One of my favorite escapes has been Huntley Meadows Park in my neighborhood. It makes me thankful for our continued investment in our greenspaces and efforts to protect the environment.

Navigating this pandemic has not been a straight path forward. We have had to pivot to save lives. Over time we have made significant investments in our infrastructure that have well positioned us to respond. Our sophisticated Health Department, first responders, and County frontline workers are all dedicated to our community. Their work has been exceptional and remind us why a responsive, well-run government is essential in times like these.

As we navigate a world beyond COVID-19, we will continue to fight for what's important: investing in people, programs, education, and creating a Fairfax that works for everyone, just as we have always done. Our community will make it through this together. Fairfax County is a great place to live and work and I hope that you quickly feel at home.

FCPS: Opportunities to Shine in Every Area

BY DR. SCOTT BRABRAND
SUPERINTENDENT, FCPS

Welcome to Fairfax County Public Schools! We are so glad you are here. No matter where you are coming from, or what your children's interests may be, we are confident we can meet your family's needs.

FCPS is home to students from 204 countries, who speak more than 200 languages. Our more than 180,000 students come to us from a variety of backgrounds: 15 percent receive special education services, 19 percent participate in English for Speakers of Other Languages classes and 31 percent are economically disadvantaged.

While here, there are opportunities for students to shine in every area: These past few months alone, we were home to a student who placed 21st in the Scripps National Spelling Bee, multiple National Science Bee winners, a Time for Kids student journalist finalist and an International Society of Bassists solo performance competition winner.

Our students are also having a positive impact on our communities: Some have succeeded in getting historical markers erected to honor Black Virginians, digging into history to find and nominate people worthy of recognition by the state. Stu-

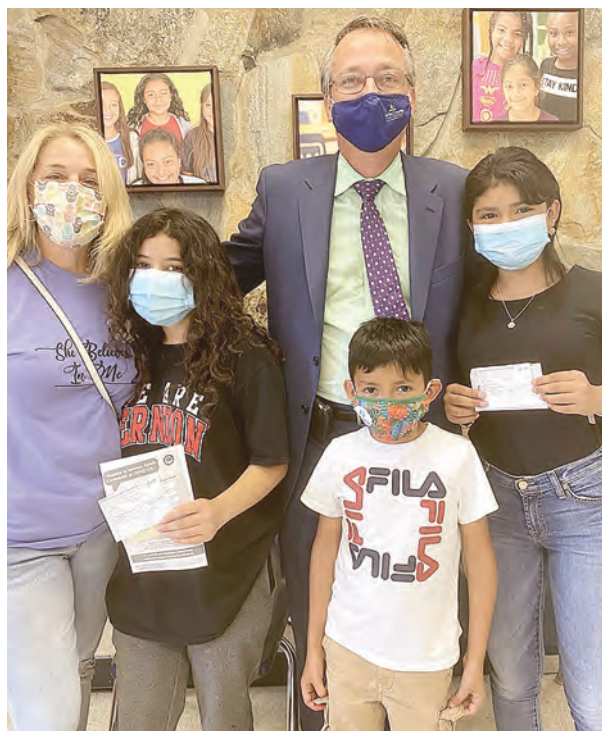


PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON

From left, Renee Gorman; Kimberlin Jiminez, 13; Scott Brabrand, superintendent, Fairfax County Public Schools; Hansel Molina; and Jeimmy Molina take a congratulatory photo after Kimberlin and Jeimmy receive their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine in August.

dents in elementary and high schools alike spent the past year growing produce on school grounds to help supply local food banks amid food security issues exacerbated by the pandemic. This month alone, some have created a guide to help Afghan refugee students acclimate and assist our staff in meeting their needs.

They conclude their time in our district with impressive accomplishments too. FCPS students last year took almost 16,000 advanced placement exams that can result in college credit. They outperformed their Virginia and national peers this year with an average SAT score of 1201; and 214 students from 16 high schools were named National Merit Semifinalists. Those enrolled in our Career and Technical Education program helped build a new home in Springfield that sold for more than \$1 million, staffed emergency rescue teams and repaired vehicles.

We still cheer for our students after they graduate too. This summer we had the pleasure of rooting for FCPS grads in the Tokyo Olympics: our Olympian alums competed in swimming, track and rifle shooting.

I truly believe there is a place for everyone within FCPS.

We look forward to your children joining our community and helping them reach their potential and find their passion.

Mount Vernon Gazette

www.MountVernonGazette.com

@MtVernonGazette

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A Connection Newspaper



Where To Give Locally

FROM PAGE 8

getting and literacy, family education and youth summer enrichment camp, Early Childhood Learning Institute.

❖ Literacy Council of Northern Virginia, 703-237-0866, www.lcnv.org, Teaches adults the basic skills of reading, writing, speaking and understanding English.

❖ Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center, an all-volunteer, 501(c)(3) nonprofit, serves as a safety net for clients of the CSB who encounter extraordinary or emergency financial needs. Able to devote more than 98 percent of the donations and grants to direct client support and co-sponsorship of free public educational programs. bit.ly/friendsoftheAMHC

❖ Neighborhood Health, 6677 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, VA 22306. Partners with patients to treat the whole person through medical, behavioral health and dental programs. Ten clinics throughout region. Participating with all insurance including commercial, Medicare, and Medicaid, 703-535-5568, www.neighborhoodhealthva.org

❖ Northern Virginia Family Services, www.nvfs.org, Employment and job training, healthcare, housing, mental health, foster care and Healthy Families. 571-748-2500

❖ Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC) seeks to provide low-income individuals, senior citizens, and families residing in Fort Belvoir, Lorton, Newington and other portions of southeast Fairfax County with access to basic needs and the opportunity to empower themselves through LCAC's self-sufficiency programs. <https://lortonaction.org>

❖ Lost Dog & Cat Rescue Foundation helps homeless pets find their way into loving homes through rescue and adoption. We offer same-day adoptions and two-week trial periods. All pets are spayed or neutered prior to adoption. lostdogrescue.org

❖ Mount Vernon At Home, 703-303-4060, www.mountvernonathome.org. Mount Vernon At Home membership helps connect senior members of our community, neighbors helping neighbors with volunteer support. Mount Vernon at Home has stepped up its efforts to help members stay safe, secure, and connected during the pandemic crisis. More grocery shopping and errand services to members; online activities and support for members to access these new technologies; members check in with members by phone regularly; weekly email newsletters with helpful, important and enjoyable items to keep members connected during this time.

