

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

JUNE 29, 2023

Competition on the Front Lines in Mount Vernon?

Family bakery not worried about big-name eatery coming next door.

By MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

With a new Dunkin' Donuts opening in the Engleside area of Mount Vernon, this national chain may make the owners of nearby Mom and Pop shops nervous but not the family members at Postres Victoria Bakery right next door.

In fact, it's just the opposite, said Karla Santos, one of the bakers behind the counter. "It will bring in more customers for us," she said. The handcrafted variety of pastries they serve and the custom "Boba Milk Tea," are popular with their customers.

Boba Milk Tea is a specialty tea with origins from Taiwan that is also known as "bubble tea." The secret is the tapioca balls called "pearls," that are added after brewing for a unique taste. Postres is one of the only places in Mount Vernon that serves this tea.

Dunkin' Donuts are popping up all around the area and it's a familiar site to many, but Santos is confident, pointing at a wall of tissue-paper flowers she and some of the others made. If the customers are looking for variety with an El Salvador flavor, Postres has it.

The specialty bakery items and drinks are their key, said Sheina Waddell at the Community Business Partnership located in Springfield. "She sells items



The new Dunkin' Donuts will have a drive-thru window too.

they (Dunkin') won't sell," said Waddell, who recommended a few business strategies to help this small business survive. That included increasing their visibility, running promotions in their marketing efforts and working with the shopping center's leasing management company to see what they can do to help.

Positive Changes Coming

Future plans are expected to benefit many of the businesses in this area in the coming years. Nearby Fort Belvoir is growing,

said the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority, and their master plan allows for up to 56,000 workers by 2030. The area is also expected to benefit from the Embark Richmond Highway plan which could bring more donut and pastry eaters, plus Boba Milk Tea drinkers to the area, benefiting both the new Dunkin' Donuts and the bakery. Project wise, they are both in the Woodlawn Community Business Center section which will be close to a new bus rapid transit stop when the project comes to fruition.



At Postres Victoria, Karla, Janet and Daisy keep the baked items and tea flowing.



Dunkin' is hiring for this location.

Old Motel Continues To Operate Plans for property include new housing.

By MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

On the east side of Richmond Highway in Mount Vernon, there is an old motel with some occupied rooms and some boarded up doors, a dilapidated swimming pool and beat up parking lot, with the future of this property in question.

There are property owners involved, a surrounding community with questions and now it's become a legal matter with lawyers looking into it. Over the last seven years, plans were laid out for different uses on this 2.5 acre piece of land.

In 2016 the site was considered for a storage facility that "not only revitalizes the area but provides for services needed by the community" stated a Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations letter dated Feb 12, 2016 advising a developer to move forward with that plan.

Fast forward five years and it's come up again on the MVCCA agenda. Although no official offer was made, Evergreen Investment Company was interested in purchasing the property to include multi-family housing apartments for rent using the same footprint that is currently in use with the Brookside Motel.

On Dec. 7, 2021 the Board of

Supervisors authorized the consideration of a Comprehensive Plan amendment for the Brookside Motel as housing at 5-8 dwelling units per acre with an option for a public park, and some concerns about the 100-year floodplain. Although this plan was hatched over 18 months ago, it still remains the current plan for the property, according to the county zoning office.

There are no dates attached to this plan so for now, the aging motel with a boarded-up door on one room, a stagnant pool and sprinkling of cars in the parking lot remains.

Housekeeping staff was at work cleaning some of the rooms. Front office staff was not available.



The swimming pool is covered with a tarp and doesn't look like it will open this summer.

PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/CONNECTION

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

#WeAreAlexandria



Fairfax City | \$1,375,000

6,000 finished square feet of luxury living! 5 bedrooms and 4 full bathrooms with hardwood floors and coffered living room ceilings. Primary suite features sitting room and built in center dresser. 9910 Stoughton Road

Peter Crouch 703.244.4024
Kathryn Crouch 703.447.1345



Alexandria | \$1,200,000

Five impressive bedrooms, two home offices, and ample parking for 5+ vehicles, plus a level 2 electric car charger inside the two-car garage. This property will exceed your expectations. 8205 Mount Vernon Highway

Sandra McMaster 571.259.2673
www.sandymcmaster.realestate



OPEN SUN 7/2, 2-4

North Old Town | \$830,000

Charming, 3-level, end-unit row home. Open floor plan. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths with fenced yard, parking for 2+, and 2.5 blocks from Braddock Road Metro. 520 N Payne Street

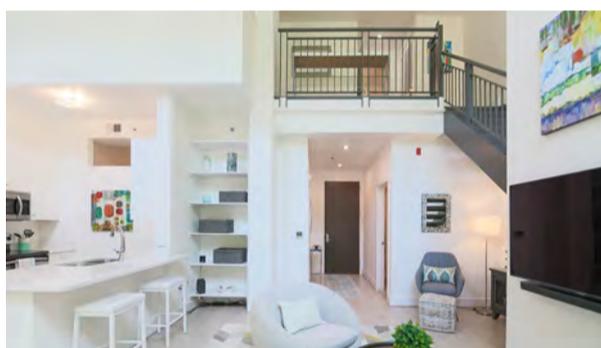
Sarah Bobbin 571.225.8716
www.sophisticatedlivingnovadc.com



North Old Town | \$795,000

Beautifully updated 2-level, 2-bedroom, 2-bath, open layout townhome in North Old Town's serene and lush Watergate of Alexandria. 2 blocks to the Potomac River. 1072 N Royal Street

Courtney DeVries 703.795.8311
www.courtneyd.com



Carlyle Square | \$735,000

Stunning modern 2-bedroom, 2-bath, 2-level condo. Features 2 entrances (including a private entrance with patio), wood floors, soaring ceilings, built-ins, & tons of upgrades. 1 garage parking space and storage. 520 John Carlyle Street #116

Wendy Santantonio 703.625.8802
www.WendySantantonio.com



Wakefield | \$520,000

All-brick exterior, fenced in oversized yard featuring a covered entrance and off-street parking. Upgrades include new floors, fixtures, paint, HVAC, water heater, new electrical panel, and landscaping. 5 S Ingram Street

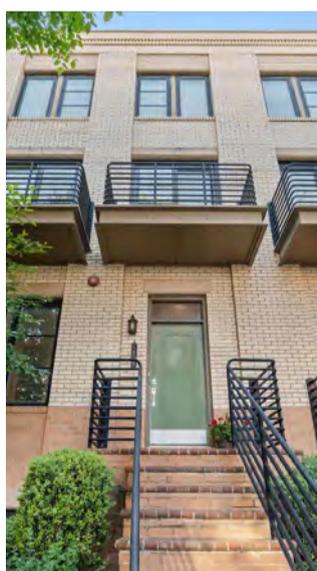
Kristen Jones 703.952.0441
www.kristenjones.com



**Old Town
\$2,495,000**

Currently comprised of three separate units, it offers the possibility of rental income, multi-family living, or a conversion to one grand residence. The charming European style rear garden is private and serene. 126 S Fairfax Street

