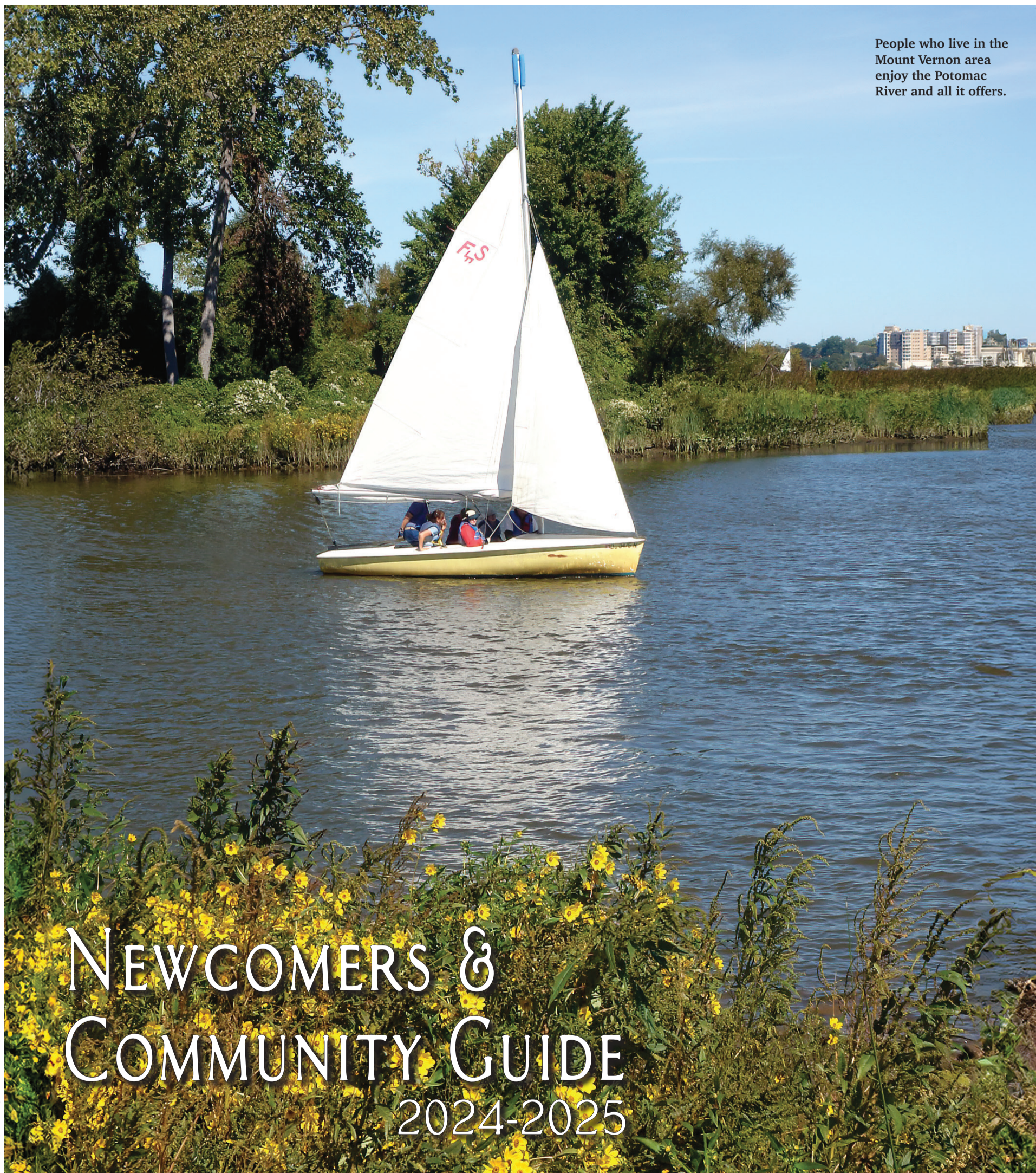


Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

People who live in the Mount Vernon area enjoy the Potomac River and all it offers.



NEWCOMERS &
COMMUNITY GUIDE
2024-2025

PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH

The Trusted Real Estate Resource for Alexandria and Beyond.



To learn more about our Associates and our firm, visit www.WeAreAlexandria.com



Old Town | \$4,300,000

Luxury 2,683-square-ft, 2-bedroom + den, 2.5 bath corner unit in The Oronoco offers unobstructed park and river views. Features 10-ft ceilings, hardwood floors, gourmet kitchen, fireplace, balcony, 2 parking spaces, and storage. 601 N Fairfax Street #403
Mitchell Schneider 703.851.4416
Linda Murphy 703.850.0190



Braddock Heights | \$3,450,000

This 6-bedroom, 5.5-bathroom country estate in the city features luxurious gardens, high ceilings, vintage pine floors, 30-foot art gallery foyer, and 5 fireplaces. Driveway fits a dozen cars. Securely fenced property with remote-operated gates. 509 Lloyds Lane
Janet Catteron Price 703.622.5984
www.JanetPriceHomes.com



Old Town | \$925,000

Gorgeous, light-filled, 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath, end-unit row house features hardwood floors, spacious living room, separate dining area, remodeled kitchen, main-level laundry, spacious bedroom closets, and private back patio. 423 Gibbon Street
Lauren Bishop 202.361.5079
www.LaurenBishopHomes.com



OPEN 9/19 5-7, 9/21 2-4, 9/22 1-4

Old Town Village | \$742,000

Just a short walk to King Street, Metro and the waterfront, plus incredible amenities—including a saltwater pool and gym—this fabulous 2-bedroom, 2.5-bathroom condo is the ideal Old Town home. 1404 Roundhouse Lane #309
Lisa Groover 703.919.4426
www.LisaGroover.com



OPEN SUN 9/22, 2-4

Clover | \$1,098,000

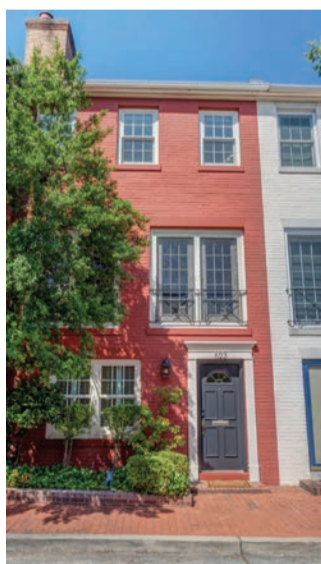
Easy 1-level living! Sparkling 3-bedroom, 2.5-bathroom home features wood flooring, handsome built-ins, 2 fireplaces and a sunroom. Totally renovated kitchen plus family room makes for seamless entertaining. Fully fenced yard with patio. 2904 Dartmouth Road
Babs Beckwith 703.627.5421
www.BabsBeckwith.com



OPEN SAT 9/21, 2-4

Old Town | \$998,000

2-bedroom condo with 2 garage spaces in highly sought-after Liberty Row 3rd floor with balcony, almost 1500 sq ft! Hardwood Floors, 10-foot ceilings, 2-sided fireplace. Walk to Shops, Restaurants. 600 Second Street #304
Peter Crouch 703.244.4024
Katie Crouch 703.447.1345



Old Town \$1,500,000

Pristine, 3-bedroom, 3.5-bathroom home features designer kitchen, elevated deck overlooking back garden, formal dining room, spacious living room, three bedrooms including the upper-level primary bedroom with en-suite bath. 623 Pommander Walk

Lauren Bishop 202.361.5079
www.LaurenBishopHomes.com



OPEN SUN 9/22, 2-4

Kingstowne \$715,000

3-bedroom townhouse with 2 full and 2 half bathrooms. Spacious kitchen with granite counters, stainless appliances, and glass tile backsplash. Wood-burning fireplace in family room, 1-car garage, and backs to woods for privacy. 7308 Mallory Circle

Joseph Lynch 703.927.1098
www.JosephLynchRealtor.com



Old Town \$1,150,000

Spacious, 2-bedroom, 3-bath townhome in Portner Brewery features living room with built-in bookcases and fireplace, gourmet kitchen, light-filled primary suite with 2 walk-in closets and en suite bath, and 2 garage parking spaces. 608 Tivoli Passage Way

Lauren Bishop 202.361.5079
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COMMUNITY GUIDE

Fairfax County Is Doggone Friendly

Our county seen through the eyes of our dogs.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Learn where to go, what to do, and get there car-free with your fur baby.

Have you noticed there are a lot of dogs in Fairfax County? Whether you have lived in Fairfax County for a while or are new here, many of the 880,416 adults in the county view their dogs as family members. According to the county, in 2024, there are 87,000 registered canine fur pals. That means one dog per nearly ten adults in the county. For two-adult households, the ratio increases to one in five. And doesn't it seem like more?

It is not unusual to see dogs at restaurants, breweries, stores, parks, historic sites, and events in Fairfax County, some even specifically for dogs. In the spring, the Mount Vernon District Ides of Bark features games, awards, food, events, and health evaluations. There are yearly dog swim events in the fall when the county's pools close for the season.

Supervisor Kathy Smith, Sully District, said she and her family have an eight-month-old Great Dane, and he is growing fast — already 120 pounds. “We are learning all about him, and he is learning about us as well. I encourage everyone to bring their dogs to Parktoberfest on Oct. 5 in EC Lawrence Park. There will be food, vendors, music, and a relaxing atmosphere,” said Smith.

Don't miss the Braddock Bark festival in May.

The Howl-o-Ween Dog Festival
SEE OUR COUNTY, PAGE 14



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANTHONY AMOS

“Dogs are encouraged to participate in our Summer Concert Series at Burke Lake Park, where dogs look forward to treats supplied by Supervisor Herrity,” says Marena M. Monterrosa, Legislative and Human Services Aide, Office of Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

“I love meeting our 4-legged friends at Grist Mill Park for our Annual Ides of Bark Dog Festival every March with dog vendors, wagging tails, and fun.” Dan Stork, Mount Vernon District Supervisor.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

“Doggie Maggie” Jimenez is “fiercely private and doesn't frequent public spaces,” said Eleanor Rogers, communications director, Office of Mason District Supervisor Andres Jimenez. “Instead, Maggie prefers spending time with her adoptive family in Fairfax County's Mason District, where her dad is the supervisor. Maggie's favorite activities include protecting the backyard garden from birds, taking long walks, and dressing up with her two sisters. Maggie would like to remind you that shelter pups can be a great fit for your family, even if your backyard is infested with birds.”



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

Mount Vernon Estate; Bunnyman Brewing, Lorton:

“My family and I are long-time members of Mount Vernon and enjoy bringing our dog Margo to walk the estate grounds. Leashed dogs are permitted throughout the property during regular daytime hours. You can explore a few trails, and we particularly enjoy walking through the working farm with sweeping views of the Potomac River. Bunnyman Brewing recently opened a second location at the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton. This location is conveniently within walking distance from our new shelter, Fairfax County Animal Shelter (FCAS), Lorton Campus. It is surrounded by miles of hiking trails through Laurel Hill Park and adjacent to the Cross County Trail. Bunnyman is the perfect place to unwind with an excellent craft beer and plenty of space to hang out with your four-legged friends. You will often see FCAS staff and volunteers there after taking our shelter dogs on a hike.”

