

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

JULY 18, 2024



Rising Hope's Kitchen Associate, Art Markel works with long time Rising Hope member and volunteer Susan Cline, to prepare plates for guests as they come in for a day lunch.



Guests and Volunteers join together for a meal in the fellowship hall following a recent worship service. This is one of 6 lunches offered throughout the week.

Refuge from the Searing Heat: Rising Hope Mission Church

By GLENDA C. BOOTH
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

Last week, as people baked in a suffocating heat wave, Kameron Wilds found a shirtless gentleman in his 60s, keeled over with his head almost touching the scorching blacktop and going in and out of alertness. He had adhesive patches on his chest where hospital monitors had been attached.

Wilds, pastor at Rising Hope Mission Church just off U.S. 1, invited the man to get in the bus that Wilds drives every Sunday to take churchgoers home. Wilds asked, "Do



The sign at Rising Hope Mission Church.

you still have shelter?" "A few more days," the man answered.

"This heat will kill you. You can't stay out



Rev. Kameron Wilds in the church's greenhouse.

**"This heat will kill you.
You can't stay out here."
— Rev. Kameron Wilds**

here," Wilds told him.

In an interview, Wilds said, "We see that all the time. This is what happens when you run out of options."

New Cooling Center

On July 15, Rising Hope opened a new, year-round, drop-in center at the church at 8220 Russell Road. From 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Monday through Friday people can go

there to escape the weather and generally hang out, sit in a chair, take a nap, interact with staff and volunteers, get snacks and play board games.

When Fairfax County announces an emergency heat day, the county typically offers public buildings to people, places like libraries and schools, Wilds explained. These measures are helpful, but the facilities are not staffed to provide support services.

"They are not welcoming," Wilds said. "Someone who's been sweating outside for three days likely has poor hygiene. When they arrive at a government building with all



The church provides fellowship and many services to people without housing and people in need.

SEE RISING HOPE, PAGE 4

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OPEN SUN 7/21, 2-4

Mount Ida | \$2,395,000

Improved value! Built in 2008, this home has been recently updated. There is flex space throughout on 4 levels with 5-7 bedrooms—including main-level primary suite and an in-law/nanny suite—great gathering rooms, and separate private spaces. 3107 Russell Road
Janet Caterson Price 703.622.5984
www.JanetPriceHomes.com



Mount Ida | \$1,650,000

Period details meet chic style in this renovated and spacious expanded 1929 Colonial. Cottage garden curb appeal with indoor and outdoor entertaining spaces. Gorgeous open plan designer kitchen features Wolf, SubZero, & Bosch appliances. 3113 Russell Road
Julie Novak 703.719.1141
JNovak@mceneaney.com



OPEN SAT 7/20 & SUN 7/21, 12-2

Fairfax Station | \$1,500,000

This spectacular home has been customized and updated, while also maintaining the historic integrity. Prime location on a tree-lined road in Fairfax Station near Route 123 is close enough for convenience, far enough for peace and quiet. 9111 Mountain Valley Road
Jillian Hogan Homes 703.951.7655
www.JillianHoganHomes.com



Varsity Park | \$925,000

This deceptively large rambler boasts 5 bedrooms, 3 full bathrooms, and 1 half bathroom and offers a unique opportunity for spacious 1 level living. Features the added bonus of a full basement; 2 walk out entrances and is situated on a large .28 acre lot. 1425 Knox Place
AJ Heidmann 703.474.1260
www.AJHeidmann.com



OPEN SAT, 7/20 & SUN 7/21, 12-2

Washington, DC | \$900,000

Perfectly located home on a large corner lot down the street from the Arboretum. Enjoy living in the District combined with the lot space of suburbia. Across the street from restaurants, gyms, Target, coffee shops, gas stations, and so much more! 2122 Rand Place NE
Jillian Hogan Homes 703.951.7655
www.JillianHoganHomes.com



White Oaks | \$849,000

This exquisite 4-bedroom, 3-bathroom, 2-level brick home on a quiet cul-de-sac features hardwood floors, a large deck, 2 wood-burning fireplaces, and a fenced-in yard. Close to Metro, I-495, Ft. Belvoir, Old Town, Huntley Meadows Park, and more. 7200 Popkins Farm Road
Wendy Santantonio 703.625.8802
www.WendySantantonio.com



OPEN SUN 7/21, 2-4

Old Town \$1,425,000

Renovated brick 1818 townhouse full of historic charm. High-end kitchen, baths, and HVAC system; original heart pine floors, 5 fireplaces, amazing built-ins, woodwork, and high ceilings. Main floor mahogany deck overlooks storybook garden. Move-in ready. 1110 Prince Street

Gordon Wood www.GordonWoodRealtor.com
Paul Anderson 703.408.0676



OPEN 7/18, 5-7; 7/20, 2-4 & 7/21, 1-4

Old Town Village \$1,255,000

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Lisa Groover 703.919.4426
www.LisaGroover.com



OPEN SUN 7/21, 1-4

Featherstone Shores | \$750,000

This home has been extensively expanded over the years, featuring 9' ceilings on main and upper levels! Great room with floor-to-ceiling stone fireplace, gourmet kitchen, large sunroom, 4 bedrooms, 3.55 baths. Steps to Occoquan Bay! 1106 Linden Street

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Make Streets Safer for All

The Northern Virginia Families for Safe Streets group is on the lookout for traffic mishaps.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

On the Northern Virginia Families for Safe Streets map, there are many dots representing crashes and deaths in the Mount Vernon area, mostly along Richmond Highway. There are a few on the GW Parkway as well. Once again, this reveals Richmond Highway as a dangerous corridor, which is nothing new in the traffic analysis world.

