Mount Pernon Gazette

Mount Vernon's Hometown Newspaper • A Connection Newspaper

Plans Continue to **Progress for Original** Mount Vernon High

Adaptive reuse are the buzz words for the county's historic school campus.

> BY MIKE SALMON Mount Vernon Gazette

lans to renovate and repurpose the Original Mount Vernon High School are inching closer to reality, and planners are ready to update the public at the community meeting on June 1.

Planners are calling the additions at the Original Mount Vernon High School "pathways to opportunity," and this includes non-profit programs, a teen/senior center,



Public meeting June 1 at the Original Mount Vernon High School.

gym and the Head Start program. It is nearly one year since the last update, and a few

of the programs have moved into the former high school space. Now the county is working with a food-related industry to

set up a training-related space.

This is all part of Phase I of the

Community meeting June 1, 6-8 pm

Original Mount Vernon High School 8333 Richmond Highway, Alexandria

> building is an example of Colonial Revival architecture that was orig-

plan, and Phase II includes a portion of the plan in the back of the property, away from Richmond Highway.

The school inally built in 1939 on land that used to be part of George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate. The 22-acre property was used as a high school until 1973 and a middle school until 1985 and then was leased to the Islamic Saudi Academy in 1989.

In 1987, the Virginia Depart-

ment of Historic Resources determined that the high school property was eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The school was listed on the Virginia Historic Landmarks Register in December 2017, and in the National Registry of Historic Places in May 2018, the county said.







Progress continues on the Original Mount Vernon High School.

National Museum of the United States Army Observes First Memorial Day Open to Public

he National Museum of the United States Army is inviting the public to observe this Memorial Day by learning about the service and sacrifices of the 30 million Americans who have served in the U.S. Army. This Memorial Day will be the first that the Museum is open to the public due to last year's temporary closure in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"While the National Army Museum stands for every person who has served in the U.S. Army, we believe Memorial Day is a time for all of us to honor and remember the lives, courage, legacy, and service of those who made the ultimate sacrifice," said Tammy E. Call, director of the museum. "Our Museum is proud to offer Americans a fitting venue to learn, reflect, and pay homage to those who died while serving our nation."

Located on the Fairfax County Parkway, the Museum is the first to tell the comprehensive history of the nation's oldest military service. The museum is promoted as part part of the newly announced tourism initiative, Potomac



The National Museum of the United States Army at Fort Belvoir is open for the first time on Memorial Day. The museum is packed with equipment and information about the Army.

Banks — Explore Fairfax South.

Over Memorial Day weekend, the Museum and its nonprofit partner, The Army Historical Foundation, will host special events, including:

❖ Poppy flower-making activity, which will give visitors the opportunity to learn about the symbolism of the poppy on this



holiday while making paper poppy flowers for a special Memorial Day display. Activity runs May 27 – 30, during Mus eum hours. Free to Museum visitors.

Screening of the documentary Sunken Roads: Three Generations After D-Day, which follows a group of WWII veterans returning to Normandy for the 70th anniversary of D-Day. Screenings of the 90-minute documentary are free with admission. Showtimes: May 27, 10 a.m. (followed by Q&A with filmmakers); May 28, 10 a.m., 12 p.m., 2 p.m. (Q&A with filmmakers follows 10 a.m. showing); May 29, 10 a.m., 2 p.m. (Q&A with filmmakers follows 2 p.m. showing); May 29, 2 p.m. (followed by Q&A with filmmakers)

SEE NATIONAL MUSEUM, PAGE 3

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News



A fence encircles the future parklet space.

CLOSED



Mini Parks Going Up in Mount Vernon to Improve Livability

Parklets provide greenery where asphalt and concrete once dominated.

By Mike Salmon The Connection

n the Mount Vernon Plaza area of Hybla Valley, the shopping center can be described as a big-box city, with stores, huge parking lots and cars everywhere. There are plans for something else though in the form of a little "parklet," in the middle of it all to get away from the auto-centric atmosphere that is common throughout Northern

The parklet is a creation of Federal Realty and the Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation, a 3200-square-foot gathering space that will feature a trellis, green space, porch swing benches and soma stones along with new café seating, lighting and landscaping. Construction has begun and will be completed later this summer, Federal Realty

Several of the workers from stores bordering the parklet site did not know what was being done, and most thought it was a good

"It's a good place for people to gather," said Maria who works at the spa bordering the parklet.

"People can sit down and relax," added Hong Truong, a nail technician at the spa.

"Oh wow," said Nancy Hernandez looking out the window from Moe's Southwest Grill. Toni Pullen, a customer at the grill, was worried about the children and the traffic around the lot.

"I don't know if I would have chosen that for this location," she said.

The parklet is going in an outdoor dining space near Moe's Southwest Grill and Limon Pollo a la Brasa so it will be the center point of the shopping center, said Deirdre Johnson, senior vice president, asset management at Federal Realty.

"Our community partners and merchants have voiced excitement and we anticipate the broader community to embrace and enjoy the parklet as it becomes the center point of the shopping center," Johnson said. They are creating "a space where social connection is encouraged by offering our neighbors and visitors a place to gather and relax,"

Earlier in the spring, the Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation was involved with the first of three murals in the "Paint the Corridor," project in Mount Vernon. There are two more murals on the drawing board for this project.

"The goal is to improve the livability and quality of life in the area," said SFDC executive director Evan Kaufman. "It will help make the area more vibrant and bring out a sense of character and identity to the com-

It's about creating a sense of place, not just a place to live," he said.



The parklet plan looks more inviting to pedestrians.



The parklet may create a sense of place.

National Museum of the United States Army Observes First Memorial Day Open to Public

Memorial Day Remembrance and Moment of Silence will take place in the Museum Lobby and include a playing of taps. takes place on May 30, 10 a.m. The Museum will also pause for a National Moment of Silence at 3 p.m.

