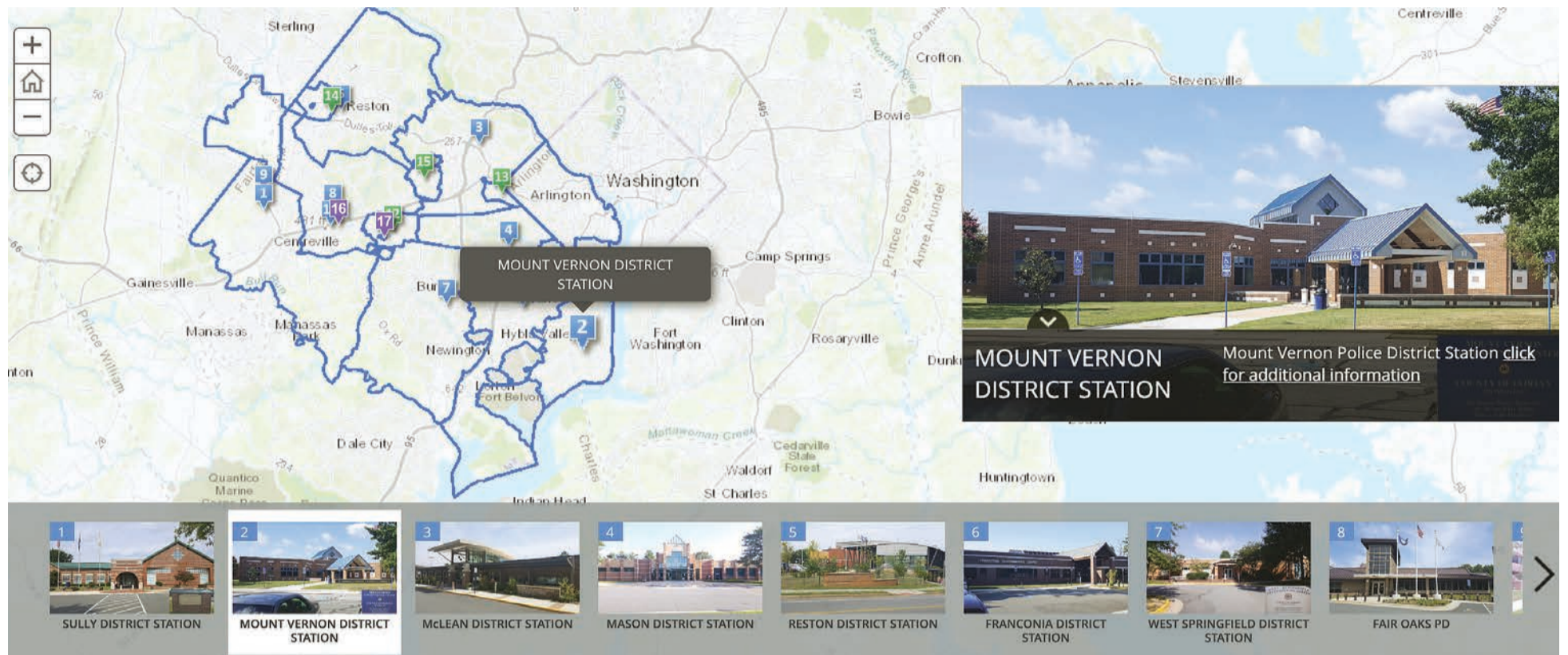


# Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

SEPTEMBER 12, 2024



FAIRFAX COUNTY

Map of the Mount Vernon Police District, which is different from the Mount Vernon and Franconia magisterial districts.

## New Mount Vernon Police Commander Invites a Partnership

### New Chief in Town.

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH  
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

The Mount Vernon police station's new commander, Major Matthew Luik, has a "sense of ownership" and a "sense of service," he explained in a Sept. 9 interview at the Mount Vernon Government Center station. He has a sense of ownership because he grew up in Fairfax County's Burke area and graduated from James W. Robinson Secondary School, he said. He has a sense of service, because he is continuing his family's history of public service in the military and in government.

A 23-year veteran of the Fairfax County police force who started as a patrol officer in McLean, Luik has handled everything from street crimes to murders to hostage barricades. He was the leader of the Sully station's SWAT team. SWAT stands for special weapons and tactics, officers trained to address incidents threatening public safe-



The Mount Vernon Police Station is in the Mount Vernon Government Center, 2511 Parkers Lane.



PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH

**Information**  
Citizen Advisory Committee,  
MtVernonCAC@gmail.com  
Statistics,  
<https://www.fcpcod.org/>

ty that exceed traditional law enforcement officers' capabilities.

A station commander oversees personnel, in this station, 109

sworn officers, five auxiliary officers and 20 civilians, including school crossing guards. A commander also makes assignments and does "data analytics," Luik explained. He tries to identify safety issues and determine, for example, where crimes are spiking.

Police recruiting by the department countywide is challenging, he remarked. Referencing the

county's diverse population, he said, "We must match the county that we police." He worries that many young people today have "lost that sense of service."

Luik applauds the Fairfax County Police Department's resources, many that their counterparts in other areas lack. County officers have mandatory trainings in many areas, including de-escalation tac-

tics and in newly-enacted laws. The department has helicopters, search and rescue teams, a marine patrol of three boats, and drones. They use drones to find missing people, analyze traffic accidents and study crime scenes, for example.

"A school shooting is the worst thing that can happen to a com-  
SEE NEW CHIEF IN TOWN, PAGE 5



# Mary Taylor

“Both Juliet and I want to personally thank you for the excellent support in selling our home. Your recommendations on selling price, marketing strategy, and needed improvements were “spot on target,” and lead to a higher selling price plus selling the property in less than a day. We certainly will highly recommend you to our friends and family!”

—Ed & Juliet J.

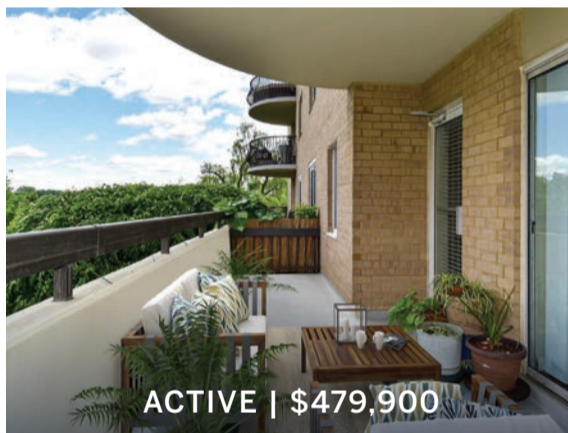
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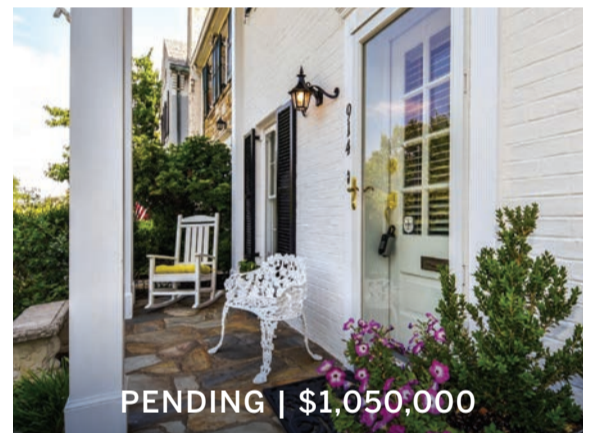
COMING SOON | \$799,900

34 E Rosemont Ave  
Alexandria, VA 22301



ACTIVE | \$479,900

1250 S Washington St S #120  
Alexandria, VA 22314



PENDING | \$1,050,000

914 S Saint Asaph St  
Alexandria, VA 22314



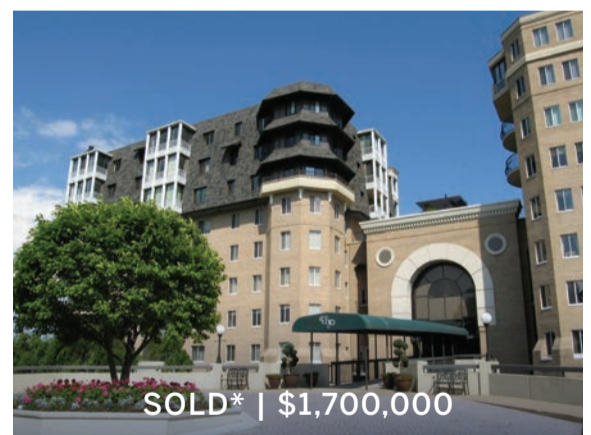
SOLD | \$551,000

2814 Fort Dr  
Alexandria, VA 22303



SOLD\* | \$1,550,000

512½ S Pitt St  
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## REMEMBERING

# Remembering the Victims

## 16 local lives lost in terrorist attacks on 9/11/2001.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

It has been 23 years since the world watched in horror as an unimaginable act of terrorism took the lives of 2,977 Americans, including 16 Alexandria residents on Sept. 11, 2001. The City of Alexandria marked the anniversary of what remains the worst terrorist attack in U.S. history with a ceremony remembering those who were killed and honoring the first responders who answered the call. Similar ceremonies were held throughout the region.

