

# Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

JULY 10, 2024

## Moving from Lawns to Eco-friendly Gardening



Alexandria's Duncan Library has a native plant garden.

**With evolutionary advantage, native plants have adapted natural defenses to local challenges like drought and pests.**

BY GLENDA BOOTH  
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

**A**s the thermometer hits the 90s and the heat index creeps up over 100 degrees Fahrenheit, leaves are drooping and yards are turning brown. It may be time to rethink the American lawn.

While a manicured, green lawn may be a cherished American ideal, grass has several drawbacks, from requiring mowing, water and fertilizer to providing little biodiversity and habitat value.

### Water Is Precious

June was the fourth driest on record for the Washington region, states the Interstate Commission for the Potomac River Basin. Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) reports "abnormally dry conditions ... across approximately 98 percent of the Commonwealth."

On June 24, Fairfax and 95 counties and towns were under a drought warning advisory, meaning that a "significant drought is imminent," said DEQ. It may get worse. The U.S. Geological Survey website says that "climate change exacerbates droughts by making them more frequent, longer and more severe."

Water is precious. Lawns consume around nine billion gallons of water a day, the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) points out. To stay green, a 10,000-square-foot lawn requires 10,000 gallons of water every summer, reports the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS).

Lawn and turf grass are the largest crop in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Grass is the biggest irrigated crop in the U.S., totaling over 40 million acres, three times more than corn, reported the journal Environmental Management.

### Lawns' Downside

In addition to being water guzzlers, lawns can be 85 to 90 percent impervious, meaning that the water infiltration rate into the soil is low and stormwater flows off the surface instead of saturating the soil.

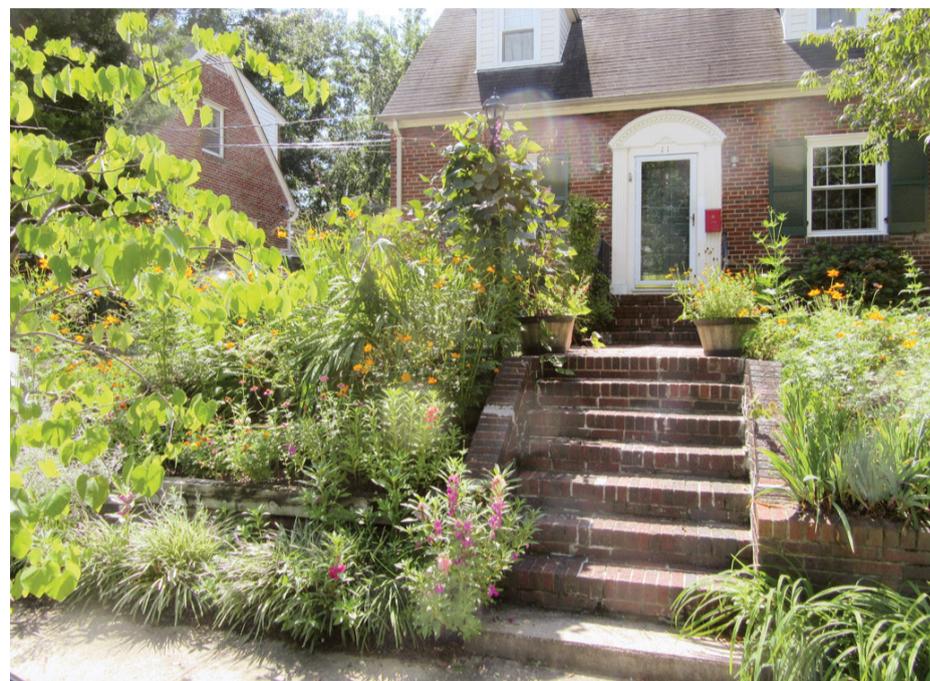
"Lawns have less than 10 percent of the water-absorbing capacity of natural woodlands, which contributes to suburban flooding," states the NWF.

Polluted runoff from the land is the only growing source of pollution to the Potomac River, the Potomac Conservancy contends. Fairfax County studies show that in 2023, 83 percent of the county's streams were in fair to very poor condition, largely because of stormwater runoff.

Lawn mowers and leaf blowers create air and noise pollution. Using a gasoline-powered lawn mower to cut grass for one hour is almost equivalent to the air pollution from a 100-mile automobile trip, says Science Daily. In 2020, lawn equipment released more than 68,000 tons of nitrous oxides, equal to the pollution from 30 million cars, and 30 million tons of carbon dioxide, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency found.

### If Not Lawns, What?

Approaches like natural or conservation  
SEE MOVING FROM LAWNS, PAGE 8



PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH

Veneeta Anand has transformed her Alexandria front and back yards into native plant gardens that attract insects like this monarch butterfly.

**"Everyone who owns land has a golden opportunity to enhance, rather than degrade, local ecosystems by including ecological function as a criterion when we choose plants."**

— Entomologist Douglas Tallamy



Volunteers and staff at the Hollin Hall Senior Center in Mount Vernon planted milkweed plants to support monarch butterflies. The center is an official monarch waystation.



Native plants are thriving now at the Mount Vernon Government Center. Suzanne Foster led a tour earlier this year.

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### White Oaks | \$874,000

Exquisite 4-bedroom, 3-bathroom, 2-level brick home on a quiet cul-de-sac features hardwood floors, large deck, 2 wood-burning fireplaces, fenced-in yard. Close to Metro, I-495, Ft. Belvoir, Old Town, Huntley Meadows Park, and more. 7200 Popkins Farm Road  
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### Alexandria | \$639,900

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### Saint Asaph Square | \$499,900

Impeccably maintained one bedroom condo features gleaming parquet floors, lovely updated kitchen, wood burning fireplace, gorgeous updated bath, balcony overlooking the pool and 2 garage parking spaces! 800 S. Saint Asaph Street #403  
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OPEN SUN 7/14, 2-4

