

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

APRIL 13, 2023

Food and Catfish Fry

Part of the mission at Greater Morning Star Apostolic Church.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

Fridays are big around the Greater Morning Star Apostolic Church in the Hybla Valley area of Mount Vernon. A truck comes in, food is given out and the volunteers are given a cash stipend from a collection taken up by Deacon James Myers. "The biggest day is Friday," he said.

Bags of potatoes, vegetables, eggs and cake are stored under the tent before it's handed out to the line of people that gathered along the wall of the church. They are working on getting another refrigerator and Rising Hope Church helps out too. "We get donations from all over," Myers said.

It's a service for veterans as well, and later in April, Myers is traveling up to New Hampshire to get two donated boats to take people out from Pockick Bay for fishing trips. There's lots

of catfish in the Potomac River and anything reeled in is fried up for an old fashioned fish fry, right there in the parking lot. These are held on Friday and Saturday, starting at noon in the warmer months.

The new boats are coming from Eastern Motors and they will be especially equipped for those with physical disabilities. "Veterans come out to help us too," Myers said.

At Greater Morning Star, their "Fisher of Men" Food Truck has fed, at no charge, over 30,500 individuals so far throughout 2021 and 2023, and the Star Pantry gave out over 25,900 pounds of food to local families. They also have a Rejoice Evermore Christian Academy which provides low-cost educational support, before/after care and preschool for up to 35 children within a 50-mile radius, they said.



In the early hours of Friday morning, the food distribution was in motion off Richmond Highway.



A cake was part of the distribution.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE



Deacon James Myers sees that everyone that needs food gets something.



There were cases of eggs along with potatoes and other vegetables.

Easter Sunrise Service in Mount Vernon



Ventures in Community, a 50-year-old Mount Vernon Community Interfaith Coalition, held its traditional Easter Sunrise Service at the Mount Vernon Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints lawn, overlooking the Potomac River.

"It was a blessing to come together again as a community to celebrate Easter, after Covid had limited our gatherings the last few years," said Keith Davey, President of the Mount Vernon Stake of the Latter Day

Ventures in Community members attending Easter Sunrise Service at Mount Vernon.

Saints and organizer of the service. "It was also wonderful to see our County Supervisor, Dan Storck, in attendance," he said.

Bishop Stephen Richardson, Latter Day Saints, gave a welcome. Cathy Hosek, Co-Chair of VIC, gave an introduction. The Pastors Trio Plus One led those gathered in three songs. Pastors John Baker (St. Aidan's Episcopal - retired), Keary Kincannon (Rising Hope Mission - retired) and Rob Erickson (Heritage Presbyterian) were joined by Judy Borsher on flute. The three pastors each gave a short homily on Resurrection.

SEE EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE, PAGE 3

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

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Old Town | \$1,565,000

Historic, plaqued 4-story townhouse located in the SE quadrant of Old Town Alexandria on a quiet, gas-lit, tree-lined street, just one block from King Street and five blocks from the Potomac River. 3 bedrooms, 2 full and 2 half baths, and 2 wood fireplaces. Double parlor, dramatic family room with walk out. Primary suite with dressing room. Attic. Many updates and all new stainless steel appliances. The recreation room has French doors leading to a fenced rear patio with a vibrant array of flowers. 204 S Pitt St.

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OPEN SUN 4/16, 2-4PM

Belle Haven | \$999,000

Gracious Belle Haven home of JFK and Jackie Kennedy's personal private secretary—first time on the market in 69 years! Meticulously maintained this large home features 4 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms and garage. Yours to update! 1909 Belfield Rd.

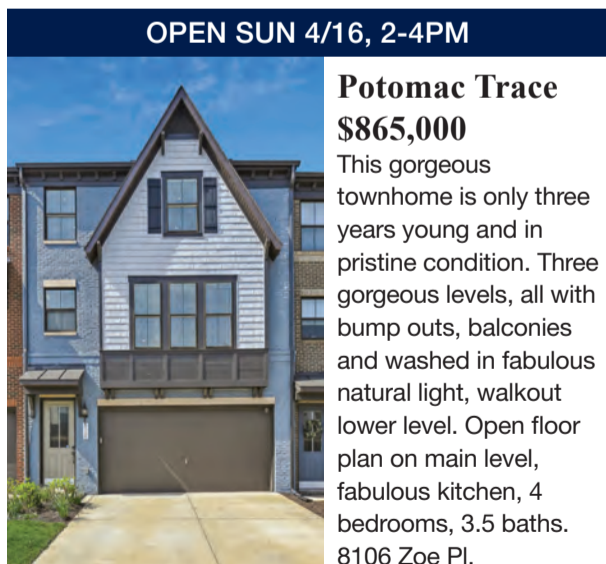
Janet Catteron Price 703.622.5984
www.JanetPriceHomes.com



Alexandria | \$985,000

Beautifully situated condo in Porto Vecchio on south side overlooking the Potomac River with 2 bedrooms, 2.5 baths plus a den and an enclosed heated/cooled solarium. New kitchen appliances, 2020. Large kitchen, plenty of closets and storage. 1250 S Washington St #410.

Paul Anderson 703.408.0676
www.PaulVAnderson.com



OPEN SUN 4/16, 2-4PM

Potomac Trace \$865,000

This gorgeous townhome is only three years young and in pristine condition. Three gorgeous levels, all with bump outs, balconies and washed in fabulous natural light, walkout lower level. Open floor plan on main level, fabulous kitchen, 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths. 8106 Zoe Pl.

Robin Arnold 703.966.5457
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OPEN SUN 4/16, 2-4PM

Burgess Square \$799,900

Originally built in 1860, this stunning property has been completely rebuilt with meticulous attention to detail. The interior is thoughtfully designed with hardwood flooring, elegant crown molding, and large windows that fill the space with natural light. 314-1/2 S Alfred St.

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Join us as we give to our favorite nonprofits through Spring2ACTion, Alexandria's Online Giving Day! To see a list of the nonprofit organizations and causes to support, visit: spring2action.org/organizations.

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A few blocks from the shooting, a crash left the driver shaken.



In a commercial area of Kingstowne, there was a shooting that left one man wounded.

Shattering Glass and Police Helicopter

Friday night was busy with a shooting and crash.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

In Mount Vernon, April 7, Fairfax County officers responded to the scene of a stabbing in the 7900 block of Richmond Hwy. Two juvenile victims were taken to the hospital with wounds to the upper body. One had injuries considered life-threatening, one considered non-life threatening. Suspects are in custody. Preliminarily, not a random act.

Also April 7, crash reconstruction detectives responded to a fatal pedestrian crash at Richmond Hwy and Fairfax County Parkway. Preliminarily, detectives determined

that the drivers of a 2008 Chevrolet Impala and 2014 Nissan Altima were traveling south on Richmond Highway at Anderson Lane. The driver of the Impala initially struck Phillip Hester, 62, who was walking outside of a crosswalk. Hester was subsequently struck by the driver of the Altima. Both drivers remained at the scene. Hester was declared deceased at the scene. Preliminary, speed and alcohol do not appear to be a factor for the drivers in the crash. Anyone with information about this crash is asked to contact our Crash Reconstruction Unit at 703-280-0543.

At the busy intersection of Manchester Boulevard and Kingstowne Village Parkway

on Friday, April 7, cars collided at an intersection that has seen many accidents over the last few years. The traffic signal has a turn-only feature, but also a flashing yellow light and the visibility is limited so the turning cars can be in danger.