Lauren Bishop 202.361.5079
www.laurenbishophomes.com



**Alexandria
\$1,199,000**

This 3 bedroom, 4.5 bath townhouse is the perfect blend of luxury and comfort. With its captivating design, upscale features, and unbeatable location, it offers a lifestyle that combines comfort and convenience. 1426 Van Valkenburgh Lane

Darlene Duffet 703.969.9015
www.darleneduffettrealestate.com



OPEN SUN 7/2, 1-3

**Olde Belhaven
Towne
\$847,500**

Charming brick townhome, 3 bedrooms & 3.5 bathrooms. George Washington Pkwy, Old Town. Hardwood floors, 2 fireplaces, bay windows. Beautiful landscaped slate patio! Windows and roof replaced. 6321 Olde Towne Court

Sue Dickerson 703.380.0153
www.mceneaney.com

Serving the Washington, DC Metro Area since 1980.
703.549.9292 | 109 S. Pitt Street | Alexandria, VA 22314 | McEneaney.com



Home of the Brave

“Flags For Heroes” on display at Cedar Knoll.

By JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The strains of a lone trumpeter filled the air as hundreds of American flags stood overlooking the Potomac River as part of the 6th annual Flags for Heroes opening ceremony June 25 on the grounds of Cedar Knoll Restaurant.

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Alexandria, the Flags for Heroes project provides community members an opportunity to dedicate a flag to honor a hero in their life. A card attached to each flag bears the name of the hero – a friend, family member, veteran, healthcare worker, first responder or other hero -- along with the name of the individual sponsor.

“The Flags for Heroes project recognizes those individuals who have made a difference; teachers, mentors, parents, first responders and members of the military service who continue to defend our rights as citizens,” said Rotarian and organizer Sharon Meisel. “We do not take their service for granted.”

More than 300 flags were unfurled at 6 a.m. the previous day to set up the display, which will remain in place through July 8.

This year’s Flags for Heroes program raised in excess of \$30,000 which will benefit Alexandria Rotary Club community projects and provide direct financial support to more than 40 local charities and nonprofits. www.alexandriarotary.org



Paul Johnson performs Taps to close the opening day ceremony of the Flags for Heroes program June 25 at Cedar Knoll Restaurant. The flags will be on display through July 8.

“The Flags for Heroes project recognizes those individuals who have made a difference.”

— Project organizer Sharon Meisel



Alexandria Rotary Club president Bob McClure, second from left, stands with past presidents Mike Wicks, John Moorman and Sharon Meisel at the opening ceremony of Flags for Heroes June 25 at Cedar Knoll Restaurant.



Edward Mitchell stands among the Flags for Heroes display June 25 at Cedar Knoll Restaurant.



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Service Above Self

The Rotary Club of Alexandria held its annual Contributions Day June 20, presenting 26 area nonprofits with grants to advance literacy for children and adults and/or improve the lives of children, youth, seniors, and others with special needs within the city of Alexandria. Pictured are representatives of some of the organizations at the event at Belle Haven Country Club. www.alexandriarotary.org

On Recent Incidents of Hate Speech

By BRENDA FAISON,
CATHY HOSEK

On behalf of the Ventures in Community Steering Committee, Ventures in Community, an organization centered in the Route 1 community that represents more than two dozen houses of worship and non-profit organizations, calls for accountability and restorative justice for the people who painted graffiti with homophobic and antisemitic messages on the "spirit rock" outside West Potomac High School af-

ter it had been decorated for June as Pride and AAPI month.

According to a message from the principal, the graffiti were discovered the morning of June 7, before the community gathered at the school for this year's graduation ceremony.

The rock was immediately repainted by custodians, according to Mount Vernon School Board Member Karen Corbett Sanders, who said police are still searching for the culprits. A further instance of cruel rhetoric took place June 6 at Falls Church High School when a student video recorded the burn-

ing of a stolen pride flag while another young person used hate-filled language.

Ventures in Community envisions a diverse and welcoming community. Our various scriptures are clear on how we should treat one another, for the golden rule is enshrined in every major faith. To treat people of backgrounds different from our own with prejudice, disdain, hatred, or cruelty is contrary both to the spiritual commandments and to basic human decency. We were created different so that we may know and learn from one another.

The VIC steering committee states that those involved, as well as those who encourage cruelty and prejudice, should be held accountable. A just accounting should be restorative to repair wrongs and to heal darkened hearts.

The breeding-ground of tragedies is prejudice of race and nation, of religion, of political opinion. We can do better and our young citizens can learn to accept and even embrace diversity of background, experience, and opinion without succumbing to base instincts. We all can show forbearance, benevolence and love.

Lots of Buzz! Support pollinators by planting native plants, limiting or eliminating pesticides.

By DEL. PAUL KRIZEK

This past week we recognized National Pollinator Week, an event celebrated internationally in support of pollinator health and to raise awareness of declining pollinator populations. Did you know that a third of our nation's food supply relies on pollination? Pollination is crucial to the nourishment of over 1,200 different food crops and 200,000 other species of plants overall that yield oils, cotton, clean air and more.

Pollinators are critical to biodiversity, a healthy ecosystem and ultimately, our survival. Pollination is the transfer of pollen grains from one flower to another that enables plants to develop seeds and reproduce. Pollinators enjoy a mutualistic relationship with these

plants, finding necessary pollen and nectar sources while helping plants fulfill their reproductive needs. While some plants may be pollinated by wind, water, or even by themselves, it is much more common for pollination to rely on the (often unintentional) labor of animals. When you think of pollination, you probably picture bees happily buzzing from flower to flower, but other species such as moths, butterflies, beetles, flies, bats, and birds also play a critical role. These animals perform a vital service that much of life on earth quite literally could not live without.

Without the work of these pollinators, our nation's crops would yield fewer fruits, nuts, and veg-



Krizek

etables, impacting our food supplies and pushing prices at the grocery store higher.

Each year, pollination by honey bees alone adds more than \$18 billion in value to agricultural crops. The crops that rely on honey bee pollination

for reproduction include peaches, strawberries, watermelon, and cauliflower. Agriculture is by far Virginia's largest private industry, with an economic impact of \$82.3 billion annually and supporting over 381,000 jobs.

However, in recent years, pollinator species, including honey bees, face increasing threats from habitat loss, rising temperatures, disease, and the excessive and inappropriate use of pesticides.

While honey bees were imported from Europe roughly 400 years ago, the nearly 4000 species of native bees also currently pollinate many crops and can be encouraged to do more to support agricultural endeavors if their needs for nesting habitat are met and if suitable sources of nectar, pollen, and water are provided.

