

# Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

JUNE 23, 2022



The steel drum band set the calypso mood.



U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8) shakes a few hands.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/GAZETTE

## Gum Springs Community Day Doubles as Juneteenth Celebration

Residents come together to celebrate their sense of community.

BY MIKE SALMON  
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

Optimism was in the air at the Gum Springs Community Day that doubled as a celebration of Juneteenth Day for this historic Mount Vernon community. In Martin Luther King Jr. park, skating, train rides, steel drum music and speeches by locals that grew up in and around Gum Springs provided entertainment.

“Big Mike” Graves helped pull things together for the event, and he’s been a resident of Gum Springs since 1975; events like this help the bonds in the community. “This has been part of our lives for 48 years,” he said.

Gum Springs resident Queenie Cox kicked things off by introducing Del. Paul Krizek (D-44) to the crowd that gathered around the stage, announcing the 189th anniversary of the community. Krizek talked about the history, and the efforts of a past resident, Annie Harper, who pushed to end the poll tax in Virginia, which was a way to stop African Americans from voting.

“Now you do not have a poll tax in Virginia because of residents in this community,” Krizek said. A marker to honor Harper is in the works, Krizek said.

The Fairfax County Police Department parked their RV, the “MRU” or mobile recruitment unit at the event. One focus is on teens in the 14-21 age range to recruit as “public safety cadets,” which helps the teens develop confidence and public speaking skills.

Detective Tammy Russell mans the MRU and talks the talk with bypassing teens. By becoming a cadet, the teens can learn lessons that may help them later in life, and possibly become police recruits, she hopes,



Children having fun on a carnival ride at the park.

noting that recruitment for the FCPD has been low in recent times, like many other professions.

Chatter about an upcoming local election was in the air. U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8) defeated Democratic challenger Victoria Virasingh on Tuesday and will now face Karina Lipsman (R) in November. Even though Beyer’s been in office for several terms, he wasn’t taking it lightly. “She’s run hard all year, we’re taking this run seriously, as we do every election year,” Beyer said. He’s been behind efforts in Gum Springs and appreciates the history. “Gum Springs is one of the legacy neighborhoods in the area,” Beyer said. “It’s involved and it stays together,” he added.



At the Beyer tent, the wind was a factor early on.

One of the information tables in the park was manned by the “Young Invincibles,” an international group that tries to get health care to people in the 18-24 age range. Their latest efforts are behind “generation vax,” encouraging everyone to get the Covid-19 vaccine.

Other tables on display in Martin Luther King Jr. Park were wildlife specialists from the Audubon Society, Friends of Little Hunting Creek, United Community and others. They had to cancel the kite event and the hot air balloon due to the windy conditions. Many remembered last year’s event when it was nearly 100 degrees, and felt the wind was not so bad.

Historian and author Carl Adams was in



Del. Paul Krizek (D-44) addresses the crowd.

the crowd, and he recently wrote “Nance: Trials of the First Slave Freed by Abraham Lincoln.”

Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. On June 19, 1865, the Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free. Note that this was two and a half years after President Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation — which had become official Jan. 1, 1863. <https://juneteenth.com/history/>

The day was recognized as a federal holiday just last year.



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# Candidates Are Set for Fall Election

Don Beyer secures nomination as Republicans select candidates for fall election season.

## Election Results

- ❖ Don Beyer: 38,000 votes; 77 percent
- ❖ Victoria Virasingh: 11,000 votes; 23 percent

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

Voters in Northern Virginia overwhelmingly supported four-term incumbent U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8), who received 77 percent of the vote on Tuesday against challenger Victoria Virasingh. It was one of five primaries in congressional districts across Virginia, which includes two of the most competitive races in the country this year: the 2nd Congressional District in Virginia Beach, where incumbent U.S. Rep. Elaine Luria (D-2) will face state Sen. Jen Kiggans (R-7) and the 7th Congressional District between Northern Virginia and the Richmond suburbs, where incumbent U.S. Rep. Abigail Spanberger (D-7) will face Prince William County Supervisor Yesli Vega.

"Here in our region and across the country we face a stark contrast between those who believe in building a strong and equitable economy, protecting our democracy, confronting the threat of climate change, making health care and housing more affordable, protecting Americans from gun violence, and protecting a woman's right to choose, and those who do not," said Beyer in a statement shortly after securing the Democratic nomination. "This is a challenging moment for the Democratic Party, and I look forward to throwing myself into that fight and making the case for equality, shared prosperity, and progress."

**THE MOST** surprising result of the evening was in the 7th Congressional District, which stretches from Woodbridge and Dale City in Prince William County through Fredericksburg all the way down to Caroline County in the Richmond exurbs. Vega secured the Republican nomination with 29 percent of the vote in a crowded field that included state Sen. Bryce Reeves (R-17), who enjoyed wide name recognition from his decade in the Senate. But Vega secured

the support of conservative heavy hitters, including former Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli, U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas), U.S. Rep. Louie Gohmert (Texas-1), former U.S. Rep. Dave Brat (R-7) and Ginni Thomas, wife of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas.

"Vega's very aggressive effort at courting very conservative voices in Virginia and nationally really paid off here," said Stephen Farnsworth, director of the Center for Leadership and Media Studies at the University of Mary Washington. "In a race where a lot of the candidates on the ballot are going to be relatively unknown to a lot of the voters, Vega's decision to come in with a lot of high-profile conservative endorsements helped push her across the finish line."