— FAIRFAX COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER DIRECTOR REASA CURRIER

See Fairfax County Like You Never Have Before

Volunteers and staff of Fairfax County Animal Shelter share their favorite dog-friendly places.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The Connection asked Reasa Currier, the director of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter, to find out if the volunteers and staff there would be willing to share the places in the county they frequently take their dogs or those in need of a walk to get them used to being outside of the shelter. It benefits both the dogs and their people.

Those who commit their lives to improving the lives of homeless dogs, whether for a few hours or a lifetime, are the best individuals to ask for advice on where to take a dog on an adventure. From gorgeous Lake Mercer at Fairfax Station, to sweeping views of the Potomac River from Mount Vernon Estate, to a place to unwind with craft beer, newcomers and longtime residents find Fairfax County dog-friendly.

Get your dog or volunteer at



Frying Pan Park, Herndon: “I love taking dogs there. Easy trails with lots for them to see and smell. You can walk them past Kidwell Farm if they enjoy meeting people, or park at church and go through woods. Nice stream where they can cool off too. I took Piper, a deaf dog from the shelter, on a pack walk there years ago. That's where her new family saw her. They came to adopt her after we returned.” Piper was adopted from the Fairfax County Animal Shelter in 2016.

MORE DOG-FRIENDLY PLACES, PAGE 15

Every Year Is Election Year in Virginia



Early voting starts Friday, Sept. 20; Election Day is Nov. 5

BY MARY KIMM
THE CONNECTION

Aside from bringing kindness and generosity into your community on a daily basis, there are few things more important than voting, especially in Virginia. It requires dedication to sign up for a mail-in ballot or head to the polls at least once a year, and more often twice since primary elections are also critically important. And it required dedication and research to identify all the candidates and who you feel will best represent you.

This is a big year. Presidential elections historically draw the largest turnout. There are also important local issues and races on the ballot, including ballot questions. We'll let you know here what's on the ballot. But first ...

To vote, you must be registered to vote.

Every voter should check their voter registration status at your current address. Even if you voted recently, a process of purging some voters from the rolls means that you still need to check to be certain. You can check here.

<https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/Voter-Information>

<https://fairfaxvotes.org/home/>

After you are certain you are registered to vote at your current address, the next most important task is to make a plan to vote.

Early voting begins Friday, Sept. 20. Virginia is one of the best states for no excuse early voting, with a long period to cast your ballot. It's always good to vote earlier to be sure nothing gets in your way, like illness or earthquake or hurricane or snowstorm (ok that's really unlikely). Make an event of it; plan to meet friends and family at Fairfax Government Center in the early days of early voting, then go out for coffee or lunch. Or maybe you'd rather vote quietly at home, in which case you can vote by mail. Request a mail-in ballot today and write on your calendar the day you plan to fill out and mail in your ballot.

If you have problems or concerns while voting, stay at the polling location and call

the Voter Protection Hotline (844) 4VA-VOTE (844) 482-8683

Deadline To Register To Vote In This Election

Traditional method: Online or Postmarked by Mail by Oct. 15

- ❖ Online: 11:59 p.m. on Oct. 15. Register online using the Virginia Department of Elections Citizen Portal.

- ❖ **By Mail:** Postmarked on or before Oct. 15. Download a voter registration application.

- ❖ **In Person Through Oct. 15:** Register at the Fairfax County Office of Elections.

It's best to be registered by Oct. 15 so that you can vote a regular ballot and not a provisional ballot.

Same Day Voter Registration Deadlines, in Person

- ❖ **Oct. 16-Nov. 2:** Voters may complete a same day registration at any early voting location and vote a provisional ballot. Provisional ballots are counted, and your vote will count if you do this.

- ❖ **On Nov. 5 Election Day:** Voters may only complete a same day registration and vote a provisional ballot at the precinct in which they reside. Find your precinct.

Last Day to Request a Vote by Mail Absentee Ballot: Oct. 25 by 5 p.m.

Visit Vote by Mail for more information. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/absentee-voting-mail>

Absentee ballots are mailed to voters beginning Sept. 20.

Deadline for Return of Vote by Mail Absentee Ballots:

- ❖ **Nov. 5 by 7 p.m.:** In person at the Office of Elections or by ballot drop box.

- ❖ **Nov. 8 by noon:** By mail if postmarked on or before Nov. 5 Election Day.

- ❖ **Early Voting in Person:** Begins Sept. 20, ends Nov. 2

- ❖ Visit Early Voting for more information. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/early-voting>

Early Voting: What You Need to Know

- ❖ In-person early voting will be available from Sept. 20 through Nov. 2 for the Nov. 5 General Election

- ❖ Only Fairfax County registered voters may vote at any Fairfax County early voting location.

Early Voting Locations, Dates and Times

Fairfax County Government Center 12000 Government Center Pkwy, Room 251, Fairfax, 22035	Sept. 20 – Nov. 2 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.
--	---

Mt. Vernon Governmental Center 2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria, 22306	Sept. 20 – Nov. 2 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.
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North County Governmental Center 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston, 20190	Sept. 20 – Nov. 2 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.
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13 Additional Locations	Oct. 17 – Nov. 2 Monday – Friday: 1 p.m. – 7 p.m. Saturdays (Oct. 19, Oct. 26, Nov. 2): 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Sunday (Oct. 27): 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.
--------------------------------	--

LOCATION	ADDRESS
Burke Centre Library	5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke 22015
Centreville Regional Library	14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville 20121
Franconia Governmental Center	6121 Franconia Rd, Alexandria 22310
Great Falls Library	9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls 22066
Herndon Fortnightly Library	768 Center Street, Herndon 20170
Lorton Community Center	9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton 22079
Mason Governmental Center	6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale 22003
McLean Governmental Center	1437 Balls Hill Rd, McLean 22101
Jim Scott (formerly Providence) Community Center	3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax 22031
Sully Governmental Center	4900 Stonecroft Boulevard, Chantilly 20151
Thomas Jefferson Library	7415 Arlington Blvd, Falls Church 22042
Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library	7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church 22043
West Springfield Governmental Center	6140 Rolling Road, Springfield 22152

- ❖ Voters must present an acceptable ID or may sign an ID Confirmation Statement.

- ❖ Curbside voting is available for eligible voters.

- ❖ Absentee by mail voters may vote early in person if they choose. If you received a ballot in the mail, you must bring it with you and surrender it to vote in person. If

you received a ballot but do not bring it with you, you may vote a provisional ballot. Mail ballot dropboxes are available during early voting location operating hours.

- ❖ **Same-day registration** is available between Oct. 16 and Nov. 2 at early voting locations. Voters submitting a same-day reg-

SEE ELECTION DAY, PAGE 8

COMMUNITY GUIDE

Mount Vernon District 2024 Newcomer Guide

BY DAN STORCK, SUPERVISOR
MOUNT VERNON DISTRICT



Dan Storck

Welcome to the Mount Vernon District, home to many historic and cultural resources showcased in the Potomac Banks – Explore Fairfax South! You will soon learn you have chosen a wonderful place to live.

Richmond Highway is a vibrant, changing corridor where revitalization planning continues for “The One” Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system and future urban living with ecologically sensitive, walkable, livable neighborhoods. Our focus on community development, preservation of existing community character, urban design and a variety of transportation modes will bring new residents, businesses and partnerships to the corridor.

You likely know that Fairfax County has one of the best school systems in the country, but for us it goes beyond that. Life-long learning is important to many of our residents and I am proud to say we are bringing more opportunities through our future partnerships at Original Mount Vernon High School (OMVHS) with the Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC) and Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS). Join us for the OMVHS Renovation Groundbreaking Ceremony on Oct. 5 at 10 a.m. RSVP today: [omvhsgroundbreaking.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)

Our area abounds with parks and recreational opportunities, historic sites, arts and culture. Explore Fairfax South and check out our many Potomac Banks tourism sites, such as River Farm, the Workhouse Arts Center, George Washington’s Mount Vernon, Pohick Bay Regional Park and so many more. Whether it’s hiking, biking, paddling or visiting historical landmarks, there’s plenty of ways to discover our community. Check out the parks page on the Mount Vernon District website (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon/) for more adventure ideas! When you visit any of the Potomac Bank’s locations, download your FREE Potomac Banks Savings Pass to receive discounted admissions and more.

My number one priority is always YOU and our office is here to help! I strive to engage deeply and frequently with the people of

Mount Vernon. TEAM MVD provides timely constituent service as we continue to build the ideal community in which to live and thrive. We are here to answer your questions, email us at MTVernon@FairfaxCounty.gov, call 703-780-7518 or stop by our office at 2511 Parkers Lane. I also have extended office hours to meet with you on Thursdays and the second Saturday of each month. I invite you to join us for our upcoming annual signature events: Tour de Mount Vernon Community Bike Ride & Youth Ride on Oct. 19, Holiday Open House on Dec. 4 and Mount Vernon District Town Meeting on Feb. 8.

You have chosen a great place to live, educate your family, grow your career and engage with your neighbors. Welcome to the Mount Vernon District, where history, heritage, outdoor living, educational opportunities and public safety come together to support our exciting future! Visit our website (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon) to sign up for our newsletter, follow us on Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram and learn about the myriad of District projects, important topics, area activities and upcoming events in your new community. More information about the Mount Vernon District can be found in our Newcomer Guide!



Let us know about an upcoming event

connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar



Meet Your MVD Team

Our office is here for you! Did you know you can contact us with any County concerns or issues, and we can connect you with the answers? Here are just a few ways we can help:

- Connecting you with County services.
- Sharing information about issues in our community.
- Communicating meetings and events happening near you.
- Answering questions about voting, property, roads, taxes, public safety, health & human services, solid waste, recycling and more!
- Bilingual staff in Spanish and Greek.

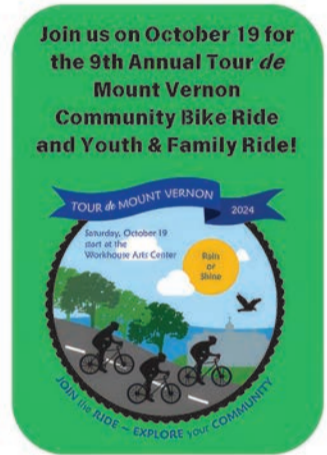


CONNECT WITH TEAM MVD

Stop by: Mount Vernon Governmental Center
2511 Parkers Lane
Mount Vernon, VA 22306

Office Hours
Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Thursday: 5 - 7 p.m.
Second Saturday Each Month:
Lorton Library: 9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
MV District Office: 12:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Walk-ins and by appointment

Keep informed! Sign up for the Mount Vernon Advisor newsletter and follow us on social media!
Visit: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon/>
Call: 703-780-7518 (TTY 711)
Email: mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov



Public Notice

Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

In accord with state and federal law, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has imposed new or changed existing weight restrictions and installed new signage indicating the updated weight restrictions on the following bridges and culverts (structures) in Virginia within the last 30 days.

