

# Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

OCTOBER 20, 2022

## Pedestrian Fatality in Familiar Spot along Richmond Highway

County roads continue to be hazardous for pedestrians.

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE GAZETTE

**P**edestrian fatalities on roads in Fairfax County continue to increase with two people killed in early October, and one in August, raising concerns as the season slips into days with less daylight, increasing the danger out on the busy streets.

On Thursday, Oct. 6, Melodie Kiem, 53, of Fort Belvoir was crossing Richmond Highway at the Tully Gate intersection from the median to the eastern side of Richmond Highway, against the pedestrian cross signal, the Fairfax County Police said. The driver of a 2015 GMC Terrain was traveling northbound on Richmond Highway with a green light and the right of way. Kiem was struck in the roadway, and the driver remained on scene.

Rescue personnel responded and pronounced Kiem deceased at the scene. Preliminarily, speed and alcohol do not appear to be factors in the crash, police said. The investigation remains active, and details of the investigation will be presented to the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney for review.

A few days later, a 63-year-old pedestrian died after being struck crossing West Ox Road in the central part of the county. According to FCPD, Ligia Jeannette Herrera Betbeder, 63, of Fairfax, was crossing West Ox Road north of Legato Road from east to west, outside of the crosswalk. The driver of a 2015 Honda Civic was traveling southbound on West Ox Road and struck Betbeder in the roadway. The driver of the Honda remained on scene. Rescue personnel responded and pronounced Betbeder deceased at the scene.

A 52-year-old woman died the morning of Oct. 19, after being struck crossing Lorton Station Boulevard.

Detectives continue to investigate the fatal crash that occurred at 4:58 p.m. Oct. 18 in the area of Lorton Station Boulevard and



Old Beech Court in Lorton. Preliminarily, detectives determined Helen Bahta Oukubazghi of Lorton was crossing Lorton Station Boulevard near Old Beech Court. The driver of a black 2015 Chevrolet Equinox was traveling south on Lorton Station Boulevard and struck Oukubazghi in the roadway. The driver of the Chevrolet left the scene but returned a short while

later, upon observing the damage to the vehicle, according to police.

In August, Albert Sweat, 62, of Maryland, was walking through the parking lot in the 6200 block of Arlington Boulevard when he was struck by the driver of a Volkswagen. The vehicle continued over a median and struck an occupied parked 2010 GMC Yukon before coming to rest in a mulch

bed. Sweat was taken to a nearby hospital where he was pronounced deceased.

This past April, the 2022 Street Smart Campaign was launched because of the increase in fatalities over the number in 2021, 16 this year so far compared to 10 at this point in 2021. The campaign, launched by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, calls for a behavior change for both drivers and pedestrians. Under this program, drivers should drive the speed limit and stop for people in crosswalks, and pedestrians were directed to use the crosswalk and wait for the walk signal.

Michael J. Farrell, Senior Transportation Planner at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments recommends that people use the crosswalks but it is generally legal to cross at the intersection even if no crosswalk is marked. It's also legal to cross between intersections except when both ends of the block are signalized, he said, but the pedestrian is obliged to yield to the motorist when crossing mid-block, Farrell added.

SEE COUNTY ROADS, PAGE 5

## Community Shopping Area Adorned by New Parklet

All sorts of possibilities for colorful space in the Mount Vernon Plaza shopping center.



Supervisor Lusk looks at it as a start to bigger things to come.

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE GAZETTE

**A**sense of community was in the air at the first "parklet," opening on Tuesday, Oct. 19 in the Mount Vernon Plaza shopping center.

The parklet is a creation of Federal Realty and the Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation to introduce a 3200-square-foot gathering space that features a trellis, green space, porch swing benches and soma stones along with new café seating, lighting and landscaping. Construction began last May.

"It started with an idea," said Evan Kauffman of the SFDC. "We're trying to find creative ways to enliven this corridor," he added.

Supervisor Rodney Lusk (D-Franconia) and Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon) are also part of the efforts going on in this area to spruce up the environment and modernize things. "This is just the beginning of what's going to happen on this corridor," Lusk said.

It was the fourth ribbon cutting ceremony Storck has attended in the last two weeks so that's a sign things are changing



PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/GAZETTE

Colorful rocking "Adirondack," chairs are just part of the new Parklet.

on the Richmond Highway corridor. Following the parklet ribbon cutting, the community organizers and elected officials walked across the parking lot and cut another ribbon on a new restaurant, "Della J's," part of the improved picture this area is experi-

encing.

### Enliven an Enhance

Last spring, the SFDC was involved with the first of three murals in the "Paint SEE COMMUNITY SHOPPING, PAGE 5



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# NEWS

## Lorton Celebrates Opening of Community Center, Library and Park

New center combines senior and Community Action centers.

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/GAZETTE

BY SUSAN LAUME  
GAZETTE

Community members in the large crowd which came to the ribbon cutting and grand opening of the Lorton Community Center, Library, and Park were not reserved in their descriptions of the new facility. Comments included: “huge”, “wonderful”, “enormous”, “soaring”, “dope”, “wow”, and “pretty cool.” Even those laudable descriptors may not be sufficient to capture the essence of the crisp, bright building with its state of the art features and elements poised to help those of all ages to get a leg up in our modern day world.

Lorton celebrated the opening of the new facilities on October 15th, with tours, activities, and refreshments. Fairfax County Mount Vernon District Supervisor, Dan Storck, and Board Chairman, Jeff McKay, former Mount Vernon District supervisor, Gerry Hyland along with other county and state officials and U.S. Congressman Don Beyer, were on hand to officiate the opening of the combined Library, Community Center and adjacent, new playground and renovated park. The new facility, previously the site of the Lorton Library and the separate Lorton Community Action Center, now combines the functions, and those of a previously off campus senior center, into the new, and much larger building and reworked parking area.

As emcee of the program, Storck praised the “combined services, resources, entertainment, and education that are all in one place for all ages.” Describing the new center as “the Lorton hub,” he said, “This part of Lorton needed these services because we have folks who needed help to make a difference in their lives; who needed sometimes a hand up. Sometimes just some stair steps to go a little bit higher. Those things are what we’ll be able to do with this facility. This colocation of not only the neighborhood and community services, we have the senior and teen center. We got a library. We got a park and we’ve got new playgrounds. We’ve got a lot of wonderful things going on.”

Board Chairman McKay described the building as “so beautiful,” adding, “You can see that in every square inch ... thought and energy was put into designing it in a way that it can accommodate the community’s needs for such a long time. People have a yearning to come together as a community. They need intergenerational interaction. What I really love is when you walk through here, you’ll see all the great amenities for seniors, the library, the teens and young people in our community [will] be able to come together in one place, not dividing our community.”



Nathaniel Kebede and Younes Elomari, both 13 yrs old, their brothers and friends listen and live stream speakers as they wait for the building to open



With the poise of an adult professional speaker, 12 year old Ivan Robles told the crowd what the new center meant to him.

communities up but bringing people together in one place so that we can learn from each other ... This is a beautiful building, with a lot of great opportunities, but it’s the people who are going to go inside this building that are going to add the real beauty and prove to us the real benefit of why we make infrastructure investments like this.”

The building and grounds are a model of environmental sustainability. Chris Herrington, director, Public Works and Environmental Services explained the elements that will designate the facility as LEED Gold standard, after installation of rooftop solar panels. “The building enjoys energy efficient



Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeff McKay looks forward to the center providing for interaction of our “richly inclusive diverse, proudly international community ... and for intergenerational interaction.”