### Montebello | \$454,900

Beautiful F model has gorgeous wooded views from the glass enclosed sunroom. Move-in ready with recent renovations, upgrades, and professional painting. Gorgeous eat-in kitchen, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. 5903 Mount Eagle Drive #206  
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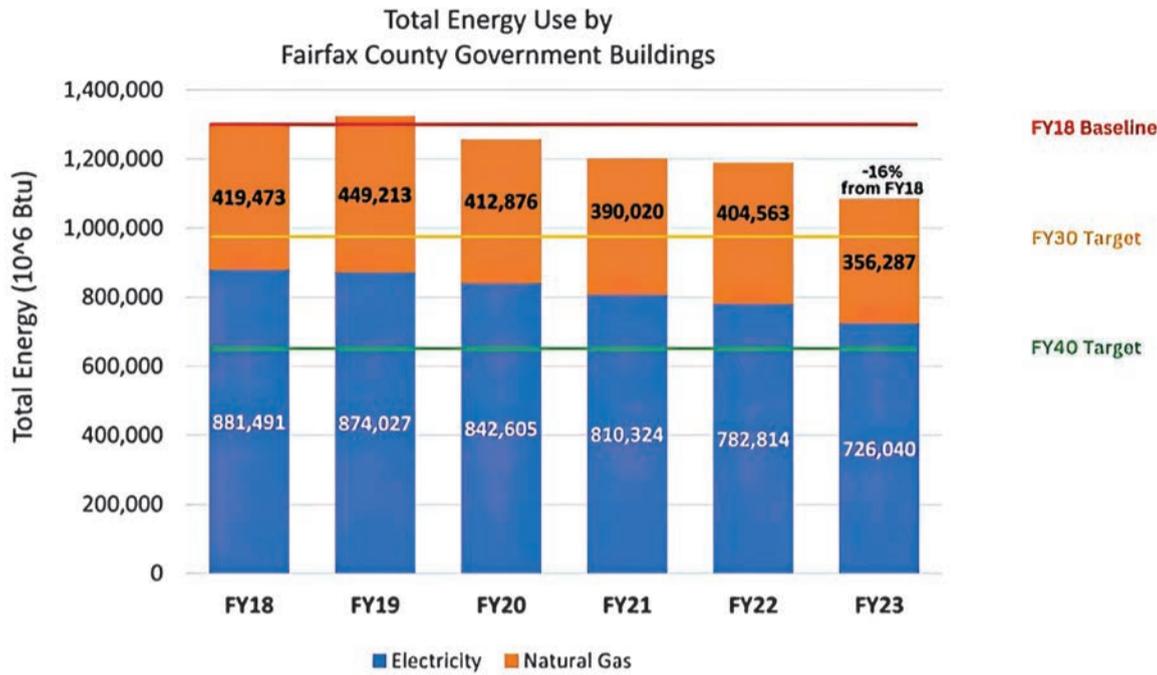


### Palazzo at Park Center | \$305,000

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GRAPH COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY WEBSITE

Since 2018, total energy use by Fairfax County Government Buildings has gone down.

## Environmental Stewardship: Making a Difference

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE GAZETTE

**County recognizes residents who participate in the environmental stewardship.**

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE GAZETTE

**A**t the county level, the energy use reduction and environmental steps that Fairfax County took over the last few years have made a difference.

“Fairfax County Government consumed less energy for opera- SEE ENVIRONMENTAL, PAGE 10

### Fairfax County Data Highlights:

Overall greenhouse gas emissions from energy use, including from electricity, natural gas and vehicle fuel, is down more than 25% compared to the baseline in FY 2018.

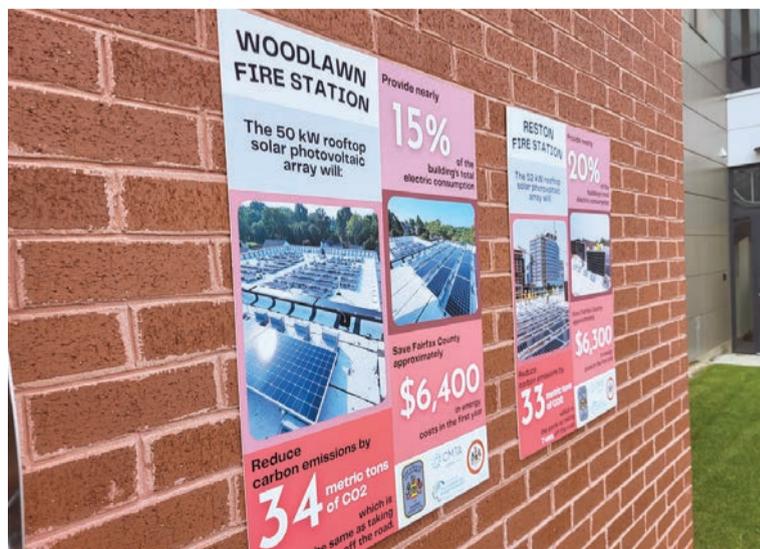
Total electricity use is down 7% from the prior fiscal year, driven in large part by the conversion of streetlights to LEDs, and energy-related equipment upgrades.

Reduced costs from energy reductions at county facilities are estimated to be \$5 million per year.

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In August 2023, Fairfax County added electric trash trucks to the fleet.



In Woodlawn, this new fire station has multiple energy saving features.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF STOCK THE BLOCK COMMITTEE

## Stock the Block Serves Over 7,500 Residents

Lazera Ministries, Good360, and the Church of Jesus Christ Latter-Day Saints collaborated to organize Stock the Block. This event occurred at the Gerry Hyland Government Center at 8350 Richmond Highway in Alexandria. Household products, hygiene items, toys, education supplies, and other items were donated to families. Combined, walk-up and drive-through services accommodated 1,500 families from over 40 postal codes. That is more than 7,500 residents, given an average household size of just over five. Fairfax County Police Department, and Neighborhood and Community Services helped with distribution.

— MERCIA HOBSON



# Local Author Does Book Signings and Promotional Events

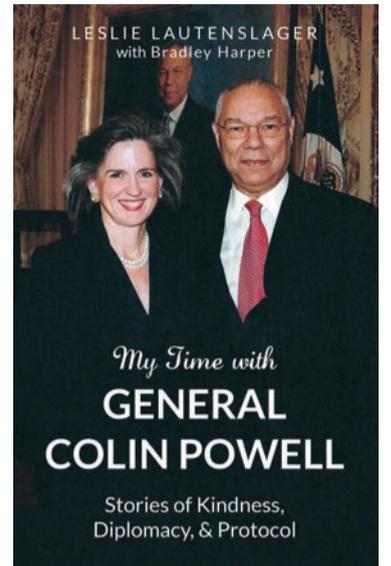
PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/CONNECTION



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



Author Leslie Lautenslager with General Colin Powell.



Leslie Lautenslager's book, "My Time with General Colin Powell: Stories of Kindness, Diplomacy, and Protocol," has been out for nearly one year.

Leslie Lautenslager, author of *My Time With General Colin Powell: Stories of Kindness, Diplomacy and Protocol*, held a book reading at Elaine's in Old Town earlier this year. Lautenslager, who grew up in Hayfield Farm and graduated from Hayfield Secondary, served for 25 years as Powell's executive assistant until the time of his death from COVID-19 in October of 2021.

she attracted over 50 people to hear her experience on Colin Powell's team. Jeffery Higgins is the restaurant owner along with his wife, and both are published authors so they know the trail ahead once a book is published. They have a few literary events a month in their restaurant to feature books and authors.

"It's a way for us to give back to the community," said Higgins. His books are in the mystery thriller category and his wife's works have a middle eastern theme. Their food is also Mediterranean cuisine based on food found in Alexandria, Egypt. Higgins remembered Lautenslager's book event. "She had a good turnout, she was heartfelt and open during our interview," Higgins said. "It was great fun," Lautenslager added.

