Alount Pernon Gazette

Mount Vernon's Hometown Newspaper • A Connection Newspaper

December 15. 2022



McEnearney 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



Belle Rive | \$3,499,000

Stately and expanded Cape Cod was completely remodeled 2017 and has breathtaking views of the Potomac River. 5 bedrooms, 5 full baths (including a main level primary suite), & large screened porch. 275ft pier with dock and boathouse. 4001 Belle Rive Ter Tracy Dunn 571.212.3658 www.tracybdunn.com



Old Town | \$3,495,000

Fort Hunt | \$629,000

patio and fish pond. 8111 Karl Road

Heidi Burkhardt 703.217.6009

www.RealtorHeidiB.com

Rare waterfront classic Colonial with open floor plan has been restored and curated with absolute premium fit and fixture throughout. The phenomenal water views from all levels are distinctive features in this private setting. 4 large bedrooms. 704 Fords Landing Way Janet Caterson Price 703.622.5984 www.JanetPriceHomes.com

OPEN SUN 12/18, 2-4PM

NEW PRICE! Delightful 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath ranch-

style home with gleaming hardwood floors, a wood-

burning stove, full basement, extensive landscaping, a

covered front porch, and fenced-in backyard with brick



Alexandria City | \$1,495,000

Located on a coveted cul-de-sac, this large home boasts 6 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, a stunning great room opening onto a gracious covered porch overlooking a lushly landscaped rear garden with stone fountain and magical playhouse. 1305 Chancel Place Noel Kaupinen 703.200.1165 www.noelk.com



Olde Belhaven Towne | \$850,000 PRICE IMPROVEMENT! Exquisite townhome in soughtafter community across from Belle Haven C.C. 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, light hardwood floors, & updated kitchen. Lower level rec room with gas fireplace, sunroom addition, and 2 patios. 6315 Fort Hunt Road Rebecca McCullough 571.384.0941 www.RebeccaMcCullough.com



Old Town Village \$1,425,000

This stunning, 4-story, 2,771-SF Madison has a fabulous open main level, expansive primary suite with soaring ceilings and remodeled en-suite bath, and spacious home office/ den. Amazing courtyard location overlooking the pool! Also available for rent \$5,850/month. 1225 Roundhouse Ln

Lisa Groover 703.919.4426 www.LisaGroover.com

Tannery Yard \$959,900 Brick 4-level,

Chris Hayes 703.944.7737 Gordon Wood 703.447.6138

4-bedroom, 2.5-bath end unit townhome tucked in the perfect courtyard location. Main floor includes a living room with fireplace and a wonderful chef's kitchen with French doors to a fabulous slate patio & garden. HayesWoodHomes.com



Clermont Woods | \$599,999 Get ready to think big and bring your imagination to this private 1-level, 5-bedroom, 3-bath rancher sitting on a .51-acre lot! Warm up with the family room's wood stove and step into the light-filled sunroom with access to the rear patio and fish pond. 5608 Clermont Drive Selena Alexander 202.983.3930 www.selenaalexanderrealtor.com

Kingstowne \$659,900

Lovely garage townhome with 3 bedrooms, 2.55 baths, family room with access to the fenced back yard and patio, spacious kitchen with a sunny breakfast nook, living and dining area has a gas fireplace and opens to a large sunny deck. 6627 Kelsey Point Circle

Charlene Schaper 703.217.2666 www.cschaper.com



✤ Mount Vernon Gazette ♦ December 15-21, 2022 2

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529 S Saint Asaph St

Children's and Teens' Gazette Fort Hunt Elementary



Ava Haubelt- 6th grade-Dream Collage



Benji Suhy- 6th grade-Abstract Self-Portrait



Benyjah Sutton- 6th grade-Abstract Self-Portrait

Art Teacher Andrew Green



Jose Vigil Flores- 6th grade-Abstract Self-Portrait



Isaiah Watson- 6th Grade- Dream Collage



Melat Dagem- 6th grade-Abstract Self-Portrait



Stevie Senior- 6th grade-Abstract Self-Portrait



Elizabeth Funes Sanches- 4th grade-Super Plant Collage www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



Jack Howard- 4th grade-Super Plant Collage



Liam Espinosa Luna- 4th grade-Super Plant Collage



Chloe Curran- 5th Grade-Global Cause Collage Poster Mount Vernon Gazette & December 15-21, 2022 & 3



Twins Madden Lee Savittiere and Maks Allen Savittiere, volunteers for over 7 years, assist in the selection of toys Dec. 12 at Penn Daw Station 11.

To the Rescue

Firefighters continue annual toy drive.

By Jeanne Theismann The Gazette

airfax County Fire and Rescue, in partnership with Firefighters and Friends to the Rescue, was back in full force as it held its annual toy distribution day Dec. 12 at Penn Daw Fire Station 11.

"This was definitely one of our larger toy distributions," said Deputy Chief Willie Bailey, founder of the toy drive 23 years ago. "We tried to bring

"The need was

some normalcy back to the annual event by having the much greater this children attend and included a visit Santa economy." with Claus."

Following scaled two down distri-

bution days due to the pandemic in 2020 and 2021, Station 11 was once again filled with the sights and sounds of Gum Springs Head Start preschool children selecting toys from the 3,200 collected for distribution to families in need throughout the county.

"We distributed over 3,200 new toys and over \$2,800 in gift cards," Bailey said. "We assisted over 60 schools, shelters, and nonprofits from Fairfax County and Alexandria. We also had over 240 preschool and kindergarteners personally pick up gifts and visit with Santa."

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the selection of toys were Sen. George Barker, Del. Elizabeth Bennett-Parker, Supervisor Dan Storck and School Board member Karen Corbett Sanders.

"We believe the need was much greater this year because of the economy," Bailey added. "We had hoped to provide some relief to the families by taking this one thing off their plate so they could concentrate on food, utilities and other things. Numerous volunteers were saying that seeing the smiles on the kids' faces made this day all worthwhile."

Joining the adult volunteers were twins Madden Lee Savittiere and Maks Allen Savittiere, who have been supporting the toy drive for over 7 years, and Alli Holtman and her broth-

er, who have been assisting for over 8 years. "It brings year because of the tears to my when eves these young people show — Toy drive founder Deputy up," Bailey **Chief Willie Bailey** said. "They

> carry bags almost bigger than they are. But their parents say they want the children to learn how to give and that they learn more in this one day being here than the one day missing school."

Representatives from local organizations provided information on the ages and needs of children to the volunteers, who then packed up bags full of gifts collected by the firefighters and provided by sponsors.

Sponsors include: Apple Federal Credit Union; Ken & Kelly Savittiere Foundation; Chadwick's On hand to assist the kids in Restaurant (Old Town); Union



A volunteer assists in the selection of toys at the Firefighters and Friends toy distribution Dec. 12 at Penn Daw Station 11.