One of those first responders was Penn-Daw Station 11 firefighter Jim Morris, who is now retired. Morris was among the first responders pictured atop the Pentagon in the now iconic photograph of the American flag as it was unfurled. As Morris participated in the recovery efforts in Arlington, his mind was 225 miles north in New York City, where his brother Seth was still unaccounted for in the rubble of the World Trade Center.

Seth Morris was a broker with Cantor Fitzgerald working on the 105th floor of World Trade Center One. He did not survive.

The coordinated attacks at the Pentagon, World Trade Center and outside Shanksville, Pa., resulted in 2,977 casualties. Remains of more than 1,700 of those who perished have never been recovered.



FILE PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Lt. Jim Morris, far bottom right, and fellow firefighters from Alexandria and Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Station 11 join soldiers atop the Pentagon to unfurl an American flag during rescue and recovery efforts Sept. 12, 2001. Morris's brother Seth perished in the attacks on the World Trade Center.

## Alexandria's victims of 9-11

### Spc. Craig Amundson

Spec. Craig S. Amundson, 28, was assigned to the Army's Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel as a graphic artist and was at work at the Pentagon the morning of Sept. 11, 2001. He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and Meritorious Service Award. He left behind his wife, Amber, and children Elliot and Charlotte.



Spc. Craig Amundson

### Eddie A. Dillard

Eddie A. Dillard, 54, was a passenger aboard American Airlines flight 77. He left behind a wife of 15 years, Rosemary, and one son, Edrick L. Dillard.



Eddie A. Dillard

### Capt. Robert Edward Dolan

Captain Robert Dolan, 43, was working on the first floor of the Pentagon as head of the U.S. Navy's Strategy and Concepts Branch when American Airlines Flight 77 struck the building. He was a 1981 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and commander of the USS John Hancock. His class ring was found in the remains of the Pentagon. Dolan was survived by his wife Lisa and children Rebecca and Beau.



Capt. Robert Edward Dolan

### Cmdr. William H. Donovan

Commander William Howard Donovan, 37, was commissioned at the Naval Academy with the Class of 1986. He had been on the Chief of Naval Operations staff for a little over a year when Flight 77 struck the Pentagon. Known as "the Waynewood Dad," Donovan left behind his wife Elaine



Cmdr. William H. Donovan

and three young children. His remains were never recovered.

### Diane M. Hale-McKinzy

Diane Hale-McKinzy, 38, was a civilian employee for the U.S. Army at the Pentagon. Born in Lithonia, Ga., she served in the Army for four years before beginning a career in civil service.



Diane M. Hale-McKinzy

### Maj. Wallace Cole Hogan Jr.

Maj. Wallace Cole Hogan Jr., 40, served with the Green Berets, the Special Forces and, ultimately, as a general's aide at the Pentagon. The 21-year Army veteran was an avid cyclist and regularly commuted by bike from his Alexandria home to the Pentagon. He was survived by his wife Pat, an Air Force doctor that he



Maj. Wallace Cole Hogan Jr.

met when he fell ill at the Jungle Warfare School in Panama. Other survivors included his parents Wallace and Jane Hogan and sisters Meg Campbell and Kris Leggett.

### Bryan C. Jack

Bryan C. Jack, 48, was on American Airlines Flight 77 when the plane struck the Pentagon, where he worked as the head of the Defense Department's programming and fiscal economics division. Jack and his longtime companion, artist Barbara Rachko, were married on June 16, 2001, just 87 days before his death.



Bryan C. Jack

### Steven D. Jacoby

Steven "Jake" Jacoby, 43, was the chief operating officer of Metrocall and a passenger on American Airlines Flight 77. A community leader, Jacoby sat on the board of Men Against



Steven D. Jacoby

SEE 9-11, PAGE 4

## REMEMBERING

# Remembering the Victims

FROM PAGE ??

Breast Cancer and was actively involved with the Camp Fantastic Special Love charity golf tournament as well as Catholic Charities. The weekend before his death, Jacoby had celebrated the birthdays of his wife Kim and son Nicholas.

### Terence M. Lynch

Terence Michael Lynch, 49, was one of three consultants from Booz Allen Hamilton who perished during a meeting at the Pentagon. On the day of his death, he was attending a meeting to extend survivor benefits to military families. He was survived by his wife Jacqueline and daughters Tiffany Marie and Ashley Nicole.



Terence M. Lynch

### Lt. Col. Dean Mattson

Army Lt. Col. Dean Mattson, 57, was less than three months away from retiring when he was killed while working in the Office of the Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Army



Lt. Col. Dean E. Mattson

at the Pentagon. A 35-year Army veteran, Mattson had plans of being a Lutheran pastor before committing to the Army when he was drafted in 1964. The Belle Haven Towers apartments resident left behind his mother Bernice and brothers Glenn, Dwain and Dale.

### Maj. Clifford L. Patterson Jr.

Major Clifford L. Patterson, Jr., 33, was a native of Washington D.C. and graduate of St. John's College High School. In 1991 he graduated from Howard University as a Distinguished Military Graduate. He was working at the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001.



Maj. Clifford L. Patterson Jr.

### Cmdr. Robert Allan Schlegel

Cmdr. Robert A. Schlegel, 38, followed his father and brothers in the Navy. Prior to being posted to the Pentagon, he was executive officer of the USS Arthur W. Radford, a 9,000-ton destroyer.



Cmdr. Robert Allan Schlegel

### Lt. Col. Gary F. Smith (Ret.)

Retired Army Lt. Col. Gary Smith, 55, was at a meeting at the Pentagon when American Airlines Flight 77 struck. A resident of Wayneswood since 1984, Smith coached his daughter's soccer teams, kept time for the West Potomac High School track team and was a fixture at high school football games on Friday nights. A 23-year Army veteran, Smith received the Soldier's Medal for Heroism after saving a number of soldiers from a helicopter crash during his service in Vietnam. He was survived by his wife Ann and daughters Natalie, Nicole, Kristie and Tracy.



Lt. Col. Gary F. Smith

### Norma Lang Steuerle

Norma Lang Steuerle, 54, was active in the Old Town community as a clinical psychologist and through Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church. She was aboard American Airlines Flight 77 en route to visit a daughter in Japan and her husband Eugene, who was teaching a seminar in Singapore.



Norma Lang Steuerle

### Sandra C. Taylor

Sandra Carol Taylor, 50, worked as a civilian for the U.S. Army for 30 years and at the Pentagon for almost 10. She was a volunteer at the Hospice of Northern Virginia and at the time of her death was engaged to Timothy Dudgeon. She left behind her daughter Samantha.



Sandra C. Taylor

### Meta L. Waller

Meta L. Waller, 60, was a 12-year civilian employee of the U.S. Army at the Pentagon and was at her desk when the hijacked airliner struck the building. Named after her grandmother, the African American sculptor Meta Warrick Fuller, Waller received a master's degree in government from Harvard University and was active in civil rights affairs.



Meta L. Waller

## BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at [ConnectionNews-papers.com/Calendar](http://ConnectionNews-papers.com/Calendar). Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before the event.

### VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Assistance League of Northern Virginia is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that feeds, clothes and provides reading assistance and books to children in need. Assistance League's programs touch the lives of hundreds of children in Fairfax and Prince William Counties and the City of Alexandria. There are many volunteer opportunities for community members to contribute to helping those in need. To learn more, email [info@alnv.org](mailto:info@alnv.org), or visit [www.alnv.org](http://www.alnv.org).

STEM Professionals Needed. Help assist K-12 STEM teachers as part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science's STEM Volunteer Program, [stemvolunteers.org](http://stemvolunteers.org), during the 2018-19 school year. In the 2017-18 school year, there are 85 volunteers in 6 Northern Virginia school districts. Contact Don Rea at 571-551-2488, or [donaldrea@aol.com](mailto:donaldrea@aol.com).

ALIVE! offers numerous programs that aid low-income families in Alexandria that rely on volunteers: monthly food distributions, furniture, houseware and emergency food deliveries, and community food drives. Individuals, families and groups are encouraged to participate. Students can earn community service hours by participating. Visit [www.alive-inc.org/volunteer.htm](http://www.alive-inc.org/volunteer.htm) or contact the Volunteer Coordinator at [volunteers@alive-inc.org](mailto:volunteers@alive-inc.org).

Volunteer Drivers Needed. Drivers needed by the American Cancer Society to take cancer patients to treatment in Northern Virginia. To volunteer, call 1-800-227-2345 or go to [cancer.org/drive](http://cancer.org/drive).

RSVP, a volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older. RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, email Carly Hubicki at [chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org](mailto:chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org) or call RSVP at 703-403-5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit [www.rsvpnova.org](http://www.rsvpnova.org).

Mentors Wanted. Two creative programs that help transform the lives of Alexandria's preteens are seeking volunteer mentors. SOHO, which stands for "Space of Her Own," and "Space of His Own," serves vulnerable fifth graders in Alexandria. The programs pair men and women with youth in need of positive adult role models, to help support and guide youth in making healthy choices and succeeding in school and in life. Visit [www.spaceofherown.org](http://www.spaceofherown.org) and [www.spaceofhisown.org](http://www.spaceofhisown.org). For more information on how to become a SOHO mentor, contact Sarah Maroney at [sarah.maroney@alexandriava.gov](mailto:sarah.maroney@alexandriava.gov) or phone at 703-746-4687.

