

Alexandria Gazette Packet



25 CENTS

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AUGUST 17, 2023

'This Feels Weird'

The first day of school is Aug. 21. Is that early?

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria public school students are winding down their summer break with most lamenting the early start to the new school year.

"This feels weird. We always go back in September," said Sydney Keene-Osborne, a fifth grader at Douglas MacArthur Elementary School. "I like summer and it will still be warm out."

Concurred Annabelle Broderick-Warren, who is entering fifth grade at James K. Polk, "It's too early to be going back to school. It will be too hot for our recesses and breaks outside."

Open houses for families have already begun at ACPS schools across the city as students and parents prepare to send students back to school two weeks before the Labor Day holiday.

"Growing up in the public school system we never started before Labor Day and never wanted to," said School Board member Jacinta Greene. "I'm a strong believer in making sure that families are able to spend time together, to be able to have as much vacation time as possible and regroup before a new



Recent ACHS graduates Isaac Wessen, Adam Gebru, Zacharia Hassen and Josua Tsfamariam wind down their summer days Aug. 9 before starting their first year of college.

school year begins."

A 1980s Virginia law referred to as the "King's Dominion" rule required school systems to start classes after Labor Day but most have now transitioned to the earlier start to the school year. ACPS started classes Aug. 22 in 2022.

"I see both sides where starting before Labor Day you get that instruction time earlier and hopefully on the back end will get out earlier," Greene said. "But if I had my choice I would start after Labor Day, particularly because we are

not getting out that much earlier at the back end."

A group of recent Alexandria City High School graduates gathered to enjoy the last remaining days of summer before beginning their college careers.

"I am looking forward to starting college at George Mason," said Isaac Wessen. "I am excited to meet new people and join new clubs."

Adam Gebru will be attending Northern Virginia Community College.

"I am looking forward to learning more and just being a better person in general," Gebru said.

Zacharia Hassen will also be attending NVCC.

"I have great memories of my high school football games but I am excited to meet new people and learning more," Hassen said.

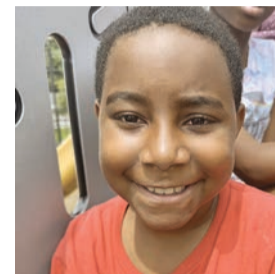
Joshua Tsfamariam is looking forward to being a Hokie at Virginia Tech.

"It will be fun going to new classes and getting to know new classmates," Tsfamariam said. "I

experienced so many things that I would not have experienced if I wasn't here so I appreciate my time at ACHS."

Nancy Broderick had special end-of-summer plans for her granddaughter Annabelle.

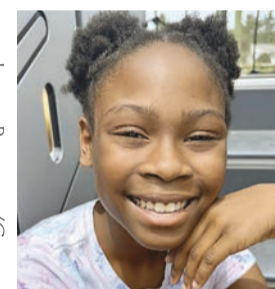
"I wanted to plan an end-of-summer extravaganza so we are going to a Pink concert tonight," Broderick said. "I know it seems like school is starting early but it has been a good summer and I think she is anxious to see her friends again."



Michael Jones-Lee, 10, 5th grade Douglas MacArthur – "I don't wanna go back. I'm not looking forward to anything other than seeing my classmates."



Blaze Ritt, 9, James K. Polk – "I'm happy but also kinda scared. I don't know if I'm gonna fail or not."



Tomisha Dudley, 10, 6th grade Patrick Henry – "I'm horrified. I'm scared that I'm not gonna make new friends."



Summer Ritt, 11, 6th grade Francis C. Hammond – "I don't want summer to end but I am excited to see who will be my teacher and see my classmates again."

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



Friends Summer Ritt, Michael Jones-Lee, Blaze Ritt and Tomisha Dudley enjoy the waning days of summer Aug. 11.



Vicky Ramirez, ACHS junior – "It feels a bit weird to go back so early. It feels like I just started summer. I get that they are trying to do more holidays throughout the year -- I see the vision but this still feels too short."



Fifth graders Sydney Keene-Osborne and Annabell Broderick-Warren enjoy some summer fun Aug. 7.

Featuring 1304 Gahant Rd

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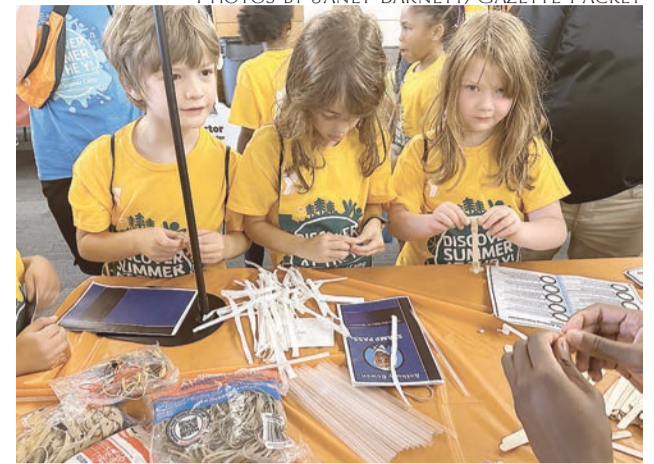
PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



YMCA summer program kids try their hand at the computer autopsy exhibit at the Thingamajig Invention Convention Aug. 2 at the U.S. Patent and Trademark office.