Alli Holtman, left, leads a child to select a toy during the Firefighters and Friends toy distribution Dec. 12 at Penn Daw Station 11. Holtman and her brother have been supporters of the toy drive for over 8 years.

Street Public House Restaurant (Bruce Witucki); Progressive Firefighters of Fairfax; Local 2068; Fire & Rescue Retirement Association; Nationwide Credit Corporation; Jack Taylor's Alexandria Toyota; Interstate Van Lines; Modern Technology Solutions; Energesco Solutions LLC (William Bennett); Medocracy, Inc.; Promax Realtors, Springfield; The Movement Studios; Fairfax Education Association; Five Guys (Sam Chamberlain); Fransmart; Caring Angels therapy Dogs; FCAC Delta Sigma Theta Sorority; Mount Vernon Gazette; Michael & Sons Services, Inc.; Democratic Women of Clifton and Northern Virginia; Walmart (Store #2258 — Richmond Hwy.); Kelly's Irish Times Restaurant; Rotary Club of Tysons Corner; FRD Logistics Distribution Center; Communities of Trust; Fairfax County Police Department; Primo Family Restaurant; Eileen and Bernard Cabral; Accenture Federal



Fairfax County School Board member Karen Corbett Sanders, left, with Lieutenant David Saunders as Santa Claus, volunteers during the Firefighters and Friends toy drive distribution Dec. 12 at Penn Daw Station 11.



Toy drive founder Deputy Chief Willie Bailey, center, with volunteers Dr. Gina Courtney and Brandon Byrd Dec. 12 at Penn Daw Station 11.



the Firefighters and Friends toy distribution Dec. 12 at Penn Daw Station 11.

Services; SEIU - 512.

"The support of our sponsors was certainly needed this year because we had a bigger demand

for help than usual," Bailey added. "But thanks to the generosity of so many the children will all be receiving their holiday gifts."



Leah Staley, Age 10, 5th grade, Stratford Landing Elementary School, Alexandria

Brown Academy Poetry

POETRY FROM BROWN ACADEMY, TEACHER DANIELLE GERBER

Ava McCarley, 13 Bowie, Md. 7th Grade, Ms. Gerber

Water Glows Under The Moon

Moon covers the sun Water rushing The ocean glowing Night Approaching

Yellow and Red fades to black Darkness Clouding the sky Stars appear The world falls silent But this silence is one that is replaced by the sweet sounds of the ocean

Water reacts to the glowing sphere Ocean burns blue Trees sing a song in unison Eyes like cameras flash with life Unreal this feels Unreal this seems Once in a lifetime you get to see the moon beam.

How could the Ocean glow so bright? How does the ocean deepen as you walk through this endless path? How do the waves never fail to crash in a way that calms me?

My toes sink into the sand water runs back and forth See Brown Academy Poetry, Page 7 www.ConnectionNewspapers.com t us know about an upcoming event www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar

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A new type of practice from leading Alexandria physician Dr. Michael Redding

More than three decades of experience caring for the community

Benefits of my concierge practice include:

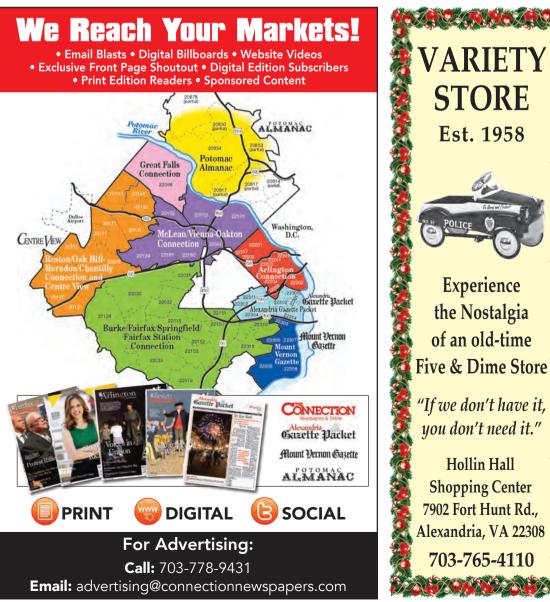
- Little to no waiting
 Longer, unrushed
- appointments
- 24/7 direct communications
- Most insurances accepted

"I lea fath that corr corr time prev S and

"I learned from my father and grandfather that the patient always comes first. In my concierge practice, I will have more time to focus on preventative care and improving actual outcomes." – Michael A. Redding MD

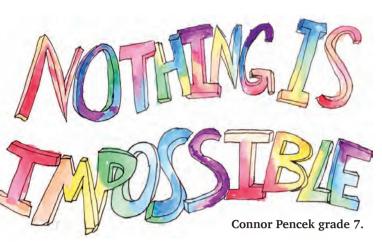


Office at 6476 Landsdowne Centre Drive in Alexandria, VA 22315 Call (571) 814-5818 for more information and to enroll in the practice



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Children's and Teens' Gazette, 2022





Emerson Dufault grade 10.



Parker Carrington grade 2.



Dempsey McGill 6th grade.



Jacob Wills grade 4.

Margaret Gangi grade 7.



St. Stephen's &

St. Agnes School

Lily Gibbons grade 4





Willa Johnson grade 8.

Brian Wangel grade 9.



Jake Welter grade 10. Ella Joshi grade 10. 6 ♦ Mount Vernon Gazette ♦ December 15-21, 2022





Brown Academy Poetry

Poetry from Brown Academy, Teacher Danielle Gerber From Page 5

Waves bigger than you can Fathom

The water engulfs me I am dry but The water engulfs me Present but The water engulfs me

Divyaa Srikanth Springfield, Va,

7th Grade, Ms. Gerber

Water Still

Bright afternoon sun with Clear skies Clear water still. Kids play catch Shade under the generous trees and huts and Water rushing And angry waves crashing and Birds chirping. Still. Reggae plays proudly in the background There is a shine in the smile of this moment The laughing from the daughter who's father picked her up, tossed her in the air, and caught her. Water, why are you so clear? Bird, why do you sing? Daughter, what if he didn't catch you? Will he catch you the next time? The water takes me under The music ashamed while I am under water It is quiet I swim back up and the water is still clear the daughter is still laughing and the birds are still chirping Still chirping Still

Kayla Bridges Alexandria, Va.

7th Grade, Ms. Gerber

Puerto Rico

I watch as the sunrise slowly approaches in the sky Subtle ocean waves crashing I hear the sound of Spanish speakers conversing outside The wind sways in the morning air As the beach starts gaining more and more individuals

I hear the morning birds chirping I look out my hotel deck window And see the clear skies The waves crashing onto shore So many people are enjoying the fresh air.

