



Preserving Douglass Memorial Cemetery

Johnson to present updates Sept. 8. at Black History Museum.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Michael Johnson is a life-long Alexandrian, born and raised at a time when the city was divided by race. As a kid, he used to play in a field overrun by weeds, not realizing until decades later that it was the Frederick Douglass Memorial Cemetery, a historic African American cemetery where generations of his ancestors are buried.

Now, as an adult, Johnson is focusing his time and efforts on restoring the cemetery and honoring the more than 2,000 free and enslaved African Americans buried there. The recipient of a \$10,000 preservation fellowship from the African American Fellowship Program as part of the Voices Remembered initiative of Preservation Virginia, Johnson will present an update on his research Sept. 8 at the Alexandria Black History Museum.

“When you have this much history in a community it needs to be shared.”

—Michael Johnson on the preservation of Douglass Cemetery

“My family dates back to 1790 in the state of Virginia,” Johnson said. “But it wasn’t until I was well into adulthood that my mother casually mentioned that the parcel of land that I used to run through was a cemetery where my ancestors were buried. It was so overgrown no one realized it was a cemetery.”

Johnson learned earlier this year that he was one of five recipients of the fellowship.

“I am using the fellowship for more research,” Johnson said. “I want people to know how Douglass became a cemetery. I want to tell the stories of the individuals buried there. I am still locating descendants and so far have tracked down about 135 descendants around the country from as far away as California and New Mexico. But there is still a lot of work to be done.”

Located at 1421 Wilkes Street, Douglass Cemetery is facing several preservation challenges, including flooding and drainage problems, which are complicated by the presence of unmarked burials.

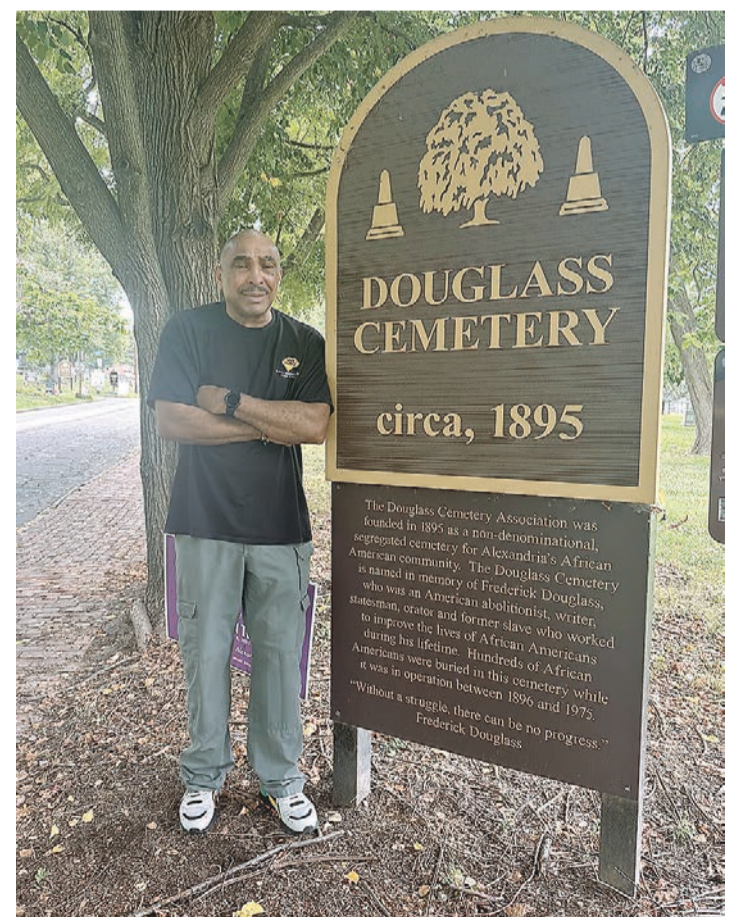
“Preservation of the cemetery has been a hot button item the last few years,” Johnson said. “Six years ago you would come here



Douglass cemetery dates back to the 1800s and is the site of more than 2,000 burials of free and enslaved African Americans.



Michael Johnson walks among the headstones at Douglas Memorial Cemetery.



Michael Johnson stands at the entrance to the historic Douglass Cemetery on Wilkes Street. He will present an update on preservation efforts Sept. 8 at the Alexandria Black History Museum.

and see the flooding - it looked like a lake. But now that the first wave of money has come in, improvements are being made.”

Those funds are part of a \$500,000 grant from the state to restore and preserve the headstones.

“Gretchen Bulova, Director of the Office of Historic Alexandria, petitioned the state for these funds,” Johnson said. “The city cuts the grass now although straightening the headstones is not a simple process. There is historical significance there and a special technique is needed to clean them. The city’s archeology department will oversee that.”

Johnson expects restoration to move forward in the next few months.

“We hope to level out the ground and work on landscaping to prevent some of the flooding,” Johnson said. “Then we will start resurrecting some of the headstones and begin the process of the cleaning.”

The Douglass Cemetery Association established Douglass Memorial Cemetery in 1895 as a segregated, nondenominational African American cemetery and named in memory of Frederick Douglass. That year, the Alexandria Gazette reported, “A force

SEE DOUGLASS CEMETERY, PAGE 5

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

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NEWS



Maryland's Dale Rogers uses steel along with an incredible imagination to weld and hand-finish larger-than-life whimsical, outdoor sculptures.

Alexandria Old Town Art Festival

The Alexandria Old Town Art Festival returns to John Carlyle Square for the 22nd year. The popular, free showcase featuring thousands of fine art works from local and national artists happens Sept. 14 - 15 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days.

Presented by Howard Alan Events, the Annual Alexandria Old Town Art Festival throughout the decades has become a hallmark staple event for residents and visitors alike. Local and national artists will display their works in a show encompassing fine jewelry, exquisite works of art and handcrafted apparel and decor. Art enthusiasts discover spectacular paintings, life-sized sculptures, jewelry, glasswork, photography, ceramics and more. All artists will be on site for the duration of the festival, allowing visitors to discover the inspiration behind each original piece. Admission for patrons is free, and ample parking is available.

Once again, The Art League brings back its popular "Ice Cream Bowl" Fundraiser on

Saturday, September 14. Patrons can visit their booth and select from hundreds of handmade bowls lovingly created by the talented artists of The Art League's ceramics department — and enjoy an ice cream treat, all for only \$15 per bowl. Proceeds benefit the League's ceramics department.



Fairfax painter Jill Banks uses daily life as inspiration for her breathtaking impressionistic oil works.

LEGENDS OF ALEXANDRIA

Charles Wilson

Retired USAF officer continues to make a difference.

By JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Charles Wilson, a retired U.S. Air Force officer, is a dedicated advocate for the youth of Alexandria. He has served in numerous advocacy positions and made a difference in countless situations, including through his service as vice chairman of the school board for Alexandria City Public Schools.

"I was influenced by mentors like Ferdinand Day and Lynnwood Campbell," said Wilson. "They said I was blessed and that I needed to give back to the community. So I jumped in where I thought I could make a difference."

Wilson grew up in Chicago and credits his early education for setting him on a path to success.

"I was one of two minorities selected to attend an elite Jewish high school," Wilson said. "Being accepted to that school was a turning point in my life. It helped me see what I might be capable of achieving."

Wilson went on to study at Southern Illinois University, where he was part of the ROTC program. Upon graduation in 1964, he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Air Force. He was deployed to Vietnam, where he served with the 82nd Fighter Squadron and the 315 Air Commando Wing.

For nearly a quarter century, Wilson served his country, including as executive director of the U.S. Department of Defense executive leadership program at the Pentagon. He was also a military liaison to the Republic of China, advancing through the ranks and retiring as a lieutenant colonel in the Air Force in 1988.

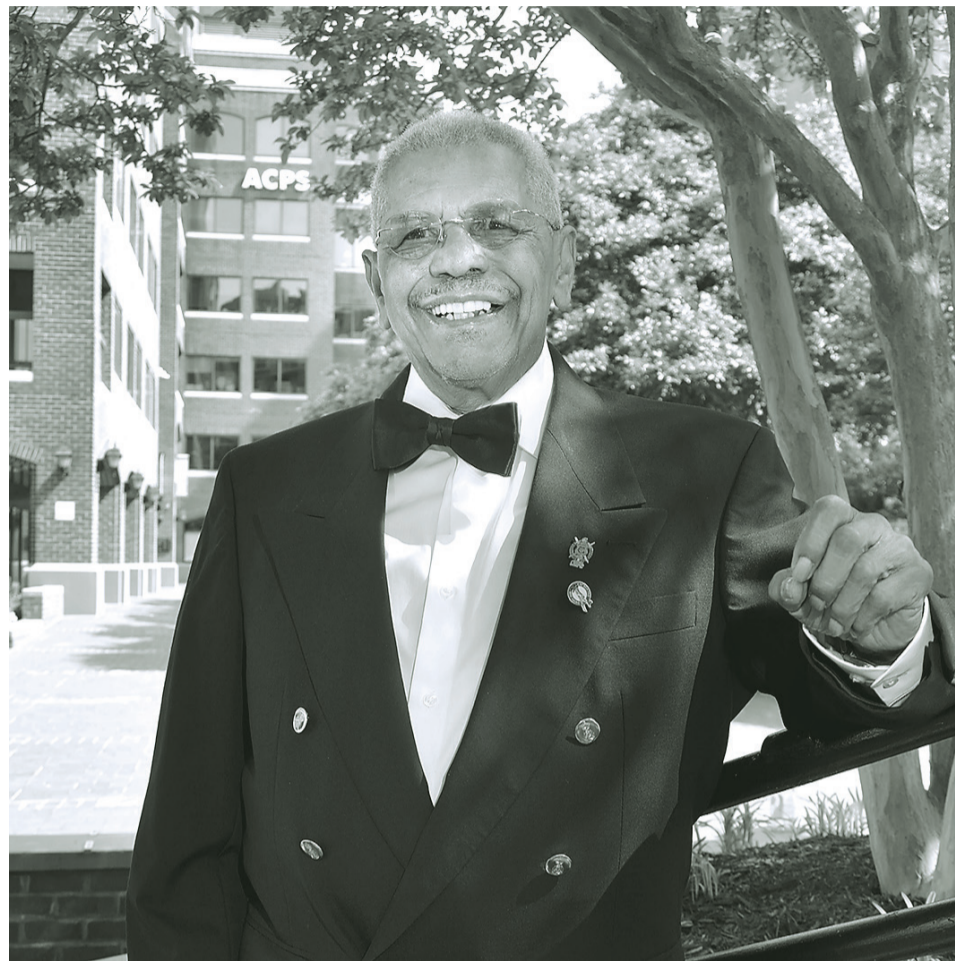
Upon his retirement from the military, Wilson began a career in financial planning and human resources development. He ran for and won election to the School Board in 2003, serving nearly 10 years including as vice chair.

During this time, he was encouraged by fellow School board member Sheryl Gorsuch to get involved with the newly formed Parent Leadership Training Institute, a nonprofit that seeks to enable parents to be better advocates for their children. Wilson committed to the program and serves on the Alexandria chapter of the PLTI advisory board.

In 2009, one of Wilson's Omega Psi Phi fraternity brothers, Jim Paige, was in the process of establishing the Concerned Citizen's Network of Alexandria. Paige asked Wilson to join the organization, where he serves today as the CCNA treasurer.

"I know the importance of education and see firsthand the difference CCNA has made in the lives of young people and their families," Wilson said.

Like Paige, Wilson touts the successes of



Charles Wilson is a 2023 Living Legend of Alexandria.

PHOTO BY STEVEN HALPERSON/TISARA STUDIOS

"I was influenced by mentors like Ferdinand Day and Lynnwood Campbell. They said I was blessed and that I needed to give back to the community. So I jumped in where I thought I could make a difference."

— Charles Wilson

his fraternity, which was founded at Howard University in 1911, a first for a historically black college.

"We are committed to community service," Wilson said of the African American collegiate fraternity. The Alexandria chapter of the organization is heavily involved in service to the community through events like coat drives and with members volunteering with special needs children and adults at the Miracle League baseball games.

Wilson has served as a municipal consultant to the City of Dayton, Ohio, and an adjunct professor at Park University. He was PTA president and also served as vice chair of the Northern Virginia Hotline.

In addition to his professional roles, Wilson earned a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Maryland in 1976 and an MBA from Webster University in 1979.

Wilson used his knowledge and experience to establish a vending machine busi-

ness in San Antonio, Texas. And when you use a microwave, you can thank Wilson, who is also credited with the invention of the microwave oven carousel.

Since his retirement from the military, Wilson has remained active with various endeavors. In addition to serving as vice chair of the Alexandria School Board, he is a past chairman of the Washington D.C. Area School Boards.

A fellow of the D.C. Life Underwriters Council, Wilson is also involved with the American Society for Training and Development, the human rights commission of the International Personnel Management Association, and Toastmasters International, among other organizations.

Wilson has been honored by Marquis Who's Who for Excellence in Community Service for his many achievements. Additionally, he was chosen to be featured in the Who's Who in Finance and Business, and the Who's Who in the South and Southwest. He has also appeared in multiple editions of Who's Who in America and Who's Who in the World.

