

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

SEPTEMBER 15, 2022



Bicyclists gear up for the Tour de Mount Vernon.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/GAZETTE



Tour de Mount Vernon

See the district from the seat of a bicycle.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon) highlights the extensive network of bike trails in Mount Vernon every year with the "Tour de Mount Vernon." This year is the seventh tour he's sponsored and it brings out the local bicyclists every year. On Saturday, Oct. 22, the tour starts at 8:30 am at the Workhouse Arts Center, and ends there as well. Usually there's food on hand and biking camaraderie for all.

The Tour de Mount Vernon brings cyclists on a fun ride through the southern and central portions of the Mount Vernon District including a scenic route through Fort Belvoir. The route consists of paved roads, paved trails and has several challeng-

ing sections. Ride monitors and Fairfax County Police help with directions and keep everyone safe.

Storck is a big bicyclist himself and puts much effort into this ride each year. He even throws in some personalized socks for riders - last year's were shocking pink.

There's a 19-mile route and a 38-mile route for the real cyclists. Route Highlights include:

Workhouse Arts Center
Mason Neck State Park
Gunston Hall - Rest Stop
Pohick Bay Regional Park
Fort Belvoir
National Museum of the US Army
Gerry Connolly Cross County Trail

For registration, go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/7th-annual-tour-de-mount-vernon-tickets-34088527603>

Rising Hope Increases Its Ability to Feed the Hungry

BY JODI OMEAR

There are big things happening at Rising Hope Mission Church, a United Methodist community of faith focused on helping individuals affected

FEEDING THE HUNGRY

by homelessness and poverty along the Route One Corridor in Alexandria. Rising Hope provides food, clothing and emergency and needs-based assistance to many area residents.

At an Open House celebration last weekend, Rising Hope highlighted many upgrades aimed at helping improve food access for the community.

Thanks to generous donors and a Food Access Program grant from Fairfax County, Rising Hope upgraded its kitchen with new flooring and appliances, including doubling its refrigeration area. Most of the interior also received a fresh coat of paint.

The church has completely transformed the Rising Hope Food Market and is returning to the pre-Covid operations of allowing participants to choose their own food, but with an innovative twist.

"We live in a diverse area, and food is a universal language," said Rev. Kameron Wilds, lead pastor. "We are working to increase access to fresh, healthy and tasty food and meals for families. When given the option, most people are looking for nutritional ways to feed their families."

Wilds noted that the increased price of food and other necessities has been challenging for many residents of the Richmond Highway corridor. He said the church's goals are to communicate God's love

through food, revamp the way that impoverished people and people experiencing homelessness think about food, and help individuals with culinary talent but limited resources achieve their food-related dreams.

Another highlight to help with this mission is the new greenhouse. With the help of the Arcadia Center for Food and Sustainable Agriculture, a greenhouse has been installed to grow food for community members and teach them about gardening.

"We want to provide a space where people can find connection around the cultivation of food," Wilds said. "We also hope to provide guests at our Food Market with direct access to a larger supply of fresh produce and to use the produce in our kitchen operations."

The Rising Hope Food Market is open Wednesday from 1:30 to 3:30pm and Thursday from 10am to 12pm and 1:30pm to 5:30pm. At noon, Tuesday through Friday, the Rising Hope Kitchen welcomes people in for a community-based lunch. They also offer a lunch meal following each Sunday Worship Service.

Oct. 1, Rising Hope is sponsoring an event, "Empty Bowls", to further work in alleviating food insecurity in wealthy Fairfax County and raise funds for the mission. Learn from experts in the field on how we can ensure that no one goes hungry when there is so much available; dine on a delicious bowl of soup prepared by Culinary Olympics champion SFC Chef John L. Densham Jr.; and take home your beautiful ceramic soup bowl prepared by a local artisan. Tickets and more information can be found at www.risinghopeumc.org/events.



Monique Williams is the Rising Hope cook. She makes all the meals served during the week. Ed Ward is a supporter and former board member who came out to the Rising Hope open house last weekend.

NEWCOMERS &
COMMUNITY GUIDE
2022-2023

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

#WeAreAlexandria



OPEN SUN 9/18, 11-2

Old Town | \$1,800,000

On December 17, 1771, the Trustees of Alexandria sold lot 124 to Thomas Carson, Merchant. The home was modest to begin with, consisting only of the front 20x18 brick section, two stories high. As the families of different owners grew, and needs changed, the house was added on to with 3 separate additions. Today its just under 3,000 finished SF with 3/4 bedrooms and 2.5 baths. The two gardens on the north & south make for great natural light through abundant windows. This beautiful Georgian home is ready for its next owners. 304 N Pitt Street

Peter Crouch 703.244.4024

www.CrouchRealtyGroup.com



OPEN SAT 9/17, 2-4

Del Ray | \$1,375,000

1927 Sears kit home – expanded Craftsman style! 4 bedrooms, 3 full baths, first-floor primary bedroom suite, updated kitchen & baths. Heart pine floors in the original part of the house. Off-street parking for 2 cars tandem. 2 porches, deck & hot tub. 19 W Wyatt Ave

Cindy Clemmer 703.966.0403

www.ClemmerAndSchuckHomes.com



Beverley Estates | \$825,000

Spacious split-level home on a level corner lot. Sparkling hardwood floors, eat-in kitchen, primary bedroom with bath & walk-in closet. Large lower level family room with wood-burning fireplace & half bath. Carport. Close to Metro bus & DASH. 2911 Farm Road

Sarah King 703.864.5050

www.saraheking.com



OPEN SAT 9/17 & SUN 9/18, 2-4

Del Ray | \$799,900

Gorgeously updated 2-bedroom, 2-bath rowhome! Open living room flows into a tastefully renovated kitchen that features white quartz countertops, shaker cabinetry and marble backsplash. Well-manicured backyard leads to a new detached garage. 433 E Nelson Avenue

Jen Walker 703.675.1566

www.JenWalker.com



OPEN SUN 9/18, 2-4

Torpedo Factory | \$550,000

Beautiful 1-bedroom, 1-bath condo with private street-side entry. Renovated bath, new hardwoods, freshly painted, & garage parking. Superb location with views of the river from your front door. 1 block from King. Sliding glass door Juliet balcony. 110 Cameron St #104

Heidi Burkhardt 703.217.6009

www.RealtorHeidiB.com



OPEN 9/15, 5-7 and 9/17 & 9/18, 1-3

Queens Row

\$1,875,000

3-bedroom, 3.5-bath stunning townhome! Tall ceilings and hardwood flooring. Living room with fireplace flows into formal dining. Chef's kitchen boasts stainless appliances and custom cabinetry. Private back patio. Two assigned parking spaces. Walk to shops & restaurants. 128 Queen Street

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OPEN SUN 9/18, 2-4

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\$799,000

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OPEN SAT 9/17, 12-2 & SUN 9/18, 1-3

Old Town

\$715,000

Historic sunny townhome in Old Town center with high ceilings, built-ins and beautiful mouldings. Original hardwoods on both levels. Off-street covered parking and a wonderful deep yard for possible expansion. Spacious patio deck for entertaining. 514 N Patrick Street

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NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE 2022

About Connection Newspapers in 2022

IN THE MIDST of the crisis which never ends, we at the Mount Vernon Gazette hear the call to serve our communities. We still seek to fulfill our mission by continuing to publish, even with reduced resources. It's still our mission to provide information about where to get help and how to help; to disseminate information about the virus and efforts to stem its spread; to tell the stories of those who are helping, of those who are hungry. It's still our mission to tell the stories of those working for social and racial justice, and battling income inequality.

It is our mission, set out in the first amendment of the U.S. Constitution, to press local government every day for transparency. Your local paper can be your window into the workings of schools, police, transportation, zoning, stormwater management, services, and a nearly infinite number of other functions. These are the things that impact our lives at home and work. The public has a right to expect transparency from such local institutions, more so when they are publicly funded. The constitution clearly anticipated the ongoing need for the press to help in this role.

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

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

First Amendment, U.S. Constitution

local communities.

We publish photos and notes about personal milestones and community events, including births, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, awards and obituaries.

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

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

Your community Mount Vernon Gazette newspaper is published by the independent, locally owned Local Media Connection LLC, serving the suburbs of Metropolitan Wash-

ington in Northern Virginia and Potomac, Md. Our flagship paper, the Alexandria Gazette Packet, is one of the oldest continuously publishing papers in the country, beginning publication in 1784.

This year, 2022 in the time of the pandemic, we struggle to keep going.

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

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

Now, we are back to great difficulty. Rev-

Find What You Need

❖ ONLINE: www.connectionnewspapers.com

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❖ Past issues of the Connection back to 2008 are available at <http://connectionarchives.com/PDF/>

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❖ Events to list in the calendar, www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/

enue has not nearly rebounded to pre-pandemic levels, and we are going to need more help to keep going. We will renew calls for contributions shortly to try to carry on. Here is the link to our current GoFundMe. <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-keep-your-newspaper-printing>

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Hidden Gems?