On one level, there is the Virginia Department of Transportation's efforts redesigning intersections and implementing new cross-walk patterns, and on another level, there's Mike Doyle, a member of the Northern Virginia Families for Safe Streets, who thinks this area deserves more attention.

"It's a classic 1960s type of road," he said, pointing out the limited safe crossing places and the high speeds of the traffic. "There's lots of things that could be done," he added. In his view, VDOT and FCDOT should do more.

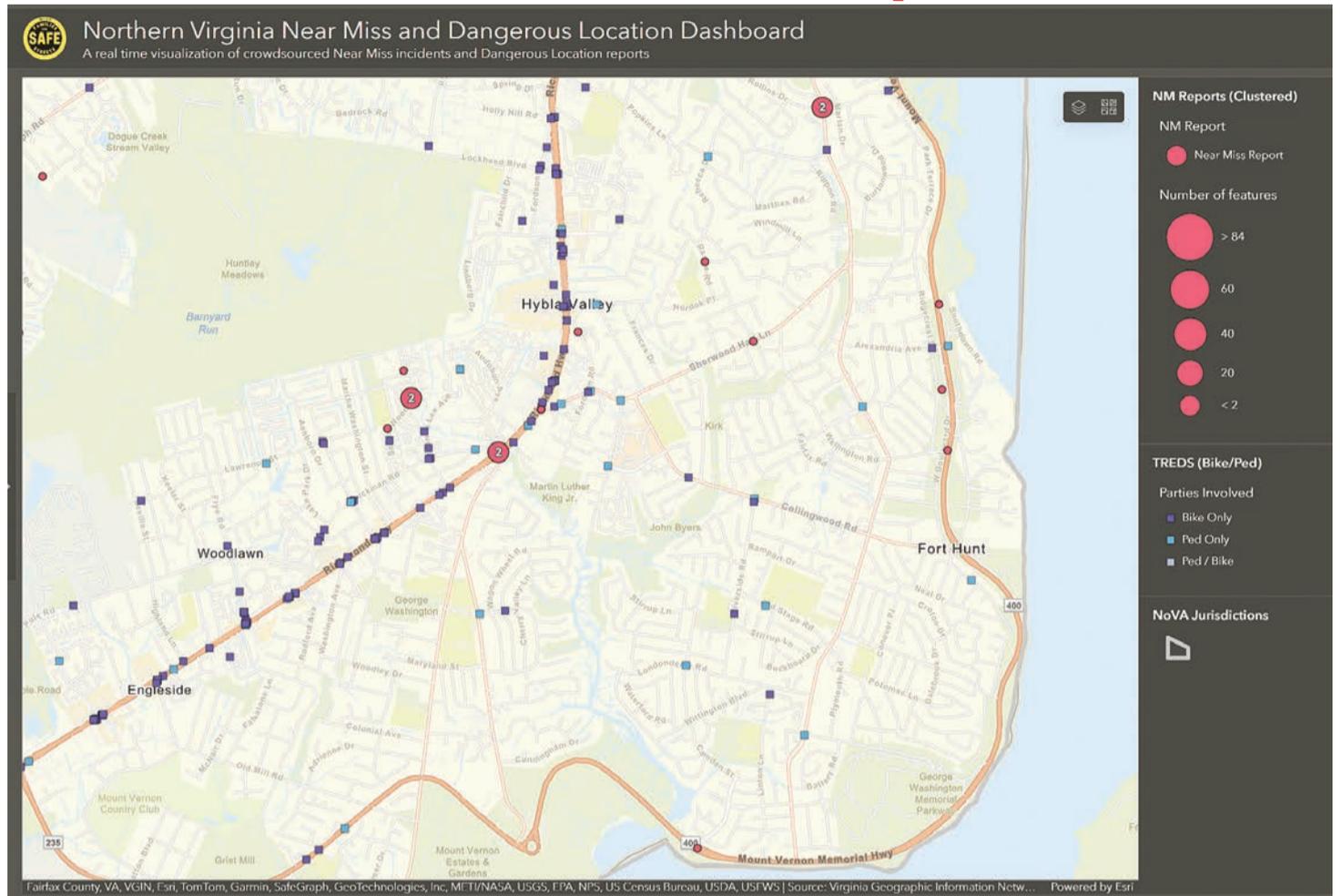
The Families for Safe Streets maintains a 'near-miss' map and the dots are sites of near-miss events where someone could have gotten killed. For example, there's a near-miss dot on Sherwood Hall Lane where the pedestrian reported an incident occurred on June 5 between 12-3 pm. "Yesterday I was coming home from Costco and was coming out of the WalMart parking lot driving across Route 1. I had a green light and almost got side swiped from someone turning right at a high rate of speed to my right. That turn lane is curved so there is no reason to slow down. There is also a crosswalk there which is extremely dangerous for pedestrians. My husband came through there a little later and almost had the same thing happen to him. I am very hopeful that this problem will be fixed with the EMBARK process on the corridor," the person reported.

A block north, there was another close call back in March. It was another issue where there was speeding and a person in the crosswalk. "We need speed cameras, better light in some streets on Richmond Hwy, better crosswalks, speed bumps, etc," they wrote. There are similar dots all up and down the highway.

Northern Virginia Families for Safe Streets is an all-volunteer group battling against pedestrian and cyclist fatalities and injuries caused by motor vehicle drivers. Doyle is the president and the representative for Alexandria along with Norman S. Lisy, while Michelle Brydges is the rep in Arlington, and Sonya Breehey in Fairfax. Lisy is also the treasurer and Brian Shankman is the vice president. They consider themselves "the squeaky wheel" with the Virginia Department of Transportation.

