

# Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

MARCH 16, 2023

## Education Advocates Gather at Mount Vernon

Rally precedes hearing on Youngkin administration's proposed revised 2023 History and Social Science Standards of Learning.

By MIKE SALMON  
THE GAZETTE

Before the speakers took to the stage, the rally out front near the parkway was alive with messages and a megaphone: "Whose education? Our education," was the rally chant as the group marched toward a gathering spot at the foot of the hill leading up to the gate of the Mount Vernon Estate.

"Our Asian American communities deserve better," said Mitch Chan, addressing the crowd with a megaphone.

Virginia Board of Education held public hearings on the Proposed Revised 2023 History and Social Science Standards of Learning. The Standards of Learning identify the essential content, processes, and skills for grade levels and subject courses to be used in Virginia public schools. On Tuesday, March 14, the public hearing was held at: George Washington's Mount Vernon: Rubenstein Leadership Hall at the Library.

Mount Vernon school board representative Karen Corbett Sanders stood at the gate waiting for the Mount Vernon officials to open it. She urged another version be drafted.

"The proposed standards are not appropriate and will have to undergo changes," she said, standing at the gate.

Rachna Sizemore Heizer, chair of the Fairfax County School Board,



Emily Yen from the Virginia Education Association.



Mitch Chan was at the megaphone alongside Emily Yen from the Virginia Education Association. "#Teach the Truth."

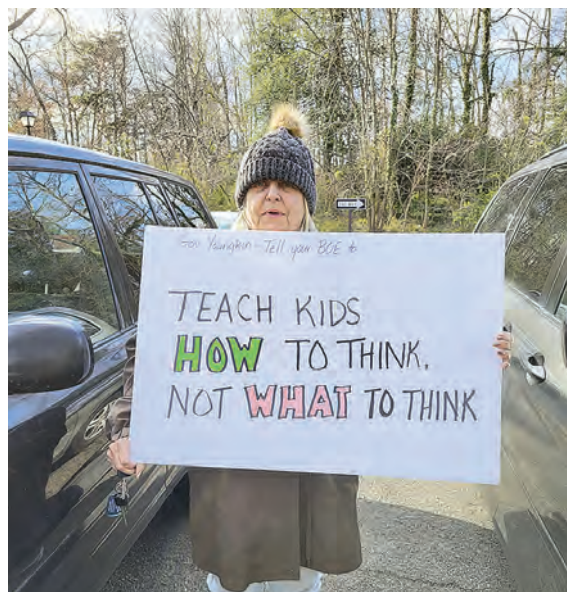
tweeted: "Proud to speak on behalf of the school board against the proposed changes to Virginia's social studies standards, changes that minimize the history of people of color, women, LGBTQIA. Studying the good and the bad of history means we can learn from our mistakes, not repeat them."

**Representatives from the Hamkae Center, based in Annandale that organizes Asian Americans in Virginia for social, racial, and economic justice.**

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON  
THE GAZETTE



Despite the wind and cold, many wanted to see change.



Mary Haak came in from Fauquier county with a sign "Teach kids how to think, not what to think"



The protestors out front demanded inclusion. "Asian, Black, Brown, LGBTQ+, Indigenous voices," says this sign.



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# NEWS

## Mount Vernon Country Club Golfer Wins PGA Tournament

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE GAZETTE

As one of the top-notch golfers at Mount Vernon Country Club, Joan Gardner has done a lot of things in and outside of golf that she can be proud of. In February, she sunk a long putt at the PGA of America for club champions tournament in South Carolina to win in her age group. Off the course she's a retired lawyer that's used golf as a forum to get things done for others.

This includes her work with youngsters at First Tee of Greater Washington DC and a scholarship program with the Virginia State Golf Association. Golfing is not all about teeing it up and driving it down the fairway.

At First Tee she specialized in "teaching golf and ... teach life's lessons," she said. When playing golf with a business associate, "you get to know them on a different level," she added.

At the tournament in South Carolina, it was three days of golfing at a few different courses with golfers from all over the country including three women from Alaska. Walking around all day leads to a social exchange that is very different from the office atmosphere. "It is a wonderful walk in the park," she called it.

Gardner grew up in Oklahoma and both of her parents golfed, so they got her involved and her interest grew from there. She got her law degree and had a career as a lawyer in the healthcare industry, but golfing always always came in handy in her professional life. From there, she excelled at the country club, traveled around the world, met all kinds of people, and even got four holes-in-one. "I feel lucky my parents got me into it,"

Through her golfing tenure, she's been to Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania, En-



Joan Gardner with her trophy from the National Club Championship at Sea Island Resort in Sea Island, Georgia.

gland and Palm Springs to play golf. Next August, she's planning to going to Northern Ireland with a group to play the "links," style courses they have in Europe that are laid out differently than the courses in this country. The holes go back and forth, instead of around a plot of land. In Ireland, "the obstacles are wind and bunkers, a dif-

ferent style of golf," she said.

At the PGA tournament in Georgia last month, she golfed along with the Super Senior club champion Linda DiVall who ended up landing in eighth place, and Maxine Bland who is a pro at Westfields Golf Course in western Fairfax County. Gardner's long putt put her in the winner's circle though. "I

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/ THE GAZETTE



Inside the Mount Vernon Country Club, a chronological map, and a shot of famous golfer Sam Snead in 1961.

ended up winning by one," she said.

She keeps her trophy in the clubhouse at Mount Vernon, a country club that's been part of the community since its construction back in 1961. There is a chronological map with pictures in the clubhouse, which includes a shot of Sam Snead, a PGA professional who played on opening day in 1961.