In accordance with the mission of Pollinator Week, last week the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced it is developing new strategies to protect pollinators from pesticides as outlined in the agency's first-ever Endangered Species Act workplan, continuing to review pesticides already on the market to reduce harm to pollinators, raising public awareness, and working with other federal agencies and state and local part-

SEE LOTS OF BUZZ!, PAGE 5

FPCPD Summer Crime Prevention Initiative

By SUPERVISOR DAN STORCK
MOUNT VERNON DISTRICT

I continue to work with our local police captains and officers to keep our community safe, while connecting with residents and businesses to raise awareness for crime prevention. As such, I am pleased to announce the Fairfax County Police Department (FPCPD) launched the 2023 Summer Crime Prevention Initiative with several focus areas.

In an ongoing effort to proactively combat crime in Fairfax County and keep the County one of the safest of its size, FPCPD has launched a coordinated effort to reduce crime through strategic

SEE CRIME, PAGE 10



www.MountVernonGazette.com

Twitter @MtVernonGazette

An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Free digital edition delivered to your email box. Go to
connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

NEWS DEPARTMENT:
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Mary Kimm
Editor and Publisher
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

Jeanne Theismann
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com
@TheismannMedia

Mercia Hobson
Staff Reporter
mhobson@connectionnewspapers.com

Mike Salmon
Contributing Writer
msalmon@connectionnewspapers.com

Ken Moore, Glenda Booth
Contributing Writers

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
sales@connectionnewspapers.com
703-778-9431

Debbie Funk
Display Advertising/National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

Helen Walutes
Display Advertising, 703-778-9410
hwalutes@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin
Marketing Assistant
703-778-9431
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Classified & Employment
Advertising
703-778-9431

Publisher
Jerry Vernon
703-549-0004
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

Art/Design:
Laurence Foong
Production Manager:
Geovani Flores

CIRCULATION
Circulation Manager:
Ann Oliver
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

A Connection Newspaper



Lots of Buzz!

FROM PAGE 4

ners on the issue. The EPA is also working to identify potential geographically specific protections in the habitats of 27 endangered species especially vulnerable to pesticides, including three pollinators and other species that depend on pollinators, to reduce their exposure to outdoor uses of conventional pesticides. These species were selected due to their enhanced vulnerability caused by limited geographic range, small population sizes, and susceptibility to environmental stressors.

These mitigations aim to protect areas where the selected species are most likely to live and could be exposed to spray drift and runoff from pesticide-treated areas. The proposed mitigations are protective of the selected species but also simple enough that all pesticide users can easily understand and implement the mitigations.

On the state level, in 2021, I passed a study to enhance the communication between certified pesticide applicators and beekeepers in the Commonwealth. In 2020, Virginia began the Pollinator-Smart program to provide incentives and tools that encourage the solar industry to adopt strategies that promote pollinators such as planting native species under solar panels. Including native plants in solar fields provide a host of ecological benefits aside from pollinator habitat, including deeper root systems

to help with stormwater management. But more needs to be done.

What can we all do to promote healthy pollinator populations? Pollinator species are attracted to areas that provide adequate food, shelter, and water sources. While pollinators can feed on a variety of nectar sources, their larvae (often caterpillars) are dependent on specific host plants, often with only one or very few such plants per species, so it's important to plant those native host plants too, like milkweed, violets, oak trees and more. If you have a yard or garden, plant a variety of native plants, including trees, shrubs, and wildflowers to provide nectar and pollen throughout the year. Build bee boxes and keep areas of bare soil for ground-nesting bees to burrow to encourage solitary, non-aggressive bees to nest on your property. If you choose to use a bee hotel, they will need to be disinfected after every season to prevent the spread of bee diseases. Learn and utilize Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices to address pest concerns, and work to eliminate the use of pesticides, which are largely toxic to pollinators. You can learn to build a pollinator-friendly habitat suitable to our area by visiting here: <https://www.pollinator.org/guides>.

The continued protection of pollinators is essential to our global economy, human health, and food security.

Top Rated Skilled Nursing Care

Providing short-term rehabilitation services for a return home after surgery or hospital stay, memory care, long-term care and skilled respite care.

We are proud to be Alexandria's leading skilled nursing facility with a 50-year tradition of excellence!

Woodbine Specialty Programs

- Stroke Recovery
- Ventilator Care
- Cardiopulmonary Care
- Wound Care
- Chronic Kidney Disease Management
- Palliative & Hospice Services
- Urgent Skilled Nursing for Emergency Skilled Respite Care

Renovations Underway!

5 STAR RATED CMS

URGENT SNF

BEST NURSING HOMES 2020, 2021, 2022

WOODBINE Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center 2729 King St, Alexandria, VA 22302 703.836.8838 WoodbineRehab.com

PASSPORT AUTO



Family-owned and operated by local Alexandrians for over 30 years!

Get the family treatment.

Always expect savings with all new vehicles priced at MSRP or below!

PassportAuto.com





From left, Pamala Anderson, Dr. Evelyn Russell, Phyllis Walker Ford, and Anna Barnes.



Parents and students seated inside of the Laurel Grove School Museum hearing from the speakers and asking questions.



Parents, students and Dr. Evelyn Russell (standing) inside of the Laurel Grove School Museum hearing from the speakers and asking questions.



Facilitators of the NAACP Youth Council event, from left to right they are: Mike Woltz, Anita Gill-Anderson and Monique Norwood.

Symbol of the Drive to Get an Education

Laurel Grove School Museum.

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
 MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

Two miles from the non-stop Beltway/Interstate 95-495 stands a one-room, one-level, wooden building with dark green shutters on Beulah Street, in the shadow of the 37-acre, looming MetroPark commercial campus, a multi-story complex with glossy, turquoise windows. The little white building is the Laurel Grove School Museum built in 1884 and once flanked by a laurel grove. This seemingly out-of-place structure, sitting amid Fairfax County's sprawl, is the only surviving one-room school built for African Americans in Northern Virginia.



PHOTO BY MONROE ANDERSON JR.

The Laurel Grove School Museum

Phyllis Walker Ford's enslaved great-grandparents, William and Georgianna Jasper, deeded one-half acre of their farm to the segregated, then-called Mount Vernon School District for \$10.00 in 1881. In 1884, they deeded another half-acre to build the Laurel Grove Baptist Church next door.

The local public school system did not build the Laurel Grove Colored School. Local African-American families contributed money, wood and labor and built it themselves at a time when Virginia's public schools, by law, were racially segregated. The families found textbooks and recruited a teacher. Fairfax County provided one cord of wood a year.

A 1920s Classroom

Today, the Laurel Grove School Museum, the blackboards, wooden and wrought iron desks, an iron wood stove and oil lamps represent the 1920s. The museum has several documents, including a chilling inventory recorded by slaveholder William Foote who held the Jaspers, which says, "one negro man Henry \$350; one old negro man Aaron, \$10."

The newest museum possession is a replica of the county's historical marker for Carrolltown, an African-American community near today's Hayfield and Old Telegraph Road. Some of the school's students lived in Carrolltown. The actual marker is on Kingstowne Village Boulevard.



Michelle Leete, president of the Fairfax County Branch of the NAACP: seated inside of the Laurel Grove School Museum with parents and students.