Jurisdiction	Fed Struc Id	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Posted Date
SCOTT	16850	689	LUNSFORD MILL RD	STREAM	9/4/2024
FRANKLIN	7869	641	CALLAWAY RD/ ROUTE 641	BLACKWATER RIVER	8/29/2024
RUSSELL	16339	67	SWORDS CREEK RD	BIG LICK CREEK	8/27/2024
LEE	10795	612	ROUTE 612	WALLENS CREEK	8/27/2024
HANOVER	9529	656	MOUNT HERMON RD	CAMPBELLS CREEK	8/21/2024
BEDFORD	2872	735	ROCK CLIFF RD/ ROUTE 735	DIFFICULT CREEK	8/13/2024
TAZEWELL	18610	642	ROUTE 642	CROCKETT'S COVE CK	8/12/2024
GREENE	9005	636	GOOSEPOND RD	SWIFT RUN	8/7/2024
ROANOKE	15104	758	CARSON RD/ROUTE 758	BRANCH GLADE CREEK	7/29/2024

The list above is not a comprehensive list of all structures with weight restrictions in the Commonwealth but shows only structures that have new or changed weight restrictions within the last 30 days. The list contains only basic structure identification and location information and the date the new or changed weight restriction and signage became effective.

For a full listing of all bridge and culvert weight restrictions with detailed information about specific structures, including location data and actual weight limits, visit vdot.virginia.gov and navigate to Traffic and Travel/For freight operators/Truck restrictions. This page references a posted structures report and a GIS map tool that contain detailed information about restricted structures in Virginia. To receive email notifications regarding new or updated weight restrictions for structures statewide, complete the sign-up form on the web page.

Notices regarding bridges and culverts with new or updated weight restrictions are published monthly by VDOT. For additional information or questions, please contact haulingpermits@vdot.virginia.gov or the Load Rating Program Manager, Manjil Devkota 804-786-4064.

The Virginia Department of Transportation is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any of its programs or activities on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on VDOT's Title VI Program or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Program Specialist at 804-786-2730 or corina.herrera@vdot.virginia.gov.

The Virginia Economy Chugs Along

BY DELEGATE PAUL KRIZEK

At our September Appropriations meeting this week, Secretary of Finance Stephen Cummings gave our committee an update on how Virginia's economy is shaping up now that we are two months into the new fiscal year, which began on July 1. The good news is that the Virginia economy continues to chug along!

As I outlined in a previous column, Virginia's budget for fiscal year 2024 took a conservative approach given the Governor's concern last fall that our economy was on the precipice of a recession due to high inflation and interest rates, a potential federal government shutdown, and rising geopolitical tensions. However, this recession never materialized and the Virginia economy outperformed all expectations in the last fiscal year. Virginia's general fund revenues

were \$1.5 billion higher than the previous year and exceeded the revised forecast by \$1.17 billion.

Now, the labor market is healthy, with Virginia adding 4,800 jobs in July, and unemployment sitting at a comfortable 2.7 percent. Consumer spending remained strong over the summer, and year-to-date revenues are up 8 percent (\$303.3 million),



Krizek

"The upcoming election will impact our economic outlook, and we will see those results in the December revenue forecast just before the holidays."

driven mainly by higher net individual income and sales taxes.

In fact, with inflation under

control, the Federal Reserve has indicated that they will finally lower interest rates at their Wednesday meeting for the first time since 2020. Many expect a half-point percentage cut. Gradual moderation in inflation stalled in late 2023, so the Fed's maintained interest rates in a "higher for longer" position. In June, the Consumer Price Index

(CPI), which excludes food and energy, fell from 3.4% to 3.3%, however, the Core Personal Con-

sumption Expenditure Price Index (Core PCE), the Fed's preferred inflation measure, remained unchanged at 2.6 percent. The Fed's prefer to adjust inflation using the CPE due to its broader picture of the US economy's health. The CPE is adjusted monthly instead of annually, tracks the spending of both urban and rural consumers, and includes expenditures made on behalf of employees by employers, spending by Medicare and Medicaid, and spending by nonprofits on households. Because the PCE is updated more frequently, it better reflects any abrupt changes in consumer spending patterns. This was especially true at the outset of the pandemic when consumption rapidly switched from services to goods.

Also, the upcoming election will impact our economic outlook, and we will see those results in the December revenue forecast just before the holidays.

NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE 2024-25

About The Gazette in 2024

The Alexandria Gazette Packet, our flagship paper, is perhaps the oldest continuously publishing paper in the United States, beginning in 1784.

At the Gazette and Connection, we still answer the call to serve our communities, with a bit of wonder that we are able to continue at all. We still seek to fulfill our mission by continuing to publish, still printing thousands of copies of our weekly papers every week, and distributing thousands more digitally, with more reach via social media and our website. Certainly our approach and methods are different now.

It's still our mission to share the joy of our communities. You can find some of that joy every week, and in this community guide. Discover the great places according to the dogs, and history and pleasures provided by the legacy of the former Occoquan Workhouse and Lorton Reformatory, the Workhouse Arts Center and Laurel Hill Park. We share the joy of volunteers addressing hunger and so many other needs.

It's still our mission to provide information about how to help and where to get help; to tell the stories of the helpers, and of those who are hungry. It's still our mission to tell

the stories of those working for social and racial justice, and battling income inequality.

It is our mission, set out in the first amendment of the U.S. Constitution, to press (pun intended) local government for transparency, although this is more and more difficult. The public has a right to expect transparency from local institutions. The founders clearly anticipated the ongoing need for the press to help in this role.

The Mount Vernon Gazette, your community Connection newspaper is published by the independent, locally owned Local Media Connection LLC.

We are blessed with remarkable, award-winning staff, contributing writers and photographers who are dedicated to our mission. Most have been writing for the Connection/Gazette for years, some for more than a decade (or two, or three). Each brings areas of interest and expertise. Check the bylines. Don't miss Jeanne Theismann, Janet Barnett, Glenda Booth, Michael Pope, Mike Salmon, Susan Laume, Bonnie Hobbs, Mercia Hobson, Eden Brown, Shirley Ruhel and others.

Local newspapers are facing an existential threat from the combination of nationwide downturn in newspaper advertising that has been

worsening over several years, compounded by the economic crisis.

Revenue has not nearly rebounded to pre-pandemic levels, and we are going to need more help to keep going. We will renew calls for contributions and subscriptions. <https://gofund.me/8484a551>

If you value local news and you have a budget for advertising and promotion, please endeavor to spend some of it with local newspapers including ours.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Find What You Need

- ❖ ONLINE: www.connectionnewspapers.com
- ❖ Digital editions of the week's papers are available at www.ConnectionNewspapers.com/PDFs
- ❖ Past issues of the Connection are available at <http://connectionarchives.com/PDF/>
- ❖ Advertising information, Special Section details here www.connectionnewspapers.com/advertising Email sales@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9431
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- See our "stories" on Facebook and Instagram every day for highlights of events, news, pets and more.
- ❖ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: Email to editors@connectionnewspapers.com
- ❖ Events for our calendar, email to calendars@connectionnewspapers.com or online www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/
- ❖ DONATE <https://gofund.me/8484a551> and watch for a new campaign

www.MountVernonGazette.com

Twitter @MtVernonGazette

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A Connection Newspaper



COMMUNITY GUIDE

There's No Place Like Home

Alexandria celebrates its 275-year history.

By JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

From George Washington and the battlefields of the American Revolution to Noah Lyles and the competitive fields of sporting events, Alexandria has been home to those making history over its 275 years of existence.

First settled in 1695 and formally founded in 1749, Alexandria has grown from a sleepy town along the Potomac River to one of the most desirable suburbs of our nation's capital.

Boasting the nation's third oldest historic district, Alexandria is nationally recognized for its rich history and preserved 18th- and 19th-century architecture. Among many accolades, the city was voted one of Travel + Leisure's Best Cities. SEE ALEXANDRIA, PAGE 8



PHOTO/TEAM USA

Alexandria's Noah Lyles, representing the United States, celebrates winning the gold medal in the men's 100-meter Aug. 4 at the 2024 Paris Olympics.



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

A rainbow crosswalk in front of City Hall on King Street welcomes visitors to Alexandria.

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Alexandria Celebrates Its 275-Year History

FROM PAGE 7

ies in the U.S. 2024 and a Condé Nast Traveler Best Small City in the U.S. 2023.

But there is also the city's more complicated history as home to Robert E. Lee, slavery and the slave trade, segregation, and the fight for Civil Rights. Thanks to the work of city historians and dedicated volunteers, a fuller narrative is now being told of the pivotal role Alexandria played in America's history.

During the colonial era, it was a major trading port, making it a key site during the American Revolution and the Civil War. The city was even part of the District of Columbia from 1801 until it was retroceded to Virginia in 1846.

Once known as a thriving slave trading port, thousands of African Americans flocked to the city during the Civil War to flee the bondage of slavery in the south. The city was also one of the principal campsites for Union soldiers

sent to defend Washington D.C. Its role in treating wounded soldiers during this time was portrayed in the fictional PBS series *Mercy Street*, which ran from 2016-2017.

In 1864, after hundreds had perished, the Superintendent of Contrabands, as the free African Americans were known, ordered that a property on the southern edge of town be confiscated for use as a cemetery and an estimated 1,800 African Americans were laid to rest before the last burial took place in January of 1869. Today, the Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery Memorial is a significant site as part of the African American Civil Rights Network.

Also founded during the Civil War is Alexandria National Cemetery, one of the original 14 national cemeteries established in 1862 by President Abraham Lincoln. By 1864, the cemetery was nearly filled to capacity, which eventually led to the construction of Arlington

SEE ALEXANDRIA, PAGE 19



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Alexandria National Cemetery is one of the original national cemeteries established during the Civil War in 1862.

Election Day

FROM PAGE 4

istration will vote a provisional ballot.

❖ **Questions?** Email earlyvoting@fairfax-county.gov or check our FAQs.

ON THE BALLOT:

US President/Vice President (4-year term)

US Senate (6-year term)

US Representative (2-year term, 1 each in Districts 8, 10, 11)

Local Races

Herndon Town Council

(Herndon town residents only)

Herndon Town Mayor

(Herndon town residents only)

City of Fairfax City Council

City of Fairfax Mayor

City of Fairfax School Board

One Proposed Constitutional Amendment

Two Proposed Fairfax County Bond issues (transportation bonds, public safety bonds)

President and Vice President

Vote for only one

DEMOCRATIC PARTY

❖ Kamala D. Harris, President and Tim Walz, Vice President

REPUBLICAN PARTY

❖ Donald J. Trump, President and JD Vance, Vice President

GREEN PARTY

❖ Jill E. Stein, President and Rudolph T. Ware III, Vice President

LIBERTARIAN PARTY

❖ Chase R. Oliver, President and Mike ter Maat, Vice President

INDEPENDENT

❖ Claudia De la Cruz, President and Karina Garcia, Vice President

INDEPENDENT

❖ Cornel R. West, President and Melina Abdullah, Vice President

Member United States Senate

Vote for only one

❖ Timothy M. Kaine - D

❖ Hung Cao - R

Member House of Representatives 8th District

Vote for only one

❖ Donald S. Beyer, Jr. - D

❖ Jerry W. Torres - R

❖ David R. Kennedy - I

❖ Bentley F. Hensel - I

Member House of Representatives 10th District

Vote for only one

❖ Suhas Subramanyam - D

❖ Mike W. Clancy - R

Member House of Representatives 11th District

Vote for only one

❖ Gerald E. "Gerry" Connolly - D

❖ Mike L. Van Meter - R

Proposed Constitutional Amendment

To Be Voted On at the Nov. 5, 2024, Election

ONE QUESTION

Should the Constitution of Virginia be amended so that the tax exemption that is currently available to the surviving spouses of soldiers killed in action is also available to the surviving spouses of soldiers who died in the line of duty?