Community members eagerly awaited the ribbon cutting as officials, Dan Storck, Brian Hill, Jai Cole assisting a young ribbon cutter, Gerry Hyland, Jeff McKay, Lloyd Tucker, Ivan Robles, and other young members of the community assist.

mechanical and electrical systems, abundant natural light in the interior spaces, and systems and materials that not only reduce energy and water consumption but also create a healthy indoor environment for everyone

who will be using the facility. We’ve gone above and beyond our regulatory requirements, including reducing stormwater run-

SEE NEW CENTER, PAGE 4

MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE ♦ OCTOBER 20-26, 2022 ♦ 3





Upon entering, visitors were greeted by smiling county employees Kinda Mimes and Keesha Gill who handed out souvenir bags and cups



In the reception area, staff organized tours of the large and bright building

# New Center Combines Senior and Community Action Centers

FROM PAGE 5

off by providing bio-retention rain gardens, landscaping features, and underground stormwater quality treatment device, enhancing stormwater quality treatment on-site. There's a reduced parking footprint. I'm happy that we preserved the White Oak tree and we've used native plants in a bird friendly design."

Construction began in July 2020 on the 30,000 square foot facility and adjacent community park. The new park includes an updated playground, fitness area, open field area, plaza, and loop trail. The library features an expanded children's space, teen gaming room with large screen video stations, Wifi/laptop bar, and group study, conference and community meeting rooms. Linked by a shared entrance and reception area, the Community Center includes several large multipurpose rooms, art and game rooms, exercise area, pantry with large refrigerator/freezers, and a sensory room for children with sensory issues. The gymnasium will open later, after correction of issues with the floor.

Perhaps the biggest round of applause during the speaking program was heard in recognition of 12-year-old speaker, Ivan Robles, who summed up what the center means to children. Robles shared, "Since I was little, my mom used to bring my brothers and I to LCAC to participate in all the programs, where we did homework and played games. Now I'm happy that they have built this new center here in my community where we will have the opportunity to have more programs and a safe space to play and study."

The Center is located at 9520 Richmond Highway in Lorton.



Joshua Henry, Director of Nutrition for The Lorton Community Action Center is pleased with larger space, more shelves, and larger refrigerator and freezer for the community pantry



Library users try their skill in the origami activity



The Hawaiian Stars provided a Hula demonstration as part of the cultural celebration; an ensemble from the South County Marching Stations performed before the ceremony



The library provides a mix of traditional paper media, digital and online information



# Community Shopping Area Adorned by New Parklet

FROM PAGE 1

the Corridor,” project in Mount Vernon. There are two more murals on the drawing board for this project. SFDC is already in talks with other Richmond Highway shopping centers about creating their own parklets.

Kauffman talked about the new mural planned for the Penn Daw area on the side of a Zips Dry Cleaning building there that will brighten this area up, especially after a devastating fire rolled through there about two years ago. They are currently talking with art-

ists, and are looking at some time this winter to start painting.

The big element that’s coming to this area is called “Embark Richmond Highway,” largely the brainstorm of Supervisor Storck. Embark is an initiative focused on creating a multimodal future for Richmond Highway Corridor where residents, workers, and visitors can walk, bike, take transit or drive to the places they want to go. A bus rapid transit rolling down the middle of Richmond Highway is the key element of Embark, with communities growing around the planned stops.



The ribbon was also cut on Della J’s, where owners Jerry and Lydia Young also have roots in Mount Vernon.



PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/GAZETTE

From left, Supervisor Dan Storck, Del. Paul Krizek (D-44th), Supervisor Rodney Lusk, Federal VP Deirdre M. Johnson and Evan Kauffman cut the ribbon at the Parklet.

## County Roads Continue to be Hazardous for Pedestrians

FROM PAGE 1

Advocates for pedestrians and bicyclists argue that drivers, driving thousands of pounds vehicles, have a greater duty to watch out for vulnerable road users. Advocates also cite transportation de-

sign that focuses on vehicles for failing to prevent crashes that injure pedestrians.

Street Smart has a list of legalities surrounding intersections too. According to a Street Smart document pertaining to pedestrian

laws in Virginia, “pedestrians shall cross, wherever possible, only at intersections or marked crosswalks.” For bicyclists, they are required to use arm signals when turning.

“Bicyclists may also dismount

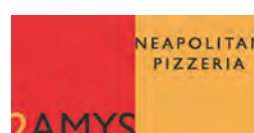
and walk in the crosswalks of the two intersecting roads,” it said.

VDOT has a Policy for Integrating Bicycle and Pedestrian Accommodations, and this pertains to all highway construction projects

with the presumption that the projects shall accommodate bicycling and walking. For every crash resulting in a fatality, VDOT conducts an engineering safety review after the police investigation is complete, VDOT said.



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# OPINION

## 35 years of Domestic Violence Awareness Month

BY DEL. PAUL KRIZEK



This October marks the 35th year that our nation has observed Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Each year, this month serves as a way to connect and unite individuals and organizations working to combat and raise awareness about domestic violence, to support domestic violence survivors, to hold abusers accountable, and to create and strengthen legislation to further these goals.

Domestic violence is characterized as a pattern of coercive behaviors used by an individual to gain or maintain power and control over another individual in the context of an intimate, dating, or familial relationship. These behaviors are not limited to physical violence, but can also include stalking, sexual assault, financial control, verbal abuse, isolation from family and friends, and threats to harm loved ones and pets, among other tactics.

Domestic violence is all too terribly common. It is pervasive across all walks of life, varying age groups, all backgrounds, all communities, all education levels, all economic levels, all cultures, all ethnicities, all religions, all abilities, and all lifestyles. 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men in the United States have experienced some form of physical violence by an intimate partner. Each year, more than 10 million adults experience domestic violence, and 1 in 15 children are witnesses to intimate partner violence. Intimate partner violence accounts for 15% of all violent crime in

the United States. 72% of all murder-suicides in the United States involve an intimate partner, and 94% of the victims of these murder-suicides are female. An abuser's access to a firearm in a domestic violence situation increases the risk of homicide by 500%. Indeed, the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence notes that 498 gun-related domestic violence deaths have occurred so far this year.

Over the past several years, the Virginia General Assembly has taken several steps to combat this issue. In 2020, we passed a law prohibiting respondents to final domestic violence protective orders from possessing, purchasing, or transporting firearms, and a bill to require background checks for firearm purchases. Also in 2020, my bill HB 1044 passed, increasing the penalty for the unauthorized use of tracking devices, frequently used by abusers to stalk victims. I also plan to reintroduce a bill that would require anti-harassment training in the workplace, an effort to curb sexual harassment, discrimination, and other abusive behaviors that can become pervasive in a workplace environment if allowed to continue.

Domestic violence doesn't end when October does. Everyone should do their part to learn and recognize the signs and symptoms of do-

**An abuser's access to a firearm in a domestic violence situation increases the risk of homicide by 500%.**

mestic violence and learn how to be an engaged bystander on this issue that, unfortunately, affects so many of our neighbors. The Virginia Department of Social Services, and organizations like the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence provide fact sheets and resources on their websites to educate everyone on these abusive behaviors, how to seek help in an abusive relationship, and how to support victims and survivors in our lives.