A few blocks away, police cruisers blocked the road and the police helicopter circled the area after a shooting in a commercial area of Kingstowne. According to police, the shooting took place in the area of Barclay Drive and King Centre Drive at around 5:30 p.m. when a man was shot in the upper body. He was taken to the hospital for injuries th

at were not considered to be life-threat-

ening. This does not appear to be a random act, police reported. They did say it was an isolated incident.

The police did not have much follow-up information about the shooting but there were questions on the FCPD social media feed. Ryan Sluss wanted to know if it was related to an incident close by. "Choppers above Hybla Valley, related? Suspects?" he asked. Another was on site. "I drove by there 10 minutes to 5 and saw him on the grass. There were already a whole bunch of people there," he said. "There are a lot of shootings in FXX County. What's going on?" he asked.

On Thursday, April 6 there was another shooting in Groveton where a man was wounded and the day before, another shooting in Reston where another man was wounded, police said.

Easter Sunrise Service in Mount Vernon

FROM PAGE 1

As VIC is an interfaith organization, Baha'i leader Bill Collins shared the Baha'i understanding of resurrection.

The First AME Choir shared a spirited Contemporary Gospel song, "He is Alive." And Heather Petyrenko shared a beautiful version of "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" that she arranged for Bassoon and three flutes.

Here are the remarks Rev. Dr. Keary Kincaon shared on the meaning of Easter:

"In the end, everything will be all right. If it's not all right, it's not the end."

For me, this is what Easter is all about. In the Gospel of John, Jesus says, "I am the resurrection and the life. All who believe in me will never die." All who believe in me will have a new life, an abundant life. The message of the resurrection

is that God defeats sin and death. And that victory has been won for all of us.

But this is not the message soci-



Supervisor Dan Storck was in attendance.

ety feeds us. Most of us are being trained to think we must protect ourselves because society is going to hell in a handbasket. The bad guys are joining together and they are going to take over. So, fortify your position, build your walls higher, stock up on essentials, get as many weapons as possible. Make sure you control all the levers of power. Make sure only your side of the story is told.

The problem with this message is that it is only hastening Armageddon.

SEE EASTER SUNRISE, PAGE 11



Pastors Trio Plus One, Rev. John Baker of St. Aidan's Episcopal-Retired; Judy Borsher; Rev. Keary Kincaon of Rising Hope Mission-Retired; Rev. Rob Erickson of Heritage Presbyterian.

New Businesses Open Throughout March

BY DAVID GRIFFIN,
MOUNT VERNON SPRINGFIELD
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

From cereal bars to a new kind of memory care, we're taking a look at some of the most recent businesses to hold their grand openings in our community.

Throughout March, four grand openings took place in Springfield and the Mount Vernon area. First up, on March 16th, Day & Night Exotic Cereal Bar opened their newest location at Springfield Town Center. This fun new food concept offers variations of cereal and milk, milkshakes with cereal, cereal waffles and more. With more than 50 different cereals to start with, the combinations offer endless possibilities. The grand opening was an exciting event complete with a DJ, t-shirts and of course, samples. Follow their Instagram to keep up to date on their latest creations at www.instagram.com/dayandnight.va.

A week later, on March 23, GreenDrop opened another loca-

tion, this time in the Kings Park Shopping Center in Springfield, making it their 10th location in Northern Virginia. GreenDrop accepts donations on behalf of a local nonprofit, and then pays their nonprofit partners for the items donated, which helps them fund programs in the community. Their website gives a complete list of "acceptable items" to donate which includes clothing and shoes, household items, kitchenware, games and toys, small appliances, electronics, sporting goods, books, CDs and small furniture.

During the same week, The Growth and Healing HUB celebrated their grand opening with a ribbon cutting at 7686 Richmond Highway, Suite 201 C, attended by almost 100 friends and supporters.

Their mission is to grow and nurture the health and emotional well-being of all children, youth, and families living in Fairfax County. A nonprofit mental health clinic, The HUB is fully credentialed with most major insurance companies. Their services and treatments include individual and family



It was a beautiful day at the official Grand Opening of the Inspiritás-Memory Care expansion at Heatherwood Retirement Community.

counseling, group counseling, teletherapy, medication management, client-centered and strength-based

focus and in-home services.

Felicea Meyer-DeLoatch, the HUB's president and CEO, is a Li-

censed Clinical Social Worker and has over 30 years of experience

SEE NEW BUSINESS, PAGE 5

SENIORS' REAL ESTATE TALK & SHRED SERIES

The Seven Types of Senior Communities

SATURDAY, APRIL 15 | SHERWOOD HALL REGIONAL LIBRARY



CROUCH
REALTY GROUP



9AM-12PM: TIME TO SHRED – Bring your floppy discs, old credit cards, & documents for safe & secure shredding. (You can leave in the staples & paperclips!)

10:30AM: DISCUSSION – “The 7 Types of Senior Communities” with Mount Vernon at Home and Crouch Realty Group. Learn about “Senior Villages” all the way through Continuing Care/Life Plan Communities! Come with questions!!!

Crouch Realty Group at McEneaney Associates is Nationally Recognized for their expertise and service in the area of Senior Real Estate. Take away info on senior housing options, plus our time-tested process for reducing stress.



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Supervisors Rodney Lusk and Dan Storck, among others, stand with The Growth and Healing HUB President and CEO Felicea Meyer-DeLoatch along with Vice President Betty Petersilia at the ribbon cutting.



GreenDrop opens their newest location in Springfield.



Owners of Day & Night Cereal Bar cut the ribbon at the March 16th Grand Opening with Eric Christensen, Vice Chairman of The Mount Vernon Springfield Chamber of Commerce.

New Businesses Open

FROM PAGE 4

servicing children and families in Fairfax County. One of things that differentiates The Growth and Healing HUB from similar organizations is that while they are fully credentialed with most major insurance companies, they will not turn anyone away due to inability to pay. In addition, "The HUB will provide internships, training, and supervision for master and doctoral level students studying in the mental health and psychiatric fields," as mentioned on Fairfax County's Health Department page. You can learn more about what they do, who they are and find ways to donate on their website, www.gandh.org.

March 29, Retirement Unlimited, Inc. had an official Grand Opening of their Inspiritas-Memory Care expansion at their Heatherwood Retirement Community, located in Burke, Va. There's also a newly added LUXE Unlimited salon inside the new Inspiritas Memory Care unit which offers hair services, manicures, pedicures, facial treatments, and massage therapy. For additional information or to schedule a visit to Heatherwood's Inspiritas-Memory Care neighborhood, call 703-425-1698. Officers and Board Members of The Mount Vernon Springfield Chamber of Commerce conducted these grand openings to welcome these businesses to the community and look forward to many more new business openings throughout the year.

Toward the end of the month, on www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

A vibrant community enriched and supported by strong businesses

The Mount Vernon Springfield Chamber of Commerce was created by combining the former Mount Vernon Lee Chamber and the Greater Springfield Chamber into a new regional chamber of commerce. Joining forces expands our reach, offers a stronger support network for businesses, a greater voice to our members and more opportunity for all. The future is bright for a united chamber of commerce working to strengthen our community.



Mount Vernon ★ Springfield
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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[in Mount Vernon Springfield Chamber of Commerce](https://www.mountvernon-springfield.com)

www.MountVernonSpringfield.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.