EXPLANATION FOR VOTERS

Present Law

Generally, the Virginia Constitution requires that all property be taxed. It also sets out specific types of property that may be exempted from taxation. Currently, the Virginia Constitution allows the General Assembly to exempt from taxation the principal place of residence of the surviving spouse of any sol-

dier who is determined by the U.S. Department of Defense to have been killed in action.

Proposed Amendment

The proposed amendment would expand this current tax exemption so that it is available to all surviving spouses of soldiers who are determined by the U.S. Department of Defense to have died in the line of duty, including those who have been killed in action.

A "yes" vote would allow the surviving spouse of a soldier who died in the line of duty to claim the same real property tax exemption on their principal place of residence that is currently only available to the surviving spouses of soldiers who are killed in action.

A "no" vote will not allow such additional surviving spouses to claim the real property tax exemption.

Two Fairfax County Bond Issues TRANSPORTATION BONDS

Shall Fairfax County, Virginia, contract a debt, borrow money, and issue bonds, in addition to the transportation improvements and facilities bonds previously authorized, in the maximum aggregate principal amount of \$180,000,000 for the purpose of financing Fairfax County's share, under the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Compact, of the cost of constructing, reconstructing, improving, and acquiring transportation improvements and facilities, including capital costs of land, transit facilities, rolling stock, and equipment in the Washington metropolitan area?

VOTE YES OR NO

PUBLIC SAFETY BONDS

Shall Fairfax County, Virginia, contract a debt, borrow money, and issue bonds in the maximum aggregate principal amount of \$126,000,000 to provide funds, in addition to funds from public safety facilities bonds previously authorized, to finance, including

reimbursement to the County for temporary financing for, the costs of public safety facilities, including the construction, reconstruction, enlargement, renovation and equipment of civil and criminal justice facilities, police training and operational facilities and stations, fire and rescue training facilities and stations, including fire and rescue stations owned by volunteer organizations, and the acquisition of necessary land?

VOTE YES OR NO

TOWN OF HERNDON

Candidates for the office of Mayor and Town Council for the 2025-2026 term are:

HERNDON MAYOR

Vote for one

❖ Pradip Dhakal

❖ Keven LeBlanc

(Both currently serve as councilmembers.

The town's current Mayor, Sheila Olem, is not seeking reelection)

HERNDON TOWN COUNCIL

Vote for six

Candidates for the six Town Council seats for the 2025-2026 term:

Naila Alam,

❖ Tamim Chowdhury,

❖ Cesar A. del Aguila,

❖ Kelvin Garcia,

❖ Clark A. Hedrick,

❖ Michael T. Lloyd,

❖ Stevan M. Porter,

❖ Soma Ramesh,

❖ Alexis "Alex" Reyes.

(Alam, del Aguila and Hedrick serve on the current Town Council. Current Councilmember Donielle Scherff is not seeking reelection.)

See sample ballot for City of Fairfax candidates for Mayor, City Council and School Board.

Toni Zollicoffer Chief Equity Officer

Toni Zollicoffer has been appointed chief equity officer for Fairfax County, effective Monday, Sept. 30. This role is a key component in advancing the One Fairfax policy, a racial and social equity initiative adopted by the Board of Supervisors to ensure that equity is at the core of all public policies and services. Zollicoffer succeeds Karla Bruce, the county's first chief equity officer, who retires next week.

Zollicoffer has been with the Fairfax County Department of Family Services as the director of Domestic and Sexual Violence Services (DSVS) since May 2018, and brings over 25 years of leadership experience dedicated to improving outcomes for populations disproportionately affected in areas such as housing access, interpersonal violence and mental health to this new position. Her work has also been instrumental in embedding racial and social justice into the county's violence interruption and prevention strategies, ensuring equitable outcomes for all residents.

As chief equity officer, Zollicoffer will lead the county's efforts to address disparities and promote fairness across all public policies and services. The One Fairfax policy aims to ensure that every resident, regardless of their background or circumstances, can

fully participate in the county's economic, social and cultural life.

"Toni's exceptional track record in advancing equity and her deep understanding of community needs make her the ideal choice for this role," said County Executive Bryan Hill. "I am happy for the overlap with Ms. Bruce, who has been one of my closest thought partners during the past seven years."



Toni Zollicoffer

In her new role, Zollicoffer will oversee the integration of equity principles into the county's policies and programs, collaborate with community stakeholders and provide guidance on addressing barriers to opportunity. She will also play a key role in the One Fairfax Community Roundtable, which supports the county's commitment to equity by bringing together diverse voices to inform and shape policy.

Prior to her role with DSVS, Zollicoffer served as deputy director of victim services for the Executive Office of the Mayor in Washington, DC, and held senior positions at So Others Might Eat (SOME), Inc. Her education includes a certificate of advanced graduate studies and a master's in clinical community counseling from Johns Hopkins University. She is also a licensed professional counselor and has been recognized for her work in social justice and community health.

Abigail Spanberger Keynote Speaker at Women's Conference

U.S. Rep. Don Beyer says that U.S. Rep. Abigail Spanberger will be his special guest and keynote speaker at Beyer's Eighth Annual Women's Conference: The Time Is Now on Sept. 26.

Abigail Spanberger is the first woman ever elected to represent Virginia's Seventh Congressional District in the House of Representatives, where she has developed a reputation for finding common ground and getting things done. During her time in the House, Spanberger has led critical efforts to support Veterans and federal employees, strengthen workforce training programs, prevent fentanyl overdoses, and protect Virginia's natural resources. Her public service career spans decades, beginning as a federal agent with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service investigating money laundering and narcotics cases and then

serving as a case officer with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) where she handled counterterrorism and nuclear proliferation cases.

Beyer's Women's Conference is an annual event that convenes local stakeholders and experts to discuss a wide array of issues and how they impact women. This year's conference will feature a conversation between Spanberger and Beyer, moderated by community leader Heather Peeler. Topic: how we can all do our part to secure an equal future where women can realize their full potential.

This year's conference will be held at George Mason University's Arlington Campus, on the evening of Thursday, Sept. 26. George Mason University (Mason Square), 3351 Fairfax Drive Arlington, VA 22201

Registration and additional information are available here. <https://shorturl.at/oAjwH>

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WORKHOUSE ARTS CENTER

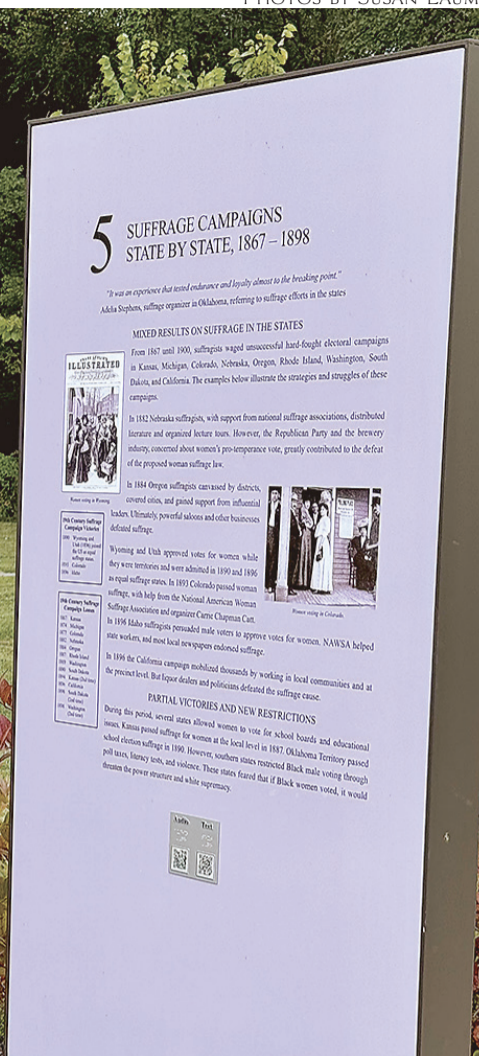
PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME



Guard towers dating from the Occoquan Prison years capture the style of a Medieval pavilion and now stand on repurposed prison grounds.



Research assistant Sydney Worrell takes notes at one of 19 informational panels at the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial, as fact check before a book publication.



Art and Nature Share Space

South county's Lorton is home to Workhouse Arts Center and Nature Park.

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE GAZETTE

Encompassing hundreds of acres in south Fairfax County, the Workhouse Arts Center and Laurel Hill Park in Lorton now occupy land that was once the District of Columbia Workhouse and Reformatory.

The Workhouse was known historically as the Occoquan Workhouse because of its proximity to the river. During its reformatory years beginning in 1910, it operated without walls to house those charged with less serious crimes in D.C., such as public drunkenness. In later years, as the Occoquan Prison, stronger security measures were added for its role in housing those with more serious offenses, until the prison closed in 2001. Several prison buildings and its land are repurposed today to provide housing, entertainment, and recreational use. Historic buildings of the prison era, preserved under the National Register of Historic Places, still can be seen.

Today the Workhouse Arts Center provides an innovative collaboration of the arts, including art galleries, classes, theater,

music performances, the Lucy Burns history museum, lectures, and community events. Free events include Second

Saturday Art Walks with tours of the campus explaining past building use, and the Learning at Lunch lecture series with speakers on historic topics. Ticketed performances include seasonal ones, such as the "Haunt - Twisted Tales of Terror," running Oct. 4 to Nov. 2; and "Dracula - A Comedy of Terror" running now through Oct. 27.

For a list of all events and times, see <https://www.workhousearts.org>.

Recently opened on the Arts Center quad is the Bunnyman Brewery Cafe, offering micro brews and food. The location here moves the brewery closer to the origins of its urban naming myth about the escaped bunnyman. The Brewery is hosting an Oktoberfest celebration on Sept. 28 with a polka band and German fare.

Of particular significance to history, in November 1917, the Workhouse held several imprisoned suffragists, known as the Silent Sentinels, for engaging in the first ever picketing of the White House. In the "night of terror" the women were subjected to psychological intimidation and physical violence. The women were force fed in an attempt to end their hunger strike. That harsh treatment helped turn public opinion



Kenena Hansen Spalding, and other guest speakers, offer a series of historical lectures at the Workhouse Arts Center.

about the right of women to vote, leading to the passing of the 19th Amendment, guaranteeing the right in August 1920. The Turning Point Suffragist Memorial is located near the site of women's incarceration, on the grounds of the Occoquan Regional Park.

The prison complex in its reformatory years, following 1910 land acquisition, was designed by architects Snowden Ashford and Albert Harris. They used the Colonial Revival style popular in America during the early twentieth century. The style was used to recall the values of the nation's founders, and in this case, contributing to the reformatory nature of the prison's philosophy. As



The Lucy Burns Museum provides a look at the efforts of suffragists and life at the reformatory and prison.

described in the National Historic Register, "the metal roofs of the octagonal towers are designed with deeply concave facets that resemble tent fabric. Architecturally, they resemble medieval forms such as decorative fabric pavilions used at outdoor equestrian events in the Middle Ages, as well as the tower forms of some Northern European castles. The allusion creates an ambiguous appearance: a highly controlled enclosure that also has some architectural resemblance to highly-romanticized cultural icons in other parts of the world. The aesthetic design of the towers is just bold enough that the searchlights and other accoutrements added to monitor prisoners are much less obvious than those on the other towers throughout the prison grounds."

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WORKHOUSE ARTS CENTER

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME



Friends Eleanor Gomolinski-Ally, Patty Marceron, Peggy Woods, and Cynthia Cope enjoy a performance on the Workhouse quad for Women's Equality Day in August.