In Virginia Beach, Kiggans was able to secure the Republican nomination against three competitors with 56 percent of the vote. First elected in 2019, she filled the seat of longtime state Sen. Frank Wagner (R-7) who did not seek reelection in a year that was ex-

**"Here in our region and across the country we face a stark contrast between those who believe in building a strong and equitable economy, protecting our democracy, confronting the threat of climate change, making health care and housing more affordable, protecting Americans from gun violence, and protecting a woman's right to choose, and those who do not."**

— U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (R-8)

pected to be difficult for Republicans. In the Senate, Kiggans has championed an unsuccessful bill to ban "inherently divisive concepts" from the classroom. She also supported an unsuccessful budget amendment to spend \$70 million to audit the 2020 election in Virginia. One of her opponents in the race was Jerome Bell, who called himself the "MAGA candidate" and called for executing anyone involved in what he false-



This fall, incumbent U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8) will face Republican challenger Karina Lipsman.

ly claimed was widespread voter fraud.

"Kiggans ran slightly left of Bell, but she was able to do that because Bell was so far to the right," said Quentin Kidd, director of the Wason Center for Public Policy at Christopher Newport University.

Republican nomination against challenger Merritt Hale. For Beyer, the campaign against Virasingh featured an attack against his personal wealth.

On the campaign trail, she criticized the performance of his stock portfolio at a time when he was

in a position to have what she calls "privileged information" as a member of Congress. Beyer responded by moving all his investments from stocks to mutual funds to neutralize the criticism.

"Our campaign brought under-represented stories of Virginia's 8th District to light and created a movement that we should all feel proud of," Virasingh posted on Twitter.

This fall, Beyer will face Karina

Lipsman, who secured the Republican nomination in a convention last month. During a candidates forum before the convention she called for President Biden's chief medical advisor Anthony Fauci to be jailed. After securing the nomination, she flip flopped and now says that she no longer believes Fauci should be jailed. In a written statement announcing her new position, she said data on the "effectiveness of many of the forced government recommendations is contrary to previous messaging from our government." Through a campaign spokesman, Lipsman declined several requests to be interviewed about her flip flop on Fauci.

"It is deeply unfortunate, though not surprising, that some right-wing politicians have chosen to scapegoat Dr. Fauci and other public health officials," said Aaron Fritschner, a spokesman for the Beyer campaign. "Congressman Beyer strongly opposed anti-science rhetoric and attacks on federal employees for doing their jobs during the previous administration, and he continues to be a stalwart supporter of science, and a defender of the civil service and the rule of law."

FILE PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE



# Housing for All

BY SUPERVISOR DAN STORCK  
MOUNT VERNON DISTRICT

**A**ffordable Housing. We all hear the term, but, especially in today's market, what does that mean? To me, it means having a broad spectrum of new and existing housing options that provide opportunity for all who want to live, work or stay in Fairfax County to do so. This applies to many more individuals and families than you might expect — first time homebuyers, seniors aging in place, students, and of course, middle class families and folks with lower incomes, including custodians, clerks, new teachers and police officers, service workers; the list goes on.

The definition of an affordable home means having enough income to pay your housing expenses and still have enough money left over to provide for basic needs like food, clothing and medical care. Ideally housing expenses should not exceed 30-35% of your income. I deeply believe everyone needs a home they can take pride living in, regardless of income lev-

el, whether renting or owning — a place to relax and call your own at the end of a long day. The security of a home is crucial to our growth as individuals and families. With rents continuing to rise and incomes not keeping up, many critical frontline and essential workers are finding it increasingly difficult to find homes in the communities where they work. A housing market which accommodates the diversity of workers needed to support a community is an essential element of a thriving, healthy and vibrant one.

My Board colleagues and I recently dedicated more than \$100 million and doubled our affordable housing production goal from 5,000 to 10,000 new units by 2034. The Board is also committed to preserving the affordability of the approximately 9,000 market affordable multifamily units. The Board's Affordable Housing Preservation Task Force has made recommendations to preserve existing affordable housing — in-



Storck

cluding addressing the unique challenges and opportunities of manufactured (mobile) home communities.

In the Mount Vernon District, we have many projects underway, including North Hill (216 multifamily and 63 senior units), The Arden (126 units); and the preservation of Cityside Huntington Metro Apartments (569 units) and The Landings I & II (292 units) as affordable housing. We also continue to look for new and creative opportunities to utilize or repurpose County-owned properties. The Beacon Hill Emergency and Supportive Housing is an example where we are co-locating County services with various levels of supportive housing to increase successful transitions for our neediest residents.

I understand and have been involved with supporting this basic need since the 1970s when I first led nonprofits' housing support efforts. Later, as President of Good Shepherd Housing's Board, I led GSH to begin purchasing afford-

able housing units to better serve its clients. I am very proud to say that Good Shepherd Housing just celebrated its 50th housing purchase! Housing is basic for us all, while the strongest communities are built on homeownership. Homeownership is essential for building generational wealth and stable, vibrant, welcoming communities, enabling folks to reach their full potential.

In our District, which has both the most expensive and least expensive homes, and with Fort Hunt named the healthiest housing market in Virginia, we understand the importance of having a full spectrum of housing options. Maintaining this balance matters as we support our existing beautiful homes and neighborhoods while revitalizing the Richmond Highway corridor, creating its new vibrant, walkable neighborhoods and mixed-use and mixed-income developments. As your Supervisor, I am committed to affordable housing for all and to Leaving No One Behind as our revitalization continues, ensuring that folks who live here now, or who want to, will have a home.