Participants from the Alexandria YMCA create art at the YMCA Thingamajig Invention Convention Aug. 2 at the U.S. Patent and Trademark office.



Students test their skills at the Sound Sandwiches exhibit at the YMCA Thingamajig Invention Convention Aug. 2 at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Full S.T.E.A.M. Ahead

USPTO hosts YMCA Invention Convention.

By JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Hundreds of young inventors gathered Aug. 2 at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office for the second annual YMCA Thingamajig Invention Convention, a hands-on science fair to promote educational interest in courses

“This is a great collaboration with sponsors coming in being part of this amazing adventure for kids.”

— YMCA board member
Lisa Massicott-Ndal

es focused on S.T.E.A.M., or Science, Tech, Engineering, Art and Math. “Today we are celebrating Thingamajig,” said YMCA board member

SEE INVENTION CONVENTION, PAGE 11



Hundreds of students gather for the YMCA Thingamajig Invention Convention Aug. 2 at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office..

Alexandria Police Investigate Deadly Shooting

Alexandria Police are investigating a deadly shooting that occurred in the 800 block of West Glebe Road on July 24.

Police confirmed that Eric Holmes Jr., 29, was the victim of a fatal shooting on Monday morning July 24. Responding officers found Holmes on the scene; he was transported to the hospital where he was pronounced dead.

The Alexandria Police Department is requesting the community’s help in locating the pictured vehicle which reports indicate was used in the shooting. The vehicle is described as a newer model silver Nissan Rogue with “Enterprise Car Sales”

placard in the rear license plate holder, according to police.

Anyone who sees this vehicle or has any information about the shooting is asked to call Alexandria Police at 703-746-6711.

Police are asking any member of the community with digital evidence, video or audio files, to upload directly and anonymously to the online portal. This information can be anonymous.

For those residents who wish to speak to a detective, please contact Detective Michael Whelan at Michael.Whelan@alexandriava.gov.

Today’s shooting is the fifth homicide in Alexandria in 2023.

Police Seek Information in July 22 Shooting

Alexandria Police are asking the community to come forward with any information in a shooting that left a man in the hospital with life-threatening injuries.

On Saturday, July 22, at 2:34 p.m. officers responded to the shooting in the 800 block of N. Henry St. One victim, an adult male, was taken to the hospital; his injuries remain life-threatening.

Investigators are asking anyone with information to call Detective Stephen Riley at 703.746.6225 or email him at stephen.riley@alexandriava.gov. Individuals who reach out can remain anonymous.



ACPD

Have you seen this vehicle which was used in the July 24 fatal shooting?



Vonzel Martenia holds his daughter Zelena, 3, as stylist Dellice Harris gives her a new look to start off the school year during a free styling day for Carpenter's Shelter girls Aug. 14 at Iye's Salon at 4600 Duke Street.



Stylists Monique Reid, Jerrell Morgan, Nevaeah Kilgore, and Shanika Morgan give 7-year-old Nyela a new hairstyle at a free styling day for Carpenter's Shelter girls Aug. 14 at Iye's Salon at 4600 Duke Street.



Iye Bayoh, owner of Iye's Salon, and Aminata Mansaray give new braids to Zymiah, 7, at a free styling day for Carpenter's Shelter girls Aug. 14 at Iye's Salon at 4600 Duke Street.

PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Crowning Glory Carpenter's Shelter girls get new back-to-school styles.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Iye's Salon at 4600 Duke Street was a buzz of activity Aug. 14 as stylists gave girls from Carpenter's Shelter programs new braided hairstyles to begin the school year.

"One of my clients wanted to help little girls who are not able to pay for their hair

"I wanted kids to be able to come and feel pampered."

— Salon owner Iye Bayoh

styles," said salon owner Iye Bayoh. "So she came to me and asked if we could make this happen." That client was Alexandria City Councilwoman Alyia Gaskins, who was on hand serving refreshments to the young clients as volunteer stylists spent the day creating braids and natural styles for the girls of Carpenter's Shelter in preparation to start a new school year.

"I wanted to organize a mini hair salon for

young girls currently living in Carpenter's Shelter or participating in their community programs to get their hair done for the first day of school," Gaskins said.

"The stylists are all donating their time to make these girls feel special as they begin the school year."

Added Bayoh, who has been styling hair for over 16 years, "I wanted kids to be able to come and feel pampered."