Lautenslager encourages readers to write reviews on Amazon which feed into their algorithms and boost books up in Amazon standings. "My Time with General Colin Powell" is available at <https://www.leslielautenslager.com/>

## After 'My Time with General Colin Powell' hit the shelves last year, road trips, signing events and smiles.

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE GAZETTE

As the one-year mark approaches for Leslie Lautenslager's book "My Time with General Colin Powell: Stories of Kindness, Diplomacy, and Protocol," she ventured out to the new author's world with book signing trips, publicists and notoriety she never expected. Working with her publisher, she

Her travels thus far have taken her down to Williamsburg and Fredericksburg, a few libraries in Fairfax County, high schools and book events in Virginia. One was to her high school where she saw former classmates from years ago. In the next few months, she will be at a signing at the William and Mary University homecoming,

and then in Montreal, Canada. The book is nominated for the 2024 Non-fiction Virginia Literary Award, Lautenslager said.

She's been invited to speak at the Golden Gate Breakfast Club which is a club established in 1946, with a mission to "foster interest in San Francisco and to create good fellowship and understanding among its members." She'll be on their schedule alongside other authors such as Linda Sage, a criminal psychologist with a 40-year career delving into society's most heinous criminals, and

Asian Art Museum aficionado Peggy Mathers, to name a few.

Lautenslager has lived in Fairfax County a majority of her life, graduated from Hayfield High School and then William and Mary College. Lautenslager was Powell's executive assistant for 25 years before his death from Covid in October 2021. She has a wealth of international events that fill this book.

### Book Events

Locally, Lautenslager was featured at Elaine's Restaurant on Queen Street in Old Town where

"It's exciting, way beyond my expectations."

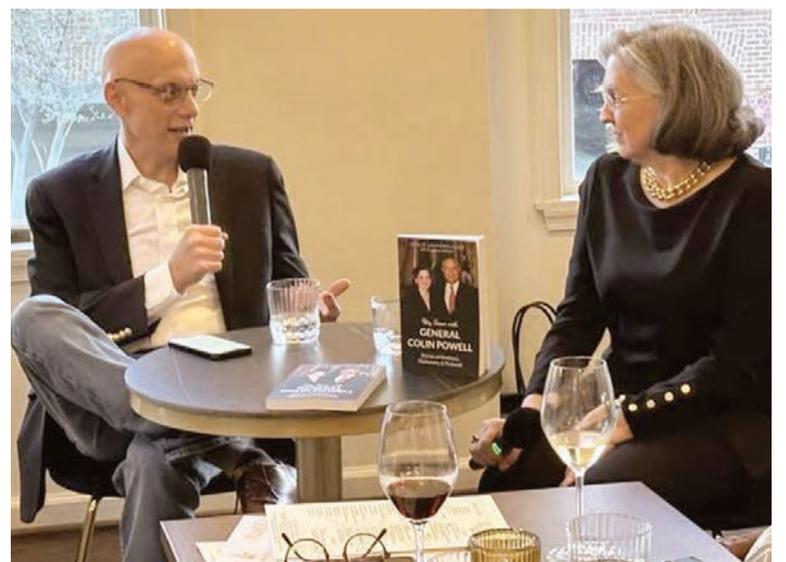
— Author  
Leslie Lautenslager

looked to a few fellow authors who gave her valuable advice, which led to more signing events, podcasts, and speaking engagements.

"I didn't know what to expect," Lautenslager said. "It's exciting, way beyond my expectations."



At the book signing in Fredericksburg this spring, author Leslie Lautenslager.



Author Leslie Lautenslager interviewing with Jeffery Higgins at a literary event in Alexandria.



“The Toy Medres”



May Pang

## May Pang to Appear with Her Photos of John Lennon

Few people knew John Lennon as intimately as May Pang. Pang was Lennon’s lover during the infamous “Lost Weekend” which lasted 18 months during late 1973 through 1975. During this highly creative time for Lennon, Pang took candid photos of Lennon in a comfortable, relaxed environment. A collection of these private photographs will be on display and available for purchase at Nepenthe Gallery, 7918 Fort Hunt Rd, Alexandria,

VA., on Thursday, July 18 through Sunday, July 21. Admission to the exhibit is free to the public.

May Pang will be in attendance at Nepenthe Gallery, meeting customers and telling stories behind these amazing limited-edition photographs for sale of John Lennon. Nepenthe Gallery says:

“The Lost Weekend – The Photography of May Pang” exhibition will provide fans a rare opportunity to see John Lennon in a new light, through the lens of someone

who knew him intimately during one of the most creative periods of his life.

**WHO:** May Pang, John Lennon’s lover and companion during the infamous “Lost Weekend” which took place late 1973 through 1975.

**WHAT:** A photographic exhibition and sale entitled “The Lost Weekend – The Photography of May Pang” featuring candid photos of John Lennon and friends coinciding with the digital release

of the feature film documentary on May Pang and John Lennon’s relationship “The Lost Weekend – A Love Story.”

**WHEN:** Thursday, July 18 from 6pm – 8pm (artist talk & opening reception), Friday, July 19 from 11am – 6pm, Saturday, July 20 from 11am – 6pm and Sunday, July 21 from 10am – 3pm.

**WHERE:** Nepenthe Gallery, 7918 Fort Hunt Rd, Alexandria, VA 22308 (571) 347-7961; [www.NepentheGallery.com](http://www.NepentheGallery.com)

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He served honorably for 26 years in the United States Army before retiring from military service, including positions as the chief of cardiology at Womack Army Medical Center and Fort Belvoir Community Hospital. He is pleased to continue serving the medical needs of the National Capital Region following his time in the military.

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## Community Engagement Begins for Noise Study on Communities South of DCA

By SUPERVISOR DAN STORCK  
MOUNT VERNON DISTRICT

Please join me on Wednesday, July 17 at 7 p.m. for a virtual community meeting about the latest plans to reduce aircraft noise impacts for communities south of the Reagan National Airport (DCA). Vianair, an airport noise consulting firm, was hired by Fairfax County, the City of Alexandria and Prince George's County to develop recommended changes to the current airspace and flight procedures to decrease aircraft noise and enhance the

quality of life for those living south of DCA.

At the community meeting, Vianair will present an overview of the study, along with details on the analysis and assessment completed so far. There will also be time for the community to share their thoughts or concerns and to have questions answered by the project team.

In addition to attending the community meeting, I highly encourage those of you who live near DCA's airplane flight paths to share how you are impacted by aircraft noise by taking Vianair's

community survey (<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon/airplane-noise>).

Community feedback will play an important role in identifying current noise impacts and shaping the final recommendations that will ultimately be submitted to the Federal Aviation Administration for study and possible action.

While changing existing flight paths and procedures does not happen overnight (and many of you know we have been working on this for years now), we are headed in the right direction for

our community. Next steps for the noise study include additional community meetings, the release of recommended changes and a series of reports and presentations that will come before the final recommendations are presented to the FAA next year.

You can learn more about the noise study and how to get involved on Vianair's project website: <https://www.vianair.com/soa/>. A recording of the community meeting will be shared online, along with the presentation, within a few business days after the meeting.