Farmer's Market Volunteers Needed. To volunteer for the Farmer's Markets, email Brian Morreale, [brianmorreale@gmail.com](mailto:brianmorreale@gmail.com)

### SUPPORT GROUPS

Postpartum Support Virginia sponsors a free, bi-monthly support group for women suffering depression and/or anxiety during pregnancy or in the first year following childbirth. Meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at Inova Alexandria Hospital, Health Education Center, rooms 1-2, 4320 Seminary Road. Contact co-moderator Susan Doyle at [suzjdoyle@gmail.com](mailto:suzjdoyle@gmail.com) or 571-403-0673. The Parkinson's Disease Support

Group of Alexandria meets the 1st Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m. At the Hollin Hall Senior Center, Room 109, 1500 Shenandoah Road. All Parkinson's patients and caregivers are welcome.

The Caregiver Support Group is facilitated by the Alexandria Department of Community and Human Services Division of Aging and Adult Services. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at the Adult Day Services Center, 1108 Jefferson St., 4-5:30 p.m. Participants are full- or part-time caregivers providing care locally or long distance to a family member or friend. Participants share their experiences, provide support for each other and receive resources to assist them with caregiving. The next Caregiver Support Group meeting is June 7. For more information or to register, contact Jennifer Sarisky at 703-746-9999 or email [DAAS@alexandriava.gov](mailto:DAAS@alexandriava.gov). FACE Center Support Groups provide parents with a space to share their daily parenting frustrations and triumphs while offering new strategies for helping parents to cope, build positive parent-child relationships and best support their children's learning.

- ❖ Support Group in English, every Monday, 6-7:30 p.m. at ARHA Main Building, 401 Wythe St.
- ❖ Support Group in Spanish, every

Wednesday, 6-7:30 p.m. at Community Lodgings Brookside Center, 614 Four Mile Road.

Registration not necessary. A light dinner and childcare services provided free. Contact Krishna Leyva at 703-619-8055 or [krishna.leyva@acps.k12.va.us](mailto:krishna.leyva@acps.k12.va.us) for more.

Divorce Workshop for Women. Second Saturday of each month, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Hilton Alexandria Old Town, 1767 King St. The workshops are designed to provide education on the legal, financial, family and personal issues of divorce in a logical, yet compassionate way. The workshop fee is \$25. Visit [www.novasecondsaturday.com](http://www.novasecondsaturday.com) for more.

### ONGOING

Backflow Preventer (BFP) Assistance Program. The City of Alexandria has reinstated its sewer Backflow Preventer (BFP) Assistance Program for homeowners in designated areas that historically experience basement back-ups or flooding. The program reimburses homeowners for up to 50 percent of the cost of installing a BFP device by a licensed plumber.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 14

# New Chief in Town

FROM PAGE 1

munity,” he offered. “Number one for us is to protect our children.” He said that every Fairfax County high school has a police officer serving as a school resource officer the entire school day. Middle schools typically share an officer. The county’s elementary schools do not have school resource officers because of “resource limitations,” he said.

Luik expects the public to become partners, to “build trust” and he urges people to “let us know what’s going on. You can talk to us at any time,” he urged. The Citizen Advisory Committee for the Mount Vernon district meets monthly on the second Thursday. A crime prevention officer attends community meetings and can offer safety guidance on topics like how to secure one’s residence.

For the Mount Vernon area, Luik finds motor vehicle theft rates to be too high, but 2024 numbers are down 11 percent from 2023. Many of these thefts occur because people leave their cars unlocked or leave keys in the car, he said.

The toughest part of his job? “Sitting at a desk,” he amusedly quipped, mildly reminiscing about his former work “on the streets.” A top priority is “ensuring that the officers are safe.”

## Crime Statistics

FPCPD’s website offers some revealing statistics, a continually updated “crime mapping dashboard.”

Countywide data for crimes against a person show, for example, increases from 2022 to 2023 in assaults, residential burglaries, auto thefts and shoplifting; decreases in murders, carjackings and commercial robberies.

For the county’s eight police districts in 2024 as of Sept. 10, 2024, the Mount Vernon district had the second highest number of crimes against a person. Mason District was slightly higher. For crimes against property Mount Vernon has the third highest of all districts, with Franconia second and Mason district first.

Tables also show, for example, victims by race, sex, age and ethnicity, types of crimes and crimes by the day of the week and time of day.

The Mount Vernon Police District generally includes most of the Mount Vernon magisterial district and the part of Franconia magisterial district east of Telegraph Road.

### Information

Citizen Advisory Committee, MtVernon-CAC@gmail.com

Statistics, <https://www.fcpod.org/>

PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH

The County Police Department’s insignia that is on a wall in the station and on officers’ uniforms.



FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT  
Major Matthew Luik, Commander, Mount Vernon Police Station.



FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT  
Major Matthew Luik, Commander, Mount Vernon Police Station.



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THE CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS RENEWAL by ANDERSEN

## ENVIRONMENT

# Life at the Landfill – Much More than Trash

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH  
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

**A**s multi-ton garbage trucks roll in and out 24 hours a day to unload the never-ending detritus of modern life and mammoth forklifts rumble over the I-95 landfill at Lorton, just over the hill, a very different kind of life abounds.

Amid the crickets' constant chirping, keen listeners may hear the tinkling call of a bobolink. Their fall call is "a repeated ink," says the National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America. Bobolinks are seven-inch-long birds that live and forage in tall grasses and winter in South America.

Bobolinks migrate through Northern Virginia in the spring and fall and are "very rare in the eastern United States," says Greg Butcher, retired U.S. Forest Service wildlife biologist. Why are these birds at the landfill? Bobolinks prefer grasslands, a rare and diminishing habitat. Grassland acreage in Virginia may be less than .0001 percent what it was pre-colonization, according to Justin Folks, Natural Resources Conservation Service. "The eastern United States has lost 99 percent of its grassland since European settlement," notes Butcher.

### NO MOW

This year, managers designated 50 acres of the 500-acre landfill as a "no-mow" zone, as directed in February by the Board of Supervisors and recommended by the Northern Virginia Bird Alliance. The goal is to avoid mowing during grassland birds' spring and early summer nesting season. This area has not been mowed since September 2023. By letting the grasses grow, managers have in effect created a grassland. Butcher comments, "I've spent a lot of time and energy working with the people at the landfill because it has the largest patch of grassland in eastern Fairfax County."

Grassland birds are "among the fastest-declining bird species in the U.S., with a 34



PHOTO BY CARLOS LEIVA

Northern Virginia Birding Alliance member, Greg Butcher, watches the wood line for birds during a sunrise bird survey."

percent loss since 1970," a National Audubon Society 2022 report concluded. "The landfill supports populations of five key eastern grassland bird species," Butcher reports.

### PREPARING A PLAN

Blair Evancho, a May college graduate and county intern, and Carlos Leiva, a county

employee, are conducting bird surveys, especially identifying birds that are "regionally rare and specialize in grasslands," explains Evancho. "This habitat supports species that are not supported elsewhere."

In other words, the point is not just the total number of birds or species, but documenting birds not typically found in other area

habitats. Other grassland birds they have seen include Eastern meadowlarks, grasshopper sparrows and dickcissels. Butcher calls the dickcissel "a Midwestern bird."

The landfill is in fact an Ebird hotspot, with at least 126 species identified over the

SEE ENVIRONMENT, PAGE 7



PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH

Blair Evancho is conducting bird surveys and preparing management protocols.



PHOTO BY BLAIR EVANCHO

Fairfax County Public Outreach and Engagement Specialist, Carlos Leiva, records the species of a bird observed during a sunrise bird survey.

# ENVIRONMENT



Landfill grasses. ReWorld (formerly Covanta) waste-to-energy in the background.



Mowed area on the left; unmowed area on the right.



Big machinery rumbles around some sections of the landfill.

FROM PAGE 6

last 15 years, most not grassland birds. On Sept. 5, vultures soared and crows called. Observers spotted Eastern phoebes and American kestrels. On July 31, Butcher confirmed 13 species, including wild turkeys, common ravens and chimney swifts.

On Sept. 5, the no-mow area was alive with insects, including butterflies (monarchs, cloudless sulfur, cabbage and tiger and black swallowtail), beetles, bees and dragonflies. “There are grasshoppers everywhere,” Evancho observed.

The area has a mix of wildflowers, native grasses and lespedeza. Bright yellow bearded beggar tick and Queen Anne’s lace plants punctuated the landscape as fox tail grasses swayed in the breeze. Bull thistles were shedding their seeds. Goldfinches use these seeds for building nests in August, said Butcher. “This is when seeds are available.”

Fairfax County official Eric Forbes touts the county’s “sustainability-minded management.”

“We planted our first native meadows at the site in 2016 for pollinators and wildlife, now we are managing traditionally mowed turf areas to allow for grassland bird nest-

## Birding the Landfill

To survey birds at the Lorton landfill, register at 9850 Furnace Road, Lorton, get a map and vest.

ing,” Forbes says.