Workhouse performances include annual fright nights, not for the weak off heart; this year - "Haunt - Twisted Tales of Terror"



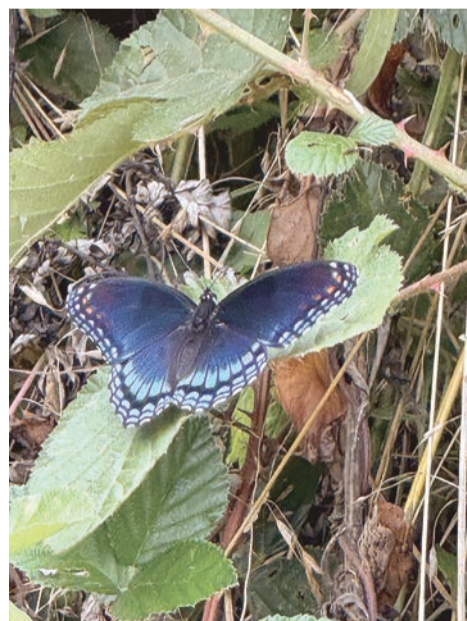
Mary Church Terrell is one of several suffragist recognized for her work in securing the right to vote for women in the United States at the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial.



Ospreys (*Pandion haliaetus*) nesting nearby can be found flying over the park to reach their fishing destinations on nearby waters.

Inmates manufactured the bricks used in most of the buildings on the site, using material extracted from the Occoquan River. The dominating high brick wall and guard towers still stand elegantly near the reformatory's baseball diamond. The field was the site of complimentary shows for the inmates by many famous performers of the time, including Count Basie, Ella Fitzgerald, Louis Armstrong, Frank Sinatra and Ray Charles.

Some of the prison complex, including its buildings, have been converted to private housing and shops in the Liberty area. The remainder of the property is devoted to the 804 acre Laurel Hill Park. The park is used for a variety of recreational activities including, disc golf, equestrian ring, walking, mountain biking, and hosts an innovative children's playground. The park is home to native plants and animals. County forest and



Laurel Hill Park is habituated by many of nature's beauties, including this Red Spotted Purple Butterfly (*Limenitis arthemis astyanax*)



Teams of Laurel Hill Park volunteers work regularly on Saturday mornings to assist in caring for the park, offering a community service opportunity

meadow restoration is ongoing in the park. Volunteer efforts contribute to managing invasive plants, increasing Osprey nesting sites, and maintain a native plant pollinator garden. A rest facility is now open on the

park's Central Green.

Visitors can enter the park at entrances at Snowden Ashford Drive, Furnace Road, or at the intersection of Workhouse and Lorton Roads.

RAPTORS

PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH



Liz Dennison, president of Secret Garden Birds and Bees, and Olive, a barn owl.



Tim Dennison walked Olive around to give fans a close-up look.

Raptors Thrill Kids of All Ages

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

Glenda Booth is president of the Friends of Dyke Marsh

Their eyes were piercing, their beaks razor sharp, their talons intimidating and their plumage intricately patterned. Even the owls' regurgitated pellets excited the crowd.

Six different raptor species wowed almost 500 people who filled Pavilion A at Fort Hunt Park on Sept. 14 for "Raptor Rapture."

Raptors, also called birds of prey, have keen eyesight and hearing, sharp talons and a hooked beak. "Most are large birds, but they come in all sizes," explained Liz Dennison, President of Secret Garden Birds and Bees. For over two hours, she and three colleagues introduced people to six birds.

Dennison and her husband, Tim, have seven raptors that have what some might dub a "life of Riley." They occupy specially-built enclosures with room to fly, fresh air, sunlight, rain, perches, a hide box, a bathing pool and meals brought in. The raptors also have toys, newspapers to shred and stuffed animals.

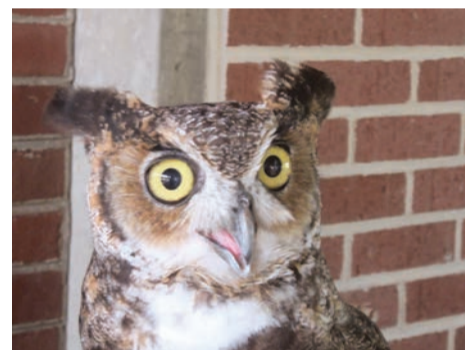
All but one of the birds, a barn owl, came from wildlife rehabilitators. All are permanently disabled from an injury that prevents them from surviving in the wild. The barn owl, named Olive, is captive bred.

First in the line-up was Pippin, an American kestrel sporting two distinctive black stripes on his face. Pippin was found begging people for food which indicated that the bird had imprinted on humans. "His long skinny toes are perfect for catching prey," Liz said. "He looks like an adorable, sweet bird, but he is every bit a fierce bird of prey," she explained.

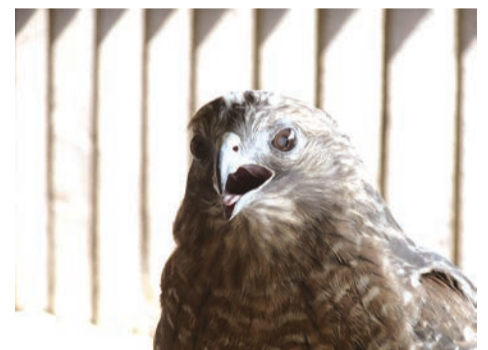
Little Red, a red-shouldered hawk, was blind in one eye, likely from a great horned owl attack. Scarlett, a barred owl, "will eat anything she can catch, like mice, squirrels, bats and other animals," Liz said. Her fans guessed that Scarlett weighs around five to



Barn owls have distinctive white, heart-shaped faces.



Hodor, a great horned owl, seemed to glare at his admiring fans.



Raptors, like this red shouldered hawk named Little Red, have sharp, curved beaks.



Scarlett, a barred owl, has a damaged beak from a car collision.



Many youngsters loved dissecting owl pellets to learn what the owls had eaten.



Fawning Fans

Harry and Laura Juricic who live in Belle Haven brought their granddaughter, Lucia, and three of Lucia's friends. One friend, Aila, said the barn owl was her favorite. Dahlia Bober, a Tauxemont teen, found the birds to be "really cool." Her dad, Mike said, "Connecting with the natural world is a great thing."

Why do the Dennisons take care of seven raptors? "Most of us do this work because we care about wildlife and preserving a healthy ecosystem in our increasingly human world. Meeting these birds up close and getting to know them, not as beings separate from us, but as our wild neighbors sharing our communities, helps increase understanding and compassion for wildlife and reduces fear. We hope that these programs inspire people

Information

www.SecretGardenBirdsAndBees.com
www.fodm.org
www.nps.gov/gwmp

to create an environment where all living things can thrive."

Speaking of inspiration, back to regurgitations. Owls often eat their prey whole and throw up a pellet of bones, fur and feathers that they cannot digest. Many youngsters were very inspired, in fact delighted, to dissect owl pellets and study the contents.

It was raptor rapture all around.

Sponsors of the event were the Friends of Dyke Marsh, the National Park Service and Secret Gardens Birds and Bees.

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RAPTORS

PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH



Aleta Dust introduced attendees to Pippin, an American kestrel.



Little Voss, an eastern screech owl, can camouflage by blending into tree bark.



The sponsors had tables where children colored birds and made paper owls.



The youngsters loved feeling animal pelts, provided by the National Park Service, George Washington Memorial Parkway.



Around 500 people learned about raptors at the event.



Allison Paytas and many others snapped a selfie with Little Red, a red-tailed hawk held by Liz Dennison.

Our County Seen Through the Eyes of Our Dogs

FROM PAGE 3

by the Reston Association is coming up on Saturday, Oct. 19. Dog owners can enjoy “Yappy Hour” with alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages. Human and pet visits with Santa always prove fun for people and pets.

Where are some of Fairfax County’s dog-friendly dog parks?

Leashed dogs are always welcome in all Fairfax County Park Authority’s parks. Owners of well-mannered dogs who enjoy a calm run or friendly romp can take advantage of the county’s dog parks. A sample of dog parks and restaurants in Fairfax County follows. Visit <https://www.fxva.com/blog/post/dog-parks-in-fairfax-county/> for the full list of dog parks, dog-friendly restaurants, pet-friendly hotels, and pet-friendly travel ideas.

DOG PARKS

❖ Alexandria: Grist Mill, 4710 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy. Picturesque surroundings offer seventy-five acres of playing fields, garden plots, playgrounds, trails, and more.

❖ Burke: Monticello, 5315 Guinea St. The gravel surface has designated areas for large and small dogs, water bowls, and benches for humans. Children can visit the outdoor fitness “playground” and Challenge Course.

❖ Chantilly: Rock Hill District, 15150 Old Lee Rd. A large area for dogs on a gravel/dirt surface adjacent to the enclosed dog park is a large grassy area and a lake. Bring water.

❖ Fairfax City: 11000 Berry St. There are water fountains for the pups, park benches, and a fenced exercise/run area.

❖ Herndon: Chandon, 900 Palmer Ave. There is a fenced-in gravel/dirt play area, additional space for small dogs under 25 lbs, restrooms, and a water source.

❖ Oakton: 10033 Blake Ln. Smaller Park offers a grassy, fenced-in field area with no water.

❖ Reston: 11300 Baron Cameron Ave. There are two designated spaces for big and small dogs, a gravel or dirt play area, a water supply, and communal bowls and toys. Other facilities include restrooms and sports fields.

❖ Springfield: 7550 Reservation Dr. South Run has one large play area.

❖ Tysons: 1600 Capital One Dr. Eleven stories in the air, designed with artificial turf to maintain clean paws.

❖ Vienna: 700 Courthouse Rd. SW in Moorefield Park, nearly 10 acres of land



PHOTO BY DAVID FENNEL

“My wife [Rita Peralta] and I love hiking year-round with our pup, Martha, at Riverbend Park in Great Falls. There are miles of dog-friendly trails and amazing views of the Potomac River,” says Ben Wiles, chief of staff for Supervisor Jimmy Bierman, Dranesville District



PHOTO COURTESY OF LISA GOLDMAN

Lisa Goldman, a Fairfax County resident, said the family dog, Tank, took full advantage of Dog Day at Lake Fairfax’s Watermine and enjoyed brunch at the dog-friendly Tatte Bakery and Cafe at Reston Town Center.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JILLIAN O’SHEA

“We love Frying Pan Farm Park because it’s a wonderful place to be outside with our dog Teddy, and the park also offers an indoor, off-leash dog play area too.” — Jillian O’Shea, Hunter Mill District Supervisor’s office staffer



PHOTO COURTESY OF JAMES WALKINSHAW

“Our dog, Chi Chi, who is blind, loves to go to our neighborhood playground with our son and his toddler friends. While she can’t see, she loves to lay in the grass and listen to them play.” — James Walkinshaw, Braddock District Supervisor



PHOTO BY THE LUSK FAMILY

“I enjoy walking with my rescue dog Oreo around Huntley Meadows Park and the Olander and Margaret Banks Neighborhood Park, both in the Franconia District of Fairfax County. Oreo was rescued from Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria.” — Rodney Lusk, Franconia District Supervisor

More information at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/offleash>

What about some dog-friendly restaurants in Fairfax County?