## Fourth of July in Capitol Square

By DELEGATE PAUL KRIZEK

Last week's Fourth of July celebration at the Virginia State Capitol was an extraordinary event filled with energy, music, and community spirit! The Capitol grounds became a vibrant hub showcasing Virginia's diverse communities and extraordinary history.

This historic event was organized by the Virginia American Revolution 250 Commission (VA250), which was established by my bill HB 1424 in 2020, and on which I now serve as a Commissioner. VA250 exists to commemorate the upcoming 250th anniversary of American independence, or the semiquincentennial, and educate Virginians, especially our students, about Virginia's pivotal role in our nation's birth. VA250 engages with all communities that call Virginia home to ensure that all stories are accurately and fully told. Over the next few years, VA250 will sponsor unique events related to the revolution at historic sites and museums throughout Virginia.

Virginia has always acted as the bellwether in shaping our country. The first colonists arrived here in Virginia, and their first encounters with indigenous peoples occurred here. In a shameful chapter, the first ships carrying enslaved Africans landed in Virginia at Point Comfort in 1619. The first representative government was formed here. The famous speeches, critical debates, and many major events that led to our independence movement happened here. And, our nation's critical founding documents like the Fincastle Resolutions, the Bill of Rights, the Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution



The drone light show above the State Capitol Building for the Fourth of July.

were all written by Virginians. The Revolutionary War ended on Virginia's shores in Yorktown. VA250's tagline is "Virginia's History is America's Story," and by leading in this celebration of our independence, Virginians can be inspired to continue contributing to the American ideal of forming an ever more perfect union.

Over 2,500 people from 76 Virginia localities and seven states traveled to Capitol Square to experience this July 4th celebration. After about an hour delay due to a quick storm that forced all of us to run into the Capitol and shelter in place, the afternoon began with a statewide bell-ringing ceremony featuring iconic landmarks and institutions across the Commonwealth. Bells rang from the State Capitol to the Wilderness Road Regional Museum in Dublin and

the Military Women's Memorial in Arlington, uniting Virginians in a powerful display of patriotism.

Once we returned outside, the public enjoyed a charming and family-friendly Square Fair, highlighting Virginia's unique history and culture through interactive booths and exhibitions from museums, cultural organizations and artists.

In the evening, the Grand Ceremony included speeches from notable figures such as Governor Glenn Youngkin, First Lady Suzanne S. Youngkin, Speaker Don Scott, PBS NewsHour Co-Ancor Geoff Bennett, VA250 Chair Delegate Terry Austin, VA250 Vice Chair Senator Mamie Lock, Chickahominy Chief Stephen Adkins, and VA250 National Honorary Chair Carly Fiorina. Attendees enjoyed performances from all corners and historic cul-

tures of Virginia, including the Colonial Williamsburg Fifes & Drums, the DAY Program, Quantico Marine Corps Band, Roanoke Symphony Orchestra & Chorus, New Fellowship Gospel Choir, and Virginia's Tribal Nations.

The evening concluded with a unique and breathtaking drone light show by Grucci, painting the night sky with dazzling colors and patterns, leaving everyone in awe. While traditional fireworks displays often cause anxiety to veterans, pets, and wildlife, these drones offered a quiet and environmentally friendly alternative.

The entire livestream of the celebration is available on the VA250 website, and I encourage you to check it out if you could not attend in person to experience the magic!

I hope to see you at a future VA250 event.

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## Data Center Zoning Amendment At Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Tuesday, July 16

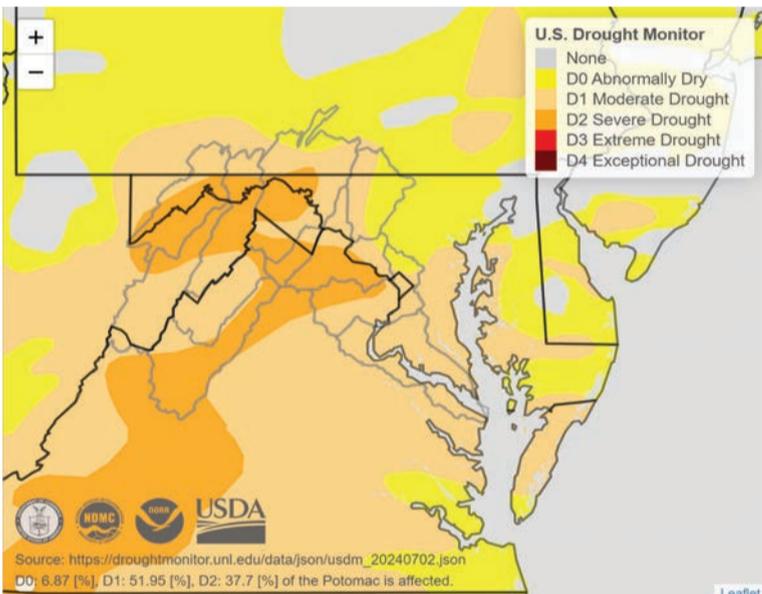
On Tuesday, July 16, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors scheduled multiple public hearings, including one on an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance of the 1976 Code of the County of Fairfax to revise the provisions regarding data center use. To learn more about it and other hearings that day, visit Agenda Documents, pages 1–3.

— MERCIA HOBSON

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SCREENSHOT DROUGHTMONITOR.UNL.ORG

According to the most recent U.S. drought monitor for the Potomac Watershed on July 2, areas in Northern Virginia entered D2, a severe drought. More heat, with little chance of rain, is predicted through this week.

## Low-flow Level on Potomac River Kicks off Monitoring

On Monday, July 8, the Potomac River flow at Point of Rocks dropped below 2,000 cubic feet per second. When a low-flow level below 2,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) occurs, CO-OP (the Cooperative Water Supply Operations on the Potomac) begins daily monitoring and reporting of Potomac flows and withdrawals on behalf of its providers, Fairfax Water, Washington Aqueduct, and WSSC Water, following the 1982 Water Supply Coordination Agreement. Local reservoirs remain full.

According to the CO-OP Data Portal “coordinates withdrawals from the Potomac River and off-river reservoirs and recommends releases from upstream reservoirs when forecasted flow in the river is not sufficient to meet expected needs,” reports CO-OP.

The Metro Washington Council of Governments (COG) issued its June 2024 Regional Drought and Water Supply Outlook, which includes the U.S. Drought Monitor, streamflow, groundwater, and monthly precipitation. The report is available to download. COG will continue closely monitoring conditions and convene the Drought Coordination Technical Committee as needed.

— MERCIA HOBSON

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# SAVE THE PLANET STARTING WITH YOUR YARD



Planners clumped plants of the same species together, easier for bumblebees to navigate, at the Mount Vernon Government Center.



The Friends of Dyke Marsh have removed invasive plants like English ivy and planted over 4,000 native plants in the preserve, like this Joe Pye weed which attracts native bees and butterflies.