Next door to the museum is a half-acre cemetery with 75 graves. A few cement tombstones remain with hand-lettered, weathered inscriptions, perhaps scrawled into wet cement. One has a cross and records the passing of "Mr. Edgar Harris, BORN May 15th 1876 and DIED May 19th 1961." For years, the name, "Moses Harris," was barely legible on another. Ford led an effort this year to research the people buried there, some of whom were born enslaved. Volunteers from the National Council of Negro Women helped clean the tombstones.

Much of the history of African Americans in Northern Virginia, like the history of enslaved people throughout the nation, is gone. The region's relentless development has paved over and swallowed up much of it. Some history was never recorded.

Sustaining a Legacy

To museum director Ford, preserving the school's legacy is a very personal mission. Her great-grandfather, Jasper, was enslaved on the Foote Farm in the Hayfield area and freed in 1846. In 1860, he bought 13 acres from a white slaveholder. Ford explains that when freed, many former enslaved people did not move away but stayed in the Franconia area. "Jasper purchased land less than two miles from where he was enslaved. Whites and blacks lived side by side and got along," she maintains, unlike some more racially-segregated communities. Virginia's schools were racially segregated since their beginning in 1870. "State and local officials ... generally resisted efforts to bring about desegregation and utilized their political power to avoid and then minimize public school desegregation," according to Encyclopedia Virginia. State elected officials in 1956 adopted an official racial segregation policy known as "massive resistance," opposed to the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court decision in Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas, that mandated school desegregation. Desegregation in the



The Laurel Grove School Museum and MetroPark in the background.



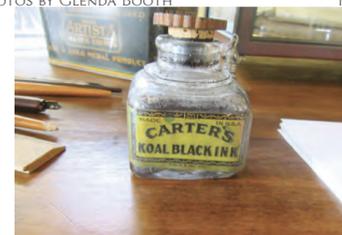
Phyllis Walker Ford, director of the Laurel Grove School Museum.



A typical 1920s one-room schoolhouse, "colored" school in today's museum.



The weathered tombstone of Moses Harris in the cemetery next to the school.



The type of ink students would have used for penmanship.



An oil lamp like this provided light for students and teachers.



A wood stove like this heated the classroom.

state began in 1959 and continued through the early 1970s.

A retired human resources professional and Clifton resident, Ford grew up in the Franconia area of Fairfax County. She attended the county's segregated public schools and rode 20 miles each way daily past white schools. She graduated from Luther Jackson, then Fairfax County's "black high school."

Today, she conducts tours for school groups. On June 3, the Youth Council of the Fairfax County chapter of the NAACP youngsters ages 13 to 18, visited the museum. "We want them to be informed, to know history," said Anita Gill-Anderson, Director of Programming for the group. A retired Loudoun County teacher, Gill-Anderson stressed, "It is

important to teach the importance of education, not just why it's important today but in years past. Education will carry you places if you take it seriously."

Ford believes that the museum can be especially meaningful to Fairfax County fourth grade students who study slavery and reconstruction and high school students who can choose African American history as an elective.

Ford's parents and brother are buried in the cemetery. The laurel grove once around the school is long gone, but the school's spirit lives on. To Ford, Laurel Grove School represents her ancestors' resiliency and passion for an education. She wants others to better understand slavery, Jim Crow, segregation

and their consequences. "We are still uncovering and learning," Ford says. "The school motto, 'Get an education and everything will fall into place,' is still important today."

Seeking Descendants

In September, the museum will host a

family reunion and is seeking descendants of those who attended the school and church. The event will be open to the public.

Information: <http://laurelgroveschool.org/>; open Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

JOIN THE CHAMBER AND FIND YOUR COMMUNITY




MARKETING **EVENTS** **COMMUNITY**

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.

Phone **703.360.6925** Email **info@mountvernon.springfield.com** Website **mountvernon.springfield.com**



Sign up for FREE DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION to all of our papers



www.connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

Same Company, Same Employees, Same Great Value - Now Celebrating 20 Years!

TWO POOR TEACHERS
Kitchen and Bathroom Remodeling




- Electrical (ELE)
- Gas Fitting (GFC)
- Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVA)
- Plumbing (PLB)
- Residential Building (RBC)

Fully Insured & Class A Licensed Since 1999



10% down nothing until the job is complete for the past 17 years

Free Estimates 703-999-2929

Check if your contractor is licensed at the state level <http://www.DPOR.virginia.gov>

Visit our website: www.twopoorteachers.com

ENTERTAINMENT



Ada's on the River

A Few Restaurants To See the Fireworks

A few of the many great places to enjoy the fireworks display in Alexandria right on the Potomac River.

Ada's on the River: Nestled on the picturesque waterfront, Ada's on the River offers a dining experience with a front-row seat to the fireworks extravaganza. Imagine indulging in exquisite food and drinks while watching awe-inspiring bursts of color and light in the sky.

Barca Pier & Wine Bar: For wine enthusiasts and tapas lovers, Barca Pier & Wine Bar is the ideal spot to

watch the Fourth of July fireworks. With its Catalonian inspired cuisine, extensive wine selection, and a stunning view of the Potomac, guests can enjoy a glass of their favorite vintage and Spanish-Mediterranean small plates.

Vola's Dockside Grill: Vola's Dockside Grill, located near the historic waterfront, is a beloved local hotspot known for its seafood offerings and vibrant atmosphere. From the spacious outdoor patio, visitors can enjoy the display of fireworks in the company of friends and family.

APPETITE

4 Dates to Circle in July

BY HOPE NELSON
GAZETTE PACKET

From birthday celebrations to soccer tournaments to parties in the park to a pub crawl reaching double digits, July is teeming with opportunities to celebrate with food and drink. Here are some of the month's best bets.

Alexandria Birthday Celebration, July 8

Sundown on July 8 brings fireworks to the equation, but the city's birthday celebration really carries on all day. Expect revelry throughout town, especially in Old Town, where the sidewalks will be jammed with people and the restaurants teeming with specials. Looking for a spot to take in the evening show? Snag a reservation at Jula's (formerly Café 44), Barca, Vola's or Ada's on the River. But do it quickly – they fill up fast.

Tenth Annual Old Town Pub Crawl, July 15

Is it really the 10th annual pub crawl already? Host Port City Brewing says yes. Get ready to belly up to several bars in your quest to have your passport stamped – and earn a limited-edition pint glass. From Buggy's to Chadwicks, Virtue Feed and Grain to Blackwall Hitch, to many other stop-offs in between, you'll be able to sample some Port City beer at the various locations and make some new friends along the way. 1:30-6 p.m. Free to participate (but beers, of course, will cost you).

Women's World Cup Tournament, Beginning July 20

This year's soccer tourney, hosted in New Zealand, is going to be

SEE APPETITE, PAGE 9

ENTERTAINMENT



Independence Day fireworks will be held on June 30 and July 1 at George Washington's Mount Vernon.

JUNE 30 AND JULY 1

Independence Day Fireworks.