BY MERCIA HOBSON
GAZETTE PACKET

For this year's Newcomers & Community Guide, we wanted to share hidden gems, those must-see places or events unknown to many. They could be forgotten, overlooked, or hidden in plain sight. Members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, their staff, mayors and others provided some of their favorites.

This reporter compiled photos to illustrate the points of interest, venues, festivals, architecture, and more. Because of these gems, hidden or not, your community is more than a collection of buildings and businesses. The gems, gathered in your community newspaper, enhance your hometown's identity by creating a sense of place, fostering relationships, facilitating action, and even stimulating the economy.

How about a life-size replica of Stonehenge that is made entirely of Styrofoam, an out-of-place Air Force radar dome, or a creepy one-lane concrete tunnel in Clifton, known as the Bunny Man Bridge?

For a regional perspective in Fairfax,



VIA ATLASOBSCURA.COM

A Nike Missile site in Fairfax County in preparation for defense against enemy aircraft during the Cold War—Great Falls, Fairfax County

Arlington, Alexandria, VA, and Potomac, MD, visit The Connection's website to view our other Newcomers & Community Guides by neighborhoods.

Lesser-known Favorites Around the County

Plus favorites from the chairman's staff.

BY CHAIRMAN JEFF MCKAY
(AND STAFF)

Huntley Meadows in Winter: Chairman McKay was raised on the Route One corridor, and Huntley Meadows Park has been his favorite since he was young. While it is most popular from Spring through Fall, the colder months are a wonderful time to visit, providing quiet solitude and ample space to reflect or enjoy the season's stillness, offering a minimalist beauty uniquely Winter. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows>

Nalls Produce in Autumn: While known to locals, Nalls is worthy of a drive from anywhere in the county, especially during Autumn when Pumpkin Hill opens, and you can select your ideal gourd while also getting the perfect seasonal picture. Farm- and orchard-fresh produce plus gourmet foods



from the region round out the truly Franconia experience. <https://nallsproduce.com/>

Historic Huntley and Gunston Hall: While everyone rightly knows about Mount

Vernon, Fairfax is home to several preserved historic homes, and often overlooked are Historic Huntley and Gunston Hall. Historic Huntley is almost 200 years old and was built for the grandson of George Mason and former Alexandria Mayor Thomas Francis Mason. It has served in multiple roles over its history, including as a Civil War encampment. And

speaking of George Mason, ensconced right by Gunston Cove abutting Pohick Bay Regional Park, is beautiful via telling the story of the author of the Virginia Declaration of Rights and Virginia Constitution, his family, and the 100+ enslaved people who lived and worked there. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/historic-huntley> <https://gunstonhall.org/>

Workhouse Arts Center: While not hidden per se, any newcomer to Fairfax County

SEE CHAIRMAN MCKAY, PAGE 10

SNAPSHOTS

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/GAZETTE



A new Wendy's restaurant is going up near Beacon Mall off Richmond Highway. The mall is really an outdoor shopping center, but it used to be an enclosed mall back in the late 1970s-early 1980s. It has several restaurants out front that cater to nearby residents and people coming from Richmond Highway.

Scenes in Mount Vernon

There's more to the community than George Washington and the historic plantation.

BY MIKE SALMON
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

The community of Mount Vernon stretches along the Potomac River from Old Town, Alexandria to Fort Belvoir, and inland past Richmond Highway. Housing ranges from mansions in the millions to townhouses and apartments, so there's room for everyone. There are bike trails everywhere, parks of all sizes, and shopping areas that have a little of everything.



United Community on Fordson Road has a mission to build thriving communities and create equitable opportunities by providing supportive services and advancing community driven solutions. They could use your help. <https://unitedcommunity.org/>



Limited deer hunting with a bow and arrow is allowed on a limited basis in certain parks throughout Fairfax County including Old Mill Park in Mount Vernon.



Bicyclists on the Mount Vernon Trail know there are a few steep hills, twists and turns that challenge most riders, especially on the hot summer days. Construction is underway at one of these areas near Bridge 12 to fix this, and it's just one of many construction projects in the Mount Vernon District underway this summer.



The bike trail construction continues south of this spot where crews are building a new bridge across Dogue Creek and rehabilitating the trail along Mount Vernon Memorial Highway all the way from Richmond Highway to the Mount Vernon Plantation. Alongside the trail project, the water lines are being replaced as well, so between the two projects, there is much work being done in that area. The trail project is expected to be completed in spring 2023.

SNAPSHOTS

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/GAZETTE



Johnny Mac's BBQ has been a mainstay on Richmond Highway for years. North Carolina Barbecue is their specialty, but the soft serve ice cream is a big seller as well.

Scenes in Mount Vernon



The parklet is a creation of Federal Realty and the Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation to introduce 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.

Ebbin Named Chair of General Laws & Technology Committee

Senator Adam P. Ebbin (D-Alexandria) was elevated by the Virginia Senate Democratic Caucus to chair the Senate General Laws and Technology Committee. The General Laws and Technology Committee considers legislation concerning, among others, consumer affairs, housing, gaming, professions and occupations, veterans affairs, religious and charitable matters, technology, engineering, and electronic research.

Ebbin served as the Chair of the Senate Privileges and Elections Committee from January to September of 2022, where he oversaw election law and the vetting and consideration of Gov. Glenn Youngkin's gubernatorial nominees.

"I look forward to this new responsibility, and am thankful to my colleagues



Sen. Adam Ebbin

for their trust in me," said Ebbin. "The General Laws Committee entertains legislation crucial to many longstanding priorities of mine including housing affordability, consumer protections, and making Virginia a leader in technology and innovation."

20th Annual ALEXANDRIA OLD TOWN (previously on King St.) ART FESTIVAL

Sept. 17th - 18th
Sat./Sun. 10am - 5pm

Outdoors at John Carlyle Square
300 John Carlyle Square
Alexandria, VA



FREE ADMISSION



OPINION

Ending the Digital Divide

Help spread the word
— affordable internet
is available.

BY DEL. PAUL KRIZEK

One of our country's pressing problems is the digital divide. This is the gap between those who have access to reliable internet service and those who do not. And we all know that internet access is almost as important as a utility like electricity or water in today's economy.

According to an article in the Harvard Business Review, during the pandemic when more than 55 million American students moved to online learning, one in five teens reported the inability to work on their assignments because of unreliable internet access. And a staggering 12 million children had no internet access at all.

Those numbers are alarming to me, and as a Delegate, a former member of the Broadband Advisory Council, and a nonprofit leader, I know we can do better for our residents, and especially for our children.

Although the digital divide runs deep, the Commonwealth and the federal government have been investing significantly to bridge this gap. In 2022, Virginia invested over \$50 million in state dollars from the Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) and \$700 million in federal dollars from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), which can be used to leverage private funds and expertise to expand broadband access to unserved areas. While ensuring access to

reliable broadband service through public-private partnerships is essential to our efforts to close the digital divide across mostly rural Virginia, it's just one piece of the puzzle, and not the problem facing my constituents.

The critical piece to completing this puzzle is to promote broadband affordability and that is the problem too many of our community's residents are struggling with. Affordability, not availability, is the hurdle we face here in Northern Virginia. But, there is good news. In partnership with companies like Cox, one of the major providers in my district, we are working to ensure digital equity for households of all incomes and economic statuses in our communities by supporting affordable broadband. In 2022, the General Assembly recognized the importance of this effort by adopting legislation with bipartisan support to develop a statewide broadband affordability plan.

Additionally, in early May, leaders from Cox and many other internet providers gathered at the White House to announce a partnership through the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), which makes high-speed internet more affordable and accessible to households across the nation. This means the internet is truly available for all in our community, you just need to sign up.

Those eligible can subscribe to Cox's up to 100 Mbps high-speed internet service for free. Most residents with household incomes below 200% of the Federal Poverty Line, equal to \$55,000 a year for a family of four, are likely eligible. So, too, are those receiving government benefits such as SNAP, Medicaid, SSI, WIC, Pell Grant, and Free or Reduced-Price Lunch.

According to the White House, nearly 40 per-

cent of American households are eligible for the \$30/month subsidy through the ACP and 11 million households have already signed up to lower their monthly bills and access affordable high-speed internet. Additionally, ACP offers a \$100 credit for a laptop or desktop computer. This is a vital component because we know that access to the internet means nothing without a device. We have come a long way from when, in 2015, Senator Scott Surovell and I, working with Cox to provide the residential internet connections, raised money (from Christian Relief Services and a concerned, generous constituent) to purchase laptops for the students at Bucknell Elementary School. Now, the County provides them to all students and we have this federal subsidy for anyone else that qualifies.

Indeed, over the past several years I've appreciated Cox's support for our community and their efforts to close the digital divide such as their computer lab donation to the Murraygate Boys & Girls Club and various community grants to our wonderful local nonprofits. As we move forward, let's keep in mind that there is still much work to be done and no one business, union, government, or nonprofit can bridge the digital divide alone. I am trying my best to get reliable broadband to every corner of the Commonwealth, but it's going to take all of us championing digital inclusion to achieve this.