## Moving from Lawns to Eco-friendly Gardening

FROM PAGE 4

landscaping offer multiple benefits, like cost savings, less maintenance and a healthier, more biodiverse environment. Conservation landscaping encourages native plants, those that naturally occur in a region and have evolved to survive in local conditions. With this evolutionary advantage, they have adapted natural defenses to local challenges like drought and pests. Non-native plants have few natural controls.

Native wildlife need the native plants with which they co-evolved. Wildlife like insects, birds and small mammals depend on those plants for food, cover and rearing young. Many insects are specialized to feed and reproduce only on certain native plants, called host plants. Birds need those insects to feed their young.

Over 40 percent of the world's insect species face possible extinction according to a 2019 study in Biological Conservation. "Insects are the little things that run the world," said the late entomologist

Dr. E. O. Wilson. Without them, the food web would collapse.

As a monoculture, "Turf offers little or no wildlife habitat compared to the diversity of plants found in an existing forest," says the Community Forestry Network.

"Lawns ... have very little benefit for wildlife," wrote Dr. Mark Hostetler, University of Florida.

Unlike grass which has shallow roots extending only one to two inches into the soil, most native plants have deeper root systems. Native plants can help prevent erosion and by reaching deeper into the soil, can also be more drought tolerant than invasive plants.

Betsy Martin Co-Director of the Audubon at Home program, Audubon Society of Northern Virginia, says, "Native plants come in all sizes and sorts, and can be suited to every garden situation and anybody's taste, whether informal or formal. Native plants are adapted to our Virginia soils and climate, and many are almost impervious to drought. That means that a homeowner can create a native

garden that requires minimal watering and no fertilizer."

University of Delaware entomologist Douglas Tallamy challenges, "Everyone who owns land has a golden opportunity to enhance, rather than degrade, local ecosystems by including ecological function as a criterion when we choose plants."

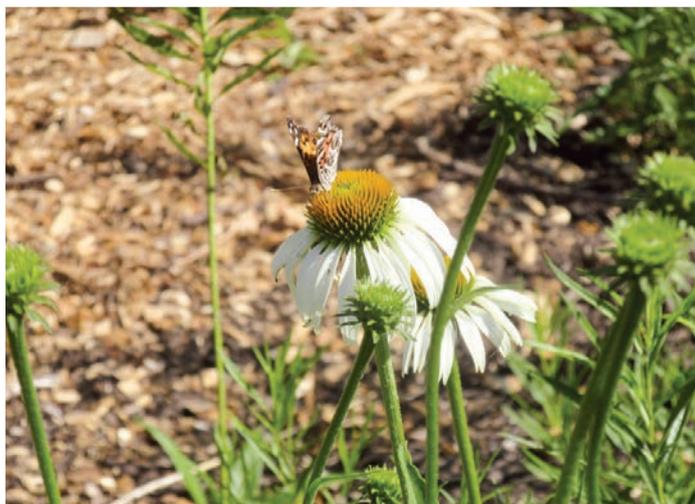
### How to "De-lawn"

- ❖ Reduce grassy areas by expanding existing beds with native plants. Cover grass with a tarp, weed cloth or cardboard not treated with any harmful chemicals.
- ❖ Plant native, drought-tolerant plants. Avoid non-native plants.
- ❖ Install rain barrels. Reuse water.
- ❖ Mulch with leaves, grass clippings and pine needles to retain soil moisture. Leave the leaves in the fall.
- ❖ Mow high between 3.5 to 4 inches and let grass clippings return nutrients to the soil.
- ❖ Avoid pesticides, rodenticides and insecticides.



PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH

The American Horticultural Society in Mount Vernon recently installed a native plant garden.



Native plants at the American Horticultural Society's native plant garden attract native butterflies like this American lady.

### More on Eco-friendly Gardening

- ❖ Find Native Plants, [www.plantnonatives.org](http://www.plantnonatives.org), <https://nativeplantfinder.nwf.org/Plants>
- ❖ Conservation Gardening, <https://www.audubonva.org/audubon-at-home> (free advisors will visit your home)
- ❖ Replacing Your Lawn, <https://blog.nwf.org/2024/04/grow-beyond-no-mow-may-options-for-reducing-your-lawn/>
- ❖ Drought <https://www.deq.virginia.gov/our-programs/water/water-quantity/drought>



Native plants like this leafcup or bear's foot are thriving along the Haul Road trail in the native plant area in Dyke Marsh.

# ENTERTAINMENT

## POTOMAC HARMONY OFFERS HARMONY & LEARNING!

**School may be out in June**, but the learning gets started on Wednesday nights at Potomac Harmony chorus rehearsals! Learn the art of 4-part harmony treble singing while experiencing the joy of ringing chords! Together, guests and members will rehearse new music and create harmonies lead by the expertise of our talented director Allison Lynskey. Potomac Harmony members are women and nonbinary individuals from all walks of life, live around the DMV, and have various levels of musical and singing experience. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings, 7- 9 p.m., at The View Alexandria, 5000 Fairbanks Avenue, Alexandria. Questions? Contact Jackie Bottash, backrowlead@aol.com.

## 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/>

## 34TH SEASON OF THE LYCEUM CHAMBER SERIES

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

## LIVING. BREATHING. MUSIC.

Featuring Anna Binneweg, Music Director, Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic  
Ulysses James, Music Director Laureate, Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic  
Alberto Rodriguez, Music Director, Washington Metropolitan Youth Orchestra  
Martin Garfield-Levine, Music Director, Washington Metropolitan Concert Orchestra  
Caroline Mousset, Executive and Artistic Planning Director

## MUSIC SCHEDULE

August 4: Alexandria Baroque  
Michael De Sapio, Baroque Violin  
John Armato, Lute, Baroque Guitar  
August 11: Tapestry Cello Ensemble  
August 18: Quodlibet, Flute/Clarinet/Bassoon  
August 25: Samuel Runolfson, Cello  
September 1: Michael De Sapio, Violin  
September 8: Hai Jin, Piano  
September 15: John Sutherland Earle: Piano & Friends

## LYCEUM CHAMBER SERIES

### SUMMER 2024 CONCERT SCHEDULE

July 14: Crystal Lee, Flute | Brittany Pemberton, Clarinet | Eunae Han, Piano  
Works by Emanuel, Debussy, Saint-Saëns, and Coleman  
July 21: Sasha Beresovsky, Piano  
July 28: Maxim Pakhomov, Piano  
Works by Schubert, Dvorák, Poulenc, and Rachmaninoff

## NOW THRU AUG. 4

**Curators' Selects - Artomatic 2024.** At the Athenaeum, Alexandria. Artists' Reception: Sunday, July 7, 4 — 6 p.m. Everyone applying to exhibit in Artomatic is accepted. Artomatic 2024, held this Spring in Washington, DC featured over 800 artists. In this Athenaeum show, three representatives of the Gallery selected several artists they had not been familiar with prior to visiting Artomatic. This



The City of Alexandria will celebrate its 275th birthday with fireworks on Saturday, July 13, 2024 at Oronoco Bay Park in Alexandria.