❖ NAMI Northern Virginia (National Alliance on Mental Illness) works to raise awareness and provide education, advocacy, and support programs for people living with mental illness, families, students, educators, law enforcement, and the public throughout our neighborhoods. Many excellent programs. NAMI Northern Virginia serves Fairfax, Falls Church, Arlington, Alexandria, and Loudoun www.nami-northernvirginia.org/HelpLine: 571-458.7310, Email: info@nami-nova.org

❖ National Capital Food Bank, 6833 Hill Park Drive, Lorton, serving all of Northern Virginia, (571) 482-

SEE GIVE LOCALLY, PAGE 15

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



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Cross County Trail Connects Pathways, History, and People



Friends J.J. Dickinson, Susan Lesley, and Kim McCleskey, meet regularly to walk the cross county trail for exercise and friendship. (Aug. 2020)

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/GAZETTE PACKET

BY SUSAN LAUME
GAZETTE PACKET

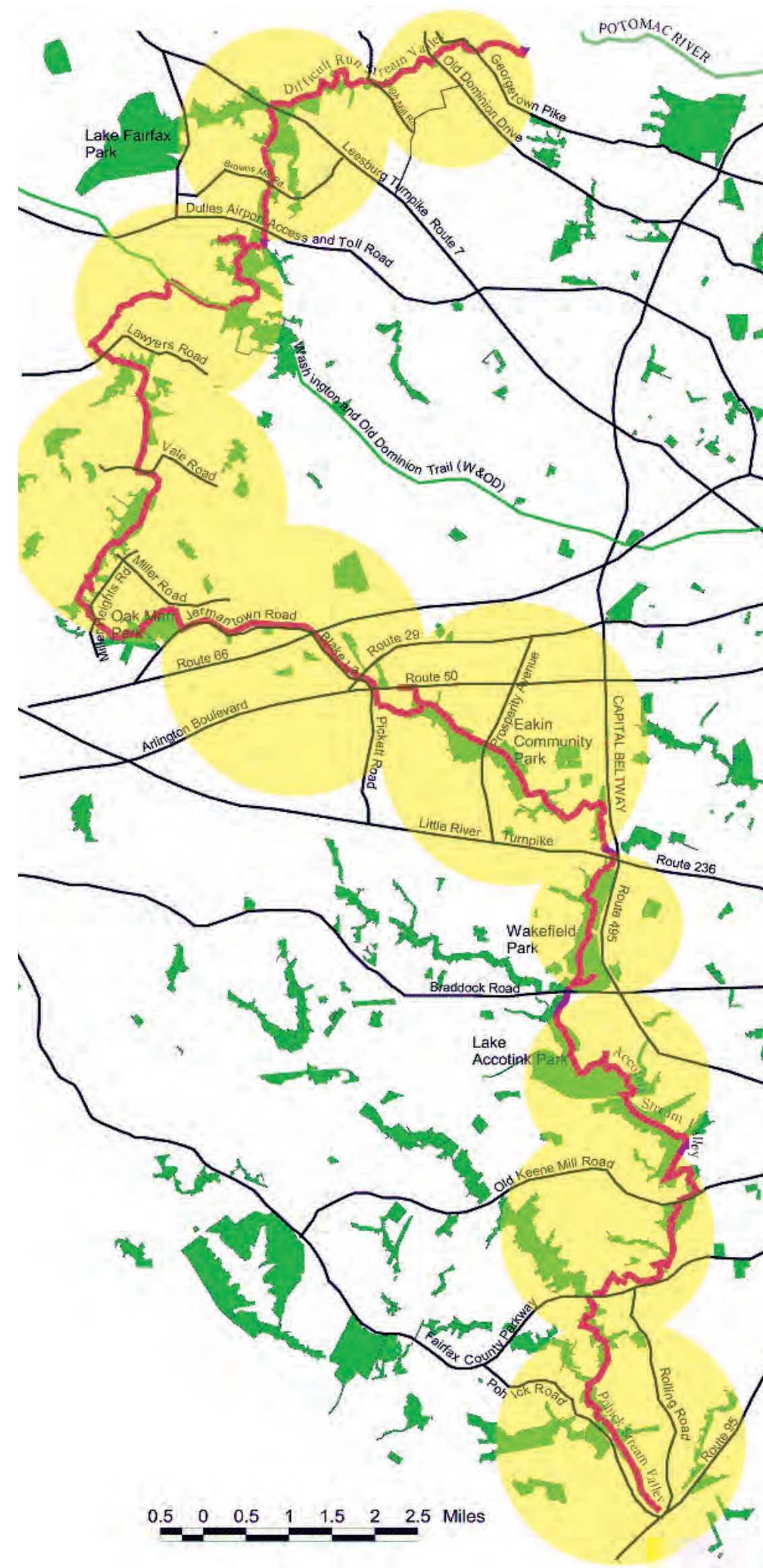
Stretching in a long, meandering ribbon of green, the Gerry Connolly Cross County Trail runs north and south for the length of Fairfax County from the Potomac River to the Occoquan River, linking parks, stream valleys, nature trails. The trail was conceptualized by citizen activists and supported by then Board of Supervisors Chairman Gerry Connolly, for whom the trail is named. In 2000, the Board allocated \$900,000 to link what had

been green islands of parkland and trails. Today the trail system, over 40 miles long, provides a meandering green oasis within a county undergoing rapid urbanization. The trail helps protect streams and wetlands as it passes along water, meadows, and through development, often linking people as well as parkland.

Most of the Cross County Trail runs through stream valley parkland, including some of the county's best and wildest parks, Great Falls, Wakefield and Laurel Hill. Walking provides a good opportunity to see the county's natural beauty. SEE CROSS COUNTRY, PAGE 14



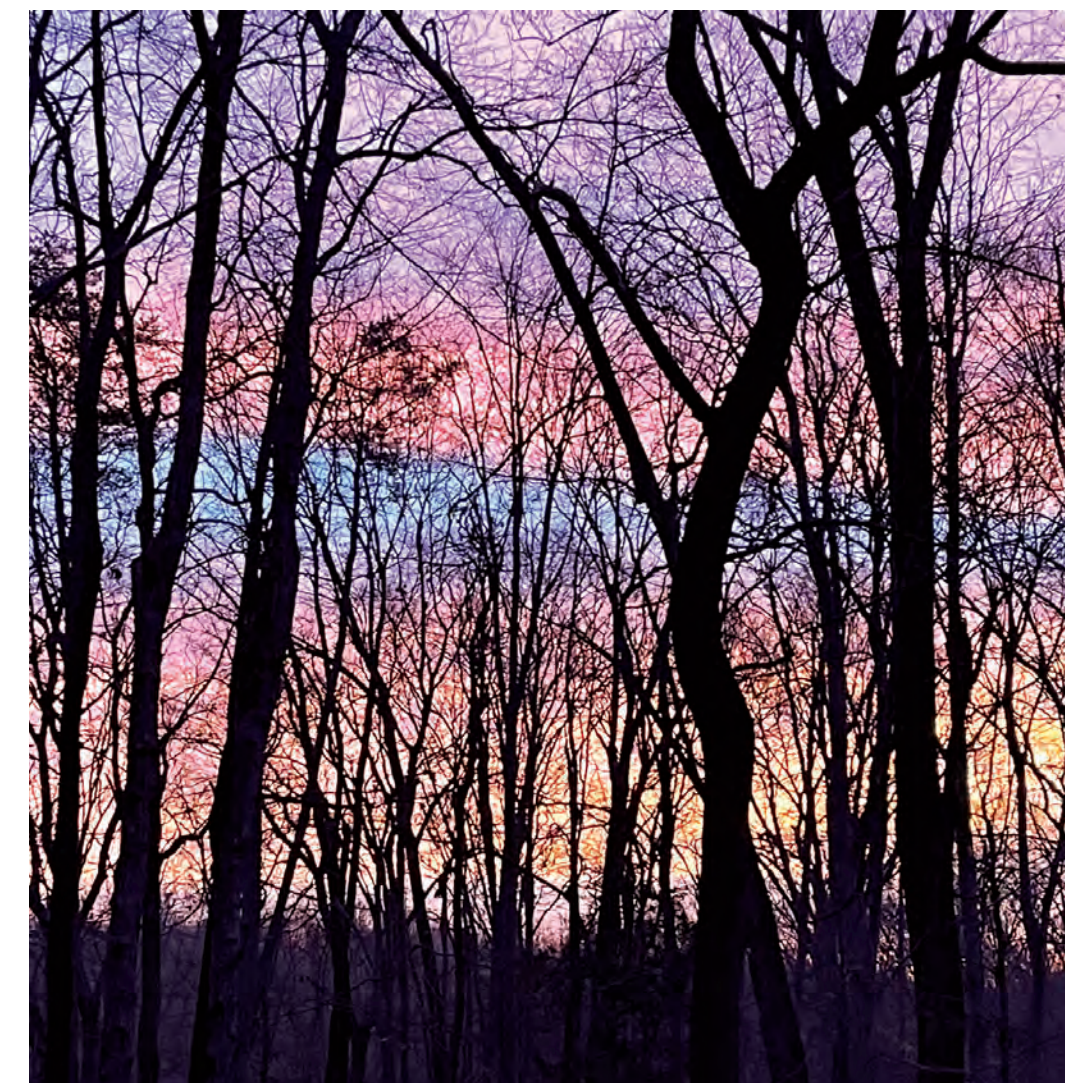
Geologist Cynde Sears points out metagraywacke formed in the Potomac Gorge. (March 2020)