❖ Reston Lake Anne: Kalypso’s Sports Tavern

❖ Fairfax: Hamrock’s Restaurant

❖ Chantilly: Mellow Mushroom stone-baked pizza

❖ Clifton Cafe: A European bistro with a patio

❖ Great Falls: Mookie’s BBQ

❖ Herndon: Jimmy’s Old Town Tavern has the best wings in Virginia.

❖ Vienna: Bear Branch Tavern

Can my dog come with me on the Fairfax Connector and

Metro?

In Fairfax County, Fairfax Connector provides bus service. Riders can transport small dogs and animals in a closed pet carrier. The buses permit the use of service animals. For more information about Fairfax Connector: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/connector>. WMATA provides transit ser-

vices throughout the metropolitan Washington region, including Metrorail, Metrobus, and MetroAccess. You can transport a pet on Metrorail and Metrobus if you keep it in a secure container. WMATA permits the use of service animals. For more information about WMATA, visit <https://wmata.com>.

DOG-FRIENDLY PLACES

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER



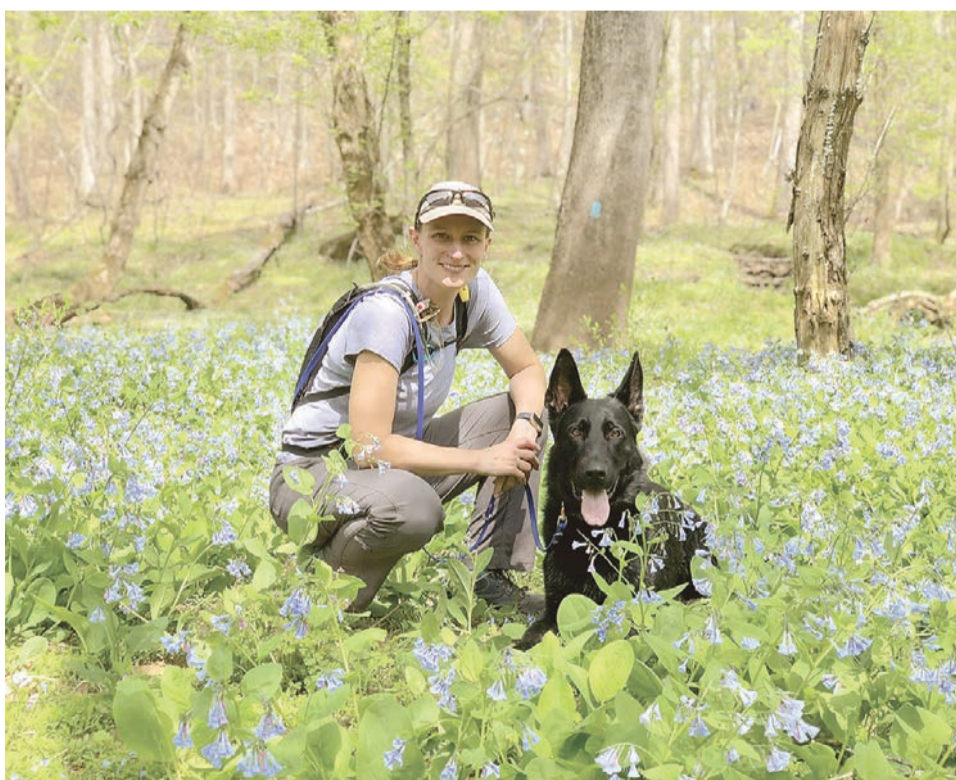
Mason Neck State Park, Lorton: “Mason Neck has bald eagles and beautiful views of the water!” This is Cooper with his mom, Cindy, Fairfax County Animal Shelter Customer Care Manager, at Mason Neck Park. Cooper was adopted from the Fairfax County Animal Shelter in March 2024.



Lake Mercer, Fairfax Station: “It’s a beautiful, tucked-away trail that goes around a lake, through the woods, and by a stream. It’s a 3.5-mile, easy loop without much traffic, and the views are gorgeous! The top of the dam is perfect for picture taking. I regularly take my dog Bodie there, as well as shelter dogs and my dog walking group because it’s a nice, quiet trail.” — Fairfax County Animal Shelter Volunteer



Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, Chantilly: “Lots of good trails, always nice flora and fauna, and not crowded.” The dog is Shadow.



Hemlock Overlook Regional Park, Clifton: “It’s an easy walk to great trails along the water. Family-friendly, and you pass by the Paradise Springs Winery.” The dog’s name is Kona. In the photo is Autumn Manka, Shelter Behavior Program Manager, is with her dog.



Burke Lake Park, Fairfax Station: “About a 5 mile loop. Relatively uncrowded on weekdays. Lots of shade in the summer and water for wading.” Bronson was adopted from the Fairfax County Animal Shelter in 2022. In this picture, she’s on a ‘Power Hour’ adventure with one of our volunteers.”



Reston Town Center: “As a resident of Reston (for now), I have to say Reston Town Center. Makers Union is particularly friendly to dogs!” About Fogo de Chao in Reston: “Their bar/patio menu is the best deal in Reston and they allow dogs.” Cliff was adopted from the Fairfax County Animal Shelter in August 2024. In the photo, Cliff is outside of Fogo de Chao in Reston.

COMMUNITY GUIDE

First Food Collection of New School Year

Event held during National Hunger Action month.

More than 600 area Food For Neighbors volunteers stepped up to tackle student hunger in Fairfax County Saturday, Sept. 14, by collecting and sorting over 19,600 pounds of food and toiletries for public school children. In addition to donations from more than 1,490 households, FFN received food drives from the Fairfax County Health Department and Gold's Gym. Among others, volunteers at the event sites included employees of bartaco, Salesforce, and Ventera as well as members of the Kiwanis Club of Tysons, National Charity League, Young Men's Service League, and Girl Scout Troops #4425 and #5208.

"This school year with Food For Neighbors, I look forward to seeing the direct impact of our efforts as we help more teen students gain access to reliable meals," said Darlene Christopher, who manages the FFN Springfield Area. "I'm excited to work with our community to expand our reach and ensure that teens in Fairfax County can focus on their school work and not worry about where their next meal will come from."

"Kiwanis' mission is to serve children, so this is a very meaningful and impactful volunteer opportunity for our members," said Past President Jen Wolff, to help "tackle teen food insecurity in our Northern Virginia community."

Food For Neighbors, soon entering its ninth year, helps schools establish in-house food pantries and mobilizes local communities to fill them with food and toiletries donated through the nonprofit's Red Bag Program.

Centreville Area Manager Heather Ellison said, "Centreville and Chantilly are so fortunate to have such an amazing turnout today. We have wonderful food donors and volunteers. The majority are students who are repeat sorters here to make a difference in the lives of their peers."

Karen McGuinness, who manages the FFN South County, echoed that sentiment, saying, "I am so excited for South County to return for its second year as a collection and sorting site. We started off small but we are growing and now providing to our middle school as well. It's so great to be expanding and feeding the teens that need it most in our area."

Kristin Simons, General Manager of bartaco in Reston, joined a number of employees volunteering and providing lunch for hard-working community members rolling up their sleeves in Herndon. "We are really ex-



A young volunteer with Food for Neighbors at Irving Middle School helps to unload food and toiletry donations bound for partnering schools in the Springfield area.



At Whitman Middle School in Alexandria, young volunteers unload car after car of donations that will help students at Whitman and nearby middle and high schools.

cited we can continue our partnership with Food For Neighbors this year," she said. "We were happy to support FFN with our Giving Taco campaign. We look forward to coming up with creative ways to support the mission in the future."

Despite Northern Virginia being among the most affluent areas in the state, over one in three students in Fairfax County and more than one in four students in Arlington and Loudoun counties qualified for free or reduced-price school meals during the 2023-2024 school year. Food For Neighbors works to ensure that food is readily accessible to students during the school day and to take home over weekends and holidays.

"We want all children to start out the school year fully ready to learn," said Karen Joseph, Founder and Executive Director of Food For Neighbors. "To reach their full potential, students need to concentrate on their classes, not on the growling in their stomachs." Experts say food insecurity affects memory, mood, and motor skills.

"September is Hunger Action Month—a time when communities in towns big and small come together to help ensure that no one goes hungry," continued Joseph. "And once again, Northern Virginia residents have generously given their time and donations to help students in neighborhood schools. We are deeply grateful for their help and for the profound impact they have



Members of the Young Men's Service League, regular volunteers at multiple sorting locations, roll up their sleeves at Luther Jackson Middle School.

on so many young lives."

Throughout its service area in Arlington, Fairfax, and Loudoun counties, Food For Neighbors collected and sorted over 26,000 pounds of donations bound for 47 partnering schools. To learn more about Food For Neighbors and join more than 3,000 Red Bag donors and over 3,500 vol-

unteers, visit <https://www.foodforneighbors.org/get-involved>.

Food For Neighbors,
11710 Plaza America Dr #130, Reston, VA
20190

contact@foodforneighbors.org www.FoodForNeighbors.org

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Where To Give Locally in Alexandria and Mount Vernon

Local nonprofits serve critical roles in the community, and they need your help.

A new survey by No Kid Hungry Virginia shows that more than three-quarters of Virginians (78%) say groceries have become harder to afford in the last year and 62% of families have had to decide between purchasing food and paying for another essential bill, such as rent, utilities, gas or home or car repairs. Also parents of K-12 students are more likely to sacrifice healthy foods in response to costs, with 55% buying less or no produce or 54% buying less or no protein. Nearly half of Virginians (42%) report at least one sign of food insecurity, such as not having enough to eat, eating low-quality food or eating a limited variety of food due to cost. Two-thirds (68%) of Virginians would worry about their ability to afford food if faced with an unexpected \$1,500 expense.

The need extends beyond hunger.

There are literally thousands of ways to give locally. Here are a few ideas. Please let us know what we have missed and any corrections. Send corrections or updates to mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com with "Give Locally" in the subject line.

- ❖ ALIVE! Alexandria; 2723 King St, Alexandria, VA 22302; 703-837-9300; ALIVE! serves thousands Alexandrians annually with shelter; low-cost early childhood education and childcare; financial help for rent, utilities, medical care and other critical needs; emergency food; and deliveries of donated furniture and houseware. www.alive-inc.org

- ❖ Alice's Kids (@alicewillhelp) aliceskids.org P.O. Box 60, Mount Vernon, VA 22121 When a child is raised in poverty they suffer both publicly and privately. When there is no food in the refrigerator, no electricity or heat, these are hardships that they can keep hidden from their peers. But, when that same child can't afford to pay for the band field trip, a pair of glasses, a chorus outfit or a new pair of shoes, these are indignities that are evident to their classmates. Alice's Kids pays for these relatively inexpensive items in the hopes of preserving the dignity of the child. It helps children from all over the Mount Vernon area and beyond through small acts of kindness. Alice's Kids aliceskids.org 703.746.8108 contact@aliceskids.org

- ❖ United Community, Mount Vernon, 703-768-7106, 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, VA 22306 assists low-income families and individuals living along the Route 1 Corridor, UC provides housing programs as well as a Workforce Development Center. Make a Financial Contribution to support the Holiday Gift Room 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria VA 22306. www.ucmagency.org

Donations of cash/checks and gift cards are also welcome.