Wilson has four children: Audrey, Angela, Andrew and Aaron. His first wife, Shirley, was a fellow Air Force officer who died of cancer at a young age. He has been married to his current wife, Mona, for 35 years.

"I go back to that turning point in my life – being accepted into that Jewish school," Wilson said. "I am thankful to all those who encouraged me along the way. I truly have been blessed."



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The 2024 Meet the Legends reception will be held Nov. 7 at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial.

Meet the 2024 Legends

Reception set for Nov. 7 at GW Masonic National Memorial.

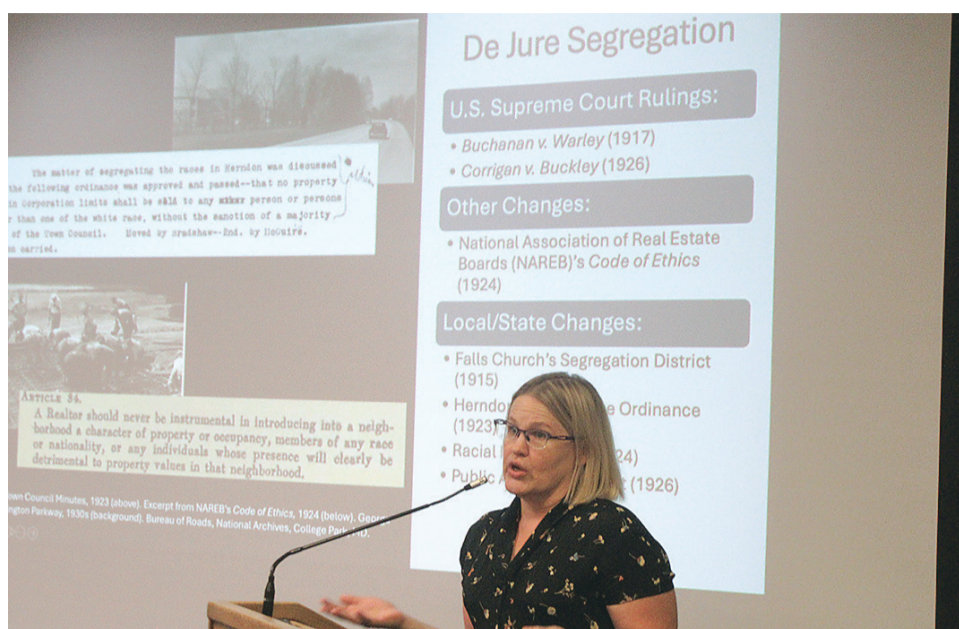
The newest Living Legends of Alexandria will be honored at the annual Meet the Legends reception Nov. 7 at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial.

The 2024 Legends, announced last month, include nine individuals who have made a significant and lasting impact on the Alexandria community. This year's Legends include: Ed Arthur, Myron Contee, Paris Davis, Lawrence "Lucky" Elliott, Andrew Macdonald, Willem Polak, Mac Slover, Fran Terrell, and David Weintritt.

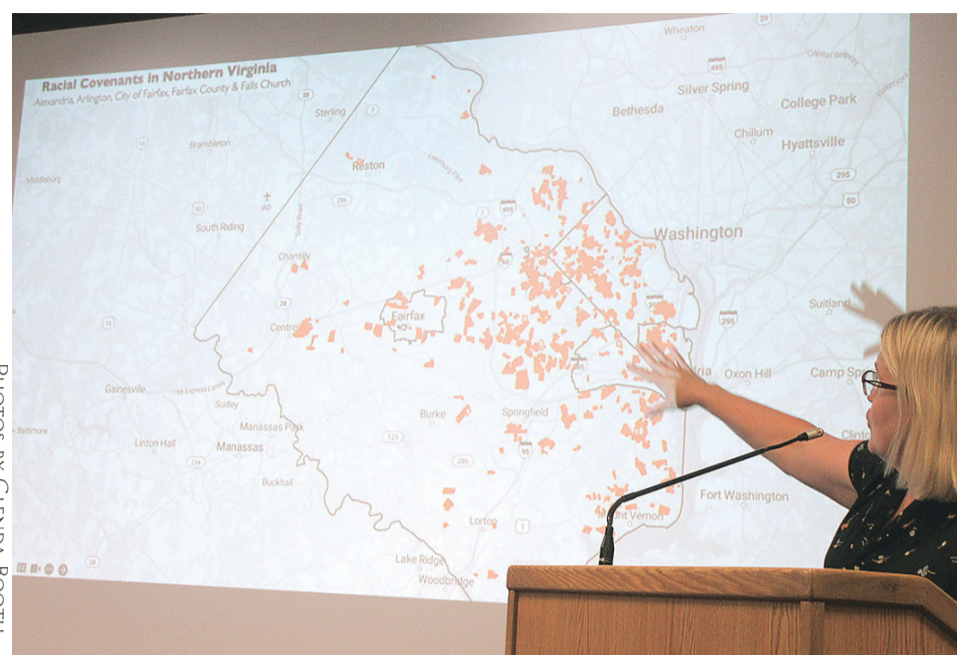
Tickets for the reception will go on sale Sept. 15 on the Living Legends website. www.alexandrialegends.org

— JEANNE THEISMANN

HISTORY OF RACIAL COVENANTS



Dr. Krystyn Moon covered the history of racial discrimination in housing in Northern Virginia.



Dr. Krystyn Moon showed a map of racial covenants in Northern Virginia.

The Legacy of Race-based Covenants

3 practices that created housing inequity: racial covenants; zoning; and limited access to mortgages based on race.

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

Some real estate developers and others selling property in Northern Virginia from 1900 through the 1960s used race-based, restrictive covenants to maintain segregation, and Virginia's state and local governments were enablers at times, Dr. Krystyn Moon, University of Mary Washington history professor told a packed room of 120 on August 27 at the Sherwood Regional Library.

In a talk titled "A History of Fairfax County's Racial Covenants in Property Deeds," she presented her research on the history and locations of racial covenants in Fairfax and Ar-

lington counties and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church. She has identified and geo-located racially-restrictive covenants across the region.

In introductory remarks, Lydia Lawrence, Nature Forward's Director of Conservation, noted that with EMBARK's redevelopment coming to U.S. 1, investments should be made "in an equitable way. We cannot treat something unless we understand the underlying cause," she said, adding, "We must understand the intentional actions that shape the community in a particular way."

Typical racial covenants were put into property deeds to prevent people "not of the Caucasian Race" from buying or occupying the land, Moon said. The covenants could

have time limits or some would "run with the land," extend beyond the original owner.

Some covenants restricted sales to Jewish people.