The Gerry Connolly Cross County Trail links green space and parks along Fairfax County stream valleys. More detailed maps are available online. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/trails/cross-county-trail/maps>



The historic Barrel Bridge, built by inmates, now serves cross county trail users where once a rail line moved materials across the Occoquan Workhouse/Lorton Prison grounds (March 2020).



The trail exhibits the beauty of nature to be discovered in all seasons of the year from dawn to sunset. (Jan. 2021).



Friends Nora deGroot and Kaitlyn Meriowsky, volunteer together to have fun while keeping the cross county trail beautiful and building their community service hours (Oct. 2020).

NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE



Stefie Pratt-Green and Levi use an improvement to the fair-weather crossing on the Pohick Stream portion of Gerry Connolly Cross County Trail. (June 2021)



Dog walker Kristen Furman and Carter, are familiar faces to other regular trail users in the Laurel Hill Park section sometimes treating cross county trail friends to homemade doggie ice cream (July 2021).

Cross County Trail Connects Pathways, History, and People

FROM PAGE 13
nity to view a cross section of the county's topography and development, and to get a glimpse into the changes that have occurred to the land over time. Hikers near the Potomac River can see evidence of early geologic shifts that changed the course of the river and created large rock formations, seeing river rock now high on overlook ridges.

The trail is a haven for wildlife of all kinds, making it attractive for those who desire a leisurely stroll observing nature, as well as those using the trail for faster paced exercise, jogging or cycling. In the Spring, midway on the trail within Wakefield Park, Virginia Bluebells blanket the forest floor with their blue and pink flowers. Tadpoles wiggle in vernal trail pools; and one might spot a fawn stashed napping in tall grasses awaiting its mother's return.

All year, in the southern section, the history of the area comes quickly to mind as the brick watchtowers and dairy silos rise high, marking the past of the former Lorton prison and workhouse that operated from 1910 through 2001, now Laurel Hill Park. Evidence of inmate enterprise remains visible in the old buildings scattered through the park, many made from bricks manufactured from clay taken from the nearby Occoquan River.

The Cross County Trail plays a role in building community too. Regular trail users make new acquaintances and strengthen the bonds of existing ones, using the trail as a meeting place for friends exercising together. The park authority notes that users might



Bluebells brighten the cross county trail along Accotink Creek in April/May, (April 2018) one of many species of native wildflowers found along the trail throughout the seasons.

"walk or run, with a child or a pet, ride a bike or a horse." Many friendships have blossomed on the Cross County Trail, along with the wildflowers.

More <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/trails/cross-county-trail>

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/GAZETTE PACKET



River Farm development rumors brought out the protesters last May.

Features and Issues In Mount Vernon Today

FROM PAGE 3
formed into the South County Teen and Senior Center.

The vision is to create shared, multi-generational community spaces for "Pathways to Opportunity," efforts through education, workforce development and life skills development programs at the center. In addition, the plan is for the center to be an incubator for nonprofits and businesses to develop in the area.

Food, Hardware and Variety at Hollin Hills

The Hollin Hills shopping center is a small, outdoor shopping area tucked away from busy Richmond Highway and the George Washington Memorial Parkway in Mount Vernon. There is a combination of retail, dining and gas stations which make it a perfect fit for the surrounding neighborhood.

One attraction is the River Bend Bistro and Wine Bar which offers a selection of dishes and drinks, making it a primo local hangout. They are open for lunch and dinner every day, and have brunch on Sundays.

A few doors down is the pastry shop, open 8 am – 2 pm, the Village Hardware and a variety

store. It all seems just right out of hometown Americana.

Stream Erosion Plan

Throughout Fairfax County, there is a network of streams that flow into the Potomac River, and eventually the Chesapeake Bay. Keeping these many streams flowing and clean is one of the county's goals, and this is where the stream restoration program steps in. Development in the streams' watersheds has caused damage throughout the area. The Soil and Water Conservation District helped pioneer natural channel design stream restoration, now used across the county to prevent pollution loads downstream. This method of stream stabilization was used in Hollin Hills, Kingstowne, Long Branch and Accotink Creek. Many people now say that this method causes even greater harm through removal of trees and grading, and argue that other methods of slowing and filtering stormwater, including more native plants and trees, are better.

Pickleball

Move over tennis and volleyball, there's a new kid in town

SEE FEATURES, PAGE 16



The Potomac River has a "river keeper," and stream restoration plan working to keep it clean.

NEWS

Police Continue to Investigate Year Old Homicide

Detectives from Fairfax County Police Department Major Crimes Bureau continue to investigate the death a year ago of William Scott Miller of Groveton. Detectives determined that the last time family or friends heard from William was on Friday, Sept. 25, 2020. Three days later, a family member went to his apartment to check on him.

Miller lived in the apartment by himself. He was found in his bedroom with multiple stab wounds to the upper body. There was no apparent forced entry into the apartment, and it did not appear that anything was taken.

A year ago, police said: "Officers responded shortly after 12 noon to the 6500 block of Tower Drive after a family member found 52-year-old William Scott Miller, deceased, inside an apartment he rented.



William Scott Miller

Trauma was present to his upper body and the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner will conduct an autopsy to determine the exact cause and manner of death."

Detectives continue to process evidence recovered from the scene to include using M-Vac, a technology that extracts DNA from surfaces. Detectives would like to speak to anyone with information about this case. Tipsters are asked to contact the Fairfax County Police Department Major Crimes Bureau at 703-246-7800, option 2.

Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by phone – 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477).

Victim specialists from our Major Crimes Bureau's Victim Services Division continue to work with the victim's family to ensure they receive appropriate resources and assistance.

Where to Give Locally

FROM PAGE 11

4770. Work with 450+ nonprofit partners across the region, nonprofits who distribute an average of 88,000 meals daily. Together, provide more than 30 million meals every year. www.capitalareafoodbank.org

❖ New Hope Housing, ending homelessness in Northern Virginia by providing housing, offering hope, and building community. We currently offer various Housing Programs, and Support Services. 8407E Richmond Hwy., Alexandria, VA 22309 www.newhopehousing.org/how-to-help/donate/

❖ Rebuilding Together Alexandria, 703-836-1021, www.RebuildingTogetherAlex.org, Home repair and maintenance for vulnerable veterans, elderly, disabled and families with children.

❖ Senior Services of Alexandria, 703-836-4414, www.seniorservicesalex.org, Support services for elders

enabling them to age with dignity.

❖ Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN) of Northern Virginia, 703-820-9001, www.scanva.org, Parent education, public education — re: child abuse and court advocacy for abused and neglected children.