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

the Museum will open to families (with advance registration) Operation Safe Passage, a simulated humanitarian mission where participants learn geography, science, technology, engineering, and math to respond to an earth-

❖ On Memorial Day weekend, quake. This free opportunity is also host a hands-on showcase, take place May 27 – 29, 9 a.m. – usually only available to groups. Advance registration is required. Families reserving Museum admission tickets for May 28 - 30, between 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m., will be offered the chance to sign-up.

All weekend, the Museum will

10 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. 3 p.m., giving visitors an upclose look at Army uniforms and equipment from different eras of Army history. The Army Historical Foundation Book Sale of new and used military books will also

5 p.m.

The Museum is open every day of the year except Dec. 25. Free, timed-entry tickets are required and available by request through the Museum's website at theN-MUSA.org.

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ART SHOW

Beach Vibes Surround Exhibit at the Nepenthe Gallery

Exhibit kicks off Thursday evening, May 26.

By Mike Salmon The Gazette

oardwalks, crashing waves and the smell of Coppertone all scream beach vacation for some, but the artists with the Nepenthe Gallery in Hollin Hall had other ideas with their "BEACH," exhibit featuring both beach and summer-themed works of art.

There's an idle fishing boat done in the style of cubism, an 20th-century early style made of simple geometric shapes, and interlocking planes. Then there is the St. Frank Surf Board, a collaboration Jim Garland flashing the Hawaiian hand sign they call "shaka," which means everything is alright in the islands. Other meanings of this sign, with the pinkie and thumb extended, can be in-

terpreted as "Hang loose," "Right on," "Thank you," "Things are great," "Take it easy," and that's part of the feeling behind the BEACH exhibit.

"These artists capture the essence of BEACH in various different ways — images of waves and water are at once powerful and peaceful; scenes along the water conjure up memories many of us have of vacations with family and friends; marine life is somehow romantic for most people and feels playful and carefree," said Carrie Garland, gallery owner, "Often



Gallery Owner Jim Garland with St. Frank & Gary Linden Contemporary Handmade Black Classic Mud Cloth Surfboard.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Water and Wind acrylic on canvas by Alma Ramirez.



Susie Webster's Salt Marsh Jubilee acrylic with some collage.

times the bright colors used when painting near the sea and beaches are fun and lively," she added.

Other themes are beach balls, plastic beach pails and oyster shells. Artists include Judy Heiser,

Ann Sklar, Susie Webster, Susanne Fyffe, Flying Edna, Jennifer Lian, Leslie Hatton, and Florida artist Alma Ramirez.

The grand opening for Nepenthe's special exhibit

will be held on Thursday, May 26th from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the gallery in the Mount Vernon area of Alexandria.

Nepenthe Gallery

Nepenthe Gallery 7918 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. www.nepenthegallery.com





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Riverside Estates \$789,900

8319 Cherry Valley Lane

Welcome to this lovely 3 level Colonial in the popular & sought-after community of Riverside Estates located about half a mile North of Mt. Vernon Estate, bordered on our East by Little Hunting Creek, our slice of paradise. This home has been meticulously maintained w/numerous updates to include: roof, baths, furnace, double pane windows, resurfaced drive way,

privacy fence, interior & exterior painted, etc., etc. 4BRs, 3.5BAs, 2 wood burning FPLS & beautiful hardwood floors throughout the main & upper levels. The lower level is finished w/a Recreation room, den, 3rd full bath, utility room & a large bonus room, 20x11, perfect for storage or a workshop. A large fenced backyard has a screen porch, deck & large beautiful gazebo, great for entertaining or just relaxing w/family.



Yacht Haven Estates \$1,900,000

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WATERFRONT LIVING! Gorgeous half acre waterfront property with
private dock and sweeping views of the Potomac River located in Mt. Vernon's premier community of Yacht Haven Estates. Fabulously located on
the Potomac River at the mouth of Dogue Creek, his lovely home includes
2900+ finished sq ft, 4 bedrooms, 4 baths (3 full, 1 half), a 2-car garage,
a sunroom and deck which soan the width of the home, a remodeled

open-style kitchen with sliding glass doors to the deck and a large living room with brick fireplace. The owner's suite has direct access to the sunroom, and the scenic river views from the bedroom are breathtaking. The huge dock provides ample boating and water-based activities. And just a few houses down the street is the Mt. Vernon Yacht Club, which offers its members boat slips, a swimming pool, a 3-story community center and social events throughout the year. Mt. Vernon living at its finest!



Woodland Park \$1,100,000 3400 Woodland Lane

Welcome to Woodland Park, one of the most Rustic & Coveted Waterfront Communities in Northern Virginia. Among many other things it offers a private picnic area & a boat launch for those who wish to enjoy boating along Linle Hunting Creek & the Potomac Kiver. Entering Woodland Park (Note: This is the sole entry & exit point, which dramatically reduces traffic within the neighborhood, you can't help but notice the 8rd house on the left, perched on top of a knoll, a large, beaufihal 3 level brick Colonial. Built in 1996, this home has been updated & kept in pristine condition. The main level offers a 2-story

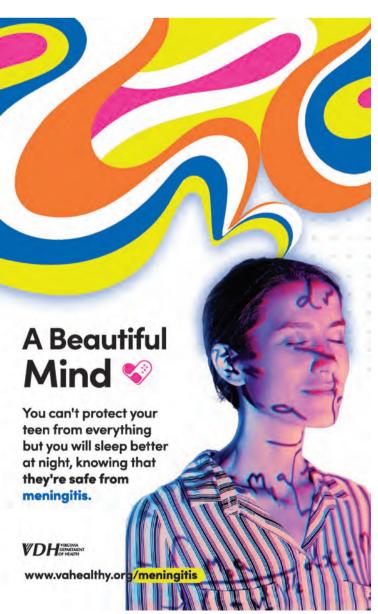
entry foyer, fiving rm, dining rm, large custom & open kitchen, breakfast nook, family rm w/FPL, half bath & last but not least, a large In-Law Suite complete w/a separate living rm, bed rm & full bath. Ideal for a 3-generation family. The upper level has a huge primary bedroom on the right, & a primary bath w/separate Jacuzzi tub & shower, plus an expansive walkien closet. On the fair left is a huge 3rd bedroom adjacent to the laundry rm & bed rms 4 & 5 w/a 2 m/d full bath. The lower level is spacious, w/a large reveration rm complete w/a beautiful pool table (conveys), perfect for your teenagers & their friends. A 4th full bath finally just over 900sf of unfinished basement. The backyard is large & just prior to January's heave, stown, bamboo provided a huge natural privary fence. It will grow back, if buyers wish or it can be removed to suit other designs for the property. Phenomenal Location: 5 minutes to Ft. Betvior (South), & 15 minutes to Olf Town (North) along the sevenic GW Ftwy, this is a beautiful home that doesn't one along very often!!