"We built a system for privileged whites to come to Fairfax County and covenants are part of that," Moon maintained. She cited three practices that created housing inequity, "why things are the way they are": racial covenants; land and aesthetic zoning; and limiting access to mortgages based on race.

Suburbanization and Jim Crow came together like a "perfect storm" in Northern Virginia, she asserted. Jim Crow refers to laws that legalized racial discrimination in the American South. In the 20th century, as roads and vehicles exploded and the state and federal governments encouraged road building, selling farmland to developers was more lucra-

SEE HISTORY OF RACIAL COVENANTS, PAGE 7

ELLISON HEIGHTS
West Falls Church, Va.

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The natural beauty of our gently sloping hillside beggars description. You will have to come out and see for yourselves. Our green meadows and shady groves, where the mosquito is rarely found, will make you long to live here and our terms will make it an easily accomplished fact. The highest elevation between the Atlantic Ocean and Herndon. Some lots 575 feet above sea level.

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From Washington-Virginia Railway Station, 12th and Pa. Ave. N.W.: Take car marked West Falls Church, but get off at Ellison Heights, 45 minutes' ride and 32 trips for \$8.77.
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Originator and Builder of "Homettes"
West Falls Church, Va.

COURTESY OF KRYSYRN MOON
Ad touts: "Restricted to the Caucasian Race"



One sponsor was the Mount Vernon Regional Historical Society.



A street that ends on the east side of U.S. 1 across from the Hybla Valley Shopping Center is named Boswell Avenue. Schelhorn Road terminates on Boswell Avenue.



Douglass Cemetery

FROM PAGE 1

of workmen is employed in opening the walks, grading the ground and grading an entrance at the new Douglass Memorial cemetery for colored people, on the western outskirts of the city. The owners of the property [are] preparing to erect a monument in the center of the cemetery to the memory of Fred. Douglass.”

Johnson, the community outreach and safe place coordinator for the City of Alexandria’s recreation department, is also a co-founder of the Social Responsibility Group, a nonprofit organization which describes itself as “dedicated to enriching the lives of the disenfranchised.” The Social Responsibility Group is part of the efforts to restore and preserve the cemetery which oversaw burials from the late 1800s through 1975, when the last burials took place.

While the cemetery contains more than 2,000 interments, only 650 headstones are visible today.

“My theory is that some were built over but no one knows for sure,” Johnson said. “And there are 200 headstones for babies, some with names, some without. And unless a midwife recorded the date of birth, some are just marked with a date of death. Those are the stories I want people to learn.”

A father of three college graduates with eight grandchildren, Johnson has several family members buried at Douglass Cemetery dating back to his great grandfather Warner Johnson.

“Part of my work is to map out what I want Douglass to look like in the future,”

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



A headstone located in Douglass Memorial Cemetery.

Johnson said. “Douglass was supposed to have a statue of Frederick Douglass built on that site but it was never built. The Alexandria Gazette reported that white neighbors put out a false rumor that Frederick Douglass was recruiting black men to rape white women. That’s how it was back then. One of my goals for the future is to get a monument actually put there.”

Johnson will present an update on his research and preservation efforts Sept. 8 at the Alexandria Black History Museum, located at 902 Wythe Street. The presentation begins at 6 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

“When you have this much history in a community it needs to be shared,” Johnson said. “It shouldn’t take being an adult to learn about the city where you were born and raised.”



FALL 2024

SEPTEMBER
14-15

22nd Annual Alexandria Art Festival in Carlyle

SEPTEMBER
19

Taste of Old Town North

SEPTEMBER
21

82nd Annual Historic Alexandria Homes Tour

SEPTEMBER 26
- OCTOBER 6

Old Town Cocktail Week

OCTOBER
4-6

Fall Wine Festival & Sunset Tour at George Washington’s Mount Vernon

OCTOBER
5

29th Annual Art on the Avenue in Del Ray

OCTOBER
26

Old Town Family Trick or Treat

OCTOBER
27

Old Town Doggie Trick or Treat

OCTOBER
27

Del Ray Halloween Parade

NOVEMBER
23

Alexandria Cider Festival at Lloyd House



A headstone of one of the last known burials at Douglass Memorial Cemetery in 1975.

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FOR MORE FALL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES, CHECK OUT:

[VisitAlexandria.com/Fall](https://www.visitalexandria.com/fall)

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BAT WALK



PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH

The group of 21 people who attended a bat walk in Dyke Marsh on Aug. 25 had a tutorial on bats.



PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH

Deborah Hammer, the walk leader, used a replica stuffed animal of an Egyptian fruit bat to describe bats' characteristics and behavior.

Bats – Superheroes of the Night

As dusk fell on a recent bat walk, these nocturnal aerialists zipped about above the trail seeming to streak by every 30 seconds.

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

Derogatory expressions like “ding-bat,” “going batty” and “blind as a bat” seem ingrained in the American lexicon. For starters, bats are not blind, but many bat myths abound.

Bats are valuable wildlife with “excellent eyesight,” Deborah Hammer told the 21 people who attended a bat walk in Dyke Marsh on a balmy Aug. 25 night. Hammer is a board member of both the Friends of Dyke Marsh and Bat Conservation and Rescue of Virginia.

As dusk fell, these nocturnal aerialists zipped about above the trail, a bat silhouette seeming to streak by above every 30 seconds or so. “They are waking up and coming out,” she said.

Observers have documented over 1,400 bat species in the world, seventeen in Virginia and at least seven in Dyke Marsh.

BATS ARE BENEFICIAL

Many bats eat insects like mosquitoes, beetles, moths and flies. They can “consume their body weight in insects in one night, perhaps up to 1,000 insects,” Hammer said.

“All bats in the mid-Atlantic are insect eaters,” notes the Audubon Field Guide to the Mid-Atlantic.

In some parts of the world, bats disperse



U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

A trio of tri-colored bats in a cave in North Carolina. Tri-colored bats are a state endangered species in Virginia.

seeds. Worldwide, around 80 percent of fruits are pollinated by bats, fruits like papaya, guava and mango. Bats have a role in fertilizing and disseminating seeds of trees, including breadfruit, plantain, fig, clove, banana and peach, says the Virginia Depart-

ment of Wildlife Resources (DWR) website.

Bats are mammals, meaning their young are born alive and mothers feed their young milk. They are the only mammal that can fly. (Flying squirrels do not fly; they glide.) A bat's wing is a membrane stretched across



U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Cluster of little brown bats during hibernation in an abandoned limestone mine in Ohio. Little brown bats are a state endangered species in Virginia.