Alexandria Summer Sidewalk Sale takes place Saturday, Aug. 10, 2024 throughout Old Town Alexandria and Del Ray.



Alexandria Restaurant Week takes place Aug. 16-25, 2024 throughout Old Town Alexandria, Del Ray, Carlyle, Eisenhower and the West End.

exhibition features these artists and explains why the curators felt they merited wider recognition.  
Curators: Elizabeth Brown, Atheaneum Gallery Associate

Twig Murray, Athenaeum Gallery Director  
Veronica Szalus, Atheaneum Executive Director  
Their Selected Artists: Camron Anderson, Eric Celarier, Ellen Cornett, Louis Del Valle, Kim Dyer, Rita Elsner, Lewis Frances, Dennis

Goris, A.D. Herzel, Martha Holmes, Jenny Kanzler, Phyllis Mayes, Bryan Sieling, Candice Tavares, Christian Tribastone

## JUNE 1 TO AUG. 31

**Creative Summer Programs** is a series of workshops exploring the arts. Learn techniques in drawing, stone carving, jewelry, resin, mosaics, and more from local artists. Delve into creative exploration solo or with friends. Free and paid programs are offered. Sign up for what inspires you! Held at Del Ray Artisans (2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria) unless noted. Details: [DelRayArtisans.org/creative-summer](https://DelRayArtisans.org/creative-summer)

## MOUNT VERNON NIGHTS

### Friday and Saturday evenings at 7:30 p.m.

**At Grist Mill Park**  
4710 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria

Fridays at 7:30 p.m.

## JULY

12 Strutman Lane (Funk/Pop)  
19 Doc Robinson (Rock and Roll)  
26 Bio Ritmo (Salsa)

## AUGUST

2 Eastern Standard Time (Ska and Reggae)  
9 Project Locrea (World Music)  
16 Burn the Ballroom (Alternate Rock)  
23 Deanna Bogart (Blues, R&B)  
30 Melissa Qinn Fox (Country/Americana)

## AT WORKHOUSE ARTS CENTER

9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton  
Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.

## JULY

13 Robin and Linda Williams (Folk)  
20 Fast Eddie & The Slowpokes (Blues)  
27 Bela Dona Band (Funk/Jazz)

## AUGUST

3 The U.S. Air Force Strings (Alt-country/Roots rock)  
10 Ocho de Bastos (Latin/Pop)  
17 Alex Hamburger (Jazz)  
24 The U.S. Army Band Country Roads (Country)

## JUNE 6 TO AUG. 26

**"Nature's Spirit."** Nina Tisara's mosaics and Steven Halperson's photographs and etched copper will be exhibited in the Estate House at River Farm, 7931 East Boulevard Drive, Alexandria. The public is invited to an Opening Reception on Sunday, June 23, 2-4 p.m. (RSVP: [ninat@ninatisara.com](mailto:ninat@ninatisara.com)). The Estate House is open to the public 9 a.m.- 5 p.m., Monday - Friday and 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Saturdays. Since the Estate House will occasionally close for rental events the public is encouraged to call 703-768-5780, ext. 137, to be certain the exhibit is open for viewing.

## JUNE 29 TO JULY 21

**"American Psycho."** At Ainslie Arts Center, 3900 West Braddock Road, Alexandria. Monumental Theatre Company will stage Duncan Sheik and Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa's "American Psycho." Based on Bret Easton Ellis's 1991 novel of the same name, the musical follows protagonist Patrick Bateman. A suave young Wall Street banker, Patrick enjoys the finer things by day with his elite friends, but as night falls, his taste for darker pleasures threatens to uproot his normal facade. Tickets are: \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door, and \$10 for students using code STUDENT (must show ID). Visit <http://www.monumentaltheatre.org>.

## THURSDAY/JULY 11

**July Coffee and Connections.** 8:30-9:30 a.m. Above ALX, 277 S. Washington Street, Penthouse, Alexandria. The Chamber ALX's Professional Women's Network presents July Coffee & Connections. Hear from ALX Community Founding Partner & COO Kelly Grant who will share her incredible story! And of course, attendees will get to network with amazing women (and men) from around the region!

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

# Environmental Stewardship

FROM PAGE 3

tions and produced fewer greenhouse gas emissions in fiscal year 2023 than it has in any year since it started tracking data – a significant indicator in the county's efforts to become carbon neutral by 2040," it stated on the county website.

To reduce energy use and pollution, the county did things like investing in electric trash trucks and electric vehicles of other sorts, adopted solar energy at some of the new and existing buildings, and switched to encouraging reusable bags at the grocery stores, to name a few.

The county also asks for environmental help on the residential level and is recognizing good practices with the "2024 Environmental Excellence Awards," aimed at things that can be done for the local environment. They collected 16 award nominations this year, which is more than the 11-12 they received in the last four years of the program.

According to the award instructions, the county will recognize individuals, organizations, businesses and county employees who advance or support the county's environmental goals. The Environmental Excellence Awards are administered by the Environmental Quality Advisory Council with support from the Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination.

The county will announce the 2024 awards later this summer or in the fall, they said. The awardees receive a framed certificate and a glass globe award.

## Past Winners

Last year, the award winners included Mei Torrey, a Langley High School student who addressed the plastic shopping bag issue; Hugh Whitehead, an Urban Forester with the Urban Forest Management Division who conducted a tree planting event; Joseph Gorney who worked on designating Reston as "biophilic" community; and Craig Carinci at DPEWS who addressed stream health.

In the 2023 Organization and Business Category, the awards went to "Trace - The Zero Waste Store," in Vienna for a show their employee Mala Persaud co-hosts called "Recycling: Ask Me Anything."

The Montebello Condominium Unit Owners Association Grounds Committee was also recognized for their work on this community near Huntington.

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**Obituary**

**Obituary**

### Colleen Harvey

Colleen Harvey lived every day to the fullest, with a smile on her face. She left this world on June 16, 2024, surrounded by family. Her last days were full of stories, songs and love and she was ready to move into life beyond this world.

Born on August 19, 1963, in Pittsfield, Illinois, to Paul and Grace Link, Colleen spent her school years in Middleton, Wisconsin. The Link family enjoyed annual road trips sparking an interest in travel. She later settled in Virginia where she earned a bachelor's degree in Spanish from George Mason University.

Colleen and her beloved husband, Jim, married in March 2000. They shared a love of the sun and sea. Cape Hatteras was their favorite spot to spend time together with son, Cameron and their canine companion, Riley.

Colleen is survived by her husband, James Harvey; stepson Cameron Harvey; her parents, Paul and Grace Link; her sisters, Tamela (Blake) Johnson; Angela (David) Yang; and many nieces and nephews.

Colleen was an amazing woman. Her steadfast faith and positive attitude were forces with which could not be reckoned. Plymouth Haven Baptist Church was a source of strength and support for Colleen for many years. She is forever grateful for their love and guidance. After many years of battling diabetes and cancer, we know she is in a better place. We are so thankful for the time we had with our beloved Colleen.