## Lack of Snow Leaves Some Hanging

Warm February leaves plows idle, salt domes full across county.

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE GAZETTE

It was the headline on the NOAA page that really summed up the weather over the last few months in Northern Virginia: "A warm February wrapped up a warm winter for U.S." it read. The average temperature last month across the country was 2.7 degrees above the 20th century average which is the third warmest February of the 129-year climate record. Virginia had its warmest February on record, and 0.4 inches of snow.

Although this part of the east coast isn't heavily dependent on snowfall, it is an economic factor for some. Pat Burns is a plow driver who counted on a few days plowing with the Virginia Department of

Transportation every season and looked at this winter as "the worst season ever," he said. He started plowing in 1998 and had some other drivers working with him during the snow season. Some of them are trying to sell their plows. "I have considered getting out of it," he said.

VDOT's statewide budget for snow is \$220 million this year. The fate of the unused money has not been decided, said Ellen Kamalakakis, the Assistant District Administrator for Communications. The plow trucks are used for other duties and the salt can sit indefinitely, she said.

Students haven't had a snow day either. There was one day in December where classes started two hours late, but no total snow days even though the school system has built in a few snow days into the yearly schedule.



Liberty Mountain Resort, once called Ski Liberty, is suffering from the lack of snow.

"We have not needed to use any of our built-in snow days so far this school year. We are fortunate this has allowed us to focus on in-person instruction for our students," said Helen Lloyd, from the Fairfax County Public School office of Communications & Community Relations.

There are a few ski areas within a couple of hours drive from Fairfax County but the weather hasn't been favorable for them ei-

ther. Ski Liberty website message "OPERATIONS UPDATE: LIBERTY MOUNTAIN RESORT IS NOW CLOSED FOR THE SEASON." At Seven Springs a little further north, there were a lot of zeros on their conditions report. Zero snow in the last 24 and 48 hours, zero in the last seven days and a forecast of sunny and 36 degrees – not cold enough for snow.



## From Here to Reconvene

BY DEL. PAUL KRIZEK

**T**he General Assembly is set to reconvene on Wednesday, April 12 to consider Governor Youngkin's vetoes and amendments to legislation passed during this year's session. This is usually a long day on the House Floor as both chambers work together as a legislative body. So, what has to happen between now and then?

The Governor's constitutional deadline to act on legislation is 11:59pm on March 27, or 30 days following the adjournment of the regular session. During this period, the Governor reviews legislation with his policy staff. He then has a choice whether to recommend amendments to the bills, veto them, sign them, or take no action. Interestingly, in Virginia, a Governor does not have to sign a bill in order for it to go into effect. Therefore, "taking no action" on a bill is de facto approval.

In Virginia, the Governor also

has line-item veto power, meaning he can strike and amend portions of a bill without rejecting a bill outright. This ability certainly has its benefits and drawbacks. Bills with emergency clauses go into effect immediately upon the Governor's signature. From my calculations, 10 such emergency bills passed this year, and the Governor has already signed one, SB 882 patroned by Sen. Janet Howell related to amending Virginia's tax code. The rest will go into effect on July 1 of this year unless otherwise specified. A positive aspect is that this gives everyone one last chance to get it right, so to speak, so that if there are any edits necessary to make the bill even better or more effective, this is a final opportunity to make it happen.

During the reconvene session, the General Assembly can override a Governor's veto by a two-thirds vote. If both chambers override the Governor's veto, the bill shall become law without his signature. If either chamber fails to override the Governor's veto, the veto shall stand and the bill shall not become law and it is done.

When the Governor amends a bill, if both chambers agree by a majority vote to the Governor's entire recommendation, the bill, as amended, shall become law. If the amendments are only agreed to in part by both chambers, the bill shall be reenrolled with the Governor's amendments agreed to by both chambers and shall be returned to the Governor. The Governor then can either sign or veto the bill returned to him. If the Governor vetoes the bill, the veto shall stand and the bill will not become law.

If both chambers reject all

amendments by a two-thirds vote, the original bill becomes law.

If the Governor takes no action on the bill within thirty days after the adjournment of the reconvened session, the bill shall become law without his signature.

As I write this column, only three bills have been signed by the Governor, but I doubt that many of the 867 bills will be vetoed or amended since they already passed both chambers of the General Assembly, a Republican-led House, and a Democratic-led Senate.

You can follow along as bills are signed into law here: <https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+1st+APP>. This will certainly be a busy next two weeks for the Governor's staff.

In addition to bills, budget negotiations continue among budget conferees. I have done my part in advocating for funding most important to our community and other critical funding measures introduced by my colleagues.



Krizek

## Celebrating a Virginia Woman History-Maker

BY DEL. KENNETH R. PLUM

**M**arch is Women's History Month, and this March we can celebrate the many women who contributed to our past history and who are contributing to our history as recently as last week. On March 7 Congresswoman Jennifer McClellan was sworn in as a member of the 118th Congress becoming the first Black woman to serve in Virginia's Congressional delegation. She succeeds the late Congresswoman Don McEachin who passed away recently from complications of cancer.

For Congresswoman Jennifer McClellan to be making history is no surprise to anyone who knows her. If I had my way she would be the current governor of Virginia for I had supported her in the Democratic primary to be the party's candidate for governor. It remains possible that she will in the future be the first Black woman governor of the Commonwealth for which she has the abilities.

When I was chairman of the Democratic Party of Virginia, the late Governor of Virginia Gerald L. Baliles told me about a young associate in the law firm for which he was working after leaving the governorship and for whom he had the highest recommendation for political office and service.



Congresswoman Jennifer McClellan at her official swearing in with the House Speaker and her husband Dave Mills and her children Samantha and Jackson.