Resources & Information

Conservation Status and Threats to North American Bats, 2023, <https://batconservationalliance.org/>
Virginia bats, <https://dwr.virginia.gov/wildlife/bats/>
Bat Conservation and Rescue of Virginia, <https://www.virginiabats.org/>

the slim bones of its forearms and fingers. Most bats in Northern Virginia have a mouse-like body. During the day, they roost in a secluded spot by hanging upside down.

Bats navigate to find food using what's called echolocation. “By emitting a high frequency pulse that travels out and bounces off an object and then returns to the bat, they are able to determine distance, size and direction of the object,” says DWR. Usually, the echolocation sounds are at a high frequency, inaudible to humans. They also emit high-pitched twittering sounds which Hammer shared by using a sonar detector.

By mid-October in the Washington region, insects are gone most bats move south or hibernate until spring. Tree bats hibernate in tree cavities, like woodpecker holes; cave bats, in caves. In Northern Virginia, they might hibernate in tree holes, woodpiles or rock crevices. Hoary bats can curl up and camouflage like a pinecone. Red bats hanging by their feet can resemble a leaf, Hammer said.

In sum, bats help maintain balance in nature, say experts.

SEE BAT WALK, PAGE 5
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

BAT WALK



PHOTO BY DEBORAH HAMMER

**Hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*),
a declining species**



PHOTO BY LESLIE STURGES

Big brown bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*)



PHOTO BY DEBORAH HAMMER

**Silver-haired bat
(*Lasionycteris noctivagans*)**

FROM PAGE 4

THREATS AND CONSERVATION

At least 52 percent of bat species in North America are “at risk of populations declining severely in the next 15 years” and need conservation action, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS).

Hammer lamented that a fungus called “white-nose syndrome” is killing bats. This white fungus appears on the muzzles or noses of infected bats, Hammer explained. “It has a 90 percent mortality rate,” she said.

Other threats include wind turbines, climate change, habitat loss, roost disturbances and disease.

Mount Vernonite Clarence Monteiro attended the bat walk and commented, “Bats have huge benefits to farmers by keeping mosquitoes and other insects in check. I wanted to learn more about our native bats. Hearing that their numbers are greatly diminished due to white nose syndrome was concerning.”

Some scientists are trying to protect bats’ hibernating and maternity sites. Some people install bat houses to provide habitat and cover. For guidance, see <https://dwr.virginia.gov/wildlife/bats/bat-houses/>.

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PHOTO BY LESLIE STURGES

**Tri-colored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*),
a state endangered species**



PHOTO BY LESLIE STURGES

**Little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*),
a state endangered species**



PHOTO BY LESLIE STURGES

Eastern red bat (*Lasiurus borealis*)



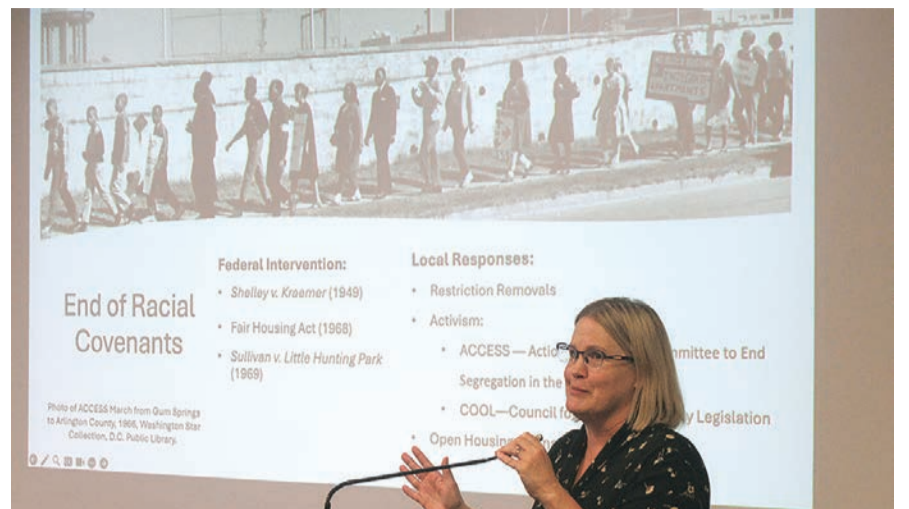
PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH

**Some people want to help bats by
providing a bat house, which is not
always successful.**

As bat fans scanned the darkening sky, a likely predator, a barred owl, called nearby.

“There is still much to be learned about the biology of bats in Virginia and around the world,” says DWR.

HISTORY OF RACIAL COVENANTS



Dr. Krystyn Moon described the legal and legislative steps that made housing covenants illegal.

The Legacy of Race-based Covenants

FROM PAGE 4

...tive than farming and developers started converting farms to subdivisions. Also, in the 1940s, housing demand increased as people moved to the area for federal jobs.

In 1924, the National Association of Real Estate Boards adopted an “ethics” policy, declaring that Realtors should not introduce “into a neighborhood ... members of any race or nationality, or any individuals whose presence will clearly be detrimental to property values in that neighborhood.”

Advertisements often included coded language, Moon said, terms like “fully restricted,” and “fully state of the art covenants,” which euphemized the practice as “modern.” Subdivision names today like “estates” or names of former plantations could be coded language as well, she suggested.

Covenants in Hybla Valley Farms

Moon highlighted developer V. Ward Boswell who in 1935 bought 125 acres along U.S. 1 next to the historically-Black Gum Springs community and built a subdivision called Hybla Valley Farms. She shared his 1935 deed for the lots which included this language: “No

part of the said land shall be granted, leased, sold or conveyed to a person or persons of African descent, nor for the use and/or occupancy of a person or persons of African descent; and if any attempt to grant, lease, sell or convey any part of said land to a person or persons of African descent, the deed of said land shall revert to the grantor as though said deed or leased had not been made; and adjoining property owners may eject such person or persons of African descent from said property or cause them to be ejected by the proper actions in the courts of Virginia.”

Citing a 1970 census of Hybla Valley Farms and nearby communities that included property owners’ race, Moon concluded, “The restrictions had an impact.” A street today ending on the east side of U.S. 1 still bears Boswell’s name.

State Action

In 1912, the Virginia General Assembly passed legislation that allowed cities and towns to establish “segregation districts,” to designate specific neighborhoods for Black or White people. “A year after the maps were created, no Black

SEE HISTORY OF RACIAL COVENANTS, PAGE 11



Around 120 people attended the Aug. 27 presentation.

ENTERTAINMENT

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://tallship-providence.org/>

NOW THRU SEPT. 22

Fleeting Moments: Street Photography II. At the Athenaeum, Alexandria. Artist Reception: Sunday, August 18, 4 - 6 p.m. Artist Talk, Sunday: September 22, 2:30 p.m. Fleeting Moments features photographs that capture candid moments, revelatory interpretations, and brilliant reflections of the mundane - work commonly referred to as "street photography."