U.S. Marshals Shoot Suspect at Potomac Yards

On Tuesday, Aug. 8, 2023, at approximately 12:46 p.m. the Alexandria Police Department responded to a shooting in the 3600 block of Richmond Highway. Upon arriving, officers learned the U.S. Marshals Capital Area Regional Fugitive Task Force located a wanted fugitive in the Potomac

Yard shopping center. While the Regional Fugitive Task Force attempted to apprehend the suspect, he was shot. The suspect was transported to the hospital with life-threatening injuries.

The Washington Post reported that members of the Fugitive Task Force were attempting to arrest a 37-year-old man who

was wanted by the Talbot County, Md., sheriff's office on attempted murder, assault and firearms charges, the Post reported.

The Post also reported that the injured suspect's father said that a hospital nurse told him his son was shot nine times.

Alexandria Police Department is asking anyone with information related to this

incident to contact Detective Stephen Riley by phone at 703-746-6225, by email at stephen.riley@alexandriava.gov, call our non-emergency number at 703.746.4444 or submit evidence directly to us via link: Alexandria Police Department Evidence link. Tips can be anonymous.

BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before the event.

DON SIMPSON, JR. IS 2023 BUSINESS LEADER OF THE YEAR
The Chamber ALX is thrilled to announce Don Simpson, Jr. as the 2023 Business Leader of the Year. He will be honored at the 2023

Best in Business Awards, presented by Burke & Herbert Bank, on Oct. 12th.

Don Simpson, Jr. is President of Simpson Development Company, Inc., and Vice President of Simpson Properties, Ltd., a full service Commercial Real Estate Development and Property Management firm located in Alexandria, Virginia. Mr. Simpson has worked with Simpson full-time since 1982 and oversees

all of the company's Real Estate Development and new Construction Projects located throughout the Washington area. Simpson has earned a reputation for providing on-time high quality projects for a great value to their clients. The firm currently manages over 1 million square feet of commercial office space and develops approximately 100,000 sf of new development space each year.

Simpson also provides asset and facility management services to their current office and retail portfolio.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Join Friends' Board. Those who care about mental health, the Alexandria community, and collaborating with fellow residents to make sure the City's most vulnerable residents have a chance to thrive, then consider joining the Board of Friends

of the Alexandria Mental Health Center. The Friends Board is an all-volunteer group of residents that oversees the administration of one of Alexandria's top mental health charities. Friends has no paid staff, so Board members, working on average 10 hours per month, share the day-to-day work needed to accomplish its goals. Interested candidates should email FriendsofAMHC@gmail.com.

Alexandria Sheriff's Office, Detention Center Earn Reaccreditation

The American Correctional Association's Commission on Accreditation for Corrections has formally reaccredited the Alexandria Sheriff's Office and William G. Truesdale Adult Detention Center and recognized ASO for excellence in jail operations.

The Correctional Association presented Alexandria Sheriff's Office with an official Certificate of Accreditation during its recent summer conference in Philadelphia. Sheriff Sean Casey accepted the award following a panel review with Commission members on Aug. 11. He was joined by Chief Deputy Shelbert Williams, Accreditation Manager Gayle Reuter and ADA/PREA Coordinator Candra Callicott. (ADA is the American with Disabilities Act; PREA is the Prison Rape Elimination Act)



Chief Deputy Shelbert Williams, Accreditation Manager Gayle Reuter, Sheriff Sean Casey and ADA/PREA Coordinator Candra Callicott after receiving official accreditation from the American Correctional Association Aug. 11 in Philadelphia.

The American Correctional Association accreditation examines all facets of jail operations, including administration and management, physical plant, institutional operations and services, and inmate programs. In February, three auditors conducted a three-day onsite inspection of the Alexandria Detention Center and interviewed staff as well as inmates during their visit.

With the ACA accreditation, the Sheriff's Office has maintained its "Triple Crown Award" from the National Sheriffs' Association for achieving simultaneous accreditation from the ACA, the National Commission on Correctional Health Care, and the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. ASO has held continuous accreditation with ACA since 1989.

PHOTO COURTESY ASO

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LEGO



Herndon High School drum band and dancers led a parade of participants to opening ceremonies



Aria Kim, 6 years old of Centreville, discovers worlds within the LEGO Tree of Imagination

LEGO Discovery Center Opens

Promises entertainment for all ages.

By SUSAN LAUME
THE GAZETTE PACKET

A very tall LEGO Giraffe clues the first BIG sign of reaching a new destination for fun in Springfield. On Wednesday, kids by age, and at heart, found their way, by special invitation, to a new place of exploration. The LEGO Discovery Center Washington D.C. officially opened for all in Springfield Town Center on Aug. 14.