As I walk outside, I see the clear sky The trees sway and dance

See Brown Academy Poetry, Page 9 www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

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.

FRANKLIN	7795	220	V H GOODE HWY/RTE 220	BR. OF BIG CHESTNUT CREEK	11/28/2022
MONTGOMERY	12112	11	ROANOKE RD NBL/RTE 11	BR. SOUTHFORKROANOKERIVER	11/28/2022
ROANOKE	15031	632	CRESCENT BLVD/RTE 632	BR BACK CREEK	11/28/2022
DINWIDDIE	5909	1	BOYDTON PLANK SBL	STONY CREEK	11/23/2022
HANOVER	9501	626	ELMONT RD	STONY RUN CREEK	11/21/2022
HANOVER	9478	606	OLD CHURCH RD	MATADEQUIN CREEK	11/21/2022
MECKLENBURG	11848	4	BUGGS ISLAND RD	ALLENS CREEK	11/21/2022
FRANKLIN	7931	722	BEULAH RD /RTE 722	LITTLE DOE RUN	11/21/2022
FLOYD	7513	221	FLOYD HWY/RTE 221 N.	BR. OF LICK FORK	11/18/2022
FRANKLIN	7746	40	FRANKLIN ST /RTE 40	RENNET BAG CREEK	11/18/2022
BEDFORD	2770	654	FELDSPAR RD/RTE 654	NS RAILWAY	11/17/2022
BEDFORD	2616	691	SHEPERDS ST RD/RTE 691	WOLF CREEK	11/17/2022
CARROLL	4530	52	POPULAR CAMP RD/RTE 52	STREAM	11/17/2022
ROANOKE	15070	677	WILLOW BR RD/RTE 677	BR BACK CREEK	11/17/2022
MECKLENBURG	11984	640	E. ORGANSVILLE RD	PECKERWOOD BRANCH	11/16/2022
CARROLL	4529	52	POPULAR CAMP RD/RTE 52	BRANCH SHORTS CREEK	11/16/2022
CRAIG	5510	617	RTE 617	WRIGHTS BRANCH	11/16/2022
FRANKLIN	8026	961	HEDGEWOOD RD/RTE 961	LITTLE CREEK	11/16/2022
FRANKLIN	7972	767	PRILLIMAN SWCH/RTE 767	BRANCH OF TOWN CREEK	11/16/2022
FRANKLIN	8031	1605	the second se		
CONTRACTOR OF STREET	18988	604	WHSPRNG CK RD/RTE 1605	MAGGODEE CREEK	11/16/2022
WASHINGTON		636	MILL CREEK RD	MILL CREEK	11/15/2022
MECKLENBURG	11981		BRIDGE RD	MEHERRIN RIVER	11/15/2022
MECKLENBURG	12004	662	WIGHTMAN RD	BUCKHORN CREEK	11/15/2022
NEW KENT	12738	629	BOULEVARD RD	JONES RUN	11/15/2022
BEDFORD	2819	692	COOL SPRINGS RD/RTE 692	CAMP CREEK	11/15/2022
BEDFORD	2879	746	DICKERSON MILL RD/RTE 746	WOLF CREEK	11/15/2022
BEDFORD	2830	698	VILLAMONT RD /RTE 698	BR. SOUTH FORK GOOSE CR.	11/15/2022
CARROLL	4609	100	SYLVATUS HGWY/RTE 100	ROCK CREEK	11/14/2022
ROANOKE	15104	758	CARSON RD/RTE 758	BR. GLADE CREEK	11/14/2022
ROANOKE	14980	609	E. RURITAN RD/RTE 609	BR. GLADE CREEK	11/10/2022
ROANOKE	15109	777	FT LEWIS CHURCH RD/RTE 777	STYPES BRANCH	11/10/2022
BEDFORD	2713	628	BISHOPS CR RD/RTE 628	BACK CREEK	11/4/2022
BEDFORD	2730	639	HURRICANE DR /RTE 639	BR. OF OSLIN CREEK	11/4/2022
PULASKI	14592	658	DELTON RD/RTE 658	BR. OF NEW RIVER	11/4/2022
PULASKI	14535	605	LITTLE RIVER DAM RD/RTE 605	CLYBOARD BRANCH	11/4/2022
PULASKI	14580	648	SNIDER LANE/RTE 648	BR. OF PEAK CREEK	11/4/2022
FRANKLIN	7869	641	CALLAWAY RD/RTE 641	BLACKWATER RIVER	11/3/2022
FRANKLIN	7951	739	GAP GATE RD/RTE 739	GREEN CREEK	11/3/2022
FRANKLIN	8011	865	TIMBER LINE RD/RTE 865	NICHOLAS CREEK	11/3/2022
MONTGOMERY	12333	726	GOLD RUSH RD/RTE 726	BRUSH CREEK	11/3/2022
MONTGOMERY	12286	657	MERRIMAC RD/RTE 657	STROUBLES CREEK	11/3/2022
MONTGOMERY	12315	708	NORRIS RUN RD/RTE 708	NORRIS RUN	11/3/2022
MONTGOMERY	12301	675	SPLIT RAIL RD/RTE 675	COOKS BRANCH	11/3/2022
PATRICK	13365	687	MICROFILM ROAD/RTE 687	BLACKBERRY CREEK	11/3/2022
PATRICK	13273	623	UNION BRIDGE	SMITH RIVER	11/3/2022
CULPEPER	5578	15	REMINGTON RD	RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER	11/2/2022
BEDFORD	2861	731	CHESTNUT FORK RD/RTE 731	BR. DIFFICULT RUN CREEK	11/2/2022
BEDFORD	2680	607	MTN VIEW ROAD/RTE 607	GLOVE CREEK	11/2/2022
FLOYD	7590	705	BEAVER CRK RD/RTE 705	BEAVER CREEK	11/2/2022
PATRICK	13276	626	ABRAM PENN HWY/RTE 626	N. MAYO RIVER	11/2/2022
PATRICK	13293	635	GOBLINTOWN CRK/RTE 635	GOBLINTOWN CREEK	11/2/2022
PATRICK	13252	610	HELMS RD/RTE 610	BRANCH DAN RIVER	11/2/2022
WISE	19343	83	CLINTWOOD HWY	POUND RIVER	11/1/2022
WISE	19495	1135	LITTLE LEAGUE RD	TOM'S CREEK	11/1/2022
BEDFORD	2829	698	VILLAMONT RD/RTE 698	S. FORK GODSE CREEK	11/1/2022
CARROLL	4527	52	POPULAR CAMP RD/RTE 52	SHORTS CREEK	11/1/2022
CARROLL	4528	52	POPULAR CAMP RD/RTE 52	SHORTS CREEK	11/1/2022
FRANKLIN	7922	715	CHESTNUT MTN RD/RTE 715	BIG CHESTNUT CREEK	11/1/2022
FRANKLIN	7936	731	DUGWELL RD/RTE 731	BUCK RUN	11/1/2022
FRANKLIN	7848	629	HATCHETT RD/RTE 629	HATCHETTS CREEK	11/1/2022
GILES	8502	730	EGGLESTON RD/RTE 730	CATTLE PASS	11/1/2022
GILES	8495	724	OLD WOLF CR RD/RTE 724	BR. WOLF CREEK	11/1/2022

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.virginladol.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.