# What to Expect on July 1st

BY DELEGATE PAUL KRIZEK

**T**he days are getting longer, and it is clear that summer is finally here to stay. There is much to be excited about over the warm months ahead, and included in that are the numerous new laws slated to go into effect next Friday, July 1st.

As you may know, on July 1st, Virginia's next fiscal year begins (FY23), and laws passed during the 2022 Regular Session become law. In a standard year, all laws passed during a regular session of the General Assembly take effect on the first day of July, unless another date is specified. Some laws may be passed with "emergency clauses", meaning they go into effect immediately upon the Governor's signature. Others may be passed with a delayed enactment, meaning they go into effect at another specified time, and yet others are passed with reenactment clauses, meaning they must be passed again in a consecutive year



Krizek

in order to become law. Below I highlight some laws going into effect next week, and what the consequences are that they will have on the Commonwealth.

❖ My legislative package (six bills) on charitable gaming will go into effect, ensuring that Virginia's charitable gaming system is a transparent and fair system, free from conflicts of interests, with clear definitions, serious penalties, a powerful enforcement arm, and with the goal of raising funds for charity as first and foremost in mind. The enactment of these laws could not come at a more appropriate time, as cases have recently come to light where unscrupulous gaming operators extended predatory and irresponsible lines of credit to vulnerable gamblers, sometimes leaving them hundreds of thousands of dollars in debt. Under these new strict laws, these practices are illegal.

❖ Delegate Carr's HB 632 (I originally copatroned Delegate

Watts' similar HB 367, which was rolled into this legislation) will finally go into effect, allowing law enforcement to ticket drivers whose vehicles create excessive noise. Drivers who purposefully alter their vehicles by removing sound reduction exhaust mechanisms have created a scourge of noise across Virginia, but this is especially felt here in our community near the Beltway and along Richmond Highway. This will be

a welcome policy change. HB 740 makes it a Class 6 felony for a person to willfully break, injure, tamper with, or remove any part or parts of any vehicle, aircraft, boat, or vessel to remove a catalytic converter or the parts thereof.

❖ Road safety is further improved with House Bill 67, which requires drivers who are transporting oversized loads that pro-

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PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/GAZETTE

## Raising Money for a Shot at the Gold

### Local track team looks to the Junior Olympics.

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE GAZETTE

**T**he “Spartan Chosen,” community track team gets every speck of dirt off this car in Mount Vernon last weekend, where they are raising

funds to go to the Junior Olympics later this summer. This Roy Rogers on the corner of Richmond Highway and Jeff Todd Way is a location that many groups use as a meeting place or a fundraising headquarters, and the staff inside like the attention for the cars driving by.

## Juneteenth Gives Seniors a Chance to Reflect and Teach

### A septuagenarian couple keeps family tradition alive.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE GAZETTE

**T**he smoky, rich aroma of spareribs and chicken sizzling on the grill filled the air in the backyard of Maise and Roosevelt Henderson’s Alexandria home. Sounds of laughter and friendly banter could be heard for more than two blocks as family, friends and neighbors trickled-in carrying serving bowls of collard greens and potato salad. Taking center stage at the feast, however, were slices of watermelon as well as crimson-colored sparkling water or lemonade. The barbecue is a long-standing tradition for the Henderson family. They gather to commemorate Juneteenth, the day when — more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation — enslaved people in Texas learned of their freedom.

“The red stands for the blood shed by our ancestors,” said Roosevelt, 77. The Hendersons moved to Alexandria from Houston, Texas 1987 so that they could live near family including three of the couple’s children and Roosevelt’s brother Charlie. “Our family has celebrated Juneteenth for as long as I can remember. Before my father died, he made my brothers, sisters and I promise to keep this tradition alive no matter what.”

“We do it to have a good time, but also make sure that the younger generation knows the hard truth about our county’s history,” said Maise, 75. “People try to whitewash over it because no one wants to talk about things that are embarrassing, but young people are our future, and they need to know about our past.”

While pleased that Juneteenth is now a federal holiday, 82-year-old Ida Dixon, one of Roosevelt’s sisters, has mixed emotions about the recognition. “Many Af-



COURTESY THE HENDERSON FAMILY

**The Henderson family continues a family tradition to commemorate Juneteenth.**

rican American families have celebrated it for years, but it makes me a little sad that it has become more mainstream,” she said. “It’s a good thing that more and more people are learning about it, but I think that businesses will capitalize on it like they do with July 4th and Labor Day sales. Juneteenth marks a serious event in our history that still affects us today. It shouldn’t be lumped in with days like Memorial Day when so many young people don’t even know what they are celebrating. They see it as a day off from work or school.”

When she worked as a teacher in Alabama, Thelma Washington, 78, says that she tried to make sure that her students were aware of African American history that she felt was often excluded from history books. “I taught 6th grade for 45 years,” she said. “Before forced busing, I made sure that my black students learned the hard truth about our tragic past.”



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# 'President Ulysses S. Grant' Helps Honor Volunteers

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH  
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

**"P**resident Ulysses S. Grant" paid a visit to Mount Vernon on June 19. Wearing a black top hat and 19th century morning coat, he joined 45 Friends of Dyke Marsh members and elected officials on a beautifully balmy but windy Sunday afternoon at Fort Hunt Park's Pavilion B to honor FODM volunteers.