At George Washington's Mount Vernon. Enjoy an evening of family fun and Independence Day fireworks along with patriotic music to celebrate the nation's founding. Guests also can attend a special wreath-laying at Washington's Tomb, watch colonial ice cream-making demonstrations, and enjoy 18th-century dancing. The Mansion will be lit in red, white, and blue during this event scheduled for June 30 and July 1.

SATURDAY/JULY 1

Fireworks. 6-10 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. The Workhouse Arts Center will present a pre-Independence fireworks event Saturday, July 1 from 6-10 p.m. on its Lorton, VA 55-acre campus. The event includes the fireworks display (beginning at dark, approximately 9:15 p.m.), live music, free access to galleries, artist studios and museum; food and beverages are available for purchase. Entrance is free; parking is \$40 per vehicle. VIP tickets are available for \$120 and includes private reception, food, wine tasting and reserved seating for the fireworks show. To purchase tickets, visit workhousearts.org/fireworks.

SATURDAY/JULY 8

The City of Alexandria celebrates its 274th birthday on Saturday, July 8, starting at 6 p.m., with a performance by the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra and a grand finale fireworks display at 9:30 p.m. Enjoy the big birthday experience including cupcakes, local vendors and live music. Oronoco Bay Park,

100 Madison St.
6 p.m. - Opening Music; 7:30 p.m. - Welcome by NPR's Suraya Mohamed. Announcement by Town Crier, Remarks by Mayor Justin Wilson, Poetry by Alexandria Poet Laureate Zeina Azzam; 8 p.m. - Distribution of birthday cupcakes by members of City Council; 8:30 p.m. - Performance by the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra; 9:30 p.m. - Grand finale fireworks display with Alexandria Symphony Orchestra performing 1812
<https://www.alexandriava.gov/Birthday>

NOW THRU JULY 15

Alexander D'Agostino: "A Shrine for the Forgotten" Exhibition. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Baltimore-based solo artist exhibition recipient, Alexander D'Agostino, presents "A Shrine for the Forgotten." The work explores queer histories and images, through performance, installation, and reclaiming material from queer archives and other cultural resources related to the historic marginalization of LGBTQ people.

THROUGH-AUGUST 31

Creative Summer Programs. At Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Creative Summer Programs is a series of workshops exploring the arts. Learn techniques in drawing, mixed media, mosaic, jewelry, watercolor, and more from local artists. Delve into creative exploration solo or with friends. For children and/or adults, free and paid programs are offered. Sign up for what inspires you! Visit the website: DelRayArtisans.org/creative-summer

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AND FIREWORKS

The City of Alexandria will celebrate its 274th and the USA's 247th birthday on Saturday, July 8, at Oronoco Bay Park (100 Madison St.). The event includes a performance by the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, ending with the Grand Finale -- a fireworks display at 9:30 p.m. Admission is free!

Will you be attending?

RSVP to help us plan the best event for you!

Location: Oronoco Bay Park (100 Madison St.)

6 p.m. - Opening Music

7:30 p.m. - Welcome by NPR's Suraya Mohamed, Announcement by Town Crier, Remarks by Mayor Justin Wilson, Poetry by Alexandria Poet Laureate Zeina Azzam

8 p.m. - Distribution of birthday cupcakes by members of City Council

8:30 p.m. - Performance by the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra

9:30 p.m. - Grand finale fireworks display with Alexandria Symphony Orchestra performing 1812

FIREWORKS VANTAGE POINTS LOCATIONS

Grand finale fireworks display, July 8 at 9:30 p.m.

Vantage points:

Canal Center Plaza (Center Canal Plaza)

Rivergate Park (2 Montgomery St.)

Oronoco Bay Park (100 Madison St.)

Founders Park (351 North Union St.)

Waterfront Park (1A Prince St.)

Point Lumley Park, (1 Duke St.)
Windmill Hill Park (501 South Union St.)
Fords Landing boardwalk (99 Franklin St.)
Jones Point Park (Jones Point Drive)
George Washington Masonic Temple (101 Callahan Drive)

In case of inclement weather, the event will be rescheduled to Sunday, July 9, at 6 p.m.

ALEXANDRIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PERFORMS FOR ALEXANDRIA BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Alexandria Symphony Orchestra will present a free concert as part of the 274th Alexandria Birthday Celebration on Saturday, July 8, 2023. The celebration, sponsored by the city and coordinated by the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities, culminates with fireworks underscored by additional music from the ASO.

The concert will include the Armed Forces Medley, film scores, patriotic favorites and highlights from West Side Story and Guys and Dolls. The grand finale will feature a spectacular fireworks display with Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture, accompanied by live cannons from the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard). The program will be led by guest conductor John Devlin. Concert sponsors include McEneaney Associates Realtors, Caudron Megary Blackburn Wealth Management, Chadwicks, and the City of Alexandria.

ative-summer

MOUNT VERNON NIGHTS

Fridays at 7:30 p.m. at Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria

JUNE

30 Collective Delusion (Rock)

JULY

7 Kickoman (Latin/Reggae)

14 Burn the Ballroom (Alternative Rock)

21 King Teddy (Swing)

28 The HalfSmokes (WHFS Playlists/Alternative Rock)

AUGUST

4 Kadencia Orchestra (Bomba, Plena, Salsa)

11 Collaboration featuring Lori Williams (Jazz)

18 Crack The Sky (Rock)

25 Deanna Bogart (Blues, R&B)

FRANCONIA NIGHTS

CONCERTS

Wednesday evenings from 7:30-8:30 p.m.

At Leonadus K. Plenty Amphitheater, 6601 Telegraph Road, Alexandria.

JULY

5 Natyabhoomi School of Dance (Indian Dance and Music)

12 The Pietasters (Ska)

19 Chuck Brown Band (Go Go/Funk/Soul)

26 Silver Tones Swing Band (Swing Dance)

AUGUST

2 Pablo Perez El Alcalde de la Salsa (Salsa)

9 Alexandria Harmonizers (Chorus)

16 The Nighthawks (Blues)

23 Dave Kline Band (World Jazz Fusion)

OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA WATERFRONT MUSIC SERIES

Free Concerts. Wednesdays from 4-7 p.m. At Old Town Alexandria waterfront. Join in the Waterfront Wednesday Music Series featuring a range of music genres by local musicians. Bring a chair or simply stop by to enjoy some beautiful waterside beats. Free. Weather permitting.

June 28 - Adrian Duke Project

July 12 - Melissa Quinn Fox

July 19 - Vaughn Ambrose and the SJE

July 26 - Amafujo's Moodswings

August 2 - Chris Barrick Vibes and Organ Trio

August 9 - Sol Roots

August 16 - Delta Spur

SUNDAY SOUNDS

ON THE PROMENADE

Free Concerts. 11:30-1:30 p.m. At 7 Pioneer Mill Way, Alexandria. Yellow Door Music Concert Series presents a musical lineup of artists on select Sundays.

July 30 - Vaughn Ambrose Jazz Trio

Aug. 27 - Triflilio Tango Music

On Aug. 27, in honor of National Dog Day that weekend, Robinson Landing encourages individuals to bring their dog out for a yappy social for play and fun for your furry ones.