The Northern Virginia Families for Safe Streets is an all-volunteer organization and the instances are reported voluntarily, so many of the near-miss opportunities could go unreported. FSS is moving forward nonetheless, meeting regularly with Supervisors Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon) and Rodney Lusk (D-Franconia).

Doyle is aware of EMBARK Richmond www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Richmond Highway Has Another Set of Eyes On It

MAP BY NORTHERN VIRGINIA FAMILIES FOR SAFE STREETS

Highway project for the future promoted by Supervisor Storck. The development project includes starting with a Bus Rapid Transit line going down the center of Richmond Highway, but that is still years away. Short-term fixes could be done on a limited budget, FSS says, and those fixes could include speed cameras and lighting, but these start with awareness of the issue and that's where the group comes in.

They have four graduate students working on a project investigating some of the collisions so the data from this project could be used as a foundation for further funding some of these fixes, but that remains to be seen.

They have picked out some hot-spots where attention is needed, and it starts with Buckman Road, Radford Avenue, Boswell Avenue and Brevard Court off Richmond Highway, right near New Hope Housing and the Gerry Hyland Government Center. That seems to be a stretch where there is a lot of residential sections where people might try to cross this busy road. There are signalized crossings all through this area, but if someone is crossing 200 yards up the street, many go for the dash across when it seems feasible rather than walking to a crosswalk.

Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon) has been involved with the safety on Richmond Highway, including work with Street Smart, the Road Shark Campaign and the speed limit.



Another phase of the Fairfax County Police Department's Road Shark, program is set to begin in August.

"I look forward to continuing to work with community groups like Northern Virginia Families for Safe Streets on this issue. Our office is committed to helping spread awareness of their Near Miss Dashboard and to looking at adding speed cameras to the highway during the widening and BRT construction," Storck said.

Police Involvement

The police are out there writing tickets to slow down the traffic in a program

called Road Shark. In June, FCPD's Road Shark campaign wrapped up its third wave issuing over 8,500 citations and warnings, with over 200 citations for reckless driving. Road Shark is a strategic initiative focused on enhancing visibility, enforcement and educational activities to combat aggressive driving, minimize traffic incidents, and foster positive changes in driving behavior, the FCPD description read. Wave four of Road Shark will begin on Aug. 5.

Refuge from the Searing Heat: Rising Hope Mission Church



Former, now retired, Rising Hope pastor Rev. Keary Kincannon and current pastor, Rev. Kameron Wilds in the fellowship hall. They minister to the least, lost, lonely and left out, they say.

FROM PAGE 1

their belongings, they worry about how they will be perceived,” he says. “Rising Hope has created a space of dignity. We say, ‘This space is for you.’”

Except for the Eleanor Kennedy Shelter at 9155 Richmond Highway, the church’s drop-in will be the only drop-in place available during the week in southeastern Fairfax County.

Wilds elaborates, “While they are here, we can offer them dignity, community and access to resources. It’s not just about getting out of the heat. It’s about finding community and finding resources to assist them along the way.” Wilds expects to see between 40 to 50 folks a day.

Rising Hope helps people experiencing homelessness and poverty, by also serving lunch to around 50 people a day and providing food to more than 300 families a week from their market. Staff and volunteers help people access services, like housing and health care.

A recent grant will also enable Rising

Hope to help nearly 100 families stay in their homes through rent and utility relief and support a new staffer to handle emergency services, particularly focusing on the continuum of care post-emergency.

Wilds recently wrote, “This and many other byproducts of homelessness need not and should not be in a country like ours and yet, as a recent SCOTUS decision has demonstrated, the realities only seem to be getting harder.” He was referencing the June 28 U.S. Supreme Court decision that decided it is constitutional to arrest or fine homeless people for sleeping in public spaces when no shelter space is available.

“The solution to homelessness isn’t criminalization for being without shelter,” Wilds wrote to supporters last week. “It’s options of affordable housing coupled with robust touch points along the continuum of care. The poor are not problems. The poor are people experiencing the problems of a society whose main objective is always increasing the bottom line.”



Rising Hope’s Emergency Services Coordinator, Maritza Zermeño, helps guests register for additional services such as the Food Market.

To Help

Rising Hope welcomes donations and volunteers to interact with their congregants, help them find services and other tasks. Visit www.risinghopeumc.org.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Alexandria Families for Safer Streets - Executive Assistant to AFSS Board of Directors. The agency is seeking an executive assistant to help coordinate a diverse group of tasks necessary to keep us on track and moving forward. Someone with office manager skills would be the ideal candidate. www.volunteeralexandria.org
ALIVE! Volunteers are needed

to assist with multiple programs relating to their Food Program, ALIVE! House, and Alexandria Eviction Prevention Partnership Program will distribute food at Mobile Pop-ups and Truck to Trunk events, etc. <https://www.volunteeralexandria.org/ALIVE>
Assistance League of Northern Virginia is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that feeds, clothes and provides reading assistance and books to children in need. Assistance League’s programs touch the lives of hundreds of children in Fairfax and Prince William Counties and the City of Alexandria. There are many volunteer opportunities for community members to contribute to