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OPINION

NO To 13 Lanes, YES to Safety

Fill out the survey.

BY SUPERVISOR DAN STORCK Mount Vernon District

ichmond Highway is the beating heart of our region. It is OUR MAIN STREET. While Richmond Highway is already our main street, the promise of its potential is not yet complete. The Embark Plan envisions replacing the existing commercial strips with an organized series of "villages." In everything ranging from speeding cars to the number of lanes and reliable bus service, we know that physical and design changes to the roadway are the best way to encourage the behaviors we want. For that reason, I'd like to take a moment to share with you some of the progress we have already made, as well as the

progress we are working on, and need your help to complete.

State and County staff have been working on the highway's design and new "The One" Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) for years. Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) recently held two public meetings to share the latest design updates based on traffic modeling, North Kings Highway improvements and information on the turn lanes along the corridor. If you missed the meeting, you can view all the materials here: https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ transportation/richmond-hwy-brt.

A third meeting on how each station can reflect the history and personality of the community is coming in June, with more information to come.

FCDOT also released a survey on the turn lane plans which is open until May 31. Please take the time to review the meeting materials and complete the survey so we can take everyone's perspectives into consideration. Link here: https://www.surveymonkey. com/r/RHBRT11. This is YOUR MAIN STREET and you can make a difference.

In addition to building our infrastructure along the roadway, our goal must also be to ensure that ALL travelers — drivers, "The One" riders, pedestrians and cyclists are safe and comfortable. To that end, the Board recently endorsed "Safe Streets for All," an important new County program in light of the recent increase in bicycle and pedestrian deaths in the region. The program aims to create a safe transportation network for people walking, biking and using other forms of active transportation facilities through the creation of "Complete Streets" throughout the County. The adopted recommendations provide a framework of education, policy, planning, and programmatic and

design strategies. I am highly supportive of this new program and see it as an opportunity to really make a difference for the safety of all who use our roadways and trails.

Finally, I'd like to thank the Gum Springs Community and the MVCCA for raising their voices (and a coffin!) to bring attention to the plans the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) brought to us last year suggesting Richmond Highway be 13 lanes wide at some locations. Your advocacy is bringing significant improvements to these plans.

Our vision, and its implementation, will result in new placemaking, investments and economic vibrancy for our community. These efforts will greatly influence the future economic success of our corridor, our residents and our businesses, and are essential to fulfilling the promise and potential of our Main Street.

The Reason for Memorial Day

By Del. Paul Krizek

his upcoming weekend is sure to be a fun and busy one for many of us as we kick off the summer with the three-day Memorial Day weekend. After two years of canceled plans due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many of us are now resuming our vacation traveling, albeit safely, and monitoring local conditions and protocols at our destinations. My family and I have just returned from a visit to upstate New York to pick up our daughter from college and take a tour of the St. Regis Indian Reservation (Akwesasne Mohawk) and meet with tribal leaders. It was a beautiful time and full of much-needed relaxation!

Whether you plan to travel abroad, to another state, or to relax at home, as you dive into the weekend, remember to pause and think about the true meaning of the Memorial Day holiday. Let us reflect on and honor the memory of our loved ones, ancestors, relatives, friends, and neighbors who gave their lives in service to our country. We should all share deep gratitude for the ultimate sacrifice included families and veterans of our fallen heroes. Our nation honoring the dead and tending to wouldn't be the great country it is today, a shining light of democracy, a beacon of hope for refugees and asylum seekers, were it not for the sacrifices of our heroic D.C. at Logan Circle) and occurred

predecessors, including our allies, especially in the two World Wars. My English mother's father is buried in Le Havre, France. He was a private in the Royal Army Medical Corps and died in battle in 1940. My other grandfather was an immigrant to America

from Bohemia who organized fellow Czech and Slovak immigrants to become Legionnaires to join the French Army to fight against the Austro-Hungarian Empire, an ally of Germany, in what was then the "Great War," which was renamed World War I after World War II occurred. Most Americans can point to similar stories of sacrifice to our great nation.

This holiday has deep roots here in Virginia. According to the Richmond-Times Dispatch, Warrenton, Virginia was the location of the first Civil War soldier's grave ever to be decorated on June 3rd, 1861. In addition to decorating graves, there were earlier celebrations in the South that were solemn occasions that local cemeteries.

Memorial Day was established by General John Logan (see his equestrian statue in Washington



Krizek

on May 30, 1868 at Arlington National Cemetery, where both Confederate and Union soldiers were buried. While this day began as one to honor the almost half a million soldiers who died during the Civil War, by the turn of the 20th Century, the

holiday was extended to honor all Americans who died while in the U.S. military service.

In 1971, Memorial Day became a federal holiday.

Every year, a wreath is placed

on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and small American flags are placed at each of the over 260,000 gravestones in Arlington National Cemetery, including my parents, uncle and other relatives. Thank you to the many volunteers, especially the Scouts and soldiers, who have taken part in this solemn recognition.

So, enjoy a wonderful and safe long weekend. But, as we celebrate the start of the summer season, take a moment to remember those many courageous souls who paid the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country.

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SENIOR LIVING

Seniors Explore Photography in Retirement

Partnership between George Mason University's School of Theater and Photography Club retirees extends beyond intergenerational relationships.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

group of retirees with a penchant for photography are using their skills behind the lens to help students who are hoping to make a career in front of it.