“Hopefully we can show that altering our mowing schedule will allow native birds to breed, setting an example that helps our department’s sustainable community goal and meets our environmental compliance requirements for landfill management. This project can change how landfill operators and regulators manage mowed turf areas to allow for harmony with native bird species and other critical wildlife.” Forbes is Deputy Director, Solid Waste Management Program of the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services.

Evancho will analyze his data and prepare management protocols for the 50 acres. The Smithsonian’s Virginia Working Landscapes recommends Feb. 15 to April 1 as the “optimal time for field management” to protect breeding and nesting grassland birds.

Meanwhile, this part of the landfill is becoming a rare and rich grassland.

PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH



Bearded beggar tick and Queen Anne’s lace plants brighten the landscape.



PHOTO BY CARLOS LEIVA

Northern Virginia Birding Alliance member, Greg Butcher (left), and Fairfax County Grassland Habitat Intern, Blair Evancho (right), scan their surroundings for birds during a bird survey”.



Bearded beggar tick plants attract beetles and other insects.



Black swallowtail butterflies nectar on plants at the landfill.



Bull thistles were releasing seeds.



Managers have put up “no mowing” signs to delineate the area.

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NEWS DEPARTMENT: gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Mary Kimm

Editor and Publisher mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

Jeanne Theismann

jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com @TheismannMedia

Mercia Hobson

Staff Reporter mhobson@connectionnewspapers.com

Mike Salmon

Contributing Writer msalmon@connectionnewspapers.com

Ken Moore, Glenda Booth  
Contributing Writers

ADVERTISING:

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

Debbie Funk

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

David Griffin

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

Classified & Employment Advertising 703-778-9431

Publisher

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

Editor & Publisher

Mary Kimm mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com @MaryKimm

Art/Design:

Laurence Foong  
Production Manager:  
Geovani Flores

CIRCULATION

Circulation Manager: Ann Oliver circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

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# Fairfax County Is Growing — The 2023 Demographic Reports

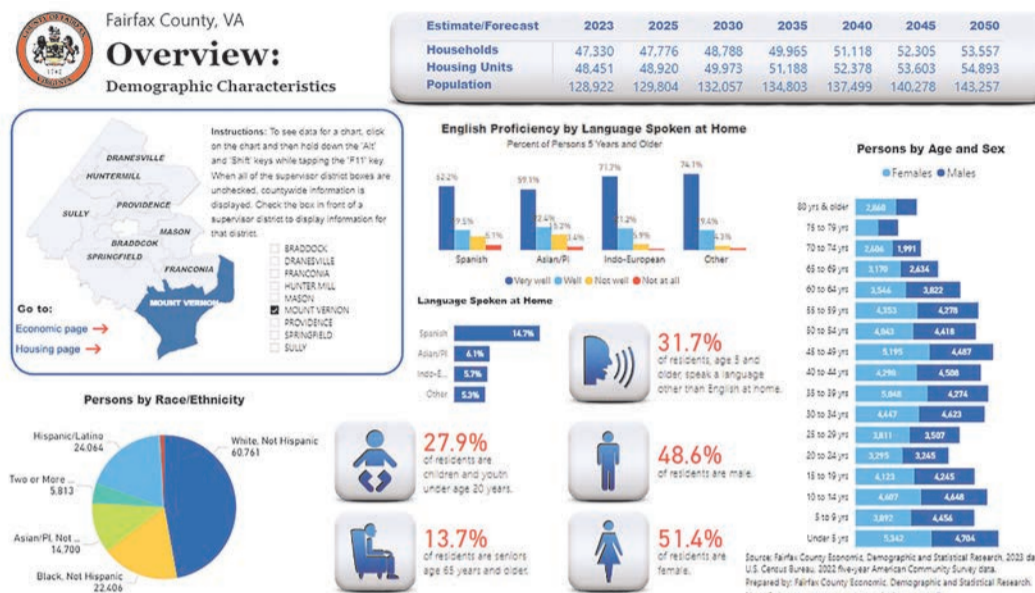
BY SUPERVISOR DAN STORCK



Have you ever wanted to know more about who and what make Fairfax County such a unique place to live? Each year, the County produces demographic reports and puts them on the County website with helpful charts and graphics. The 2023 Demographic Reports (<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/demographics/sites/demographics/files/Assets/DemographicReports/fullrpt.pdf>) revealed that our County's population mirrors pre-pandemic growth rates and has increased to 1,185,980 residents in 2023, a 1.1% increase from 2022. Here in the Mount Vernon District, I am pleased to represent 128,922 of you. The findings from the report also project that our County's growth isn't slowing down. By 2050, the County's population is projected to reach 1,380,000, a 16% increase from today.

Housing development is keeping pace with this growth. In 2023, the County's housing inventory reached 432,550 units, a 1.4% increase from 2022. Here in the District, we have 48,451 total housing units. Looking ahead, the County anticipates having 520,000 housing units by 2050, with roughly every 10 units consisting of four single-family units, two townhomes and four multifamily housing units.

The report found that 31.7% of Mount Vernon District residents aged 5 and older speak a language other than English at home, a 0.5% increase from 2022. The County and our District are also a majority-minority area, meaning



Interactive website feature with 2023 Demographic Characteristics of the Mount Vernon District.

our population is comprised of less than 50% non-Hispanic white residents.

By knowing this information, it allows us to continue to improve our communication methods, such as our Spanish e-newsletter and translation services at all our major events. With policies like One Fairfax, we're committed to providing everyone with services they can easily access, allowing them to reach their full potential.

Did you know that Fairfax County businesses are served by a regional labor force of 3.4 million workers? In addition to the Demographics Report, if you're interested in learning more about Fairfax County's vibrant workforce and businesses, the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority (EDA) also

publishes reports on our talent pipeline, high demand occupations and the job skills that employers are seeking. These insights help us understand the economic opportunities in our region. Learn more: <https://www.fairfax-countyeda.org/>

The insights from these demographic sources will be used for program planning, policy initiatives, revenue forecasting, budgeting and much more. If you're interested in exploring more about the County's 2023 Demographic, Housing and Economic Characteristics, check out the interactive website feature (<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/demographics/fairfax-county-general-overview>). Click on the Mount Vernon District on the map icon and discover all the findings from the reports.

## HopeLink's #CallTextLive Focuses on Preventing Suicides

Activities throughout September, suicide prevention month, educate and raise awareness.

HopeLink Behavioral Health (formerly PRS), a non-profit that answers the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline for most of Virginia, is promoting its 10th annual #CallTextLive Campaign with activities throughout September's Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month. As a regional nonprofit with national reach, HopeLink helps individuals who live with behavioral health issues or that are in crisis.

"#CallTextLive helps drive attention to the serious issue of suicide and gives everyone a role in prevention. The campaign includes several ways for people to engage through social media, activities and events. A key message is there is hope and help through the 988 Lifeline," said Joseph Getch, CEO, HopeLink Behavioral Health.

Suicide was the 11th leading

SEE HOPELINK, PAGE 9

### Submit a Letter to the Editor

To submit a letter to the editor, email editors@connectionnewspapers.com or via the following form <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter/>

Ideally, letters will be original, about local issues and less than 300 words. Please submit letters by noon Friday before publication week, although letters received on Mondays can be considered. Letters must include your first and last name, home address and a phone number. Letters are routinely edited for libel, length, grammar, good taste and accuracy. Your name and town will be published with your letter, other personal information will not be shared. If you are a student, your school name, age and grade will also be published.

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## OPINION

### HopeLink's #CallTextLive

FROM PAGE 8

cause of death in 2022, claiming the lives of more than 49,000 Americans. In addition, there were an estimated 1.6 million suicide attempts. Removing the stigma around discussing suicide and reaching out for help is crucial to saving lives and creating safer communities.

Throughout September, everyone can make a difference by participating in HopeLink's #CallTextLive campaign. The campaign provides information and activities that contribute to a suicide-safer community by educating the public about improving mental wellness and talking openly about suicide and pain to help reduce the stigma and increase help seeking. It also educates family and friends about what services and supports are available to them.

#CallTextLive has information designed to support populations at a higher risk for suicide, including specific resources for the

LGBTQIA+ community. Other elements include facts and data to increase understanding of suicide; resources about identifying when someone is in crisis; and invitations to HopeLink supported events. Social media is an important part of the campaign and is used to share facts and engage people in sharing stories and photos on HopeLink's Facebook and Instagram pages using the #CallTextLive hashtag. By visiting HopeLink's website or social pages, people can discover how to participate in the #CallTextLive Campaign.

A call to 988, text to 988, or sending a chat via 988lifeline.org/chat can save a life. If someone in crisis reaches out, HopeLink's trained crisis workers evaluate their call, help de-escalate the crisis when possible, and work collaboratively with local resources to connect individuals to appropriate services. In addition to operating as a crisis call center, HopeLink provides an array of behavioral health services. To learn more about HopeLink

and/or the campaign, visit <https://HopeLinkBH.org/>.