The Friends of Dyke Marsh, a National Park Service partner organization, recognized the volunteers who help preserve and restore Dyke Marsh, from controlling invasive plants to conducting bird, butterfly and dragonfly surveys. Other volunteers conduct water quality testing, lead walks, staff tables at community events, clean up trash and write and design materials.

Volunteers planted over 4,000 native trees and plants at the native plant site. Another group has conducted a breeding bird survey every spring for over 30 years. One volunteer heads a project to save 20 pumpkin ash trees from the lethal, invasive emerald ash borer. Two other volunteers installed and maintain a wildlife camera. Dyke Marsh is a freshwater, tidal marsh on the Potomac River in northern Mount Vernon district. The preserve is a unit of the George Washington Memorial Parkway, a national park.

Charles Cuvelier, Superintendent of the George Washington Memorial Parkway, told the group, "Your voice matters," applauding environmental stewardship and partner groups efforts. "You make a big difference," he emphasized, and reported that NPS will continue the marsh restoration project.

## Electeds Weighed In

Eighth district Congressman Don Beyer said, "I read the Friends of Dyke Marsh newsletter cover to cover." He called Dyke Marsh a "great gift" and said that its restoration will "make up for past mistakes." He is seeking federal funds to pave the south parkway, he reported.

State Sen. Adam Ebbin lauded the group as "vital partners" and for 46 years of service. He cited his support for bills to discourage the sale and use of invasive plants.

Virginia Del. Paul Krizek compared FODM's efforts to control invasive plants to advancing legislation in the General Assembly. "It's like trying to push back the tide," he said, explaining that he successfully passed a bill to discourage in-



Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck discussed his environmental efforts.

vasive plants, a watered-down version from his introduced bill. He vowed to accelerate the phaseout of polystyrene or Styrofoam products. Styrofoam is a top item found during trash cleanups. When Styrofoam breaks into tiny pieces, birds and other wildlife mistake them for food and these products take decades, or even centuries, to biodegrade.

Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck told the crowd, "Global warming is here," and described some of the county's efforts to address climate change's local impacts. "Fairfax County needs to be a leader," he said. "It's all about how we protect ourselves." Storck is leading several county environmental initiatives, including an energy and climate action plan (CECAP), a resiliency plan and incorporating natural landscaping on county properties.

## FIRST NATIONAL PARK IN THE WORLD

In 1872, President Ulysses S. Grant signed into law a bill to create the first national park not



President Ulysses S. Grant, portrayed by Dwane Starlin, explained why he signed the bill creating Yellowstone National Park.

just in the United States but in the world, Yellowstone. Grant, portrayed by Dwane Starlin, told the group that in the mid-1800s, some people were alarmed by the widespread slaughter of elk, antelopes, buffaloes and mule deer in what is today's Yellowstone National Park. After Ferdinand Hayden led a scientific team to Yellowstone Basin and reported on the stunning natural wonders there, Grant was convinced that the 42nd Congress should protect the area. Today's park has over 10,000 thermal features that attract four million visitors a year. "Vandals will despoil it," preservation advocates argued in 1872. Opponents thought that if the federal government "locked up" the land the regional economy would suffer.

Recounting his personal history, Grant explained that when he was born in 1822, as was the custom then, the family held a get-together to choose a name for the newborn, a gathering that became a lively debate. Ultimately, family members drew names out of hat and chose Hiram Ulysses. Even-



Congressman Don Beyer discussed saving Yellowstone with "President Ulysses S. Grant."

tually he endured nicknames like "Useless."

Grant went to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and there met future Civil War notables like William Tecumseh Sherman and George B. McClellan. Graduating 21st out of 39, Grant weighed 117 pounds and had grown six inches since enrolling. In 1861 he joined the Union Army and at the behest of President Abraham Lincoln, became the successful commanding general of the Union armies in the Civil War. Grant wrote that he had "no

fondness for war except as a means for peace." His 1864 presidential campaign slogan was "Let's Have Peace," Starlin said.

Dwane Starlin is a musician-actor and licensed tour guide in Washington, D. C. He also portrays writer Mark Twain, broadcast journalist Walter Cronkite, 20th century lawyer Clarence Darrow and others. Visit <https://www.dwanestarlin.com/>.

*The author is the president of the Friends of Dyke Marsh.*



Khloe Krizek, Sen. Adam Ebbin and Del. Paul Krizek.



The Friends of Dyke Marsh honored long-time FODM officer and volunteer Dorothy McManus. Glenda Booth (on right) is president of the group.



President Grant and GW Memorial Parkway Superintendent Charles Cuvelier.



# ENTERTAINMENT



Enjoy fireworks at George Washington's Mount Vernon on June 24-25.

## 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](http://www.washingtonmodernismshow.com).

## NOW THRU AUG. 31

Creative Summer Programs. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery in Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Learn techniques in drawing, mixed media, mosaic, jewelry, watercolor, and more from local artists. Delve into creative exploration solo or with friends. Sign up for the programs that inspire you and make your own "stay-cation" art experience. Visit the website: <https://DelRayArtisans.org/programs/creative-summer/>

## JUNE 22-25

MVBA Summer Basketball Camp at Walt Whitman MS. Co-Ed. Ages 5-14 Years Old. June 22-25, June 27-July 1, July 5-8. Camp Hours from 9 AM-3 PM. For information, email us at [markvincentbasketballacademy@gmail.com](mailto:markvincentbasketballacademy@gmail.com) or visit our website [www.markvincentbasketballcamps.com](http://www.markvincentbasketballcamps.com).