helping those in need. To learn more, email info@alnv.org, or visit www.alnv.org.
Join Friends’ Board. Those who care about mental health, the Alexandria community, and collaborating with fellow residents to make sure the City’s most vulnerable residents have a chance to thrive, then consider joining the Board of Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center. The Friends Board is an all-volunteer group of residents that oversees the administration of one of Alexandria’s top mental health charities. Friends has no paid staff, so Board members, working on average 10 hours per month, share the day-to-day work needed to accomplish

its goals. Interested candidates should email FriendsofAMHC@gmail.com.
STEM Professionals Needed. Help assist K-12 STEM teachers as part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science’s STEM Volunteer Program, stemvolunteers.org, during the 2018-19 school year. In the 2017-18 school year, there are 85 volunteers in 6 Northern Virginia school districts. Contact Don Rea at 571-551-2488, or donaldrea@aol.com.
ALIVE! offers numerous programs that aid low-income families in Alexandria that rely on volunteers: monthly food distributions, furniture, houseware and emergency food deliveries, and community

food drives. Individuals, families and groups are encouraged to participate. Students can earn community service hours by participating. Visit www.alive-inc.org/volunteer.htm or contact the Volunteer Coordinator at volunteers@alive-inc.org.
Volunteer Drivers Needed. Drivers needed by the American Cancer Society to take cancer patients to treatment in Northern Virginia. To volunteer, call 1-800-227-2345 or go to cancer.org/drive.
Farmer’s Market Volunteers Needed. To volunteer for the Farmer’s Markets, email Brian Morreale, brianmorreale@gmail.com

SENIOR LIVING

Fighting Fraud for Older Americans

Last year the Federal Trade Commission recorded \$10 Billion in reported fraud from U.S. consumers. Because fraud is underreported, actual losses are much higher.

While education empowers older Americans to protect themselves, more is needed to eliminate this large-scale problem. AARP advocates for bipartisan laws and regulations to strengthen consumer protections against scams on everything from illegal robocalls, to gift card regulations to cryptocurrency scams and more. This work is done in state legislatures across the country, in Congress and at the White House.

Earlier this year AARP joined White House officials and industry leaders in a meeting aimed at helping the federal government fight back against the use of artificial intelligence-enabled voice cloning to commit fraud. A virtual White House conference followed in June, with AARP again at the table. With fraud already at an epidemic level, the addition of AI powered scams is alarming,

which is why AARP is focused on advocating for a strong legislative response to this threat.

Already this year the Federal Communications Commission has moved to make it illegal to use AI voice cloning in robocalls targeting consumers. As a result, a scammer who cloned President Joe Biden's voice to deceive voters in New Hampshire was recently fined \$6 million.

If you can spot a scam, you can stop a scam.

The AARP Fraud Watch Network is a free resource for all. Learn how to proactively spot scams or get guidance if you've been targeted. Visit aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork or call our dedicated helpline to speak to a fraud specialist at 1-877-908-3360.

With about 1 million members in Virginia, AARP is the largest organization working on behalf of people age 50-plus and their families in the Commonwealth. On Facebook at www.facebook.com/aarpvirginia and follow @AARPVa on X at www.X.com/aarpva.

Amelia Heart & Vascular Center is pleased to introduce

Dr. Daniel Gates



As the newest addition to our Cardiology team, Dr. Gates specializes in treating various cardiovascular conditions, including coronary artery disease, congestive heart failure, and arrhythmias such as atrial fibrillation, supraventricular tachycardia, and premature ventricular beats. Dr. Gates is a member of the American College of Cardiology and holds board certification in Cardiovascular Medicine. Originally from Pennsylvania, Dr. Gates has called Northern Virginia home since 2011. He obtained his undergraduate education at Pennsylvania State University. Following his graduation from PSU, he attended medical school at Uniformed Services University in Bethesda and ultimately completed cardiology fellowship training at Walter Reed.

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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HEAT ISLANDS



The drought has resulted in parched lawns like this one on Sherwood Hall Lane.



The parking lot at Mount Vernon Square Center on U.S. 1.



In June, builders destroyed many mature trees on a wooded lot in Mount Vernon to make way for a new house.

Heat Wave Grips the Area, Amplifies Heat Islands

Neighborhoods impacted by poverty and which have a high percentage of minority residents average several degrees hotter because of the absence of trees.

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
THE GAZETTE

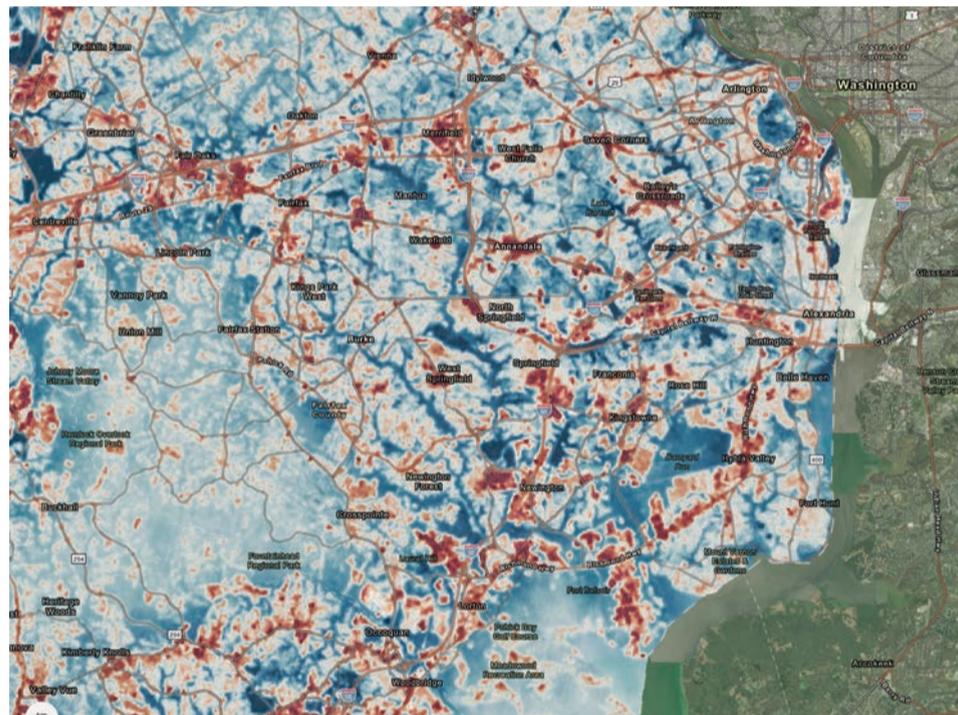
This summer's sweltering sauna is inflicting much discomfort around the region as heat indexes frequently exceed 100 degrees Fahrenheit. On July 8, CNN headlined, "Persistent Heat Wave in the US Shatters New Records."