#### ABOUT HOPELINK BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

HopeLink is a leading nonprofit helping those living with diverse behavioral health issues and anyone who faces life crises achieve independence, self-sufficiency, and safety. HopeLink provides people they serve with skill training and support to help them recover and rebuild their lives through a range of services including Psychosocial Rehabilitation Day Program Services, Mental Health Outpatient Therapy, Mental Health Skills-Building, TIP, Individual Supported Employment, Peer Support Services, and Coordinated Specialty Care. HopeLink is a 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline Center and Regional Crisis Call Center answering calls, texts, and chats from across Virginia and the nation. For 24/7 support from HopeLink, call or text 988. For 24/7 chat support, visit [988lifeline.org/chat](https://988lifeline.org/chat). [www.HopeLinkBH.org](https://www.HopeLinkBH.org).

## Re-electing Tim Kaine Is Critical to NoVA

BY DELEGATE PAUL KRIZEK

A few weeks ago, in this newspaper, I endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris to be our next President of the United States. Last night, during their first Presidential debate, Americans saw exactly what kind of President Kamala Harris will be – a strong leader, especially on defense of our nation, and one who offers a positive future for the country, who will be a President for all Americans, and who will turn the page once and for all on the darkness and division of Donald Trump.

In just 9 days early voting will commence and we will have the opportunity to vote for not just the President, but Senator and US House Representative. Today, I want to say a few words about the Senate race and give just one compelling reason why we should re-elect Tim Kaine to the US Senate – he supports our military and federal workers!

As your Delegate representing the 16th district here in Northern Virginia, (and the son of a former federal worker and USAF officer), a region home to thousands of federal workers, military families, and private sector jobs associated with the federal government, I wholeheartedly endorse U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine for re-election. Throughout his decades of public service, Senator Kaine has been a steadfast advocate for the hardworking men and women who keep our country safe, stable, and prosperous. In contrast, his opponent, Hung Cao, a political neophyte, has endorsed a dangerous plan that could wreak havoc on our federal workforce, and threaten the livelihoods of many Virginians.

Hung Cao has aligned himself with the radical proposals of Florida Senator Rick Scott, who unveiled a plan that includes cutting the federal workforce by [www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)



25 percent. If applied evenly across federal agencies, this could lead to the loss of over 9,000 jobs at the FBI, 15,000 at Customs and Border Protection, and nearly 14,000 at the TSA, among others. For context, Northern Virginia is home to over 80,000 federal government employees. These cuts would not only harm federal workers but also compromise the safety and security of all Virginians.

Moreover, Scott's plan, which Cao enthusiastically called "perfect," would sunset Veterans Administration benefits every five years, threatening the health and well-being of the nearly 700,000 Virginians who have served our country. It would defund federal support for state and local law enforcement, jeopardizing the livelihoods of Virginians serving in law enforcement, and stripping nearly \$4 billion that currently helps fund critical programs like technology upgrades and opioid crisis initiatives. Additionally, this plan seeks to raise taxes for veterans and Virginia families while offering tax breaks to the wealthy.

This is not the kind of future we need. Sen. Tim Kaine has consistently advocated for policies that protect and uplift Virginians, from law enforcement officers to veterans to working families. Unlike his opponent, Senator Kaine understands the real-world impact of slashing jobs and resources that help keep our communities safe. He has always fought to ensure that Virginia's federal workers and military families receive the support they deserve, and he will continue to be a strong voice in Washington for the values we hold dear.

I urge all of my fellow Northern Virginians to stand with Senator Kaine this November and reject the reckless, harmful policies that Hung Cao supports. Together, let's keep Virginia moving forward.



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# Supervisors Approve New Requirements for Data Centers

**Stricter standards elicit reactions during and after vote.**

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

**O**n Sept. 10, following extensive community engagement efforts that helped shape the final recommendations presented to the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors, the Board approved the long-awaited Data Center Zoning Ordinance by a vote of 8-2.

“What we’re doing here is taking a quantum leap forward to put in place restrictions on data centers that come close, as close as we can, to meeting the concerns that people have raised with us about data centers,” Board Chairman Jeff McKay said.

The amendment revises the permissions and adds or revises the use-specific standards for data centers to address issues of compatibility with surrounding uses, noise, and aesthetics while introducing stricter standards.

At the board’s March 5 meeting this year, the board approved advertising a 4-cent FY 2025 real estate tax rate increase for the County Executive’s FY 2025 Fairfax County Advertised Budget. The board enacted a budget that raised the tax rate by 3 cents.

State law restricts how localities can raise revenue. As the county’s commercial tax revenue has declined, Fairfax County supervisors realized the county needed new tax revenue to help fund community services.

In this high-tech region, there is demand for more data centers and a growing number of applications



Chairman Jeff McKay.



Supervisor Pat Herry.



Supervisor Andres Jimenez.



Supervisor Walter Alcorn.

to build them in Fairfax County. Meanwhile demand for commercial office space is shrinking.

The board supported data centers despite resident concerns about noise, property values, and environmental impacts during the Sept. 10 public hearing. The Planning Commission recommended a 200-foot setback from residential areas and Metro, and the board debated whether to treat data centers as by-right uses or require special exceptions. Discussions highlighted the need for balanced regulations to protect residents while fostering economic growth.

Supervisor Pat Herry (Springfield) said data centers must be “properly located and screened to reduce the impact on our residents.” Although the ordinance was not exactly what Herry wanted, he “supported the motion as a step in the right direction to achieve that balance.”

In his statement released after the vote, Chairman Jeff McKay also used the word “balanced.” McKay said the board took “a balanced approach. ... The board based its action on public input with aggressive but fair standards, which made a quantum leap forward in modernizing our zoning ordinance.”

Two supervisors, Andres Jimenez, representing the Mason District, and Walter Alcorn, representing the Hunter Mill District, voted against the amendment reg-

## Key Changes for Data Center Approval

**T**he previous zoning ordinance permitted data centers in various commercial and industrial districts, with specific standards for equipment enclosure and building size. However, the newly approved amendment introduces stricter guidelines, including:

**Equipment Enclosure:** In all districts where data centers are allowed, all equipment must be enclosed or screened by a wall or similar barrier to reduce visual and noise impacts.

**Size Thresholds:** Limits on the size of by-right data centers are retained where they previously applied and now the I-4 District has a size limit as well. Larger developments require special exception approval, except in the I-5 and I-6 Zoning Districts

**Residential Setback:** Data center buildings must be at least 200 feet from the lot line of an

adjacent or abutting residential district or property. Equipment such as back-up generators must be 300 feet from the lot line of residential property or separated from the lot line of a residential district or residential property by the data center building. Lesser distances may be allowed with special exception approval.

**Distance from Metro Stations:** Data centers must be at least one mile from a Metro station.

**Noise Studies:** Pre- and post-construction noise studies must be submitted to ensure compliance with the Noise Ordinance.

**Building Design:** Main entrance features, façade variations, and other architectural elements are required to enhance the visual appeal of these industrial buildings.

SOURCE: FAIRFAX COUNTY

ulating data center placement in Fairfax County.

Jimenez said this is county-wide ordinance, his focus is on the unique challenges Mason District residents are facing. He noted that “added measures would be critical in addressing concerns specific to our community.”

Alcorn said his vote was in the spirit of compromise to try to “protect some of the Hunter Mill residents.” Some residents voiced concerns regarding noise, building design, the environment, and proximity to residential areas.

Alcorn proposed an amendment that could have required some data

centers in the pipeline to comply with some of the new zoning ordinance, but it was defeated 8-2. This was a bitter setback for some residents who have been fighting data centers proposed in their areas.

In his statement, Herry outlined the new Zoning Ordinance. It restricts the right to build data centers by-right (without a public zoning process) to parcels zoned heavy industrial (I-5 and I-6), requires a 200-foot setback from residential lot lines; it requires a noise study, and sets height and size requirements by zoning classification without a special exception process.

According to Herry, the new zoning amendment grandfathers applications that were in process at the initial public hearing on July 16 into the old ones, as is typical with new zoning rules.

However, like Alcorn and Jimenez, Herry expressed concern. In his statement, Herry addressed the new requirement to “locate data centers outside of a one-mile radius around Metro.” Herry said that certain Metro areas, such as the Franconia-Springfield Metro, “contain heavy industrial land that is not suitable for residential development within that radius.”

Tyler Ray, President of the Bren Pointe HOA Board, a coalition of Bren Mar residents who have opposed the Plaza 500 data center for two years, said the board favored deep-pocketed data center developers over residents by approving the proposal. The board approved “denying residents the basic right to a public hearing on massive data centers that will be placed next door to them.”

Video of the Public Hearing on the Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment Re: Data Centers is available at [https://video.fairfaxcounty.gov/player/clip/3475?view\\_id=7&redirect=true](https://video.fairfaxcounty.gov/player/clip/3475?view_id=7&redirect=true). It begins at time stamp 4:32:55.

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## OPINION

# Early Voting Begins Sept. 20

BY DEL. PAUL KRIZEK

**E**arly voting for the November 5th election will be underway here in Virginia in just two short weeks! This week, I joined my colleagues on the Privileges & Elections Committee in Richmond for a presentation by Commissioner Beals of the Department of Elections on the upcoming election preparations. She answered important questions from our committee members regarding voter list maintenance, coordination with local registrars, data-sharing with neighboring states, and more.