Jurisdiction	Fed. Street	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Posted Date
TAZEWELL	18573	627	ROUTE 627	INDIAN CREEK	3/30/2023
DINWIDDIE	6048	623	SUTHERLAND RD	WHIPPONOCK CREEK	3/22/2023
TAZEWELL	18616	643	BRUSHFORK RD	N&W RAILWAY	3/20/2023
SMYTH	17697	707	LAUREL SPRING RD	INTERSTATE 81	3/16/2023
SMYTH	17534	603	LAUREL VALLEY RD	LAUREL CREEK	3/16/2023
PRINCE WILLIAM	14338	643	PURCELL RD	PURCELL BRANCH	3/15/2023
ROANOKE (M)	21669	11	ROUTE 11	PETERS CREEK	3/14/2023
WASHINGTON	18967	91	CRESCENT RD	MCHENRY CREEK	3/13/2023
PRINCE GEORGE	14097	618	HITCHCOCK RD	BLACKWATER SWAMP	3/9/2023
WASHINGTON	19075	647	KINGS MILL PIKE	SINKING CREEK	3/8/2023
LEE	10825	621	COVE SPRINGS RD	POOR VALLEY CREEK	3/7/2023
SMYTH	17646	657	THOMAS BRIDGE RD	S FORK HOLSTON RIVER	3/7/2023
WISE	19390	613	EAST STONE GAP RD	POWELL RIVER @ BIG-S-GAP	3/7/2023
CHESTERFIELD	31794	650	TURNER RD	POCOSHOCK CREEK	3/7/2023
NELSON	12416	56	CRABTREE FALLS HWY	MILL RACE OVERFLOW	3/6/2023
NELSON	12373	6	IRISH RD	COVE CREEK	3/6/2023
CHARLOTTE	4849	47	THOMAS JEFFERSON HWY	NS RAILWAY	3/3/2023
CAMPBELL	4165	43	BEDFORD HWY	PLUMTREE BRANCH	3/2/2023
CHARLOTTE	4843	47	TOLLHOUSE HWY	ROANOKE CREEK	3/2/2023
LOUDOUN	11167	612	TAIL RACE RD	TRIB. OF LITTLE RIVER	3/1/2023

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.

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.

Airport Employees Need Employer Paid Healthcare

BY IRENE SHINN AND ELIZABETH BENNETT PARKER

Right now, an ugly reality is playing out at Washington Dulles and Reagan National Airports that is hurting some of our fellow Herndon and Alexandria neighbors. We are outraged to learn that thousands of workers who sacrificed their health and their families' health to keep our airports open and running during the pandemic are still without employer-paid health care and paid sick leave. Even before COVID, it was an affront that our essential workers lacked these key benefits for worker and community health; but after COVID, it is simply unacceptable.

Imagine a job that requires physical labor, coming into close contact with millions of passengers every day while being frequently exposed to bodily fluids. Now imagine that you have no paid sick leave or employer-paid health care benefits to see a doctor or take time off when you are sick and need care.

This is life for many of the wheelchair assistants, cabin cleaners, terminal cleaners and baggage handlers who cannot afford to miss pay when they are sick, and often must come to work putting

the health and safety of the traveling public at risk. Making matters worse, many go without seeing a doctor or medicine they need because they cannot afford health care.

This is life for Sanayet Zewde, a 63-year-old mother of three working as a wheelchair agent at DCA, who has no health care and no support from government programs. Sanayet still suffers in pain from a fall on her previous job that damaged muscles in her right leg, but she cannot afford to miss work to see a doctor, nor can she afford the out-of-pocket cost to see a doctor in the first place. "I hide the pain from my kids because they suffer when they see me in pain and already suffer by having to spend all of their money to support me."

Sanayet lives in constant fear about her life and health because for years, she hasn't been able to afford to see a gynecologist or get care for her high blood pressure and high cholesterol that could lead to a stroke. She worries that something could be wrong without her knowing and that she could not afford the treatment if that were the case. "Our doctors write letters saying we need paid sick leave, but we can't afford it so we come with sickness and pain, it's very dangerous. We are killing

ourselves because our income is a short lifeline. We have to work with sickness and pain to get money in order to survive."

For over two years, airport service workers like Sanayet have gone to great lengths to make their case before the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) about the dire need to enact a policy requiring their employers to provide paid sick leave and health care benefits. This would be a commonsense next step for MWAA after their commendable first step requiring employers to provide a living wage for these airport service workers at Dulles and DCA.

Paid sick leave and paid health care benefits are critical to keeping our airports firing on all cylinders. Various airport service workers believe they are understaffed and that their lack of paid sick leave and employer-paid health care could contribute to understaffing at Dulles and DCA airports. We are among the dozens of Virginia lawmakers who believe that providing these benefits will be critical to helping these airports attract and retain a more highly qualified workforce in a historically tight labor market. As Reagan National Airport breaks an all-time record for passenger traffic, beyond pre-pandemic levels, it's clear

there are resources to do this. It's only fair that airport service workers receive the same benefits already provided to MWAA employees and the airlines operating from their airports.

Dulles and Reagan National Airports are major job creators and key engines of the Northern Virginia economy. Yet they weaken our communities by allowing employers to deprive workers of the paid sick leave and employer-paid health care necessary for our residents to take care of themselves and avoid crippling medical debt. With inflation hitting lower-wage workers the hardest, the value of these benefits is even that much greater.

The health and recovery of our economy, our airports and airport service workers are all intertwined. This is why MWAA must act now. Workers cannot afford to wait any longer and neither can our airports.

Irene Shin

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Dreams Do Come True for These Native Youth

BY DEL. PAUL KRIZEK

Making a young person's dream come true is a powerful thing. What would you say to ten young indigenous Americans with dreams of improving our world? And, what if I told you that these ten are just the latest cohort of Dreamstarters to converge on Alexandria since 2014 to turn their dreams into reality by launching projects that change lives in tribal communities across the country?

Well, for the past eight years the Alexandria-based national charity, Running Strong for American Indian Youth (indianyouth.org), featuring their amazing and inspirational spokesman, Olympic gold medalist and member of the Oglala



Krizek

La Lakota (Sioux) Tribe, Billy Mills, has invested \$1.5 million in Native youth and their communities through the Dreamstarter programs. As the charity's general counsel, I was excited and honored to attend the celebration of the week-long Dreamstart-

er Academy – a training program filled with educational activities, workshops, and the opportunity to make lifelong friends for these young people and their community mentors. Of course, it included time to visit our beautiful Washington, DC region, including the not-to-miss Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian. By the time the week ended these young people – citizens of the Oglala Lakota Nation, Pyramid SEE DREAMS DO COME, PAGE 7



Running Strong for American Indian Youth (indianyouth.org), has invested \$1.5 million in Native youth and their communities through the Dreamstarter programs.

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NEWS

Dreams Do Come True For These Native Youth

FROM PAGE 6

Lake Paiute Tribe, Omaha Tribe, Standing Rock Reservation, Navajo Nation, Crow Nation, Cherokee Nation, and closer to home, the Piscataway Conoy Tribe in Maryland – were fast friends and new members of what they like to call “the Dreamstarters family.”

Then, at the end of this special week, there was a ceremony where each Dreamstarter presented their dream and was provided a beautiful Pendleton blanket with Billy Mills speaking to them and all of us in the audience, encouraging them to realize their dreams just as he did when he won the gold medal – the realization of a childhood dream as an orphan growing up on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. They also receive \$20,000

from Running Strong through their mentoring nonprofit to fund their project.

There was also a powerful presentation by Eileen Quintana, program manager of the Nebo, Utah, Title VI Indian Education program in Spanish Fork, Utah, who has mentored five Dreamstarters over the last six years. Eileen told the audience that with the financial support from Running Strong grant funding, she has now expanded programming for her Indian Education program to include establishing American Indian clubs for all the schools in her district, serving nearly 500 Native students. Where the graduation rate for American Indian students was 37% in 1998 that number has reached 100% five times since!

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.

FOSTER PARENTS NEEDED

Interested in becoming a foster parent? There is always a need for caring foster parents looking to open their homes to foster youth. Get in touch to learn more. Visit fcsvanow@gmail.com or www.FCSVA.org. Or call 703-817-9890.