Sexual and domestic violence programs provide crisis services, emergency shelter, and resource-based support. The Virginia Statewide Hotline is ready to help (24 hours a day, 365 days a year), and sexual and domestic violence programs all over the state. If you or someone you know needs help, please call: 1-800-838-8238, text: 804-793-9999, or chat: <https://www.vadata.org//chat/>.

To report a crime, call the Fairfax County Police Department at 703-691-2131 or, for emergencies, please call 911. To support charitable efforts to combat domestic violence please consider donating to the Family and Children's Trust Fund <http://www.fact.virginia.gov/donate-2/>, the only organization in Virginia devoted to treating and preventing family violence across the lifespan.

## In Support of Truthful Education in FCPS

Dear Dr. Reid and School Board Members,

We are heartened to see the Truthful Education In FCPS resolution on the Board's October 20 agenda for a vote. We appreciate the efforts of Dr. Ricardy Anderson and Karen Keys Gamarra to put this important Board statement in front of the community. <https://go.boarddocs.com/vsba/fairfax/Board.nsf/vpublic?open>

This coalition of advocacy makes clear that the Fairfax County community supports the teaching of truth about important subjects like racial and social justice, and the educators who do that hard work. Our teachers and this community are looking to the Board for clear leadership in these politically charged times.

As current and former FCPS students, teachers, and parents, we in Free and Antiracist Minds (FAM) know that students and parents want truth in teaching, and educators need and want support to do that work. Local support for this resolution makes that abundantly clear and aligns with national trends. This Rand study shows that teachers need the support of school system leadership to teach about

racism and bias in this political climate [https://www.rand.org/pubs/research\\_reports/RRA1108-5.html](https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RRA1108-5.html). The study also shows that lack of support is a significant factor in teacher satisfaction, especially for teachers of color, which is incredibly important in FCPS where we strive to hire and retain more teachers of color to reflect the demographics of our student population.

Some have suggested that the FCPS Controversial Issues Policy, if amended, could provide the support teachers need to teach historic truths and representative literature. That policy provides limited guidance at best, and is not the public statement of confidence and leadership that educators and the community want to hear. Words spoken from the School Board dais are often the Board's most important work.

FAM began reaching out to Board members in August, and Dr. Anderson has been in contact with all Board members about this resolution since early September. We very much appreciate the input of Dr. Reid and some Board members about the resolution's language. FAM has accepted language changes that would not water down the

message in the eyes of the coalition of supporting organizations. At this time, gathering that support for further amendments would not be possible.

We, and the coalition of supporting organizations, look for the unanimous support of the Board. Thank you.

**Free and Antiracist Minds,  
FAM Coalition of  
Supporting Organizations:**

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Fairfax County Council of PTAs  
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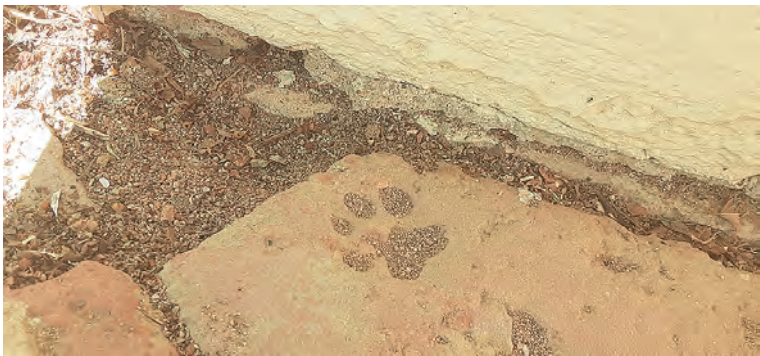
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PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/GAZETTE

A cat from the 1800s was wandering around and stepped on the bricks before they were completely dry.

# Historic Huntley has Secrets For the Trained Eye and Ears

## Lesser visited Mount Vernon site offers special view of the Hybla Valley.

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE GAZETTE

In the early 1800s there was a cat roaming around the grounds of the Huntley Mansion when it was being built, and it stepped on a wet brick, leaving a paw print that was discovered years later. From the front porch of the mansion, the view goes across Hybla Valley to the site of George Mason's residence at Gunston Hall so Thompson Francis Mason, the grandson of George Mason, could see each other, they say.

Fast forward about 200 years and this historic house was the residence of Col. Ransom Amlong until 1976, and his son lived in the smaller building until sometime in the 1980s before the Park Authority took over.

These historical tidbits of information are part of the mystique in this Mount Vernon historical site that sits quietly on a hillside of Harrison Avenue. Patricia Young, a nearby resident and volunteer, helps with the tour of Huntley and serves high tea to those who show up for that part of the Huntley experience. On the front porch, she looked out at the view which is now dominated by trees and houses. "They used to see the river, this was all farmland," Young said.

The main house has four bedrooms, each with a fireplace because that's how it was warmed in those days, and a separate ice storage area where 20 tons of ice was



Patricia Young, a nearby resident and volunteer, does the formal tea for the historic site.

**Sidebar:**  
**Historic Huntley**  
6918 Harrison Lane  
Alexandria  
703-768-2525  
[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley)

stored. The ice was harvested off the Potomac River and nearby creeks in winter back when they regularly froze over during the winter.

At teatime, Young serves "scones and clotted cream, which is cream that comes from the best cows," she said. Clotted cream is made from "little clots of cream that start to rise to the top," she noted that it is still sold in some grocery stores for those looking for the authentic experience.

Young got her start as a teacher at Groveton Elementary School where she turned her love of local history into an activity for the students who could put their efforts as part of the "historian's group," at school.



Every bedroom in Historic Huntley has a fireplace.

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## 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.

Localities	Fed. Struct. Id.	Route #	Local Name	Crossing	Effective Date
GILES	8517	643	GRAY SULPHUR SPG/ 643	SULPHUR BRANCH	9/27/2022
POWHATAN	10136	684	BELL RD	STEGERS CREEK	9/26/2022
GILES	13259	626	CASTLE ROCK DR	DOE CREEK	9/26/2022
GILES	2918	623	RIVER RD/ 623	NEW RIVER/NS RWY	9/26/2022
GILES	10171	635	BIGSTONEY CR RD/ 635	WHITE ROCK BRANCH	9/22/2022
GILES	12345	623	CASCADE DR/ 623	LITTLE STONEY CREEK	9/22/2022
MONTGOMERY	13414	616	DOBBINS HOLLOW RD/ 616	BRUSH CREEK	9/22/2022
FALLS CHURCH	13413	0	SHERROW AVENUE	TRIPPS RUN	9/21/2022
SCOTT	13290	617	SHELLEYS RD	BRANCH	9/20/2022
ROANOKE	13269	864	OLD CATAWBA RD/864	MASON CREEK	9/19/2022
FALLS CHURCH	13283	0	S. OAK STREET	TRIPPS RUN	9/16/2022
ROANOKE	2782	637	BOTTOM CREEK LANE	LAUREL CREEK	9/16/2022
FRANKLIN	3455	757	SKILLET RD/ 757	STORY CREEK	9/15/2022
ROANOKE	13396	777	FTLEWIS CHURCH RD/ 777	STYPES BRANCH	9/15/2022
ROANOKE	13392	1662	MCVITTY RD/ 1662	MUDLUCK CREEK	9/15/2022
BOTETOURT	13410	615	CRAIG CREEK RD/ 615	DUTCHMAN BRANCH	9/14/2022
CARROLL	14974	747	PINE GROVE RD/ 747	BRANCH SHORTS CREEK	9/14/2022
FRANKLIN	5503	623	FAIRSTONE PK RD/ 623	RYANS BRANCH	9/14/2022
FRANKLIN	5556	825	HILLOCK RD/ 825	RENNET BAG CREEK	9/14/2022
ROANOKE	10147	696	APPLE GROVE LANE/ 696	BACK CREEK	9/14/2022
BOTETOURT	10152	616	BLUE RDGE SPGS/ 616	BRANCH OF GLADE CREEK	9/13/2022
FRANKLIN	13278	919	GRASSY HILL RD/ 919	LITTLE CREEK	9/13/2022
FRANKLIN	13337	688	POTEET RD/ 688	GILLS CREEK	9/13/2022
BEDFORD	13317	695	GOOSE CK VLY R/ 695	N. FORK GOOSE CREEK	9/12/2022
BEDFORD	13336	639	HURRICANE DR/ 639	NORTH OTTER CREEK	9/12/2022
BEDFORD	13303	680	MURRELLS GAP RD	SHEEP CREEK	9/12/2022
BEDFORD	3387	680	PATTERSN MILL RD/ 680	LITTLE OTTER CREEK	9/12/2022
ROANOKE	12355	666	BANDY CREEK RD/ 666	BACK CREEK	9/12/2022
BOTETOURT	12304	606	GROVE HILL RD/ 606	CATAWBA CREEK	9/9/2022
FRANKLIN	18127	697	BRICK CHURCH RD/ 697	LITTLE CREEK	9/9/2022
BOTETOURT	18065	737	HOGAN HOLLOW RD/ 737	CATAWBA CREEK	9/6/2022
DINWIDDIE	14789	709	SHIPPINGS RD	BUCKSKIN CREEK	9/2/2022
BOTETOURT	14773	1324	PATTONSBURG LA/ 1324	PURGATORY CREEK	9/1/2022
BOTETOURT	14801	764	SPEC MINE RD	BRANCH OF BACK CREEK	9/1/2022

