

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

JUNE 22, 2023

River Rescue in the Waters off Mount Vernon

By MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

Last weekend, a boat capsized in the Potomac River near the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. The Fairfax County Marine Patrol Unit responded, and helped rescue two boat passengers, the police said. With the help of neighboring jurisdictions, the boat was recovered and safely taken to the Belle Haven Marina.

The boat involved was boat 16 owned by the marina. It was back in working order in a day or so.

PHOTO BY THE
FAIRFAX COUNTY
POLICE DEPARTMENT
Fairfax County Marine
Patrol Unit responds to
a boat mishap in the
Potomac River.



A Maggio's Italiano, the pesto recipe is shared with all the patrons.

Food Offerings Span the Globe Between Penn Daw and Huntington

This is part three of a three-part series on the restaurant variety on Richmond Highway in Mount Vernon.

By MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

Around the reconstructed intersection of South Kings Highway and Richmond Highway, there are three Asian

restaurants with very different cuisines from the wok and soup pot. For Chinese food fans, it's the General Tso's Chicken at the Eastern Restaurant right off South Kings Highway. For diners looking for Japanese, it's the teriyaki and sushi across at the Sarku Japan. Looking for something different: Go to the Viet House for the noodle soup.

"My parents are in China," said Young, the manager at Eastern Restaurant. He grew up there but came to the United States and opened the restaurant in 1996. Their "triple delight," is a popular

dish too, he says.

The sushi at Sarku is "all fresh," said Gesman, the manager. Their salmon avocado roll is a big seller, as is the spicy tuna roll, and for the sushi fans, the California roll is big. There is a special prep area for the sushi, and a sauce they call the yum yum sauce. "It's a sweet sauce," said Gesman.

The noodle soup over at the Viet House is "known for the aromas, clean broth," said the manager. It's a good food in the cold weather and many have it "when they're

SEE FOOD OFFERINGS, PAGE 8



A wall of colorful dishes at Eastern Restaurant.



The 'yum yum' sauce is all stocked up at Sarku.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/CONNECTION

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NEWS

Significant Uptick in FCPD Officer-Involved Shootings

PERF review of FCPD policy and shooting incidents.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE GAZETTE

The Police Executive Research Foundation completed its April 2023 Fairfax County Police Department, Review of Issues Surrounding Recent Police Shooting Incidents. Released online last week to the public, the 17-page report cites a significant uptick in police shooting incidents, examines some possible causes and provides recommendations.

Fairfax County police officers have been involved in at least eight police shooting incidents since July 19, 2021, with three fatal. In contrast, during the seven years before July 19, 2021, there were a total of eight police shooting incidents. Chief Kevin Davis became chief of FCPD in May 2021.

“The starkest commonality is that five of the seven incidents involved a person experiencing some type of mental health crisis,” according to the report.

PERF noted that “none of the officers involved in the seven PSIs examined was trained in Integrating Communications, Assessment, and Tactics (ICAT) program at the time of the critical incident.” PERF designed ICAT to give officers more tools, skills and options for handling critical incidents by recommending changes to police use of force policies and training to incorporate de-escalation tactics.

On March 3, 2023, Chief Kevin Davis of the Fairfax County Police Department and the D.C.-based Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) agreed to an examination of the agency’s police shooting incidents. The agreement came immediately after the fatal Feb. 22 police shooting of unarmed shoplifting suspect Timothy Johnson, 37, in Tysons following a foot pursuit. According to an FCPD Public Affairs Bureau online post, the review would include all of 2021, and offer guidance to the agency regarding its foot pursuit policy.

PERF’s review is divided into six sections with recommendations for each: I. Mental Health-Related Calls; II. Review of FCPD’s Use-of-Force Policy; III. FCPD’s Failure to Outfit Its Street Crimes Unit with Body-Worn Cameras; IV. FCPD’s Investigation of Its Members; V. Foot Pursuits; and VI. Collecting and Managing Mental Health Data. PERF’s focus would not be on any singular event or individual police officer but on pinpointing areas where FCPD could improve its core business practices through recommendations, citing performance patterns, deficiencies, or trends.

Not Included

When PERF examined the seven police shooting incidents since 2021 in its review, it did not examine the fatal police shooting of Timothy Johnson, the eighth police