Children's Gazette, 2022



Alexandria Country Day School

Libby Maglaughlin, 5th grade, Alexandria Country Day.



Finn Empey, 7th Grade, Alexandria Country Day School.



Jack Moffat, 3rd grade, Alexandria Country Day School.



Kaden Campbell, 3rd grade, Alexandria Country Day School. Kathryn Easton, 8th grade, Alexandria Country Day.



Elijah Schneider, 6th grade, Alexandria Country Day.



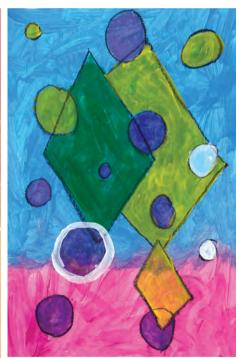
Emmy Cawthorne-Bobadilla, 5th grade, Alexandria Country Day School.



Ruhi Gala, 2nd grade, Alexandria Country Day.



Max Ringel, 2nd grade, Alexandria Country Day.



Lily Guder, 2nd grade, Alexandria Country Day.



Vivi Wayland, 7th grade, Alexandria Country Day. 8 & Mount Vernon Gazette & December 15-21, 2022



Sarah Danshaw, 6th grade, Alexandria Country Day.



Chloe Campbell, 8th Grade, Alexandria Country Day School. www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Brown Academy Poetry

POETRY FROM BROWN ACADEMY, TEACHER DANIELLE GERBER FROM PAGE 7

The sound of waves crashing onto my feet Crash, crash, crash

My ears fill with the uplifting Caribbean music, Kids yelling, And the colorful birds chirping The waterfall slowly spilling into the mini pool.

Oh, Puerto Rico, why do you rain so much? Oh, Puerto Rico, why does it get so dark here? I wonder as I stare into the Puerto Rican abyss.

The rain hitting my head Like a drum The rain hitting my head As I walk outside The rain hitting my head As I continue to sit on the deck enjoying the Puerto Rican galore.

Sam Biggins

Alexandria, Va. 7th Grade, Ms. Gerber

Thumps of Water Amid Fields of Gold

Why do the waves move so predictably? A thump on the side of the ship, A slow simple rock of the ship, Thump, one... two... thump,

The field of reeds is gold in the sunset, The sun and field so well met upon the eye, I lean on a rail that holds me still, Thump, one... two... thump,

I channel out the sounds of the dinner not yet done, I had but a few bites of my meal, It still waits upon my tongue, Amid my annoyance,

The sun is going, Further away every time, Every time I look away, Another inch disappears,

The last birds stop their songs, They seem done with their mission, Or perhaps just tired,

Do you think the things of nature tire, Not of energy, But the monotony of life? Do they wish to run away and do something else?

My time to enjoy the world is over, The sun has almost completely left, Soon my thoughts will have no light for company, And I have lived in my mind for long enough to know that isn't wise.



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PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Friday, December 16 between 8:00 p.m. and 8:30pm (10 minutes)

Saturday, December 17 between 8:00 p.m. and 8:30pm (10 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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- Plumbing (PLB) **Residential Building (RBC)**





2018

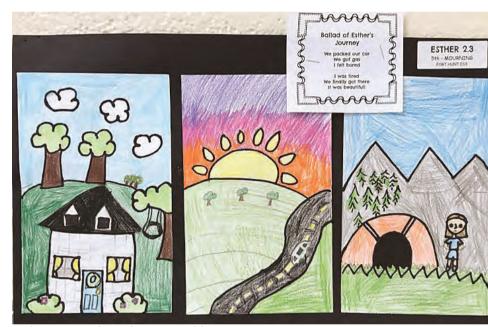
Visit our website: www.twopoorteachers.com

CHILDREN'S AND TEENS' GAZETTE

Fort Hunt Elementary



Gabriel Wiechert- 5th grade- Still Life Drawing

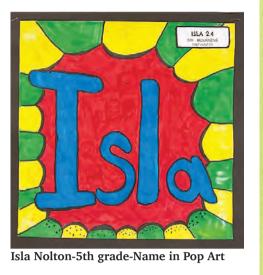


Esther Mugg-5th grade- Memorable Journey



Aryana Shorish- 3rd grade-Cultural Identity Portraits

Art Teacher Andrew Green





Melannie Jimenez-Castro- 5th grade-Global Cause Collage



Bode Wormell- 3rd grade- Set the Table Collage



Claire Hammell- 3rd grade-Cultural Identity Portraits

Deirdre Lambert- 3rd grade-Set the Table Collage



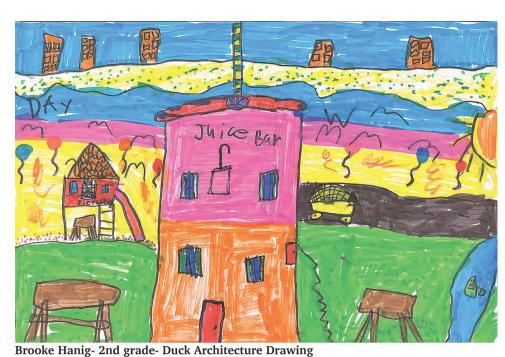
Josh Harencak- 3rd grade- Set the Table Collage



Marina Ortiz Collazo- 3rd grade- Set the Table Collage www.ConnectionNewspapers.com www.ConnectionNewspapers.com









Ellie Heiges- 2nd grade-Duck Architecture Drawing



Meadow Kocsis- 3rd grade-Cultural Identity Portraits



Camila Merino-Moya-2nd grade-Duck Architecture Drawing

Set the Table Collage

Emmy Weber- 2nd grade- Celebrate Good Times Collage

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CHILDREN'S AND TEENS' GAZETTE

Fort Hunt Elementary



Katerina Rothweiler- 2nd grade, Celebrate Good Times Collage



Silvano Damian-Victoriano- 2nd Grade, Celebrate Good Times Collage



Art Teacher Andrew Green

Keia Pedregon- 2nd grade- Duck Architecture Drawing



Norin J. Davidson-2nd grade-Neighborhood Friends



Alex Parilla- Kindergarten-
House I Would Build CollageMia Murray
Me as a Su
December 15-21, 202212 Image: A mount Vernon Gazette I



Mia Murray- Kindergarten-Me as a Superhero Drawing



Vera Hall- Kindergarten-House I Would Build Collage



Caroline McAsey- 1st grade-Family Helper Robot www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

CHILDREN'S AND TEENS' GAZETTE

Fort Hunt Elementary

Abram Larkin- 1st grade- Family Gram



Annabel Lee- 1st grade- Family Gram

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.