❖ United Community formerly United Community Ministries; "Our vision and aspiration is to end multi-generational poverty. It's a big aspiration; but we know that together, it's achievable." Donate, volunteer. 7511 Fordson Rd. Alexandria, VA 22306 <https://unitedcommunity.org/>

❖ Volunteer Alexandria, 123 N Alfred St., Alexandria, VA 22314; 703-836-2176; <http://volunteeralexandria.org>; Volunteer recruitment and placement, court-referred community service placement, community awareness events, and volunteer management training.

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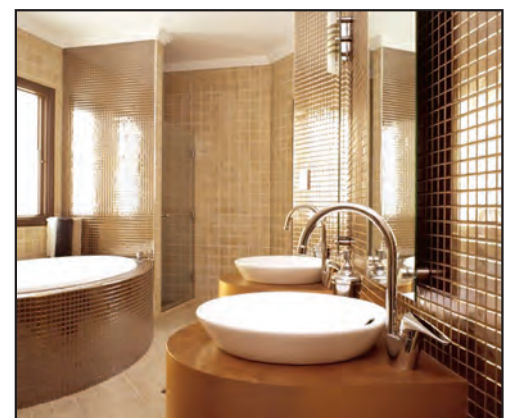
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Offer to Buy River Farm Inches Up, But Declined by Seller

NOVA Parks is still part of the future at River Farm.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

On Sunday evening, Sept. 26, the American Horticultural Society voted against an offer from NOVA Parks to purchase River Farm during a board meeting of the American Horticultural Society, but they are leaving it open for more offers.

“The negotiations with NOVA Parks have been a positive experience. The AHS board has not been able to reach an agreement on selling River Farm to NOVA Parks, so we must decline the current offer,” said Board Chair Terry Hayes. “I would like to thank NOVA Parks Executive Director Paul Gilbert, Supervisor Dan Storck, and others who have been in conversations with us over the past year for their cooperative attitudes and support.”

The exact amount of the latest NOVA Parks offer is still at large, and when it comes to money and real estate, there are a lot of tight lips. When asked about the offer, AHS did release a non-descriptive statement though: “AHS will continue to look for alternatives to provide for the appropriate steward for River Farm. As noted, we appreciate the cooperative spirit of NOVA Parks and their desire to help AHS in this endeavor,” according to a statement by one half of the board.



PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/CONNECTION

Last May, neighbors were out in full force in front of River Farm.

Not so fast, said Senator Scott Surovell (D-36th). There are 10 members on the board and the other five have a different angle. “As you know, we five members of the AHS Board oppose the sale of River Farm,” the other five said, citing that the AHS is not in need of the money as it has claimed. “Public examination of the published AHS financial statements has shown that AHS has no financial need to sell River Farm,” the “don’t sell” members of the board said.

In the end, noted Surovell, there are easements and a historic overlay that would

make development nearly impossible.

Private ownership “will never happen,” Surovell said. Both the Virginia General Assembly and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors have taken action aimed at making private development less likely.

AHS said their vision all along has been to find the “best steward that meets our goals of respecting the history of this beautiful property, conserving the greenspace, and ideally allowing a level of public access to the grounds.”

This isn’t something supported by local officials, neighbors or area historians, as seen with all the picketing outside the gate and public hearings in the past.

Board officials did acknowledge there is a prospective developer out there that is also looking at two adjacent parcels for a “massive residential and commercial complex on a proposed assemblage of 54 contiguous acres along the Potomac,” they said.

“Against the backdrop of this real and present threat, we believe that the efforts to protect River Farm must accelerate,” half of the board said, and that protection comes with a NOVA Parks deal.

Surovell agreed, “The board needs to start talking with each other and make a deal with NOVA Parks,” he said.

NOVA Parks is a government entity, and any purchase is with tax money. Half would be from the state coffers and half would be local, said Surovell.

Farm Has History

The 25-acre River Farm has a long history, starting with Giles Brent Jr., and his wife, a

princess of the Piscataway tribe, who owned it in 1653 or 1654, the Goodhart Group real estate listing states. Then George Washington bought it and made it part of his plantation. Malcolm Matheson bought the property in 1919 and remodeled the home, and in 1973, American Horticultural Society (AHS) board member and philanthropist Enid Annenberg Haupt provided funds for the AHS to purchase the property, the listing states.

But Haupt gave the money under the condition that AHS maintain ownership and allow public access.

The farm is currently listed by The Goodhart Group for \$32,900,000 million. The property has six bedrooms, six full baths and four half baths, multiple garages, a cottage and carriage house. “The existing home is currently being used as offices for the American Horticultural Society, but as you step through the front door of the stately manor house, it’s easy to envision its history as a private residence,” the listing states.

In September 2020, preservation supporters submitted a 6,000 signature petition to save the property and a letter from Chairman Jeff McKay to Governor Northam, calling it “a local institution in the Mount Vernon District, full of history, heritage, and natural beauty.”

In March 2021, the NOVA Parks, Northern Virginia Conservation Trust, and their partners made an offer to buy River Farm in Mount Vernon, but the American Horticultural Society board of directors has voted to decline their offer, looking for their original asking price of \$32,900,000 million that they need to keep the society in operation,

Features and Issues In Mount Vernon Today

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called pickleball, and while it doesn’t take the same skills and coordination, it’s every bit of exercise to keep the blood flowing. Pickleball is a paddleball sport that combines elements of badminton, table tennis, and tennis. According to USA Pickleball, the game is fun, social and friendly and the game is easy for beginners to learn.

While finding a pickleball court may be a challenge, Fairfax County is conducting a survey on the popularity of the game in order to determine where they should direct their efforts to expand the sport. The Fairfax County Park Authority started looking at pickleball in 2019, and is now doing a survey to gauge the popularity. In the past few years the county began accommodating pickleball by refurbishing existing tennis and multiuse courts to

allow multiple sports. There are now 46 outdoor courts lined for pickleball throughout the County. RECenters and community centers add additional indoor pickleball court areas, through striping of gym areas.

Shelter and New Fire Station site

Mount Vernon was formerly protected from fires from a station located off Richmond Highway in a semi-residential setting. Recently Fairfax County stepped up and purchased the land that a former garden business occupied on Beacon Hill Road.

“The wheels are in motion to build a new fire station on the site, plus housing and possibly a homeless shelter as well. The site is good for a fire station because it has easy access to Richmond Highway and the Mount Vernon Parkway.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

VIRGINIA HOUSE OF DELEGATES DISTRICT CANDIDATE FORUM

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area invites the public to join Virginia House of Delegates District Candidate Forums, to be held online. These events are free and open to the public. Register and address questions to candidates at: <http://www.lwv-fairfax.org/2021-candidate-forum>. The Candidate Forums are nonpartisan. The League never supports or opposes any party or candidate. They invite all certified candidates competing for office in their respective districts. Direct any questions about the event to: pr@lwv-fairfax.org

Schedule:
October 5, 2021: Virginia House of Delegates District 43
Candidates: Mark D. Sickles (D) and Brenton H. Hammond (R)

SUNDAY/OCT. 3

Alexandria Love Your Pet Day. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Oronoco Bay Park at 100 Madison St., Alexandria. Proceeds will go to the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria (AWLA), which is organizing

the event. The festival will offer family-friendly entertainment and activities throughout the day. Musical acts Uno Dos Tres Andrés and Rainbow Rock Band will headline the main stage, magician Chris Michael and interactive training and musical demos will round out the festivities. The AWLA will offer a Family Entertainment area, with animal-focused crafts, games and adoptable animals. The event is also open to friendly, leashed pets. Visit AlexandriaLoveYourPetDay.com/Schedule.