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](mailto: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.



## MIGRATION



Ruby-crowned Kinglet  
KEITH FREEBURN/AUDUBON PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS



Yellow-rumped Warbler  
ELIZABETH HOLBROOK/GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT



Cooper's Hawk  
MAXINE OKAZAKI /AUDUBON PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS



Blue Jay  
PAMELA UNDERHILL KARAZ/AUDUBON PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

# Seasonal Bird Migration Is Well Underway

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH  
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

As we slumber through these autumn nights, there's a lot going on outside overhead. On Saturday night, 1,293,400 birds passed through Fairfax County. Using weather surveillance radar, a website called BirdCast predicts the numbers of birds and expected species migrating through localities three hours after local sunset to early morning. Most birds that migrate travel at night.

Migrating to and through Northern Virginia now, for example, is the ruby-crowned kinglet, a four-inch-long bird that forages actively at all levels. This little olive-green bird breeds and raises its young in northern forests and is now headed south. These kinglets arrive here in the fall and some may stay here for the winter, along with golden-crowned kinglets and red-tailed, Cooper's and sharp-shinned hawks.

"I have never seen as many blue jays as I've seen this fall," commented Greg Butcher, Vice President of the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia. "Most people don't think of them as migratory because we see them year-round, but some are stationary and some are migratory."

Fall bird migration in Northern Virginia peaks from mid-September to early November. Earlier this fall, several uncommon sightings included an American avocet, an American white pelican and a tri-colored heron. "The avocet was migrating, just more inland than normal," says Larry Meade, president of the Northern Virginia Bird Club.

The U.S. has four major flyways or migration routes: Pacific, Central, Mississippi and Atlantic. Scott Weidensaul, author of "A World on the Wing," estimates that 20 billion birds move across North America every fall. Some birds migrate from the Arctic to South America. The Arctic tern is probably champion in the western hemisphere, a bird that flies from its Arctic breeding grounds to Antarctica, around 61,000 miles a year.

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Red-breasted Nuthatch, migrates to our area to spend the winter  
PHOTO BY LARRY MEADE



Cape May Warbler, passes through our area as it migrates south  
PHOTO BY LARRY MEADE

### Why Do Birds Migrate?

Birds migrate because food is absent and because of seasonably unavailable habitat, like unfrozen lakes. Warblers, for example, fly to Central and South America in the fall because their primary food sources, insects,

are there. Ospreys went south in July. Shorebirds have been passing through since August. In September, neotropical species and dabbling ducks came through.

One "visitor" to Northern Virginia in the winter is the dark-eyed junco, known as a



White-throated Sparrow-migrates to our area to spend the winter  
PHOTO BY LARRY MEADE



Lesser Yellowlegs, passes through our area as it migrates south  
PHOTO BY LARRY MEADE

"snowbird" because it leaves cold, boreal areas and comes to more southern states. This slate-colored, sparrow-sized bird with a white belly has bright white outer tail feathers that "flash" when the bird flies. Juncos forage on the ground often under bird feeders.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



White pelican spotted on the Potomac River  
PHOTO BY STEVE BIELAMOWICZ

### A Dangerous Journey

Weidensaul says that migration is the most dangerous part of a bird's life cycle because of threats like storms, outdoor cats and towers.

Artificial lights and windows also put birds at risk. Lights can confuse, disorient and exhaust migrating birds. Up to one billion birds die from collisions with glass each year in the United States and half of those hit home windows, reports the American Bird Conservancy (ABC). The birds see reflected or visible habitat and fly into the glass. In downtown Washington, D. C., and other cities, volunteers collect dead and injured birds that have collided with buildings.

To make windows bird-friendly, homeowners and building managers can reduce some deaths by turning off lights at night.

### Keep Cats Indoors

"Predation by domestic cats is the number one, direct, human-caused threat to birds in the U.S. and Canada," say ABC officials, adding, "Even well-fed cats will hunt and kill," following their natural predatory instincts. In this country, outdoor cats kill around 2.4 billion birds every year. Keeping cats indoors is better for cats, birds and people, ABC argues.

"The phenomenon of migration is increasingly fragile on this ever-more altered planet," says Weidensaul on his website.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



An avocet, likely migrating more inland than usual.  
PHOTO BY STEVE BIELAMOWICZ



U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Bird migration flyways in North America.

### Resources

BirdCast, <https://birdcast.info/>  
Lights Out, <https://www.audubon.org/conservation/existing-lights-out-programs>  
Bird-safe Windows, <https://abcbirds.org/glass-collisions/stop-birds-hitting-windows/>  
Cats Indoors, <https://abcbirds.org/program/cats-indoors/>  
Bird Walks, [www.fodm.org](http://www.fodm.org), [www.audubonva.org](http://www.audubonva.org), [www.nvabc.org](http://www.nvabc.org)

### New Study Finds Serious Bird Declines

The Oct. 12 State of the Birds report concludes that almost all groups of birds and bird habitats are in decline. The study found that more than half of U.S. bird species are declining, with grassland bird populations dropping the fastest, a 34 percent loss since 1970. The report identifies 70 "tipping point" species that each lost 50 percent or more of their populations in the past 50 years. On a more positive note, waterbirds and ducks in the U.S. have increased by 18 percent and 34 percent respectively since 1970. See [www.stateofthebirds.org/2022/](http://www.stateofthebirds.org/2022/).

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MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE ♦ OCTOBER 20-26, 2022 ♦ 9



# A New Springfield Discussed at Chamber Meeting

New elements around the town center will bring needed economic development.

