

# Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

AUGUST 1, 2024



Photographer May Pang, second from left, with Rotary Club president Jim Carmalt, and Rotarians Debbie Sheridan and Robin Arnold at a reception July 19 at Nepenthe Gallery. The gallery hosted local Rotarians as part of a special exhibit featuring Pang's photographs of John Lennon.



Photographer May Pang, left, with Debbie Sheridan July 19 at Nepenthe Gallery.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

## 'The Lost Weekend'

Local gallery hosts Lennon exhibit.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

Members of the Alexandria Rotary Club were special guests July 19 at the Nepenthe Gallery for an exhibit by photographer May Pang, who showcased her candid photographs of John Lennon.

Pang, the former companion and lover of Lennon during what is known as "The Lost Weekend," a time in Lennon's life profiled in

the documentary of the same name, was on hand during the exhibit reception.

Pang worked for Lennon and his wife Yoko Ono before becoming the constant companion and lover of the music icon from 1973-1975.

"May Pang was a delight and what an interesting history," said Alexandria Rotary Club president Jim Carmalt. "This was a wonderful evening and a fascinating exhibit."

[www.nepenthegallery.com](http://www.nepenthegallery.com)



Candid photographs by May Pang of John Lennon were featured at a recent exhibit at Nepenthe Gallery.

## Drought Watch Fairfax County in agricultural disaster area.

Fairfax County is among 15 Virginia counties given natural disaster designations due to the recent drought by United States Department of Agriculture Secretary Thomas Vilsack. Farmers in the primary designation localities of Albemarle, Augusta, Clarke, Fauquier, Frederick, Greene, Highland, Loudoun, Madison, Page, Rappahannock, Rockingham, Shenandoah, and Warren counties and the city of Waynesboro are now eligible to be considered for certain assistance from the USDA Farm Service Agency. Fairfax County and others counties adjacent to those 15 are also eligible for some assistance.

Not too many of us are farming in Fairfax County, but gardening can be challenging. Restraint is in order when it comes to watering. Due to unusually dry conditions in Fairfax County and the surrounding region that are expected to persist, a drought watch is now in effect, issued by the Drought Coordination Committee of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG).

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), in coordination with the Virginia Drought Monitoring Task Force, issued a drought warning advisory earlier this month for many areas of Virginia, including Fairfax County and the rest of Northern Virginia.

Residents and businesses are encouraged to take voluntary measures to conserve water and help reduce demand on the region's water supply systems.

Water saving tips:

- ❖ Monitor watering of lawns, plants and shrubs.
- ❖ Sweep sidewalks and driveways instead of using a hose.
- ❖ Avoid washing your car or use a commercial car wash that recycles water.
- ❖ Repair plumbing leaks – especially toilets and faucets.
- ❖ Shorten shower length to under 5 minutes.

❖ Turn off the water while brushing your teeth.

❖ Wash full loads of dishes and clothes.

Learn more from the Council of Governments and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

Officials emphasized that while there currently is an adequate supply of water in the Potomac River and back-up reservoirs, implementing voluntary water conservation practices across the region will help complement measures already in place and reduce water demand and environmental needs of

SEE DROUGHT WATCH, PAGE 8

# Kari Gets Results!

A SAMPLE OF KARI STEINBERG'S 2024 SALES



707 PRINCE STREET  
SOLD | \$1,775,000



6535 KELSEY POINT CIRCLE  
SOLD | \$810,000



6628 KELSEY POINT CIRCLE  
SOLD | \$720,000



8705 FORT HUNT ROAD  
SOLD | \$795,000\*



17434 AVENLEIGH DRIVE  
SOLD | \$1,100,000\*



9254 CARDINAL FOREST LANE #201  
SOLD | \$372,000\*



2046 DERBY RIDGE LANE #3-9  
SOLD | \$595,000\*



105 COFFEE TREE COURT  
SOLD | \$625,000\*



10314 HICKORY CREEK COURT  
RENTED | \$6,750/mo.



801 S PITT STREET #325  
RENTED | \$2,300/mo.\*



810 FAIR WINDS WAY  
RENTED | \$4,850/mo.



162 WESMOND DRIVE  
RENTED | \$3,300/mo.\*

\* Represented Buyer/Tenant

Information gathered from Bright MLS and is deemed reliable but not guaranteed.



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## LOCAL BUSINESSES



Top it Off Accessories had their grand opening at a new location in the Belle View Shopping Center on June 12.



Fairy Bronze Mother celebrated its grand opening in the Manchester Lakes/Kingstowne area.



Inova GoHealth Urgent Care opened a new center at Backlick Road in Springfield.



RockBox Fitness celebrated its grand opening on July 12 in Franconia.