She was Jennifer McClellan who had only recently earned her law degree from the University of Virginia and who was already demonstrating her keen knowledge as a native Virginian and her political acumen. He could not have been more accurate in his assessment of her.

It was less than ten years later that now Congresswoman McClellan ran successfully in the Richmond area to become a member of the Virginia House of Delegates in 2016 where she served until 2017

when she became a member of the Virginia Senate where she served until her recent election to Congress. In both the Virginia House and Senate she stood out for suc-

cessfully sponsoring the most difficult and important legislation.

In its most recent edition, Black Virginia News reported on her first speech to the U.S. House. She talked about being the "daughter and granddaughter of men who paid poll taxes and the great-granddaughter of a man who took a literacy test and had to find three white men to vouch for him to be able to vote." She went on to say, "I stand on the shoulders of my parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents, recognizing that in a lot of ways I am fighting the same fights they did. And I stand here to ensure that my children and yours do not have to fight those same fights." I remember her making the same kind of speech in the Virginia Capitol where her work was responsible for so much positive change.

Congresswoman McClellan will serve on the House Armed Services and Science, Space, and Technology Committees and no doubt will continue to make history.

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PHOTO BY HOWARD SOROOS

Elizabeth Replogle, Madeline Byrd, and Mic Townsend perform in the Aldersgate Church Community Theater production of *Silent Sky*, playing March 17 through April 2. [www.acctonline.org](http://www.acctonline.org)

## 'Silent Sky'

ACCT celebrates pioneering Henrietta Leavitt.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
THE GAZETTE

At the turn of the 20th century, years before women had the right to vote, Henrietta Leavitt was determined to reach for the stars through her passion for astronomy.

Known as "the woman who measured the universe," Leavitt was one of a small number of pioneering women astronomers working at Harvard Observatory in the early 1900s. She transcended the odds and took on the establishment of her time, making discoveries that forever changed the field of astronomy.

Her true story is told in the play "Silent Sky," playing now through April 2 at Aldersgate Church Community Theater.

Written by Lauren Gunderson, *Silent Sky* is produced by Charles Dragonette and Marg Soroos and under the direction of Marzanne Claiborne. The play chronicles Leavitt's work as a human computer, mapping the stars but receiving no scientific credit. She is denied the opportunity to use Harvard's telescope — the Great Refractor — and will only be allowed to log stars photographed by the men of the department.

Not to be dissuaded, Leavitt begins the process of recording the changes in Cepheid stars, a scientific discovery now known as "Leavitt's Law."

Leavitt and her colleagues Annie Cannon and Williamina Fleming would become trailblazers in the male-dominated field of astronomy.

"Henrietta was one of the many female 'computers' who worked at the Harvard College Observatory," said Madeline Byrd, who portrays Leavitt in the ACCT production. "I hope audiences are struck by the immense scientific impact that these women brought forth. The characters in this play and the real life 'computers' of the Harvard Observatory may be lesser known than Hubble or

Newton or Kepler, but they are no less important."

Kate Ives plays Annie Cannon, the Head of Stellar Photometry at Harvard Observatory who developed the organizational system by which stars are classified.

"I hope the audience will come to appreciate these amazing women whose curiosity and determination literally changed our universe," Ives said.

Rounding out the trio of true-life trailblazers is Williamina Fleming, a Scottish immigrant who was abandoned by her husband right after they arrived in Boston.

"This play shines a light on the impact of women scientists long before they received the recognition they deserve," said Elizabeth Replogle, who portrays Fleming. "I hope it will make people appreciate how far we have come in society in terms of gender equality but also realize that we have much work yet to do."

Added Soroos, "This is a compelling story of one woman's fight to get recognition for her tireless effort in science, an area where women were truly discriminated against in prior times."

Through Gunderson's humorous writing, "Silent Sky" aptly portrays Leavitt's contributions to astronomy, despite the restrictions of her time, and how her work continues to empower scientists today.

"This is a great play to see during Women's History month," said Melissa Dunlap, who plays Henrietta's sister Margaret. "There is much to be admired in these women who made major contributions to astronomy at a time when there were many barriers to them studying and working in this field."

*Silent Sky* opens March 17 and runs through April 2 at Wesley Hall of Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Road in Alexandria. Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. For tickets or more information visit [www.acctonline.org](http://www.acctonline.org).



## SPRING 2023

MARCH  
1-31  
(EXCEPT TUES)

60<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary  
Woodlawn Needlework Show

MARCH 18  
APRIL 22  
MAY 20

Discovering Alexandria Architecture  
Walking Tour with Carlyle House

DAILY STARTING:  
MARCH 18

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APRIL  
2

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APRIL  
14

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APRIL  
15

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APRIL  
23

PNC Parkway Classic  
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MAY  
19-21

Spring Wine Festival & Sunset Tour  
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MAY  
20-21

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MAY  
21

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# Continuing Nelly’s Artistry: Woodlawn’s 60th Needlework Show

By GLENDA C. BOOTH  
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

The Stitch Bank now has 275 types of embroidery stitches known across the globe, thanks to the recent addition of 25, reports the Stitch Bank’s manager, the Royal School of Needlework, a 150-year-old institution based in London, England.

At Woodlawn’s 60th annual needlework show, visitors can closely study thousands of intricate, meticulously sewn stitches by experts called “needle artists,” embroidery stitches and more. The show has 410 judged entries, plus another 100 not judged. There’s crewel, drawn thread, needlepoint, counted cross stitch, needle-made lace, fine-hand sewing, smocking, stumpwork, beadwork and more – a stunning display on two floors of the mansion. “It’s probably the largest judged needlework show in the U.S. and includes artists from all over the world,” commented Shawn Halifax, Woodlawn’s Executive Director.