| Date Precinct | Call/Incident Type | Overview | Subject | Subject Weapon | Officer | Outcome |
|----------------------------|--|--|------------------------|----------------|--|---------------------------------|
| 7-19-2021 West Springfield | Mental Health Call Woman in group home threatening self and others with knife. | Officers entered group home and when subject approached with knife, one officer fired weapon. | Asian Woman 30y | Knife | - W/M - 39y - 14y on job - K-9 officer | Shot: Survived gunshot wound |
| 1-4-2022 Sully | Mental Health Call Father reports bipolar son, armed with knife, in basement threatening people. | Police established a perimeter outside the house. When the subject came out of house and pointed compound bow in direction of officers, one officer fired weapon. | White Man 52y | Compound Bow | - H/M - 32y - 3y on job | Shot: Survived gunshot wound |
| 2-15-2022 Franconia | Mental Health Related (Unknown to responding officers) A civilian reports a suspicious vehicle in the neighborhood. | Police were called to investigate a suspicious vehicle and did not see a person in the van due to its tinted windows. A tow-truck driver opened the passenger door and a homeless man living inside the van pointed a rifle at people outside the van. One officer fired. After being shot, the man yelled “just kill me” and other statements indicating he no longer wanted to live. | White Man 34y | Rifle | - W/M - 24y - 2y on job | Shot: Survived gunshot wound |
| 6-30-2022 Franconia | Wanted / Warrant | Police located the subject (wanted on warrant) in a parking lot and boxed him in. Subject appeared to reach for gun. Pistol retrieved afterward. | Black Man 37y | Pistol | 2 shooting officers W/M 32y // W/M 27y 8y on job // 2y on job | Shot: Fatal |
| 7-7-2022 McLean | Mental Health Call Call for man breaking items in house. History of anxiety/depression. “Not violent.” | Police entered the house. After taser attempt failed, man approached with bottle (and large wooden mask) and one officer fired. | White Trans Man 26y | Bottle Mask | - W/M - 32y - 9y on job | Shot: Fatal |
| 8-2-2022 Mason | Undercover Drug Buy No body-worn cameras | Subject fled after drug buy. Officers engaged in vehicle pursuit and PIT maneuver. Sergeant shot subject, according to the sergeant, after he saw the subject make movements that he thought were consistent with wanting to shoot an officer. | Black Man 41y | Unarmed | - W/M - 32y - 11y on job | Shot: Survived gunshot wound |
| 10-6-2022 Mason | Mental Health Related (Unknown to responding officers) Assist to Arlington County. | Arlington County requested assistance with a pursuit involving a man pointing a gun out of a car. After the pursuit ended, the subject fired at officers. One officer fired back. After being taken into custody, the subject said he was trying to get help. | Hispanic Man 27y | Pistol | - W/M - 34y - 10y on job | Not struck by bullet |

SOURCE: OVERVIEW OF INCIDENT INFORMATION, POLICE EXECUTIVE RESEARCH FORUM



Police Chief Kevin Davis



Chairman Jeff McKay



Supervisor Rodney Lusk

shooting incident. On Feb. 22, Johnson, suspected of stealing sunglasses, was killed during a nighttime foot pursuit by FCPD officers that ended when Johnson was shot through the chest. PERF did not examine officer reports, but it commented on the incident in its review based on the FCPD’s public website video.

PERF also did not examine FCPD’s most recent fatal police shooting incident on May 11 since it occurred after its review.

On May 11 Brandon Lemagne, 38, of Newport News, was shot at close range after attacking and attempting to disarm a police officer in Mount Vernon. Lemagne was pronounced dead at the scene. Master Police Officer Kenyatta Momon, a 24-year veteran, and Police Officer First Class Christopher Grubb, an 8-year veteran of the department, discharged their firearms. The incident remains under investigation.

Body Worn Camera video was shown at a

press conference on May 25, and that video was missing frames that showed bystanders when Grubb fired multiple shots, and frames that show Lamagne’s empty hands and the fatal shooting of Lamagne. The omission of those frames raised questions of transparency. See <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2023/jun/06/two-bwc-views-fatal-police-shooting/>

“Like with any major incident, every aspect of this officer-involved shooting will be fully investigated to determine if the officers followed FCPD General Orders and Standard Operating Procedures,” said Chairman Jeff McKay. McKay said he would “withhold judgment until I see the results of that investigation, which is ongoing.”

Supervisor Rodney Lusk (D-Franconia), chair of the Safety and Security Committee, declined to comment on the May 11 police shooting incident. “Supervisor Lusk has no comment on the May 11th officer-involved

shooting as that internal investigation is still ongoing,” said a member of his staff in an email.

When the Chief addresses incidents involving the police that are under investigation, he, too, is expected to withhold judgment until the results of the investigation. But Davis described the officers’ actions as “more than justified.”

“I think it is very important that the chief remain neutral during press conferences and stick to the facts of the event with little to no commentary,” said Rev. Vernon Walton. Walton is one of ten members of the Fairfax County Police Reform Matrix Action Working Group charged with transforming a matrix of community suggestions collected by Lusk’s office, into an action plan. Walton is also the senior pastor at Vienna Baptist Church.

SEE SHOOTING INCIDENTS, PAGE 4

PERF Review of FCPD Policy and Shooting Incidents

FROM PAGE 3

Asked about the FCPD video of the May 11 fatal shooting and Chief Davis's press conference, Walton said, "Whew. Where do I start? Transparency is transparency. It leaves no room for ambiguity. I would think that the intent of the release of BWC (body worn camera footage) during a press conference is to provide the public, supervisors, victims' families, and other interested parties an accurate depiction of events. I am not certain as to why significant portions of the video would not have been shared during the press conference. Particularly since the edited portions provide a very clear view of what seems to be the fatal shots fired."

Diane Burkley Alejandro added, "How can FCPD credibly assert it is being 'fully transparent' when it leaves out major parts of the BWC that tend to raise questions with the officers' actions? This is not a movie; it should not be left on the cutting room floor."

Alejandro is also a member of the matrix working group, and lead advocate for Fairfax ACLU People Power. "It is ... inappropriate for the chief to prejudice the investigation by saying that the officers' conduct was 'more than appropriate,'" she said.

Part II- PERF Review Drills Down Necessary and Proportional

"It is important to remember that the decisions that officers make when facing the potential use of deadly force against them are made in a matter of seconds in the most stressful situation anyone can ever be put in," McKay said. "These situations must be looked at in their totality."

PERF recommends that the "FCPD should update its use-of-force policy to indicate that force may not be used against a person unless, under the totality of the circumstances, that force is necessary and proportional."

This is the second time FCPD has received the recommendation.