LOOKING FOR SOFTBALL PLAYERS

The Golden Girls of Northern Virginia, a senior women’s softball league, is looking for players. Any woman over the age of 40 is encouraged to join. All skill levels are welcome. They play most Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings in Vienna from May-July and September-October. For more information, visit the web site www.goldengirls.org.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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

volunteer, contact donaldrea@aol.com.

Assistance League of Northern Virginia is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that feeds, clothes and provides reading assistance and books to children in need. Assistance League’s programs touch the lives of hundreds of children in Fairfax and Prince William Counties and the City of Alexandria. There are many volunteer opportunities for community members to contribute to helping those in need. To learn more, email info@alnv.org, or visit www.alnv.org. United Community (formerly UCM), 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, seeks volunteers for Food Pantry assistance, Early Learning Center teacher aides, basic needs counselors, youth tutors and mentors, office administration/data entry, and community outreach. Flexible hours and schedules. Opportunities for all ages to serve, including community service hours. More info at ucmagency.org/volunteer-opportunities or email volunteer@ucmagency.org.

Volunteer Adult Mentors Needed. Help assist the Department of Family Services’ BeFriendA-Child mentoring program. The mentors provide opportunities for companionship, guidance and support to children who have been abused and neglected, or who are at risk of abuse and neglect. Contact Ibrahim Khalil (Ibrahim.khalil@fairfaxcounty.gov) at 703-324-4547.

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

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

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 15



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PUBLIC NOTICE

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


Thursday, April 20
between 8:30pm – 8:50pm (5 minutes)

The Mount Vernon Ladies’ Association thanks you for your tolerance and apologizes for any disruption. To receive Mount Vernon fireworks notifications via e-mail, write to Events@MountVernon.org

GEORGE WASHINGTON’S MOUNT ★ VERNON



Public Hearings



Funding the Right Transportation Projects

You are invited to share comments on transportation projects that have been recommended for funding in the FY2024-2029 Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP). Additionally, pursuant to §33.2-202, comments will be accepted for new projects valued in excess of \$25 million. The Commonwealth Transportation Board will take your comments into consideration as it develops the FY2024-2029 SYIP. The program allocates public funds to highway, road, bridge, rail, bicycle, pedestrian and public transportation projects. All federally eligible projects in the SYIP will be included in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program to document how Virginia will obligate its federal funds.

Meeting materials will be available <https://www.ctb.virginia.gov/planning/springmeetings2023/default.asp> before April 20, 2023.

Public meetings begin at 4 p.m. in each of the locations except as noted below:
A formal comment period will be held at these meetings.

Thursday, April 20 Hampton Roads District Hampton Roads District Auditorium 7511 Burbage Drive Suffolk, VA 23435	Monday, April 24 Richmond District Hawthorne Room 2430 Pine Forest Drive Colonial Heights, VA 23834	Monday, May 1, 5 p.m. *Northern Virginia District Polomac Conference Center NOVA District Office 4975 Alliance Drive Fairfax, VA 22030
Tuesday, May 2 Culpeper District Culpeper District Auditorium 1601 Orange Road Culpeper, VA 22701	Wednesday, May 3 Staunton District Blue Ridge Community College Plecker Center for Continuing Education One College Lane Weyers Cave, VA 24486	Monday, May 8 Fredericksburg District Germanna Community College Workforce and Technology Center 10000 Germanna Point Drive Fredericksburg, VA 22408
Monday, May 15 Bristol District Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center One Partnership Circle Abingdon, VA 24210	Tuesday, May 16 Salem District Salem Civic Center Community Room 1001 Roanoke Boulevard Salem, VA 24153	Wednesday, May 17 Lynchburg District Lynchburg Grand Hotel 601 Main Street Lynchburg, VA 24504

*The Northern Virginia District meeting will serve as the required joint public meeting with the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission, the Virginia Railway Express, and the CTB per § 33.2-214.3 of the Code of Virginia. This meeting will also be streamed online at <https://www.youtube.com/live/ranpvkJOJ74?feature=share>.

You can submit comments online at <https://arcq.is/XI1TGO>, or by email or mail by May 24, 2023.

For roads and highways: Six-YearProgram@VDOT.Virginia.gov, or Infrastructure Investment Director, Virginia Department of Transportation, 1401 East Broad St., Richmond, VA 23219.

For rail and public transportation: DRPTPR@drpt.virginia.gov, Public Information Office, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, 600 East Main Street, Suite 2102, Richmond VA, 23219.

The Commonwealth is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of its services 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 these policies or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation’s Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-2730 or the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation’s Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-4440 (TTY users call 711).

18th Century Fun at Gunston Hall

By GLENDA C. BOOTH
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

George Mason IV was a serious-minded, independent-thinking man, author of the Virginia Declaration of Rights in 1776, a document that formed the basis of the U.S. Constitution's Bill of Rights and one of the architects of the American Revolutionary War.

On April 1, visitors learned that George and his family, including 11 children, had fun too at his 18th century, 5,000-acre plantation on Mason Neck within view of the Potomac River. Gunston Hall's annual spring festival showcased 18th century games, kite making and flying and mansion and outbuilding tours.

The morning started gray and gloomy with thick clouds shrouding the sky, but by 12:30 p.m., the sun emerged and white clouds and contrails floated across a classic blue sky. By early afternoon, the wind picked up, perfect for kite flying.



The Gunston Hall festival started under a gray sky.

Games for All Ages

Douglas Cohen, who portrayed Mason, black wig and all, played Shut the Box with visitors, using a wooden box and dice game made in Mason's day by an artisan or ordered from England before the Revolutionary War when the British subjects were required to order products from London or Glasgow. "Shut the Box tests your ciphering skills," he quipped.

Youngsters in 18th century garb, Greta Bowser and Andrew King, explained how to play Mancala, a game that originated in the Middle East and came to America through Africa. The Masons' and enslaved people's children may have also played it using stones or seeds on a playing space scraped out in the dirt, said Lacey Villiva, Education Manager.

Andrew, age 10, ably described several games on display and his apparel: a waistcoat, shirt, breeches, stockings, buckle shoes and a linen cap. "I really love history," he said. His friend, Hugh Keaney from Lorton, also 10, loves history too, adding, "I want to learn more about George Mason." Keaney then expanded on Mason's conflicted life, relating that Mason that owned 100 slaves that he never freed, but wrote these words: "That all men are born equally free and independ-



Harriet Morgan demonstrated hearth cooking.

dent, and have certain inherent natural Rights ... among which are the Enjoyment of Life and Liberty, with the Means of acquiring and possessing Property, and pursuing and obtaining Happiness and Safety." Mason called slavery a "slow poison," said Sandra Vieira, Director of Marketing and Public Relations.

Other examples of games in the 1700s were Whist, Loo and Farro. Historians know about the games of that era from some tangible objects that survived, from paintings of that period and from an 18th century manual titled "Hoyle's Book of Games," said Villiva, citing

the example of Nine Men's Morris, a board game like checkers, chess and tic-tac-toe combined.

Susan Hardenburgh, who volunteers with the archaeology program, showed youngsters how to make kites and by early afternoon, with winds gusting, people got their kites aloft.

Plantation Life

On the house tours, guests could study playing cards, ready to deal in the parlor, but people focused on the intricate, hand-carved woodwork, yellow pine floors, bold paint colors, lively wallpaper, antique

furnishings and classical touches like columns and arches. Guide Rebecca Hall remarked that making the mansion reflect the 18th century requires "historical detective work" including studying rats' nests which can give clues about wallpaper and building materials.

The Masons designated half of the first floor as the formal part of the house, off-limits to children,



Douglas Cohen portraying George Mason played games with visitors.