# Fairfax County's Thriving Business Scene

## New openings and community impact.

BY DAVID GRIFFIN  
MOUNT VERNON SPRINGFIELD  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Fairfax County has seen a wave of new businesses opening their doors in recent months, each bringing unique offerings and vibrant energy to the community. Here's a spotlight on five businesses that are celebrating their grand openings.

### FAIRY BRONZE MOTHER

On April 5, Fairy Bronze Mother celebrated its grand opening in the Manchester Lakes/Kingstowne area. Founded by Rachel Tyson, who also owns Organic Bronzing Studio in Tysons Corner, Fairy Bronze Mother offers a range of tanning services, including spray tanning, VersaSpa PRO Spray Tans, WellFit Skincare, Poly Red Light Therapy, mobile tans, and Spray Tan Parties. Rachel's passion for bronzing has led her to serve a diverse clientele, from stay-at-home moms to celebrities on LA's red carpet.

Fairy Bronze Mother began seven years ago when Rachel and her husband devel-

oped a mobile lighting kit and system for her tanning tents. This innovation has helped her create a successful business that continues to grow. The grand opening event was also attended by Fairfax County Supervisor Rodney L. Lusk, highlighting the significance of this new addition to the local business community. For more information, visit [fairybronzemother.com](http://fairybronzemother.com).

### TOP IT OFF ACCESSORIES

Top it Off Accessories had their grand opening at a new location in the Belle View Shopping Center on June 12. Co-owners Karena Rasser and Elizabeth Hoenscheid founded the store in 2003 with a vision of bringing versatile, timeless styles to women at affordable prices. The store is known for its summer styles and new jewelry, continuing to empower women with effortless styles that can boost their confidence.

Karena and Elizabeth's journey began with hand-sewn ribbon belts, and over the years, they have expanded their offerings to include a wide range of accessories and apparel. Top it Off is now carried in over 2000 boutiques and gift stores across the US, Canada, and the Caribbean. Their mission remains focused on style, quality, and affordability. To explore their collection, visit [topitoffaccessories.com](http://topitoffaccessories.com).

### INOVA GOHEALTH URGENT CARE

On June 18, Inova GoHealth Urgent Care opened a new center at 6671A Backlick Road in Springfield, Va. This facility offers comprehensive healthcare services, including treatment for allergies, asthma, cold and flu, COVID-19 testing, ear infections, flu shots, illnesses, injuries, lab services, skin infections & rashes, sore and strep throat, sports and camp physicals, telemedicine, urinary tract infections, and X-rays.

Inova GoHealth Urgent Care aims to provide convenient and high-quality medical care to the community. Their state-of-the-art facilities and experienced healthcare professionals ensure that patients receive prompt and effective treatment. For more details, visit [gohealthuc.com](http://gohealthuc.com).

### ROCKBOX FITNESS

If you are looking for a good workout, RockBox Fitness celebrated its grand opening on July 12 in Franconia, Va. Founded by partners Paul and Brandon, RockBox Fitness offers a unique blend of boxing, kickboxing, and functional training designed to make fitness fun and engaging.

RockBox Fitness promises a dynamic workout experience, with new exercises introduced regularly to keep participants motivated and challenged. Whether you're

a fitness enthusiast or a beginner, RockBox Fitness provides an inclusive environment where everyone can achieve their fitness goals. Del. Mark Sickles attended the grand opening, underscoring the community's support for this new venture. To learn more, visit [rockboxfitness.com/franconia](http://rockboxfitness.com/franconia).

### FIREBIRDS WOOD FIRED GRILL

One of the latest additions to Fairfax County is Firebirds Wood Fired Grill, which will host a ribbon-cutting and networking event on Aug. 12 at 4 p.m. with the Mount Vernon Springfield Chamber of Commerce. Known for its wood-fired entrees, Firebirds offers a menu featuring aged steaks, seafood, chicken, and ribs, cooked over local hickory, oak, or pecan wood. Supervisor Rodney L. Lusk and Del. Mark Sickles will attend the event. Happy hour begins at 4:30 p.m. with passed appetizers, and guests are welcome to stay for dinner. More information can be found at [firebirdsrestaurants.com/springfield](http://firebirdsrestaurants.com/springfield).

### SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES

All of these businesses are members of the Mount Vernon Springfield Chamber of Commerce. Supporting these new ventures not only strengthens our community but also fosters economic growth and development. For more information, visit [mountvernon-springfield.com/businesses](http://mountvernon-springfield.com/businesses).

# Fort Hunt as WWII POW Camp Captures Alexandria's Interest

By CHRISTOPHER J. ULRICH

Looking Back at History  
Originally published on  
Aug. 22, 1985 in the  
Alexandria Gazette Packet

While doing research as a Fort Hunt High School sophomore at the U.S. Army Historical Center on a local former coastal artillery installation, I came across a small obscure book on prisoners of war in America during World War II by Dr. John Hammond Moore.