PERF brought to light that in June 2021, in a research project supported through an agreement between the Fairfax County Office of the Independent Police Auditor and the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA), its Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice recommended that FCPD incorporate near-similar language.

"A police officer may not use force against a person unless, under the totality of the circumstances, said force is necessary and proportional," stated the recommendation. FCPD declined to update its use-of-force policy to include that language.

In its Review of FCPD's Use-of-Force Policy, PERF commended FCPD for going beyond the "objectively reasonable" standard of *Graham v. Connor*, 490 U.S. 386 (1989). "Further, before the use of deadly force, the policy requires that 'all other [force] options have been exhausted, do not reasonably lend themselves to the circumstances, are not feasible, or have already proven to be ineffective.'"

PERF adds that FCPD should go further, providing two recommendations. "FCPD should add 'proportionality' to the defini-



Rev. Vernon Walton

tions in its use-of-force policy. Defining the term, which is interspersed throughout the policy, will help to clearly define expectations ... FCPD should update its use-of-force policy to indicate that force may not be used against a person unless, under the totality of the circumstances, that force is necessary and proportional. This will further align FCPD with the 'sanctity of life' language already in its use-of-force policy."

PERF discussed in its review the Feb. 22 fatal police shooting of Timothy Johnson as an example of "where proportionality and better critical thinking could have affected the outcome." PERF reviewed video of the incident on FCPD's public website. The video seems to show a sergeant chasing after a man and then pulling out his gun and firing at him. According to the PERF review, "a clear concept of proportionality and use of the [critical decision-making model] may have led the officer to think through other available options from the start and may have inspired a different response." states the PERF review.

Alejandro emphasized the importance of examining critical incidents in their entirety, proportionally dissecting the actions that transpire during a deadly officer-involved shooting such as the one on May 11.

"Is it appropriate for Officer Mormon to fire three times point blank at the suspect when it was clear that his hands were empty, with no weapons? The use of force rule required de-escalation. There was none," Alejandro said.

She also questioned, in the May 11 incident, if it was appropriate for FCPD Officer Grubb to fire 18 shots in the suspect's direction when bystanders were around. Grubb was shooting toward the moving vehicle with Lemange and the abducted officer inside. In the body-worn camera footage, individuals from the community can be observed running seemingly within the line of fire.

PERF states, "FCPD's policy about shooting into moving vehicles can also be improved," describing it as "permissive and contains unnecessary, vague verbiage; the policy lacks clarity, and we recommend that FCPD replace it with clear language like that found in NYPD's policy."



Diane Burkley Alejandro

The NYPD's 1972 policy is "Members of service SHALL NOT: Discharge their firearms at or from a moving vehicle unless deadly physical force is being used against the member of service or another person present by means other than [the] moving vehicle."

Question: FCPD's Investigation of Its Members

PERF's review found that FCPD investigates its own officers' critical incidents. PERF referenced its investigation of the Aug. 2, 2022, shooting in Falls Church. During a drug investigation, an officer shot and wounded a man that night. According to PERF, "When a police officer uses deadly force, regardless of whether it ends in death, the incident demands a comprehensive and objective investigation. It is becoming common for outside entities to conduct independent investigations or reviews of an agency's PSIs (police shooting incidents)."

PERF cited missed opportunities by FCPD during the Aug. 2, 2022 incident. PERF said that FCPD did not try to obtain surveillance footage from any businesses in the area and therefore missed the chance to fill in some gaps generated by the lack of BWC footage.

"FCPD investigators did not document their efforts to corroborate the shooting officer's purported justification for firing his weapon. Finally, FCPD does not appear to have thoroughly reviewed the (however brief) vehicle pursuit that took place just before the shooting to determine whether it was within FCPD policy," PERF states.

PERF's Review of FCPD's Foot Pursuits

In the 2021 University of Texas at San Antonio report, researchers noted, "[FCPD] should consider adopting a foot pursuit policy to help reduce force and injuries to officers and suspects." FCPD still has not adopted a foot pursuit policy.

PERF encourages the agency to do so as "foot pursuits carry inherent risk to both the subject being chased and the officer, according to PERF, and officers should consider alternatives." PERF stressed the importance of continually assessing the decision to pursue.

PERF viewed the Feb. 22 video of the foot



FCPD cruiser

pursuit of Timothy Johnson, available online. PERF noted, "a sergeant who appeared to have his gun at the ready while chasing a man who stole sunglasses." PERF recommended a provision in the policy "advising officers that under most circumstances, they should not pursue with their guns drawn."

Integrating Communications, Assessment, and Tactics (ICAT)

As of March 28, 2023, PERF reported that approximately one-third of the FCPD officers had undergone ICAT training adding, "The critical decision-making model (CDM) is the cornerstone of ICAT."

The ICAT program provides officers with "more tools, skills, and options for handling different types of critical incidents, especially those that involve subjects who are acting erratically because of mental illness or behavioral crisis and who are unarmed or armed with a weapon other than a firearm."

"Training officers to more effectively slow down and think — rather than quickly react and respond — can affect their ultimate decisions."

PERF recommends that FCPD "expedite its plans to provide ICAT training to those members who have not yet received it and prioritize the officers most likely to interact with members of the public."

The ICAT approach is built upon the critical decision-making model (CDM). The ICAT training program offered by PERF strongly emphasizes the ever-changing nature of police interactions with individuals in crisis. It stresses the significance of incorporating de-escalation techniques into police training and operations.