The 32,000 square foot family entertainment attraction and store on the mall's lower level boasts several sections. Twelve zones include multiple activities: LEGO block building areas, spaceship build, train ride with space pirates, Washington D.C. as a mini-world, 4D cinema, laser maze, and hero zone sure to help wear out even those with the most energy to burn. All this provided without the hazards of home carpet pedestrian danger.

The grand opening ribbon cutting event festivities included performances by the Herndon High School drum band and dance troupe, a participant parade and welcomes from general manager Theresa Alvich of the LEGO Discovery team and PREIT, the shopping center's owners, who recruited LEGO



An eager crowd of invitees of all ages awaits a first view of the Center

to the area.

Master Builder Andrew Litterst later spoke of the opening, saying "It's just a relief, to summarize it in one word." Litterst won his

position in February, in a brick building competition in the same spot where the podium stands for the opening event. He shared, "Ever since it's been pedal to the metal. I've



Supervisor Lusk interacts outside DUPLO Park with possible future constituent Mya McKenzie, 17 months, now of McLean

been building stuff pretty much all day for the past couple of weeks."

In his opening remarks, District Supervisor, Rodney Lusk, commented on the importance of skills our children can learn through play in activities the Center provides including collaboration, problem solving, and sense of accomplishment, all skills that are needed in the workforce. However, all thoughts of past and future work were forgotten as the confetti popped, the ribbon dropped, and the crowd plunged into the new adventures.

Advance tickets, for sale now with military discounts available, are encouraged for visits to the Center, open from 10 am to 6pm.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

A Special Lighthouse

History and Activities:

<https://www.nps.gov/gwmp/learn/historyculture/jonespointlighthouse.htm>
<https://www.funin Fairfaxva.com/visit-jones-point-park-alexandria-va/>
 Lighthouse Facts: <https://cheslights.org/jones-point-lighthouse/>



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

The Fresnel Lens on top of the Jones Point Lighthouse, which operated from 1856 to 1926.



PHOTO BY APRIL EVANS FOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

National Lighthouse Day, August 7. Jones Point Park.

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
 THE GAZETTE PACKET

Lighthouses are not on most Northern Virginians' minds these days, but Aug. 7 was National Lighthouse Day and this area has a special lighthouse, the Jones Point Lighthouse on the Potomac River.

"The Jones Point Lighthouse is one of the last riverine lighthouses in the country and the only one still standing in the Chesapeake Bay area," explains the National Park Service's website.

On Aug. 7, 1789, the first U.S. Congress passed a bill establishing federal control of lighthouses and Mount Vernon resident, U.S. President George Washington, signed the bill into law.

The lighthouse, built in 1855, is a critical piece of the city of Alexandria's history as one of the largest centers for shipping, man-

ufacturing, and transportation in the nation. It is the last remaining riverine lighthouse in Virginia.

The lighthouse operated from 1856 to 1926 and helped ships navigate the river. It supported the growing economies of Alexandria, Virginia and Washington, D.C., as merchant, passenger, fishing and naval vessels traveled the river daily.

The lighthouse's beam, powered by a fifth order Fresnel lens, could be seen nine miles away. The light was originally manually operated and powered by oil, changed to gas in 1866, reconverted to oil in 1900 and then in 1919, it got an automated flashing white light of 390-candlepower fueled by acetylene gas.

While iconic lighthouses are typically tall and cylindrical, this one is a 19-by-38-foot frame, one-and-a-half-story structure with a cylindrical, cast-iron lantern on the roof. Most of the original interior is gone, says the Na-

tional Register for Historic Places nomination.

The lighthouse had keepers, including families. The four-room building was no doubt crowded for Benjamin Greenwood, the longest-serving keeper, who worked and lived there from 1866 to 1906, at one time with his second wife and 11 of his 14 children.

The Capital's South "Corner"

Nearby is the south cornerstone of the District of Columbia, which some consider to be the nation's oldest federal monument. It was installed in 1791 and replaced in 1794 with the inscription, "The Beginning of the Territory of Columbia."

"The south cornerstone of the District of Columbia is significant as marking the beginning point of the 1791 survey that carved this unique Federal jurisdiction from the states of Virginia and Maryland ... This is one of the oldest artifacts related to the Nation's Capital," according to the historic des-

ignation nomination form. In 1846, the area was retroceded to Virginia.

One site on Alexandria's African American Heritage Trail here honors the surveyor for the nation's capital, Marylander Benjamin Banneker (1731-1805), a writer, inventor and free African American. Banneker used astronomical observations and calculations to establish the "south corner" of the new capital city.

In 1918, a shipyard at Jones Point built naval ships for World War I. The shipyard obscured the lighthouse's beacon light. In 1936, the Army Signal Corps built a classified communication facility on the former shipyard and closed the building to the public.