SUNDAY/OCT. 3

Updated Garden Beds at Simpson Feature Native Plants. 12-1:30 p.m. 2021 Master Gardener Intern Project at Simpson Gardens - located next to Eugene Simpson Stadium Park, 426 E Monroe Ave, Alexandria. Come join Extension Master Gardener Interns Sabrina Morelli and Tiffany Frazier as they showcase newly updated garden beds at Simpson Gardens. The interns will talk about their experiences this year updating two gravel beds to include local native plants. They will answer questions and provide advice for homeowners seeking to update their own gardens, with native plants, to attract and support local wildlife, including pollinators. Free.

THURSDAY/OCT. 7

Pathways To Wellness Annual Confer-

ence. 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Via Zoom. Recovery Program Solutions of Virginia will sponsor the Pathways to Wellness Conference, an annual event that celebrates mental health recovery. This virtual event’s theme is Still Striving, Still Thriving Through it All. The event is planned and hosted by the Wellness and Recovery Committee, a group of representatives of government and nonprofit organizations in Northern Virginia whose work and lives involve mental health recovery. Attendees include individuals with mental health concerns, their loved ones, professionals in the field, and anyone interested in wellness. Attendance is free but guests must register. To learn more, visit www.PathwaysToWellness-Conf.com. Call Will Schermerhorn at (703) 338-1776 or contact him via email coordinator@pathwaystowellnessconf.com.

FRIDAY/OCT. 8

Raise the Region Fundraiser. 7 p.m. The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia hosts its 2021 Raise the Region, a virtual event that will be live-streamed and will include an online auction and opportunities to engage and connect with the community from the comfort of your home. The theme this year is Building a Community that Works for Everyone, and the event will highlight a record level

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BULLETIN BOARD

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of giving from the Community Foundation throughout the region. Visit www.cfnova.org/RaiseTheRegion.

SATURDAY/OCT. 16

Sherwood Regional Library is Turning 50 Celebration. 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. At 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Inside the library they will invite people to participate in a scavenger hunt, learn about the history of the library, participate in papermaking or a children's craft and explore our Tech Lab. Outside the library they will be hosting a children's performer, Groovy Nate at 11 a.m., Mount Vernon High School Varsity Singers Choir at 1 p.m. and a Mariachi Band (Mariachi Aguila DC) at 2 p.m. Additional parking will be available adjacent to the library and Whitman Middle School.

WALKING GROUP

Let's Walk! Let's Walk! is a community walking initiative whose goal is to achieve and maintain optimal health through walking. The members consist of women who are retired or work from home and want to connect with others who share common interests, life experiences and fitness goals. The group meets at 2 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at a central location on Fort Hunt Road and walks for approximately 1 hour weather permitting. Contact information: 703-780-1145 or email; ecenglish@cox.net.

COMMUNITY MARKET ON SATURDAYS

Workhouse Arts Center hosts its Community Market Every Saturday from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. through October 30, 2021. Located at 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. September celebrates Harvest Fest all month long. Local vendors include:

Bites by Sam
Apple Juice Tea Party

Honeycakes
Bangkok Bites
Bowls by Bowles
Jen and Pat Designs

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 Dec. 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
Honey Brook Farms - meats and vegetables raised with no chemicals, gluten-free baked goods
House of Empanadas – variety of empanadas
King Mushrooms – variety of locally grown mushrooms
Locust Grove Farm - vegetables and herbs
Misty Meadow Farm Creamery - milk, ice cream, cheese and eggs
No. 1 Sons – pickles, kimchi, sauerkraut and kombucha teas
Ochoa Produce - vegetables, herbs and flowers
Traveling Shepherd Coffee Co. – variety of freshly roasted coffee

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10/20/2021.....A+ Camps & Schools
10/27/2021.....Senior Living
Connection Families: Safe for Halloween
10/2/2021.....Election Preview

NOVEMBER

11/3/2021.....Wellbeing
11/10/20.....HomeLifeStyle
11/17/2021.....A+ Camps & Schools
11/24/2021.....Senior Living
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ENTERTAINMENT

Flying High ACCT returns with “Defying Gravity.”

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE GAZETTE

Aldersgate Church Community Theater is flying high again as it opens its doors Oct. 1 with “Defying Gravity,” the fictional Jane Anderson play based on events surrounding the 1986 Challenger Space Shuttle disaster.

The impressionistic show, directed by Jessie Roberts, features the main characters of Teacher (the Christa McAuliffe character) and her daughter Elizabeth. Other characters include Donna, a waitress in a bar frequented by NASA astronauts, and Impressionist painter Claude Monet, who watches the events unfold.

“Impressionism is more than an art form,” said Roberts. “It is a state of mind that seeks out the impression of events on people rather than the linear, realistic storyline of an event.”

Yes, ‘Defying Gravity’ is about the Challenger disaster but the play is also an impressionistic challenge in itself. It challenges the director and cast to bring to life this sensitive but bold treatment of the disaster and its impressions on ordinary people.”

Kathy Ohlhaber plays Elizabeth, daughter of the Christa McAuliffe character who in real life was just 6 years old when she lost her mother.

“Elizabeth is very complex because she is still trying to come to terms with the loss of her mother 20 years after her death,” said Ohlhaber. “Finding the balance



Kathy Ohlhaber, left, as Elizabeth, and Heather Plank as Teacher in the Aldersgate Church Community Theater production of Defying Gravity. The show opens Oct. 1 and runs through Oct. 17.

with my character was the biggest challenge for me since she shifts from a 5-year-old to a 25-year-old in a blink of an eye throughout the show. She has so many feelings about her mother and is trying to come to some type of closure.”

Paul Donahoe plays Claude Monet, who in reality died 50 years before the disaster took place.

“Monet is an abstract character in the play that brings his Impressionism and compassion to the other characters,” Donahoe said. “He weaves in and out of the action in the telling of The Challenge-

“‘Defying Gravity’ is the perfect expression of positivity and hope, while providing outstanding theater right in our backyard.”

— ACCT producer Charles Dragonette

er disaster. The most challenging part of the role is to move naturally through a modern time in which he is not familiar, and to connect with each of the other characters to experience what they are going

through.”

Others in the cast include Heather Plank as Teacher, Christine Tankersley as Donna, and Patricia Smith and Steve Rosenthal as a retired couple who come to witness

the Challenger launch.

“As an ACCT Board member, I felt this was a play that was beautiful and important,” said producer Charles Dragonette. “As ACCT’s first production since its enforced pandemic downtime, ‘Defying Gravity’ is the perfect expression of positivity and hope, while providing outstanding theater right in our backyard.”

Added co-producer Marg Soros, “Impressions are important. We need to keep moving forward and weave setbacks and disasters into how we live our lives.”

Optimism was a recurring theme among the cast as they return to live theater.

“I hope audiences will take away feelings of resilience and hope,” Tankersley said. “No matter how bad things seem, they will get better.”

There are many miracles still ahead of us to look forward to.”

Said Plank, “So often we are caught up in the busyness of daily living, focused on what must be done today, tomorrow, this week. The character of Monet – free from the demands of the ‘now’ – invites us to step back, consider the bigger view and appreciate the experiences and connections that give lasting meaning to our lives.”