By Mike Salmon  
The Connection

Plans for changes around the Springfield Town Center include an Amazon entertainment outlet, apartments in the parking lot and a Lego Discovery Center, making it even more of a destination than it already is.

That was the message at the recent Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce breakfast meeting at the Belle Haven Country Club.

"I'm committed to working with every developer," said Supervisor Rodney Lusk (D-Franconia). "Springfield is going to change," he added.

Eric Christenson, the general manager at the Town Center, was also looking forward to these ideas. "There's a lot to be excited about," he said, as he introduced Steven Reilly to the other business leaders in the room. Reilly's presentation had a lot of Springfield numbers about the hotels in Springfield, the predicted job growth and places for the industrial market.

"Springfield has the highest concentration of hotel rooms in the area, outside of Tyson's," he said. "It's a more affordable option than

hotel space in Washington, D.C.," he said.

Although the town center and the surrounding area is a main focal point, it's not the only change they were looking at. The Transportation Security Administration moved into a new building just south of the town center and there is a new 750,000-square-foot Inova Hospital planned for a lot on the corner of the Franconia-Springfield Parkway and Beulah Street, which is about two miles east of the town center.

For the hospital, they are expecting buildings to sprout up here and there to hold supporting medical entities. Over the next 10 years, they're looking at an additional 245,000 jobs.

As an example of where similar development was used in this manner, Reilly talked about the area around Atlanta. It was a success and "that's what is possible," he said. To accompany his four themes, he had 27 action items so a few things need to happen before the plan moves forward. "This is not something that will happen overnight," Reilly said. A timeframe mentioned was 24-30 months, and the pandemic could affect the time as well.

Transportation was not a focal point, but when it was time for questions, the only question had to do with parking. There are plans to add another level to one of the parking garages, but Christenson said there are always parking spots available.

"The parking garages are never full," he said.

Another decision that was discussed had to do with combining the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce with the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce. The new name will be the Mount Vernon Regional Chamber of Commerce.



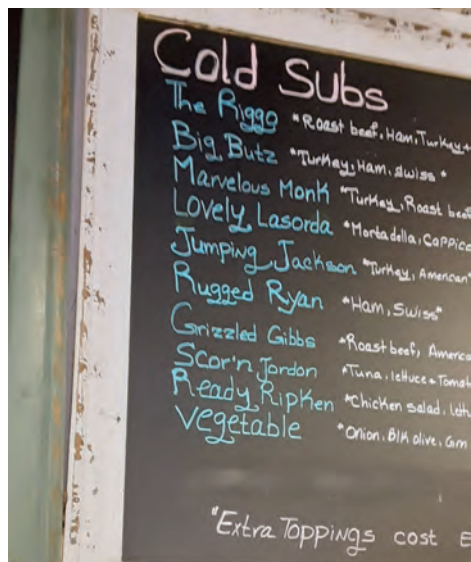
PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/GAZETTE

The gray box is where the new apartments are planned.



Steven Reilly was armed with economic numbers.

## Local Deli's Sandwich List Resembles the Old Ball Coach's Playbook



The handwritten menu screams 'home-town classics.'



Franconia Pizza has a local following.



The Riggo.

### Franconia Pizza

6112 Franconia Road  
703-971-4766

## Washington football stars go down in Franconia Deli history.

By Mike Salmon  
The Connection

In the 1980s, football around this area was dominated by Riggo to the right, Riggo to the left, Riggo up the middle. When Washington was looking for the end zone, a lofty ball to Wide Receiver Art Monk was the answer. The Washington football team won a few Super Bowl rings too, but those glory days are long gone.

There is a way to keep in touch with those times though, at least for the lunch hour at Franconia Pizza, a little sandwich and pizza place right across the street from the Franconia District Government Center that houses the police station and Supervisor Rodney Lusk's office. Their specialty sandwiches are named after a few of the Washington players, including John Riggins, the powerhouse running back. "The Riggo," is roast beef, ham and turkey, while the "Big Butz," named after lineman Dave Butz, is turkey, ham and swiss. Others included the Marvelous Monk, Grizzled Gibbs, after Coach Joe Gibbs, and

the Ready Ripken after an ex-quarterback that banged his head on the wall in the end-zone after a touchdown.

Lusk has ordered the pizza before, and his staffer Aaron Campbell is a fan of the Marvelous Monk. "Really nice guys at the front there, I've never had anything I didn't like, and the prices are good," Campbell said.

Lusk's predecessor at that office, Chairman Jeff McKay also got the pizza a few times, but not the sandwiches named after the "hogs," - a name the Washington players adopted in the 1980s. "I always loved their pizza and I always try to support local family businesses like this one," McKay said.

A couple of customers stopped by for a sandwich and one guy particularly wanted the steak and cheese. "I was having a craving today," he said. Another nearby resident looked at the Riggo. "My memory of him was when he was flirting with the judge, he wanted her to loosen up," she said.

She was referring to an infamous event in January 1985 when John Riggins might have had a few drinks too many before a formal dinner at the Washington Sheraton. He was seated with Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and when she was about to leave, Riggins walked over and noted how the night was still young. "Come on, loosen up, Sandy baby, you're too tight," he reportedly said. It was all over the news for the next week.



# HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS IN ALEXANDRIA

## OCTOBER THRU DECEMBER

Nightly Spirits. Thursdays through Sundays from 7:30 to 10 p.m.; 8:30 to 11 p.m. Admission: 21 and over at \$25 plus tax. Tours meet at The Alexandrian, 480 King Street, Alexandria. Sip a local beverage and listen to the secret and spooky lore of Alexandria's haunted past. Hear tales of the ghosts that wander the streets of Alexandria and haunt local establishments. These tours are for individuals ages 21 and over. Haunted private tours are also available for all ages.

## NOW THRU NOV. 5

The Little Theatre of Alexandria Presents "Design for Murder." Wednesdays through Sundays at 8 p.m. Admission: \$21 to 24 per person. At The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St., Alexandria. Murder, romance and comedy are the three best ingredients for a fun, suspense-filled evening of theatre. This fast-moving, highly tense whodunit treats the audience to a remote mansion, a sleazy blackmailer, a trench coat-clad detective and even a dark and stormy night. A once-wealthy mother and son struggle to keep up appearances at the old mansion, but when a maid is murdered, everyone becomes a suspect.

## OCT. 21, 30

Poison Specialty Tour at the Apothecary Museum. October 21 from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m.; October 30, from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Admission: \$15 per person, \$12 for OHA members. At Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105-107 S. Fairfax St., Alexandria. Explore the sinister side of medicine on the Apothecary Museum's Poison Tour. This tour explores several different types of poisons, their historic uses at the Apothecary and what we know today. The event is recommended for ages 18 and up.



Alexandria Colonial Tours' Ghost & Graveyard Tours take place nightly in October in Alexandria.

## Nightly in October

Alexandria Colonial Tours' Ghost & Graveyard Tour. Fridays and Saturdays in October from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. and 9 to 10 p.m. Admission: \$15 for adults; \$10 for children; free for children under 6 years old. Tours meet at the Alexandria Visitor Center, 221 King Street, Alexandria. Follow a colonial-costumed guide by lantern light for an engaging history tour on Alexandria's original Ghost & Graveyard Tour. During this entertaining tour, you'll hear ghost stories, legends, folklore, unsolved mysteries, tales of romance and angry ghosts looking for revenge.