The show was organized around the theme, “Craft as Comfort: Joy in Needlework,” by Nelly’s Needlers, a group founded in 1975, dedicated to preserving Woodlawn and named in honor of Eleanor “Nelly” Parke Custis Lewis. George and Martha Washington reared Nelly, Martha’s granddaughter, at Mount Vernon Estate. Washington gave the Woodlawn property to



PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH

The Feb. 27 guests studied stitchwork pieces displayed throughout the mansion.

Nelly and her husband, George’s nephew Major Lawrence Lewis as a wedding gift. Nelly learned needlework from her grandmother. One of Nelly’s pieces, a fireplace screen finished in 1825, is displayed.

One of the show’s co-chairs, Deb Kempton, Riverside Estates, explained the theme: “If you are really busy and need to take a step back, you can sit down and rhythmically stitch,” she said. “It resets everything. Doing this very intricate work requires focus. It helps unplug and re-center your-

self.” Like Nelly, Kempton learned needlework from her grandmother when she spent summers on a South Dakota farm 50 years ago and since then has stitched hundreds of pieces. Another needler at the opening, a former college professor who could not give her name because of her security clearance, agreed. “It’s my meditation,” she said. The other co-chair is Diane Clark.

**Founder’s Daughter, Grandson**  
Halifax recognized two special

guests who traveled from Ridgefield, Connecticut, Torrey Cooke and her son Patrick. Torrey’s mother, Emma “Pinkey” Matheson, was a co-founder of the show in 1963. Why did the Cookes come? “It’s in my genes,” quipped Patrick. The Matheson family once lived at River Farm, now the headquarters of the American Horticultural Society and a Mount Vernon-area institution. The other show co-founder was Adelaide Bolté, whose baptismal rug made for St. Luke’s Episcopal Church is on display.

Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck noted that his wife, Deb, does stitchery, and that the needlers are “keeping history alive through their craft.” Applauding the show as “quite an event,” he presented a proclamation from the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. Halifax and the proclamation both note that several women enslaved by the Lewises sewed to make and mend clothes, but also, women like Sukey, Eliza and Polly stitched decorative items too. “Adelaide Bolté and Pinkey Matheson crafted a lasting community at Woodlawn – a place where people of all skill levels and all ages come together to find joy and comfort in craft,” says the Board’s proclamation.

## Over 500 Art Works

The pieces displayed include bookmarks, samplers, clothing and many decorative works of art. One jaw-dropping entry was an antique Camelback couch with a canvaswork fox hunt scene, an artistic creation that took Nancy Buckley 30 years to stitch. Pieces for sale in the printed program have prices ranging from \$50 to the couch at \$30,000.

Two Mount Vernon-area adolescents Gwyneth B., 10, and Cairstin B., 14, took classes at Woodlawn and displayed their works. Gwyneth explained that she used eight kinds of stitches in her pin cushion, a 10-hour project. Cairstin stitched a counted thread, cross stitch bookmark depicting Hermione Granger, a fictional character from the Harry Potter book series. Cairstin described her brick stitches to people admiring her entry.

The show had a panel of three judges, needle arts experts, who judged entries by age and type of item. The rules required that the work be done by a living person, stitched with a hand-held, threaded needle and “appropriately finished.” The age categories were 18 years or older, 70 years or older, 17 years or younger. The latter group

## Forthcoming Events, More Information

The show at Woodlawn is open to the public until March 31 every day except Tuesdays. Reservations are not required. Admission is \$15.00. Nelly’s Café, open from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., offers seated dining and quiches, sandwiches and desserts.

Woodlawn hosts special tours of the exhibition on Wednesdays and Sundays at 2:30 p.m. at which guides will relate stories behind many of the pieces and Woodlawn’s history.

Programs, <https://www.woodlawnpopeleigh.org/2023-annual-needlework-show-programs#onsite>  
Nelly’s Needlers, <http://www.woodlawnpopeleigh.org/nellys-needlers>



Patrick Cooke and Torrey Cooke, grandson and daughter of one of the show’s co-founders, came to the opening from Connecticut.

had three subdivisions -- nine and under, 10 to 13 and 14 to 17.

Volunteers helped answer questions and by the show’s end will have made for sale 3,500 chewy ginger cookies with warm spices using Martha Washington’s recipe. Nelly’s Needlers has over 50 members, who meet monthly, including a Stitch-and-Chat gathering at which they talk as they stitch. Woodlawn’s shop sells some of their pieces.

Event sponsors included four Northern Virginia businesses: In Stitches, Artistic Artifacts, Total Framing and the Hampton Inn and Suites. All proceeds help support Woodlawn and the Pope-Leighey House next door and their educational programs.

In keeping with the show’s theme of promoting a healthy well-being, Marlena Salgado-Felix’s “Stitching



A sign recognizes the show’s sponsors.

Meditation” offers some cheer: “A stitchery a day keeps the blues away.”



Bookmark featuring Hermione Granger, by Cairstin B., age 14.



Camelback couch, with canvaswork fox hunt scene by Nancy Buckley, a 30-year project.



Nelly’s Needlers banner displayed at the show.



“Three Bird Watchers,” counted thread cross stitch by Kay Skelton.



Marlena Salgado-Felix’s counted thread cross stitch piece honors people enslaved at Woodlawn.



“Hoopoe,” canvaswork by Norma Lynn Fox.



“Vedmid: Ukrainian Patchwork Bear” by Maria Rios, a canvaswork multi-stitch piece.