Heat-related illnesses have risen in the region.

"Fairfax County has had the highest number of illnesses this season," reported WUSA on June 27. On July 8, the county activated its emergency heat plan offering tips and cooling assistance.

Heat Islands

Areas with hard surfaces and structures and few mature trees can be one to seven degrees Fahrenheit hotter during the day and one to five degrees warmer at night than "greener" areas, a phenomenon called "the heat island effect." EPA explains: "Structures such as buildings, roads and other infrastructure absorb and re-emit the sun's heat more than natural landscapes such as forests and water bodies. ... pavements or roofing tend to reflect less solar energy and absorb and emit more of the sun's heat compared to trees, vegetation and other natural surfaces. ... Human activities like vehicles, air condi-



CREDIT: NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

This map shows heat islands in Northern Virginia.

tioning and industrial operations also emit heat into the urban environment."

A Warmer Fairfax County

"The climate in Fairfax County is becoming warmer, wetter and weirder," says Mat-

thew Meyers, Division Manager, Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination. "Extreme heat, flooding, severe storms and other changing hazards repeatedly impact our neighborhoods, infrastructure, services and natural resources." The county's 2022



Sign at Walt Whitman Middle School on July 8, 2024.

Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan says, "Fairfax County, Virginia is already feeling the effects of climate change, including more severe storms, increased flooding and amplified extreme heat." And the plan predicts more frequent heat waves, among other impacts.

Northern Virginia's ever-metastasizing expanse of development, roads, parking lots, roofs and other surfaces increase land surface temperatures in some areas. The Northern Virginia Regional Commission has mapped the heat island effect in Northern Virginia at <https://www.novaregion.org/1509/Urban-Heat-Islands>. It shows, for example, the U.S. 1 area as a hot corridor.

SEE HEAT ISLANDS, PAGE 7



Woodland sunflowers and rhododendrons are struggling in the heat.



Construction crews and others have to work in the heat.

HEAT ISLANDS

FROM PAGE 6

Vulnerable People

The county's climate and vulnerability index shows that 12 percent of its 1.15 million people and 27 percent of "vulnerable populations" are at risk during extreme heat periods. Hot weather can exacerbate existing vulnerabilities and disproportionately impact vulnerable populations. The county's study found,

"The Fairfax County population in general is highly exposed to extreme heat. Both the general population and the vulnerable populations received the maximum exposure score of three."

On vulnerability, the analysis says, "Based on available information, the general population in Fairfax County is estimated to have a moderately high total vulnerability to extreme heat. The vulnerable populations are estimated to have very high total vulnerability to extreme heat."

Some people cannot escape to air conditioned buildings, like people who work outside. On July 8, the Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions requested window air conditioners for some residents of the Harmony Place Mobile Home Park on U.S. 1

Trees Lower Temperatures

Increasing tree canopy coverage "is one of the most effective heat mitigation strategies," the resiliency report contends, but tree cover varies greatly.

American Forests developed tree equity scores for 200,000 U.S. urban neighborhoods. They found that neighborhoods impacted by poverty and which have a high percentage of minority residents average several degrees hotter because of the absence of trees.

In a May 21, 2024, memo to the Board of Supervisors, County Executive Bryan J. Hill reported that the county's tree canopy cover increased by three percent between 2012 and 2021, an overall increase from 52 to 55 percent, to 138,866 acres. The county's goal is 60 percent tree canopy cover. Staff estimate that 18 percent of land is a "possible planting area" and 27 percent of the county an "unsuitable planting area."

Despite this increase, Hill's memo acknowledges the assessment's shortcomings: "Staff remain cognizant that changes in

forest composition, loss of mature trees and increased abundance of invasive plants are not fully accounted for in the study," adding, "The data set primarily measures the spatial extent of tree cover and is less effective in assessing qualitative aspects of the forest ecosystem."

Fairfax County uses the vulnerability index to prioritize tree planting and other activities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, notes Meyers.

What Can Be Done

To address these challenges, county officials cite their goal of 60 percent tree canopy, tree planting, the resilience and climate plans, comprehensive plan and urban design guideline updates and the One Fairfax policy, a commitment by the county to consider equity in county programs, policies and services.

The Board of Supervisors has reduced parking requirements in certain areas and requires trees in some parking lots for both county and private projects.

Stewart Schwartz, Executive Director of the Coalition for Smarter Growth, has suggestions: "We recommend planting street trees and partnering with nonprofits and landlords to plant trees in apartment complexes.