Next Steps

According to a staff member of Supervisor Rodney Lusk, "The Board's Safety and Security Committee will review the Police Executive Research Forum's findings at a future meeting."

PERF's April 2023 FCPD Review of Issues Surrounding Recent Police-Shootings Incidents can be found online at

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/sites/police/files/assets/images/chief/reports/perf%20fcpd%20final.pdf>.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

NEWS

Less Lethal Shotguns: They Shoot Beanbags

In the Spring of 2023, FCPD's Law Enforcement Training unit took another step forward in its less-lethal options in policing by transitioning and equipping all the department's patrol officers with less-lethal shotguns.

Prior to March, every police cruiser was equipped with a 12-gauge shotgun as a use-of-force option. In an effort to give officers, FCPD reviewed the data, discussed use-case issues, surveyed patrol districts, and determined that to give the department more less-lethal options, shotguns could be better utilized in a less-lethal capacity.

This new solution provides officers with an additional option they can use when faced with less-lethal use situations.

In the months it took to safely make this transition across the de-

partment, FCPD took 800 shotguns out of circulation and has now put 630 less-lethal beanbag shotguns into use.

The new less-lethal shotguns are similar in weight, size, and appearance to the original patrol shotgun but look very different. These shotguns are now outfitted with a bright orange stock, fore-end, and large "Less Lethal" lettering on the stock. This color change will provide officers with an awareness that the shotguns are equipped with a less-lethal beanbag projectile.

Officers, who were all required to go through training on the use of the less-lethal shotgun before being allowed to use it, are taught the appropriate targeted areas for deployment to help eliminate major injuries.

Source: FCPD Release Verbatim

Lake Accotink: Future or No?

The Task Force on the Future of Lake Accotink, established at the June 6 Board of Supervisors meeting, will hold

their first meeting on Monday, June 26, at 7 p.m. at the Government Center. The task force will
SEE LAKE ACCOTINK, PAGE 11

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Please be advised that a fireworks display will take place as part of a public evening event, Independence Fireworks at George Washington's Mount Vernon on the following dates:

Friday, June 30, between 9:15 p.m. and 9:45pm (15 minutes)
Saturday, July 1 between 9:15 p.m. and 9:45pm (15 minutes)

There will also be a brief (5-minute) daytime fireworks display will take place as part of the annual American Celebration public event at George Washington's Mount Vernon on Tuesday, July 4 between 1:00pm and 1:30pm.

The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association thanks you for your tolerance and apologizes for any disruption. To receive Mount Vernon fireworks notifications via e-mail, write to Events@MountVernon.org

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S MOUNT * VERNON

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<http://connectionarchives.com/PDF>

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HISTORY



Linda Allen Hollis and Queenie Cox unveiled the new West Ford highway marker.



Descendants and Supervisor Dan Storck and Chairman Jeff McKay gathered for photos of the Board of Supervisors' resolution.



Descendant Gregory Cragh and his wife came from Chicago. He is wearing the event's commemorative t-shirt and standing with Del. Paul Krizek.



At the festival, Franconia Supervisor Rodney Lusk showed his mastery of double rope jumping.

Historic Gum Springs Celebrates 190 Years

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

They came from places like California, Chicago and New York, descendants of West Ford, the founder of the historic Gum Springs community in 1833 in southeastern Fairfax County. A crescendo of oohs and aahs and rousing applause erupted when Queenie Cox and Linda Allen Hollis unveiled a new Virginia highway historical marker on June 17 on Fordson Road near U.S. 1 honoring Ford.

"Gum Springs is here because of West Ford," Virginia Delegate Paul Krizek asserted, "a community here long before subdivisions like Wayneswood and Stratford Landing."

"This is long overdue," said Matt Briney, Vice President of Media and Communications at George Washington's Mount Vernon, the plantation where the Washingtons enslaved West, the farm's manager.

Board of Supervisors Chair Jeff McKay noted that holding the event on Father's Day weekend was a fitting time to honor the "Father of Gum Springs." McKay stressed that people "should understand our entire history, ... learn from it and do better." He cited the renaming of Lee and Lee-Jackson Highways, roads named for two Confederate generals.

Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck noted that Gum Springs is "the oldest African-American community in Fairfax County," and is "a critical part of the county." Reporting that County staff are now surveying the community's historic resources, he remarked, "It's not just buildings. We must talk to people to get the true history."

McKay and Storck presented a resolution from the Board of Supervisors recognizing the anniversary and stating that "Gum Springs is a cohesive and predominantly African-American community of more than 2,500 residents, with as many as 500 descendants of the original families residing there."

Virginia Department of Historic Resources official John Mullen commented that Virginia has 2,600 markers, that in the last five years, 60 percent have spotlighted African-American history.



The C.A.I.S.O. steel band livened up the festivities.



Melkam and Zeyma Hughes came from Potomac, Maryland for the Gum Springs celebration.



Kierstan Johnson, Community Services Board, discussed wellness and provided free firearm cable and handgun trigger locks.



Izora Bedford displayed her proud African heritage.

introduced Californian Linda Allen Hollis, a West Ford descendant and historian. Hollis, author of "I Cannot Tell a Lie," a book that chronicles Ford's descendants, told the crowd that Ford was the only child of George Washington, pointing out that Ford had blue-gray eyes and reddish hair. The Amazon summary of her book says, "Documented national history tells us that the nation's first president had no children. But the oral history of the descendants of an African-American family tells a different story ... [Washington] crossed the color line and deigned to establish an intimacy with a mulatto slave woman named Venus." Encyclopedia Virginia says,

Juneteenth Fest

After the unveiling, many attendees had a "descendants walk" from the marker to Martin Luther King Park Jr. Park for the Gum Springs Community Day-Juneteenth celebration. Fifty vendors offered healthy snacks, candy, health advice, beauty products, conservation flyers, voter registration materials, county services information, fraternity and sorority resources and more.