## OCTOBER 21 AND 28

Death Comes to Carlyle House. 6 to 8 p.m. Admission: \$12 per person. At Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N Fairfax St., Alexandria. Carlyle House presents an exhibit on mourn-

ing practices in the 18th-century through the experiences of those who occupied the Carlyle household, mourning the death of Alexandria's co-founder, John Carlyle, in September 1780. Reservations are required as

space is limited.

## OCT. 21, 22, 28, 29

Grief and Ghosts Tour at Lee-Fendall House Museum. 7 to 9 p.m. Admission: \$15 per person. At Lee-Fendall House Museum, 614 Oronoco St., Alexandria. Explore Victorian mourning traditions coupled with stories of tragic deaths and mysterious occurrences at the Lee-Fendall House. Customs such as draping the mirrors after a death, funeral practices, hair jewelry, mourning clothing and séances will be explored. These tours offer a rare opportunity to see the house after dark. Tours will be offered every half hour from 7 to 9 p.m.

## OCT. 22

Fall Frolic at Lee-Fendall House Museum. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission: \$15 per children ages 2-12, Accompanying adults \$5 each, Infants under 2 are free. At Lee-Fendall House Museum, 614 Oronoco St., Alexandria. Enjoy some fall-themed family fun in the garden during Lee-Fendall House's Fall Frolic event. Activities catered to children ages 3-12 include a "ghost" hunt, crafts, a costume parade and more. Timed tickets must be purchased in advance. Sessions start on the hour between 10 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. and are limited to 20 children each. Tickets are \$15 per participating child ages 2-12. Accompanying adults are \$5 each and infants under the age of 2 are free.

## OCT. 27

Sleepy Howlow at Barkhaus. 7:30 to 10 p.m. Admission: \$40 for members, \$55 for the public. At Barkhaus, 529 E. Howell Ave., Alexandria. Barkhaus, the D.C. Metro area's first dog bar, invites you for an enchanting evening in the woods of Sleepy Howlow. This private

SEE HALLOWEEN, PAGE 14

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## ENTERTAINMENT

# Off the Menu: Restaurant News and Notes for October

BY HOPE NELSON  
GAZETTE PACKET

**F**rom new restaurant openings to location changes to structural shifts, there's a lot going on in the Alexandria food scene this month. Here are a few bite-sized nuggets of food news circulating around town at the moment.

### Andy's Pizza Opens on King Street

There's a new pizza joint in town: Local chain Andy's Pizza has opened an outpost at 107 N. Fayette Street. Dine in with a whole pie or pick up a slice to carry out as

you stroll the streets of Old Town. The Alexandria location is Andy's sixth in the area, and the eatery has developed quite a following throughout the DMV region. From family favorites to new flavors (plant-based Margherita, anyone?), Andy's has a wealth of options to choose from.

### Magnolia's Becomes Michael's on King

Magnolia's, nee Magnolia's on King, has changed hands (and cuisines) with Michael's Little Italy to become Michael's on King. The restaurant at 703 King Street opened its doors Oct. 10 following the closure of Michael's Little Italy at 305 S. Wash-

**APPETITE** ington Street at the end of September and offers many of the Italian specialties (and staff!) diners have come to expect from the former Washington Street location – “with the addition of a few of Michael's specialties,” the restaurant said in a statement.

### Sweet Relief Moves to Online Orders Only

Sweet Relief at 1506 Mount Vernon Avenue is making some changes to its structure – but is still serving all the decadent treats customers have come to expect.

“Sweet Relief will be a multi-use space so stay tuned for events we host. Our location

will also be available for bookings,” the company said via social media.

“We will keep a consistent menu which will still include specials. ... We will offer scheduled pickups and delivery within a set mile radius. Catering orders for both pickups and delivery is available. ‘Cupcake’ our trailer will still make her appearance and be available for bookings.”

The new online-order business model takes effect Oct. 23.

*Award-winning columnist Hope Nelson is author of “Classic Restaurants of Alexandria” and owns the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at [www.kitchenrecessionista.com](http://www.kitchenrecessionista.com). Email her any time at [hope@kitchenrecessionista.com](mailto:hope@kitchenrecessionista.com).*

## CALENDAR

### OCT. 2-31

**Bold and Fierce.** At Van Landingham Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union Street, Alexandria. Bold and Fierce, a new juried membership show featuring artworks by Diana Papazian, Joyce Zipperer, Samantha Shelton, Guido Zanni, Jennifer Brewer Stone, Rebecca McNeely, Mary Beth Griffin, Melanie Kehoss and Helen Power. Artists showcase works that are Bold—brave, flashy, brightly-colored and high-contrast—and/or Fierce—wild, savage, eager, severe or intense.

### OCT. 6-NOV. 13

**Woodcuts Exhibit.** At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Featuring works by Joan Mayfield and Ruth Trevarrow. Woodcuts is a mixed-media exhibition that focuses on different types of wood, how we view it, and its transformative properties as part of nature. Mayfield and Trevarrow came up with the concept for the show because they saw a lot of affinity for their individual work as a commonality in their practices. Artist Reception, Sunday, October 16, 4-6 p.m.; Artist Talk, Sunday, November 13, 2 p.m.

### OCT. 7-29

**“Return to Eating, Drinking, and Merriment” exhibit.** At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. The exhibit celebrates the return of food, drink, and the rituals and places associated with dining in a hybrid show combining a National Ceramic Show (juried by nationally recognized potter Jeremy Wallace) and a Regional Art Exhibit. Opening Reception: Friday, October 7, 7-9 p.m. Details: [DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits](http://DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits)

### THURSDAY/OCT. 20

**Old Town Art Walk.** 5-8 p.m. 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.

### THURSDAY/OCT. 20

**Book Talk with Michael Pope.** 7 p.m.



The Tour de Mount Vernon 2022 takes place on Saturday, Oct. 22 at the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton.

## Tour de Mount Vernon 2022

Meet Up at the Workhouse Arts Center for a Community Bike Ride. The 7th Annual Community Bike Ride will be on Saturday, Oct. 22, 2022, at 8:30 a.m., starting and ending at the Workhouse Arts Center. 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 challenging sections. Ride monitors and Fairfax County Police help with directions and keep everyone safe. Details and registration: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon/tour-de-mount-vernon-2022](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon/tour-de-mount-vernon-2022)

At the Athenaeum, Alexandria. The Byrd Machine in Virginia: The Rise and Fall of a Conservative Political Organization. In his new book, *The Byrd Machine in Virginia*, author and journalist Michael Lee Pope traces the history of the conservative political organization that ran Virginia politics for more than half a century. Visit <https://www.nvfaa.org/happening>

### OCT. 21-22

**Vietnam War Symposium.** At the National Museum of the United States Army, 1775 Liberty Drive, Fort Belvoir. This event will take place from 1-4 p.m. on Friday, October 21 and from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday, October 22. Join historians, veterans and educators for this two-day symposium which will look back at the Vietnam War era and the Soldier experience. Visit the website: <https://tickets.thenmusa.org/Info.aspx?Even->

tID=62

### OCT. 21, 28

**Death Comes to Carlyle House.** 6 to 8 p.m. At Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N Fairfax St., Alexandria. Carlyle House presents an exhibit on mourning practices in the 18th-century through the experiences of the Carlyle household, mourning the death of town founder, John Carlyle, in September 1780. Reservations are required as space is limited.