ADOPT A WARRIOR FAMILY FOR CHRISTMAS

So many of our Military families today find themselves in financial crisis, now more than ever. This will be especially true during this Holiday Season. To give back, Able Forces Foundation (AFF) is once again sponsoring the Adopt-A-Warrior Family Christmas program. As in years past, Able Forces Foundation will adopt families from each of the five Military Service branches. All adopted families are identified by military Advocates on military bases or military Recovery programs in the Washington, DC Metro area. These families have been vetted and referred

to AFF. Based on need, financial support will ensure each family will have: • A Christmas Tree • Complete Christmas Dinner (for up to 8) • Stocking Stuffers • the ability to provide up to 5 gifts per child 100% of all donations go directly to support this program. There are no administrative or overhead fees taken out of donations. All donations contributed between Oct. 25 and Christmas will go directly to support this program. If you can help, go to: www.ableforces.org/ adopt to make a contribution.

MT. VERNON FARMERS MARKET IS NOW OPEN

The market is located at the Sherwood Hall Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. From 8 a.m. to noon every Wednesday (through December 21), 18 farmers and local food producers will sell fresh. locally grown vegetables and fruits; meats; Chesapeake Bay seafood; breads and pastries; honey, jams

- and jellies; milk, cheese and eggs; herbs and plants; and more. This year's vendors are:
- Arnest Seafood crab cakes, scallops, shrimp, rockfish, oysters and more The Fermented Pig- charcuterie and gourmet bacons
- Grace's Pastries cakes, pastries and breads, with a Caribbean touch Great Harvest Bread - breads and pastries
- Honey Brook Farms meats and vegetables raised with no chemicals, gluten-free baked goods
- House of Empanadas -variety of empanadas
- King Mushrooms –variety of locally grown mushrooms Layla's Lebanese Restaurant - Leba-
- nese hummus, eggplant dip, garlic sauce and more Linda Vista Farm - fruits and vege-
- tables, 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, guaca-

- mole 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.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 17

ART TEACHER ANDREW GREEN



Ford Marchand- 1st grade- Family Gram



Jackson Bowles- 1st grade- Family Gram

Children's and Teens' Gazette, 2022

Browne Academy



Devika Srikanth, 14, 8th grade, **Teacher Polly Beam**



Lauren Apriceno, 8, 3rd grade, Teacher Tietjen Alvarez



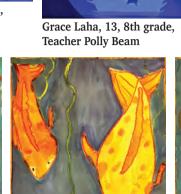
Ryland Babcock, 9, 4th grade, Teacher **Tietjen Alvarez**



Prince Owusu, 8, 3rd grade, **Teacher Tietjen Alvarez**

Chance Maxwell, 13, 8th grade,

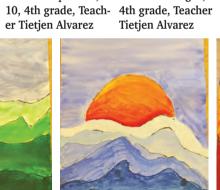
Teacher Polly Beam



Henry Wachter, 8, 3rd grade, **Teacher Tietjen Alvarez**



Nicholas Apriceno,



Leo Morado, 8, 3rd grade, **Teacher Tietjen Alvarez**







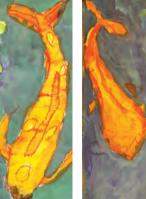
Khalid Ousman, 13, 8th grade, **Teacher Polly Beam** 14 S Mount Vernon Gazette S December 15-21, 2022



Solana Szymanski, 8, 3rd grade, Teacher Tietjen Alvarez Teacher Tietjen Alvarez



Irene Ecarma, 7, 2nd grade, Teacher Tietjen Alvarez



Luna El Sheikh Ali, 8, 3rd grade, Teacher Tietjen Alvarez Teacher Tietjen Alvarez





Tristan Taylor, Sasha Grey, 10, 5th grade,



Olivia Song, 8, 3rd grade,



Nate Benites, 13, 8th grade, **Teacher Polly Beam**



Lucas Pellerito, 7, 2nd grade, Teacher Tietjen Alvarez



Max Kraemer, 5, kindergarten, Teacher Tietjen Alvarez



Samantha Metcalf, 10, 5th grade



Lexi Benenson, 6, kindergarten, Teacher Tietjen Alvarez



Sammie Weinstein, 14, 8th grade, **Teacher Polly Beam**



Peyton Nash, 7, 2nd grade, Teacher Tietjen Alvarez



Kailey Lubisco, 6, kindergarten, Teacher Tietjen Alvarez

TEACHER

Polly

Beam

10, 5th grade



Usra Abdulrahman, 13, 7th grade, Teacher Polly Beam



Sam Biggins, 12, 7th grade, Teacher Polly Beam



Bryson Barnett, 5, kindergarten, **Teacher Tietjen Alvarez**



Ryan Kaskela, 7, 1st grade, Teacher Tietjen Alvarez www.ConnectionNewspapers.com





News

Winter's Elegant Visitors

By Glenda C. Booth Mount Vernon Gazette

hey traveled over 3,500 miles at 3,000 feet, 50 miles per hour and mostly at night. They "refueled" in the Upper U.S. Midwest and now these special visitors are here for the winter. Over 300 tundra swans have gathered along the Potomac River shoreline, especially concentrated in the Great Marsh of Mason Neck State Park.

On Dec. 4, Dr. Tom Wood and Tom Blackburn unreeled a plethora of tundra swan facts to 70 people at a meeting sponsored by the Friends of Mason Neck State Park at Gunston Hall. Dr. Wood is a professor of conservation biology at George Mason University. Blackburn is the past president of the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia and on the Board of Directors of the Friends of Mason Neck State Park.

These elegant, 13- to 20-pound birds, Cygnus columbianus, leave their Arctic breeding grounds and arrive on Mason Neck's waters around Nov. 15 every year. Around 200 to 400 stay until mid-March and then fly back to the Arctic and northern Canada to breed. Each year, most of the swans return to the wintering ground of their previous year, Blackburn said.

Tundra swans can live up to 20 or 25 years. Meriwether Lewis, called them "whistling swans," said Wood because when they fly, their wings make a whistling sound. Lewis is known primarily for his 1804-1805 expedition to the newly-acquired upper U.S. Midwest with William Clark.

These almost pure white waterfowl are about 48 inches in length and have a 66-inch wingspan. They have black legs and feet and a boldly black bill with a yellow spot at the bill's base. Juvenile birds have a gray tinge, said Wood. Some may have a "dirty" head and neck because of tannin in the water, he added. Tannin is a natural byproduct of decaying vegetation.