A celebration of life will be held at 11:00 AM on August 10, 2024 at Plymouth Haven Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia.

If you would like to remember Colleen in a special way, contributions to the following organizations would be appreciated:

- Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation
- Alcoholics Anonymous
- The Salvation Army
- National Leiomyosarcoma Foundation

**Legals**

**Legals**

**DMV/MOTOR CARRIER SERVICES**

**Statement of Intent for Public Convenience & Necessity Certificate Application Publication**

July 2, 2024

Attn: Michael Telahun  
Aresema Care Transportation LLC  
4209 Evergreen Lane, Suite 101  
Annandale, VA 22003

RE: Case Number MC2400438PS

As an applicant for a DMV intrastate operating authority Public Convenience & Necessity Certificate, you are required to have a summary\* of the requested authority published in a newspaper having a general circulation in the proposed area to be served or area in which the primary business is located pursuant to the provisions of Va. Code § 46.2-2001.3 (D). Publication of a summary of the authority will be in the form of a Public Notice. **\*NOTE #1:** After your OA 141 application and other required documents have been accepted as being complete and accurate, DMV/Motor Carrier Services (MCS) will provide to you the content (i.e., the required wording) of the Public Notice. The Public Notice must be published **exactly** as it is provided to you by DMV/MCS!

Also, the Public Notice must be published in a newspaper at least one time, for one day, or in one issue. In most cases, the newspaper **may not** be a "free" publication and **must** be available to the general public for a fee and/or distributed to paying subscribers; however, if a free newspaper has been granted authority by the local Virginia Circuit Court to publish such notices, that newspaper may be utilized provided that such authority remains in effect at the time the notice is published.

Please make a decision regarding the newspaper in which you plan to have your Public Notice published; then complete the "CERTIFICATE APPLICANT'S STATEMENT OF INTENT" section below. DMV/MCS will attempt\*\* to confirm that the newspaper you have chosen meets the above-specified requirements and all requirements of Va. Code § 8.01-324 before you bear the expense of the publication. If inaccurate information is provided to DMV, you may be required to publish the Public Notice again. **\*\*NOTE #2:** If DMV is unsuccessful in obtaining confirmation, your Case Manager will notify you and request that you contact the newspaper and ask the newspaper to submit the required confirmation to DMV/MCS.

**CERTIFICATE APPLICANT'S STATEMENT OF INTENT**

I, Michael Telahun representing  
(Your printed name)  
Aresema Care Transportation LLC  
(Corporation, LLC, LP, or other business name)

will publish the above-referenced Public Notice in Mount Vernon Gazette  
(Name of newspaper)

Michael Telahun 7/7/2024  
(Signature) (Date)

2  
(Lead Time)

After completion, you may return this document to DMV/Motor Carrier Services by:

- E-mail → PIPER.SANDERS@dmv.virginia.gov
- Fax → (804) 367-1058
- Mail (via the United States Postal Service) → DMV, MOTOR CARRIER SERVICES – ROOM 608, ATTENTION: P. SANDERS, P. O. BOX 27412, RICHMOND, VA 23269

\* VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES • MOTOR CARRIER SERVICES ADMIN. • Orig. 07/17/2009 (DND) • Rev. 08/10/2011 (SDC)

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# ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 9

## JULY 13-14

### Del Ray Artisans' Summer Art Market 2024.

Saturday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. This is an indoor event featuring original creations by local artists in a variety of mediums, including ceramics, glass, jewelry, mixed media, photography, and more. Shop original work from local artists at Del Ray Artisans gallery at 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria — perfect for gifts or treat yourself! Different artists each market day, so visit both days. Details at [DelRayArtisans.org/summer-art-market-2024](http://DelRayArtisans.org/summer-art-market-2024)

## SATURDAY/JULY 13

**Free ASO Concert. 8:30 p.m.** At Oronco Bay Park, 100 Madison Street, Alexandria. The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra will present a free concert as part of the 275th Alexandria Birthday Celebration. The celebration, sponsored by the city and coordinated by the Department of Recreation and Parks and Cultural Activities, culminates with fireworks at 9:30 p.m. underscored by music from the ASO. The concert will include the Armed Forces Medley, film scores, and patriotic favorites. The grand finale will feature a spectacular fireworks display with Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture, accompanied by live cannons. The program will be led by ASO Maestro James Ross.

## SATURDAY/JULY 13

### Alexandria Historical Society Walking Tour.

9-11 a.m. Meet at the corner of Duke and West Streets, Alexandria. Fighting for Freedom and Protesting for Civil Rights: The U.S. Colored Troops in Civil War Alexandria. Step back in time with the Alexandria Historical Society (AHS) as Board Members lead a tour to explore the experiences of African American soldiers in our city during the Civil War. After President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, more than 200,000 African American men enlisted in the Union Army. The United States Colored Troops (USCT) valiantly fought for the freedom of those enslaved and changed the course of the war. With Alexandria occupied by the federal government and serving as a staging ground and supply center for the war effort, many USCT found themselves on the streets of our city. Often sent here for treatment of diseases or battleground injuries, some sadly succumbed to their illnesses, not living long in freedom. Tickets: Members \$15, Non-members \$25.

## SATURDAY/JULY 13

**Celebrate 275 years with Alexandria!** The City of Alexandria will celebrate its 275th and the USA's 248th birthday at Oronoco Bay Park (100 Madison St., Alexandria). The event includes live music by the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra and ends with the grand finale -- a fireworks display at 9:30 p.m. Admission is free.

## JULY 18-21

**The Lost Weekend Exhibit.** At Nepenthe Gallery, 7918 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Featuring the photography of May Pang, John Lennon's companion and lover. Few people knew John Lennon as intimately as May Pang. She was Lennon's lover during the infamous "Lost Weekend" which lasted 18 months during late 1973 through 1975. During this highly creative time for Lennon, Pang took candid photos of Lennon in a comfortable, relaxed environment. Pang will be in attendance at the Nepenthe Gallery, meeting customers and telling stories behind these photos for sale of John Lennon. Thursday, July 18 from 6-8 p.m., artist talk and opening reception. Visit the website [www.Nepenthe-Gallery.com](http://www.Nepenthe-Gallery.com)

## JULY 18-20

**250th Anniversary of the Fairfax Resolves.** History enthusiasts and patriots alike are invited to participate in the 250th Anniversary of the Signing of the Fairfax Resolves, a



Jane Franklin Dance's At Large Performance will take place on Friday, July 26, 2024 at The Athenaeum in Alexandria.

founding document authored by George Mason and adopted at a meeting chaired by George Washington on July 18, 1774. Events are hosted by the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) and are scheduled to take place in and around Alexandria, Virginia, where the resolves were adopted. Organized by the Fairfax Resolves Chapter of the SAR, events will highlight locations significant to the signers of the Fairfax Resolves document and will foster a deeper understanding of this document and its significance in shaping the United States as we know it today. For more information about specific events, visit [www.fairfaxresolves.org/public250](http://www.fairfaxresolves.org/public250)



May Pang's photography, The Lost Weekend Exhibit featuring John Lennon, can be seen July 18-21, 2024 at the Nepenthe Gallery in Alexandria.