On Friday, Sept. 20, in-person early voting will begin, and those who have pre-registered for an absentee ballot will begin to receive them in the mail. For your convenience, the Mount Vernon Governmental Center here in the 16th district, along with the Fairfax County Government Center and the North County Governmental Center will open for in-person early voting on that date. Additional locations across Fairfax County will open on October 17th. The opening hours for the first three early voting sites are as follows:

#### FAIRFAX COUNTY

##### GOVERNMENTAL CENTER

Monday – Friday: 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Saturdays (Sept. 21, Oct. 19, Oct. 26, Nov. 2): 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Sunday (Oct. 27): 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

#### MOUNT VERNON

##### GOVERNMENTAL CENTER

Monday – Friday: 1 p.m. – 7 p.m.  
Saturdays (Sept. 21, Oct. 19, Oct. 26, Nov. 2): 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Sunday (Oct. 27): 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

#### NORTH COUNTY

##### GOVERNMENTAL CENTER

Monday – Friday: 1 p.m. – 7 p.m.  
Saturdays (Sept. 21, Oct. 19, Oct. 26, Nov. 2): 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Sunday (Oct. 27): 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

All registered voters in Virginia are eligible to vote early without a reason or excuse. Voters must present an acceptable ID or may sign an ID Confirmation Statement. These forms of ID can include a Virginia driver's license (expired licenses may be used for voting purposes), US passport, military ID, valid Virginia student ID, current utility bill, or bank statement. A full list of acceptable forms of identification can be viewed on the Virginia Department of Elections website.

The deadline to register to vote or update an existing registration [www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

to vote using a regular ballot is October 15th. Voters may still register after this date through Election Day, but they must vote using a provisional ballot. The deadline to apply for a ballot to be mailed to you is October 25th at 5pm. These mail-in ballots must be postmarked by Election Day. Fairfax County offers ballot tracking through [wheresmyballot.com](http://wheresmyballot.com) to keep voters informed about their ballot status throughout the voting process. To register to vote and/or apply for an absentee ballot, you can do so through the Citizen Portal at <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/citizen-portal/>.

#### THE LAST DAY FOR IN-PERSON EARLY VOTING IS SATURDAY, NOV. 2.

On Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 5, polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. On that date, you must vote at your polling location. You can visit the Citizen Portal to type in your address to find out your polling location.

Want to get more involved this election season? Become a poll worker! Poll workers help the election run smoothly during early voting and on Election Day and perform various roles such as greeter, pollbook officer, and voting equipment and booth officer. This is an excellent way to serve your community and perform your civic duty. If you are a qualified voter in Virginia, you can learn more and apply to serve as a poll worker here: <https://fairfaxelections.fill-out.com/eo-application>.

We all know there is a presidential race at the top of the ticket this year, but what else can you expect to see on your ballot? For Fairfax County residents, we will also have the opportunity to vote for a candidate for US Senate, US House of Representatives, a state constitutional referendum, and public safety and transportation bond referendums. The state constitutional referendum will ask voters whether the Constitution of Virginia should be amended to expand the tax exemption currently available to the surviving spouses of soldiers killed in action to include surviving spouses of soldiers who died in the line of duty. Sample ballots from the Fairfax County Office of Elections will be available to view online in the next few weeks.

I hope to see you at the polls this fall!

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# 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://tallshipprovidence.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."

## NOW THRU SEPT. 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](http://DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits)

## 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, Alexandria. Presented by the nation's top art festival producer, Howard Alan Events (HAE), the Annual Alexandria Old Town Art Festival throughout the decades has become a hallmark staple event for residents and visitors alike. Ranked by Sunshine Artists Magazine as one of the top art festivals in the nation, local and national artists will display their works in a prestigious show encompassing fine jewelry, exquisite works of art and



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

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. Saturday, the Art League will once more host the annual "Ice Cream Bowl" fundraiser with tasty treats served in lovingly crafted ornate bowls.

## 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](http://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 Julia'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.

## GROW WITH YOUR GARDEN AT GREEN SPRING GARDEN TALKS

**The Park Authority is here to help gardeners this fall with a plant-tastic lineup of Green Spring Garden Talks, 4603 Green Spring Road in Alexandria.** Learn some tips and techniques that will spruce up your plants and other "soil-mates" with the help from fellow gardeners, VCE Master Gardeners and naturalists. All events are held at Green Spring Gardens and are \$12 per person. Additional fees apply for out-of-county residents.

**Build the Lawn of Your Dreams.** Friday, Sept. 20, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Let your yard flourish all season long with the right fertilization, seeding and weed prevention methods.

**Alternatives for Invasive Plants.** Friday, Oct. 11, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Discover the different plants you can grow to avoid other bullying plants from taking over your yard.

**Make a Backyard Sanctuary for Wildlife.** Saturday, Oct. 26, 10:30-11:30



## 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.

a.m. Learn gardening techniques for attracting pollinators, birds and other native insects into your garden to improve habitat loss.

**Composting Made Simple.** Friday, Nov. 8, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Learn the value that comes with putting compost into your yard and garden instead of your trashcan.

**Adapt & Thrive with Climate Change.** Saturday, Nov. 16, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Extension Master Gardeners share ways to adapt your garden practices to changing climate patterns through plant selection, water management and more!

## SATURDAY/SEPT. 21

**HalloWEIRD Art Market.** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At the park adjoining Del Ray artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria (corner of Commonwealth and Mount Vernon Avenues). The HalloWEIRD Art Market features a variety of artwork from local artisans celebrating the spooky and playful sides of the autumn season. Join them for lots of fun at this outdoor, family-friendly, rain-or-shine event. Details at [DelRayArtisans.org/halloweird-2024](http://DelRayArtisans.org/halloweird-2024)

## SATURDAY/SEPT. 21

**Write Like a Woman Networking Workshop.** 1 p.m. At the Athenaeum, Alexandria. Enjoy an afternoon of engaging conversation and writing! Facilitated by poet, author, and Athenaeum Poet in Residence, KaNikki Jakarta, this workshop welcomes amateur to professional women writers ages 18-100. Each workshop centers on uplifting and inspiring through writing and allows participants to enhance their writing styles through writing prompts and encouragement. Space is limited, RSVP to [greatpublishing@yahoo.com](mailto:greatpublishing@yahoo.com)

## 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](http://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. 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](http://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](http://www.ahsgardening.org/2024gala) to purchase tickets and sponsorships.

## SATURDAY/SEPT. 21

**Tons of Trucks.** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Chinguapin 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](http://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

# ENTERTAINMENT



**Housing Alexandria is hosting its annual Fall Festival on Thursday, Sept 26, 2024 at The Garden Alexandria featuring live band entertainment, a jazz performance from the Metropolitan School of the Arts performing arts students, food and wine trucks and games.**

@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 disrupted 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.

## THURSDAY/SEPT. 26

**Housing Alexandria’s Annual Fall Festival.** 4-8 p.m. At The Garden Alexandria, 5380 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria. Housing Alexandria, a leading non-profit dedicated to affordable housing, invites the community to its annual Fall Festival. Tickets range from \$100 to \$150, with all proceeds directly supporting affordable housing initiatives in Alexandria. Tickets include food, beverages, and raffle entries – a complete package for a fun-filled evening with a purpose. The family-friendly fair hosts a captivating performance by a jazz/tap ensemble of talented students (ages 12-18) from the renowned Metropolitan School of the Arts (MSA). Guests can also enjoy live music from local band, Live at Zac’s House, while indulging in

various Alexandria vendors. To purchase tickets, go to [www.housingalexandria.org](http://www.housingalexandria.org).

## SEPT. 26 TO OCT. 6

**Old Town Cocktail Week.** At locations throughout Old Town Alexandria. Old Town Cocktail Week will feature spirited events, workshops and activities at shops and restaurants around Old Town. The festivities kick off at Art on the Rocks at the Heron Hotel on September 26 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Guests can sample up to ten unique cocktail and appetizer pairings and vote for their favorite pairing while enjoying imaginative artwork, live music and more.

## 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



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

changing community surrounding it, makes the location important to ALX275, the City of Alexandria’s 275th Anniversary.

## 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.oldtown-northalliance.com>.

## SATURDAY/OCT. 5

**29th Annual Art on the Avenue.** 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. At Mount Vernon Ave. between Hume Ave. and Bellefonte Ave., Alexandria. The 29th Annual Art on the Avenue festival held in Del Ray features more than 300 juried artists, from quilters to card-makers to cartographers, displaying their one-of-a-kind wares. Arrive with an appetite and grab a bite from dozens of food vendors while soaking up live music (Irish, folk, rock-n-roll, country and more) along the avenue. Plus, kids activities abound with pumpkin painting, screen art weaving and more. Please note parking is extremely limited. Trolley transportation will be available from the Braddock Road Metro.

## SATURDAY/OCT. 5

**Fairy House Festival.** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Build your own tiny fairy house using materials found in nature. Special activities will take place throughout the day including story times and crafts on the grounds of the Pope-Leighey House. The Pope-Leighey House was designed by architect Frank Lloyd Wright as a small, affordable home that was built in harmony with the nature around it. Perfect for children, families, and nature lovers of all ages!