34TH SEASON OF THE LYCEUM CHAMBER SERIES

The Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association (WMPA) announces the 34th season of its Lyceum Chamber Series, under the guidance of Music Director Laureate Ulysses James. Hosted at the Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum, located at 201 South Washington Street in Old Town Alexandria, this series promises to offer an array of exceptional weekly performances throughout the summer. All concerts are at 3 p.m.; no tickets required. Suggested donation \$25.

LIVING. BREATHING. MUSIC.

Featuring Anna Binneweg, Music Director, Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic
Ulysses James, Music Director Laureate, Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic
Alberto Rodriguez, Music Director, Washington Metropolitan Youth Orchestra
Martin Garfield-Levine, Music Director, Washington Metropolitan Concert Orchestra
Caroline Mousset, Executive and Artistic Planning Director
MUSIC SCHEDULE
Sept. 8: Hai Jin, Piano
Sept. 15: John Sutherland Earle: Piano & Friends

THURSDAY/SEPT. 5

Cheesetique Celebrates 20 Years in Del Ray. In honor of its milestone birthday on September 5th, and to thank the Del Ray and wider community, Cheesetique will launch a year-long celebration, filled with community events, contests and giveaways, including the chance to win a year of cheese. Guests will also have the opportunity to revisit two decades of owner Jill Erber's and customers' favorite artisan cheeses, wines, and most popular menu items with a special 20th birthday menu. 20 Years of Delicious Memories: Under the theme Aged to Perfection, Cheesetique introduces a nostalgic 20th-an-



FLEETING MOMENTS 2024 STREET PHOTOGRAPHY AT THE ATHENAEUM

Fleeting Moments: Street Photography II can be seen now thru Sept. 22, 2024 at the Athenaeum in Alexandria.

niversary menu on September 5, featuring popular dishes from the first 20 years. Guests can order classics like Lobster Mac, Gjetost and Banana Melt, grasshopper parfait, a pairing of 20 Year Cheddar and 20 year Port, a deluxe wine flight from the original menu, and a brand-new Apple Martini that, of course, comes garnished with 20 Year Cheddar. Live Celebrations: The festivities kick off with a Del Ray "First Thursday" neighborhood party on September 5th, in collaboration with the Del Ray Business Association, to celebrate Cheesetique's 20th birthday in style.

SEPT. 6-28

"Fascinating Fiber, Alluring Fabric" Exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. Features art that is either created with fiber or fabric or depicts fiber or fabric as its subject. Opening reception on Friday, Sept. 6, 7-9 p.m. Gallery hours are Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays 12-6 p.m. (Closed on Sunday, September 29). Details at DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

FRIDAY/SEPT. 6

Something Country. 8 p.m. to 12 a.m. At Electric Palm Restaurant, 12745 Sea Ray Lane, Woodbridge. Rockin' country that gets you dancing.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 7

Country-Western Dance. 6-9:30 p.m. At Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 North Chambliss Street, Alexandria. The Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association will hold a dance. Lessons early in the evening (one line dance lesson, one couples dance lesson) followed by open dancing. A DJ provides music. Couples and singles of all ages welcome. Admission for NVCWDA members \$10; non-members \$15; children under 18 accompanied by a paying adult \$5. Smoke-free, alcohol-free. BYO refreshments. Visit www.nvcwda.org.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 7

Sidewalk Sale. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Experience a delightful day of shopping and dining at Belle View Shopping Center, 1632 Belle View Boulevard, Alexandria. Get ready for the Fall season. More than 30 merchants will be offering exclusive deals and special offers throughout the day. Discover fantastic bargains at popular spots like Top It Off Outlet, Pampered Pet, LIGHT, and Virginia Florist, with sales tables set up both inside and outside. To

add to the festivities, Revel and UnWined will be hosting a wine tasting from 2 to 5 p.m., either indoors or outdoors depending on the weather.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 7

Find Your Ancestors! 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Attend this conference featuring one of America's most popular genealogical lecturers. John Colletta will discuss how historical research can help to understand the day-to-day lives of our ancestors. Lively discussions will follow. Cost: \$40. Email: contact-us@mvgenealogy.org. Website: <https://mvgenealogy.org/store.php?sid=7>

SATURDAY/SEPT. 7

Used Book Sale: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. 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>.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 13

Summer Concert Series. 7:30 p.m. The U.S. Air Force Band returns to the Air Force Memorial in Arlington. Free and open to the public.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 14

Alexandria Library Black Family Reunion. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Kate Waller Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen Street, Alexandria. The event aims to bring neighborhoods together and help fill gaps in the documented history of Alexandria's African American community. African American families are invited to bring documents and images to be scanned and added to the Library's Local History/Special Collections archive and preserved as part of the City's historical record. The event will feature music, games, food trucks, and more. Guests who bring a picture of people or places that have to do with Alexandria's black neighborhoods will receive a ticket for a free meal and dessert.

SEPT. 14-15

22nd Annual Alexandria Old Town Art Festival. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At 300 John Carlyle Street, Alexan-

22nd Annual

ALEXANDRIA OLD TOWN ART FESTIVAL

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RENEWAL WANDERSEN

- FREE ADMISSION -

The 22nd Annual Alexandria Old Town Art Festival takes place Sept. 14-15, 2024 at 300 John Carlyle Street in Alexandria.

dria. Rated one of the top 100 art shows in Sunshine Artist Magazine, the annual art festival features a variety of works exemplifying gifted artists from all over the country.

SEPT. 17-23

Fall Book Sale. The Friends of the Beatley Central Library will hold their Fall Book Sale from Tuesday, Sept. 17, 3 p.m.-7:30 p.m. (\$15 memberships available at the door); Wednesday, Sept. 18, 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 19, 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m.; Friday, Sept. 20, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Saturday, Sept. 21, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sunday, Sept. 22, Half Price Day, 1-4:30 p.m.; Monday, Sept. 23, \$10 Bag Sale, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.. \$4 or less, unless specifically marked: hardbacks, paperbacks, children's books, and media. All genres. Charles E. Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria; info: 703-746-1702; www.beatleyfriends.org.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 19

Coffee & Connections. 8:30-9:30 a.m. At The Landing Alexandria, 2620 Main Line Blvd., Alexandria. Join The Chamber ALX's Professional Women's Network for September Coffee & Connections. Hear from Dr. Sarah Johnson Conway, a practicing internal medicine physician at Johns Hopkins Hospital and the interim Senior Vice President of the Office of Johns Hopkins Physicians, who will share her story and highlight ways to stay healthy heading into the Fall.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 19