Tundra swans are very social animals," Wood told the group. "They talk to each other a lot." David Sibley wrote in The Sibley Guide to Birds, their call is "a melancholy, clear, singing klooo or kwooo with hooting or barking quality. Distant flock sounds like baying hounds, rather gooselike; resting flock gives gentle, musical murmuring, immature calls wheezier, becoming adultlike by second year."

Native Americans, like the Cherokee Nation, revered tundra swans, explained Wood. "The Cherokees had a matriarchal culture and wearing swan feathers was an honor reserved for matriarchal leaders," he explained.

Courtship and Breeding Tundra swans have what Blackburn called

More Information

Friends, www.masonneckstateparkfriends.org

State Park,

https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/mason-neck. Swan hikes in December; talk, December 31 National Wildlife Refuge, https://www.fws.gov/refuge/elizabeth-hartwell-mason-neck

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

a "loose sequential alliance," elaborating, "They 'date' for two to three years and then establish a permanent bond for life," he said.

The two speakers showed slides of the Northern Canada and Alaska breeding grounds, including the Mackenzie River Delta, and explained that a pair establishes a breeding territory of 250 acres and builds a nest of Arctic vegetation. The female lays three to five eggs which hatch in around 30 days. Both male and female incubate the eggs. After the young hatch, the adults molt or lose their feathers for around 20 days and the young cannot fly for 65 days, so the adults and juveniles are very vulnerable to predators.

This phenomenon may be the origin of the term, "sitting duck," noted Wood.

In the Arctic, adult tundra swans, their young and their eggs face risks from foxes, weasels, wolves and bears, as well as common ravens, parasitic jaegers and golden eagles. Up to 30 percent of nests have partial or total loss from predation, Wood told attendees.

Winter Here

In the Potomac River, these birds feed on plant matter, largely submerged aquatic vegetation, including roots, rhizomes and stems, said Wood. In other Chesapeake Bay areas, they also feed on clams. Many observers delight in their elegant profiles contrasted with the water, but at other times, people only see their upended, white feathered butts because like dabbling ducks, with their long necks, they reach down to feed on the submerged vegetation, up to three feet deep.

There are around 170,000 tundra swans in North America. Unlike many bird species whose populations are declining, the overall tundra swan population is stable, said Blackburn.

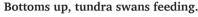
Virginia allows hunting of tundra swans from Nov. 16 to Jan. 31 with a permit "in all counties and portions of counties lying east of I-95 and south of the Prince William/ Stafford County line in Chopawamsic Creek at Quantico Marine Corps Base," according to the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources website.

One enthusiast, Mount Vernonite Deborah Hammer, remarked, "We are so fortunate to have tundra swans that spend part of the year in our area and I wanted to know more about them. The presenters were a wealth of information and very engaging. I learned so much about tundra swan migration, communication, behaviors, diet and lifespan."

Friends of Mason Neck State Park Board member Randy Streufert shared tips on promising Mason Neck spots to see the swans, stressing that the best viewing times are morning and high tide.

"The one thing that's predictable about wildlife is that it's unpredictable," Streufert quipped.







Tundra Swan flying formation.



Adult Tundra Swan.

News



From left, Eric Christensen, Springfield Town Center; Esperanza and Dan LaMay, Dan's Van Lines; Supervisor Rodney Lusk; Lauma Wingrove, CALIBRE Systems; Lyndon Lansdowne, Manfredi Insurance Agency; Matt Moore, Edward Jones Old Town South; Karen Echeverri, Pampered Pet Boutique and Barkery; April Pinch-Keeler, MVLC; Alex Thalacker, FCEDA.

Chamber Presents 2022 Excellence in Business Awards



Matt Moore, Edward Jones Old Town South, receives the Rising Star award from Eric Christensen, chamber vice chair.



upervisor Rodney Lusk, Franconia District, was recognized as the Chamber Citizen of the Year, at the annual Holiday Biz Awards of the Mount Vernon Springfield Chamber of Commerce.

Lusk was honored for his efforts to bring the Workforce Innovation and Skills Hub (WISH) Center to Richmond Highway saying, "Supervisor Lusk has worked to change the lives of our most vulnerable neighbors. To uplift them, not through subsidies or charity but through the creation of a pathway to the kinds of salaries that will allow them to not just survive in our community ... but thrive here."

A large, festive group of business and community leaders attended the Chamber's holiday event where five outstanding local businesses were recognized with Excellence in Business 2022 awards. Awards were presented to CALIBRE Systems Inc., Dan's Van Lines, Ray Manfredi Allstate Insurance Agency, Pampered Pet Boutique and Barkery, and MVLE.

"These awards recognize businesses that embody the values and culture of the chamber of commerce," said Alex Thalacker, Chamber Chairman. "We are pleased to recognize these businesses for their valuable services and also for the way they give back to the community."

Matt Moore, a CFP with Edward Jones Old Town South, was recognized as the Chamber's "Rising Star," for his significant contributions as chair of the LeadShare group and his service to the CAN the Bird 5K

Supervisor Rodney Lusk receives the Chamber Citizen of the Year award from Alex Thalacker, chamber chairman. Kingstowne Turkey Trot.

As an employee-owned company, CALI-BRE embraces community engagement as an inherent part of its culture and regards it as a corporate and individual responsibility for all employee-owners. CALIBRE supports more than 30 charitable organizations and takes an active role in many community organizations.

Their annual golf event benefits Homes For Our Troops where they work to help disabled military personnel obtain fully accessible homes.

Dan's Van Lines is a family-owned moving company, committed to not just moving rooms of household goods – they're dedicated to safeguarding all of the feelings and moments those rooms hold for you, too. In business since 1997, Dan's Van Lines continues to grow and innovate.

Manfredi Insurance is ranked in the top 3% nationally among other agencies for service scores. The agency has won the Premier Service Award every year since it has existed, since 1989, and consistently given back to the community.

The nonprofit organization of the year, MVLE works to create futures for people with disabilities and remove barriers to employment and support services. Since 1971, MVLE has created opportunities for individuals with disabilities to find their independence through community-based social activities, supported employment, and customized skills training.

The 2022 New Business of the Year was Pampered Pet Boutique and Barkery. Pampered Pet is a pet boutique specializing in all things pet related.

Owner Karen Echeverri believes that if it's not good enough for her pet it's not good enough for yours either.

They offer holistic dog and cat food to provide your pets with the nutrition they need to live happy, healthy lives.

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Opinion

Suicide Prevention

tings,

By Del. Paul Krizek

Content warning: Discussion of suicide and self-harm throughout

ith the holiday season upon us, for many of us with recent personal losses, this time of year can be an exceptionally difficult one. This brings me to a somber topic, but one I feel is incredibly important for our community to discuss.