## THURSDAY/JUNE 23

Cuban: A Night in Havana. 5 p.m., 6:30 p.m. At The Rectory on Princess Street, 711 Princess Street, Alexandria. Enjoy a mojito during this exuberant celebration of the golden age of Cuban music in the secret garden to include favorite songs of the Buena Vista Social Club and more. Visit: <https://www.classicalmovements.com/secretgardenconcerts/>

## FRIDAY/JUNE 24

1970s Trivia Night. At Lee-Fendall House & Gardens, Alexandria. Staff

members at Carlyle House Historic Park and the Lee-Fendall House Museum combine their knowledge to create bi-weekly trivia nights throughout the summer in the beautiful gardens of the Lee-Fendall House. Test your knowledge on everything from pop culture to history. Registration must be done in advance. Limited capacity so register early!

Tickets are \$8 per person and include snacks and one complimentary drink. Additional drinks can be purchased at our bar. Teams are limited to 6 people, ages 21+ only. Each trivia night will have a different theme (see below). There will be weekly prizes for the winning team as well as a grand prize for the team that wins the most points over the entire summer.

## JUNE 24-25

Independence Fireworks at George Washington's Mount Vernon. At 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy., Mount Vernon. 6 to 9:30 p.m. Enjoy an evening of family fun and fireworks along with patriotic music to celebrate our nation's founding. Tickets are available with or without Mansion tours. Access to the Mansion is by guided tour only. This event features performances by the National Concert Band and The Fifes & Drums of Yorktown.

## SATURDAY/JUNE 25

Auxiliary Improv Show. 7:30 p.m. At the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. Improv comedy is an unscripted performance. Everything will be completely made up on the spot, so everything performed is totally unique and limited to this night only. Suggested \$10 donation.

## SATURDAY/JUNE 25

The Old Town Arts & Crafts Fair. 3 to 8 p.m. At Market Square, 300 King St, Alexandria. Volunteer Alexandria is thrilled to implement the popular Old Town Arts and Crafts

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 8

**CALENDAR**

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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
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Let us know  
about an  
upcoming event

connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Please be advised that a fireworks display will take place as part of a public evening event, Independence Fireworks at George Washington's Mount Vernon on the following dates:

Friday, June 24, between 9:15 p.m. and 9:45pm (15 minutes)  
Saturday, June 25 between 9:15 p.m. and 9:45pm (15 minutes)

There will also be a brief (5-minute) daytime fireworks display will take place as part of the annual American Celebration public event at George Washington's Mount Vernon on

Monday, July 4 between 1:00pm and 1:30pm.

The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association thanks you for your tolerance and apologizes for any disruption. To receive Mount Vernon fireworks notifications via e-mail, write to [Events@MountVernon.org](mailto:Events@MountVernon.org)

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# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 7

Fair on Saturday, June 25th at Market Square featuring local and regional artists and crafters who showcase their pieces across various mediums, including pottery, stationery, fabrics, paintings, jewelry, photography and more. Visit [volunteeralexandria.org/arts-and-crafts-festival](http://volunteeralexandria.org/arts-and-crafts-festival)

## SATURDAY/JUNE 25

Native Plants for Pollinators. 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, Alexandria. (Adults) Help Green Spring Gardens celebrate National Pollinator Week! Join Laura Beaty, horticulture chair of the Virginia Native Plant Society, as she discusses the vast variety of local pollinators that evolved with the native flowering plants of Northern Virginia. Plus, explore the many native plants growing at Green Spring Gardens to see our local pollinators at work and learn why we need to protect them. Do your part to help pollinators by starting your own pollinator garden – we will help you with a plant list. Dress for the weather. \$19 per person. Code OUW.IRLB.

## SATURDAY/JUNE 25

Eco-Gardening Ideas Evening Stroll at Green Spring. 5:30-7 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, Alexandria. (Adults) Take an evening stroll through the gardens at Green Spring with curatorial horticulturist Brenda Skarphol to see eco-friendly and sustainable garden ideas. Learn how to incorporate native plants that will attract more pollinators and wildlife to your garden, and ways to improve your soil for better water retention and to manage runoff. Dress for the weather. \$19 per person. Code NQN.POFD.

## SATURDAY/JUNE 25

Legacy of the Green Cabinetmakers Walking Tour. 10 a.m. At Carlyle House Historic Park, Alexandria. In the early 19th Century,

William Green started the Green Furniture factory in Alexandria and by 1823 his son, James, would take over. James expanded his father's factory and established himself as a prominent Alexandrian through building and operating Green's Mansion House Hotel. Join them on a tour to learn about James Green and his family's life here in Alexandria. Call 703-549-2997 or email [carlyle@nvrpa.org](mailto:carlyle@nvrpa.org)

## SUNDAY/JUNE 26

Growing Pride at The Garden. 12 to 5 p.m. At The Garden at Building Momentum, 5380 Eisenhower Ave. Suite C, Alexandria. Growing Pride at The Garden is back for its second year celebrating LGBTQ+ Pride on Saturday, June 26th. This family-friendly event is Alexandria's largest Pride celebration. It will feature 15 local LGBTQ+ makers and allies, local food trucks, live music and crafting at Building Momentum's The Garden ALX.