## SATURDAY/OCT. 5

**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>

## 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 BIRCHMERE

**At 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria.** All shows are at 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Tickets available at [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com). Contact The Birchmere at 703-549-7500 or [www.Birchmere.com](http://www.Birchmere.com).  
SEPTEMBER  
Wed. 11: Hoodoo Gurus \$35.00 SOLD OUT!

## THRU OCT. 27

**“Dracula: A Comedy of Terrors.”** At Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. September: Fridays and Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m. October: Fridays and Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 4 p.m. Special October Twilight Performances: Dracula show combined with admission to the haunted trail that same evening. Filled with clever wordplay and pop culture references, Dracula is a gender-bending, laugh-out-loud reimagining of the gothic classic. In the treacherous mountains of Transylvania, a meek English real estate agent takes a harrowing journey to meet a new and mysterious client, the most terrifying and ferocious monster the world has ever known: Count Dracula! Famed female vampire hunter, Jean Van Helsing, and company chase Drac from Transylvania to the British countryside to London and back. Visit [www.workhousearts.org](http://www.workhousearts.org).

## THRU OCT. 13

**Life’s a Stitch.** 11 a.m. to 12 pm. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Life’s a Stitch x4 looks at 4 very different ways



**“Dracula: A Comedy of Terrors” takes place Sept. 6 to Oct. 27, 2024 at Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton.**

that art quilts and fiber sculpture can use both humor and drama to express character and story. Website: <https://www.workhousearts.org/calendar/lifes-a-stitch>

**COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS WITH SUPERINTENDENT DR. REID**  
Superintendent Dr. Michelle Reid will hold a series of Community Conversations across

the county. These events are an opportunity for you to share your thoughts and ask questions regarding Fairfax County Public Schools. Events are planned for the following dates from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.:

- Monday, Sept. 23, at Newington Forest Elementary School.
- Monday, Sept. 30, at Mount Vernon Woods Elementary School.
- Monday, Oct. 14, at Fairhill Elementary School.
- Monday, Oct. 21, at Virginia Run Elementary School.
- Wednesday, Oct. 30, at Herndon Middle School.

## SATURDAY/SEPT. 14

**Exhibition Reception.** 6-9 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, Studio Building 5, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Join Lynn Goldstein for the opening of ‘Just Because’ at Workhouse Arts Center. Experience her abstract exploration of nature’s beauty. Artist talk at 7 p.m. The exhibition will be on view from Sept. 11 to Oct. 6 at the Workhouse Arts Center. The

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 15

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**Obituary**

**Obituary**



**Alice M. Colley, 96**, of Alexandria, Virginia passed away peacefully on Monday, August 26, 2024, at the Goodwin House Small House Health Care Center. She was a devoted wife and mother. Alice was born in Williamstown, Kentucky and grew up on a small, rural farm. She graduated from the nursing school at Berea College in Kentucky (Class of 1949), which is where she met and married her husband, Wilfred Raymond ("Ray") Colley, who predeceased her in 2011.

Alice worked as a nurse at the Berea College hospital, and at hospitals in Roanoke, Virginia and Columbus, Georgia. She and Ray moved to Alexandria in 1955, where she gave birth that year to her first child. Alice and Ray were among the earliest residents of the Waynewood neighborhood in the Mt. Vernon area of Fairfax County, Virginia, where they raised their two sons. She was also the dedicated caretaker for her elderly mother who lived with them.

Alice was an active supporter of Ray's political endeavors, and of her sons' various engagements and pursuits as they were growing up, attending all manner of meetings, fundraisers, concerts, programs and events. She and Ray enjoyed travel to visit family and interesting locations around the United States, as well as Europe. She was also an avid crossword puzzle devotee. Alice and Ray relocated in 2007 to The Virginian in Fairfax County, and Alice moved to Goodwin House in 2022.

Alice is survived by her son Mark and his wife Deborah Harsch, her son David, and her granddaughter Arden. She will be interred alongside Ray at Quantico National Cemetery, Triangle, Virginia. Memorial gifts to Berea College will be appreciated.

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**BULLETIN**

FROM PAGE 4

ing contractor, up to a maximum of \$2,000. The current program period is through Dec. 31, 2019. Alexandria homeowners should call the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services at 703-746-4014 or visit [www.alexandriava.gov/tes](http://www.alexandriava.gov/tes).

**Robust Walking.** Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 9 a.m. at Mount Vernon Recreation Center, 2701 Commonwealth Ave. Free 55+ robust walking 1-hour exercise class (with chair exercise option). No class on holidays. Contact [ijkingconsulting@yahoo.com](mailto:ijkingconsulting@yahoo.com).

**Seeking Donations.** Computer CORE, which is dedicated to helping low-income adults become computer literate is seeking donations. Visit [www.computercore.org/contribute](http://www.computercore.org/contribute).

**Senior and Job Programs.** 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Queen of Apostles Church, 4650 Taney Avenue, Alexandria. St. Martin de Porres Center offers senior and job placement programming Monday through Friday at the parish. Email Kathryn Toohey, [ktoohy@ccda.net](mailto:ktoohy@ccda.net).

**Be Heard at the City's Monthly Public Hearings.** A schedule of the meetings can be found at [www.alexandriava.gov](http://www.alexandriava.gov). Voice opinions, speak about something on the docket or just speak about something you are concerned about. Sign up in advance to speak through the city's website. Anyone is welcome at any of the public hearings.

**Public Space Recycling.** Alexandria has placed more than 80 bright blue recycling containers next to public trash cans in the commercial districts along Mount Vernon Avenue and King Street, as well as other public spaces, including parks, recreation fields, and other high-traffic pedestrian areas. Visit [alexandriava.gov/Recycling](http://alexandriava.gov/Recycling).

**Composting and Food Waste.** Alexandria now has Resource Recovery Stations, located at the City's Farmers' Markets (Old Town, Del Ray) to collect food waste. More than 270 people have participated in the food waste program over the last several months. Participants drop off items weekly, over eight tons of waste has been collected, to be composted to make a natural fertilizer. To learn more about composting visit [alexandriava.gov/YardWaste](http://alexandriava.gov/YardWaste).

**English as a Second Language Class.** Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Tuesdays and Thursdays, all levels 10 a.m.-12 p.m., intermediate workshop 3-5 p.m. All classes free. Call the information desk, 703-746-1702.

**The Talking Book Service at Alexandria Library** will now operate Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Patrons may also reach the service at 703-746-1760.

**Digital Magazines.** Patrons of Alexandria Library will have unlimited access to read digital magazines, which can be viewed on most Internet-enabled devices inside or outside of the library. Accessible through [www.rbdigital.com/alexandriava/zinio](http://www.rbdigital.com/alexandriava/zinio).

**Eligible low income households** can now use their SNAP benefits to buy local foods at the Old Town Farmers' Market. SNAP customers are able to use their electronic benefits transfer cards to purchase fresh fruits, vegetables and other eligible food products at the market. The Old Town Farmer's Market

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 15

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# ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 13

Workhouse is closed on Monday and Tuesday. Visit the website: [www.lynngoldstein.com](http://www.lynngoldstein.com)

## SATURDAY/SEPT. 14

**Adat Reyim Gala.** 8-11 p.m. At Congregation Adat Reyim, 6500 Westbury Oaks Court, Springfield. Congregation Adat Reyim of Springfield celebrates four decades of its congregant-led choir with a medley of instrumental and popular music, including show tunes and folk-rock tunes. Cost: \$36-\$72. Visit the website:

<https://www.adatreyim.org/event/adat-reyim-choirs-40th-anniversary-gala.html>

## SUNDAY/SEPT. 15

**Sound Bath.** 4-5:30 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Come to deeply relax, lift, and rejuvenate your whole being. Cost is \$35. Visit the website: <https://www.workhousearts.org>

## SUNDAY, SEPT 15

**Keyboard Conversations with Jeffrey Siegel.** 7 p.m. Music of Joy and Peace. At GMU's Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Dr., Fairfax. Visit <https://cfa.gmu.edu/>.

## SUNDAY/SEPT. 15

**N Gauge Model Trains on Display.** 1-4 p.m. At Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Northern Virginia NTRAK members will have N gauge model trains on display and running. Admission: Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-12, \$3; ages 13 and older, \$5, \$6 for special events. Seniors and military, active and retired, \$4. <http://www.fairfax-station.org>, <http://www.facebook.com/FFXSRR>, 703-425-9225.

## SATURDAY/SEPT. 21

**WB&A Northern Virginia Toy Train Show.** 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Greater Springfield VFD, 7011 Backlick Road in Springfield. Train layouts and a kids corner will be featured. Free train appraisals and "train doctor" available at the show. Door prizes drawing hourly. Admission is only \$5.00; free



## Experience a Sound Bath on Sunday, Sept. 15, 2024 at Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton.

for WB&A members, Firemen and Military; and children under 12 and Scouts in uniform when accompanied with paid adult.

## FAMILY SKATE AND DANCE NIGHT

This fall, the Family Skate and Dance Nights at Franconia Rec Center will feature a lively schedule. Skaters of all ages will enjoy the festive themes, tasty food and fun music of these skate nights hosted by the Fairfax County Park Authority.