“Defying Gravity” runs Oct. 1-17 at Wesley Hall of Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Road. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$18 for general admission and \$15 for seniors and active duty military. www.acctonline.org

CALENDAR

THURSDAY/SEPT. 30

The Taste of Old Town North. 3:30-8 p.m. At Montgomery Park, 901 North Royal Street, Arlington. The Taste of Old Town North is free, kid-friendly, and offers the chance to sample a variety of food from local restaurants including Cafe 44, Grateful Kitchen and St. Elmo’s Old Town North. Visitors to the Taste can also shop at the local farmers’ market, try their hand at Art in the Park with KidCreate, watch a karate demonstration from Seichou Karate, and picnic in the park. Live music will be provided by two local bands - Sally and the Mander, starting at 5 p.m. and Three Man Soul Machine, starting at 6 p.m. Visit www.oldtownnorth.org or call 703-836-8066.

FRIDAY/OCT. 1

Garden Talk: Design for Fall

Beauty and Winter. 1:30 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Rd., Alexandria. Master Gardeners will show you how to create a warm and inviting entry with colorful berries, dazzling leaves, beautifully structured branches, stunning grasses, stand-out seed heads, and even blooming flowers. Find a new favorite to add beauty and vibrance to your fall and winter landscape. The cost is \$12 per person. Call 703-642-5173 or visit the Green Spring Gardens webpage.

OCT. 1-30

In the “Expanding the Common Ground: Voices of the Global Majority” art exhibit, themes of people of the global majority reflecting, celebrating, and claiming power over oppression are explored, as well as finding common ground and healing divides. View exhibit at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria.

Open Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays 12-6 p.m., and Sundays 12-6 p.m. Details: DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits.

SATURDAY/OCT. 2

26th Annual Art on the Avenue in Del Ray. Organizers are expecting more than 50,000 visitors to stroll down Mt. Vernon Avenue in Del Ray, between Bellefonte and Hume Avenues for the festival. They will be greeted by more than 300 artists (jewelers, silversmiths and bead makers, woodworkers, pottery makers, soap crafters, glass makers, unique painters, sculptors, fabric artists and more), musicians, (Irish, folk, rock-n-roll, country and more). And there will be plenty of food vendors (hot dogs, BBQ, Indian, Mexican, pizza, crab cakes, chocolate bananas dipped on sticks, homemade cider donuts and more). Kids activities have always been part of the festival. Get involved with your kids, stuff your

own scarecrow, paint a pumpkin, lotus flower design, weave screen art, to name a few. Visit www.artontheavenue.org.

SATURDAY/OCT. 2

Golden Garden Tour. 10:30-11:30 a.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Look at all the gold in Green Spring’s gardens and learn how to use this neutral color to balance your garden color palette. Create gorgeous combinations and meet gold plants that can carry you through all four seasons. The cost is \$18 per person. Call 703-642-5173; or visit Green Spring Gardens.

SATURDAY/OCT. 2

Native Plant Sale in Northern Alexandria. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Largest native plant sale in D.C. Metro Area hosts 12 vendors from 3 states selling native perennials, shrubs, and trees for sun or shade. This

event is free. At The Church of St. Clement, 1701 N. Quaker Lane parking lot, Alexandria, VA 22302. Call 571-232-0375 or www.NorthernAlexandriaNativePlantSale.org.

SATURDAY/OCT. 2

“Le Tour d’Alexandria” Bicycle Tour. 10 a.m. This year’s tour will highlight the art located in the City of Alexandria. Participants can bring their bicycles and join library staff for a leisurely 3.5 mile ride through Alexandria starting at Burke Branch Library (4701 Seminary Road) and ending at Duncan Branch Library (2501 Commonwealth Avenue). This ride showcases Burke’s new Outdoor Public Art installation and the City’s Art on the Avenue event. Check-in starts at 9:30 a.m. and registration is required for this event, as space on the tour is limited. Riders must be

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CALENDAR



The 26th annual Art on the Avenue will take place in Del Ray on Saturday, Oct. 2, 2021.

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over the age of 13 to participate. Children and teens under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Visit alexli-braryva.org/alexandria-bike-tour.

SATURDAY/OCT. 2

Nature Scavenger Hunt. 10 to 11 a.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Round up the family and go on a "Nature Scavenger Hunt" at Green Spring Gardens. Learn about different aspects of nature while hunting for themed objects around the park. The challenge is designed for family members ages 4 to adult. Cost is \$7 per person. Call 703-642-5173 or visit the Green Spring Gardens webpage.

SATURDAY/OCT. 2

Organ Recital. 11:30 a.m. At Historic Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Hwy., Lorton. There will be a free organ recital by David Leahey, Minister of Music at Historic Pohick Church. The recital on the Noack Pipe Organ with 16 stops, 18 ranks, and 948 pipes will include selections new and old. Call 703-339-6572 or visit the Pohick Church website at www.pohick.org.

SATURDAY/OCT. 2

Historic Pohick Church Country Fair. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Historic Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Hwy., Lorton. This annual event is about fun, family, and fellowship. There will be something for everyone and of every age to enjoy. This year the Country Fair will feature: The First Annual Pohick Pumpkin Patch, Pumpkin Painting, Food and Drink Concessions, Homemade Apple Butter, Turkey Shoot, Pony Rides, Historic Colonial Church Tours, Living Historical Characters, Live Music including Members of The Old Guard Fife and Drum Corp, Classic Cars, and much more. Visit the website at www.pohick.org or call the church office at 703-339-6572.

OCT. 2-3

Rhapsody in Blue. Saturday at 7:30



Soloists Dara Rahming, Marquita Raley-Cooper, Rodrick Dixon and Daniel Rich appear courtesy of the Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts on Oct. 2-3 at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center in Alexandria..

p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. At Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, Alexandria. Alexandria Symphony Orchestra presents Beethoven's Fifth Symphony and Rhapsody in Blue. Featuring James Ross, conductor; Michelle Cann, pianist; and Michelle Cann appears by arrangement with the Curtis Institute of Music. The season launches with two giants from the symphonic repertoire: Beethoven's Fifth Symphony and Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue.

OCT. 2-3

Beethoven's Ninth. 7:30 p.m. At Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 4915 E Campus Dr., Alexandria. The season launches with a joyful noise, Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 featuring the Alexandria Choral Society with

a new English text by poet laureate and Pulitzer prize-winner Tracy K. Smith. Cost is \$20-\$85. Visit the website: <https://alexsym.org/performance/beethoveninninth/>

SUNDAY/OCT. 3

Alexandria Love Your Pet Day. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Oronoco Bay Park at 100 Madison St., Alexandria. Proceeds will go to the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria (AWLA), which is organizing the event. The festival will offer family-friendly entertainment and activities throughout the day. Musical acts Uno Dos Tres Andrés and Rainbow Rock Band will headline the main stage, magician Chris Michael and interactive training and musical demos will round out the festivities. The AWLA will offer a Family SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 22

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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.

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3 Quintessentially Alexandrian Restaurants

BY HOPE NELSON
GAZETTE PACKET

Spend more than a day or two in Alexandria and you'll learn that the restaurant and bar scene is hopping (even in pandemic times). While many of the city's eateries seem fresh and new, their roots run deep in a town with centuries-old history. Below are excerpts from *Classic Restaurants of Alexandria*, published by Arcadia Publishing, delving into the past, present and future of some of the city's best, and authored by Hope Nelson.

Landini Brothers, 115 King St.