The full event schedule of Robinson Landing programming is located at www.RobinsonLanding.com/WaterfrontEvents.

THRU-JULY 23

Mark Drefs and Leslie Nolan Exhibit. At the Athenaeum, Alexandria. Mark Drefs and Leslie Nolan are presenting a vibrant body of work at the Athenaeum Gallery. Drefs and Nolan both play with bold lines and color in a way that is complementary of the other's work and style. Drefs's abstract pieces are highlighted by their layered components, and almost transparent hues that show all the details in the paintings. While Nolan shows more figurative forms that have a raw quality to the finished product through the strong paint strokes and bold gestural motions, which display the realness of the subject.

THURSDAY/JUNE 29

Music at the Manor. 5-7 p.m. At River Farm, 7931 E. Boulevard Dr., Alexandria. River Farm presents its first-ever Music at the Manor, a sunset evening featuring live music by 2 dames and a stand-up dude. Mary Bowers, Lynne White, and Scott Freeman are 2 dames and a stand-up dude. They play an array of cover songs that span several decades and multiple genres; from Bossa Nova and show tunes like Girl from Ipanema and Fly Me to the Moon to singer-songwriter and contemporaries like Sheryl Crow and the Indigo Girls, with some country and Americana tossed into the mix. Guests are encouraged to pack a blanket and picnic basket with their choice food and beverage for an evening of crowd-pleasing tunes at sunset along the Potomac River. The BYOB outdoor garden event is free and open to the public.

JUNE 30-JULY 24

"Spring Awakening." At Inslie Arts Center, 3900 West Braddock Road, Alexandria. Monumental Theatre Company will stage Duncan Sheik and Steven Sater's Spring Awakening. Based on Frank Wedekind's 1891 play of the same name, the story follows a group of German teenagers who discover and explore their sexual identities. This alternative rock musical is a timely and timeless story that invites audience members to reclaim the narrative surrounding the often taboo subjects of sexual education, love, and acceptance. Tickets will be available online at <https://www.monumentaltheatre.org/>.

JULY 1, 2023

Used Book Sale: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Selection of over 20,000 gently used children's books, fiction, history, biography, home and garden, cooking, crafts, sports, religion, travel, CDs, DVDs, and more. Unless specially priced, \$1 for hard backs and large paperbacks, and 25 cents for mass market paperbacks. Visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-sherwood-regional>.

SUNDAY/JULY 9

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 10

APPETITE

4 Dates to Circle in July

FROM PAGE 8

hard on American viewers – with kickoffs ranging from 3 a.m. to 10:30 p.m., it's going to be crucial to develop a critical mass of fans to watch with. Keep an eye out on your favorite pub's social media pages for special World Cup-related deals – and special hours of operation, to boot.

Beats, Bites and Brews at John Carlyle Square, July 29

Local musicians, local food vendors and local

breweries and wineries join forces on the final Saturday of the month to celebrate the best of summer. From Himalayan and Japanese cuisine to ceramics artisans and fitness leaders, this event is poised to contain multitudes. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Free admission.

Hope Nelson is the author of "Classic Restaurants of Alexandria" and owns the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at www.kitchenrecessionista.com. Email her any time at hope@kitchenrecessionista.com.

Call today and receive a
FREE SHOWER PACKAGE
PLUS \$1600 OFF

SAFE STEP
WALK-IN TUB

1-877-591-9950

With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-In Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. CSLB 1082165 NSCB 0082999 0083445

GENERAC

Prepare for power outages today

WITH A HOME STANDBY GENERATOR

\$0 MONEY DOWN + LOW MONTHLY PAYMENT OPTIONS

Contact a Generac dealer for full terms and conditions.

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE

CALL NOW BEFORE THE NEXT POWER OUTAGE

(844) 947-1479

FREE 7-Year Extended Warranty*
- A \$695 Value!

*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.

Leaf Filter CLOG-FREE GUTTERS
GUTTER PROTECTION **FOREVER**

BEFORE LeafFilter AFTER LeafFilter

THE NATION'S #1 GUTTER GUARD

EXCLUSIVE LIMITED TIME OFFER!

15% OFF + 10% OFF + 0%

YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE* SENIORS & MILITARY! APR FOR 24 MONTHS**

USA Promo Code: 285

FREE GUTTER ALIGNMENT + FREE GUTTER CLEANING*

CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE **1-877-614-6667**

Mon-Thurs: 8am-11pm, Fri-Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: 2pm-8pm EST A COMPANY OF LEAFHOME

**Wells Fargo Home Projects credit card is issued by Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., an Equal Housing Lender. Special terms for 24 mo. apply to qualifying purchases of \$1,000 or more with approved credit. Minimum monthly payments will not pay off balance before end of promotional period. APR for new purchases is 28.99% Effective: 01/01/2023 - subject to change. Call 1-800-431-5921 for complete details. 27th leading consumer reporting agency conducted a 16-month outdoor test of gutter guards in 2010 and recognized LeafFilter as the #1 rated professionally installed gutter guard system in America. *For those who qualify. One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. Offer valid at time of estimate only. See Representative for full warranty details. Manufactured in Plainville, Michigan and processed at LHM/Mercer Group in China. AR #0356320022, CA #1035795, CT #HIC 0649205, FL #CBC056576, IA #C127230, ID #RCE-51604, LA #059544, MA #176447, MD #MHC 1483276, MI #2102212086, #762000022, #762000040, #2100212946, NY #RFP11894, MT #226192, ND #7304, NE #001405, NJ #134105951900, NM #438053, NV #080990, NV #119114, HI #52223, OR #218294, PA #PA016383, RI #RSC-41354, TN #7656, UT #10783658-5001, VA #2705169445, WA #LEAF11W82Q2, WY #W056912.

CLASSIFIED
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM
TO ADVERTISE IN THIS PAPER, CALL BY MONDAY 11:00 AM 703-778-9411

The Bath or Shower You've Always Wanted
IN AS LITTLE AS A DAY

\$1000 OFF*

AND
No Payments & No Interest For 18 Months**

OFFER EXPIRES 9.30.2023

BCI BATH & SHOWER

CALL NOW (844) 945-1631

*Includes product and labor; bathtub, shower or walk-in tub and wall surround. This promotion cannot be combined with any other offer. Other restrictions may apply. This offer expires 9/30/23. Each dealership is independently owned and operated. **Third party financing is available for those customers who qualify. See your dealer for details. ©2023 BCI Acrylic, Inc.

Human Trafficking? NOT IF I SEE IT

If we work together to report abuse, we can help every single victim in Virginia. Be a human-traffic hero by calling #77.

HVA

Sign up for FREE DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION to all of our papers

www.connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

Past issues of **THE CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS**

back to 2008 are available at <http://connectionarchives.com/PDF>

OPINION

Summer Crime

FROM PAGE 4
prevention and focused enforcement across the county. The Summer Crime Prevention Initiative continues through August, with a different focus area and patrol coordination model each month. The focus areas and resource plans will be created for each month in coordination with the FCPD's Crime Analysis Unit (CAU) to more effectively combat the crime trends and patterns FCPD is seeing.