Pre-Lighthouse

Indigenous people no doubt used the area before European settlement. A National

SEE A SPECIAL LIGHTHOUSE, PAGE 8



PHOTO BY APRIL EVANS FOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Jones Point Park.



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Jones Point Lighthouse, restored, one of the last riverine lighthouses in the country and the only one still standing in the Chesapeake Bay area.



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 Struc Id	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Posted Date
ALBEMARLE	753	687	SHIFFLETTS MILL ROAD	BUCK MOUNTAIN CREEK	7/25/2023
TAZEWELL	18686	806	ROUTE 806	COAL CREEK	7/12/2023

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.

NEWS

A Special Lighthouse

FROM PAGE 7

Park Service marker today highlights another historical nugget. In 1654, Margaret Brent of Maryland received a land patent for the area, originally known as Piper's Island. A feisty, independent woman, lawyer and suffragist, she went to the Maryland state legislature and requested not just the right to vote, but the right to two votes, one for herself as a landowner and one as Lord Baltimore's attorney. The American Bar Association has called her "the nation's first woman lawyer."

Part of a National Park

In 1926, the Mount Vernon Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution became the owners of the lighthouse and maintained it as a museum. By the 1950s, the building was in disrepair so to preserve what was left, the DAR transferred the property back to the federal government and in 1964, the 22-acre Jones Point Park opened, a unit of the George Washington Memorial Parkway, today managed by the National Park Ser-

vice. NPS maintains a one-mile, signed interpretive trail.

Basketball, Bass and Birds

Today, much of the park offers up-close views of the underside of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge as interstate traffic rumbles overhead. Youngsters romp on playgrounds and play basketball, while adults walk dogs, tend community gardens or fish from two piers.

The park is also a favorite bird-watching site where in August and the fall observers might see shorebirds like greater and lesser yellowlegs, solitary and least sandpipers, Caspian and Forster's terns and migrant passerines like black-throated green and black-throated blue warblers and chestnut-sided and magnolia warblers.

History and Activities:

<https://www.nps.gov/gwmp/learn/historyculture/jonespointlighthouse.htm>

<https://www.funin Fairfaxva.com/visit-jones-point-park-alexandria-va/>

Lighthouse Facts: <https://chesslights.org/jones-point-lighthouse/>

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ENTERTAINMENT

NOW THRU 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

WEDNESDAYS THROUGH SATURDAYS

Tours Aboard Tall Ship Providence and Sen. John Warner Maritime Heritage Center. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Alexandria's Waterfront Park, 1A Prince Street, Alexandria. Guests of all ages are recruited into the Continental Navy aboard Tall Ship Providence with legendary Captain John Paul Jones. Recruits are assigned jobs on the ship, learn where they will work and live, how to load a cannon, etc... Tours conclude in the Naval History Theatre with a film about the ship. The Heritage center is a floating museum on the Alexandria waterfront. Visit <https://tallshipprovidence.org/>

JULY 25-SEPT. 17

Captured: Plants and Places. 1-4 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens Center, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Step into the world of plants across the region and in still life at a season-spanning photography exhibit July 25 to Sept. 17 at Green Spring Gardens Horticultural Center. The lyrical collection "Captured: Plants and Places" features botanical imagery drawn from the Washington area to Maine, including studio photos, intimate outdoor vignettes and landscape scenes. The photographers' varying visions and styles in color and black-and-white invite viewers to explore the wonder of wild and horticultural lands. An opening reception with the artists is July 30 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the Atrium at Green Springs Gardens Horticultural Center.

JULY 27 TO SEPT. 3

Obscura: Tinam Valk Exhibit. At the Athenaeum, Alexandria. Reception on Sunday, Aug. 13 from 4-6 p.m. Tinam Valk's work explores the ambiguity of subjects such as oceans, rivers, landscapes, sometimes a combination of land and water, and figures or animals depicted within a land and water environment. Photographs, ranging from 60 to 100 years old in combination with sketches and memory and made-up environments, serve as a source for much of this work.

AUG. 4-26

The "Treasures of the DMV" exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Features art that celebrates the wonders of DC, Maryland, and Virginia. Come see famous and overlooked regional gems from the perspective of local artists. Opening Reception: Friday, August 4, 7-9pm. Open Thursdays 12-6pm, Fridays 12-9pm, Saturdays & Sundays 12-6pm (Closed on August 27). DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits



The Around the World Cultural Food Festival will take place on Saturday, Aug. 26, at Oronoco Bay Park in Old Town Alexandria.

SATURDAY/AUG. 19

School Supply Giveaway. At two locations: Charles Houston Rec Center, 901 Wythe Street, 10-12 p.m.; and William Ramsey Elementary School, 5700 Sanger Ave., 1-3 p.m. Hilco Redevelopment Partners in partnership with Firefighters & Friends and Alexandria Redevelopment Housing Authority will host a School Supply Giveaway. Volunteers will be giving away a total of 700-800 backpacks with school supplies for ARHA families.