### SATURDAY/OCT. 22

**27th Annual Art Safari.** 12 to 4 p.m. At Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union Street, Alexandria. An Alexandria tradition for more than a quarter-century, Art Safari is a beloved in-person day of activities for kids and families. Join fellow lovers of art and learning for outdoor waterfront art activities and hands-on projects throughout the building. A great event for kids

ages 5 and over.

### SATURDAY/OCT. 22

**AWARE! 1 p.m.** At the Athenaeum, Alexandria. Are you AWARE!? Join Athenaeum Poet In Residence, KaNikki Jakarta for free with your RSVP for a fantastic awareness event. Now in its 6th year, in partnership with the Athenaeum, this event brings family and friends together in recognition of Awareness. Ten spectacular presenters bring awareness through poetry and story-telling focusing on their selected topics of Healing, Crisis of Faith, Cancer Awareness, Purpose-Driven Fear, and Connections, using life's difficulties as teachable moments, and more! RSVP to [greatpublishing@yahoo.com](mailto:greatpublishing@yahoo.com)

### OCT. 22-23

**Fall Harvest Festival.** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. At George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon

Memorial Hwy., Mount Vernon. Celebrate the crisp autumn season with 18th-century activities and demonstrations at the Farm at Mount Vernon. During this event, you can explore the farm, meet George Washington, see spinning demonstrations and more. Visit [mountvernon.org](http://mountvernon.org).

### SUNDAY/OCT. 23

**Free Concert NCBA.** 3 p.m. At Carl Sandburg Middle School, 8428 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. This free concert entitled “Requiem for the Unarmed” is its composer's musical response to the death of George Floyd. Also, featured in the concert is Cecile Chaminade's Concertino for Flute. Visit the website: [nationalconcertband.org](http://nationalconcertband.org).

### SUNDAY/OCT. 23

**Autumn Leaves 2022 Fall Fundraising Concert.** 5-8 p.m. At The Rectory on Princess Street, Alexandria. A mix of Jazz, Country and Americana. Join the supporters of Autumn Leaves, a unique fundraising concert at The Rectory featuring ASO musicians wearing their other musical hats—jazz, bluegrass, folk, Americana and more. Pianist Lester Green, tenor Aaron Paige, Marlisa and Dean Woods with their group Holly Creek. Catered appetizers and festive beverages.

### THURSDAY/OCT. 27

**Jane Franklin Dance Presents Plane.** 7:30 p.m. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Jane Franklin Dance returns to the Athenaeum with Plane, a collection of new works that respond to the location through themes of balanced predictability, progression, self-awareness and passion. Visit <https://janefranklin.com/performance>

### THURSDAY/OCT. 27

**Fashion Fusion.** At Mount Vernon Country Club in Alexandria. The Yacht Haven Garden Club is presenting its 38th annual Fashion Show and Luncheon. Fashions will be provided by Johnny Was – Inspired by world cultures and the arts. Fashion show tickets are \$55.00. Make checks payable to YHGC. Include phone number and email address and mail to Rhea Killinger at 510 Tennessee Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22305. For more information, email: [rgkmsbell@hotmail.com](mailto:rgkmsbell@hotmail.com).

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## News

### Swing for Pink with Tennis and Pickleball racquets at Burke Racquet and Swim Club

Play tennis, pickleball, socialize or volunteer on Saturday, Oct 29, 6:30-9 p.m., at Burke Racquet and Swim Club. This Breast Cancer Charity Event includes a silent auction, snacks, wine tasting and 50/50 raffle. In partnership with the Inova Schar Cancer Institute, all proceeds benefit breast cancer education, screening and treatment at The Breast Care Institute at Inova Mount Vernon Hospital and the Joseph Viar Jr. and Bonnie Christ Cancer Center at Inova Alexandria Hospital.

Visit <https://swingforpinkmtvac.wordpress.com> for complete details on registration and sponsorship.

### BULLETIN BOARD

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

### FREE HALLOWEEN WEEKEND LYFT RIDES

Free safe rides will be offered to would-be drunk drivers throughout the Washington-metropolitan area during this Halloween weekend. Offered by the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) the, 2022 Halloween SoberRide program will be in operation from 4 p.m. on Saturday, October 29th and operate until 4 a.m. on Sunday, October 30th as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk period.

During this 12-hour period, area residents age 21 and older celebrating with alcohol may download the Lyft app to their phones, then enter the SoberRide code in the app's "Payment" tab (under the "Add Lyft Pass" option) to receive their no-cost (up to \$15) safe transportation home.

WRAP's 2022 Halloween SoberRide promo code will be posted at 3 p.m. on Saturday, October 29 on [www.SoberRide.com](http://www.SoberRide.com).

### SUNDAY/NOV. 6

"The Oldest Hatred; Fighting Back." 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Via Zoom. The Generations After, an organization primarily comprised of children of Holocaust survivors, as well as survivors, and grandchildren of survivors, will present a program on antisemitism. "The Oldest Hatred; Fighting Back" will feature guest speakers Mark Weitzman and Jonah Cohen. Mark Weitzman is Chief Operation Officer of the World Jewish Restitution Organization. He previously served as Director of Government Affairs for the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 14

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**Absolute Real Estate AUCTION** Wed, Nov.9, 12:30pm at Homewood Suites  
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## Twinkle Lourie. A Sad Tail.



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

May she rest in peace. Our 10-year-old, white domestic short haired cat was euthanized on Thurs., Sept 29. A month or so prior, after not eating for a few days, we took her to the emergency veterinarian near our home. (As you may or may not know, it's nearly impossible to get a time-sensitive appointment with a veterinarian. They're all either too busy or short-staffed and moreover, many are not even taking new clients. And this often applies to the emergency veterinarians as well.) And so, it was for Twinkle. Fortunately, we were existing clients. Otherwise, we would have been turned away, as the sign posted on their day informed, referring us to other emergency veterinary practices, all of which were hours away and who were totally unfamiliar to us and with our animals. Twinkle was admitted that first day and the evaluating process began. A few days and a few thousand dollars later, we received the very distressing news: cancer. Twinkle had a tumor near her heart. Her prognosis was not very encouraging.

Nevertheless, we took her home and for the next week or so and followed the pill regimen as directed. For a few days, there was marginal improvement, but soon thereafter, Twinkle reverted to her non-eating ways, even though she was on an appetite stimulant and was receiving steroids as well to treat her tumor. (Steroids have a side effect of increasing appetite.) If this combination didn't cause Twinkle to improve/eat, we were advised that Twinkle's survival was very much in doubt and perhaps we might be considering her quality of life at that point. We couldn't believe what we were hearing. It all happened so fast, and so unexpectedly. The three of us returned home and then began to organize and plan for Twinkle's next week – or less.

After another few days of Twinkle's continued decline at home despite following doctor's orders – and then another interim visit to the emergency vet. for a B-12 shot (to try again to boost her responses which ended up not helping), we decided that this situation/deterioration wasn't fair to Twinkle and so we made the difficult decision to end her suffering. I spent the last few hours of her life lying in bed with her reassuring and comforting her as best I could. Eventually, Dina came upstairs and suggested that it was probably time to go; that the waiting was too difficult, and that somehow, we needed to move forward, for all our benefits, especially Twinkle's.

We called ahead to the emergency veterinarian to let them know our decision and that we were on our way and that we lived five minutes away. Sure enough, they were ready for our arrival and quickly escorted all of us into an examining room. The vet. was kind and caring and couldn't have been nicer as she explained the process to us. Dina and I both held Twinkle as the vet injected the two medicines that would gently put her to sleep and ultimately end her life. When it was over, the vet. asked if we'd like some time alone with Twinkle, which of course we said we would. After we got our bearings and the vet. returned, she took Twinkle away to "prepare" her. At that point, we went back out to the waiting room, sat down, and waited to take Twinkle home.