"George Mason" played games with guests on April 1.



Susan Hardenburgh helped youngsters make kites.

but upstairs was surely a lively scene of many antics. The Masons had 11 children, nine of whom survived to adulthood and the second floor's seven bedrooms must have



Greta Bowser from Arlington showed visitors the Mancala game.

offered multiple opportunities for bedtime mischief, like romping on straw and feather mattresses. An 18th century baby walker on display perhaps helped confine some

Visiting

Gunston Hall at 1709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck, VA 22079, is open daily 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit www.gunstonhall.org.



Robert Watson, portraying an enslaved person, split wood.

rambunctious toddlers. Interpreters in the outbuildings brought a dose of practical reality to the day's discourse. The Masons' 5,000-acre plantation functioned because of its enslaved laborers. Robert Watson, as "Robert" an enslaved worker, made cypress shingles using a draw knife and draw bench, explaining that for enslaved workers, there was no financial incentive tied to the number of shingles produced. Asked if any of the plantation's slaves rebelled, he said, "They rebelled every day," in subtle ways like slowing production, breaking tools and feigning illness. "But the enslaved people here found a way to hope," he said, as woody curls flew off the cypress piece.

Three women in period clothes gave visitors samples of the grand salad from a 1660 cookbook recipe, a tasty combination of beets, lettuces, sorrel, spinach, parsley and



Andrew King explained several 18th century games which he had mastered.



Hugh Keaney and Andrew King demonstrated a game requiring them to catch a wooden ball on a string connected to a cup-like object.



Robert Watson showed how enslaved workers made shingles.



Playing cards were displayed in the parlor.



Hugh Keaney proudly described his 18th century clothes.

imported olives. They also offered hearth-cooked greens simmered in chicken broth.

In the schoolhouse, Janis Harliss, portraying Nancy Mason, the eldest daughter, said that her father "respected the minds of women and wanted them educated." Mason hired tutors from England to educate his children, she remarked.

The annual spring festival is an effort "to help people understand the lives of the people who lived here," commented Rebecca Martin, Director of Education, "how people tried to have fun after a long winter." Sivani Suripeddi, a Loudoun County elementary student had had a recent field trip to Gunston

Hall and loved it so much she convinced her parents to bring her back on Saturday.

George Ganzh brought his son from Washington, D. C., to make kites and learn about Mason. It was a first visit for Kim and Morgan Lalonde, from Nova Scotia, Canada. Morgan is posted at Canada's embassy in Washington. They wanted to see the house and enjoy an outdoor picnic. "I had never seen rebuds and mockingbirds before," said Kim.

Gunston Hall's youngsters, like all youngsters of all times, no doubt also invented many games indoor and out and had plenty of room to do so.



Kite Flying at Gunston Hall's Spring Festival.



A girl with a kite at Gunston Hall's Spring Festival.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GUNSTON HALL

PHOTO COURTESY OF GUNSTON HALL

Rebuilding zMOD Jenga-like collapse follows Virginia Supreme Court ruling; reconstruction starts with public hearings.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE GAZETTE

At a regular meeting of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors on April 11, 2023, the supervisors unanimously adopted a resolution that “authorizes the advertisement of the proposed Zoning Ordinance to repeal and replace the 1978 Zoning Ordinance and to either repeal the 2021 zMOD Ordinance or sunset this newly authorized ordinance, as recommended by staff.”

The issue is that zMOD Ordinance which had been in effect since July 1, 2021, is no longer in effect. The Zoning Ordinance in effect as of March 23, 2023, can be found at Zoning Ordinance (June 30, 2021).

On March 23, 2023, the Virginia Supreme Court ruled an opinion in *Berry v. Board of Supervisors of Fairfax County* that the Fairfax County Zoning “zMOD” Ordinance (approved April 6, 2021) was void ab initio “because it was heard and adopted at Board meetings held via electronic means due to the COVID-19 pandemic.”

The ruling created an immediate and startlingly collapse of the updated Ordinance. The decision of the Court also invalidated the March 23, 2021, repeal of the

1978 Zoning Ordinance and set in motion a swift series of actions by the county to address concerns.

“As we all learned during the pandemic, electronic meetings increased public engagement by allowing more people to participate from any location,” said Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeffrey C. McKay in an earlier statement. “When zMOD was originally approved, 70 speakers participated in the Board of Supervisors public hearing, which was open to the public and broadcast live, as are all public hearings,” McKay said.

The Virginia Supreme Court ruling created uncertainty for the county and others regarding previously approved in-process applications, current and upcoming applications, and proposed zoning ordinance amendments, leaving them in limbo. Alerting those unfamiliar with the ruling, the county labeled such public hearings on such matters “TBD” online, and they are not being scheduled.

According to the Fairfax County Zoning Ordinance Update & DPD Operating Status alert on April 6, the Board of Supervisors plans for a Planning Commission public hearing on zMOD advertised as May 3, 2023, at 7:30 p.m., and the Board of Su-

perisors public hearing on May 9, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.

In the meantime, the county will petition the Virginia Supreme Court to rehear the case. A motion by Supervisor Kathy Smith (D-Sully) came out of the closed-door session of the April 11 Board of Supervisors meeting. Smith moved that the Board of Supervisors authorize the county attorney to file a petition for rehearing of the Supreme Court of Virginia in *Berry v. Board of Supervisors of Fairfax County* Record Number 211143. With no discussion on the motion, it carried unanimously.

Before the board approved Administrative Items 1-9, Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) said he had not been able to find zMOD “anywhere up on the website,”

“I think we ought to give our citizens and everybody a chance to look at it. I know it was pulled down officially, as it should be, and replaced with the zoning ordinance. But I think the sooner we can get that in front of our constituents and the business community (the better) because it’s hard to find a copy of what we’re going to be voting on the ninth,” said Herrity.

McKay said they could do that.

The Virginia Supreme Court ruling addressed the board’s adoption process of

zMOD and did not address its content.

The online county staff report notes the following: “According to the Supreme Court’s opinion, the Board of Supervisors (Board) erred in relying on state legislation adopted at the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, that expanded the ability of public bodies statewide (including the General Assembly) to conduct business via electronic meetings. For meetings that met its requirements, the 2020 legislation overrode conflicting open meeting provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (VFOIA). The Board indisputably met all the legislation’s requirements regarding public notice, access, and legislation narrowly to exclude consideration and adoption of zMOD. If the Board’s 2021 adoption of the zMOD Ordinance was void, so was the contemporaneous repeal of the 1978 Zoning Ordinance (as amended), leaving that earlier Ordinance still in effect.”

As a result, new public hearings are required to reconsider the zMOD Ordinance as previously adopted on March 23, 2021. Since subsequent Zoning Ordinance amendments are not addressed in the opinion, staff recommended that they be included as part of the complete Zoning Ordinance being considered.

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Easter Sunrise Service in Mount Vernon

FROM PAGE 3

Theologically this gets worked out that a few good people will be raptured into heaven and the rest of us poor people will be left here. This is a horrible story-line for history and no wonder so many people today live without hope, direction, meaning or purpose.

Most of us have been trained to see the resurrection as a solitary miracle that our Lord and Savior has been vindicated. He rose from the dead. He is victorious. He defeated sin and death. And HE DID!

But this miracle is not for him alone. This miracle is for us. All of us.

God created the world and everything in it so that all life might glorify God.

And guess what? God wins. God does not lose.

That is the message of the resurrection. It is a message of hope, a message of abundant life, a message that the world is finally beginning to come together to work the way God intended. Because we see it happening in Jesus.

A message of unconditional love, a message of total inclusion, a message of genuine, full, and complete celebration.