Queenie Cox, president of the New Gum Springs Civic Association, welcomed all and

Information

Gum Springs Historical Society and Museum, <https://gumspringsmuseum.blogspot.com/p/about-us.html>
West Ford, www.WestFordLegacy.com

"Ford's paternity has proved controversial: some oral histories claim George Washington was West Ford's father, though stronger evidence points toward Bushrod Washington." Hollis provided a biography she wrote which states, "Future DNA analysis will be the determining factor of West Ford's paternity."

Varied Vendors

Two lines of vendors created a busy fairway. Aimee Vosper and Ben Boxer with the Fairfax County Park Authority described plans for a trail connecting the park with Little Hunting Creek, saying that wetlands and cultural resources studies should be completed by late summer.

County transportation staffers gave updates on the proposed Richmond Highway (U.S. 1) bus rapid transit system. Local high school students are proposing artwork for the stations' windcreens.

Kierstan Johnson with the Fairfax-Falls www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



Festival-goers of all ages enjoyed the Fantastic Flyer.



Mark Preston described the services of the NVMS Conflict Resolution Center.



Isis Washington colored a bird at the Friends of Dyke Marsh table.



Aimee Vosper and Ben Boxer explained plans for a trail from the MLK Park to Little Hunting Creek.



Della J's food was popular.

Church Community Services Board, a behavioral health specialist, provided wellness materials, free gun locks and advice. Mark Preston described the mediation services of the NVMS Conflict Resolution Center, a non-profit that contracts with police departments in Fairfax, Arlington and Loudoun counties and Falls Church.

At a police recruiting vehicle, Dean Tran said that "policing gives people a sense of community and engagement." While most trainees start as uniformed police officers, policing offers varied opportunities, like translators, detectives and helicopter pilots.

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Gum Springs Youth Athletic Association representatives encouraged young people to join teams. The self-described "mad scientist" helped youngsters make slime, as many relished lollipops, ice cream and cotton candy. Others swirled around on the Fantastic Flyer. At some tables, children played games and did crafts.

Della J's Restaurant lured a long line of patrons hungry for barbeque, baked beans, potato salad and peach cobbler. C.A.I.S.O. boosted already high spirits with lively steel drum music throughout the afternoon.

Ospreys on a nearby light pole seemed

oblivious to the hoopla.

The Founder

George Washington's brother, John Augustine Washington and his wife, Hannah Bushrod Washington, enslaved Ford in Westmoreland County, Virginia. Hannah's will directed that Ford be freed at age 21. When Hannah's son, Bushrod, inherited Mount Vernon, he made Ford the manager and freed him around 1805. Bushrod bequeathed 119 acres to Ford in 1829. Ford sold the property and in 1833 purchased 214-acres, now the Gum Springs community.

Hollis told festival-goers that "Ford wanted a safe and secure place for newly-freed slaves, a place that was equitable and just." Until the Civil War's end, Gum Springs was a refuge for both runaway slaves and freed slaves.

The name Gum Springs comes from the sweet gum trees near the spring where George Washington watered his horses on the way to and from his Mount Vernon plantation, according to Ronald Chase, President of the Gum Springs Historical Society.

Ford's legacy lives and the community is a symbol of "the struggles and resilience of African Americans," Hollis said.

MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE ♦ JUNE 22-28, 2023 ♦ 7

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NEWS

Food Offerings Span the Globe Between Penn Daw and Huntington

FROM PAGE 1

sick,” he said. The Cha Gio roll and Cha Cuan, the summer roll, are big sellers. The Cha Gio roll looks like a Chinese egg roll but it has no cabbage.

“My first time here, really good,” said one diner at lunchtime.

Over at Machu Pollo in the same area, the food and soccer are big attractions. There’s a big variety of Latin American foods over at Machu, with Pollo Saltado (Peruvian stir fried chicken) and Lomo Saltado (Peruvian stir fried beef) at the top of the list. There are soccer jerseys (including Argentine star Lionel Messi, now playing in Miami) hanging on the wall, plus other soccer memorabilia. And when there’s a game, the two televisions attract fans.

“It’s my theme,” said Jose Machuca, the owner. The World Cup

and the Champions soccer tournaments brought in a crowd of locals.

Down the hill towards the City of Alexandria, there is El Paso with Taco Tuesday, every week, Taj of India, and Juliano’s Subs and Pizza right at Huntington Avenue.

Juliano’s is up against the chains like Domino’s and Papa John’s, but they’re holding their own. “We are the best quality, we always have regular customers,” said the head chef.

A veteran was in from Wisconsin, and he’s been there a few times. “I think it’s all good,” he said before eyeing the spaghetti. “How’s the spaghetti, pretty good?” he asked. Yes, came the answer, yes it is.

Maggio’s Italiano is a favorite in the Huntington area and they’re not afraid to share their recipe for the pesto sauce. Lasagna is their most popular dish.



Soccer jerseys are part of Machu Pollo’s décor.