Through a partnership between members of the Photography Club at George Mason University's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute's (OLLI) and the University's School of Theater (SOT), club members take headshot photographs of incoming students as well as the dress rehearsals and publicity shots for each play.

"The SOT gets a selection of pictures from various productions and the OPC photographers are supporting a good project and increasing their skills. There are wins for everyone," said George Bradshaw, a member of the photography club.

"Working with the SOT is a privilege [and] a joy. I end up with a handful of photos that I enjoy sharing with family and friends."

OLLI's Photography Club is comprised of seniors who, in retirement, have time to



OLLI Photography Club Member Ed Marion volunteers his time to take photographs of students in George Mason University's School of Theater.

explore their hobbies. Retired otolar-[□] yngologist Edward D. Marion, M.D., joined OLLI in 2015 after a 39-year career as a physician

in private practice. "Having been an active volunteer, a part time instructor ... it was a natural extension to continue my volunteer work as a member of the OLLI Photography Club at GMU," he said.

A family tradition led to Bradshaw's interest in the club. "After retiring I decided to follow in my father's footsteps. He was a freelance photographer in New York in the '30s and '40s," he said. "So I bought a cam-



This photograph of George Mason University theater students was taken by George Bradshaw as part of a partnership between the OLLI Photography Club and Mason's School of Theater.

era ... joined the OLLI Photo Club (OPC) in early 2015, and have been having a blast with photography ever since. It's a thrill for the photographers to see their images out in the public in this fashion."

The partnership between students and the seniors extends beyond photographs. "In

addition to challenges and joys is the social benefit," said Bradshaw. "I get to observe young adults who will be our future leaders, see how they approach their vocations, see how they react with each other as a troupe and individually, and simply enjoy brief in-

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SPRING



New narrow-leaf cattails are coming in at Dyke Marsh, interspersed with arrow arum



Spring's Renewal in Dyke Marsh

360+ species of plants in Dyke Marsh emerge for spring.

By Glenda C. Booth Mount Vernon Gazette

pring's re-awakening is well underway in the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve. Red-winged blackbirds are calling, flitting about and gathering nesting material. Warblers are warbling as they migrate through. Bald eagles are bringing food to their hungry eaglets in the nests. Frogs are croaking. Down below in the wetland, Dyke Marsh's plants are greening up and rising from the mucky soil.

Dyke Marsh, a freshwater tidal marsh on the Potomac River in the northern Mount Vernon area, has many plants called "emergents," plants with roots in the sediment underwater and shoots and leaves that extend up out of the water. (Submergent plants are wholly underwater and may be rooted or unrooted.) Emergent wetland plants provide food and shelter for birds, insects, fish and other wildlife and in some cases, food for wildlife and historically, people.

"Wetlands are slow to warm up," says Dr. Beth Wells, a retired Mount Vernon-area botany professor.

Narrow-leaf Cattails

Narrow-leaf cattail stands dominate Dyke Marsh, plants that have been there for thousands of years. This time of year, most of last year's fluffy flowers have released their seeds green, narrow leaves seem to be reaching for the sky. By mid-summer the cattails will be three to five feet tall. They grow from rhi- Spatterdock zomes, root-like underground stems.

8 Mount Vernon Gazette May 26 - June 1, 2022



green female flower. These plants are fresh- or cow lily, grows in water up to 16 inches water perennials and a different species from deep. Like cattails, spatterdock plants have the more common broad-leaf cattails which rhizomatous root systems. grow, for example, in the Huntley Meadows

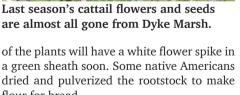
to the wind and are gone. The plants' new, baskets, mats and rope. People have used the aroma attracts pollinating insects. This plant "fluff" for padding and insulation.

Spatterdock leaves are also now visible, One narrow-leaf cattail plant can have both submersed, floating on top of the water and ing, bright green arrow arum plants with the male and female flower. Atop the erect some extending above it. As summer pro- leaves that can be up to 18 inches long and stem, the male flower is the velvety brown gresses, more leaves will stand above the five to six inches wide by the fall. The veined "hotdog;" below is the similarly-shaped, water. This plant, also called yellow pond leaves resemble a spearhead or arrow. Many

Spatterdock flowers, not yet visible, are round, golf-ball-like, yellow blossoms that Native Americans used cattails to make look to be about half open. Their brandy-like is very tolerant of high water.

Arrow Arum

Scattered among the cattails are emerg-



This plant is easily confused with another freshwater plant called pickerel weed which has heart-shaped leaves and will soon have

While not wetland plants, mayapples are carpeting some of the moist, woodsy areas of Dyke Marsh. This plant, with umbrella-like leaves, also spreads via rhizomes to form large colonies. Mayapples produce a white Rich in Botanical Life flower, but it is usually hidden under the leaves. The flowers become a greenish fruit that turns gold when ripe.

Another valuable and common native plant very visible now is poison ivy, which

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PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH

Mayapple plants carpet the damp forest floor in





Spatterdock leaves can thrive below the water's surface and above.

can occur as a ground cover or a climbing vine. In Dyke Marsh, it is frequently a climbing vine. In the early spring, young leaves are reddish and shiny before they turn green. Rich in lipids, the berries of poison ivy give birds energy.

"Leaves of three, let it be," is the mantra youngsters often learn, an admonition to avoid it because it can cause skin irritation, even from the fuzzy vines in winter when the leaves are gone. Captain John Smith, the English explorer who traveled up the Potomac, published this observation in 1624: "The poisoned weed is much in shape like our English Ivy, but being touched, causeth redness, itching and lastly blisters."

There are over 360 known species of plants in Dyke Marsh in the various habitats -- tidal marsh, floodplain, an area over thousands of years with other species

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Young poison ivy leaves are reddish. Birds love this native plant's berries.



New arrow arum leaves poke out of the water at



which they co-evolve. Around 26 percent of the plants along the George Washington Memorial Parkway are not native, according to the National Park Service's botanist, Brent Steury, the parkway's Natural Resources Program Manager.