The message of the Gospel is totally opposite of the cynicism and negativity that has such a strong grip on society.

And just as those who fear Armageddon only strengthen its grip. Those whose hope lies in the victory Christ won over sin and death hasten that victory for all of life.

God has destroyed death. Not just for Jesus but for all of us.

So let's make sure we get out there and live the Resurrection!



First AME Choir.



Sunrise at VIC's Easter Sunrise Service.



Heather Petrenko on Bassoon arranged a version of "Christ the Lord is Risen Today."



Bill Collins, Baha'i faith leader, spoke on resurrection.



Pastors Trio Plus One, from left, L to R Rev. John Baker, Judy Borscher, Rev. Keary Kincannon, Rev. Rob Erickson.



Keith Davey, principal organizer of the VIC Easter Sunrise Service, with the Pastors Trio Plus One.



Mount Vernon Ward LDS Bishop Stephen Richardson gave some remarks.

ENTERTAINMENT

ALEXANDRIA EARTH DAY

April 2023, various events, Virtual and In-Person.

Help commemorate the 53rd anniversary of Earth Day with a month full of environmentally focused events, activities, and online initiatives that center on the Eco-City Vision in which Alexandria's residents, businesses, and City government participate in a vibrant community that is always mindful of the needs and lifestyle of the generations to come. We all need to do our part and what better way than through fun, educational, and engaging opportunities. For more information go to: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/EarthDay>

BEGINNING SATURDAY/ MARCH 18

Traveling Exhibit, We The People: Portraits of Veterans in America. At National Museum of the U.S. Army, 1775 Liberty Drive, Fort Belvoir. Exhibit tour with artist Mary Whyte. In 2010, Whyte set out on an inspirational seven-year mission to paint 50 large-scale watercolor portraits of current-day American veterans. WE THE PEOPLE, depicts military veterans of all ages and in all walks of life. Images including a Missouri dairy farmer, a Rhode Island lobsterman, a Pennsylvania science teacher, a South Carolina single mother, and 46 other moving portraits will be showcased. Visit theNMUSA.org.

NOW THRU APRIL 30

Matthew McLaughlin Art Exhibit. At the Athenaeum, Alexandria. Reception: Sunday, March 26, 4 - 6 p.m.; Artist Talk: Sunday, April 30, 2 - 3. Matthew McLaughlin's work explores how people define space in relationship to themselves on multiple levels, through personal and public forums, by bringing together those themes via mixed-media works from multiple series. The exhibition covers three distinct series, Proxemic Boundaries, Plotting Truths, and Reflective Cartography.

APRIL 7 TO APRIL 29

"A Tale of Two Studios." Del Ray Artisans partners with Art Enables Gallery & Studio in an open-themed showcase of the inspiring art of these two community organizations to convey an essential story about creative expression and art-making. At Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria VA. Opening Reception: Friday, April 7 from 7-9 p.m. Open Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays 12-6 p.m., and Sundays 12-6 p.m. (closed April 30). DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

GARDENING TIPS AT GREEN SPRING GARDENS

Garden Talk - Small-Space Veggie Gardening, At 4603 Green Spring Road in Alexandria. Saturday, April 22, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Don't have a large yard? With a little creativity, even the smallest patio, deck or townhouse yard can be turned into a successful vegetable garden! Let Extension Master Gardener docents show you how to grow vegetables in a small space. Whatever your space constraints, you too can grow delicious and nutritious fruits and vegetables! Enrollment is \$12 per person.

Green Spring Gardens is located at 4603 Green Spring Road in Alexandria. For more information on these and other gardening program offerings, call 703-642-5173 or visit the Green Spring Gardens website.

THURSDAY/APRIL 13

Career Event (High School). 6-8 p.m. At Goodwin House Alexandria, 4800 Fillmore Ave., Alexandria. Goodwin Living's career event for high school students will introduce them to professionals from Marketing, Rehabilitation, Life Enrichment, Nursing, Brain Health and our business team through hands-on workshops and a short panel. There will be information about volunteering and internships opportunities. Visit the website: www.goodwinliving.org

FRIDAY/APRIL 14

The Late Shift Art Night: Cherry Blossom Jubilee. 7 to 10 p.m. At the Torpedo Factory Art



The 90th Old Town Alexandria Historic Homes & Gardens Tour will be held Saturday, April 15, 2023, in Old Town Alexandria.

Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. In partnership with the National Cherry Blossom Festival, Torpedo Factory Art Center invites visitors to explore the celebrated cherry blossoms through art demonstrations, music and interactive activities among three floors of open studios and galleries.

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+ 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

SATURDAY/APRIL 15

Garden Day Tours at Carlyle House. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St., Alexandria. Enjoy open house-style tours of the garden at Carlyle House as part of the Historic Garden Week in Virginia. Experts will be on site to answer questions about working within the confines of a historic garden in an ever-changing climate. Tours are continuous throughout the day. No reservations are required.

SATURDAY/APRIL 15

90th Old Town Alexandria Historic Homes & Gardens Tour. 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Begins at St. Paul's Episcopal Church Rectory, 411 Duke St., Alexandria. Overlooking the Potomac and within minutes of our nation's capital, Alexandria was the third city in the country to create a historic district to preserve its downtown. Part of Historic Garden Week in Virginia, this walking tour includes private townhomes and secluded gardens located along the tree lined streets of the historic district, boutique shopping, and fine dining, which are all just steps away. In addition, the tour ticket allows access to two Garden Club of Virginia restoration projects, George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens and Green Springs Gardens, along with other local places of interest. Visit vagardenweek.org/tours

SATURDAY/APRIL 15

Alexandria Symphony Orchestra - Rite of Spring & Grieg Concerto - Awaken. 7:30 p.m. At Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, Alexandria. Featuring Natalia Kazaryan, piano; Grieg: Concerto for Piano; and Stravinsky: Rite of Spring. Maestro Ross pairs two symphonic music's most popular works: Grieg's lyrical, passionate piano concerto with Georgian pianist Natalia Kazaryan, and Stravinsky's brutal, breathtaking ballet Rite of Spring. Cuban composer Guido López-Gavilán's spicy musical take on Hemingway's favorite cocktail will have you ready to party!

SATURDAY/APRIL 15

Del Ray Vintage & Flea Market. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. At the parking lot of 1900 Mt. Vernon Ave. and the back parking lot of the Salvation Army Corps at 1804 Mt. Vernon Ave. in the Del Ray section of Alexandria. This is a change from the usual "Second Saturday" date. They will have a full roster of vendors, food, and

adoptable animals. The Del Ray Vintage & Flea Market is sponsored by Amy Sills Eggers, licensed Virginia Realtor with Coldwell Banker Realty.

SUNDAY/APRIL 16

Music and Art. 4 p.m. At Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Hollin Hills, Alexandria. Ten Mount Vernon Unitarian Church visual artists are mounting their inaugural group exhibit in conjunction with the Musikanten Choral Concert at the church on Sunday, April 16, 4 p.m. Tickets to the concert are \$30 in advance and at the door. In addition to being seen on April 16, the art exhibit may be viewed from April 14 through May 25, Mondays through Fridays, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. and other times by appointment (contact Ninat@ninatisara.com). The exhibit will include work in the mediums of photography, painting, pastels, mosaics, and sculpture.