TUESDAYS, AUGUST 22, 29

Simpson Park Demonstration Garden: Tuesdays@10. 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., Simpson Park Demonstration Garden, 420 E. Monroe Ave., Alexandria. When Mother Nature can't do it all...Simpson gardeners step in to offer a helping hand. Free. Contact mgnv.org for more information.

THURSDAY/AUG. 24

River Farm Anniversary Picnic. 6-8 p.m. At River Farm, Alexandria. Celebrating 50 years of American Horticultural Society at River Farm; featuring Soulfire. Free and open to the public. Guests are encouraged to pack a blanket and picnic basket with food and beverage favorites, find a comfortable spot on River Farm's lawn, and relax and enjoy the music, stunning gardens, and spectacular views overlooking the Potomac River.

THURSDAY/AUG. 24

Book Discussion and Signing. 7 p.m. At George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate. First-Ever Book Discussion and Signing with Four Finalist Authors for the Prestigious George Washington Literary Prize. The authors will discuss their important new books related to the founding of America. The event is free; attendees can submit questions and have their books signed. The 2023 George Washington Prize finalists are:

Mary Sarah Bilder, *Female Genius: Eliza Harriot and George Washington at the Dawn of the Constitution*.
Fred Kaplan, *His Masterly Pen: A Biography of Jefferson the Writer*
Stacy Schiff, *The Revolutionary: Samuel Adams*
Maurizio Valsania, *First Among Men: George Washington and the Myth of American Masculinity*

AUG. 25-26

Colorful Begonias at Green Spring Gardens. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday; Noon to 4 p.m. Sunday. At 4603 Green Spring Road in Alexandria. Immerse yourself in the enchanting world of begonias, presented by the Potomac Branch of the American Begonia Society. Admire the kaleidoscope of begonia varieties as each boasts unique leaf shapes and colors that will leave you in awe. This free event offers a feast for the eyes and an opportunity for society members to guide you in selecting a stunning begonia to elevate your own garden. Call 703-324-8700.

SATURDAY/AUG. 26

Around the World Cultural Food Festival. 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. At Oronoco Bay Park, Old Town Alexandria. The seventh edition of the Around the World Cultural Food Festival, the largest outdoor cultural food festival in the Washington D.C. metro area with 50 countries participating, is back at Oronoco Bay Park. Taste authentic traditional food from the food vendors while watching a diverse folk show with singers and dancers from countries around the world. The festival will be presenting ethnic cuisine from Cambodia, China, Colombia, Greece, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Korea, Laos, Lebanon, Nepal, Peru, Thailand, Turkey, Vietnam and United States of America, traditional dance performances from Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, Germany, Iran, Ireland, Japan, Panama, Scotland, Turkey and United Kingdom, as well as artisanal items from Angola, Benin, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Colombia, El Salvador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Peru, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Turkey, United States of America and much more. Visit the website www.aroundtheworldfestival.com.

SUNDAY/AUG. 27

Second Summer Sunday with the Arts. 1-4 p.m. At the 800 block of North Royal Street, between Madison and Montgomery Streets, Alexandria. Hosted by the Old Town North Alliance, this event will be larger than the first, with more than a dozen working artists displaying and selling their original works, from painted landscapes

to textiles to concrete. Children's games and activities will be featured in the central area. The band Mars Video will perform. Civic organizations will provide snacks and beverages, as well as neighborhood informational displays. Lost Boy Cider will join the adjacent Farmers Market in Montgomery Park, and several of the other vendors will extend their hours. The public is invited to attend. Admission and children's activities are free. Parking is available on surrounding streets; follow local signage.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 9

Benefitting United Community and in memory of Phil Bolin, come to a Memorial Benefit Concert/Recital on Saturday, Sept. 9, 2023, at 2 p.m. at Aldersgate United Methodist Church. Join us for an enchanting performance honoring the memory of Phil Bolin featuring mezzo-soprano, Caroline Nielson, and pianist, Eddie Rothmel. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students. All ticket purchases are non-refundable and will be donated to support United Community. unitedcommunity.org/concerts

SEPT. 1-30

The "Farther Afield" Exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans gallery 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Featuring art by local artists that takes the viewer on a journey, whether that is someplace an hour away from Alexandria or halfway across the world. Opening Reception: Friday, September 1, 7-9 p.m. Open Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays 12-6 p.m. (Closed on October 1). Details: DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

MOUNT VERNON NIGHTS

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

AUGUST
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.

AUGUST

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.
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.
Aug. 27 - Trifilio 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.

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.