- ❖ At Home in Alexandria (AHA) is a nonprofit village that builds and sustains a 55+ community to successfully navigate aging. Together, we share activities, programs and services, including access to needed assistance. Our vision is for AHA to be an ad-
www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE

Just Neighbors is dedicated to serving and supporting the immigrant community of Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia by providing high-quality immigration legal services to low-income immigrants, asylees and refugees.



PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE

ALIVE! is the oldest and largest private safety net in the City of Alexandria dedicated to fighting poverty and hunger. They opened their first brick and mortar food hub at 501-F South Van Dorn Street in 2022.

vocate for older Alexandrians to live safe, active and connected lives. AHA is a membership organization, which means you pay an annual membership fee that, in turn, entitles you to request services from AHA for an entire year. These services include transportation, errands, technical support, light maintenance, organizing and decluttering, short-term pet or lawn care, and much more. 3139 Mt. Vernon Ave. Alexandria, VA 22305-2669 (703) 231-0824 Email: aha@athomeinalexandria.org Website: www.athomeinalexandria.org

- ❖ Animal Welfare League of Alexandria, 703-746-4774, www.alexandrianimals.org, Pet adoptions, spay and neuter assistance, education, wildlife management, community service and outreach. See pages 14-15 for more.

- ❖ ACT for Alexandria, 703-739-7778, www.actforalexandria.org, Nonprofit and

donor services, Alexandria's community foundation.

- ❖ Alexandria Tutoring Consortium, 703-549-6670 ext. 119

<https://alexandriatutors.org/>, Tutoring for Alexandria City Public Schools kindergarten and first grade students who are struggling to read. Mission: To help Alexandria City Public School students read on or above grade level by the end of kindergarten and first grade.

- ❖ Assistance League of Northern Virginia is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization that feeds, clothes and educates children in need. The organization has reshaped its Weekend Food For Kids program to assist the struggling families of the students we serve. Contact info@alnv.org or visit www.alnv.org

- ❖ Bethany House, 6121 Lincolnia Rd #303, Alexandria, VA 22312; 703-658-

9500; <http://www.bhmv.org/>; Bethany House provides emergency shelter and supportive services to victims of domestic violence throughout Northern Virginia and the surrounding DC metro communities.

- ❖ The Campagna Center, 703-549-0111, www.campaigncenter.org, Educational and social development programs for children, teens, and adults.

- ❖ Carpenter's Shelter, 703 548-7500, www.carpentersshelter.org, Homeless services and programs including education and case management.

- ❖ Center for Alexandria's Children, 703-838-4381, www.centerforalexandriaschildren.org, Child abuse and neglect and parent support.

- ❖ Child and Family Network Centers, 703-836-0214, www.cfnc-online.org, Provides caring, high-quality, free early education and related services to at-risk children and their families in their own neighborhoods to prepare them for success in school and life

- ❖ Community Lodgings, Inc., 703-549-4407 Transitional and affordable housing, youth education, adult education, bilingual staff assistance.

- ❖ The Community Foundation of Northern Virginia, www.cfnova.org The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia works to respond to critical need and seed innovation in the region. Make grants in its focus areas of interest while also bringing a spotlight on the benefits of community philanthropists.

- ❖ Computer C.O.R.E. 703-931-7346, www.computercore.org, Adult education, computer training and career development. Email: info@computercore.org

- ❖ Comfort for America's Uniformed Services (CAUSE) ensures that recuperating service members have opportunities for recreation and social interaction and receive concrete signs of appreciation for all that they have done. Mailing address: 4201 Wilson Blvd., #110-284, Arlington, VA 22203, CFC #33011, Phone 703-591-4965, cause-usa.org

- ❖ Hopkins House, 703-549-8072, www.hopkinshouse.org, Preschool academy, family budgeting and literacy, family education and youth summer enrichment camp, Early Childhood Learning Institute.

- ❖ Literacy Council of Northern Virginia, 703-237-0866, www.lcnv.org, Teaches adults the basic skills of reading, writing, speaking and understanding English.

- ❖ Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center, an all-volunteer, 501(c)(3) nonprofit, serves as a safety net for clients of the CSB who encounter extraordinary or emergency financial needs. More than 98 percent of donations and grants go to direct client support and co-sponsorship of free public educational programs. bit.ly/friendsoftheAMHC

- ❖ Friends of Guest House Northern Virginia offers structure, supervision, support and assistance to female ex-offenders who want to improve their lives and break the cycle of incarceration. Friends of Guest

COMMUNITY GUIDE

Where To Give Locally in Alexandria and Mount Vernon

FROM PAGE 17

House offers the only program for women of its kind in Northern Virginia. One East Luray Ave., Alexandria, VA 22301-2025, 703-549-8072, info@friendsofguesthouse.org, friendsofguesthouse.org/

❖ Just Neighbors is dedicated to serving and supporting the immigrant community by providing high-quality immigration legal services to low-income immigrants, asylees and refugees. <https://www.justneighbors.org/>

❖ Neighborhood Health, 6677 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, VA 22306. Partners with patients to treat the whole person through medical, behavioral health and dental programs. Ten clinics throughout the region taking a leading role during COVID. Participating with all insurance including commercial, Medicare, and Medicaid, 703-535-5568, www.neighborhood-healthva.org

❖ Northern Virginia Family Services, www.nvfs.org, Employment and job training, healthcare, housing, mental health, foster care and Healthy Families. 571-748-2500

❖ Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC) seeks to provide low-income individuals, senior citizens, and families residing in Fort Belvoir, Lorton, Newington and other portions of southeast Fairfax County with access to basic needs and the opportunity to empower themselves through LCAC's self-sufficiency programs. <https://lortonaction.org>

❖ Lost Dog & Cat Rescue Foundation helps homeless pets find their way into loving homes through rescue and adoption. We offer same-day adoptions and two-week trial periods. All pets are spayed or neutered prior to adoption. lostdogrescue.org

❖ Mount Vernon At Home, 703-303-4060, www.mountvernonathome.org. Mount Vernon At Home membership helps connect senior members of our community, neighbors helping neighbors with volunteer support. Mount Vernon at Home has stepped up its efforts to help members stay



PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE

Guest House celebrated their 50th anniversary of hope on June 6. Guest House provides a residential program with individualized support services including job assistance and counseling for formerly incarcerated women with non-violent offenses.

safe, secure, and connected during the pandemic crisis. More grocery shopping and errand services to members; online activities and services for members to access these new technologies; members check in with members by phone regularly; weekly email newsletters with helpful, important and enjoyable items to keep members connected during this time.

❖ NAMI Northern Virginia (National Alliance on Mental Illness) works to raise awareness and provide education, advocacy, and support programs for people living with mental illness, families, students, educators, law enforcement, and the public throughout our neighborhoods. Many excellent programs. NAMI Northern Virginia serves Fairfax, Falls Church, Arlington, Al-

exandria, and Loudoun www.nami-northernvirginia.org/ HelpLine: 571-458.7310, Email: info@nami-nova.org

❖ New Hope Housing, ending homelessness in Northern Virginia by providing housing, offering hope, and building community. We currently offer various Housing Programs, and Support Services. 8407E Richmond Hwy., Alexandria, VA 22309 www.newhopehousing.org/how-to-help/donate/

❖ Potomac Riverkeeper Network works to protect the public's right to clean water in our rivers and streams; to stop pollution; to promote safe drinking water; to protect healthy river habitats; and to enhance public use and enjoyment.

3070 M Street, NW, Washington, DC

20007. (202) 888-2037

www.potomacriverkeepernetwork.org
❖ Potomac Conservancy, 962 Wayne Ave, Suite 540

Silver Spring, MD 20910; 301.608.1188; potomac.org, seeks to improve the Potomac River's water quality by building an impassioned base of river advocates to impart change at the local level. www.potomac.org

❖ Rebuilding Together Alexandria, 703-836-1021, www.RebuildingTogetherAlex.org, Home repair and maintenance for vulnerable veterans, elderly, disabled and families with children.

❖ Senior Services of Alexandria, 703-836-4414, Senior Services of Alexandria provides support services for older adults enabling them to maintain independence and age with dignity. Services include the City's Meals on Wheels program, daily meal delivery to homebound older adults; Groceries to Go, no fee, no minimum shopping and delivery service; DOT Paratransit Program, low-cost transportation for people who live in Alexandria with a disability; Friendly Visitor Program, pairs volunteers with socially isolated seniors for once a week visits; Senior Ambassador Program, over 100 volunteer leaders, including a new program for Spanish-speaking residents, delivering information on senior resources to their communities; Speaker Series, robust monthly education program covering important topics of interest to seniors; and more. 703-836-4414, www.seniorservicesalex.org

❖ Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN) of Northern Virginia, 703-820-9001, www.scanva.org, Parent education, public education — re: child abuse and court advocacy for abused and neglected children.

❖ Volunteer Alexandria, 123 N Alfred St., Alexandria, VA 22314; 703-836-2176; <http://volunteerallexandria.org>; Volunteer recruitment and placement, court-referred community service placement, community awareness events, and volunteer management training.

BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at 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, or visit www.alnv.org. Join Friends' Board. Those who

care about mental health, the Alexandria community, and collaborating with fellow residents to make sure the City's most vulnerable residents have a chance to thrive, then consider joining the Board of Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center. The Friends Board is an all-volunteer group of residents that oversees the administration of one of Alexandria's top mental health charities. Friends has no paid staff, so Board members, working on average 10 hours per month, share the day-to-day work needed to accomplish its goals. Interested candidates should email FriendsofAMHC@gmail.com.

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, 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.

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.

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 or call RSVP at 703-403-5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit www.rsvpnova.org.

To volunteer for the Farmer's Markets, email Brian Morreale, 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 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

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 22

Alexandria Celebrates Its 275-Year History

FROM PAGE 8

National Cemetery.

With a population of just under 13,000 in 1860, Alexandria is now home to more than 160,000. King Street in Old Town and Mount Vernon Avenue in Del Ray serve as the shopping and dining hubs of the city. King Street is lined with more than 200 locally owned boutiques and restaurants while Del Ray is home to signature events like Art on the Avenue, the Halloween parade and the annual Turkey Trot.

But off the tourist shopping paths are attractions such as the Tomb of the Unknown Revolutionary War Soldier and the Captain Rocky Versace Plaza and Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Located in front of the Mount Vernon Recreation Center, the plaza honors the 68 Alexandrians who lost their lives in the Vietnam War.

Versace, still considered missing in action, is one of three Medal of Honor recipients from Alexandria. Francis C. Hammond posthumously received the honor for his actions in the Korean War and Paris Davis, one of the Army's first African American Special Forces officers, was honored in 2023 for heroism on the battlefields of Vietnam.

City landmarks include the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, where President Calvin Coolidge helped lay the cornerstone in 1923.

The Torpedo Factory Art Center, once a munitions plant, is now home to numerous artist studios and galleries. Gadsby's Tavern Museum and the Friendship Firehouse Museum offer glimpses into the city's colonial past.

SEE ALEXANDRIA, PAGE 23



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers lived in Alexandria after he was released from a Soviet prison in 1962.



PHOTO/NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Noted Civil War photographer Matthew Brady captures an image of African American laborers at the Coal Wharf in Alexandria, ca. 1860-1865. The site is near Tide Lock Park in North Old Town.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Jim Morrison, standing rear second from right, and The Doors pose with DJ Jack Alix, holding a copy of GO Magazine between his teeth, before The Doors' show at the Alexandria Roller Rink (now the site of the Sheraton Suites) on Aug. 18, 1967. The show is believed to be the only time that Morrison, who graduated from George Washington High School, played in Alexandria.