“Weaving Hope” by Diane Herrmann, an embroidery stumpwork entry.

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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.

Jurisdiction	Post Street	Route #	Route Name	Structure	Posted Date
FAIRFAX	6767	645	CLIFTON RD	SANDY RUN	2/23/2023
GILES	8436	635	BIG STONY CK RD/RTE 635	LAUREL BRANCH	2/22/2023
ROANOKE (M)	21702	118	RTE 0118	BRANCH	2/22/2023
LOUISA	11554	714	HORSESHOE FARM RD	SMALL BRANCH	2/21/2023
ROANOKE (M)	21611	0	RTE 0000	MUDLUCK CREEK	2/21/2023
ROANOKE (M)	21731	221	RTE 0221	BRAMBLTN AV O MURRAY RUN	2/21/2023
CULPEPER	5642	628	HAZEL RIVER RD	STREAM	2/16/2023
WYTHE	19508	0F044	EAST LEE HWY	LITTLE PINE RUN	2/14/2023
PATRICK	13283	631	DOE RUN RD/RTE 631	ARARAT RIVER	2/14/2023
BLAND	2980	61	WOLF CREEK HWY	SPRING BRANCH	2/13/2023
BLAND	2982	61	WOLF CREEK HWY	SPRING BRANCH	2/13/2023
WYTHE	19774	701	OGLESBY RD	STREAM	2/10/2023
ROANOKE	15011	620	MILLER COVE RD/RTE 620	TROUT CREEK	2/10/2023
WYTHE	19710	649	ATKINS MILL RD	SPILLER BRANCH	2/9/2023
MONTGOMERY	12235	629	BRADSHAW RD/ RTE 629	BRADSHAW CREEK	2/7/2023
BEDFORD	2798	680	MURRELLS GAP RD	SHEEP CREEK	1/31/2023

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.





## The Rotary Club of Mount Vernon, VA

The Mount Vernon Rotary Club, in 2021, initiated the "You Make a Difference Award" to support community service by organizations in the Mount Vernon area.

Specifically, the purpose of the Mount Vernon Rotary "You Make A Difference" Award is to:

- 1) Recognize individuals and organizations who support service to others
- 2) Support community service within the Mount Vernon area. This local support is consistent with the Rotary International Motto: "Service Above Self."

A single award and associated grant of \$1000 will be presented once a year. The goal is to recognize a single individual who sustains community service and to contribute financial support to keep that service continuing.

Nominations will be accepted until noon on March 29, 2023. To receive a nomination form or more information, email [rcmvva@gmail.com](mailto:rcmvva@gmail.com)

Rotary is where neighbors, friends, and problem-solvers share ideas, join leaders, and take action to create lasting change. Visit [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) for more information.

The Rotary Club of Mount Vernon meets via Zoom on Wednesday evening from 6:30 to 7:30. To request an invitation link email [mikej1013@verizon.net](mailto:mikej1013@verizon.net)

## ENTERTAINMENT

# Mamma Mia!

BY AL BELL  
GAINESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

Three Dads, two days, and one big wedding. The cast and crew of St. Stephen's and St. Agnes transported the audience to the enchanting world of Kalokairi, Greece, in their production of "Mamma Mia!"

"Mamma Mia!" opened on the West End in 1999 and landed on Broadway in 2001 before being adapted into a popular movie franchise in 2008. Written by Catherine Johnson, "Mamma Mia!" features the music of ABBA and a score by Benny Andersson and Bjorn Ulvaeus. The show follows 20-year-old Sophie Sheridan on the day before her wedding. Determined to have her father walk her down the aisle, she sends letters to three possible men. Once her mother finds out, the plan goes downhill, and the question of whether Sophie will walk down the aisle remains.

Max Gehlhoff (Sam Carmichael) fully embodied his character through his statuesque posture, fast-paced dialogue, and head-



PHOTO BY JAMIESON BLOOM

From left: Allison O'Connor, Reed Presby, Charlotte Nichols, Amber Dunton, Tyler Troy, Emma Lacy, and Bailey Edwards in the performance of "Mamma Mia!" at St. Stephen's and St. Agnes on Friday, March 10, 2023.

strong walk. Gehlhoff displayed a stunning tableau (Mamma Mia) as the entire cast moved around him, not moving an inch. When Amber Dunton (Donna Sheridan) came on stage, Gehlhoff physically jumped at the sight of her, foreshadowing their rocky reunion. The audience was roped into Sam's story and

saw his love for Donna through Gehlhoff's performance.

The roles of the very unhelpful bar staff of the taverna were beautifully portrayed by Angus Argetsinger (Eddie) and August Moon (Pepper). Argetsinger and Moon were great as the duo, lazing

SEE MAMMA MIA!, PAGE 11

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# ENTERTAINMENT

## CALENDAR

### MARCH 1-31

60th Anniversary Woodlawn Needlework Show. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. every day, expect Tuesdays. At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Hwy, Alexandria. In 2023, Woodlawn celebrates 60 years of the Annual Needlework Show with the timeless theme of comfort and joy. Sixty years ago, Adelaide Bolte and Emma "Pinky" Matheson, co-founders of the Nelly's Needlers, started the needlework show exhibiting work of their own. Since that time, the show has grown exponentially to become the largest judged show of needle arts in the nation, displaying thousands of embroidery pieces by artists from all over the world. Returning this year will be in-house seating in Nelly's Café and needlework demonstrations. Special exhibits and online events are returning with new embroidery subjects and needlework displays.