AUGUST

Wed. 16: Dave Alvin & Jimmie Dale Gilmore with The Guilty Ones w/ Dead Rock West \$45.00
Thu. 17: Ziggy Alberts "Rewind Tour" w/ Kim Churchill \$35.00
Fri. 18: Kandace Springs \$39.50
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Sat. 26: Kim Waters \$35.00
Sun. 27: The Robert Cray Band \$59.50
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Thu. 31: Black Violin – The Black Violin Experience \$90.50

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Obituary

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August 26, 1952 - August 20, 2022



Join us in celebrating our beloved lass Kitty Who lived her life with love, spirit and tenacity Sadly departing this world twelve months ago She remains a presence in our lives even so And reminds us daily of her favorite ditty:

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Obituary



**Khosrow Matini, M.D.,
F.A.C.S.**
July 23, 2023

Dr. Khosrow Matini, 81, of Mount Vernon, VA died on July 23, 2023. He is survived by his wife, Joanie Newhart, and his daughter, Lily Monir Matini. He was a beloved plastic and hand surgeon in Northern Virginia.

Dr. Matini was born in Tehran, Iran. He graduated from the University of Meshed School of Medicine. He immigrated to the United States and completed his medical training. In 1979, Dr. Matini started his private practice in Mount Vernon, Virginia. During his tenure at Inova Mount Vernon Hospital (IMVH), he served as the Chairman of the Department of Surgery, Chief of the Department of Plastic Surgery, and President of the Medical Staff. In the early 2000s, he spearheaded the effort to prevent the closure of IMVH. Dr. Matini retired in 2012 after 33 years of solo practice and an illustrious career.

He will be missed by the multitude of patients he cared deeply for and whose lives he changed, by his many friends, and most of all by his family. The family will be holding a private memorial to celebrate his life. In lieu of flowers, please donate to your charity of choice in Dr. Matini's name.

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YMCA summer program participants learn how to safely fly a drone at the Thingamajig Invention Convention Aug. 2 at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Invention Convention

FROM PAGE 3

Lisa Massiccott-Ndal. “This is a great collaboration with sponsors coming in being part of this amazing adventure for kids.”

Part science fair, part festival, the YMCA’s Thingamajig Invention Convention gathers children from all backgrounds together to meet experts, try their hands at something new, view demonstrations, work on individual and team challenges, and get inspired to create their next big idea.

Prior to the event, hundreds of children participated in the Thingamajig’s S.T.E.A.M. pre-challenges with the most innovative solutions to modern problems winning special recognition and prizes.

Studies show that younger kids get less

than 15 minutes of science per day during the school year and almost no real-world hands-on creative problem-solving engineering activities. Janice Williams of the YMCA of Metropolitan Washington created the Thingamajig Invention Convention 29 years ago to “unlock kids’ ‘maker’ creativity and real-world problem-solving skills.” YMCAs across the nation now hold their own Thingamajig challenges and events to ensure children of all backgrounds have access to engaging and inspiring S.T.E.A.M. activities.

Alexandria event partners include The United States Patent & Trademark Office and The Federal Aviation Administration. Sponsors were Delta Airlines, Washington Gas, Google, and Eat For Change.

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Photo ID Required. Please allow one hour for your blood donation.

Robust Registration Underway for 2023 NoVa Senior Olympics

Registration opened July 6 for the 2023 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics. Herb Levitan, NVSO chair said, “We are really off to a robust start with a 30% increase over this time last year.” Registration is online at www.nvso.us through Thursday, Aug. 24. Events begin Saturday Sept. 9 and continue until Sunday, Sept. 24.

Most events are in five or ten year age groups and by gender.

Registration fee is \$20 which covers unlimited events. There are additional fees for ten pin bowling, orienteering, cycling and 3 par, 9 hole golf.

Adults 50 years of age by Dec. 31 who live in a sponsoring jurisdiction are eligible to participate. There is no onsite registration. The website also has multiple photos taken by the Osher Life Long Learning’s Photography Club at George Mason University as well as this year’s full schedule of events and venues.

2023 events include track, ERG rowing, cycling, swimming, diving, Wii bowling, ten pin

bowling, eight and nine ball pool, tennis, scrabble, crossword puzzle, croquet, Mexican train dominoes, Sudoku, handball, rummikub, football and frisbee throw, softball hit and throw, jigsaw puzzle, Mah Jongg, bocce, horseshoes, cribbage, cornhole toss, pickleball, table tennis, 5K Trail race, basketball field goals and free throw, orienteering, field events, racquetball, bunco, line dancing, miniature golf and Canasta. New this year are disc golf, synchronized diving, advanced sudoku, and 9 hole, 3 par golf. Gold, silver and bronze medals are awarded after each event. Members of the general public are welcome to watch those participating. For additional information, email, nvso1982@gmail.com.

NVSO is sponsored by the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun and Prince William and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church. NVSO is also supported by Gold Patrons who contribute \$1000 enabling NVSO to purchase and replace equipment and services, promote participation and provide awards of recognition. 100% of money donated is used entirely for NVSO activities. It is a non-profit 501-C-3 organization.