PHOTO/LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

President Calvin Coolidge and first lady Grace Coolidge, standing, attend the laying of the cornerstone of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in 1923.



PHOTO BY CONTRIBUTED

Alexandria's Earl Lloyd (11), playing in an NBA championship game in 1955, made history as the first African American to play in the NBA when he took to the court for the Washington Capitols on Oct. 31, 1950, in Rochester, N.Y.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The 1971 Titans football team went undefeated to take home the state championship. The storybook season was depicted in the film Remember the Titans.

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 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

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.

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



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.



The HalloWEIRD Art Market takes place Saturday, Sept. 21, 2024 at the Del Ray Artisans Gallery in Alexandria.

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 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/hallo-weird-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

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. 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 soirée 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

ENTERTAINMENT



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

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 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 \$10-\$60, 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.

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 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.oldtownnorthalliance.com>.

OCT. 4-6

Fall Wine Festival & Sunset Tour. 6-9 p.m. At George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy., Mount Vernon. Taste unlimited samples from Virginia wineries after hours at George Washington's estate. Bring a blanket and relax on the east lawn overlooking the Potomac River, and enjoy concessions available for purchase from the Mount Vernon Inn Restaurant. Note that the Mansion will not be open during this event. Visit mountvernon.org.

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>

SUNDAY/OCT. 6

Chamber Music Series. 6 p.m. At Alexandria History Museum at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington Street, Alexandria. Presenting The President's Own United States Marine Band. Free.

FRIDAY/OCT. 11

Book Signing. 7 p.m. At the Athenaeum, Alexandria. Depression Made Me Write This, by C. Alexandria-Bernard Thomas. Join in an inspiring book signing event with poet, orator, and teaching artist, C. Alexandria-Bernard Thomas, the author of the powerful new

work, Depression Made Me Write This. At first glance, the title might suggest a narrative of glorifying struggle, but Thomas's writing takes an entirely different path. Instead, this book invites readers to see themselves as a collection of experiences, each shaping the landscape of their lives.

SATURDAY/OCT. 12

Designing American Living. 3-4:30 p.m. At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Hwy., Alexandria. Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House provide a unique opportunity to put two American styles of architecture – separated by over a century – in conversation with one another. Take a close look at both houses to examine what it was that the architects who built these homes were trying to convey about the people who lived here, the period they lived in, and what they thought the future held. Visit the website: <https://www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org/upcomingevents/2024/10/12/designing-american-living>

SUNDAY/OCT. 13

The Carpenter's 20th Anniversary Cook-Off. Noon to 3 p.m. At The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Indulge in an afternoon of food and fun while supporting Carpenter's Shelter! Attendees will enjoy tastings from 20 area restaurants, bid on hot ticket items during the live and silent auctions, and listen to live music. Restaurants to Date: Hard Times Café, Hen Quarter, Nando's Peri Peri Chicken, The Majestic, The Royal, What the Chef, Mystic BBQ & Grill, Bittersweet Catering, Landini Brothers, Misha's, The Warehouse, The Wharf, Pork Barrel BBQ. General Admission (Now until October 11): \$75 Adults, 25 Children (12 and under). At the Door Tickets (on October 13): \$100 Adults, \$30 Children (12 and under). All proceeds from this event will support Carpenter's Shelter, which now operates two homeless shelters in Alexandria, VA and serves 909 people total—248 children, 67 families and 500 single individuals experiencing homelessness.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 16

Yacht Haven Garden Club Benefit. Yacht Haven Garden Club's 40th annual Fashion Show, Silent Auction and Luncheon fundraiser "40 Years of Friendship, Fashion and Flowers," will be held at the Mount Vernon Country Club in Alexandria. Fashions will be provided by Sara Campbell. Tickets are \$60.00. Deadline is October 9. For reservations, contact: Joyce Tami at yachthavengardenclubva@gmail.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>

THE BIRCHMERE

At 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. All shows are at 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Tickets available at Ticketmaster.com. Contact The Birchmere at 703-549-7500 or www.Birchmere.com.

SEPTEMBER

Thu. 19: Amy Grant \$95.00
Fri. 20: Michelle Collins: The Big Natural Tour \$45.00
Sat. 21: Atlantic Starr \$65.00
Sun. 22: Atlantic Starr \$65.00
Tue. 24: Stella Cole \$35.00
Wed. 25: Suzanne Vega 'Old Songs, New Songs and other Songs' \$55.00
Thu. 26: Phillip Phillips \$49.50
Fri. 27: Eric Roberson \$69.50
Sat. 28: Eric Roberson \$69.50
Sun. 29: Jonathan Coulton and Paul & Storm \$39.50

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Obituary

Christopher R. Kelleher, age 66, passed away December 31, 2023. He was preceded in death by his parents, Philip and Peg Kelleher Garvey, siblings Philip Kelleher Jr., Martha Kelleher and recently Patrick Kelleher and survived by his sister Daly Kelleher Burrell (Fred) and brother Dan Kelleher (Doreen). Mass at Basilica of St. Mary, 310 S Royal St, Alexandria, VA 22314 at 10:30 AM on Friday, September 27, 2024, with interment immediately following at St. Mary's Cemetery, 1000 S. Royal St, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Obituary

Patrick C. Kelleher, age 64, passed away July 4, 2024. He was preceded in death by his parents, Philip and Peg Kelleher Garvey, siblings Philip Kelleher Jr., Martha Kelleher and Christopher Kelleher and survived by his sister Daly Kelleher Burrell (Fred) and brother Dan Kelleher (Doreen). Mass at Basilica of St. Mary, 310 S Royal St, Alexandria, VA 22314 at 10:30 AM on Friday, September 27, 2024, with interment immediately following at St. Mary's Cemetery, 1000 S. Royal St, Alexandria, VA 22314.

CALENDAR

4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Let us know about an upcoming event
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BULLETIN

FROM PAGE 18

703-746-9999 or email 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 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 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 plumbing 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.

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 jjkingconsulting@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.

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.

Be Heard at the City's Monthly Public Hearings. A schedule of the meetings can be found at 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.

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.

COMMUNITY GUIDE



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

The annual Scottish Walk parade draws tens of thousands of visitors from across the region to kick off the holiday season and raise funds for the Campagna Center.



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

The Captain Rocky Versace Plaza and Vietnam Veterans Memorial honors the service and sacrifice of the 68 men from Alexandria who either died in Vietnam and the surrounding area or remain missing in action.

Alexandria Celebrates Its 275-Year History

FROM PAGE 19

History buffs will know that U.S. president Gerald Ford was a longtime resident, and that U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers lived here after he was released from a Soviet prison in 1962. And Earl Lloyd, who grew up in a segregated Alexandria, was the first African American to break the color barrier in the NBA in 1950.

NFL Hall of Famer Joe Namath made his pro football debut on Aug. 7, 1965, in Alexandria when the New York Jets took on the Houston Oilers in a preseason game at what was then George Washington High School. Having just signed the richest contract in pro football history, Namath led the Jets to 13 points and threw for 110 yards. The performance inspired Gazette reporter Lloyd Groves to write that Namath, “no doubt, made believers out of most of the fans who witnessed his pro football baptism.” In the end, however, “Broadway” Joe wasn’t enough to knock off the Oilers, who took home a 21-16 victory.

Six years later it was Alexandria’s high school football team that made national headlines when the 1971 Titans went 13-0 and were ranked second in the nation. They dominated almost every game that they played, shutting out their opponents in nine of their 13 games and outscoring them by a margin of 338-38 enroute to the state championship. The storybook season was depicted in the Disney film Remember the Titans.

The Alexandria Aces took home the championship of the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League in 2022 and most recently Noah

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PHOTO BY JOHN BORDNER GAZETTE PACKET

Fireworks over the Potomac River are a tradition of First Night Alexandria.

Lyles, who grew up in Alexandria, took home the gold in the men’s 100-meters in the 2024 Paris Olympics, crowning him the “fastest man in the world.”

Whether you’re exploring historical sites

or enjoying the vibrant arts scene, the city offers a rich tapestry of experiences that celebrates its storied past while embracing a sense of community for those who call Alexandria home.

The Negative Effect



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Not that I don’t think about cancer/having cancer every day, but on well-balanced days, at least those thoughts are not hourly. And it’s on those occasions when the hours belong to me, that my mind can wander outside these cancer constraints and think non-cancer thoughts. Many of which serve as the basis/origin of the non-cancer columns I write sometimes. And recently, I’ve been mentally blocked, hardly wandering at all. Somewhat worrisome. But then the reason I haven’t been thinking too many non-cancer thoughts hit me. This is one of those “cancer-centricity” weeks: Tuesday I have lab work. Thursday, I have a P.E.T. scan. Next Monday, I have an in-person/in-facility appointment with my oncologist to assess and discuss it all. A “three-for.” And on the days when there’s no specific cancer activity, there is preparation for, reaction to, and worry about any and all of the consequences of being a cancer patient under active treatment. How does all this make me feel? You can imagine, I’m sure. But as the late Philadelphia comedian David Brenner used to joke: “It’s not the mosquitos you can hear that you should worry about. It’s the ones you can’t hear.”

As with cancer, it’s a rollercoaster of unpredictability where the only guarantee, given the numbers of appointments, lab work, scans, infusions, et cetera, is that there are no guarantees. What you feel today may mean something or nothing at all. Conversely, what you don’t feel may likewise mean something or nothing. Today’s result leads to tomorrow’s activity. Treatment could change or not and you, as the patient can only wait for the results to know how you’re really doing. And until your oncologist summarizes the results for you, emotionally you’re sort of on a precipice. Comfort level? There is none. Cancer is the big dog, and it rarely gets off the porch. And that’s pretty much what I know. There’s so much more that I don’t know. And it isn’t until I have one of these cancer-centric weeks when all this information is thrown at me that it really reminds me how little I know and how precarious my situation is. I’m hearing/reading all sorts of medical jargon, medical data and medical mumbo jumbo and though I’ve read it/heard similar things for 15-plus years, I can’t make sense of it when I should be making dollars of it, if you know what I mean?

It’s these weeks, when I feel my life is on the line, so yes, I worry. There’s no more denying it. My cancer is front and center/top of mind (bottom too). And though I’ve been down this road many times before, the longer I live/experience one of these weeks, the more likely I feel that I’m running out of the good fortune I’ve experienced all these years. I mean, at some point, you use up your luck, don’t you? And since given a two-year prognosis in late Feb. 2009, my luck allotment must be nearing zero. I mean, it’s been 15 and half years. Who am I to break the bank of prognosis?

Yet here I sit/type all these years later writing my pen how someone initially diagnosed with stage IV non-small cell lung cancer (reclassified to stage IV papillary thyroid cancer in year 11-ish) thinks and feels about the day-to-day life efforts to assimilate a previously certain death diagnosis/scenario to one where my death is less certain, but inevitable, nonetheless. A misdiagnosis and a chronic kidney disease side effect will do that to you. And it’s all never more obvious; the good, bad and ugly about my disease/diagnosis, than during one of these hell-type weeks when I fear that my luck will finally run out.

It’s all of this reality that clogs my creative juices. All my subconscious can think about is what happens if. And ‘what happens if’ is not funny. What damage has occurred in my body because of the cancer I haven’t a clue. I’ll find out soon enough and that’s what scares me; what I can’t see or hear.

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



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