SUNDAY/APRIL 16

10th Anniversary Celebration. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Pat Miller Neighborhood Square, 2311 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Arts on the Horizon, a theater company for children ages 0-6 and their families, is celebrating its 10th Anniversary Season with a free event in Del Ray. Visit the website: <https://www.artsonthehorizon.org/10th-anniversary-celebration.html>

TUESDAY/APRIL 18

Jewish Genealogy Introduction. 1-3 p.m. Via Zoom. Jewish Genealogy encompasses many different groups, migration patterns, languages, and countries of origin. It also encompasses a different calendar. Until recently there have been few records, especially in eastern Europe. According to Mary-Jane Roth, vice president of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Washington, will discuss the challenges inherent in Jewish Genealogy and provide advice at the Mount Vernon Genealogy Society's April 18 meeting. Register for this free ZOOM event at <https://mvgenealogy.org/page.php?pt=111> or email a registration request to contact-us@mvgenealogy.org. Find out more about this and other society events at <https://mvgenealogy.org>.

FRIDAY/APRIL 21

Book Release: Reclamation by C. Alexandria-Bernard Thomas. At the Athenaeum, Alexandria. Join in the book release of Reclamation. by C. Alexandria-Bernard Thomas, a Black Non-Binary, award-winning poet, teaching artist, an advocate for Child Abuse Prevention, the LGBTQIA community, and Mental Health Awareness. Their forthcoming collection of poems, titled Reclamation., is a poetic journey through C. Alexandria-Bernard Thomas' process of re-emergence and re-acceptance of self. It is their rebirth and ownership of all that has sought to destroy them.

SATURDAY/APRIL 22

Garden Talk - Small-Space Veggie Gardening. 10:30-11:30 a.m. At Green Spring Gardens, Alexandria. (Adults) Don't have a large yard? With a little creativity, even the smallest patio, deck or townhouse yard can be turned into a successful vegetable garden! Let Extension Master Gardeners show you how to grow vegetables in a small space. Whatever your space constraints, you too can grow delicious

and nutritious fruits and vegetables! \$12 per person. Register online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes> or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code 11B.N6ER.

SATURDAY/APRIL 22

5th Annual Environment Expo. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Fort Hunt Park, 8999 Fort Hunt Rd. Come out for live music, demonstrations, workshops, nature walks, giveaways and more!

SUNDAY/APRIL 23

39th Annual PNC Parkway Classic. Mount Vernon Estate through Old Town Alexandria. Alexandria's hometown destination race returns this Spring when the 39th PNC Parkway Classic hits the pavement on Sunday, April 23, 2023. The race, organized by local running retailer Pacers Running, attracts thousands of runners and spectators who want to experience the George Washington Memorial Parkway from a unique perspective. The race features both a 5K, and a 10-mile race offering starting at 8:00 a.m. as well as a 600-meter Kids Dash race for the little runners kicking off at 10:30 a.m. The Classic 5k Course will start and finish at Oronoco Bay Park. The 10-mile race will start at Mt. Vernon Estate with the course taking runners up the George Washington Memorial Parkway and ending at Oronoco Bay Park. Visit the website: www.parkwayclassic.com.

MAY 5-27

The "Prints in May@DRA: Exploring the Possibilities" exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans gallery features traditional printmaking techniques such as reliefs, intaglios, monoprints and handmade prints with mixed media, along with artworks created using computer graphics programs and other objects enhanced with block prints or imprints. View at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. Open Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays 12-6 p.m. (Closed May 28). Details: DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

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.

APRIL

Wed. 12: Rick Wakeman "His Music And Stories" w/ Gina Sobel (Solo) \$59.50
Thu. 13: Trevor Hall 'An Evening In A Blue Sky Mind' \$45.00 SOLD OUT!
Fri. 14: Christian de Mesones "Big New York" \$39.50
Sat. 15: Oh He Dead \$29.50
Sun. 16: The Wailin' Jennys \$65.00 SOLD OUT!
Mon. 17: The Wailin' Jennys \$65.00 SOLD OUT!
Tue. 18: Graham Nash - Sixty Years of Songs & Stories \$99.50
Wed. 19: Graham Nash - Sixty Years of Songs & Stories \$99.50
Thu. 20: Langhorne Slim & John Craigie \$39.50
Mon. 24: Steve Morse Band \$65.00
Wed. 26: Suzanne Vega - An Intimate Evening of Songs and Stories \$55.00
Fri. 28: Ohio Players \$69.50
Sat. 29: Eaglemania - The World's Greatest Tribute to the Eagles \$45.00
Sun. 30: Herman's Hermits starring Peter Noone \$55.00

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Thinking of Getting a Pet? Do Your Homework

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

While bringing home a cuddly little bunny or fluffy little chick for Easter might delight the youngsters, people should think twice, thrice or more before bringing a new animal into the home, advise experts.

This also goes for the growing interest in raising backyard chickens. "Keeping backyard poultry (chickens, ducks, geese, guinea fowl and turkeys) is becoming more popular," says the Centers for Disease Control, especially as egg prices rise. Several Fairfax County members of the Board of Supervisors in their newsletters recently reminded residents of the county's rules for keeping backyard chickens.

From 4,000 to 5,000 animals end up at Fairfax County's animal shelter every year for many reasons. Some examples: dogs, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, ferrets, tropical fish, hermit crabs, rabbits, snakes, lizards, geckos, turtles, frogs, chickens, ducks, gerbils, hamsters, rats, mice, parakeets, cockatiels, macaws and bearded dragons. The most common animals brought to the shelter are dogs, cats, rabbits and guinea pigs.

The county's animal protection staff and others take animals to shelters because they appear to be abandoned or abused. Some animal owners decide they can no longer take care of their pets.

Katherine Zenzano, the Fairfax County Animal Shelter's Humane Education Coordinator, says that many people do not understand that the animal they are considering may not be the right animal for their family. "It's important for the owner to be realistic about their lifestyle and how much time they can commit to an animal," she says.

Do Your Homework

Experts stress that prospective pet owners should thoroughly research and fully understand an animal's short- and long-term needs before taking on any type of pet.

Some people are flustered by an animal's behavior, like parakeet owners who fail to bond with the birds or tire of the chirping and excrement. Zenzano stresses that parakeets are not cuddly, but there are ways to approach them. Monkeys can be challenging, like "permanent toddlers," some say, because of the attention they require.

Zenzano cautions that people should "never subscribe to stereotypes about particular animals," such as assuming that cats are "easier or have fewer needs. It depends on the cat," she says. People may view a cat's behavior as a problem when the cat is following its natural predatory instincts.

"Rabbits are at least a 10-year commitment," says Lolly Busey, former Director of Animal Intake of Rikki's Refuge in Orange, Va. Some lose their cuddliness and

SEE THINKING OF GETTING, PAGE 15

Resources

Fairfax County Animal Shelter, including adoption, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/animalshelter

Fairfax County's Ordinance, https://library.municode.com/va/fairfax_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=FAC

Centers for Disease Control, <https://www.cdc.gov/healthypets/pets/index.html>

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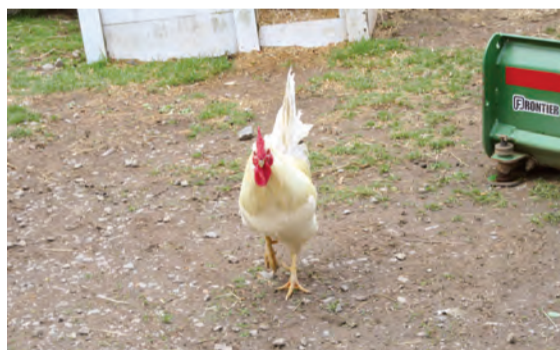


PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH

An undernourished cat apparently abandoned in Dyke Marsh.



Many people like to have parakeets as pets.



Localities have ordinances that address the keeping of poultry like chickens, geese and peacocks.