Jose Machuca with one of the soccer jerseys — this one of soccer star Lionel Messi — he displays at Machu Pollo.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/CONNECTION

ENTERTAINMENT

JUNE 30 AND JULY 1

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

NOW THRU JULY 15

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

NOW THRU JUNE 25

Kandinski. At Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union Street, Alexandria. Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery announces the opening of its juried show "Kandinsky," which will run from May 23, 2023-June 25, 2023, featuring fiber art interpretations of Kandinsky's paintings.

JUNE 1-AUGUST 31

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

NOW THRU JUNE 25

The "American Patchwork" exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Features art that highlights the diversity of cultures, landscapes, and artistic styles that make up the American experience. The exhibit broadly explores and captures the patchwork spirit of the United States and her people. Open Thursdays 12-6pm, Fridays 12-9pm, Saturdays & Sundays 12-6pm. Reception: Friday, June 2, 7-9pm. Details: DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

MOUNT VERNON NIGHTS

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

JUNE

23 The Revelers (Swamp Pop)
30 Collective Delusion (Rock)

JULY

7 Kickoman (Latin/Reggae)
14 Burn the Ballroom (Alternative Rock)
21 King Teddy (Swing)
28 The HalfSmokes (WHFS Playlists/Alternative Rock)

AUGUST

4 Kadencia Orchestra (Bomba, Plena, Salsa)



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

11 Collaboration featuring Lori Williams (Jazz)
18 Crack The Sky (Rock)
25 Deanna Bogart (Blues, R&B)

FRANCONIA NIGHTS CONCERTS

Wednesday evenings from 7:30-8:30 p.m.
At Leonadus K. Plenty Amphitheater, 6601 Telegraph Road, Alexandria.

JULY

5 Natyabhoomi School of Dance (Indian Dance and Music)
12 The Pietasters (Ska)
19 Chuck Brown Band (Go Go/Funk/Soul)
26 Silver Tones Swing Band (Swing Dance)

AUGUST

2 Pablo Perez El Alcalde de la Salsa (Salsa)
9 Alexandria Harmonizers (Chorus)
16 The Nighthawks (Blues)
23 Dave Kline Band (World Jazz Fusion)

OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA WATERFRONT MUSIC SERIES

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

June 21 - Tobago Bay Calypso
June 28 - Adrian Duke Project
July 12 - Melissa Quinn Fox
July 19 - Vaughn Ambrose and the SJE
July 26 - Amafujo's Moodswings
August 2 - Chris Barrick Vibes and Organ Trio
August 9 - Sol Roots
August 16 - Delta Spur

SUNDAY SOUNDS ON THE PROMENADE

Free Concerts. 11:30-1:30 p.m. At 7 Pioneer Mill Way, Alexandria. Yellow Door Music Concert Series presents a musical lineup of artists on select Sundays.
June 25 - Damon Foreman
July 30 - Vaughn Ambrose Jazz Trio
August 27 - Trifilio Tango Music
On August 27th, in honor of National

Dog Day that weekend, Robinson Landing encourages individuals to bring their dog out for a yappy social for play and fun for your furry ones.

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

JUNE 15-JULY 23

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

SATURDAY/JUNE 24

Alexandria Baroque. 2 p.m. At the Athenaeum, Alexandria. A Period-instrument Duo of Baroque Violin and Lute. Stop by for an

engaging one-hour afternoon performance featuring duos for violin and lute from the 18th-century composers J.S. Bach, Silvius Leopold Weiss, Fridrich Wilhelm Rust, Paul Charles Durant, and colonial American tunes.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 28

Concert in the Garden. 6-8 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. The evening garden concert promises to captivate both music enthusiasts and garden lovers alike, offering an enchanting experience that harmonizes the beauty of gardens with the power of live music. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets, pack a picnic dinner and kick back to hear the lively music. Come early and enjoy fun activities and a special guest appearance with Ribbit the Frog. The Green Spring Concert in the Garden is made possible by a partnership with the Fairfax County Park Authority and the Friends of Green Spring (FROGS).

THURSDAY/JUNE 29

Music at the Manor. 5-7 p.m. At River Farm, 7931 E. Boulevard Dr., Alexandria. River Farm presents its first-ever Music at the Manor, a sunset evening featuring live music

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

JULY 1, 2023

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

SUNDAY/JULY 9

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

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.

JUNE

Thu. 22: The Voice of The Moody Blues JUSTIN HAYWARD with Mike Dawes \$79.50
Fri. 23: Tarsha Fitzgerald Productions Presents "THE VOICES" Tribute To Motown \$35.00
Sat. 24: After 7 \$75.00
Fri. 30: Newmyer Flyer Presents The Songs of Burt Bacharach & Hal David \$39.50

BULLETIN BOARD

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

MT. VERNON FARMERS MARKET IS NOW OPEN

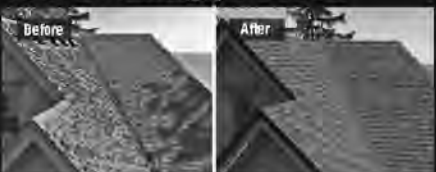
A mix of new and familiar vendors will be selling local, farm-fresh produce - including strawberries and asparagus - and more at the McCutcheon/Mt. Vernon Farmers Market. From 8 a.m. to noon every Wednesday (through December 20), 21 farmers and local food

producers will sell fresh vegetables and fruits; meats; Chesapeake Bay seafood; breads and pastries; honey, jams and jellies; milk, cheese and eggs; herbs and plants; and more. The market is located at the Sherwood Hall Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane.