## TUESDAY/JUNE 28

Summer Concert in the Garden. 5:30 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Bring your lawn chairs or blankets, pack a picnic dinner to enjoy on the lawn and kick back to hear lively music. Bring the children at 5:30 p.m. to learn about frogs, hear frog stories, enjoy art projects and participate in games. Have your picture taken with Ribbit the frog. Call Green Spring at 703-642-5173.

## JUNE 28 TO OCT. 17

Hummingbird Photo Exhibition. At the Historic House at Green Spring Gardens, Alexandria. For those who can't get enough of the beauty of hummingbirds, a group of local photographers are mounting an exhibition this summer. The title of the show is "A Bouquet of Hummingbirds," and it will feature works from more than 20 area artists and include

hummingbirds from all over the Western Hemisphere. All profits from the sale of photos will be donated to the Friends of Green Spring, a non-profit organization devoted to maintaining the gardens and furthering public education and outreach.

## SATURDAY/JULY 2

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

## MONDAY/JULY 4

An American Celebration at George Washington's Mount Vernon. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. At George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy., Mount Vernon. Salute the first commander-in-chief during Mount Vernon's annual Independence Day event. Meet George Washington, watch made-for-daytime fireworks, and observe a moving ceremony in which people from across the world become U.S. citizens.

## JULY 9-10

Del Ray Artisans' Summer Art Market 2022. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. An indoor event featuring original creations by local artists in a variety of mediums, including ceramics, glass, jewelry, mixed media, photography, and more. Shop original work from local artists at Del Ray Artisans gallery at 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria—perfect for gifts or treat yourself. Different artists each market day, so visit both days. Details at [DelRayArtisans.org/summer-art-market](http://DelRayArtisans.org/summer-art-market)

## Police Reports:

### MOUNT VERNON DISTRICT STATION

ATTEMPTED COMMERCIAL ROBBERY: 8768 Richmond Highway (Subway), 6/12/22, 10:33 a.m. A man entered the business, jumped over the counter and demanded money. The victim refused, and the man assaulted the employee as he ran out of the business. No money was taken. No injuries were reported.

COMMERCIAL ROBBERY: 3100 Lockheed Boulevard (7-Eleven), 6/14/22. Three men entered the business, implied they had a firearm and took money as well as merchandise. The men fled the area in a silver minivan. No injuries were reported.

COMMERCIAL ROBBERY: 6303 Richmond Highway (Walmart), 6/14/22, 10:29 p.m. A man took merchandise without paying. When confronted by a store employee, the man assaulted the victim and drove away in a tan sedan. The victim was treated for injuries not considered life threatening.

ROBBERY: Evergreen Farm

SEE POLICE REPORTS, PAGE 9

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## News

### 19 Year Old Shot Dead on Seaton Street

Officers in the Mount Vernon Police District were called at 8:12 p.m. on Sunday June 19 to the 8000 block of Seaton Street for a man who had been shot while sitting inside a vehicle. Officers found Darren Davis, 19, of Alexandria, suffering from multiple gunshot wounds inside a white Dodge Challenger. Davis was transported to a local hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

Detectives determined Davis was parked in his Challenger in the roadway. A black Dodge Charger pulled up and the occupants fired multiple rounds at Davis and sped off. Detectives found multiple shell cases at the scene and determined numerous rounds were fired at the Challenger. Detectives continue to canvass the area for additional evidence and do not believe this was a random act. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner will conduct an autopsy to confirm manner of death.

Detectives are asking anyone who may have information about this shooting to contact them at 703-246-7800, option 2. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by phone – 1-866-411-TIPS.

Victim specialists from FCPD Major Crimes Bureau's Victim Services Division have been assigned to ensure the victim's family is receiving appropriate resources and assistance.

This is the eleventh homicide of the year in Fairfax County.

### Police Reports: MOUNT VERNON DISTRICT STATION

FROM PAGE 8

Place/Ladson Lane, 6/15/22, 4:32 p.m. Three juveniles approached the victim, assaulted him and took property. No injuries were reported.

STOLEN AUTO WITH APPREHENSION: 7600 block of Richmond Highway, 6/16/22, 5:57 p.m. An officer saw a stolen 2002 Hyundai Elantra driving south on Richmond Highway. The vehicle was stopped, and the occupants were arrested. Through an investigation, two firearms and ammunition were found inside the Elantra. The driver, a 24-year-old man, was charged with receiving stolen property, felon in possession of ammunition, theft of credit cards, unlawful purchase of firearm and driving without a license. A 21-year-old woman was charged with unlawful purchase of a firearm.

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## Left To My Own Devices – Literally



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I guess I had no real idea about the true seriousness of my condition as a stage IV, papillary thyroid cancer patient until I received an unsolicited phone message from my healthcare provider earlier today. The message was from a staff member at my HMO advising me that due to a grant, I would be eligible to receive – at no cost, to include monitoring for one year, a medical alert device. If I accept their offer and utilize the device, I'll have more than "the clapper" to ask for help. I'll have a real-life medical alert GPS enabled device, whose sole function is to assist me in the event of a mishap or misstep so I will never be left waiting or wanting should I need emergency/immediate assistance and be unable to request it myself/can't get up (press a button for help, I guess). Apparently, in my greatest hours of need, I will now have a resource which could save my life. This wouldn't bother me if it wasn't part of a pattern.