If you would like to learn more about Cox's affordable internet programs and the ACP, you can visit cox.com/digitalequity to check your eligibility or go to AffordableConnectivity.gov to submit an application and then contact Cox or your preferred provider to select an eligible plan and have the \$30 a month discount applied to your bill.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Transparency Needed on Deer Hunt

To the Editor:

Re: "Deer Archery Program begins Sept. 10," Mount Vernon Gazette, Sept. 8, 2022.

I first saw the signs about the Fairfax County deer hunt posted on a utility pole across the street from our house. It gave a number to call, so I did so, leaving a message for the Fairfax County wildlife biologist, as I wanted to talk scientific studies with her. Instead, I got a return call from a Fairfax County Police Sergeant. He was nice enough, but he was not prepared to talk science with me. Instead, he told me that "numerous neighbors" had requested that the county include our area in the yearly deer hunt. I thereupon filed a FOIA request with the county, asking for copies of the scientific studies that had provided the justification for the deer killing in our neighborhood.

Yes, said the county, I could have a copy of the studies, but only if I paid them \$400. This seemed extreme, so I pared down my request and asked for the names of people who had demanded that the coun-

ty kill the deer in our area. That would be \$100, said the county, and the response would include no actual names. It would be redacted. I thought this was also unreasonable. I reached out to our local Supervisor, Dan Storck, and got nothing from his office except the usual generic notice that they had received my request. I asked for the scientific studies because in the emails we have exchanged over my FOIA request, the county has told me that the deer are eating up all the vegetation and need to be culled. They might be suffering from "wasting disease" and need to be culled. They might be causing deer-vehicle collisions and need to be culled.

None of these conditions are applicable to the area along Paul Spring Creek, which is directly across from our house, where we have lived since 1999. Yes, we see the occasional deer, and they seem to be extremely healthy. I saw a ten-point buck in the woods about two weeks ago. It was plump and healthy and was contentedly

SEE DEER HUNT, PAGE 7

Thrilled about Saving River Farm

Dear Editor,

I was thrilled to learn that River Farm had been saved from the auction block. To read, in the Sept. 8 issue of the Mount Vernon Gazette, that the massive group effort to accomplish that had been recognized with a state conservation award was icing on the cake. We, in the Mount Vernon area, are SO lucky to have the public offi-

cials, volunteer organizations, committed activists and—yes—local newspaper coverage that were all crucial to achieving this historic goal. In these days of extreme partisanship, political unpleasantness and general self-absorption, it was wonderful to see all these individuals and groups come together. Bravo!

Carol Cooke
Alexandria 22306

Let Us Know Your View

Connection Newspapers welcomes views on any public issue. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers; we will only print your name and town name. Letters are routinely edited for length, libel, grammar, good taste, civility and factual errors.

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A Connection Newspaper



OPINION

Transparency Needed on Deer Hunt

FROM PAGE 6

munching away on the invasive plants that the county does nothing about.

I posted a note about the deer hunt on a local Facebook page and got numerous expressions of disapproval of the hunt. Nobody in our area seems to favor it, though I admit that there might be a neighbor somewhere who objects to losing some of their hosta. Your article touts the safety of the hunt. I pointed out to the county that many neighborhood children play in Paul Spring Creek and might be in the woods at the time of the hunt. One child wounded by an arrow would be a disaster for the county and for that child and their family. Given the narrowness of the corridor along Paul Spring Creek and the area owned by the county, the requirement to stay at least 100 feet from a private property line that you mention in your article will severely restrict the area in which bowhunters can mount their tree stands. I'm not even sure that the corridor along Paul Spring Creek is even a full 200 feet wide.

Maybe there are parts of Fairfax County where deer are running rampant, are suffering from wasting disease, and are causing traffic and other great problems. If so, I have no objection to the hunt taking place there. But the fact that the county will not willingly share its scientific studies with a taxpaying citizen suggests that either there are no such studies or they do not justify the county's decision to conduct the hunt in specific areas. Transparency on the county's part would be nice, as would an acknowledgment from our primary county elected official that he has constituents who are unhappy with what the county



Fairfax County announced that its Deer Management Archery Program would begin Sept. 10, 2022, and run through Feb. 18, 2023.

is doing. Maybe a deer hunt is needed somewhere in Fairfax County, but our neighborhood is not among these places. This hunt should not take place across the street from where we live.

Col. James T. Currie, USA (Ret.)
Alexandria

PUBLIC NOTICE

Please be advised that a fireworks display will take place as part of a private evening event at George Washington's Mount Vernon on:

Saturday, September 17, 2022
between 9:10pm and 9:40pm (5 minutes)

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

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Dara Rahming
Rodrick Dixon
Daniel Rich

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All Hearts Vie for Joy!

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SUN. OCT. 2, 2022 - 3:00 P.M.

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MOUNT VERNON DISTRICT

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- Sharing information about issues in our community.
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- Answering questions about voting, property, roads, taxes, public safety, health & human services, solid waste, recycling and more!
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Call: 703-780-7518 (TTY 711)
Email: mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov

Office Hours:
Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Thursday: 5 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Second Saturday Each Month:
Lorton Library: 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
MV District Office: 12:30 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Walk-ins and by appointment

TOUR de MOUNT VERNON 2022
Saturday, October 22
8:30 a.m. start at
Workhouse Arts Center
Run to - Ride to -
Explore -
Join the RIDE - EXPLORE your COMMUNITY

Hidden Gems in the Mount Vernon District



Dyke Marsh boardwalk in spring.

SUPERVISOR DAN STORCK
MOUNT VERNON DISTRICT

Welcome to the Mount Vernon District, where history, heritage, outdoor living, broad learning experiences, and public safety come together. You have chosen a great place to live, play, educate your family, grow your career and engage with your neighbors. With the most tourist sites, parks, entertainment venues, arts, and recreation here in our District, we have many hidden gems to discover and enjoy.

I have been asked to pick three of these gems to share with you today, and that is a very difficult task indeed, with so many eligible candidates.

One of my favorite things for my wife and I to do is grab a picnic lunch or dinner and walk, bike or drive along the George Washington Memorial Parkway to find one of the many perfect spots overlooking the Potomac River and George Washington's Mount Vernon. Another great option for a ride, walk, or jog is the Gerry Connolly Cross Country Trail, which runs 40 miles

and connects the entire county from Great Falls Park to Occoquan Regional Park.

At Occoquan Regional Park, you can find the only national monument to the women's suffrage movement in our country. The Turning Point Suffragist Memorial is dedicated to the millions of little-known women who engaged in the suffragist movement, primarily from 1848 through the passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920 that allowed most women to vote. Nearby, the Cross County Trail leads you to the Lucy Burns Museum at the Workhouse Arts Center, which tells the story of the suffragists who were imprisoned at the Lorton Prison, as well as the prison's history.

George Washington's Distillery and Gristmill is another often overlooked gem in our community. Few know that George Washington constructed a gristmill at his Dogue Run Farm in 1770-1771. In 1791, he upgraded his operation by installing milling improvements. In its day, the gristmill was capable of producing 5,000 to 8,000 pounds of flour and cornmeal a day. Today, you can visit



Gerry Connolly Cross Country Trail.



Ribbon cutting at the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial. The treatment of suffragist Lucy Burns and others played a role in the fight to pass the 19th Amendment.

For more about the hidden gems of Mount Vernon, visit Potomac Banks, <https://www.fxva.com/southcounty>.

the working mill to see the water wheel turn as it grinds grain and the working reconstruction of the distillery that still makes George's whiskey. For more about the hid-

den gems of Mount Vernon, visit Potomac Banks <https://www.fxva.com/southcounty>.

We welcome you to engage with

us. Stop by our office, visit our website (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon) to sign up for our newsletter, follow us on Facebook and Twitter and learn about the myriad of District projects, important topics, area activities, and upcoming events in your new community. More information about the Mount Vernon District can be found in our Newcomer Guide on the "About Us" page of our website.



George Washington's reconstructed grist mill at Mount Vernon.

NEWCOMERS

New Head of Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail

Jeri DeYoung is the new superintendent of Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail, a network of trails spanning the Potomac River along the Chesapeake Bay to the Allegheny Highlands in western Pennsylvania.

As superintendent, DeYoung will work with an evolving network of partners to connect people, places, and stories through a variety of outdoor recreational and educational experiences along 710 miles of existing and planned trails within this rich network.

"Jeri's strong background in bringing people together to enjoy and conserve our nation's natural and cultural resources and her experience working with Tribal partners make her a great fit for this position," National Park Service Regional Director Kym Hall said. "Her diverse experience combined with her passion for continued learning and outdoor recreation will serve her well as the superintendent of Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail."

DeYoung previously served as the manager of cultural and natural resources, planning, compliance, and lands programs for the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park. In this role, she engaged in strategic planning, engaged community partners to resolve complex park resource issues and advanced important scholarship on previously unknown and untold stories.

"The Potomac Heritage Trail provides countless opportunities for people to recreate outside and learn about nature and history," Jeri DeYoung said. "I look forward to collaborating with the many individuals, partners and communities that are working to expand and improve this incredible trail network."

The Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail is a diverse network of locally-managed trails and routes in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. Access to trailheads is possible through a variety of transportation



Jeri DeYoung.

tion modes, including hiking and biking.