Suicide is a major health concern in the United States. In fact, it is among the leading causes of death nationwide, claiming the lives of over 45,900 people in 2020 alone. Perhaps most troubling is that suicide is now the second leading cause of death among young people aged 10-24. In fact, in 2021, The American Academy of Pediatrics partnered with the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists and Children's Hospital Association to declare a national emergency in mental health.

Suicide is complex but often preventable. Pediatric health clinicians, adults working with youth in school and community setfamilies, and peers can play a critical role in identifying and supporting youth at risk for suicide. We all must work together to break Krizek the stigma of this often

taboo topic. Although thoughts of suicide can be common, they should never be considered normal. It is important to remember that talking about suicide does not increase the risk of suicide.

According to statistics provided by the National Alliance on Mental Health:

✤ 79% of all people who die by suicide are male.

✤ More women than men attempt suicide, but men are 4x more likely to die by suicide.

✤ Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death among people aged 10-14 and the 3rd leading cause of death among people aged 15-24 in the U.S.

✤ Suicide is the 12th leading cause of death overall in the U.S.

hours and schedules. Opportuni-

community service hours. More

info at ucmagency.org/volun-

Operation Paws for Homes, a Virginia

volunteers, especially to foster

dogs. See www.ophrescue.org

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

reimbursement and are invited

to volunteer group projects and

serving, optional mileage and meal

social gatherings. To sign up for an

upcoming orientation, email Carly

Hubicki at chubicki@volunteerfair-

and liability insurance while

for information and all volunteer

teer@ucmagency.org.

opportunities.

ties for all ages to serve, including

teer-opportunities or email volun-

based 501(c)(3) organization seeks



Thoughts of suicide are prevalent across all age groups, demographics, and backgrounds, although some communities experience them at higher rates:

✤ 4.9% of all adults. ◆ 11.3% of young

adults aged 18-25. ✤ 18.8% of high school students.

✤ 45% of LGBTQ youth.

✤ The highest rates of suicide in the U.S. are among American Indian/Alaska Natives followed by non-Hispanic whites.

✤ Lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth are nearly 4x more likely to attempt suicide than straight youth.

Transgender adults are nearly 9x more likely to attempt suicide than the general population.

 Suicide is the leading cause of death for people held in local jails. Shortages of mental health providers and, therefore, lack of access to mental healthcare is a widespread problem. In Virginia, there are only 13 child and adolescent psychiatrists available per 100,000 children below the age of 18, and 64% of Virginia localities are classified as mental health professional shortage areas.

To help combat this problem, in the last year, I was proud to champion funding in the budget for the Virginia Mental Health Access Project (VMAP), a statewide initiative with the mission of helping healthcare providers take better care of children and adolescents with mental health conditions through provider education and increasing access to child psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, and care navigators. I look forward to continuing to support this important work in the General Assembly.

What can we do to prevent suicide across the spectrum? You can start by becoming familiar with the warning signs of suicide:

✤ Increased alcohol and drug use

✤ Aggressive behavior

Withdrawal from friends, family, and community

Dramatic mood swings * Impulsive or reckless behav-

 Collecting and saving pills or buying a weapon

Giving away possessions

* Tying up loose ends, like organizing personal papers or paying off debts

✤ Saying goodbye to friends and family

You may also consider becoming certified in mental health first aid: https://www.mentalhealthfirstaid. org/take-a-course/find-a-course/

I also encourage you to take some time and review the Blueprint for Youth Suicide Prevention released last year by The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), which contains many helpful resources. https://www.aap.org/en/patient-care/blueprint-for-youth-suicide-prevention/

Finally, if you or someone you know is experiencing a mental health crisis, call or text 988 immediately. If you are uncomfortable talking on the phone, you can chat on the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline at 988lifeline.org.

SoberRide Begins Dec. 16

he 2022 Holiday SoberRide program will be in operation nightly from 10 p.m. until 4 a.m. from Dec. 16, 2022 to Jan. 1, 2023 as way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk holiday period.

The program is offered by the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP).

Each evening during this six-hour period, area residents ages 21 and older celebrat-

BULLETIN BOARD

- From Page 13 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, Al-exandria, 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

ing with alcohol may download Lyft to their phones, then enter a SoberRide code in the app's 'Promo' section to receive their no-cost (up to \$15) safe transportation home. A separate Holiday SoberRide promo code will be posted at 9 p.m. on Dec. 16, 23 and 31 on www.SoberRide.com.

Last December and while unquestionably impacted by the then resurging COVID-19 pandemic including the Omicron variant, 461 persons in the Washington-metropoli-

tan area used the free safe ride service rather than possibly driving home impaired. The charity also offers its SoberRide program on St. Patrick's Day, Cinco de Mayo, Independence Day and Halloween.

Sponsors of WRAP's 2022 Holiday Sober-Ride® campaign include the 395 Express Lanes, Amazon, Anheuser-Busch, Beer Institute, Brown-Forman, Constellation Brands, District of Columbia Association of Beverage Alcohol Wholesalers, Enterprise Rent-A-Car,

Foundation of Advancing Alcohol Responsibility, Giant Food, Glory Days Grill, Kendall-Jackson, Lyft, Molson Coors Beverage Company, New Belgium Brewing, Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington, and the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association.

Since 1991, WRAP's SoberRide program has provided 83,678 free safe rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area. www.SoberRide.com

fax.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. 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.

- Fairfax County needs volunteers to drive older adults to medical appointments and wellness programs. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.
- The Gum Springs Senior Program in Alexandria is looking for a Line Dance Instructor. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.
- The Advisory Board of the Joe and Fredona Gartlan Center for mental health is looking for volunteers. The board meets the second Tuesday of the month from 9-11 a.m. at Gartlan Center 8119 Holland Road.

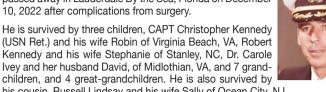


Obituary

Joseph Thomas Kennedy

Captain Joseph Thomas Kennedy (US Navy, Ret.) was born in Boston, Massachusetts on November 1, 1937, and passed away in Lauderdale By the Sea, Florida on December 10, 2022 after complications from surgery.

Obituary



(USN Ret.) and his wife Robin of Virginia Beach, VA, Robert Kennedy and his wife Stephanie of Stanley, NC, Dr. Carole Ivey and her husband David, of Midlothian, VA, and 7 grandchildren, and 4 great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his cousin, Russell Lindsay and his wife Sally of Ocean City, NJ.

Raised in Philadelphia, PA and then Somers Point, NJ, he was a 1955 graduate of Ocean City High School where he was a four-sport varsity athlete in football, basketball, baseball, and track. Joe was the leading scorer on the 1954-1955 team, winning the state basketball championship. When he graduated 67 years ago, he was the all-time leading career scorer in school history and still ranks in the top 25. He was named to the OCHS All-Century teams in both basketball and baseball and was inducted into the Ocean City High School Athletic Hall of Fame in 2021.