Join the fun and break out your quad skates, inline skates or dancing shoes (bring your own skates/footwear) and take a spin around Franconia Rec Center's gym floor. Each skate night includes music from a guest DJ, as well as food, snacks and drinks available for purchase (Please note that outside food/drink not permitted). Tickets for everyone (skaters, dancers, spectators and chaperones) cost \$10 and can be purchased in advance online. Or you buy them at the door for \$15.

### SCHEDULE:

Sept. 21: Come on Skaters, Let's Go Party! (Barbie themed) (6-9 p.m.)  
Oct. 26: Halloween Costume Party (6-10 p.m.)  
Nov. 16: Franconia Hold 'Em Skate and Dance Night (Country Night) (6-9 p.m.)  
Dec. 21: Holiday and Ugly Sweater Skate and Dance Night (6-9 p.m.)

## FRIDAY/SEPT. 27

**Cold War Virginia.** 12-1 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Join Francis Gary Powers as he discusses his new book, Cold War Virginia, and how the Workhouse site fits in the mix. Books available to purchase on site; signing follows talk. Visit the website: <https://www.workhousearts.org/calendar/learning-lunch-cold-war>

## SUNDAY/SEPT. 22

**HO Gauge Model Train Show.** 1-4 p.m. At the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax. The Potomac Module Crew will have HO gauge model trains on display and running at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. Admission: Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-12, \$3; ages 13 and older, \$5, \$6 for special events. Seniors and military, active and retired, \$4. <http://www.fairfax-station.org>, <http://www.facebook.com/FFXSRR>, 703-425-9225.

## SATURDAY/SEPT. 28

**G34.3 Brewing Oktoberfest!** 12-9 p.m. At 8532 Terminal Road, Suites L, M, N, Lorton. Visit the brewery for a day filled with beer, food, and fun as they celebrate the Bavarian tradition in style. Get ready to enjoy a wide selection of craft beers brewed right here on site, along with delicious German-inspired

cuisine from the Alpine Chef to satisfy your cravings. Don't miss out on live music and door prizes throughout the day.

## SATURDAY/SEPT. 28

**Arts by George!** 5 p.m. At GMU's Fairfax Campus, Fairfax. The annual ARTS by George! benefit, presented by George Mason University's College of Visual and Performing Arts (CVPA), returns in 2024 with multiple award-winning actress and singer Lea Salonga as the headliner. The philanthropic event raises vital support for student scholarships in visual arts, dance, music, theater, game design, film, and arts management, as well as for the Mason Community Arts Academy, Green Machine Ensembles, and the Great Performances at Mason season at the Center for the Arts. Visit <https://cfa.gmu.edu/>

## SUNDAY/SEPT. 29

**Nike Missile Air Defense Talk.** 3-4:30 p.m. At Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Alan McKie will speak on the Nike missile air defense system at Lorton. Sponsored by the Burke Historical Society.

## SUNDAY/OCT. 13

**Paws in the Park.** 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Oronoco Bay Park in Old Town Alexandria. Place your business in front of thousands of pet lovers this fall, all while supporting our mission to help Alexandria's animals. They are looking for sponsors and vendors for our annual Paws in the Park event on October 13th in Old Town Alexandria. The free event features entertainment and music, food and drink, kids' activities, silent auction, and so much more.

## 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>

## As My Later Mother Would Say: "It's Enough Already"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Since I have the time - and interest, in watching the daily new shows, I'm prepared to write a Kenny-column about the experience. There seems to be two phrases that the talking heads use/overuse repeatedly: "inflection point," and "permission structure." I cringe every time I hear them. It seems regardless of station - and irrespective of point of view, I am hearing these phrases, constantly. Almost as if there's a reward for using them.

On the one hand, the phrases have become the everyday jargon of the news coverers and of those whose opinion on that everyday news is sought after/printed, et cetera. The regularity with which I hear these two phrases reminds me of my 10th grade Western Traditions teacher. The class was ostensibly for 10th grade history, but my teacher was also an Art History teacher so much of our class was spent discussing/analyzing works of art.

The teacher whose name I can't recall (though I remember he was a man) spoke rather quickly and often on subjects/material with which I had limited knowledge (and patience/interest if truth be told). "As such," and in a moment, I'll explain why I began the sentence this way, some of us students were somewhat bored and trying to pass the time. The teacher was often speaking at length as the students would be taking notes. "Generally speaking," and I'll explain why I inserted that beginning, we were sort of looking for something to amuse us/pass the time. And what we came up with was the "as such" scoreboard. Why? This was a real-time tallying of the number of times the teacher uttered two distinct phrases. The two phrases? Do you need to ask? They were "As such," and "Generally speaking." If I remember correctly, "as such" could sometimes be heard upwards of 20 times in a one-hour class. "Generally speaking," not nearly as much. Still, its use/recurrence was too notable to ignore, just not on par with "as such."

Oddly enough, I did so well in this class that my teacher referred me into honors history where I remained for the balance of my high school years. It was my first and only honors class. An honor, I thought/felt and the first time a Lourie from Athelstane Road made such a grade. Being that there had been only one other Lourie from this address to precede me, it was hardly the world's greatest accomplishment. Nevertheless, it was certainly an accomplishment for an Athelstane Lourie, and I was proud to be so honored.

The honors history teacher had a word or two himself that he spoke repeatedly. It was when he was talking politics. He would call Democrats "Stuck-whistle liberals." I was amused but not quite sure I appreciated or even understood the total scope of the teacher's slight. However, he did use the phrase more often than any other (oddly enough I can't remember if he had a phrase for Republicans, seems like he would have). But not enough that it led to its unique scoreboard. Besides, the students in this class were a bit more focused - or at least not focused on the kind of childish pursuits some others (yours truly) were, so class was less amusing and more serious. Still, first with "Western Traditions" and then "Honors History" I did learn something, and not simply about art or history.

As I watch/listen to the news programs, I am reminded about 10th grade. "As such," I am very sensitive/alert to verbal redundancies and am often amused by them, regardless of whether I had to "permission structure" to do so, "generally speaking."

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

## BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 14

is located at 301 King St., and is open on Saturdays, year round from 7 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Opera NOVA has begun collection of used musical instruments. Any instruments welcomed, regardless of type. Snare drums, clarinets, and violins are just some of the instruments that could bring joy to a home or school. Any recorders donated will be sent to an orphanage in Haiti in order to build a musical presence there. Opera NOVA has tax-exempt status. Contact Miriam Miller at 703-536-7557 or [mcdm1@verizon.net](mailto:mcdm1@verizon.net) to arrange for delivery.

Free Medicare counseling is available for City of Alexandria residents through the Virginia Insurance Counseling and Assistance Program (VICAP) to help individu-

als understand and navigate Medicare insurance programs. VICAP Medicare counselors will be available on Thursdays from 1-5 p.m., by appointment only, at the Alexandria Department of Community and Human Services, located at 2525 Mount Vernon Ave. Speakers are also available to present information on Medicare Basic to community groups. Call 703-228-1726.

The Military Officers Association of America's scholarship fund gives out loans and grants to children of military families. To learn more, apply or donate visit [www.moaa.org/scholarshipfund](http://www.moaa.org/scholarshipfund).

VCE Master Gardener Help Desk. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Monday-Friday. Bring fresh samples of problem plants, weeds or insects to ensure accurate identification. VCE recommends carrying samples in plastic bags or other clear containers. No live insects. All clinics

and Help Desk are free. 703-228-6414 or [mgarlalex@gmail.com](mailto:mgarlalex@gmail.com).

Five-Star Toastmasters, Club # 9623.

Tuesdays, 5:30-7 p.m. at the Pentagon Conference Center. Toastmasters can help participants sharpen their speaking skills, boost their confidence and energize their leadership skills in a team-oriented atmosphere. Visit [fivestart.toastmasters.com](http://fivestart.toastmasters.com) or Club President Charlie DeWitt at 202-997-5087 or [Club\\_President@fivestart.toastmasters.com](mailto:Club_President@fivestart.toastmasters.com).

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At Home in Alexandria! Those interested in becoming AHA! Friends should call AHA! at 703-231-0824 or download the application form from the AHA! website at [www.athomeinalexandria.org](http://www.athomeinalexandria.org). AHA! supports Alexandrians ages 55+ who prefer to remain independent in their own homes.



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



9303 Old Mansion Rd | \$1,150,000



9394 Mount Vernon Cir | \$1,725,000



3908 Military Rd | \$3,200,000



4201 Adrienne Dr | \$838,000



5630 Old Mill Rd | \$1,255,000



3425 Ramsgate Terr | \$765,000



9331 Heather Glen Dr | \$865,000



3317 Wessynton Way | \$1,089,000



9312 Boothe St | \$1,027,500



9326 Mount Vernon Cr | \$1,350,000



9223 Presidential Dr | \$1,201,000



9301 Old Mansion Dr | \$1,000,180



3106 McGeorge Terr | \$875,000



3725 Woodley Dr | \$1,420,000



8337 Bound Brook | \$890,000

*78 homes sold in 2023!*

703.283.9028

**LONG & FOSTER**  
 REAL ESTATE

www.chrisandpeggywhite.com  
 chris.white@longandfoster.com

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

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