Dedicating her career to preserving and making accessible natural and cultural resources, DeYoung's background includes leading the cultural and natural resources program at Cape Lookout National Seashore, managing facilities and cultural and natural resources programs at the Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site, serving as an environmental protection specialist in the Transportation Division at the NPS Denver Service Center, and working as a museum specialist, archeologist and Tribal liaison for the Flagstaff Area National Monuments. DeYoung began her 32 years of federal public service in the western United States as an archeologist and fire fighter for the U.S. Forest Service.

DeYoung has a Master of Arts in Anthropology from Northern Arizona State University and a Bachelor of Integrated Studies from Weber State University in Ogden, Utah.

Her academic focus included historic preservation, anthropology, archeology, history and botany. She is also a graduate of the National Park Service Facility Manager Leaders Program.

She is married and has a 17-year-old daughter, loves being a band mom, and enjoys travel, skiing, horses and working for the National Park Service.

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MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE ♦ SEPTEMBER 15-21, 2022 ♦ 9



PHOTO VIA NALLS PRODUCE FACEBOOK
It's Fall, and that means love a pumpkin at Nalls Produce



PHOTO VIA FACEBOOK.COM
Gardens at Gunston Hall

Chairman McKay's Lesser-known Favorites

FROM PAGE 3

would be well advised to check out all the amazing cultural and entertainment offerings at the Workhouse Arts Center. Beyond its remarkable story as a former prison transformed into a destination for artists and learners, history buffs (the Lucy Burns Museum is on site), and those looking for theater, a concert, or a laugh at one of its dozens of shows should be regular visitors. This is a can't-miss venue for everyone who lives in the area. <https://www.workhousearts.org/>

From the Chairman's Staff:

Frying Pan Park backcountry: While most people know about the wonderful Kidwell Farm and historic house on the property, there are beautiful hiking trails throughout the 130 acres of this amazing park. Suggest starting at the parking lot, walking to the historic Frying Pan Meeting House (where seeds of the Revolutionary War were sown and later served as a field hospital and final resting place for Confederate soldiers), and then through the forest to a waterfall before emerging on a farm road before arriving at protected wetlands with bountiful songbirds on the park's northeast side.

Highs & Lows: A locally-owned gift shop filled with the quirky, the wacky, and the downright weird, with something for everyone. With stores on Richmond Highway and Springfield Town Center loaded with items from pop culture, movies, music, toys, exotic food and drink, you are sure to find something you've never seen before and never knew you needed until the moment you saw it! www.connectionnews-papers.com/news/2022/sep/11/highs-and-lows-hits-high-new-store-springfield/

Chairman McKay's lesser-known favorites in Fairfax :

JV's Restaurant: This Fairfax County institution at 6666 Arlington Blvd is one of the few places in the County where you can hear

During the holiday season, watch for notices from Celebrate Fairfax for markets featuring Fairfax County artisans and crafters

live music seven days a week. It will mark its 75th anniversary in November 2022.

Fairfax Small Businesses: During the holiday season, watch for notices from Celebrate Fairfax for markets featuring Fairfax County artisans and crafters from the county and the local area. These amazingly talented makers will be a primary stop for your

"Work hard, Play at JV's"	
SEPT 16 - Fri.	SHARTEL & HUME DUO - 4PM YOUNG RELICS RETURN
SEPT 17 - Sat.	TERRI & THE BACK ALLEY RHYTHM CATS - 4PM MOTHERS LITTLE HELPER - 8PM
SEPT 18 - Sun.	MARS RODEO - 4PM FLAT DUO JETS SHOW - 8PM
SEPT 19 - Mon.	TOM SAPUTO SHOW
SEPT 20 - Tues.	OPEN MIC w/ JOSH & ANDY - 7:30PM
SEPT 21 - Wed.	DOUG DEMING & THE JEWEL TONES
SEPT 22 - Thurs.	SOL ROOTS SHOW - 8PM

VIA INSTAGRAM

JV's Restaurant- Work hard, play hard, music every night

seasonal shopping. This is a wonderful way to support our local small businesses, and you're sure to find something for everyone on your list!

Hidden Gems in The Franconia District

BY SUPERVISOR RODNEY L. LUSK
FRANCONIA DISTRICT

Franconia District residents have countless options for restaurants, parks, and entertainment. People from around the region enjoy many of our local attractions, such as Huntley Meadows Park, the Springfield Towne Center, and "Our Special Harbor Spray Ground."

However, there is much more to our district that many may not know. I am happy to share three of my personal Franconia District "hidden gems" in the hopes that you and your families can enjoy them just as much as mine.

❖ Tacos El Costalilla: This is my favorite restaurant on Richmond Highway to stop by between meetings. The staff is friendly, and the food is a must-try. My go-to order is the carne asada and the cheese and beans pupusa. I encourage you to explore the other items on their menu, which include a wide range of other excellent options. The restaurant

is located at 7862 Richmond Highway in Alexandria.

❖ Olander & Margaret Banks Park: Thanks to the generosity of Olander Banks Sr., who dedicated it to the memory of his wife, this once private property has been converted into a public park. I highly recommend this park to explore the trails, view the natural stream, and have a

family picnic. Olander & Margaret Banks Park is located at 7400 Old Telegraph Road in Alexandria.

❖ Nalls Produce: This is a personal favorite of mine, especially since I love peaches. The homegrown peaches, tomatoes, and other vegetables taste delicious. Nalls Produce is also home to my favorite Franconia District resident, Penny the Pig. Nalls Produce is an excellent place to bring the family to buy healthy produce, enjoy the pumpkin patch in the fall, or have your children participate in the kid's club. Be sure to let them know that Supervisor Lusk sent you. Nalls Produce is located at 7310 Beulah Street in Alexandria.



Supervisor Rodney L. Lusk (D-Franconia)

PHOTO VIA INSTAGRAM



PHOTO VIA BANKSIEGACY.ORG

Olander & Margaret Banks Park has 10 acres of green space, trails, and a natural stream. In the face of intense development, Banks Sr. was inspired to be "One with a Dream" and shared the family estate with Fairfax County so future generations could enjoy it.



PHOTO VIA GOOGLE MAPS

Tacos El Costalilla, located at 7862 Richmond Highway in Alexandria, is Rodney Lusk's favorite Richmond Highway restaurants.

Hidden Gems in the Braddock District

BY JAMES R. WALKINSHAW
BRADDOCK DISTRICT

❖ BRENTWOOD PARK is located at 11826 Goodwood Drive near the intersection of Braddock Road and the Fairfax County Parkway. The 10.6-acre park feels far from the hustle and bustle of the beltway. It features hiking trails through the forest, a fishing pond, a playground, and picnic areas.

❖The David R. Pinn Community Center, Neighborhood and Community Services is located at 10225 Zion Drive, Fairfax. After the Civil War, a small community of African American farmers and laborers lived on what is now Zion Drive.

One of those families, the Pinn family, donated land to build the Little Bethel Baptist Church. In 1973, the Sideburn Civic Association purchased the land, and the community center was founded. Today, this tiny and unique community center is run by Fairfax County and offers after-school programs, senior programs, and other activities.

❖ The Swiss Bakery is located at the Ravensworth Shopping Center, 5224 Port Royal, Springfield. It is a locally-owned small business that has the best breads, pastries, and desserts you'll find in Northern Virginia. I recommend grabbing a quart of fresh ice cream to take home and enjoy.



Supervisor James R. Walkinshaw (D-Braddock District).



Brentwood Park.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



David R. Pinn Community Center

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Hidden Gems in the Springfield District

BY SUPERVISOR PAT HERRITY
SPRINGFIELD DISTRICT

❖ BURKE LAKE PARK is located at 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. This nationally-ranked park is acclaimed to be a "hidden" gem. There is the beautiful 5-mile walking trail around the lake, the charming kids' train, and the favored disc golf course.

However, you may not have realized how many free events take place each year, including kids' shows at the amphitheater and, my favorite, the annual Free Summer Concert Series I host with the Park Authority each Wednesday night from July through August. In addition to free events along the lake trail, there's a great free fitness course with stations accessible for a wide range of physical abilities. Most stations demonstrate multiple levels to complete each workout, from easy to medium to advanced.

❖ THE TOWN OF CLIFTON is Main Street, USA, located in the middle of Fairfax County, with excellent restaurants, shops, and historic landmarks. It is also located in the middle of the Occoquan watershed that I will continue to protect.

The town hosts great community events, notably the annual Fourth of July celebration, where the residents gather in the town square to sing the national anthem after a parade and raise the flag, a truly moving experience.

On Sunday, Oct. 9, I highly encourage you to browse local vendors that line the town on



Fairfax County Supervisor Pat Herrierty (R-Springfield)

PHOTO VIA PATHERRTY.ORG



Free Concert in the Park Series at Burke Lake Park (2021).

PHOTOS COURTESY OF SUPERVISOR PAT HERRITY

Clifton Day, starting at 9 a.m. and ending at 5 p.m. Or, if you're looking for a fun, spooky event, check out the Clifton Haunted Trail on Saturday, October 29, from 7 to 10 p.m.