Legals

Legals

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE FORMER POST EXCHANGE SITE, FORT BELVOIR, VIRGINIA

The U.S. Army Garrison Fort Belvoir hereby gives Notice of the Availability (NOA) for the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Residential Communities Initiative redevelopment of the former Post Exchange (PX) site located within the Community Support Area on the North Post of Fort Belvoir. The proposed action involves construction of approximately 200 new family housing units and related amenities at the PX site and renovation of approximately 13 existing homes in the Woodlawn Village neighborhood to make the homes accessible under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The proposed action also includes renovation of the existing swimming pool adjacent to the PX site to serve as a community pool and amenity area for residents of the newly constructed residential neighborhood at the PX site. The Draft EA has been prepared in accordance with the regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Army's NEPA implementing regulations (32 CFR Part 651). The Draft EA is available to view in printed form at the Fort Belvoir Library and the Sherwood Regional Branch of the Fairfax County Public Library system. The Draft EA can be viewed/downloaded electronically from the Fort Belvoir Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division website: <https://home.army.mil/belvoir/index.php/about/Garrison/directorate-public-works/environmental-division#qt0:1>. To access the Draft EA, click the "Programs & Documents" tab and scroll down to "NEPA Program" on the list. Once that is clicked, a drop down will appear with all of the NEPA documents available to the public. The PX Site Draft EA will be under the documents listed as "Open for Public/Agency Review and Comment."

Comments on the Draft EA may be submitted by email to deanna.l.nix.civ@army.mil and reference "PX Site EA" in the subject line, or by direct mail to:

Master Planning Division, Directorate of Public Works
Attn: DeAnna Lynn Nix
9430 Jackson Loop
Building 1442, Suite 214,
USAG Fort Belvoir, VA 11060-5116

Comments are requested to be received no later than 30 days after publication of this NOA. The publication date of this NOA is April 13, 2023, and the comment period closes on May 13, 2023.

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Thinking of Getting a Pet?

FROM PAGE 13

may balk at confined spaces. They might dig holes in carpets or chew baseboards.

Zenzano explains, "All animals have instinctual needs. All need mental and physical enrichment."

Many people do not anticipate how large an animal can become and their future needs. The Fairfax County shelter once got a small sulcata tortoise, which can grow to 100 and 200 pounds. Baby chicks need both an indoor and outdoor space and mature into adult chickens or roosters. Quarter-size baby turtles as adults need a 40- to 50-gallon tank. Pot-bellied piglets grow up to be 200-pound swine. Failing to understand and plan for an animal's future size is a common mistake, Zenzano emphasizes.

Many animals have special diets. Bearded dragon lizards eat a lot of crickets. Rabbits need hay and fresh greens. Snakes need rodents. Some animals require specialty equipment, like heat lamps or humidifiers, certain types of cages or tanks and hiding areas. Some animals may need specialized veterinary care that is not locally available.

On getting a new pet, Zenzano's key advice is, "Do your homework." Learn about and agree to the lifetime care the animal needs before committing to care for it.

Keep Wildlife Wild

Wildlife biologists caution that many animals do not belong in homes, as pets and they advise against feeding any wildlife, like foxes and waterfowl.

Birds of prey like hawks, eagles and owls generally do not make good pets. If young birds in domestic situations imprint on their human owners, they may fail to learn how to hunt, and if released, usually cannot survive on their own. Remember, Hedwig, Harry Potter's snowy owl, is fictional.

Each local jurisdiction has varying pet and livestock rules. Local governments may classify some animals like chickens and goats as livestock and require a property size larger than most suburban yards, for example. Some localities like Fairfax may allow hedgehogs as pets; some may not.

Fairfax County plans to open its second



Some people like to keep snakes as pets.



White veiled chameleon at the PetCo Store on U. S. 1 in Mount Vernon



Bearded Dragon at the PetCo Store on U. S. 1 in Mount Vernon for sale on March 13, 2023.

shelter, a new, 23,000-square-foot animal shelter in Lorton this summer that will also have 20,000 square feet of outdoor space. The shelter will offer pet adoptions, rabies clinics and neutering services.

PHOTOS BY CLEENDA BOOTH

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 7

optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, email Carly Hubicki at chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-403- 5360. To learn more about RSVP visit www.rsvpnova.org.

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

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

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.

Hollin Hall Senior Center is looking for a DJ ballroom and dance instructor. The Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road.

Untethered



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

For the first time in 68-plus years/my entire life, I am not considering the consequences – too much anyway, of my miscellaneous actions/behaviors, encompassing all facets of my life. With my brother's recent death in addition to our parent's respective deaths in 2006 (father) and 2008 (mother), yours truly is it. 'It' being the last man standing of the Newton Centre Louries.

With neither my brother nor I fathered any children/heirs to carry on our family traditions, "The buck," as it did with President Harry S. Truman, "stops here." Because, quite frankly, it has nowhere else to go. Moreover, whatever bucks remain after Dina, and I die will go who knows where? If to err is human, and we have no significant heirs, then there will be no heir apparent to the Lourie legacy.

As such, I have fewer people to answer to/concern myself with or worry about in any shape or form now, other than my wife, Dina. I'm not exactly adrift. But I am something, what that is exactly, I can't say. Whatever it will be, it will be very unnatural. 'Unnatural' as in behaviors/responsibilities I've had to do (happily and willingly) my entire life, I no longer must do as there's no one left to answer to. Still, I have never chafed at the responsibilities/obligations to my parents and brother. Nevertheless, as I live/survive forward, I do not have any of the checks and balances that previously characterized my life. Unfortunately, as this column's title says, I am now free of many of the ties which on and off have knotted me up, while likely keeping me between the lines, and mostly out of trouble.

I am now left to fend for myself (Dina notwithstanding). My entire life I've never had to fend for myself. It seems silly that after all these decades of organizing my life/adhering to certain guidelines, something should change. Boy, did it. With my last blood family member predeceasing me, I am free to fail. In spectacular fashion if I so desire or succeed in ways never imagined/considered given the non-literal, non-verbal constraints I was bound to, especially since I was "The baby of the family," (as was my mother). Just as last week's column described my new scan interval taking me into "new territory," so too does living my life without my brother stagger me forward into uncharted waters. I will live on for sure, but for a while, the loss will be difficult, especially with baseball season upon us. If my brother and I shared anything, it was the love of the Boston Red Sox (and The Three Stooges, but that's for another column). And did I ever feel it on Sunday, April 2nd. On that day, the Orioles played the Red Sox in Boston. It was scheduled for 1:35 pm. That would have been the exact time that my brother and I would have gotten together to watch the ballgame. And aside from watching the game, it would have given me the opportunity to make sure Richard had the details about how to sign up for the MLB package on Cable so he could see as many Red Sox games as possible. (There are certain tasks that fell to me, as the younger brother. Advising Richard when and how he could watch Red Sox games on television was one of the most important.) Sitting at home alone on that first Sunday of the season watching the Red Sox game, all I could think about was my brother and all the conversations we'd be having about the Red Sox – and of course, life. Never again would we be together, except in my dreams (I can hope, can't?)

Aside from my brother being older and wiser – and a more experienced salesperson than I was, he was a great brother ("my best man" in fact) – and friend, and my biggest booster as well. I remember when I was hospitalized for a week in August 2015, my brother was at the hospital every day, all day, encouraging me on the one hand, and interfacing with the doctors and staff on the other to make sure I was getting the best, most hands-on care. And when I had an opportunity to return the favor this past July through mid-Sept., when he was hospitalized; to visit and support my brother, bring him food, run any outside errands he needed, whatever, I was available every day, all day, whatever he or his wife, Vanessa needed me to do. With his passing, I feel as if I'm only living part time, if you know what I mean? And unfortunately, I don't suppose it's going to get any better for a while.

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



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