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CENTREVIEW

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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Can't Claim Much Progress



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Two and a half weeks since the tree hit our house. Yet, minimal contact/movement from the insurance company/adjuster. In fact, it's been 10 days since the adjuster arrived at our house, iPad in hand. After the initial exchange of pleasantries, he walked around the house, making notes, while asking lots of questions. Even though he didn't go inside the house to "ladder" up into our first-floor attic to inspect the roof damage for himself (in fairness, before this his first on-site visit, I had forwarded to him a dozen or so email photographs, as provided to us by the water-mitigation team, so he kind of new the lay of the land, so to speak), he seemed as sincere, empathetic and understanding as you'd hope from the person tasked with rebuilding your life, so to speak. Since this first meeting, however, there has been radio and electronic silence. Subsequently I've called and emailed. Not an excessive amount but enough to be squeaky on his wheel. Still, nothing.

Originally, I had been promised an itemized list of damages and their respective repair dollars – and a Zelle payment possibly a few days later. Thankfully, I haven't been holding my breath. If I had, I'd be dead now, at least blue in the face. But I never thought his timeline was realistic. Still, the adjuster was very reassuring and confident; specifically, about when we might expect to be paid. (The process will be that I will receive a payment and then "general contract" my way through the repairs. I was further informed that if the reimbursements weren't quite right, that the adjuster is flexible and will work together with us to remedy any discrepancy. No problem, or so I was told. However, so far, all it's been is a problem.)

Yet here I sit, twiddling my thumbs and wiping my brow, looking for some kind of relief from the allocating-powers-that-be. At present, on my own, I have received three estimates on replacing the two air conditioning units, two estimates on repairing the roof and none so far on addressing the electric issues, inside and outside painting, chandelier replacement, refinishing the den's wooden floor – which was soaked, all of which seem to be cart-before-the-house until I see the estimates from the company to learn what they'll cover. Moreover, I've likewise received no communication or direction from the company/adjuster about replacing/reimbursing the oriental rug and pad that were destroyed by the water leaking through the roof and puddling on the floor in our den. All damages caused by the tree falling on our house during a rain/storm event, the kind all of us Washingtonians are familiar with, thereby creating a hole in the roof. All of which seemed well within our expectations for coverage according to the words of the adjuster. It seemed all so easy and reasonable that a delay and/or dispute seemed unthinkable. I joked that if I knew the process and all was going to be this easy, I would have knocked down the tree myself. Little did I know; very little, in fact.

However, not to balance the company's/adjuster's lack of follow up with reality, but the company promptly sent over a water-mitigation team. (I was advised to mention the possibility of mold – since it had already been three days since the storm, as an inducement to get the company to act. Sure enough. I called Monday; I mentioned the mold; the water-mitigation people arrived Tuesday. Unfortunately, that's all they've sent of done so far.) And I was grateful for what seemed like on that Tuesday, the beginning of a speedy resolution to our house's damage, a start, certainly. First things, first. And water is very often 'first.' (I remember being asked rhetorically, by the inspector who "inspected our home in 1992 "What are the three most important words in home ownership"? His answer: "Water, water, water." And I've been mindful of it ever since.

But it's not just water that has seeped into our house, it's reality as well. It feels like we're "Stuck in Mobile with the Memphis Blues Again" (a song written by Bob Dylan and often covered by "The Grateful Dead"). In total, we're sort of stuck – waiting for financial details, sort of confused and not at all thrilled by our circumstances and/or claim's experience. It's not as if I'm clueless about such quandaries. I realize as they do in the horse world: "Manure Occureth." And in every other world too, as water flows downhill – literally in this case, and of course, figuratively as well. At the end of the day – and the beginning too, I may be powerless to affect any action, certainly on my timetable, anyway.

Nevertheless, if I do indeed want to "Keep hope alive," to invoke the Rev. Jesse Jackson, I need a sign. Is anybody paying attention to claim #1214658? You already have my cellphone number, email address and claim paperwork. Please act like it. Thank you.

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

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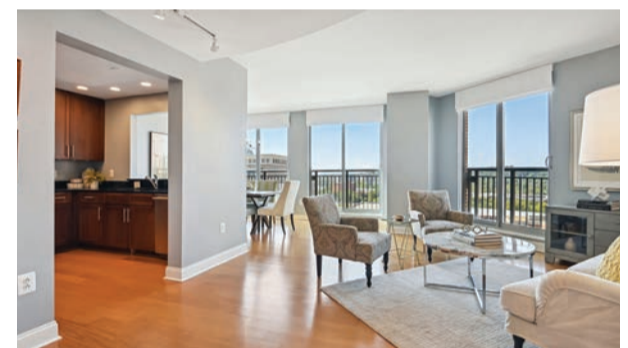
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