First, I received an email reminder from my internal medicine doctor reminding/encouraging me to get/update my medical directive – which I don't have by the way. A "medical directive," if you're not familiar with such matters, is basically a set of instructions for whomever (family/health-care team) provided by the patient directing his or her end-of-life decisions. As you might imagine, it eliminates a whole host of potential problems/complications. It's a prudent precaution to have in place so that decisions can be made in accordance with the wishes of the patient. And who among us wouldn't prefer that their wishes – especially at death, be honored and respected.

Then, a few weeks later, earlier today in fact, I receive this message about a medical alert device. Since no one is telling me anything – directly, am I to assume that someone is not telling me something, indirectly? I mean, I am a cancer patient over a certain age. I imagine I'm in a higher risk category, certainly higher than someone under 65 who hasn't been diagnosed with cancer. I get that I'm at a greater risk but is there something else that I'm not being told. I was told I was "terminal" once before when I was initially diagnosed with stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer back in late February 2009. Having been re-diagnosed a few years back as a stage IV papillary thyroid cancer patient, am I once again "terminal?" And if I am, can someone please tell me. I'd like to know without reading between the lines. I'd like to exactly read what's on the line. I don't want to guess. I don't want to wonder. As I've said to my oncologist before: "Give it to me straight, doc. I can take it." I can tell you – from personal experience, it's the not-knowing which is difficult. Taking one's disease day-by-day and not being too high or too low and trying to roll with all the various punches and not put any carts before any hearses, has enabled me to balance out my life in spite of the ongoing cancer noise.

I don't want to overreact but receiving these two health-related offers kind of remains me of the joke about the man who was clinging to life sitting atop his house as flood waters raged. As help was offered in one manner or another, he kept turning everybody down saying God would provide. Eventually, he drowns and upon seeing God at the pearly gates asks God why he didn't send help while he was stranded on the roof of his house. God said: "I sent the rowboat. I sent the helicopter." "What were you waiting for?" God asks: "A sign," said the drowning victim.

I don't think I'm drowning, exactly, but I seem to be getting offers to help someone who might be drowning. I wish I knew the reason for this recent outreach. I hope I'm not neglecting a sign.

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

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## News

# What to Expect on July 1st

FROM PAGE 4

trude from the sides of the vehicle by at least 4 inches or from the back by at least 4 feet, to mark the load with orange or red warning flags. This bill will keep our drivers more aware of hazards on the road around them and takes effect July 1, 2023.

❖ We further protect our communities with House Bill 283 and Senate Bill 467, sponsored by Delegate Brewer and Senator Vogel, which establish training standards for law enforcement to recognize, prevent, and report human trafficking. Comprehensive training for our officers on human trafficking will help increase awareness about this criminal enterprise and reduce its incidence. I am glad to see laws such as this go into effect that complement my successful creation two years ago of the position of the State Trafficking Response Coordinator at the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services.

❖ Senate Bill 755, introduced by Senator Lucas, admits that our judicial system makes mistakes by compensating wrongfully incarcerated people \$55,000 per year of incarceration, adjusted for inflation. The bill requires 25% of the total compensation be paid immediately, with the remainder to be paid out over the next ten years. The bill also provides an income tax subtraction for any compensation awarded to the wrongfully incarcerated person.

❖ We also protect our youth from violence with HB 741, presented by Delegate Bell, which requires local schools to create detailed and accurate floor plans for school safety audits. This bill will enhance the security of our schools through the creation of more informed safety protocols and increase protection of our children at school. Also from Delegate Bell, HB 750 will prohibit any law enforcement agency in the Commonwealth from establishing a formal or informal

quota that requires a law-enforcement officer to make a specific number of arrests or issue a specific number of summonses within a designated period of time.

❖ Delegate Roem's HB 925 requires health insurers, corporations providing health care coverage subscription contracts, health maintenance organizations, and the Commonwealth's Medicaid program to provide coverage for medically necessary prosthetic devices.

❖ In changes to workers compensation laws, HB 392 extends the date by which COVID-19 causing the death or disability of a health care provider is presumed to be an occupational disease compensable under the Virginia Workers' Compensation Act. This date is extended to December 31, 2022. Another bill goes into effect which expands cancer presumption benefits for our firefighters who are at a far higher risk for developing cancer than the general public.

❖ In education, Delegate Roem's HB 583 requires each school board to adopt policies that prohibit the school board or any school board employee from denying a student the opportunity to participate in any extracurricular school activity because the student cannot pay for a meal at school or owes a school meal debt.

This year's General Assembly was filled with victories and defeats, with compromises and on-going stalemates. While I was dissatisfied with some of the bills passed, a majority of the bills this year were a victory, albeit small ones for the most part, and I was glad to help our Mount Vernon and Lee community by voting for legislation to protect our residents and improve our lives in this wonderful Commonwealth we call home. As always, it is my honor to represent the good people of the 44th (and future 16th) District.

## BULLETIN BOARD

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

### MT. VERNON FARMERS MARKET IS NOW OPEN

The market is located at the Sherwood Hall Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. From 8 a.m. to noon every Wednesday (through December 21), 18 farmers and local 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.