### NOW THRU MARCH 19

Nicole Santiago Exhibition. At the Athenaeum, Alexandria. Poetry Workshop on Feb. 25 from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Nicole Santiago's work consists of semi-autobiographical narrative paintings and drawings that depict scenes of love, loss, and duty, thinly veiled in the mundane debris of everyday life. While the impetus for Nicole's work is highly personal, she intends to construct something more universal that stretches beyond the limits of her own experiences, expanding into broader familiar theme.

### NOW THRU APRIL 3

NOVA Plein Air Art Exhibit. At River Farm, 7931 East Blvd. Drive, Alexandria. Nova Plein Air Artists (NPPA) will be presenting "Celebrations of the Land, Inspired by River Farm," an art exhibit of over 50 paintings inspired by nature. Reception will be held from 1 - 3 p.m. on March 12. Many of the paintings were created onsite at River Farm, and all are available to purchase. Reception free and open to the public.

### NOW THRU APRIL 1

The "Fun With One" exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans features monochromatic artwork by members. Come see the variety that can be accomplished using just one color. The artist awards are juried by Robin Croft. View at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria VA. Opening Reception: Friday, March 3 from 7-9pm. Gallery hours: Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays 12-6 p.m. (closed on April 2). Details: DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

### BEGINNING SATURDAY/ MARCH 18

Cherry Blossom Water Taxi to The

Wharf. Departures beginning at 1:30 p.m. Departs from the Alexandria Marina, 1 Cameron St., Alexandria. Cruise from Old Town Alexandria to Washington, D.C., to enjoy the famous cherry blossoms. City Cruises Potomac Water Taxi offers a 25-minute direct water taxi from Old Town to The Wharf development in D.C. From the dock at The Wharf, it is a 10-minute walk to the cherry blossoms at the Tidal Basin. The water taxi docks at the Transit Pier, 950 Wharf St. SW, near the Tidal Basin, the National Mall, Hains Point and a Capital Bikeshare station. Visit [citycruises.com](http://citycruises.com)

### SATURDAY/MARCH 18

Discovering Alexandria Architecture Walking Tour. 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. At Carlyle House, 121 N Fairfax Street, Alexandria. Alexandria has grown from a small town in the 18th century to a bustling small city in the 21st century. Join for a tour of Alexandria and explore the various architectural styles that adorn the city streets. Reservations are required as space is limited. Please wear comfortable shoes for this 1.5-hour guided tour. Tours are held rain or shine unless there is severe weather.

### SATURDAY/MARCH 18

Watercolor Workshop - Color with Sargent. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (16-Adult) John Singer Sargent was a master of color. His blacks were textured, his whites were complex, and his side-by-side use of warm and cool colors gave his work vibrancy. Artist and instructor Dawn Flores presents a history of Sargent's life and work, then shows you how to copy Sargent's techniques and create your own compelling piece inspired by his use of color. A supply list will be emailed before class. Bring a lunch. \$102 per person. Register online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakers> or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code WQ7.384R.

### SATURDAY/MARCH 18

Growing Plants in a Bag. 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. (Adults) Don't have space or the required light to grow vegetables? Try a grow bag! Learn how easy it is to grow beautiful vegetables and flowers using grow bags. Extension Master Gardeners will teach you care requirements and benefits of grow bags, such as they are easy to move, provide better soil drainage, and build stronger roots for plants. Grow bags, soil medium and seeds will be provided. \$23 per person. Register online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakers> or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code X65.TZ3L.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 10



## Spring Garden Market

The American Horticultural Society (AHS) presents the Spring Garden Market, on Friday, April 14 and Saturday, April 15, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at River Farm in Alexandria, Va. Join fellow gardening enthusiasts, 30+ vendors, food trucks, and the ever-popular alpacas for family-friendly festivities on the beautiful 25-acre historic property along the Potomac. Last year, AHS welcomed more than 2,000 visitors to the event. This year, the AHS celebrates 50 years at River Farm.

Tickets to the Spring Garden Market will be available to purchase in advance online at [www.ahsgardening.org/sgm](http://www.ahsgardening.org/sgm). Entry fee is \$5 per individual or \$20 per car to park (including entry for all passengers). Fees are waived for AHS members with membership card or current issue of AHS's members-exclusive magazine, The American Gardener. Tickets may also be purchased onsite the day of the event.

River Farm, headquarters of AHS, is where the 100-year-old organization lives its mission to promote excellence in horticulture nationwide. River Farm is also a local treasure where generations

of families have come to play with their children, walk their dogs and celebrate milestone moments. Proceeds from the Spring Garden Market go directly to River Farm's stewardship including routine maintenance, beautification projects, and increased accessibility for the public to enjoy now and into the future.

Shop for natives, specialty plants, herbs, and much more. Browse garden-themed art, books, tools and garden accessories. View garden-themed paintings by local artists.

Take a guided tour of the Manor House, an 18th century home once lived in by Tobias Lear, the personal secretary of George Washington. Ask a Master Gardener your gardening questions. Taste savory and sweet delights from local eateries. Explore River Farm's blooming gardens featuring 16,000 tulips. Walk the trails along the Potomac River.

While water and beverages will be available to purchase at the event, AHS recommends bringing a bottle of water, sunscreen, and box or bag to carry your purchases. BYOW! Bring your own wagon, as a limited number of wagons will

be available for use.