Within 15 minutes or so, the vet. came out carrying a cardboard box – with Twinkle inside. It had her name on it and some pretty artwork as well. We took her home and kept her in the house that first night. We didn't want to leave her alone outside or in the car. We wanted her to spend her last night in the house with us. During that night, we decided when and where to bury her.

Twinkle was buried the next day on our property, "Beliacres" next to her two older siblings, Biscuit and "Chino" who preceded her in death. They're all buried close to the house so we can visit them often, which we do. Their graves are marked with stones. I miss Twinkle terribly. She had bonded with me alone as white cats do, according to an article Dina had read; and soon we were inseparable; during the day in my home office and at night, in bed. She was my cat, just as "Chino" (her brother) had been.

The last three weeks have been difficult for me. I feel cheated by her premature death. The loss is palpable. Something (Twinkle) is most definitely missing from my life.

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

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Thank you to the hundreds of supporters who helped to keep all your Connection Newspapers alive throughout Alexandria, Fairfax County, Arlington County and Potomac, Md. along with affiliated websites and digital media. Now we need help again in 2022.

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.

Please, help save these historical papers. All gifts will be used to fund our printed newspapers and websites and to meet obligations to our loyal and patient employees, writers, contractors and suppliers.

The ongoing pandemic continues to crush many newspapers across the country, and our newspapers continue to be at risk. The Northern Virginia area's best read and most trusted source for community news includes the Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette and all Connection Newspapers in the metropolitan region.

The pandemic has hit small businesses hard, which in turn has reduced advertising revenue that keeps these local newspapers alive to provide hyper local news to residents. It feels like no small miracle to be looking forward into 2022.

The pandemic has been a bear, financially and otherwise. Revenue plummeted at the beginning in 2020. Some beloved advertisers have stayed the course supporting us throughout, and many more have done what they can. In the fall of 2021 we saw the return of some advertising for events and Grand Openings, but now ominous clouds the horizon in so many ways. Revenue still remains short of expenses despite our greatly curtailed costs.

Connection Newspapers has been offering these local newspapers to residents for over 200 years. Countless residents have grown up with these papers covering significant moments in the lives of family and children, news, community events, school activities, and even pictures of your dogs and cats. Internet news and large national newspapers cannot provide the local connection or historical connection that local papers like Connection Newspapers and the Alexandria Gazette Packet provide. If your child, dog, mother, father, neighborhood, school has been featured, you understand the value of local community newspapers.

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## HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS

FROM PAGE 11

haunted-themed event includes admission for one per person, beer, wine, candy, snacks and puppuccinos. Costumes are required. Must be 21 and over.

### OCT. 29

Raven's Night at the Birchmere. 7:30 p.m. Admission: \$35 per person. The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. In its 10th year, Raven's Night creeps, slithers, and slinks its way back to The Birchmere. Mark your calendars and dress up to spend Halloween weekend with The Birchmere for a unique event featuring fusion belly dance, live music, a costume contest and a pre-show carnival. This year's theme, "Underworld," brings the most iconic demons, witches and wizards to the stage—a magical night and a feast fit for all fandoms.

### OCT. 29

Old Town Family Trick or Treat. 12 to 4 p.m. Various locations in Old Town Alexandria. Bring the family and enjoy trick-or-treating in the various shops and restaurants in Old Town. Bring your own "boo bag." Maps will be provided.

### OCT. 29

Trick-or-Treating at Mount Vernon. 2 to 6 p.m. Admission: General public: \$25 per adult; \$15 per youth; Members: \$17 per adult; \$9 per youth. At George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway Mount Vernon. Celebrate Halloween with 18th-century entertainment and activities. Visit Mount Vernon in costume, watch Halloween-themed Punch & Judy shows, see 18th-century chocolate-making demonstrations and more. Trick-or-treating at Mount Vernon takes place rain or shine.

### OCT. 29

Old Town Family Trick or Treat. 12 to 4 p.m. Various locations in Old Town Alexandria. Bring the family and enjoy trick-or-treating in the various shops and restaurants in Old Town. Bring your own "boo bag." Maps will be provided.

### OCT. 29

Nightmare at Barkhaus. 5 to 8 p.m. At Barkhaus, 529 E. Howell Ave., Alexandria. Get ready for the spookiest night of your life as Barkhaus celebrates All Hallows' Eve with the living and the dead. It's your pup's favorite season, and Barkhaus dares all four-legged friends and their parents to join the 3rd annual

## BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 13

Weitzman spearheaded the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) 2016 adoption of the Working Definition of Antisemitism. Cohen is the director of communications for the Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting and Analysis (CAMERA). His articles on Jews, Israel, and human rights have appeared in numerous publications. Following the program, The Generations after will hold their annual meeting and elections, at approximately 12:15 PM. To register for the program and/or the annual meeting, copy this link:

The Oldest Hatred; Fighting Back, Nov 6, 11 AM ET + Annual Meeting/Elections, 12:15 PM | Cognito Forms

### 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

Halloween party. The event will include a costume contest and spooky food and drink specials. Costumed are highly recommended for both humans and pups.

### OCT. 29

2nd Annual Carlyle Halloween Stampede. 2 to 6 p.m. Admission: \$10 per person. At Whiskey & Oyster, 301 John Carlyle St., Alexandria. The 2nd Annual Carlyle Halloween Stampede features all-day festive cocktails, signature party favors, costume contests, photo ops, giveaways and more. Guests can start the crawl at any of the participating restaurants: Whiskey & Oyster, Sweet Fire Donna's, Tequila and Taco or Lost Boy Cider. Costumes are recommended. There will be costume prizes and a Dog Costume Contest.

### OCT. 30

Old Town Doggie Trick or Treat. 1 to 5 p.m. At The Dog Park, 705 King Street, Alexandria. Bring your spooky pooch over to The Dog Park for a Halloween "boo bag" full of treats for your pup. After registering at The Dog Park retail store, you and your dog will enjoy a leisurely stroll around Old Town and receive boo bags while supplies last.

### OCT. 30

Del Ray Halloween Parade. 2 p.m. Begins at Mount Vernon Ave., south of E. Bellefonte Ave., Alexandria. One of Del Ray's favorite traditions, the annual Del Ray Halloween Parade, returns once again. Children, pets and strollers in costumes are invited to march and show off their finest and scariest Halloween garb; awards are given for Best Pet Costume, Best Decorated Business, Best Decorated Home and Best Decorated Stroller.

### OCT. 30 AND 31

Poe in Alexandria. 8 to 9:30 p.m. Admission: \$20 per person. At Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. Enjoy an unforgettable evening with America's earliest master of the macabre, Edgar Allan Poe. Actor David Keltz returns to The Lyceum's lecture hall to re-create Poe's visit to Virginia in 1849, shortly before his death. This year's performance will include short stories, poems, musings, literary criticism and a comic essay never before performed at The Lyceum. Mr. Keltz's performance has been lauded by The Poe House and Museum in Baltimore, The Poe Museum in Richmond and the Poe National Historic Site in Philadelphia. Reservations are strongly recommended.

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](http://www.seniorscientist.org). To volunteer, contact [donaldrea@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:info@alnv.org), or visit [www.alnv.org](http://www.alnv.org).

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



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