Stride along lower King Street and you'll soon come upon a tasteful, dignified storefront that gives way to a warm, historic dining room and bar. A spot for both those looking for a dressy, special night out and for the regulars who sidle up for their favorite drink each and every night, Landini Brothers is a longstanding hidden gem, a stalwart in a sea of the ever-changing business landscape.

Launched in 1979 by Franco and Noe Landini, it could be argued that Landini Brothers hasn't changed a great deal in the decades hence. Its deep red hues, stone walls, and wood-paneled bar harken back to another time, when dining out was the exception rather than the rule, when dinner was an event.

Keen watchers of Landini Brothers' foot traffic will notice a strange phenomenon as day turns to night: Some patrons will bypass the dining room and bar altogether, opting instead to jaunt upstairs to parts unknown, sometimes not to be seen again for several hours. The secret? Landini also plays host to CXIII Rex, a private cigar bar that opened in the shadow of Virginia's smoking ban, which forbids any lighting up in restaurants.

The loophole? With a separate ventilation system, old Rex is in the clear.

With cigars upstairs and pasta downstairs, Landini Brothers has continued to find new ways to surprise and delight customers from all walks of life. The bastion of lower King Street has straddled two centuries; its life ahead seems to stretch as far as the longest strand of spaghetti, with plenty of spice to carry it through along the way.

Chadwicks, 203 Strand St.

The high-water marks memo-



Landini Brothers, 115 King St.

rialized in brass plaques on the interior column belie Chadwicks' proximity to the Potomac River, and while the neighborhood grill has seen some adventures over time, its scars lend the restaurant character indeed. An Alexandria stalwart for 40 years, Chadwicks' history is rooted in a culture that is at once a family-friendly dinner experience, a happy-hour hot spot, and a place to kick back on Sundays and watch the football games while bellying up to the bar.

The restaurant – the kid brother to the original Chadwicks in Georgetown, which opened in 1967 – opened its doors in 1979, taking up residence in a long and storied location that had seen plenty of triumph and tragedy over the centuries past. The footprint that Chadwicks sits on dates back to the mid-1800s, when the warehouses and wharves had been built back from an 1811 fire.

Much of the waterfront was again destroyed in 1897 in one of the worst fires in Alexandria history, but within a decade, DeWilton Aitcheson, who owned the now-burned property, had begun to build again, creating the façade that so many Alexandrians would now recognize as a favorite restaurant.

Throughout its lifetime, Chadwicks' *modus operandi* has been largely unchanged: The kitchen

serves up good, down-home American-style food at a good price. From a passel of burger options (which have grown over time to include turkey and veggie patties) to crab cakes to bar snacks such as nachos and fried green tomatoes, diners have had plentiful options that stand the test of time. And while occasionally new chefs have worked to put their own spin on the menu, at the end of the day the fare harkens back to where it started – pub food with a decidedly Alexandrian twist.

The worst-kept secret at Chadwicks is its robust (and affordable) weekend brunch. From classics such as omelets and French toast to Old Town favorites such as a "Scottish scramble" featuring smoked salmon and cream cheese served with an English muffin and home fries, the menu offers too many tempting choices – and affordable adult beverages, as well. Though the days of 95-cent champagne glasses are long gone (but only by a decade as of this writing), mimosas still ring in at \$4 and a bottle of champagne will set you back \$14.

For years, Chadwicks sported several siblings, including another longtime location in Washington, D.C.'s Georgetown neighborhood, but as management changed hands and the dining landscape morphed throughout the region,



Chadwicks, 203 Strand St.

only the original Alexandria location remains. The waterfront simply wouldn't be the same without its faithful overseer, home to many a brunch, lunch, and dinner over decades of service.

Taqueria Poblano, 2400 Mount Vernon Ave.

By Classic Restaurants standards, Del Ray's Taqueria Poblano is a baby of the group. The Baja California-styled taco joint is only two decades old, coming onto the scene in 1999, but over the years has become an institution within Alexandria's international-food scene. But to label it a straight Mexican restaurant would be a vast misnomer. Rather, the tacos this kitchen produces are a healthy blend of Mexican and Californian stylings, providing diners with the best of both cultures on one pastel-colored plate.

The outside of the restaurant is just as friendly – and as cozy – as the inside. Seating for close to half a dozen tables is available on the restaurant's "front porch," as it were, overlooking Del Ray's main drag, Mount Vernon Avenue. At all times of the year, the porch is full to bursting with diners – and would-be diners in waiting – who are enjoying either the spring or summer weather ... or who are nestled among stand-up heaters,

a plastic sheet enclosing the space somewhat.

Where many taco-centric eateries focus on the Mexican side of the border, Taqueria Poblano has always managed to hew to a more diversified feel. The "L.A.-style crispy tacos" have been a mainstay at the restaurant since its opening, and most of the menu items soundly straddle the border between North and Central America. But "Don't come expecting Mexican fast food that is Americanized in a cloak of cheese or loaded on a combo platter (thank goodness)," Washington Post food critic Tom Sietsema wrote in 2013. He's right about that.

The Taqueria Poblano family has continued to grow in the 20 years since Adams began the Del Ray outpost. Both the locations as well as the menu have grown and changed to adapt to new palate (and residency) demands.

Though its menu has adapted with the times, the Del Ray mainstay remains the favorite it became almost immediately upon opening – a true classic, even at a mere 22 years old.

Hope Nelson is the author of "Classic Restaurants of Alexandria" and owns the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at www.kitchenrecessionista.com. Email her any time at

hope@kitchenrecessionista.com.

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Obituary

Christian Wayne Galoci, age 50, passed away Wednesday, May 26, 2021 in Arlington, Virginia. He is preceded in death by his father, Dennis W. Galoci. He is survived by his mother, Mary R. Galoci, his children, Seth William and Hope Marie Galoci, uncle, Joseph Galoci and aunts and cousins. He will be deeply missed. A Memorial Service will be held at 1:30 pm, October 6, 2021 at Epiphany Lutheran Church, 5521 Old Mill Road, Alexandria, VA 22309. Donations can be made in Christian's memory to American Stroke Association at www.stroke.org.

CALENDAR

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
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Senior Living, fourth week of every month.

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Employment

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- Self starter and able to work in team environment as well as on their own
- Website maintenance (Tithe.ly)
- Internet experience
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- Ability to organize and prioritize assignments
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Scan Hardly Believe It



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Life goes on. My warranty has been extended for another 90 days as all three scans from Sept. 23rd indicated stable and/or no new metastases. News with which I am extremely fond of saying, I can live. Though the radiologist's report that I received lists both non small cell lung cancer and papillary thyroid cancer as "the indication," my endocrinologist feels what I have is thyroid cancer and likely have always had thyroid cancer. I wish I could say that will be for the lawyers to argue. but peculiarities of law and the three-year statute of limitations in Maryland makes a final resolution unlikely. Therefore, I will continue to live with my amazing good fortune and possible misdiagnosis as part and parcel of how I roll.

And how I roll, as you regular readers know is chemotherapy, targeted therapy, immunotherapy and targeted therapy once again - in that order, and diagnostic scans every three weeks in the beginning and eventually and presently, every three months. As such, over these nearly 13 years of being a cancer patient, I figure I've probably had at least 50 CT scans and another 20-plus MRIs, plus an occasional PET scan. The point being that over the years, I've done an awful lot of waiting for scan results with my life/immediate future hanging in the balance. And 'balance' is exactly what one needs to endure these incredibly anxious situations. Though I'm fairly experienced at this juncture, the actual moment of truth when I receive the email containing my results is oft-putting to say the least and downright heart-stopping to say the most.