This year's vendors are:
Arnest Seafood - crab cakes, scallops, shrimp, rockfish, oysters and more
The Big Brine - Fermented foods, pickles and pickled vegetables
The Fermented Pig- charcuterie and gourmet bacon
Grace's Pastries - cakes, pastries and breads, with a Caribbean touch
Great Harvest Bread - breads and

pastries
Honeycomb Heroes - Honey and beeswax-based products
House of Empanadas - variety of empanadas
King Mushrooms - variety of locally grown mushrooms
Layla's Lebanese Restaurant - Lebanese hummus, eggplant dip, garlic sauce and more
Linda Vista Farm - fruits and vegetables, specializing in Asian and Latin produce
Misty Meadow Farm Creamery - milk, ice cream, cheese and eggs
Ochoa Produce - vegetables, herbs
SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11

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Let us know about an upcoming event
connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar

Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that Mr. Timothy Rizer (VMRC #22-2837) is requesting a permit from the Virginia Marine Resources Commission to install a 22.5-foot by 44-foot open-sided boathouse, 17-foot by 20-foot open-sided gazebo, a 5-foot by 19-foot finger pier and a 3-foot by 35-foot finger pier on an existing private pier along the Potomac River at 5905 River Drive in Fairfax County.

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3 Displaced in Belle Haven Fire, 2 Pets Deceased

On Friday, June 9, at 8:31 p.m., units from the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department were dispatched for a house fire in the 2300 blk of Windsor Road in the Belle Haven area of Fairfax County.

Units arrived on the scene of a two-story single-family home with an active fire in the basement. Crews swiftly initiated firefighting operations and extinguished the fire. There were no civilian or firefighter injuries reported. Unfortunately, two household pets

were discovered deceased.

Two occupants were home at the time of the fire. A smoke alarm alerted the occupants to the fire and they were able to safely exit the structure.

Fire Investigators determined the fire was accidental in nature. The fire originated in the basement. The cause was an overheated surge protector that ignited the furniture.

Three occupants were displaced due to the fire. Damages as a result of the fire were approximately \$100,000.

Lake Accotink: Future or No?

FROM PAGE 5

produce findings that will inform the Board of Supervisors' decision regarding the future of Lake Accotink.

Lake Accotink Park attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors annually with its stunning trails, picturesque picnic areas and engaging waterfront activities. The 55-acre manmade reservoir, which was built by the U.S. Army, has required regular dredging due to sedimentation. However, extensive analysis by Fairfax County staff has led to the recommendation against further dredging due to significant costs, environmental impacts, and difficulties in processing and disposing of sediment. The staff proposes re-starting the Park's Master Planning process with a focus on fostering a sustainable future for the lake and the park.

The task force will review past studies about dredging and ensure comprehensive exploration of all options to preserve Lake Accotink in the most sustainable, equitable and cost-effective manner. It will identify

crucial questions to be addressed if the board decides to explore a managed wetland or hybrid option. The group will also consider the environmental impact, effects on surrounding communities, recreational park usage and financing implications, including ongoing maintenance.

"This task force will enable community members to be at the table to ensure that options are thoroughly explored, and that questions from the public are answered," said Braddock District Supervisor James R. Walkinshaw.

Former Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova will lead the task force, and it will include representatives from the community, environmental groups and nonprofit organizations.

Learn more about Lake Accotink on the Public Works and Environmental Services webpage.

Meeting Schedule at the Government Center (Conference Rooms 2 and 3): Monday, June 26, 7 to 9 p.m.; Monday, July 10, 7 to 9 p.m.; Monday, July 24, 7 to 9 p.m.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 9

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 - Salsa Las Glorias - fresh salsas, guacamole and chips
 - Sharkawi Farm - herbs, spices, teas, plants and flowers
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 - Traveling Shepherd Coffee Co. – variety of freshly roasted coffee
 - Twin Springs Orchard - fruits, vegetables, cheese and more
 - Valentine's Bakery & Meats - meats and baked goods
 - WeGrow - Microgreens.
- All of the items sold at the market are grown or produced by the vendors and come from within a radius of 125 miles. The McCutcheon/Mt. Vernon market is one of 10 farmers markets run by the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA); for more information, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets.

FAMILIES SOUGHT TO HOST INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Families and individuals from the Washington, D.C.-metro region are being sought to become hosts for international students for 12 weeks, a semester, or an academic year. Exchange students represent nearly 80 coun-

tries and cultures, including Kenya, Ukraine, Egypt, Turkey, Italy, Germany, Chile, Thailand and more.

AFS-USA, a leader in international high school student exchange for 75 years, is focused on providing opportunities for intercultural exchange that can help lead to a more just and peaceful world.

Those interested in hosting an AFS Exchange Student are encouraged to contact 1-800-AFS-INFO or visit www.afsusa.org for more information. You can also get involved as an AFS-USA Volunteer. Visit www.afsusa.org/volunteer to get started or learn more about opportunities to make a difference.

FOSTER PARENTS NEEDED

Interested in becoming a foster parent? There is always a need for caring foster parents looking to open their homes to foster youth. Get in touch to learn more. Visit fcsvanow@gmail.com or www.FCSVA.org. Or call 703-817-9890.

LOOKING FOR SOFTBALL PLAYERS

The Golden Girls of Northern Virginia, a senior women's softball league, is looking for players. Any woman over the age of 40 is encouraged to join. All skill levels are welcome. They play most Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings in Vienna from May-July and September-October. For more information, visit the web site www.goldengirls.org.