He graduated from LaSalle University. After college graduation he went on to law school at Villanova University. After one year of law school, he realized that practicing law was not his calling. Drafted to serve in the Army, he instead enlisted in the U.S. Navy and attended Officer Candidate School. This led to his serving for over 30 years, specializing in Explosive Ordnance Disposal and Mine Warfare. Senior Naval positions include Commanding the Naval Weapons Station Yorktown, Naval Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technology Center, the Naval Explosive Ordnance Disposal School, and the Atlantic Fleet EOD Forces. During this time, he also received master's degrees from both the Naval War College and Central Michigan University.

Joe will be remembered for being a devoted husband to his wife Lynne of 57 years, a caring father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, and an exemplary leader and mentor. A burial with Military Honors will be scheduled later in Arlington National Cemetery



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A Connection Newspaper



CALENDAR



Take a Holiday Candlelight Tour of Mount Vernon Estate Dec. 18.

NOW THRU DEC. 29

An Eye for Nature Exhibition. At Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. Nina Tisara and Steven Halperson have teamed up for an exhibition of Tisara's mosaic art and Halperson's fine art photography. The exhibit may be seen from 10 a.m. to noon, Mondays and Tuesdays and 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursdays except for Thanksgiving. To schedule other hours contact ninat@ ninatisara.com.

NOW THRU JAN. 8, 2023

The Botanical Gourmet. Presented by the Botanical Arts Society of the National Capital Region. At The Athenaeum, Alexandria. For eons, animals ranging from massive leaf-eating dinosaurs to minuscule nectar sipping insects have been attuned to the healthful benefits of a plant-based diet. For their part, plants have enlisted the help of animals by attracting them with visual and other cues for purposes of reproduction. These interactions, while necessary, are purely transactional. They lack the aesthetic spirit. That's where botanical artists step in. Botanical art is neither scientific illustration nor decorative floral composition, but an engaging combination of the two. Like blue jays or cabbage moths, botanical artists are drawn to shiny red berries and bright yellow flowers, but unlike other creatures, they have the means to depict their attraction. The works in this exhibit focus specifically on plants that have health-giving nutritional properties for people.

DEC. 2-18

Del Ray Artisans Holiday Market. At 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Offers unique handmade fine arts and crafts from local artists. Choose from wall art, pottery, photography, jewelry, glass, and much more! Plus 2023 wall calendars to support Del Ray Artisans nonprofit. Free admission. Market is Dec. 9-11, Dec. 16-18. Different artists each weekend! Open Fridays 6-9 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Details: delrayartisans.org/holiday-market

DEC. 16 AND 17

Christmas Illuminations. At Historic Mount Vernon Estate, Mount Vernon. Celebrate the holidays with friends and family during an enchanted evening that includes illuminations, fireworks on the Potomac, Christmas WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM carolers, 18th-century wares and crafts, Aladdin the Camel, and season's greetings by General Washington.

FRIDAY/DEC. 16

West Potomac High School Lady Wolverine Youth Night. West Potomac girls basketball swings into action on Friday, Dec. 16 at its Wolverdome gym. Play between West Potomac and South County will include three games:

Freshmen Game - 4:30 p.m. Junior Varsity Game - 5:45 p.m.

- Varsity Game 7:30 p.m.
- All youth enter free (with a paying adult) and can enjoy games and prizes at half time of every game. Plus, there will be an autograph session after the varsity game.

SUNDAY/DEC. 18

Holiday Candlelight Tour. At Mount Vernon Estate, Mount Vernon. Experience the holidays like George and Martha Washington. Meet Mrs. Washington and 18th-century Mount Vernon residents during a 45-minute candlelit estate tour, see the themed Christmas trees, and shop for holiday gifts.

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.

DECEMBER

- Thu. 15: Carbon Leaf \$45.00 Fri. 16: Carbon Leaf \$45.00 SOLD OUT! Sat. 17: Southside Johnny & The Asbury Jukes
- \$49.50 Sun. 18: LUTHER RE-LIVES Holiday Concert
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Twenty-Five Years Later



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I submitted my first column for publication in early Dec. 2009 after having been hired for an advertising sales position 10 months earlier. Previously, I had been in the insurance business for almost 20 years. I always had a writing urge beginning with a story I wrote in first grade about the day I was born, to a Junior High School experience I had writing a last will and testament-type of compilation for the graduating ninth-graders (myself included) to a series of sports columns for my High School newspaper (the Denebola) and finally to a nearly two-year stint writing a column for the "diamondback," the weekly college newspaper for The University of Maryland. Upon graduation, I submitted writing samples around town and was offered a job at a local paper in Prince Georges County. However, upon my acceptance and return from Massachusetts to fill the position, I was devastated to learn the position had vanished due to weak advertising sales (little did I realize how much of a precursor that difficulty would turn out to be) which caused the publisher to reduce the number of pages it printed and with that page reduction went my column.

My columns written then were a preview to what my columns would become years later. The major difference between then and now, other than age, wisdom, and experience, were the curse words, in college anyway. They came naturally to me then and appeared regularly in my content. The editor never censored me. These columns were not spewing hate or anything, more about a college undergraduate trying to navigate the demands and challenges of college life.

Substance/content-wise, my columns are similar to what they were about then: "Everything in general about nothing in particular." There wasn't much information in my columns. Nor do I suppose there was much journalistic substance to what/how I write either. Nevertheless, I developed my own style which continues to this day. In addition to commenting on the minutiae in life we all must endure; I try to work through the trivialities of the day with a wink and a nod to the hope that what doesn't kill us, makes us stronger. As an example: I handwrite these columns with no fatigue in my arm. And for a man of my age/experience, being able to do anything non-stop for an hour is worth mentioning.

Seriously though, this writing thing must be in my DNA. I don't have to think too much about what I'm doing (it shows, right?). I'm able to, as my brother once said: "Churn out the drivel" without much further ado. And I thank our Editor-in-Chief Mary Kimm for giving me the space/opportunity to explore my passion every week; it was her idea to add a picture.

In my writing career at Connection Newspapers (which was the avocation to my full-time advertising sales vocation), I have won multiple writing awards from the various Press Associations that make up the "DMV," (Maryland, Washington, DC, and Delaware) for my weekly editorial columns. Unfortunately, I've never received a literary call-up to the Majors, so to speak. Occasionally I had a column appear in other print media, but the overwhelming exposure came in The Connection. And though I may have toiled in relative obscurity as a result, I loved being able to express myself so personally. As I have so often said, it's not so important that it's me writing about it, rather it's important that it's being written about. Write on.

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

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