However, my personality is perfectly suited for these ongoing challenges. I never presume the worst. I never woe is me. I never bemoan systemic delays in communicating the results to me. As my close friend John would most definitely say: "It is what it is, and it will be what it will be." I never put the proverbial cart before the horse. I can take it. No problem. My wife, Dina, on the other hand, cannot. For her, the results cannot arrive soon enough. Granted, immediate feedback would be much preferred. But, that's never been the process. I can accept it. Dina, not so much.

That being said, I will admit that after all these years/scans/waiting for results, I have become less able to take it all in stride. It's as if a layer of patience and understanding of the process has been worn away with time. Even though I've mostly received good news (unexpectedly given my original "13 month to two year" prognosis - in Feb., 2009), I have had my share of disappointing news. But on the whole, I've been one of the luckier cancer patients. Still, each scan I wait for results is hardly an adventure in wonderland. I am constantly wondering and worrying when the other shoe will drop (the bad news). In fact, opening up the email that contains my scan results literally takes my breath away.

Not to be negative, which I'm not, but during the Team Lourie meeting in late Feb., 2009 when I first met my oncologist and were given all the medical reports/assessments of my recent X-Rays, CT scan, PET scan and surgical biopsy from the pulmonologist, thoracic surgeon, pathologist and internist, it was clear and convincing from all these doctors that I had lung cancer. And my prognosis? Grim, and it was no fairy tale. It was surreal to hear and nearly impossible to process. I have what? When I was told the survival statistics by my oncologist of stage IV non small cell lung cancer patients (me): 2 percent survive beyond two years, my brother asked if there are exceptions. To which my oncologist replied to me: "Could you be the one? Sure." Little did I know that the doctor was being literal. One was the answer. Ever since I heard that, I felt my days were numbered. All these several years later, I'm not exactly counting days, but neither am I counting chickens. I live quarter to quarter and am grateful to do so.

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

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BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 17

Twin Springs Orchard - fruits, vegetables, cheese and more

Valentine's Bakery & Meats - meats and baked goods.

ADULT ENGLISH LANGUAGE CLASSES

The Literacy Council of Northern Virginia (LCNV) is hosting beginning-level adult English language classes from February to May. Due to the continued situation of COVID-19, classes for the spring semester will be held on virtual platforms only, which require students to have a computer, tablet, or smartphone and internet access to participate. Registration runs through February 5, with options to register via text message, phone calls, or in-person at certain locations and times.

Classes offered this spring include:

- ❖ Beginning English Class: provides adult English language learners the fundamental skills to understand and communicate in English, helping them to better engage in the community and advance their careers.
- ❖ Family Learning Programs (FLP): provides English language instruction for parents or caregivers, so that they can better communicate with their children and support their education.

Classes are \$85 with books and assessment included. Registration is required for enrollment. Please understand that no children are allowed at in-person registrations. If possible, please bring your interpreter for the process. Strict social distancing precautions

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 19

Entertainment area, with animal-focused crafts, games and adoptable animals. The event is also open to friendly, leashed pets. Visit alexandriamoreyourpetday.com/schedule.

OCT. 8-10

Fall Wine Festival & Sunset Tour. 6 to 9 p.m. At George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy., Mount Vernon. Taste unlimited samples from Virginia wineries after hours at George Washington's estate. Bring a blanket and relax on the east lawn overlooking the Potomac River and meet General Washington. Call 703-780-2000 or visit mountvernon.org.

OCT. 8-22

Octoberfest Online Auction. Carpenter's Shelter's Octoberfest Online Auction. Join them online to bid on one-of-a-kind items like trips to wineries, theater tickets, jewelry, gift baskets, restaurant gift cards, and much more. Start your holiday shopping early while supporting children, women, and men experiencing homelessness in Alexandria. Visit <https://carpentersshelter.org/event/octoberfest2021>

FRIDAY/OCT. 8

Spirits of Carlyle House. 6 to 8:30 p.m. (Tours on the half hour). At Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax Street, Alexandria. Carlyle House's long and diverse history is full of truths, myths and rumors that makes it one of the most visited places on Alexandria's ghost tours. Come and experience a uniquely haunting tour of the house and grounds by candlelight, perhaps encounter the departed spirits of notable residents and neighbors and hear their tales of sadness and triumph. Reservations required due to limited space. Tours are on the half hour.

SATURDAY/OCT. 9

Discovering Alexandria Architecture Tour. 10 a.m. At Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax Street, Alexandria. Alexandria has grown from a small town in the 18th century to a bustling small city in the 21st century. Join Carlyle House for a tour of Alexandria looking at the various architecture styles that adorn the city streets and make it one of the best places to live and work. Reservations are required as space is limited. Please wear comfortable shoes for this one-and-a-half hour guided

will be enforced. Face masks will be provided. Registration times and dates are available at LCNV's distance learning page (<https://lcnv.org/distance-learning-session/lcnv-classes/>), or call 703-237-0866.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

STEM VOLUNTEERS. The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) needs scientists, engineers, mathematicians, and physicians to assist K-12 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) teachers in the Northern Virginia Area, during the 2016-17 school year. In the 2015-16 school year, the numbers of STEM volunteers in Northern Virginia were: Fairfax County - 40, Arlington - 20, and Alexandria - one. Details of the collaboration are worked out between the teacher and the volunteer, and may involve giving demonstrations, assisting in lab experiments, lecturing on special topics, assisting with homework, etc. The hours are flexible, and volunteers attend a one-day training in September before being assigned to schools. To see how volunteers are assisting their teachers, view the video clips at www.seniorscientist.org. To volunteer, contact donaledge@aol.com.

Yoga Teachers are needed. Help improve a person's well-being by teaching yoga classes to adults who are staying in a residential facility. The day/time is flexible, but would be during the week. Prior yoga instruction is required. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb/viva/volunteers.htm for more.

tour. Tour is held rain or shine unless there is severe weather. Visit novaparks.com/parks/carlyle-house-historic-park

SATURDAY/OCT. 9

Friendship Firehouse Museum Special Open Hours. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. At 107 South Alfred Street, Alexandria. Learn about the Friendship Fire Company's fire fighting procedures and equipment, as well as the different roles the organization played in serving the community. Families with young children will be given take-home kits, including a fire helmet and activities.

THE BIRCHMERE

All shows are at 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Tickets available at Ticketmaster.com. At 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Contact The Birchmere at 703-549-7500 or www.birchmere.com.

Thu. Sept. 30: Keiko Matsui \$45.00
Fri. Oct. 1: Preacher Lawson \$45.00
Sun. Oct. 3: The Stylistics \$65.00
Mon/Tue. Oct. 4 & 5: Toad The Wet Sprocket w/ Althea Grace \$75.00
Thu. Oct. 7: Lori McKenna "The Two Birds Tour" with Mark Erelli \$29.50
Sat. Oct. 9: The Guess Who \$69.50
Sun. Oct. 10: Phil Vassar \$45.00
Mon/Tue. Oct. 11 & 12: An Evening with Patty Griffin & Gregory Alan Isakov \$95.00
Wed/Thu. Oct. 13 & 14: An Evening with Damien Escobar \$59.50
Fri. Oct. 15: The Manhattans featuring Gerald Alston \$55.00
Sat. Oct. 16: Raven's Night 2021 \$29.50
Sun. Oct. 17: An Evening with Judy Collins \$59.50
Mon/Tue. Oct. 18&19: Boney James: Solid Tour \$79.50
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Thu. Oct. 21: Tab Benoit "Whiskey Bayou Revue" \$39.50
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