❖ Annual Teen Job Fairs: There's nothing like seeing students secure their first jobs. Each spring, I am happy to host my annual Teen Job Fair Series along with Connection Newspapers at high schools across the county, including two regularly held in the Springfield district.

Students from Chantilly and West Springfield high schools can talk with more than 80 businesses and take part in workshops like "Resume Building" and "Interviewing 101." The Teen Job Fair is free for students and participating businesses, with opportunities ranging from volunteer work, seasonal jobs, and part-time and full-time positions.



Student interviews during Job Fair.

ArtsFairfax Awards Over \$400,000 To Fairfax Arts & Culture Organizations

ArtsFairfax, the nonprofit designated as Fairfax County's local arts agency, awarded more than \$400,000 in Operating Support Grants to 44 nonprofit arts and culture organizations based in Fairfax County, the City of Fairfax and the City of Falls Church.

Operating Support Grants are foundational to the stability of Fairfax nonprofit arts and culture organizations by providing County funds, distributed by ArtsFairfax, for the basic operation of invaluable programs, services and facilities these organizations provide to Fairfax County area residents.

"As ArtsFairfax's largest grant program, Operating Support Grants are a significant investment in the local arts economy, empowering a broad spectrum of Fairfax cultural organizations to become more resilient, stable, and poised for growth," says Linda Sullivan, ArtsFairfax President

& CEO.

Applications were reviewed by a distinguished group of panelists with arts and administrative expertise. \$436,767 was awarded to 44 organizations representing all nine Fairfax County magisterial districts and all arts disciplines.

FY23 ArtsFairfax Grants by the Numbers

- ❖ \$436,767 awarded to 44 organizations
- ❖ 65% of the applicant organizations are led by women
- ❖ 13% are led by Black, Indigenous or People of Color (BIPOC)
- ❖ 9 all magisterial districts represented
- ❖ 6 first-time applicants

ArtsFairfax Operating Support Grants are awarded annually to arts organizations of all disciplines for up to 15% of their general operating expenses with a cap at \$50K. Applications are reviewed and scored by an independent grant panel comprised of local professionals with expertise in various arts disciplines, knowledge of grant practice, or knowledge of the Fairfax community. To ensure transparency of ArtsFairfax grant-making practices, all panel reviews are made accessible to the applicants and general public.

About ArtsFairfax

ArtsFairfax is the nonprofit designated as Fairfax County's local arts agency. Dedicated to the belief that arts are essential to a thriving community, the ArtsFairfax mission is to expand support for and access to arts and culture opportunities for Fairfax County's more than 1.2 million residents. By offering informational, financial, and programmatic services, ArtsFairfax promotes the role of arts and culture to deepen social engagement, create a sense of place, and fuel economic growth. Incorporated as a 501(c)(3) since 1964, ArtsFairfax provides these services to all who contribute to and experience arts in Fairfax County, and is funded in part by the County, Virginia Commission for the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts, as well as corporations, foundations, and individuals.

FY2023 ArtsFairfax Operating Support Grant Recipients

Organization	District	Discipline
1st Stage	Providence	Theater
Acting For Young People	Braddock	Arts Education
Amadeus Concerts	Dranesville	Instrumental Music
American Youth Philharmonic Orchestras	Mason	Arts Education
ArtLords/Warriors	Providence	Visual Arts
Arts Herndon Inc.	Dranesville	Multidisciplinary/Arts Services
BalletNova Center for Dance	Mason	Dance
Cappies of the National Capitol Area (NCA)	Dranesville	Theater
City of Fairfax Band Association	City of Fairfax	Instrumental Music
City of Fairfax Theatre Company	City of Fairfax	Theater
Creative Cauldron	City of Falls Church	Theater
Fairfax Choral Society	Mason	Vocal Music/Opera
Fairfax Jubil-Aires	City of Fairfax	Vocal Music/Opera
Fall for the Book, Inc	Braddock	Literature
Falls Church Arts, Inc.	City of Falls Church	Visual Arts
Gin Dance Company	Hunter Mill	Dance
Iranian American Community Center	Providence	Multidisciplinary/Arts Services
Jazz4Justice	City of Fairfax	Instrumental Music
Mosaic Harmony	Providence	Vocal Music/Opera
Mount Vernon Community Children's Theatre	Mount Vernon	Arts Education
Music for Life	Braddock	Arts Education
New Dominion Chorale	Dranesville	Vocal Music/Opera
NextStop Theatre Company	Dranesville	Theater
Northern Virginia Players	Braddock	Theater
Providence Players of Fairfax	Mason	Theater
Public Art Reston	Hunter Mill	Visual Arts
Reston Community Players	Dranesville	Theater
Smart House Movie, LLC	Lee	Film
Tephra Institute of Contemporary Art	Hunter Mill	Visual Arts
The Choralis Foundation	Providence	Vocal Music/Opera
The Fairfax Ballet Company	Sully	Dance
The McLean Project for the Arts (MPA)	Dranesville	Visual Arts
The Reston Chorale	Hunter Mill	Vocal Music/Opera
The Vienna Jammers Percussion Ensemble, Inc.	Hunter Mill	Instrumental Music
Traveling Players Ensemble, Inc.	Providence	Arts Education
Vienna Arts Society	Hunter Mill	Visual Arts
Vienna Choral Society (VCS)	Hunter Mill	Vocal Music/Opera
Vietnamese Literary and Artistic Club (VLAC)	Dranesville	Literature
Virginia Chamber Orchestra	Dranesville	Instrumental Music
Virginia Winds Academy, Inc.	Springfield	Arts Education
VOCE, INC.	Hunter Mill	Vocal Music/Opera
Washington West Film Festival	Hunter Mill	Film
We Rock Cancer	Dranesville	Vocal Music/Opera
Workhouse Arts Center	Mount Vernon	Multidisciplinary/Arts Services

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Celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month

National Hispanic Heritage Month is Sept. 15 to Oct. 15, 2022, and the Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services is celebrating with events at several of our community centers. This month pays tribute to the generations of Hispanic Americans who have positively influenced and enriched our nation and society.

Join the celebration at these Neighborhood and Community Services community center events in September and October:

Hispanic Heritage Month Themed Trivia at Mott Community Center (Senior Program) in Fairfax, Sept. 16 from 1-2 p.m. An interactive trivia game focused on facts, individuals and celebrations associated with Hispanic Heritage Month.

Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration at Hybla Valley Community Center in Alexandria, Sept. 24 from 1-4 p.m. This event will be potluck style, so we are asking families to provide a Hispanic dish they love. There will also be games and fun activities for the community.

Hispanic Heritage Celebration at Reston Teen Center in Reston, Oct. 7 from 4-5 p.m.

Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration at Sully Community Center in Herndon, Oct. 15 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Celebrate and learn about Hispanic culture with food, music, arts and crafts and more.

For more events at NCS Community Centers, Teen Centers and Senior Centers, visit the NCS website.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

GREENDROP OPENS NEW DONATION CENTER IN FRANCONIA

GreenDrop is opening a new donation center in the Festival at Manchester Lakes shopping center parking lot on Friday, September 9. The donation site will provide Fairfax County residents with a safe and convenient location to donate their gently used items to GreenDrop's nonprofit partners, the American Red Cross, Military Order of the Purple Heart Service Foundation and the National Federation of the Blind.

The Festival at Manchester Lakes donation center is located 7015 Manchester Blvd, Franconia, VA 22310, in the shopping center's parking lot by the Boardwalk Fries. The donation center will be open daily from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. EST to accept drop offs of lightly used clothing, shoes, blankets, kitchenware, and household goods. These items, in turn, will provide critical funding for GreenDrop's nonprofit partners.

GreenDrop makes it easy to donate clothing and household items at its Festival at Manchester Lakes location. Donors conveniently drive up to the donation center where they are greeted by a GreenDrop attendant who collects the items and asks the donor to indicate the nonprofit they would like their donation to benefit. Donors in return receive a tax deductible receipt.

For more information about GreenDrop or to find a donation center near you, visit our website at www.GoGreenDrop.com.

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 bacon

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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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

Assistance League of Northern Virginia is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that feeds, clothes and provides reading assistance and books to children in need. Assistance League's programs touch the lives of hundreds of children in Fairfax and Prince William Counties and the City of Alexandria. There are many volunteer opportunities for community members to contribute to helping those in need. To learn more, email info@alnv.org, or visit www.alnv.org.

United Community (formerly UCM), 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, seeks volunteers for Food Pantry assistance, Early Learning Center teacher aides, basic needs counselors, youth tutors and mentors, office administration/data entry, and community outreach. Flexible hours and schedules. Opportunities for all ages to serve, including community service hours. More info at ucmagency.org/volunteer-opportunities or email volunteer@ucmagency.org.

Operation Paws for Homes, a Virginia based 501(c)(3) organization seeks volunteers, especially to foster dogs. See www.ophrescue.org for information and all volunteer opportunities.

RSVP, a volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older. RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to vol-

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 18



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MountVernonLeeChamber.org



Public Notice

Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

In accord with state and federal law, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has imposed new or changed existing weight restrictions and installed new signage indicating the updated weight restrictions on the following bridges and culverts (structures) in Virginia within the last 30 days.