Non-native plants, introduced from other areas accidentally and deliberately, have few controls or lack the natural controls such as insects and disease that keep them in balance in their native habitats. Many, like English ivy, can out-compete native plants, form a monoculture, impair biodiversity and destroy native habitats. One example of a local invasive wetland plant is purple loosestrife which also displaces native vegetation. The National Park Service is trying to con-

Dedicated volunteers are working to restore native terrestrial habitats by controlling many invasive swamp forest and open water. Native plants evolve in plants, including bush honeysuckle, English ivy, garlic mustard, porcelain berry, mile-a-minute and stiltgrass. and provide habitat and food for wildlife species with To help, email info@fodm.org.

News

Business Breakfast with Lt. Gov. Winsome Sears

the last session of the General Assembly from the President of the Virginia Senate, Lt. Governor Winsome Sears.

The Lt. Governor will update Chamber members on major legislation passed in the last Session and share her insights on the legislative

This is a joint event of the Mount Vernon Lee Chamber and the Great- Lt. Gov. Winsome Sears er Springfield Chamber

and members of both Chambers receive special member pricing. Thursday, June 9, 2022 8 a.m. thru 09:30 a.m. at The Fairfax at Fort Belvoir Retirement Community 9140 Belvoir Woods Parkway Ft Belvoir, VA 22060. Park in the parking lot to the left past the guard house. Walk to the community center.

After the breakfast we will take a short walk to the newly renovated Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center at The Fairfax for a ribbon cutting.

Winsome Earle-Sears, a native of Kingston, Jamaica, im-



migrated to the United States at the age of six. She is proud to have served in the United States Marine Corps. In addition to her various appointments, she has served as the Vice President of the Virginia State Board of Education; and as a presidential appointee to the US Census Bureau, as co-chair of the African American Committee; and the Advisory Committee on Women Veterans to the Secretary of Vet-

https://cca.mountvernonleechamber.org/EvtListing.aspx?class=E&evtid=5115580

Mount Vernon District Police Reports

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY:

7524 and 7508 Richmond Hwy (Fashion K City and Sherwin Williams), 5/12/22 & 5/13/22. A man forced entry into the two businesses over two nights. He destroyed and took property from both businesses. On May 13, officers found the man hiding nearby after he broke into the Sherwin Williams. Detectives determined these cases are related. The man was charged with burglary and petit larceny. Additional charges are pending.

ROBBERY/ASSAULT ON LAW ENFORCEMENT:

7230 Richmond Highway (Taco Bell), 5/13/22, 8:43 a.m. A 24-year-old man from Alexandria threatened a store employee and took property. He was found at a nearby bus stop. He threatened the officers and tried to run away. As officers were making the arrest, the man assaulted one of the officers. He was charged with two counts of assault on a law enforcement officer, robbery, and trespassing. The officer sustained minor injuries.

ASSAULT WITH A WEAPON/BRANDISHING:

3500 block of Robert E. Lee Place, 5/13/22, 11:51 p.m. Two men displayed a gun and assaulted two victims with a machete. One victim was transported with injuries not considered life threatening. Preliminary, this does not appear to be a random act.

BIKE TO WORK



This rider in the Island Creek area took advantage of the on-road bike trails on Beulah Street at Bike to Work Day on Friday, May 20.



Biker comradery at the Springfield stop Bike to Work Day on Friday, May 20.

Bike To Work Day, Month of May Tradition

An upbeat activity for an upbeat month heading into summer.

BY MIKE SALMON The Connection

he sun was out, no rain and the area's bicycle enthusiasts forged their way to work from all corners of the area, including Springfield where the pit stop at Metro Park ran short of t-shirts but not enthusiasm. For some reason, there weren't as many delivered, but the riders still got exercise, fresh air, water and comradery with fellow bicyclists at the pit stop. "We ran out of t-shirts around 7:30 a.m. But everyone that missed out on the t-shirts were good sports about it," said pit stop manager Jennifer Brown.

There were about 40 people at the Springfield Metro Park pit stop, which is right off Beulah Street and for those that work in Fort Belvoir, it's on the way. One rider came from Vienna to Fort Belvoir and a bunch of riders were on the way to other locations in the office park. The pit stop was right outside Kingstowne, a family friendly area, so a few families stopped in too.

"We also had several families come in together with their kids, often with one spouse then heading off to work on their bike," Brown said.

According to Ursula Sandstrom, Trail Ranger and Outreach Director at Washington Area Bicyclists Association, there were 14,000 registrants and nearly 100 pit stops throughout the region for this year's event. The pandemic put a damper on the ride in 2020 and 2021 but certain stops this year were still crowded, added Bruce Wright, president of the Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling. In particular, there were a lot of



FABB's table in Vienna at Bike to Work Day on Friday, May 20.



Polly Trottenberg, Deputy Secretary of Transportation, takes part in the Bike to Work Day activities in downtown DC.

riders at the stop in Reston. "Compared 1956. Over the years, Bike to Work Day has WABA.. to before Covid, the numbers were probably down a little but it was good to see so many people out on bikes," he said.

Bigger BTW Picture

This year was the 21st anniversary of the official Bike To Work Day as it is known, but the League of American Bicyclists began a Bike to Work Day as part of Bike Month in

HIS MACHINE At the Mount Vernon RECenter pit stop, one rider looks at the bigger picture for Bike to Work Day on Friday, May 20.



Mayor Wilson at a Carlyle Square Park pitstop in Alexandria for Bike to Work Day on Friday, May 20.

grown into a widespread event in an effort

to get commuters to try bicycling to work

as a healthy and safe alternative to driving

alone. In the Metropolitan Washington re-

gion, Bike To Work Day has grown from a

few hundred in 2001 to an all-time high of

18,700 participants in 2017. The event is

sponsored by Commuter Connections and

Advantages of commuting by bike include cost, health, reliability and the environmental advantages. BTW officials cite the Clean Air Partners research data that each year cars and trucks travel more than 38 billion miles on the roads, accounting for 30-40% of the ozone-causing pollut-

10 Mount Vernon Gazette May 26 - June 1, 2022

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News

Stone Bridge Artists Tour Is Back

tone Bridge Artists, Alexandria is a group of nine well known artists that formed in 2020 to exhibit their work in delightful outdoor or indoor settings in historic Hollin Hills and Tauxemont.