"A major contributor to heat is the acres of wide roads and large parking lots resulting from the car-dependent development pattern. We've pressed for an end to road widenings and for large arterial roads to be converted to tree-lined boulevards with dedicated busways and bikeways. In addition, the redevelopment of commercial strip malls and their large parking lots is an opportunity to remove hard surfaces, replacing them with tree lined streets, green roofs, and larger forested stream buffers in return for developers building taller buildings."

Ann Bennett, the Sierra Club's Great Falls Group Land Use Chair, recommends, "strategically reducing large areas of asphalt and concrete and enhancing them with tree cover; providing cooling shelters; ensuring easy access to water; and providing increased green, open space or mini-parks as a respite for residents and pets. Planners should prioritize investment in neighborhoods and commercial areas deficient in cooling protections for those who need it most."

Information

Heat Islands in Northern Virginia, <https://www.novaregion.org/1509/Urban-Heat-Islands>
 Tree Equity, <https://www.treeequityscore.org/map#10.72/38.9071/-76.8208>
 Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan, <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/environment-energy-coordination/cecap>

Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan, <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/environment-energy-coordination/resilient-fairfax>

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CALENDAR

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VDOT Virginia Department of Transportation

Public Notice

Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

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

Jurisdiction	Fed Struc Id	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Posted Date
SCOTT	16925	803	STAGE LANE	COVE CREEK	7/1/2024
ALBEMARLE	840	745	ARROWHEAD VALLEY ROAD-ROUTE 745	BRANCH MOORES CREEK	6/24/2024
BEDFORD	2832	699	BORE AUGER ROAD- ROUTE 699	BR. OF BORE AUGER CREEK	6/21/2024
DINWIDDIE	6050	624	HILLS DRIVE	WHITE OAK CREEK	6/20/2024
SCOTT	16905	732	ROUTE 0732	BRANCH	6/20/2024
LUNENBURG	11662	671	REEDY CREEK ROAD	BRANCH OF REEDY CREEK	6/17/2024
TAZEWELL	18573	627	ROUTE 627	INDIAN CREEK	6/12/2024
ROANOKE	15109	777	FT LEWISCHURCH ROAD- ROUTE 777	STYPES BRANCH	6/12/2024

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

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

Notices regarding bridges and culverts with new or updated weight restrictions are published monthly by VDOT. For additional information or questions, please contact haulingpermits@vdot.virginia.gov.

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

General Assembly's Ongoing Efforts To Protect Air Quality

BY SENATOR SCOTT SUROVELL
(D-MOUNT VERNON)



Protecting Virginia's air quality by reducing greenhouse gases has been a priority of mine since I was first elected to the General Assembly in 2009. This year, both the House and the Senate took steps to address this issue.

However, Governor Youngkin exercised his power to veto some of our actions. Does that mean that Virginia will be stymied in reducing greenhouse gases for the next two years?

No. The General Assembly has considerable power to continue to move policy initiatives. Here's a description of how that played out in the back-and-forth of the 2024 legislative session.

The Governor's efforts to remove Virginia from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) probably captured the most attention. RGGI is a regional compact created by states in the Northeast to combat the air pollution that has been linked to climate change. Under RGGI, participating states first set a limit on the CO2 emissions allowed in their state. Power plants must buy allowances for every ton of carbon they emit. Those funds are then returned to the state for a variety of green energy projects.

Virginia joined RGGI in 2020, under a law that was passed by both houses of the General Assembly that required funds to be allocated towards flooding resiliency projects

and energy efficiency. The law has never been repealed and Virginia received over \$700 million for flood prevention projects and energy efficiency such as insulating and weatherizing homes.

In addition, according to an analysis of the public health impact of RGGI, carbon dioxide emissions in the region have declined by more than 50% while the regional economy has continued to grow.

However, Governor Youngkin announced from the start of his term that he wanted Virginia out of the interstate compact and he attempted to pull Virginia out in 2023. He was immediately sued and the legality of his action is currently pending in court. In the end-of-session budget negotiations, funding to force the Governor to follow the law and follow RGGI was removed as part of the compromise with the Governor that eventually led to passage of our biennial budget.

At the same time, the Governor vetoed my bill SB279, which would have created a Virginia Clean Energy Innovation Bank that would allow Virginia access over \$350 billion of low interest federal loans to finance public and private clean energy projects, investments in reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and similar efforts. The bill had passed both houses with bipartisan majorities.

The Governor also vetoed my SB329, another

measure designed to reduce greenhouse gases by promoting composting as a way to reduce methane consistent with Governor Youngkin's composting executive order. That bill passed the Senate 21-19 and the House 84-13.

Virginia still has the ability to move forward on reducing greenhouse gases. The General Assembly is taking action in other ways.

The budget we passed includes \$100 million to take on the kinds of projects that were previously funded by RGGI such as \$231 million to promote environmental management on farms and \$400 million for bonds to upgrade local sewer treatment facilities.

In addition, several of my bills promoting alternative energy were passed into law and signed by the Governor. SB508 will make it easier for Virginia consumers to receive payments from Virginia utilities when they install and use geothermal heating and cooling systems. For energy consumers who want to take advantage of solar power but cannot install a rooftop solar panel, my SB 253 and 255 will make it easier to participate in a "shared solar" program—receiving a credit on their electric bill for an off-site solar generation facility.

The members of the General Assembly will continue to work to bring Virginia back into RGGI. That may take another legislative session or another Governor, but we are not walking away from our efforts to address this critical priority for all Virginians. Please email me at scott@scottsurovell.org if you have any feedback.