Jurisdiction	Fed. Struct. Id.	Route #	Structure Name	Restrictions	Posted Date
GILES	8517	781	SNIDERTOWN RD/ 781	BIG STONEY CREEK	8/31/2022
HENRY	10136	650	SPRUCE STREET/ 650	MULBERRY CREEK	8/31/2022
PATRICK	13259	615	JACKS CREEK RD/ 615	SMITH RIVER	8/31/2022
BEDFORD	2918	804	TEASS TERRACE/ 804	NININGER CREEK	8/30/2022
HENRY	10171	699	MAYO LANDING RD/ 699	NORTH MAYO RIVER	8/30/2022
MONTGOMERY	12345	785	CATAWBA RD/ 785	MILL CREEK	8/30/2022
PATRICK	13414	832	GOLF COURSE RD/ 832	SPOON CREEK	8/30/2022
PATRICK	13413	825	PALMETTO SCH RD/ 825	RUSSEL CREEK	8/30/2022
PATRICK	13290	631	RIVER RD/ 631	ARARAT RIVER	8/30/2022
PATRICK	13269	622	DEER RUN RD/ 622	SHOOTING CREEK	8/24/2022
PATRICK	13283	631	DOE RUN RD/ 631	ARARAT RIVER	8/23/2022
BEDFORD	2782	666	ELKTON FARM RD/ 666	NORFOLK SOUTHERN RR	8/18/2022
BOTETOURT	3455	653	KINZIE RD/ 653	BUFFALO CREEK	8/18/2022
PATRICK	13396	749	LETCHER LANE/ 749	ARARAT RIVER	8/18/2022
PATRICK	13392	727	POPLAR DRIVE/ 727	SOUTH MAYO RIVER	8/18/2022
PATRICK	13410	813	SAWMILL LANE/ 813	DAN RIVER	8/18/2022
ROANOKE	14974	603	BONSACK RD/ 603	COOKS CREEK	8/18/2022
CRAIG	5503	615	CRAIGS CREEK RD	MILL CREEK	8/17/2022
CRAIG	5556	692	ROUTE 692	CRAIG CREEK	8/17/2022
HENRY	10147	669	MURRY HILL LANE/ 669	BRANCH OF REED CREEK	8/17/2022
HENRY	10152	682	RIVER RD/ 682	JORDAN CREEK	8/17/2022
PATRICK	13278	628	DICK & WILLIE/ 628	MILL CREEK	8/17/2022
PATRICK	13337	675	FRIENDSMISSION/ 675	ARARAT RIVER	8/17/2022
PATRICK	13317	649	GAMMONS RD/ 649	LITTLE DAN RIVER	8/17/2022
PATRICK	13336	672	JOHNSON CR RD/ 672	JOHNSON CREEK	8/17/2022
PATRICK	13303	642	POORHOUSE CR RD/ 642	POORHOUSE CREEK	8/17/2022
BOTETOURT	3387	622	DAGGER SPRNG RD/ 622	MILL CREEK	8/16/2022
MONTGOMERY	12355	787	DRY VALLEY RD/ 787	MEADOW CREEK	8/16/2022
MONTGOMERY	12304	679	NOLLEY RD/ 679	ELLIOTT CREEK	8/15/2022
STAFFORD	18127	608	BROOK RD	ACCOKEEK CREEK	8/3/2022
STAFFORD	18065	3	WBL KINGS HWY	4' STREAM	8/3/2022
RICHMOND	14789	614	BEAVER DAM RD	RICHARDSONS CREEK	8/2/2022
RICHMOND	14773	3	HISTORY LAND HWY	CHINN'S MILL POND	8/2/2022
RICHMOND	14801	634	NAYLORS BEACH RD	CAT POINT CREEK	8/2/2022
SPOTSYLVANIA	17921	3	(WBL) PLANK RD	LICK RUN	8/2/2022
SPOTSYLVANIA	18041	738	PARTLOW RD	ARNOLD'S CREEK	8/2/2022
SPOTSYLVANIA	17913	1	PATRIOT HWY	NI RIVER	8/2/2022
SPOTSYLVANIA	17914	1	PATRIOT HWY	PO RIVER	8/2/2022
WESTMORELAND	19218	3	KINGS HWY	POPES CREEK	8/2/2022

The list above is not a comprehensive list of all structures with weight restrictions in the Commonwealth, but shows only structures that have new or changed weight restrictions within the last 30 days. The list contains only basic structure identification and location information and the date the new or changed weight restriction and signage became effective.

For a full listing of all bridge and culvert weight restrictions with detailed information about specific structures, including location data and actual weight limits, visit <https://www.virginiadot.org> and navigate to Info Center/Trucking Resources. This page references a posted structures report and a GIS map tool that contain detailed information about restricted structures in Virginia. To receive email notifications regarding new or updated weight restrictions for structures statewide, complete the sign-up form on the web page.

Notices regarding bridges and culverts with new or updated weight restrictions are published monthly by VDOT. For additional information or questions, please contact haulingpermits@vdot.virginia.gov.

The Virginia Department of Transportation is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any of its programs or activities on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on VDOT's Title VI Program or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Program Specialist at 804-786-2730.

Where To Give Locally in Alexandria And Mount Vernon

Many nonprofits in the city and nearby need your help to continue to rise to the need. There are literally hundreds, probably thousands, of ways to give locally, financially, food and other goods, volunteer time. Here are a few ideas. Please let us know what we have missed.

Where to Give Locally

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

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

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

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

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

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

<https://alexandriatutors.org/>, Tutoring for Alexandria City Public Schools kindergarten and first grade students who are struggling to read. Mission: To help Alexandria City Public School students read on or above grade level by the end of kindergarten and first grade.

❖ **Assistance League of Northern Virginia** is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization that feeds, clothes and educates children in need. The organization has reshaped its Weekend Food For Kids program to assist the struggling families of the students we serve. Contact info@alnv.org or visit www.alnv.org

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

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

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

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

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

❖ **Community Lodgings, Inc.**, 703-549-4407 Transitional and affordable housing, youth education, adult education, bilingual staff assistance.

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

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

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



United Community staff in spring, 2020. www.unitedcommunity.org

cause-usa.org

❖ **Hopkins House**, 703-549-8072, www.hopkinshouse.org, Preschool academy, family budgeting and literacy, family education and youth summer enrichment camp, Early Childhood Learning Institute.

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

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

❖ **Neighborhood Health**, 6677 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, VA 22306. Partners with patients to treat the whole person through medical, behavioral health and dental programs.

Ten clinics throughout the region taking a leading role during COVID. Participating with all insurance including commercial, Medicare, and Medicaid, 703-535-5568, www.neighborhoodhealthva.org

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

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

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

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

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

❖ **National Capital Food Bank**, 6833 Hill Park Drive, Lorton, serving all of Northern Virginia, (571) 482-4770. Work with 450+ nonprofit partners across the region, partners who distribute an average of 88,000 meals daily. Together, provide more than 30 million meals every year. www.cap-

SEE WHERE TO GIVE, PAGE 17

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

ENTERTAINMENT

CHECK OUT THESE PLANT CLINICS

The Del Ray Farmers Market Plant Clinic, located at 203 E. Oxford Ave, Alexandria is open on Saturdays from 8:30-11:15 a.m., and will operate through September 24. The Alexandria Old Town Farmers Market Plant Clinic, located at 301 King St., Alexandria, operates on Saturdays from 7:00 - 9:30 a.m., through September 24.

NOW THRU 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 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.

AUG. 31 TO OCT. 5

Waterfront Wednesdays Music Series. 5-7 p.m. At Robinson Landing Promenade and Pier, 7 Pioneer Mill Way, Alexandria. Head to Robinson Landing for the Waterfront Wednesday Music Series presented by Yellow Door Music Concert Series featuring a range of music genres by local musicians. Bring a chair or simply stop by to enjoy some beautiful waterside beats.

SEPT. 2 TO OCT. 1

"The Big 3-0" Members Showcase. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ace., Alexandria. Features artwork in a variety of media and celebrates Del Ray Artisans 30th Anniversary. Open Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays 12-6 p.m. (Closed October 2). Visit DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

SEPT. 7-21

Virtual History Talk. 12-1 p.m. At National Museum of the United States Army, 1775 Liberty Drive, Fort Belvoir: VIRTUAL HISTORY TALK: Over Here, Over There: The United States Service Organization (USO) and the U.S. Army. Learn how the Army values of selfless service and duty were channeled by civilians to support and uplift Soldiers during one of the darkest times in American history. Identify how those values have been carried on since World War II to support Soldiers through times of war and peace. Website: <https://tickets.thenmusa.org/Policies.aspx>

SEPT. 9-18

Old Town Cocktail Week. Various restaurants in Old Town Alexandria. 'Tis the season to celebrate and honor the talent of bartenders and businesses that support cocktail and wine innovation. Throughout the week, restaurants and retailers will highlight cocktails and/or wine in their establishments. The Art League will kick off the week with the annual Art on the Rocks event at Waterfront Park.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 15

Tisara/Halperson Art Opening. 5-7
www.connectionnewspapers.com

p.m. At Coldwell Banker Realty, 310 King Street, Alexandria. Reserve by Tuesday, 9/13, gretchen.walzl@cbmove.com or 703-518-8300.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 15

Tea Program: Fall Garden Tour & Tea. 1-3 p.m. (Adult) Be inspired by the colors, combinations, and textures of Green Spring's fall landscape as you tour the demonstration gardens with an Extension Master Gardener docent. Afterwards, step into the Historic House for a sumptuous and convivial afternoon tea. A traditional English afternoon tea served in the 1784 Historic House follows each program. Full tea includes finger sandwiches, pastries, scone, cream, and jam. Programs are by reservation only. Call (703) 941-7987, TTY (703) 324-3988. \$38 (tour + tea).