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Thank you to the hundreds of supporters who helped to keep all your Connection Newspapers alive throughout Alexandria, Fairfax County Arlington County and Potomac, Md. along with affiliated websites and digital media. Now we need help again in 2022.

Each local newspaper's mission aspires to provide greater community service, and we do know that our communities are better off if we continue to publish. Last year's financial support from readers and supporters like you bridged the shortfall before Federal PPP funding arrived, and both made our survival possible. We now await a decision for a grant from Rebuild Virginia in early February that we hope will help us in 2022 and beyond. But we need help to survive the first quarter, always a brutal time for cash flow in weekly newspapers. Thank you.

Please, help save these historical papers. All gifts will be used to fund our printed newspapers and websites and to meet obligations to our loyal and patient employees, writers, contractors and suppliers.

The ongoing pandemic continues to crush many newspapers across the country, and our newspapers continue to be at risk. The Northern Virginia area's best read and most trusted source for community news includes the Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette and all Connection Newspapers in the metropolitan region.

The pandemic has been a bear, financially and otherwise. Revenue plummeted at the beginning in 2020. Some beloved advertisers have stayed the course supporting us throughout, and many more have done what they can. In the fall of 2021 we saw the return of some advertising for events and Grand Openings, but now omicron clouds the horizon in so many ways. Revenue still remains short of expenses despite our greatly curtailed costs.

Connection Newspapers has been offering these local newspapers to residents for over 200 years. Countless residents have grown up with these papers covering significant moments in the lives of family and children, news, community events, school activities, and even pictures of your dogs and cats. Internet news and large national newspapers cannot provide the local connection or historical connection that local papers like Connection Newspapers and the Alexandria Gazette Packet provide. If your child, dog, mother, father, neighborhood, school has been featured, you understand the value of local community newspapers.

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

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Back to Abnormal



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Life in the cancer lane: slow and steady, thank God! And after 14 years and nearly six months past a terminal "13 month to two years" prognosis given in late Feb. 2009, "I am pleased as punch," to quote the late Hubert H. Humphrey, our 38th Vice President, serving Lyndon B. Johnson from 1965 – 1969, to say I am still in the game, the game of life, that is. This is no board game, however. Although, it can get very boring.

A game for which there are rules and responsibilities, although few guarantees (other than death and taxes, of course). Let me amend that. There is one guarantee: after a cancer diagnosis, your life will never be the same. Every action and reaction will likely be affected by your diagnosis, treatment, tolerance to chemotherapy/cancer medicine and any number of cancer-related appointments, as well as a variety of side effects which are often the inevitable result of your treatment (which is likely keeping you alive), and by your support system. Any joie de vivre you can muster under these extremely difficult circumstances will be welcome indeed. Sustaining that joie, however, can be challenging. As my close friend and breast-cancer survivor Lynne had advised us years ago at the beginning of our cancer journey concerning what to expect: "This will be the toughest thing you've ever had to endure," she said. And needless to say, although I'll say it anyway, she was 100% correct: "Cancer is not for cissies." (You can thank Suzanne Somers for little ditty.) It says it, and it's simple. But receiving a cancer diagnosis is anything but simple. It's the proverbial boom being lowered atop your head. And when I first received it from my oncologist, I sat stunned at what I was hearing. I said to myself: "How is this possible? I have never smoked cigarettes in my life." (I have since found out that upwards of 25 percent of lung cancer patients are non-smokers.)

Moreover, navigating the slings and arrows of your outrageous misfortune can get overwhelming. In fact, the medical industry has created a profession specifically to assist the patient in managing their care (scheduling appointments, ordering drugs, following miscellaneous protocols and in short, trying to help the cancer patient in any way possible to simplify and organize the demands of their diagnosis); so you have a chance, an assist even, in living your most rewarding, least worrisome life – under the circumstances. Nurse navigator is their name and helping the patient is their game. Family and friends are a great and necessary support system. Without their encouragement, patience and understanding, a cancer patient would be hard-pressed to endure the ordeal – which cancer treatment most definitely is. But what goes on in the hospital or infusion center is likely beyond their expertise. Having an in-house resource could make all the difference in your life.

And it is not a tangled web they weave. Quite the opposite. The nurse navigator's task is to untangle and cut through any figurative web that is interfering in your life. My oncologist has regularly encouraged me to do things to try and enhance the quality of my life. Because cancer is hard. Keeping up to date and current with all the cancer responsibilities, especially when trying to integrate/schedule it around your non-cancer/pre-cancer life, is nearly impossible. It's difficult to plan a future – which is measured in weeks or quarters, for recurring lab tests, doctor's appointments, infusions, and diagnostic scans when your present is so chalk-full of commitments. Commitments/appointments which could change if any result causes a delay. The cascade effect of rescheduled appointments will play havoc with any future plans - for what was passing as your normal-type life, anyway. Because once the word cancer is uttered in your direction, your life as you have known it is over and normal has very definitely left the building.

But if you don't find a path forward and stagnant/struggle instead with your present while trying to arrange and in many instances rearrange your future, it will make "Jack" a very dull boy, and not one who's able to live a normal-type life at all. And if you don't find a way to get a few highs, the lows, as cancer can certainly cause them, will more often than not, grind you to a screeching halt. If you do find them, you may still succumb to your disease but at least you'll do so in your own way with some sort of control (most of which you lose once your cancer diagnosis is confirmed). After all, if you're going to die, you might as well set the terms.

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