Tribal Code Commission Meets To Update Virginia Laws

BY DEL. PAUL KRIZEK



As the oldest law-making body in the Western Hemisphere, Virginia boasts a rich legislative history through its Constitution and Code. These living documents are updated each legislative session to reflect the evolving needs of our society. Since its first adoption in 1776, the Virginia Constitution has undergone six comprehensive revisions, the latest in 1971. This landmark revision introduced environmental protections, established compulsory education as a constitutional right, ensured compliance with the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and prohibited governmental discrimination based on religious conviction, race, color, sex, or national origin.

Instead of full revisions, recent changes to the Constitution have come through amendments, such

as lowering the voting age to 18 and creating the Virginia Lottery. Similarly, the Code of Virginia, first compiled in 1819, has been fully revised four times, with the current version dating back to 1950. In 1953, the Virginia Code Commission advised that the General Assembly revise laws title-by-title rather than through complete overhauls, a method akin to how Congress updates the United States Code. Notably, the Commission can independently make minor changes to the code without General Assembly ratification, including correcting spelling errors and updating obsolete references.

Due to the Code of 1950 remaining in effect, the General Assembly occasionally establishes commissions to recommend specific updates. This session, following the successful passage of my bill HB

“Paving the way for a more inclusive and respectful legal framework that honors and recognizes the sovereignty and heritage of Virginia’s Tribal Nations.”

200, I traveled to Richmond on July 1st for the inaugural meeting of the Commission on Updating Virginia Law to Reflect Federal Recognition of Virginia Tribes. I was honored to be chosen to serve as Chairman of this Commission, tasked with reviewing Virginia law to ensure it aligns with the government-to-government relationship we must maintain with the sovereign, self-governing, federally recognized Tribal Nations within the Commonwealth.

Each of Virginia's seven federally recognized tribes—Chickahominy, Chickahominy-Eastern Division, Monacan, Nansemond, Pamunkey, Rappahannock, and Upper Mattaponi—has a representative on the

Commission. Additionally, Virginia recognizes four other state tribes: Cheroenhaka (Nottoway), Mattaponi, Nottoway, and Patowomeck. Federal recognition for Virginia Tribes is relatively new, with the Pamunkey gaining recognition in 2015 and six others in 2018 through the Thomasina E. Jordan Act.

Why are changes to our Code necessary? Morgan Faulkner, representing the Upper Mattaponi Tribe, provided a comprehensive presentation on the history of Virginia's tribes and the key differences between state and federal recognitions. Federal recognition

SEE KRIZEK, PAGE 10

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A Connection Newspaper



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://tallshipprovidence.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.

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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 21: Sasha Beresovsky, Piano
www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Doc Robinson (Rock and Roll) will appear at Mount Vernon Nights at Grist Mill Park on Friday, July 19, 2024.

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 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

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

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/American)

AT WORKHOUSE ARTS CENTER

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

JULY

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) . The Estate House is open to the public 9 a.m.-



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



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

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>.

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.NepentheGallery.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 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-sar.org/public250

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

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 11

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OPINION

Krizek

FROM PAGE 8

acknowledges the inherent sovereignty of tribal governments, allowing them to govern themselves according to their own traditions, laws, and leadership structures. Federally recognized tribes have a government-to-government relationship with federal, state, and local governments, whereas state recognized tribes do not legally have a government and are often organized as 501(c)3s (nonprofits). Unlike state recognized tribes, federally recognized tribes also have sovereign immunity, and legislative, judicial, taxation, and law enforcement powers. They can also access federal funding for services like healthcare and environmental regulation and place lands into trust with the federal government.

Preliminary research by the University of Virginia's State and Local Government Law Clinic, the Commission's pro-bono research arm, indicates that revisions are needed in almost every Title of the Virginia Code. Professor Andy Block, the clinic's director, outlined potential review topics for the Commission, including revising language definitions for Native Americans, adding tribal representation to state commissions, ensuring tribal government eligibility for municipal and state grants, and aligning state law with the Indian Child Welfare Act, to name a few.

This Commission represents a crucial step in acknowledging and rectifying past oversights while paving the way for a more inclusive and respectful legal framework that honors and recognizes the sovereignty and heritage of Virginia's Tribal Nations. Over the next several meetings this year, the clinic will present possible revisions to the Code for the commission to consider that we can introduce in the General Assembly and pass into law in 2025.

CALENDAR

			1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31		

Let us know about an upcoming event

connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 9

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.

AUG. 2-31

"The Science of Our Surroundings" exhibit at Del Ray Artisans gallery features art that draws inspiration from science and math, with a focus on diagrams, cutaways or cycles that the artist or creator may find particularly fascinating. View at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria VA. Opening Reception: Friday, August 2, 7-9pm. Open Thursdays 12-6pm, Fridays 12-9pm, Saturdays & Sundays 12-6pm (Closed September 1). Details at DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

SATURDAY/AUG. 3

Used Book Sale: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Selection of over 20,000 gently used children's books, fiction, history, biography

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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.

phy, home and garden, cooking, crafts, sports, religion, travel, CDs, DVDs, and more. Unless specially priced, \$1 for hard backs and large paperbacks, and 25 cents for mass market paperbacks. Visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-sherwood-regional>.