This year's vendors are:

Arnest Seafood – crab cakes, scallops, shrimp, rockfish, oysters and more

The Fermented Pig- charcuterie and gourmet bacons

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

Layla's Lebanese Restaurant – Lebanese hummus, eggplant dip, garlic sauce and more

Linda Vista Farm - fruits and vegetables, specializing in Asian and Latin produce

Memis - gluten-free paellas, quiches and more

Misty Meadow Farm Creamery - milk, ice cream, cheese and eggs

Ochoa Produce - vegetables, herbs and flowers

Salsa Las Glorias - fresh salsas, guacamole and chips

Sharkawi Farm - herbs, spices, teas, plants and flowers

Three Way Farms – vegetables, melons and herbs

Traveling Shepherd Coffee Co. – variety of freshly roasted coffee

Twin Springs Orchard - fruits, vegetables, cheese and more

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

All of the items sold at the market are grown or produced by the vendors and come from within a radius of 125 miles. The McCutcheon/Mt. Vernon market is one of 10 farmers markets run by the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA); for more information, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets).

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MODEL# 1852. MSRP \$22,149. LEASE OFFER FOR QUALIFIED LESSEES. BASED ON 36 MONTHS, 10K MILES/YR & \$2999 DUE AT SIGNING. SECURITY DEPOSIT WAIVED. PLUS TAX, TAGS, FREIGHT AND \$789 PROCESSING FEE. FACTORY PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

### NEW 2022 TOYOTA PRIUS

LEASES STARTING FROM...

**\$269**/MO



MODEL# 1221. MSRP \$26,100. LEASE OFFER FOR QUALIFIED LESSEES. BASED ON 36 MONTHS, 10K MILES/YR & \$2999 DUE AT SIGNING. SECURITY DEPOSIT WAIVED. PLUS TAX, TAGS, FREIGHT AND \$789 PROCESSING FEE. FACTORY PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

### NEW 2022 TOYOTA CAMRY LE SDN

LEASES STARTING FROM...

**\$289**/MO



MODEL# 2532. MSRP \$27,129. LEASE OFFER FOR QUALIFIED LESSEES. BASED ON 36 MONTHS, 10K MILES/YR & \$2999 DUE AT SIGNING. SECURITY DEPOSIT WAIVED. PLUS TAX, TAGS, FREIGHT AND \$789 PROCESSING FEE. FACTORY PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

### NEW 2022 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER

LEASES STARTING FROM...

**\$299**/MO



MODEL# 6935. MSRP \$37,070. LEASE OFFER FOR QUALIFIED LESSEES. BASED ON 36 MONTHS, 10K MILES/YR & \$3999 DUE AT SIGNING. SECURITY DEPOSIT WAIVED. PLUS TAX, TAGS, FREIGHT AND \$789 PROCESSING FEE. FACTORY PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

**SERVICE & PARTS HOURS: MON-FRI 6A-7P & SAT 7A-5P**

#### BATTERY SPECIAL

**FREE**

##### BATTERY CHECK-UP

INCLUDES: CHECK COLD CRANKING AMPS AND VISUAL INSPECTION OF BATTERY CONDITION. INCLUDES BATTERY CONDITION PRINT OUT.

TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. OFFER ENDS 06/30/22.

#### LUBE, OIL & FILTER SPECIAL

**\$39.95**

##### \$44.95 FOR SYNTHETIC OIL CHANGE

INCLUDES: CHANGE OIL (UP TO 5 QTS.), INSTALL GENUINE TOYOTA OIL FILTER, INSPECT & ADJUST ALL FLUID LEVELS AND COMPLIMENTARY MULTI-POINT INSPECTION WITH PRINT OUT.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. OFFER ENDS 06/30/22.

#### ALIGNMENT SPECIAL

**\$89.95**

##### 4-WHEEL ALIGNMENT

INCLUDES: 4-WHEEL ALIGNMENT, INSPECT SUSPENSION, BALL JOINTS, STRUTS & SHOCKS, TIRE CONDITION AND SET TIRE PRESSURE.

TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. OFFER ENDS 06/30/22.

#### BRAKE PAD SPECIAL

**\$99.95**

##### BRAKE PAD REPLACEMENT

INCLUDES: INSTALL GENUINE TOYOTA FRONT BRAKE PADS, INSPECT FRONT & REAR ROTORS AND/OR DRUMS, CHECK TIRE CONDITION AND INSPECT ALL HARDWARE. TCMC PADS ONLY. MACHINE ROTORS AN ADDITIONAL \$199.95

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. OFFER ENDS 06/30/22.

#### TOYOTACARE PLUS

**\$329.00**

##### SPECIAL

MAINTAIN PEACE OF MIND BY EXTENDING YOUR TOYOTACARE COMPLEMENTARY MAINTENANCE PLAN TO 4 YEARS/45,000 MILES!

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#### SERVICE VARIABLE DISCOUNT

**THE MORE YOU SPEND,  
THE MORE YOU SAVE!**

\$10 OFF... WHEN YOU SPEND \$50-\$99  
\$15 OFF... WHEN YOU SPEND \$100-\$199  
\$20 OFF... WHEN YOU SPEND \$200-\$499  
\$50 OFF... WHEN YOU SPEND \$500+

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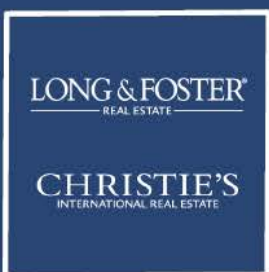


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