The 2023 vendors to date include: Acer Acres Japanese Maples; AlteredEco; Bashford & Pitt; Baskit, don't bag it; Bees and Beetles; Blended Farms; Blue Ridge Gardens; Bruce Ciske Pottery; Cymron Cottage Nursery; Down the Garden Path; Elodie's Naturals; Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association; Hill House Farm & Nursery; Hooray 4 Books; John Wasowicz; Kino Alpaca Creations; Lillian Nathalie Cake; Little Hat Creek Farm; Nature by Design; Nomadico Shop; Peasant's Parcel; Persimmon Street Ceramics; Pine Knot Farm; Radical Roots Community Farm; Rocklands; SeedEd Farm; Seven Bends Nursery; Shade Metals; So Many Flowers; The Natural Garden; Tree Stone Steps; Written Graciously; and more to come.

River Farm is located at 7931 E. Boulevard Dr., Alexandria, Va. 22308. Regular hours are Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Free entry and parking (excluding special events). For more information, call (703) 768-5700 ext. 114 or visit [www.ahsgardening.org](http://www.ahsgardening.org).

## The Ides of Bark, Sunday, March 26 at Grist Mill Park

The Ides of Bark, the ultimate celebration of Fairfax County's four-footed friends is Sunday, March 26 at Grist Mill Park from 1 to 4 p.m. Dozens of vendors featuring pet-centric products and services. You and your furry friend can play games and compete for prizes. Enjoy police dog demonstrations and try out an agility course. Learn pet-saving techniques with Pet First Aid/CPR demonstrations and health assessments offered every half-hour by Pet Tech Instructors.

Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck will host the event. There is no fee to attend, but owners are asked to act responsibly and clean up after their pets. Visitors are welcome to try out Grist Mill Park's off-leash dog park during the event.

Grist Mill Park is located at 4710 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway in Alexandria, Va. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/idesof-bark>



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## CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 9

**STARTING MONDAY, MARCH 20**  
Yoga for Gardeners I. 9:30-10:25 a.m. (Adults) This class features a gentle introduction to the Vinyasa method which helps participants increase the strength, flexibility and endurance necessary for gardening. Class held indoors. \$137 per person for 11 lessons. Register online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakers> or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code 6E6.UDKY.

**MARCH 21-27**  
Spring Book Sale – The Friends of the Beatley Central Library will hold their Spring Book Sale from Tuesday, March 21 through Monday, March 27. Members' Preview on Tuesday, March 21, 3:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. (\$15 memberships available at the door); Wednesday, March 22, 10:00 a.m.-7:30 p.m.; Thursday, March 23, 10:00 a.m.-7:30 p.m.; Friday, March 24, 10:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Saturday, March 25, 10:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sunday, March 26, Half Price Day, 1:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m.; Monday, March 27, \$10 Bag Sale, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. \$4 or less, unless specifically marked: hardbacks, paperbacks, children's books, and media. All genres. Charles E. Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA; info: 703-746-1702; [www.beatleyfriends.org](http://www.beatleyfriends.org).

**SATURDAY/MARCH 25**  
Finding Military Family. 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Hollin Hall Senior Center and Zoom, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Don't miss this opportunity to hear nationally renowned genealogists discuss how to track down records of your military family members and those who supported them. Speakers will share their thoughts on how this research contributes to a deeper understanding of our ancestors and a richer social history of our nation. Registration is just \$40 for this LIVE event. Go to <https://mvgenealogy.org/cpage.php?pt=86>. Find out more about the Mount Vernon Genealogical Society at <https://mvgenealogy.org/>.

**THURSDAY/MARCH 30**  
Book Talk with Lilianne Milgrom. 7 p.m. At the Athenaeum, Alexandria L'Origine: The secret life of the world's most erotic masterpiece. She will be speaking about her serendipitous encounter in Paris with a notoriously controversial 19th century painting that changed the course of her life. Topics open for discussion include the relevance of art then and now, what makes a work of art timeless and how becoming an author has shaped her studio practice as an artist. A short reading from L'Origine will be included in the program.

**APRIL 14-15**  
Spring Garden Market. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The American Horticultural Society presents the ultimate two-day shopping experience, the Spring Garden Market, on Friday, April 14 and Saturday, April 15, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at River Farm in Alexandria. Join 2,000 fellow gardening enthusiasts, 30+ SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

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# CALENDAR



Nepenthe Gallery will celebrate its One-Year Anniversary on Thursday, March 16, 2023.

## Nepenthe Gallery's One-Year Anniversary

6-7:30 p.m. At Nepenthe Gallery's Thursday ART + WINE + CHEESE event, Nepenthe Gallery is celebrating its one-year Anniversary with happy cheer and love, along with a collection of original works by the world-renowned Brazilian artist, Romero Britto. The exhibit that evening will also feature works from several artists who have partnered with us this inaugural year.

FROM PAGE 10

vendors, food trucks, and the ever-popular alpacas for family-friendly festivities on the beautiful 25-acre historic property along the Potomac. This year, the AHS celebrates 50 years at River Farm. [www.ahsgardening.org/sgm](http://www.ahsgardening.org/sgm)

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

### MARCH

Wed. 15: Aoife O'Donovan Plays Nebraska, w/ Hawktaill \$39.50

Thu. 16: Al Stewart with The Empty Pockets

## Mamma Mia!

FROM PAGE 5

around the bar, hitting on women instead of tending to customers, and aiding in the shenanigans of the bachelors. During the bachelor party (Lay All Your Love on Me), the duo danced in flippers along with the rest of the bachelor party, kicking in a line and tapping on the beat. Argetsinger and Moon displayed a bond with Tyler Troy (Sky) by saying goodbye in unique ways; Moon fist bumped Troy as Sky and Sophie were saying their goodbyes, and Angetsinger patted Troy on the back.

The vocal trio showed skill and versatility in their singing and acting, being in the background of almost every scene. They were the cherry on top in every scene, giving "Honey, Honey" its signature doo-op, adding a bite to "Money, Money, Money," and contributing comedy to "Mamma Mia!"