After a very successful First in September 2021, Stone Bridge Artists stage their Artists Tour in the Mt. Vernon region for the second time during the weekend of June 10 through June 12, 2022 - rain or shine.

Friday from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Artists and venues:

Susan Cohen – Ceramics Ian Kessler-Gowell – Blown Glass Patrick Sargent – Fine Prints. Silkscreen. Serigraphs

BULLETIN BOARD

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

TUESDAY/JUNE 21

1950 Census and Genealogy. 1-3 p.m. Via Zoom. National Archives researcher, Claire Kluskens, will provide an overview of the newly released 1950 census. She'll

demonstrate how to use the census in your family history research. Free. Visit the website: www.mvgenealogy.org.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

STEM VOLUNTEERS. The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) needs scientists, engineers, mathematicians,

2100 Mason Hill Dr (Hollin Hills) Alexandria, VA 22306

 $\label{local-condition} \mbox{Jolande Goldberg} - \mbox{Sculpture. Bronze Fountains in the Gardens}$

Robin Croft – Sculpture. Drawings. Collage Gretchen Raber – Sculpture. Jewelry 2219 Martha's Rd (Hollin Hills) Alexandria, VA 22307

Joan Ulrich – Ceramics Patrick Sargent – Fine Prints. Silkscreen. Serigraphs

Gail Saour – Painting Jackson Tanner – Painting 1234 Shenandoah Rd (Tauxemont) Alexandria, VA 22308

Artists will be on site for artists' talk and conversations with the visitors.

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 donaldrea@aol.com.

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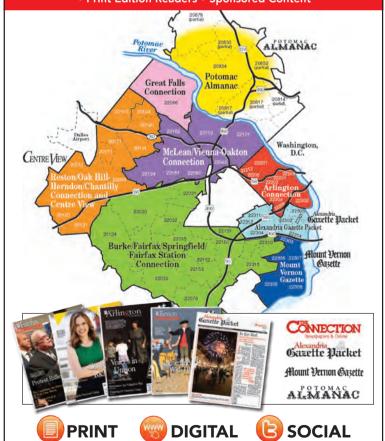
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Entertainment

4 Dates to Circle in June

By Hope Nelson Gazette Packet

rom the Taste of Del Ray to Portside in Old Town to several stop-offs at breweries and cideries in between, the summertime is in full swing this June. Here are some dates to mark on your calendar.

Taste of Del Ray on the Avenue, **June 3-5**

APPETITE

The Taste of Del Ray is back for another year, stretching down Mount Vernon Avenue and its nearby tributaries. Featuring the area's

top restaurants, the event gives members a taste of a multitude of cuisines and bites from more than a dozen restaurants. Looking to get gussied up? Snap up tickets to the Thursday VIP reception for \$50. Or if you're looking to graze throughout the weekend, sample up to three "tastes" from each participating restaurant for \$5 apiece. And don't forget to vote for the People's Choice award winner when all is said

Concert Featuring Hanoi Ragmen at Port City Brewing, June 4

Join the alternative-rock band Hanoi Ragmen as they celebrate two new releases and kick off the summertime show season. The live concert also features The Frontier and Indigo Thursday. Kick back, order a brew or two, and let the music flow. 3950 Wheeler Ave. 6-9 p.m.

Lost Boy Cider's Third Anniversary Party, June 11

Has it been three years already? Lost Boy Cider's birthday is coming up and the cidery has invited the community to join in the festivities. In addition to beverages, look for fare from Chalkboard BBQ including pulled pork, pulled chicken and smoked brisket. And what would a birthday party be without cake and other sweets? Alexandria Pastry Shop and Sugarcoated Bakery have you covered. Attendees will receive a complimentary pint glass to take home – as well as the food and drink (the first pint of cider is included in the price). 317 Hooffs Run Drive. Noon-3 p.m. \$40.

Portside in Old Town Summer Festival, June 17 and 18

Swing by the waterfront in Old Town Alexandria to soak in the sun, enjoy some Port City suds and take in an array of food served up by the likes of Borinquen Lunch Box, the Italian Place and Dolci Gelati. Bonus: The annual Alexandria Jazz Fest has joined forces with Portside this year and will have plenty of entertainment Friday night before the music moves into several different genres on Saturday. Waterfront Park, 1A Prince St. 6-9 p.m. Friday; 1-9 p.m. Saturday. Free.

Hope Nelson, award-winning columnist, 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.

New Album; Happy 80th Birthday

n June 3 at 7:30 p.m., Alexandria's own tango band QuinTango celebrates the release of their latest album, OBSESIÓN, and the birthday of founder, director and violinist Joan Singer at Old Town Alexandria's LYCEUM. The award-winning sextet will perform music from their new album, including original tangos by Grammy-nominated composer and band member Emmanuel Trifilio and bassist Ali Cook, music of Astor Piazzolla, and classic tangos. Cake and a champagne toast for Director Singer's 80th birthday follows the concert. The group's music is streamed worldwide over 20,000 times a week; their last album



before OBSESIÓN was released in 2014. The CD will be on sale at the celebration on June 3 and will be available on the QuinTango website - www.quintango. com- and on Spotify after that. For those unable to attend, the concert will be livestreamed.

Singer founded the internationally known tango group in 1998. They have given a Command Performance at the White House, played at Lincoln Center Plaza in NY, and done fourteen international tours, including ten with Fans & Friends.