FCPD will utilize selective enforcement teams to address identified crime trends. The teams will be made up of officers from all eight district stations and will work in conjunction with other FCPD teams such as station Neighborhood Patrol Units, Tyson Urban Team and Shopping Center Units to help cover specific areas and increase effectiveness.

In June, FCPD kicked off the first three waves of its 2023 Summer Crime Initiative with a focus on retail theft. Officers have been strategically deployed across the County to combat criminals who target our local businesses and business owners. This three-prong approach includes: (1) officers increasing proactive patrol in areas identified as having increased calls for service for shoplifting and other retail theft, (2) increasing community engagement in areas affected by this crime, and (3) working with affected businesses to create long-term solutions to preventing and deterring shoplifters.

Using data-informed decision-making, FCPD's coordinated efforts to reduce crime through strategic prevention and focused enforcement in specific areas across the County aim to make our community a safer place to live, learn, work and play.

For more on this and other safety initiatives, notifications, and results, follow FCPD and Supervisor Dan Storck on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram at @FairfaxCountyPD and @SupDanStorck.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 9
The Capitol Collective Chamber Ensemble. 2 p.m. The Capitol Collective Chamber Ensemble is partnering with the Athenaeum to present an afternoon of chamber music. Consisting primarily of DC military band musicians, they seek to promote accessible chamber music throughout the DMV area. Enjoy works for strings, winds, brass, and percussion in this program featuring composers Jesse Montgomery, Ivan Trevino, Aaron Copland, and Jean Francaix.

July 21-23 South Asian Music Festival
The DC South Asian Arts Council Inc,
SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

ENTERTAINMENT



“Spring Awakening” will be shown June 30-July 24, 2023, at the Ainslie Arts Center in Alexandria.

FROM PAGE 10

a non-profit arts organization, unveils the 1st ever DC South Asian Music Festival from July 21-23. From the soul-stirring classical vocal and instrumental masterpieces to the mesmerizing Sufi, Ghazal, and Evergreen Bollywood, it promises to be an unforgettable musical journey. Sarod Maestro Amjad Ali Khan and sons Amaan Ali Bangash and Ayaan Ali Bangash, open the festival with their enchanting classical traditions on Friday, July 21. Saturday, July 22 starts with a Singing Competition, a showcase of exceptional local South Asian talent, taking the stage. On Saturday July 22 and Sunday July 23, the exceptional performances continue. Wheaton High School, 12401 Dalewood Dr, Silver Spring, MD 20906 For the full schedule, passes and tickets, visit <https://www.dcsaaci.org>

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.

10TH ANNUAL OLD TOWN PUB CRAWL ON SATURDAY, JULY 15

One day, one crawl, eight stops. There will be two Port City Brewing Company pub crawl guides at participating bars and restaurants See below. Participation is as simple as this: visit one of the participating restaurants, find a Port City pub crawl guide and obtain a pub crawl pass from them. You'll then take that pass and get it stamped at each participating restaurant (no purchase required to get the stamp) between 1:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. Once your pass is completed, take it to the information station (across from Mai Thai) beginning at 5 p.m. to get your limited edition pub crawl glass.

- ❖ From 1:30-2:30 pm go to any of the participating locations to grab your Pub Crawl Pass

JUNE

Fri. 30: Newmyer Flyer Presents The Songs of Burt Bacharach & Hal David \$39.50

JULY

Sat. 1: Donnell Rawlings \$35.00 SOLD OUT!
 Thu. 6: Michael Franks \$65.00 SOLD OUT!
 Fri. 7: Michael Franks \$65.00 SOLD OUT!
 Sat. 8: Bela Dona Band \$39.50
 Sun. 9: Acoustic Alchemy \$35.00
 Mon. 10: Nick Lowe & Los Straitjackets \$45.00 SOLD OUT!
 Fri. 14: Kindred The Family Soul - 20th Ann of “Surrender To Love” Album Tour \$75.00
 Sat. 15: Kindred The Family Soul - 20th Ann of “Surrender To Love” Album Tour \$75.00
 Sun. 16: Rodney Crowell: The Chicago Sessions with Rob Ickes & Trey Hensely \$59.50
 Thu. 20: Tab Benoit w/ Anthony Rosana and the Conquerors \$45.00
 Fri. 21: Don McLean “American Pie 50th Anniversary Tour!” \$69.50
 Sat. 22: Who’s Bad – The Ultimate Michael Jackson Experience \$39.50
 Fri. 28: Anthony Brown & group therAPy \$39.50
 Sat. 29: MAYSA \$69.50
 Sun. 30: The Stylistics \$65.00
 Mon. 31: Joey McIntyre ‘Solo Joe Tour’ \$45.00

- ❖ From 1:30-6pm stop at all locations, look for the PCBC Team and get a stamp on your Pub Crawl Pass. Stay and enjoy some Port City beer at your favorite spots. (No purchase required to get the stamp)
- ❖ Stop by the Port City Tent from 5-6pm with your completed Pass and get the limited edition Pub Crawl Pint Glass!

Free to participate, no registration required. Participating Locations: Buggy’s Pizza Restaurant & Sports Bar; Chadwicks; Daniel O’Connell’s Irish Restaurant and Bar; The Fish Market in Old Town Alexandria, VA; Union Street Public House; Virtue Feed & Grain; Vol’s Dockside Grill / The Hi-Tide Lounge; Blackwall Hitch <https://visitallexandria.com/events/9th-annual-port-city-old-town-pub-crawl/>

Timed Entry for Freedom House Museum

The Freedom House Museum is what remains of a large complex dedicated to trafficking thousands of Black men, women, and children from 1828-1861. This museum honors the lives and experiences of the enslaved and free Black people who lived in and were trafficked through Alexandria. Slavery, race-based laws and racial terror erased and diminished African American history and contributions from the national narrative; however, this museum seeks to reframe white supremacist history. Admission is required to visit the three floors of Freedom House Museum. Due to high demand, we highly encourage you to purchase tickets in advance and not at the door.

Museum is open Sunday and Monday, 1-5 p.m.; Thursday and Friday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.; Saturday 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Notes on your visit:

- ❖ Guests do not need to print off tickets. Your name will be on the registration list for the day.
- ❖ Please arrive 5 minutes prior to your admission time. If running late, call the Museum at 703-746-4702 or your reservation will be

forfeited 5 minutes after your admission time has begun and no refunds will be issued.

- ❖ The Freedom House Museum’s timed entry reservation system is for visitors’ personal use only. Timed tickets are valid only for the stated visitor(s), guests(s), date, and time. Tickets may not be sold or transferred. Reservations that violate these conditions may be cancelled.

- ❖ Admission includes the ability for guests to step outside and return to the Museum during the same date of admission. Plan at least 1.5 hours for your visit.