## SCHEDULE:

### Thursday, July 18th

9:30 AM: Gunston Hall – George Mason Plaque Dedication Ceremony  
11:30 AM: Mount Vernon – Wreath Laying Ceremony and Program at the Tomb of George Washington  
3:00 PM: Pohick Church – 250th Commemoration of the Fairfax Resolves, Program and Plaque Unveiling Ceremony for the Signers with remarks by the historical figure Rev. Lee Massey  
6:00 PM: Market Square in Alexandria, Virginia – Alexandria 250 Commemoration of the Fairfax Resolves, Virginia 250 Road to Revolution Plaque Unveiling for the Fairfax Resolves, Keynote by Virginia 250 Chair Carly Fiorina, Mayoral Proclamation, George Washington and George Mason interpreters, Fife & Drum presentation

### Friday, July 19th

3:00 PM: Christ Church – Program, Plaque Unveiling for the Signers, and presentation of the Governor's Proclamation for the Fairfax Resolves 250th by the Secretary of the Commonwealth on behalf of the Governor of Virginia

### Saturday, July 20th

10:00 AM: George Washington Townhouse Alexandria, VA – Program and George Washington Plaque Dedication Ceremony

## SATURDAY/JULY 20

**Second Annual Best of the West.** 1-5 p.m. At Patrick Henry Recreation Center, 4653 Taney Ave., Alexandria. Best of the West is

a community event showcasing West End Business Association members and restaurant tastings! This event is open to everyone. It is a great opportunity to enjoy a day out in the community, get to know local business owners, and sample some of the best food that the West End has to offer.

## SATURDAY/JULY 20

**Mount Vernon Flea Market and Arts and Crafts Fair.** 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. At Mount Vernon Masonic Lodge #219, 8717 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Up to 45 vendors, inside and outside, great variety, refreshments on site and inside the lodge. Crafters, Artisans, Antique, Vintage, Collectibles, and neighbors downsizing with practical items/household, furniture, misc. This event takes place every third Saturday of the month from March to December. Next Dates: July 20, August 17, September 21, October 19, November 16, December 21 (+ bonus holiday market Dec 7 or 14). Visit the website: <https://mountvernonfleamarket.wordpress.com/>

## FRIDAY/JULY 26

**At Large Performance.** 7 p.m. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Jane Franklin Dance and Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association at the Athenaeum Present At Large. For the July performance at the Athenaeum, Jane Franklin Dance goes beyond the parameters of a single theme to reveal multiple viewpoints and to celebrate the communal whole of a fleeting moment in time.

## SATURDAY/JULY 27

**Beats, Bites & Brews - Summer Extravaganza.** 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. At John Carlyle Square, 300 John Carlyle St., Alexandria. Featuring Live Beats: Groove to the sounds of summer with live music performances that will set the perfect tone for your sun-soaked day; Delectable Bites: Indulge your taste buds with a variety of summer-inspired bites from local food vendors; Refreshing Brews: Quench your thirst with an array of cold beverages, including craft beers and refreshing summer cocktails in the Beer Garden; Summer Shopping: Explore local artisans and vendors offering a curated selection of summer goodies, from fashion finds to unique crafts.

## Karma is a B\*\*ch



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

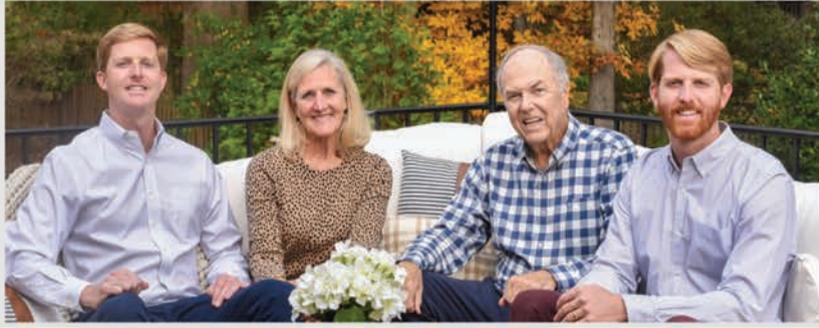
A few weeks back, in the second half of a column titled "Diversion Before Immersion," I went off topic and finished that initially cancer-centric column on a lighter note: back-in parking verses front-end parking. Let me state for the record, I will never back into a parking space unless there's a compelling reason to do so, the likes of which have not occurred since April-ish 1970 which was six months or so after my 16th birthday which then in Massachusetts made me eligible to apply for a driver's license.

This test required a written, multiple-choice exam followed by a driving test. The driving test involved using my car but with an MVA examiner sitting in the passenger seat directing me here or there. I believe my aversion and contempt for backward driving began on my driving test. I remember the fear circulation among us 11th graders concerned about the possibility of us novices having to parallel park without hitting the curb and/or much worse, having to perform a backwards 180 degree /three-point turn likewise without hitting a curb. The fear of successfully completing this element of my driving test has stuck with me all these many years.

Incredibly, amazingly, fortuitously - if that's even the correct word, it seemed the driving instructor who sat next me during my driving test had very little interest in requiring this brand-new-driver-to-be do anything behind the wheel of my car other than drive around a crowded parking lot and return it, headfirst, to its previous parking space. No backing up, no parallel parking, no three-point turn, nothing. The driving test was as easy as any 16 1/2 years old rookie driver could hope/imagine. Before I could even wipe the sweat from my brow, I was standing in line inside the MVA waiting for my new driver's license to be printed (no picture back then).

The reason I led you regular readers on this jaunt down my memory lane is as context for what just happened to me (while behind the wheel), in my local Giant Food parking lot. Naturally I head-first parked opposite another car - so I couldn't pull through, nevertheless I parked and went about my business. When I returned, I immediately noticed that there was no longer any car in front of me blocking my forward exit. I eagerly opened my car door and quickly sat down in the driver's seat. I then buckled my seat belt and looked up as I pressed the start-engine button. At that very moment of anticipation of being able to drive forward and not have to back up to leave, another car began backing into the space opposite me preventing me from driving forward to exit, number one; and number two, doing so by backing in, the nerve. All I could do was sit and watch. Though I wasn't hurt in the incident, it definitely felt like insult was being added to injury. All I could do was shake my head and say for the millionth time how much I don't get the whole backing-in thing. What's the benefit, exactly? The extra time it takes to back in is equivalent to the time it takes us head-in parkers to back out (no empirical study, just anecdotally) so where's the advantage I've been told exists by backers in? I was never more convinced of this folly then I was as I sat in my car and waited/watched for this driver to carefully back in while not touching the three cars that surrounded his space. Maybe if my driver's license test had been a bit more vigorous, I wouldn't have such disdain for back-in parkers? No. I still would.

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



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