Their work in Alexandria City Public Schools and with the Alexandria Library focuses on community building through the arts. Singer has been an active member of the Alexandria arts community since her arrival here in 1976 and currently serves on the board of the Alexandria Arts

Performing on the CD are Sasha Mikhlin, violin; Joan Singer, violin; Susanna Mendlow, cello; Ali Cook, double bass; Julie Huang Tucker, piano; Emmanuel Trifilio, bandoneon.

Tickets for the OBSESIÓN celebration are \$30 in advance and \$35 at the door. Tickets are available at www.quintango.com with Pavpal and Venmo or by mailing a check to QuinTango, 812 W Braddock Rd, Alexandria 22302. Seats are limited.

Calendar

NOW THRU JUNE 5

'SeeWorthy" Exhibit. At Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union Street, Studio #9, Alexandria. View ship construction through the eyes of maritime archaeologists in SeeWorthy, a new exhibit from Alexandria Archaeology highlighting the technology used to digitally reconstruct historic vessels. Recent development along the waterfront has led to significant discoveries by archaeologists, including the remains of four historic ships. These remnants have been laser scanned to create models showing what they would have looked like in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

NOW THRU JUNE 12

MVUC Greenhouse Plant Sale. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Weekends only. At Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane Alexandria. The Annual Spring Plant Sale at the MVUC Greenhouse opens April 2 and 3, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., weekends only. They have a variety of vegetables and flowers for sale again this year. Lots of regular and heirloom tomatoes and not-too-hot peppers (more than 20 different varieties) as well as some of your favorite perennials, annuals, and herbs. Visit the lovely, old greenhouse and buy some new plants for your spring garden.

NOW THRU JUNE 17

Vietnam Memorial Traveling Exhibit. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's traveling exhibit Panel 44: 8 Days in March will be on display at the National Museum of the United States Army through June 17, 2022, as a part of the 40th anniversary commemoration of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial The centerpiece of the exhibit is the Memorial's original Panel 44, produced in 1982 but not placed in the Memorial because of a crack in the upper-right edge. It is inscribed with the names of 337 American service members who died between March 9-16, 1968. Two hundred fifteen of the inscribed names were Army Soldiers, ranging in age from 18 to 46. All those remembered by the panel represent 44 states, the District of Colombia, and Puerto Rico. Visit https://www.thenmusa. org/visit/#get-tickets,

NOW THRU JULY 9

Retrospective Art Deco Exhibition. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. At George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive in Alexandria. The first retrospective on the work of Art Deco designer Edgard Sforzina will open April 30th at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial during the Art Deco Society of Washington's 39th annual Washington Modernism Show. Discount tickets are available at www.washingtonmodernismshow. com.

NOW THRU JUNE 2

Rook Richards. 5-8 p.m. At Augies Mussel House & Beer Garden, 1106 King St., Alexandria. Live acoustic



First Thursdays in Del Ray will be held Thursday, June 2 in Del Ray, Alexandria.

music! This is a weekly recurring event and runs from May 16 to June 2 and happens every Monday to Thursday from 5-8 p.m. Visit the website: https://www.eventvesta. com/events/17117/t/tickets.

THURSDAY/MAY 26

The Golden Age of Gypsy Jazz. 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. At The Rectory on Princess Street, 711 Princess Street, Alexandria. Sip

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 14



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Announcements

Digestive Healthcare Specialists 2616 Sherwood Hall Lane Unit 307 Alexandria, Viginia 22306

It has been a privilege to serve the patients in this community. Effective June 30, 2022, Digestive Healthcare Specialists will close. If you were a patient and would like your medical records, notify the office with a signed request. I extend my best wishes for your future health

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Wellbeing pages, the first week of every month.

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Celebrate students, camps, schools, enrichment programs, colleges and more in our **A-plus: Education, Learning, Fun** pages, the third week of every month.

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A Lot of **Perspective**



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

If you allow it, cancer can be exhausting. However, I'm not referring to the physical toll treatment takes, which as many of you may not know, is often debilitating. Instead, I'm referring to the emotional toll: the worry, the fear, the uncertainty, the dying and of course, the premature death (although some might joke, any death is premature). It's been my intention to, as much as possible, ignore it all, and so far, I've done a pretty good job. Still, it's an anchor, figuratively speaking. It weighs you down, and sort of keeps you in the same place. If you let it, it can moderate your highs and deepen your lows. And being low (depressed) is all it's cracked up to be, and no way to fend off cancer, and/or try to live a semi normal life.

And really, trying to normalize your life despite a cancer diagnosis, with the ongoing treatment and/or the regular monitoring intervals: to scan, to complete lab work, to attend infusion appointments, et cetera, is the cost of doing business, so to speak, and hardly normal. Cancer doesn't always announce itself. Often, it appears out of nowhere with barely a symptom. And when that occurs to a lifelong non-smoker, age 54 and a half, with no family history of cancer, with both parents who lived into their mid-eighties, the absolute last thing you expect to hear from your primary care physician is: "The biopsy was malignant." So much so that when I heard it, I asked "What does that mean?" 'What does that mean?' What kind of a moron am I? I know what 'malignant' means: trouble, with a capital "T." But cancer? I never imagined. Moreover, I'm not sure I even knew that an oncologist was a cancer doctor. In fact, it was my primary care doctor who set up our appointment with one for the following Thursday on this very same call. He didn't really elaborate much. He offered little information other than to suggest I bring along any family members. At that point, I began to get the message. I was not in Kansas anymore, if you know what I mean, and this initial appointment was only the beginning of what could very well be my end.

'My end?' I had just spent the last four years or so tending, along with my brother, Richard, and our family caregiver, Maria, to my father who died in early Dec. 2006, and then for another two years until early Dec. 2008, when my mother died, nearly on the exact day as my father had. I/we had been preoccupied with their lives since my father suffered his first stroke. It had been barely one month after we buried our mother, on Jan. 1st when I first experienced symptoms

I had pain in my left rib cage which a few days later migrated to my right rib cage. That didn't seem right. And then on the weekend, when I had trouble catching my breath/inhaling, and had difficulty bending over, I had to admit that I needed to see a doctor. But cancer? No bleeping way. (I'd swear, but this is a community newspaper.)