THURSDAY/SEPT. 15

Debby Brisker Burk is featured artist at Nepenthe Gallery ART + WINE + CHEESE. Debby's recent work (that is currently at Nepenthe!) "Surf's Up" earned Debby the recognition in Art Folio's 2022 listing of "world's most dynamic artists." ART + WINE + CHEESE every Thursday at Nepenthe Gallery from 6-7:30 pm. 571-347-7961 www.nepenthegallery.com

THURSDAY/SEPT. 15

Old Town Art Walk. At various locations in Old Town Alexandria. Enjoy a self-guided tour of Old Town Alexandria and explore the fine art and studio crafts found in art galleries and boutique shops on the third Thursday of each month, May to October. The stroll is a great activity after an early dinner, or before enjoying a meal at one of Old Town Alexandria's restaurants. The Old Town Art Walk is presented by the Old Town Business Association.

SEPT. 15

The Taste of Old Town North, 4 to 8 p.m. At Montgomery Park, 901 N. Royal St., Alexandria. A celebration of the diverse neighborhoods of greater Old Town North featuring wellness demonstrations, shopping at the Old Town Farmers' Market, Art in the Park and wine and food tastings with local businesses.

SEPT. 15 AND OCT. 20

Art Night in Old Town. 5 to 8 p.m. Various locations in Old Town Alexandria. More than 18 galleries, boutiques, wine shops and merchants each host an open house showcasing art via wine tastings, art classes, clothing, jewelry, flowers, paintings and other styles of art. Take a walk down the historic streets of Old Town and enjoy a light supper before or after the Art Night.

SEPT. 16-17

50th Reunion of The TC Williams Class of 1972 - We Remember the Titans! The 1972 graduating class of TC Williams High School, the class of "Remember the Titans" fame is hosting a 50th Reunion on the weekend of September 16th-17th, 2022 in Old Town Alexandria. The senior class that was created from the original three Alexandria City high schools, TC Williams High School High School, Francis C. Hammond High School and George Washington

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 18

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BEETHOVEN INSPIRED

Anna Binneweg, conductor
Michael Stephen Brown, piano
DECEMBER 11 @ 3 PM

THE RED VIOLIN & FIREBIRD

Glen Cortese, conductor
Miranda Cuckson, violin
FEBRUARY 11 @ 3 PM

AN AMERICAN IN PARIS & WOMEN COMPOSERS

Michelle Di Russo, conductor
Nick Canellakis, cello
MARCH 26 @ 3 PM

CELEBRATING ULYSSES JAMES

Ulysses James, conductor
MAY 20 @ 3 PM

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IMAGES BY MARYLAND PHOTOGRAPHY INC.

An Alexandria couple with adult children tasked yZiGN design firm with turning their basement into a bourbon tasting room complete with leather wrapped cabinets.

Interior Design for Empty Nesters

Basement transformed into bourbon tasting room for couple with adult children.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

When children leave home for college or get married, the parents they leave behind become empty nesters who might experience empty-nest syndrome. This is described by the American Psychological Association as a time when parents could experience sadness or a loss of purpose and identity when all of their children move away from home.

"Some of my patients describe it as feeling as though there's a void in their life or hole in the soul that needs to be filled," said Carol Barnaby, LCSW. "Some of the ways that adults can cope with the loss are getting that degree that they've always wanted, redecorating their home by pulling out porcelain or crystal that they'd put away to keep their kids from breaking it, and taking some of the trips on their bucket list."

FOR SOME empty nesters, spaces that were once filled with study desks, gaming systems and toy chests are prime real estate for interior design that caters to adult joy. An Alexandria couple who are both bourbon aficionados and parents of adult children used their freedom to travel the U.S. by making frequent visits to bourbon tasting rooms in Kentucky and Tennessee, returning home with purchases from each. They soon amassed a bourbon collection large enough to merit its own room.

Alex and Iwona Petrov of yZiGN Interiors in Bethesda were hired to transform their basement into a tasting room that paid homage to the libation and its age-old craft.

"We helped them develop their own style," said Iwona Petrov of yZiGN Interiors. "We didn't worry about trends. We said, 'Let's just have fun.'"

No longer bound by child-centered designs, the Petrovs worked with the couple to create a design that reflected their interests and passions. In addition to a space to display their collection, the design includes a tasting room of their own to share with friends.

The renovated area is both intimate and rustic. Cabinets wrapped in recycled leather reflects an old South, but with a modern twist.

"The bar was the centerpiece," said Alex. "We used lighting to make the bottles of bourbon stand out. We created lots of hidden storage. There's even a refrigerator and freezer."

The design team made the most of every inch of the room which is just under 400 square feet. In addition to appliances the basement tasting room houses a television. Thanks to the hidden storage, the space doesn't feel crowded. The space includes four swivel chairs for seating, a repurposed oriental rug and mood lighting along the ceiling and shelves.

Even the art reflects the couple's personal style. "The wife is an artist," said Iwona. "She created a painting of her husband with their chocolate lab. "We joked that painting blended into the wall."

The bourbon loving couple is enjoying their freedom as empty nesters.

But for some parents of adult children, empty nester status can be short lived. Beginning with the job losses and closed college campuses of the pandemic and continuing with increasing cost of necessities such as food, gasoline and housing, more adult children are returning to the nest. A Pew Research Center report shows that almost one-third of adults between the ages of 18 and 25 are living at home with their parents with no move-out date in sight.

Local Seniors Remember the Queen

Sharing loving memories of their chance to see the queen.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

On the day of Queen Elizabeth's coronation in 1952, Etta Blackstone was living in central London with her family. "My parents and I stood along the procession route from Westminster Abbey to Buckingham Palace," she said. "I will never forget that day. It was magical and I was in awe."

Blackstone, who is 83, now lives in Great Falls with her daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren. "The only images of that day are in black and white, but the photos can't capture the elaborate pageantry of the day."

Blackstone has long admired the British royal family. "My mother received her telegram from the Queen marking her 100th birthday, she said. "It was as if, in a small way, our family was linked to her family."

Each Christmas day when the Queen delivered her annual address Blackstone made sure to find and watch it, "I would be engrossed in her message," she said. "I've always loved the royal family and I tried to pass it along to my children. I remember waking them up at 5 a.m. to watch Prince Charles and Lady Diana's wedding and then again, sadly to watch Diana's funeral."

IT WAS JULY of 1958 in Leeds, England that 5-year-old Avery Jones, his parents

and two sisters stood in a crowd of thousands for a chance to get a glimpse of Queen Elizabeth as her motorcade made its way down a street filled with spectators.

"She was smiling and waving from the back seat of the car, said Jones, who is 70 and lives in Falls Church. "At the time, I didn't appreciate the magnitude of what was happening. I was just angry that my parents piled us into our car and made us wait for hours in crowd for a chance to see 30 seconds of a woman waving from the backseat of car."

Jones says that his dad took photos of the procession. "I'm not a sentimental person, so I was never interested in keeping the pictures," he said. "The day that the queen passed away, my grandchildren asked me if I'd ever seen her in person. I wish that I had at least one of the pictures to show them."

ORIGINALLY from Kingston, Jamaica, Gladiola Hanson now makes her home in Arlington. She recalls the Queen's visit to her country in 1966.

"My mother and I were at the front of the crowd and I got a great view of the Queen and Prince Phillip," she said. "They stood in the open top of their car and waved to the crowd," she said. "There was so much excitement. It was so emotional. I remember seeing my mother dabbing tears from her eyes."

While Hanson holds the royal family in high regard, she acknowledges the controversy surrounding the monarchy.

"My granddaughters were born in Virginia and they have a different view of the royal family," she said. "They can be critical of the monarchy and its history with its colonies. When I was growing up, we were taught to always admire and respect Her Majesty."



PHOTO COURTESY OF ETTA BLACKSTONE

83-year-old Etta Blackstone was living in central London with her family during the 1953 coronation of Queen Elizabeth. They stood along the procession route from Westminster Abbey to Buckingham Palace.

NEWCOMERS

Where To Give Locally

FROM PAGE 14

italareafoodbank.org

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

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

❖ **Senior Services of Alexandria**, 703-836-4414, www.seniorservicesalex.org, Support services for elders enabling them to age with dignity.

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

❖ **United Community, Mount Vernon**, 703-768-7106, 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, VA 22306 assists low-income families and individuals living along the Route 1 Corridor, UC provides housing programs as well as a Workforce Development Center. Make a Financial Contribution to support the Holiday Gift Room 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria VA 22306. www.ucmagency.org

Donations of cash/checks and gift cards are also welcome.