SATURDAY/AUG. 10

Alexandria Summer Sidewalk Sale. Throughout Old Town Alexandria and Del Ray. One of the longest-running seasonal summer shopping events—Alexandria Summer Sidewalk Sale—returns to the D.C. region's "Shop Small" destination on Saturday, August 10, 2024, throughout Old Town and Del Ray. The event features dozens of Alexandria boutiques stepping out of their storefronts and offering deeply discounted summer merchandise. Learn more at VisitAlexandria.com/SidewalkSale

AUG. 16-25

Alexandria Restaurant Week. Throughout neighborhoods in Alexandria, including Old Town, Del Ray, Carlyle, Eisenhower and the West End. For 10 days and two weekends, dozens of restaurants in Alexandria, Virginia, will offer a \$27.50, \$40 or \$50 in-person dinner for one during Alexandria Restaurant Week, August 16-25, 2024. The special \$27.50 offer is a playful nod to Alexandria's 275th anniversary. Find additional special offers and discounts at fast casual restaurants throughout Alexandria during Alexandria Restaurant Week. Alexandria Restaurant Week showcases the inventiveness of local chefs and international cuisine in neighborhoods throughout the city, including Old

Town, Del Ray, Carlyle and Eisenhower and the West End. In early August, guests will find a digital flip-book of menus at participating restaurants on AlexandriaRestaurantWeek.com.

SATURDAY/AUGUST 17

Del Ray Bands & Brews Bar Crawl. 12:30- 6 p.m. At Del Ray Business Association, 2308 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Join the fun and vibrant Del Ray community for a special summer event, featuring live music in outdoor restaurant venues along the Avenue! Bands & Brews. This event is being brought to you by the Del Ray Business Association and will benefit a local non-profit. The first 250 registrants will get a swag bag with a 16 oz souvenir collectors cup! Advance tickets are \$15 (\$25 at the door), and include specials on cocktails, beer, and food at each of the 20+ participating restaurants, live music at every venue, trolley transportation, 50/50 raffles, a photo booth, and many more fun giveaways. You must be 21+ to participate in the crawl, but children and families are welcome at family friendly establishments and at the main stage at Pat Miller Square. Visit visitdelray.com.

SATURDAY/AUG. 24

Around the World Cultural Food Festival. 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. At Oronoco Bay Park, 100 Madison Street, downtown Old Town Alexandria. Come and enjoy delicious foods from around the world while watching a diverse folk show with singers and dancers from different countries, then take a break and go shopping from the ethnic artisans and crafters participating in the festival.

Cyber Space – Between My Ears



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I don't quite know how to describe my relationship with the Internet: Friend or foe. On the one hand, whomever is in charge can sometimes offer unsolicited help, that's quite timely: Burial insurance, (let's be honest, I do have cancer) is a recent example of a recent sender from which I've been contacted many times; other emails, however, are completely off base and of no particular interest to me. Cooking recipes – from multiple entities, is an example of a regular sender. Why? I don't cook. I re-heat and I certainly don't ever follow a recipe. If I did follow a recipe, it would be a recipe for disaster. I don't think I'd burn the kitchen/house down, but there would be damage of some kind. In baseball, the catcher's equipment is referred to as the "tools of ignorance." Given my interest level and capability in the kitchen, pots and pans are my 'tools of ignorance.'

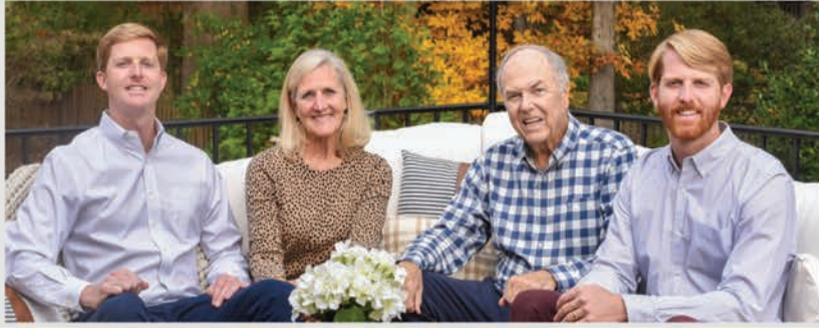
Moreover, to invoke a quote from M*A*S*H, specifically, "Hawkeye:" "The instrument has yet to be invented to measure my indifference ..." to cooking (he was responding to a remark made by Major Burns). Receiving regular emails on the subject is a 100% complete waste of the time it takes for me to delete it from my inbox. Though it's clear what the email is about when I see it listed in my inbox, its arrival irritates me, nonetheless. This is the one instance where I will say "Why me?" There is no rhyme or reason for a cooking outreach to land anywhere near my inbox. Granted, I know there's not really a sender on the other end, so there's no one to blame per se, only an entity. Ergo, my displeasure, compounded.

Receiving these unwanted emails is akin to a death from 1,000 cuts: slow and painful. In this context however, it's acquiescence from 1,000 emails. After receiving so many emails and doing so little with them for so long and knowing of no way to stop them, eventually your curiosity - morbid curiosity in this instance, gets the best of you; soon there's a click with your mouse or a tap on your keyboard and then you're in a world of someone, or something else's making. And with respect to the computer, that's not where I want to be. I want to be in my world, one of my choosing. I don't want to be led down a garden path by a computer. Any more than I want to learn how to make flowerless chocolate cake.

Most mornings, after I turn on the computer, "there it is," or I should say, there they are: "Burial insurance" and "Command" or "Heartland Cooking." One email I have zero interest in opening, another I have a grudging interest in. One is semi on target, given my current medical reality and the other is nowhere near the target. How can an entity (and here comes my 'displeasure,') hit and miss on the same person? I mean, if they found out enough to get a hit: (burial insurance), how could they be so clueless about the cooking?

I know why. There isn't anybody at home on the Internet. They're all in cyber space, not real space.

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



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