- ❖ At all Historic Alexandria sites, we do not tolerate racist or derogatory jokes, comments, or harassment from our guests or staff. We value the dignity of all people who enter our sites. We are committed to creating an environment where together we can explore Alexandria’s complex history in a manner that is respectful for all. Violators of this policy will be asked to leave the premises.

- ❖ For groups of 10 or more, visit Freedom House webpage (alexandriava.gov/FreedomHouse)

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

CALL 703-549-0004

FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION

ELECTRICAL	ELECTRICAL
K & D ELECTRIC	
COMMERCIAL / RESIDENTIAL SERVICE	
Family Owned & Operated	
Recessed Lighting	Licensed/Bonded/Insured
Ceiling Fans	Office 703-335-0654
Phone/CATV	Mobile 703-499-0522
Computer Network Cabling	Service Upgrades
Hot Tubs, etc...	lektrkman28@gmail.com

LANDSCAPING	LANDSCAPING
Landscape Drainage	Landscape Drainage

We Need Your Help Again

We are sincerely grateful and thankful to you for helping in 2021 to save one of America's oldest newspapers, the Alexandria Gazette Packet, publishing continuously since 1784

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.

Visit connectionnewspapers.com or <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-keep-your-newspaper-printing>

Connection Newspapers... Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette, Centre View, Potomac Almanac
 1606 King Street • Alexandria, VA • 703-778-9431

Within the Next Month



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

One of the most persistent and enduring thoughts I have is very much a product of my survival. When you're told by your oncologist – and by association, your pulmonologist, your thoracic surgeon, a pathologist, and by your long-time internal medicine, primary care provider, that you have stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer and have a “13 months to two years” prognosis, your life is turned completely upside down and inside out. To say your life will never be the same is the understatement of the year. To characterize it any differently would be naïve/delusional.

As such, your sense of time – and appreciation of time, changes. How do you live in the present when you've been told by several physicians that in effect, you have no future? Your perspective and orientation go to an emotional place you've likely never been to before. And oh, by the way, you pretty much cede control of your life to this most unwanted intruder: cancer, as well.

And then, low and behold, to all your doctors' surprise, you don't succumb to your disease. In fact, you live a relatively normal life, from outward appearances, going on 14 and half years. So far, that's 13 years-ish past the do-or-die prognosis you received. Eventually, since you're still living, you sort of work in, or perhaps even plan for a future. A future which has been tenuous and hardly guaranteed. Yet, in this conundrum of living after being told you were likely going to die, suddenly, sort of, the future is upon you.

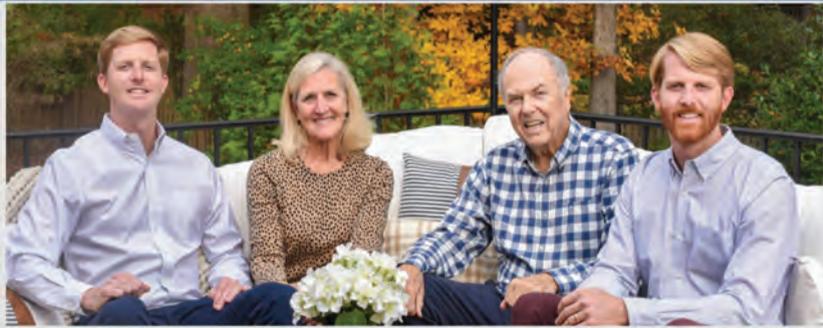
But it's a future that's coated in the past. How can one look forward when previously you were constantly being pulled backward to a pre-existing grim reaper if there ever was one: “terminal” cancer. Then you don't die. Years pass and your sense and expectation of time is thrown completely out of whack. Living forward, how do you live and try to ignore all the indicators and professional opinions that say you were going to die much sooner than you or they anticipated? Somehow, you must bury the lead, as they say.

So, you put these thoughts in the vault, per a Jerry Seinfeld episode, and try to live as if you're not dying. But as simple as that may sound, if you compartmentalize, the fact and truth of the matter is there's always a nagging subconscious Ying and yang that hides in plain sight. And so, you think, what happens if and when the results of lab work diagnostic scans (PET, MRI, CT and Bone) change – for the dramatically, dare I say, inevitably worse? This is the definition of unproductive thought. But that's the battle that rages in your brain – the conscious and the subconscious.

And when this internal emotional struggle manifests for me, it's typically when my next quarterly scans are around the next quarter. As it so happens, and it serves as good fodder for this column, it is “now,” as made famous by legendary football coach, George Allen, pronouncing that “The future is now.” – as is mine right now. Certainly, after 14 years, I'm experienced dealing with this reality. Nevertheless, the future is now, and I can't deny that the longer I live the more intense my fear that change is coming. Moreover, neither can I deny that this process is getting more difficult to endure. I can't help thinking that one of these days, the figurative hammer is going to come crashing down on my computer when my most recent lab and/or scan results are emailed to me.

When I received notification in my email that these quarterly results have been emailed, I take a deep breath, exhale, pray to God for good news and then I click on the link (I'm physically shaking, by the way, during this process) and wait for the nearly instantaneous download. I read with trepidation and fear and hope to find enough familiar positive-sounding conclusions/assessments from the doctors. At this juncture, I am usually on my own. Dina is often working at a local barn caring for a damaged horse and my doctors are not exactly waiting on hold for my reaction, ready to answer any questions. When I am lucky enough – to have my warranty extended, so to speak, after receiving the results with which I can live, I am reminded of “Mad Magazine” and Alfred E. Newman: “What me worry?” So much to do about nothing. “What a waste of worry,” I say to myself. Let me assure you, waiting for cancer-related results is hardly nothing. In fact, it is the subject for which worry was invented. I wish there was another way to get through this quarterly ordeal, but I'm afraid, on many levels, there isn't.

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



CHRIS WHITE

FAMILY REAL ESTATE
OF LONG & FOSTER

Leading the Area in Real Estate **SOLD!!!!**



4413 Neptune Dr | \$999,000



9390 Warburton Ct | \$1,250,000



4008 Old Mill Rd | \$835,000



4108 Old Mill Rd | \$749,000



2210 Londonderry Rd | \$900,000



8353 Wagon Wheel Rd | \$650,000



3600 Riverwood Rd | \$1,150,000



1112 Cedar Dale Ln | \$1,220,000



4110 Robertson Blvd | \$799,000



3107 McGeorge Terr | \$800,000



4007 Adrienne Dr | \$770,000



9220 Forest Haven Dr | \$830,000



9417 Macklin Ct | \$1,395,000



3713 Wash Woods Dr | \$1,350,000



4008 Adrienne Dr | \$800,000

37 homes sold in 2023 so far!

703.283.9028

LONG & FOSTER
REAL ESTATE

www.chrisandpeggywhite.com
chris.white@longandfooster.com

Alexandria/Old Town Historic ~ 110 N. Royal St. 3rd Floor Alexandria, VA 22314

BEST OF
WASHINGTONIAN
TOP PRODUCING AGENT 2015-2022