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

CALENDAR

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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
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Not Exactly Up and At'em But ...



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

... neither is he down and out. In fact, my brother is alert and wide awake – for some hours during the day, and mostly disconnected from all his I.V. pumps and all the associated medical machinery that had been sustaining him in SICU and partially while in the regular hospital wards. Moreover, his feeding tube is gone as is the ventilator apparatus. He's certainly not ambulatory, but he's now eating solid foods, however unappetizing. After all, this is a hospital and as much as they try, institutional food – often bland by doctor directive, is hardly the food by which dreams are made, and I imagine would desire, for a patient to eat after four-plus weeks being fed liquid nourishment (cannot call it food) through a tube. Nevertheless, and I know this from my own hospitalization seven years ago – also in an SICU, progress of the patient is semi measured by how much food they eat. And not eating the food served (I hesitate to say, prepared) is not considered a positive, as in you must be getting your taste buds back in order so you're improving. Hardly. It's the complete opposite. The presumption is the patient is having challenges eating, and not because he has a discerning palate, but rather that his medical condition/slow recovery is preventing it somehow.

All of that being said, and likely corroborated by patients in hospitals the world over, lack of meal consumption by the patient is often an impediment to the patient getting released or even transferred to another medical facility. (In my brother's case, his next stop after last week's successful surgery, is a rehabilitation hospital.) Unfortunately, for his first few days, Richard was barely touching his food. (Let me be clear: he was touching it; he just wasn't eating it.) His post-op fatigue and seven weeks in a bed and five weeks-plus on a ventilator have eroded his capacity to manipulate plasticware, as an example, or much else, really. He's only recently, in the last day or two, been walked around. And as he told me today, 10 feet is about as far/as much as he can muster, even when supported by a therapist. It seems to me, he's got to be able to do more activities of daily living ("bathing or showering, dressing, getting in and out of bed or a chair, walking using the toilet and eating"), only some of which he's capable of at this point before he can be moved. From my nearly daily observation, if he was left on his own, or transferred to another facility, where the level of care was reduced, or were not structured to accommodate a patient with these kinds of deficits, he wouldn't thrive (and that's meant to be the understatement of the year, certainly one for his last seven weeks, anyway).

But has been proven many times before in this weekly space, what do I know? Other than baseball, chocolate and writing a weekly column (for almost 25 years): not much. Still, I persevere, as does my brother. His will to survive, his refusal to not succumb to all the demands on his body, from the beginning of his septic shock to today when he insisted over the phone that there was no need for me to visit him today (Sunday) have been beyond amazing. I only wish some of his former SICU nurses who tended to him 'round the clock for four weeks or so, could see and talk to him now. They never met him. He never was able to speak or even gesture much while in their care. He was moved to a regular ward because after a month, he simple didn't need their extraordinary level of care, but he was still a long way – until recently, from being able to express himself. (As an example, the other day I heard him say to his nurse, Will, that he would like to take him and his wife out to dinner when he's better to thank him for his care/ attentiveness. Previously, while in SICU, I remember my wife, Dina saying: "If Richard knew how excellent his care had been, he'd probably buy pizza for the entire unit.") He didn't. But he does know.

Barring any unexpected relapse of sorts, he's definitely on the road to recovery. It's likely to be a bumpy road full of potholes, but since he lives in Washington, D.C., he's used to it (just kidding). He's already planning to install inclinator in his multiple staircases at home, buy a motorized fold-up scooter (that he's seen a close friend use) and follow his physical therapy regimen as directed by his releasing physician. But we're not quite there yet. Heck, he's not even been transferred to a rehabilitation facility to begin his rehabilitation. But in his head, he's thinking about the future/moving forward. And if he is, then it couldn't have happened to a better brother.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for
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Each local newspaper's mission aspires to provide greater community service, and we do know that our communities are better off if we continue to publish. Last year's financial support from readers and supporters like you bridged the shortfall before Federal PPP funding arrived, and both made our survival possible. We now await a decision for a grant from Rebuild Virginia in early February that we hope will help us in 2022 and beyond. But we need help to survive the first quarter, always a brutal time for cash flow in weekly newspapers. Thank you.

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 15

High School, brought together in the Fall of 1971, graduating in June of 1972. The consolidation of these three schools, created the football team that many now know as the Original '71 Titans.

COLONIAL MARKET & FAIR AT MOUNT VERNON

September 17 and 18, 2022, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Take in the sights and sounds of the marketplace on Mount Vernon's 12-acre field. Chat with colonial artisans selling traditional handcrafted food and wares, hear live music from the colonial era and watch as expert artisans demonstrate period crafting techniques. Plus, see General Washington in the General's Tent.

Admission: Included with general admission (\$28 per adult; \$15 per youth; free for children 5 and under); free for members. George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon. 703-780-2000

SATURDAY/SEPT. 17

Cinema Del Ray. At Mount Vernon Recreation Center, 2701 Commonwealth Ave., Alexandria. Join Cinema del Ray for a family-friendly outdoor screening of Disney and Pixar's "Luca" at the Mount Vernon Recreation Center fields.

20TH ANNUAL ALEXANDRIA OLD TOWN ART FESTIVAL

Saturday, Sept. 17, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 300 John Carlyle St., Alexandria. Rated one of the top 100 art shows in Sunshine Artist Magazine, the annual art festival features a variety of works exemplifying the gifted artists in regions from all over the country.

artfestival.com/festivals

COLONIAL MARKET & FAIR AT MOUNT VERNON

Saturday-Sunday, Sept. 17 and 18, 2022, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy, Mount Vernon. Admission: Included with general admission (\$28 per adult; \$15 per youth; free for children 5 and under); free for members. Call 703-780-2000 or mountvernon.org

SATURDAY/SEPTEMBER 17

Family Fall Festival & Plant Sale. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (All ages) Join us at Green Spring Gardens for the annual Family Fall Festival! The festival will have activities for the entire family, including classes for children and adults, a silent auction, a book sale, and a bake sale. Vendors will be selling a large variety of plants and other items. Admission is free. Sponsored by the Friends of Green Spring (FROGS). For more information, contact

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 13

unteer group projects and social gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, email Carly Hubicki at chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-403- 5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit www.rsvpnova.org.

Line Dance Instructor needed for the Gum Springs Senior Program once a week on either Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. Volunteer Solutions, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711.

Volunteer Fairfax makes it easy for individuals and families, youth and seniors, corporate groups and civic clubs to volunteer. Fulfill hours, give back, or pay it forward through a variety service options. Visit www.volunteerfairfax.org or call 703-246-3460.

Fairfax County's Community Services Board is seeking volunteer office assistants. Volunteers are needed to assist CSB staff with greeting guests, making reminder phone calls, data entry, filing, shredding, stocking shelves, and other duties as needed. Hours are flexible, but would be during normal business hours.

Green Spring at 703-642-5173.

FREE GENEALOGY LECTURE

Tuesday, Sept. 20, 1-3 p.m. at 1500 Shenandoah Rd., Alexandria. History Professor Joshua D. Rothman will discuss How Domestic Slave Traders Shaped America during the Mount Vernon Genealogical Society's September meeting. This FREE presentation will be streamed on Zoom by the Mount Vernon Genealogical Society, go to www.mvgenealogy.org.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 24

The HalloWEIRD Art Market. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Features a variety of artwork from local artisans that celebrates the spooky, creepy and fun sides of the Fall season. Join us for lots of fun at this outdoor, family-friendly, rain-or-shine event. It will be held at the park adjoining Del Ray Artisans gallery at 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria, VA (corner of Commonwealth and Mount Vernon Avenues). DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

SATURDAY, SUNDAY SEPT. 24, 25

The Annual Civil War Books, Relics and Memorabilia Show will be held at the Arlington-Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd, Fairfax, on Saturday and Sunday Sept. 24 and 25, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. both days. Admission is \$5.00 per person. Vendors are welcome. For information, call Bud Mayo, 703-389-1505 or mayo5304@cox.net

THE BIRCHMERE

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

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 Sun. 18: Kevin Ross \$49.50
 Tue. 20: Kathleen Edwards w/ Matt Sucich \$35.00
 Thu. 22: Phil Vassar \$45.00
 Fri. 23: Scarpoolparty (unplugged) w/ Covey (solo) \$25.00
 Sat. 24: Paul Thorn (Band) \$39.50
 Sun. 25: Heaven 17 \$45.00
 Wed. 28: Marshall Crenshaw "40th Anniversary Show!" \$35.00
 Fri. 30: Tinariwen with Garcia Peoples \$55.00

Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb/viva/volunteers.htm for more.

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

The Northern Virginia Long Term Care Ombudsman Program needs volunteer advocates for residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Contact Lisa Callahan at 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Respite Care volunteers give family caregivers of a frail older adult a break so they can go shopping, attend a doctor's appointment or just have coffee with a friend. Volunteers visit and oversee the safety of the older adult for a few hours each month. Support and training are provided. Contact Kristin Martin at 703-324-7577, TTY 711, or Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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