Taste of Old Town North. 4 to 8 p.m. At Montgomery Park, 901 N. Royal Street, Alexandria. The Taste of Old Town North is a free,

family-and pet-friendly event featuring an artisans' market, gourmet restaurant tastings, children's improv with Alexandria Children's Theater and other activities for all to enjoy, including music from two local bands. Participating Old Town North restaurants include Jula's on the Potomac, the Perfect Pita, Hank's Oyster Bar, MacMillan Spirit House, Hotel AKA Alexandria's a.lounge+bar, St. Elmo's Coffee Pub and Royal Restaurant.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 21

Country-Western Dance. 6-9:30 p.m. At Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 North Chambliss Street, Alexandria. The Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association will hold a dance. Lessons early in the evening (one line dance lesson, one couples dance lesson) followed by open dancing. A DJ provides music. Couples and singles of all ages welcome. Admission for NVCWDA members \$10; non-members \$15; children under 18 accompanied by a paying adult \$5. Smoke-free, alcohol-free. BYO refreshments. Visit www.nvcwda.org.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 21

82nd Annual Historic Alexandria Homes Tour. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. At various locations throughout Old Town Alexandria. The 82nd Annual Historic Alexandria Homes Tour will showcase some of Alexandria's finest homes. This year's event will include a bonus tour of Gadsby's Tavern Museum. Presented by The Twig, the Junior Auxiliary of INOVA Alexandria Hospital, the Historic Alexandria Homes Tour is a ticketed tour with proceeds benefiting INOVA Alexandria Hospital.

ENTERTAINMENT

Their designated Tour Book serves as a guide to the homes and will be accessible to ticket holders via mobile device. Hard copies of the Tour Book are available for purchase in advance for \$5 each. Visit thetwig.org/homes-tour

SATURDAY/SEPT. 21

2024 American Horticultural Society Gala. 6-10:30 p.m. At River Farm, Alexandria. The annual soiree not only highlights the vibrant culture of gardening and horticultural practices but also raises vital funds to support AHS's outreach and educational programs and the stewardship of River Farm, headquarters of the AHS. The gala will feature cocktails, dinner, dancing and mingling set amongst River Farm's stunning gardens on the Potomac River. Complimentary valet is also included. Attire is black-tie. Individual tickets are \$375 each, and sponsorships start at \$1,250. Visit www.ahsgardening.org/2024gala to purchase tickets and sponsorships.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 21

Tons of Trucks. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Chinquapin Park, 3210 King St., Alexandria. Attendees of all ages are invited to explore and get behind the wheel of their favorite City vehicles, meet the staff who help build, maintain, serve, and protect the community, and learn about the vehicles they use. Other activities include an art project with the City's Mobile Art Lab, giveaways, photo opportunities, and food truck vendors. Parking is available at Alexandria City High

School, 3330 King St.; the First Baptist Church, 2932 King St.; and Oakland Baptist Church, 3408 King St. The City will also provide a sensory-friendly hour for the first 60 minutes of the event, 10 a.m.-11 a.m. For additional information, visit alexandriava.gov/rpca/tons-of-trucks-2024.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 22

Community Baby Shower. 12-2 p.m. At Charles Houston Rec Center, 901 Wythe Street, Alexandria. Join ALIVE! member congregation @sixteenth_tabernacle_beth_el for the annual Community Baby Shower. Discover a wide range of resources for ensuring healthy pregnancies, self care and parenting. Topics and information range from nutrition in pregnancy to what to expect in the first year, both mother and child. There will also be free raffles for large prizes, baby walkers, cribs, strollers and more. For more information text 347-495-9233.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 25

"Life in Alexandria's Civil War Prisons Lecture. 7 p.m. At The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington Street, Alexandria. The Alexandria Historical Society is pleased to announce its upcoming lecture, "Life in Alexandria's Civil War Prisons." Local historian Madeline Feierstein will present her research on the five military prisons of Alexandria during the Civil War. Her lecture will provide an in-depth look at life within these institutions for both Confederate and Union prisoners, examining how their presence dis-

rupted the daily lives of Alexandria residents. Additionally, Madeline will explore the medical treatment of jailed soldiers and prisoners of war at hospitals such as Grosvenor Branch, which was the confiscated Lee-Fendall House. Attendees will gain insight into first-hand accounts from individuals who experienced imprisonment within Alexandria's city limits, from the earliest days of battle to the beginnings of Reconstruction. For more information, contact David Heiby, Treasurer of the Alexandria Historical Society, at davidheiby@gmail.com or 703-869-0872.

SEPT. 26 AND 27

Jane Franklin Dance's Moving Stories. 7 p.m. At The Lloyd House Gardens, 220 N. Washington Street, Alexandria. Moving Stories is a movement-based work that is about historical Lloyd House and its Gardens, not as a static landmark, but rather as a place where people of different generations interact. The performance resonates with the landscape and references the site's history. Lloyd House, built in 1796, has housed many prominent people and is important to the streetscape of Washington Street, part of George Washington Memorial Parkway. The architecture of the building, the people who have lived there, and the changing community surrounding it, makes the location important to ALX275, the City of Alexandria's 275th Anniversary.

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 11



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HISTORY OF RACIAL COVENANTS



Senator Scott Surovell and Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck attended and will act.



Dr. Krystyn Moon discussed her findings with Franconia Supervisor Rodney Lusk.



Ron Chase and Audrey Davis commended the presentation.

The Legacy of Race-based Covenants

FROM PAGE 7

individual or family could move into the white section of the town/city and vice versa," she explained.

In 1924, the Virginia Racial Integrity Act categorized people as "colored" or white, "the most extreme in the U.S.," charged Moon. "This informed racial covenants in Fairfax County," she contended, adding, "This room would be illegal in 1926." In 1928, the Board of Supervisors created a process to review plats for developing subdivisions.

Removing Covenants Today

Several court decisions and the federal Fair Housing Act eventually made using racial covenants illegal. Some Northern Virginians sued to remove them and organized pickets and petitions to promote desegregation and fair housing. In 1968, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved an "open occupancy" ordinance, designed to protect housing rights.

Though illegal, some covenants are still in legal records. In 2020, the General Assembly passed a law to provide a simplified

process for homeowners to remove racial covenants from their chain of title. The state Supreme Court has created a form for landowners to prepare deeds at <https://www.vacourts.gov/forms/circuit/cc1508.pdf>.

Virginia Sen. Scott Surovell and Del. Paul Krizek will hold a workshop to help people who want to remove these covenants. "We intend to work with a local real estate closing company, title researchers and others to provide homeowners with the information and resources necessary to prepare and file these deeds in less than 30 minutes," Surovell said.

Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck and Franconia Supervisor Rodney Lusk attended the meeting and will propose that the Board of Supervisors remove or redact racial covenants language from County property deeds. "While the covenants are not applicable, we recognize the importance of removing this legacy," Storck said.