The dance numbers choreographed by Emma Lacy, Gabriella Miller Milow, and Emmie Vajda were electric. The choice to have simpler choreography for "Super Trouper" perfectly highlighted that the Dynamos hadn't performed together in years while

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Fri. 17: The Smithereens with Marshall Crenshaw \$39.50

Sat. 18: Tom Rush & Jonathan Edwards \$55.00

Sun. 19: WATCH Awards Ceremony -7pm-\$20.00 SOLD OUT!

Mon. 20: The English Beat \$45.00 SOLD OUT!

Thu. 23: Gerald Albright \$49.50

Fri. 24: The High Kings \$55.00

Sat. 25: The High Kings \$55.00 SOLD OUT!

Sun. 26: Larry Carlton "Farewell Tour - Through The Decades" \$65.00

Wed. 29: Stanley Clarke N 4Ever \$59.50

Thu. 30: An Evening with Drew & Ellie Holcomb "The Residency Tour" \$49.50

Fri. 31: An Evening with Drew & Ellie Holcomb "The Residency Tour" \$49.50

still showing that the women knew each other well. "Honey, Honey," on the other hand, was fast-paced and dynamic, having Sophie and the girls run around the stage giddy and excited. The choreography was put together and was well-informed.

Elona Michael, Cate Nickson, and other members of the crew produced some amazing costume designs. While there were no complete builds, the alterations were great, and all the ensemble costumes were very fitting. Sophie's wedding dress was reminiscent of the 1990s and fit the actress perfectly. Eddie and Pepper were never matching, but it fit their characters. Eddie wore a black polo, and Pepper wore a brightly colored Hawaiian shirt, showing how disorganized they both were. The Dynamos were given colors and themes to match their personalities. Rosie wore red, symbolizing her excitable nature, Tanya wore purple, signifying her elegance, and Donna wore blue, showing her calmness under pressure.

In the mission to find the pearls of Helen of Troy, the cast and crew of "Mamma Mia!" managed to find a diamond of a show. Bravo!

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## Joie De Vivre



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I guess it's time. Ever since my brother Richard's semi unexpected death on Dec. 3rd, to re-work an old B.B. King standard, the thrill has been gone. The joie has been missing from my vivre. For those of you unfamiliar with this French phrase, it means the joy of living, or more generally, "the joy of anything one might do." It's not exactly one's reason for living (raison d'être), it's more about the intangible element that puts a proverbial bounce in your step and enables you to see the world (and your place in it) as full of possibilities. It's reminiscent of Maverick's (Tom Cruise) inability to "engage," the storyline throughout "Top Gun" after the accidental death of his "radar intercept" officer, "Goose," as played by Anthony Anderson. Maverick felt responsible for the accident and for much of the film was unable to pull the trigger, literally. Eventually, he got sorted, as the Brits say, and the result was "Top Gun: Maverick." Not so much a do-over. More like a do-it-again. As for me, here in the real world, I am not at all responsible for my brother's death, but because of it, I have been unable to engage (live with any joie and take an interest in my vivre).

Unfortunately, in this example anyway, Hollywood and where I live: Burtonsville, don't have much in common. And in so far as my brother's death is concerned, it wasn't make-believe. My inability to engage however, is real. Quite simply it's about loss. The loss of the person with whom I shared my life with for 68 years, who looked out for his younger brother (me), who I respected and looked up to and who often guided (if asked, sometimes without being asked) me on more occasions that I could possibly count.

I had no other siblings, so I didn't have to share. Though we were both married, the dynamic between us never really changed. And with both of us living in the Washington DC Area (having migrated from Newton Centre, Ma. to attend college locally), our worlds intersected regularly which enabled our relationship to evolve, even mature.

Now, due to his passing, the party is over, so to speak. Many of the expectations I took for granted, concerning my brother always being there, especially after getting a "terminal" diagnosis in 2009, haven't taken a turn – for the worse. After I was given that "13 month to two years" prognosis, I figured, even though Richard was five years older than me, I'd predecease him. And these last 14 years have/had done nothing to change my thinking. But he has died and I'm now living a life I never anticipated.

My brother's oldest friend spoke at Richard's memorial service on Dec. 10. He was shocked when Vanessa, Richard's wife, called him to tell him that Richard had died. Though he lived in Boston, he was in regular contact with both Richard and Vanessa during my brother's hospitalization and his at-home recovery as well. He had spoken to Richard and thought he was doing better (which he was). Norman said he never expected to receive that call from Vanessa. He expected, given my health situation, that the call he'd receive would be from Richard telling him that I had died.

Richard was my best friend. He was also the Best Man at my wedding. For the past few years, he's been my employer as well. Not only have I now lost one of the two most important people remaining in my life, but I have also lost my main source of income. A trifecta: brother, best friend, employer. Try recovering from that during a cancer diagnosis. Speaking of which, Richard was diagnosed with colorectal cancer in June. Now adding to all that we shared, laughed, and cried about, you can now add cancer to our mix. It was odd; him asking me all sorts of questions about what to expect with treatment, side effects, scans, et cetera; my area of expertise, you might say. We grew even closer because he was more than a brother or a friend or even a co-worker, he was now a fellow cancer patient. An unfortunately ever-increasing group, but because of his diagnosis, I was more invested in him – and his outcome, than ever. As I've written before, Vanessa and I visited him every day for nearly two months. Our relationship, as difficult as the circumstances made it, didn't suffer at all. On the contrary, it was better and stronger than ever, and we were all looking forward. Now I'm forced to look backward and think what could have been and what will never be again.

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





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