Yet, from the depths of that initial despair, I have risen to live and breathe for another 13-plus years. I'm just glad that my parents weren't alive to hear my diagnosis. It would have been devastating for them to hear that their baby ("some baby," my mother would often say) yours truly was diagnosed with a terminal form of cancer. Hopefully, not knowing has enabled them to rest in peace. And what do I know? Cancer is bad enough on its own. You can't make it worse by giving into it. You must make peace with it or find a place for it in your life somehow. Fortunately, I'm good at compartmentalizing.

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



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Calendar

From Page 12 a French Martini while Chanteuse Myriam Phiro and her band Nuage Rhythm celebrate the golden age of jazz across the Atlantic, from the salons of Manhattan to Paris and the Mediterranean with a transatlantic flair and distinctive blend of Parisian and American Jazz from New York City to the Secret Garden. Inspired by the stylings of Edith Piaf and Nat King Cole, experience your favorite jazz classics in French, English, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish, reimagined through the unmistakable flavor of gypsy jazz.

FRIDAY/MAY 27

Historic Garden Tour. 10 a.m. At Lee-Fendall House Museum and Garden, Alexandria. Discover the history of the Lee-Fendall garden from its eighteenth-century beginnings to the present. Learn how the use and appearance of the garden has changed over time and see recent efforts to restore the garden and create an educational space and urban wildlife habitat. Advance ticket purchase is required as the tour is limited to 12 participants. For more information, call 703-548-1789 or email contact@leefendallhouse.org.

SATURDAY/MAY 28

Beyond the Battlefield: A Civil War Walking Tour. 9 a.m. At Lee-Fendall House Museum and Garden, Alexandria. This walking tour shares the stories of soldiers, citizens, and self-liberated African Americans in Civil War Alexandria. It covers the military occupation, the conversion of public and private buildings into hospitals, and emancipation. The tour is limited to 12 participants and lasts approximately an hour and a half. Walking tours take place rain or shine so please wear appropriate shoes and clothing. Call 703-548-1789 or email contact@leefendallhouse.org.

MONDAY/MAY 30

Memorial Day Ceremony. 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. At Mt. Vernon Recreation Center, CPT Rocky Versace Plaza and Vietnam Veterans Memorial, 2701 Commonwealth Ave., Alexandria Patriotic music sung. Names of Alexandria's 68 Vietnam War Fallen Heroes read. Wreath laying at the statue of Vietnam War POW/ MIA and Medal of Honor recipient Captain

H.R. "Rocky" Versace. "Taps" sounded. Post Ceremony - Vietnam Era Veteran Pin presented to qualified U.S. military veterans as part of the Dept. of Defense 50-year Commemoration of the Vietnam War.

TUESDAY/MAY 31

Yoga Al Fresco. 6:30 p.m. At Old Town Alexandria's Canal Center Plaza, 44 Canal Center, Alexandria. Features the area's top yoga instructors offering a free community session for all skill levels.

THURSDAY/JUNE 2

BookTalk- American Landmark. 6-8 p.m. At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Hwy., Alexandria. Woodlawn & Pope-Leighev House announces a BookTalk with Virginia Christian Beach, author of "American Landmark: Charles Duell and the Rebirth of Middleton Place." Join in a lecture from the author and a candid discussion about historic interpretation. Email: woodlawnevents@ savingplaces.org

THURSDAY/JUNE 2

First Thursdays in Del Ray. 6 p.m. At various locations in Del Ray, Alexandria. Held the first Thursday from April to August along Mount Vernon Avenue in the Del Ray neighborhood of Alexandria, First Thursday is a series of free outdoor street festivals that bring the community together around a fun theme, benefiting a local nonprofit. This summer's themes include "Unmask Your Superhero First Thursday," "First Thursday Red, White & Blue," "First Thursday Aloha Thursday" and "First Thursday Show Your Spirit," respectively. Visit visitdelray.com.

FRIDAY/JUNE 3

Interpreting the Enslaved People of Mount Vernon. 7 p.m. At Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St., Alexandria. Join in this talk and learn about various ways of interpreting the enslaved people at George Washington's Mount Vernon. Learn about the different techniques, the challenges and future goals. The talk will be given by Jeremy Ray, the Director of Interpretation at Mount Vernon. Visit leefendallhouse.org

Seniors Explore Photography in Retirement

teractions with them."

"It's not a secret ... maintain an active mind and continued interactions and build relationships between people," added Marion.

Members appreciate the mental and physical challenges the come with theatrical photography. "Technically, photographing plays is a challenge in composition and lighting," said George. "It's also an intense workout, always looking at the actors through a lens with one eye, and over the camera with the other eye for full stage coverage, continually, for a couple of hours. The SOT's plays never let up on action, emotion, and amazing compositional opportunities. This experience has taught me more about using a camera and post-processing images than I could imagine any other photographic activity could offer."

The partnership began when representatives from the School of Theater contacted OLLI to ask Photography Club members to take shots of its students.

The partnership is consistent with institutions' mission.

"The OLLI Photography Club offers enriching experiences for our membership to share their talents and engage with the Uni-

versity," said Jennifer Disano, OLLI's Executive Director, "The OPC designs impactful program opportunities for intergenerational exchanges at the University."

Those interactions offer a glimpse into the lives of those at both ends of the age spectrum. "Once I was taking photographs, I had to crouch down to capture a certain perspective of an actor," said George. "Watching me rise slowly from that position, one student asked if I was okay. I replied that I need to replace my doctor because he can't cure old age."

Spending time with students, says Marion, affords him an opportunity to share his experiences with the budding thespians. "The life lessons for younger generations is to be curious, engage in face to face conversations," he said. "Remember that learning doesn't end with your first degree ... instead expect and plan to continue learning lifelong.

Those interested in learning more about OLLI and the Photography Club can visit https://view. flipdocs.com/?ID=10015627_172115#

Looking for resources for lifelong learning in Arlington? See https://library.arlingtonva.libguides.com/c.php?g=1066292&p=7758981



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