Storck continued, "It was wonderful seeing so many residents engaged with our county and Mount Vernon history. I look forward to learning more and leading the

county in updating our property deeds to remove or redact these racial covenants."

Ron Chase said, "It was an excellent introduction, describing the obstacles African Americans face and so many nuances. This is an introduction to the trials and tribulations people experienced in our evolving culture." Chase is president of the Gum Springs Historic Society and Museum.

Audrey Davis remarked, "The presentation shows us the many lessons we need to talk about.

Most young people have no idea of this history. We still need to get some covenants removed." Davis is Director of the African American History division of the Office of Historic Alexandria.

Moon's book, "Proximity to Power: Rethinking Race and Place in Northern Virginia," will be published by the University of North Carolina Press in 2025.

Cosponsors were Nature Forward, the South County Task Force, Fairfax NAACP, Mount Vernon Regional Historical Society and the Gum Springs Historical Society and Museum.

Information: <https://documentingexclusion.org>

Really Dina? Part II



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

After finishing yet another piece of Entenmann's "Marshmallow Devils Food Iced Cake," one described on the Entenmann's website as a "sinfully good cake with a "Heavenly Marshmallow Frosting," Dina says to me: "That's pretty good cake" in her usual underwhelming way.

Really Dina? I've only been obsessing over locating this particular cake item for years while complaining how its availability locally is inexcusably limited - as in zero. "You're telling me?" The last time I found this cake, other than a week or so ago at my local Safeway (miracles do happen), I found it, actually good friends found it their local supermarket in Phoenixville, Pennsylvania a year or so ago. The purchase of which spawned two Kenny-columns which discussed in excruciating detail the exact circumstances surrounding this momentous occasion.

However, this random-type purchase is hardly sufficient to keep my "sweet teeth" satisfied. As such, I regularly stop at away-from-home supermarkets in search of this non-buried treasure. And though I can semi find, generally speaking the location of items within a certain radius on the Entenmann's site, it doesn't give me chapter and verse (address and phone number) so I can confirm the cake's presence and secure its purchase. Moreover, having called supermarkets before attempting to locate and confirm an item's availability, I have realized that searching in person is more reliable. Inventory control isn't quite up to the task, in my experience. Therefore, when convenient, I will walk into a store unannounced and "spy with my little eye" where the Entenmann's items are displayed and keep my fingers crossed. I've had some success finding this object of my desire. So, when away from home, I "stop and pop," to invoke a basketball play-by-play expression, and walk into supermarkets wherever and whenever.

Amazingly however, twice in the last month, out of the blue, at my local Safeway, I saw - and of course purchased, multiple "Marshmallow Devils Food Iced Cakes." I couldn't believe my eyes. After years of walking by the Entenmann's display and seeing the same old selections, there the cake was, as if it was waiting for me. I did a double take. After the second take, the cakes were still there and so I grabbed them, giddy in my good fortune. Unfortunately, I was alone at the point of purchase, so I had no one with whom to share my extraordinary find. I did so when I got home as I told/showed my wife, Dina; and I do so now with a somewhat larger audience, and one quite frankly, that's semi interested in what I have to say/write.

Perhaps you might understand the great pleasure I experienced when later that evening after dinner, Dina and I had the cake for dessert, and Dina uttered her assessment of the cake. It's almost akin to Mikey in the old Life cereal television ads in which Mikey was offered the bowl of Life cereal by his brothers who weren't interested in trying it, and voila: "He likes it." Mikey was a fussy eater which added an extra layer of doubt to the outcome. Dina is the opposite: not a fussy eater but rather one with a sophisticated palate (lamb kidneys was a particular family favorite growing up, which of course, I wouldn't touch or try) though somewhat worn-down over years of sharing meals with yours truly.

This cake comment was an example of Dina entering my food wheelhouse and agreeing with me. Not a common occurrence. In fact, hardly an occurrence at all. That's why it's so memorable - to me, anyway.

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

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 9

SUNDAY/SEPT. 29

Chalk-A-Block. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Throughout Old Town Alexandria. Follow the Old Town North Tern's footprints from site to site throughout Old Town North and complete the scavenger hunt to be entered to win prizes. Chalk artists will transform the sidewalks and parking lots of Old Town North into their canvases. Live music will fill the air from a variety of artists including local favorites Mars Rodeo at Montgomery Park and Yellow Door Jazz at Canal Center. Local artists and makers will be on hand to showcase their works. From ceramics to jewelry to bath products to books and more, there's something for everyone. For more information about Old Town North Alliance, visit: <https://www.oldtownnorthalliance.com>.

SATURDAY/OCT. 19

9th Annual Tour de Mount Vernon. TDMV Ride 8:30 a.m.; Youth and Family Ride at 9 a.m. Starting and ending at Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. Early bird special! Register for the 9th Annual Tour de Mount Vernon by August 31 for a discounted rate and be guaranteed a pair of Tour de Mount Vernon socks! #Tdmv2024 Register now: <https://buff.ly/46VNVtx>

SAVE THE DATE

Yacht Haven Garden Club's 40th annual Fashion Show, Silent Auction and Luncheon, "American Beauty" Oct. 16, 2024 at the Mount Vernon Country Club in Alexandria. Fashions will be provided by Sara Campbell.

The Chalk-A-Block will be held on Sunday, Sept. 29, 2024 in Old Town Alexandria.



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OPEN SAT 9/7 & SUN 9/8, 2-4

Yacht Haven Estates | \$1,350,000

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Heidi Burkhardt 703.217.6009
www.RealtorHeidiB.com



OPEN SUN 9/8, 2-4

Olde Belhaven Towne | \$899,900

Bright and spacious 3-level 4-bedroom, 3.5-bathroom brick townhome overlooking a park-like square. Updated kitchen, bathroom, roof, systems, windows & more. Lower level features media room and built-in gas grill & professionally designed patio. 6303 Golf Course Square
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Lorton | \$724,900

Boating and nature lovers, this home is for you! This tastefully renovated 4-bedroom, 2-bathroom home with a 2-car garage is situated on half an acre and is located in a relaxing water side community. 10712 Greene Drive
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www.SophisticatedLivingNOVADC.com



OPEN SUN 9/8, 2-4

Cameron Station \$832,500

This light-filled 3-bedroom, 2.5-bathroom home offers details throughout such as hardwood floors, a gas fireplace, stainless steel appliances, and a spacious primary suite. Ideally located near community pool, fitness center, and other amenities. 5003 Donovan Drive

Mason Bavin 703.338.6007
www.MasonBavin.com



OPEN SUN 9/8, 2-4

Chantilly \$530,000

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