This book, titled "The Faustball Tunnel: German POWs in America and Their Great Escape," contains information based on Moore's travels to Germany where he interviewed [prisoners] that were held at Fort Hunt.

Fort Hunt Park, as well as the high school, are named for Colonel and Brevet Major General Henry S. Hunt, U.S. Army. An artillery officer with a distinguished record of service, he participated in the battles of Chapultepec during the Mexican War, and served as Chief of Artillery at the battles of Fredericksburg and Gettysburg during the Civil War.

Originally, Fort Hunt was part of the River Farms, one of the five farms owned by George Washington and forming part of the vast Mount Vernon estate. It remained part of the estate until the late 19th century, when portions of the land were sold. The property, where the Fort Hunt area is now located, passed through several hands until acquired by the U.S. Army in the 1890s.

The interest by the Army in Fort Hunt, also known as Sheridans Point, was to construct coastal fortifications as part of the defenses of Washington for protection from ships coming up the Potomac River. The planning of construction for Fort Hunt was begun in the 1880s.

The Fort Hunt batteries were part of a chain of coastal defenses being built around the United States between 1889-1910. This was known as the Endicott System. As the nation's capital, Washington was among the five places given priority in the construction of the so-called modern system of concrete and earth and material gun and mortar emplacements. These were designed to replace the obsolete brick and masonry "Third System" forts erected between 1816

and 1860.

Construction of the batteries started in 1897 and was completed in 1907. Fort Washington (an early 19th century coastal defense fortification), across the river in Maryland, worked in conjunction with Fort Hunt. There were a total of four batteries at Fort Hunt. The main battery, Mount Vernon, contained three eight-inch guns. Today, Battery Mount Vernon has been cleared of all undergrowth, and platform facilities have been constructed on the Battery for summer concerts. The concerts will begin on June 8 [1985] with the U.S. Army Band, which was founded and organized at Fort Hunt in the 1920s.

The army post continued as a coastal defense installation until after World War One. At that time it was declared obsolete. It became home to an Army finance school for a brief period before being transferred to the U.S. Department of Interior in the 1930s. It also became home to a Civilian Conservation Corps camp while helping to construct the George Washington Memorial Parkway.

Then in 1941, the Army reclaimed Fort Hunt and designated it as a "defense" camp. This decision immediately enveloped Fort Hunt in great secrecy. A classified interrogation center was established there as the U.S. entered World War II. The activities at Fort Hunt were hidden and was known only by its mailing address as P.O. Box 1142. In May 1942, the Army's intelligence branch began operations, and according to Dr. Moore, the government appropriated \$221,000 for construction of the interrogation center at Fort Hunt. The architectural plans used by workmen were labeled "Officers School" so as to keep a lid on secrecy. More than 150 buildings were constructed at Fort Hunt during the war (1942-1945). The old concrete batteries were used to store highly inflammable nitrate films for the National Archives.

Operations continued at Fort Hunt until 1945 and some several thousand prisoners passed through Fort Hunt, mainly German POWs. These POWs were known as "guests" at Fort Hunt, and, according to Dr. Moore, most prisoners were transported from Fort Meade in windowless busses. They were told they were at Fort Belvoir, but one prisoner knew exactly where he was. This POW

Are you toying with the idea of going to this week's Merriweather Post-Manilow concert? Incognito, Manilow tape oozing from a Manilow junkie's stereo... DREAMS itself has 41 members one-on-one experience. You feel he's singing right at you. I think it's hard for anyone not to be affected with his tour promoting "La Cabana," a made for TV movie cut in the fall.

## Fort Hunt as WWII POW camp captures Alexandria's interest

By CHRIS ULRICH  
Special to the Gazette

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Fort Hunt has played a key role



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This story by Christopher Ulrich appeared in August, 1985.

had once lived in Washington and with various girlfriends had often parked along the shores at the Potomac River.

Many people living and working in the Washington, DC area during the war seemed not to know what was going on at Fort Hunt.

The prisoners themselves seemed to enjoy life at Fort Hunt while they were there because of the special treatment they received since it was an information collecting center. The American captors used different methods of collecting information, such as interrogation sessions, but these turned out to be somewhat ineffective. The

Army gained more information from the bugged cells in which the Germans were placed. But according to Dr. Moore, nearly every POW quickly learned that his cell contained microphones and some of them even staged "shows" for the Americans. The prisoners thought these methods were amateurish, but were amazed at the amount of information the Americans had.

The operation continued until 1945, when the Army started closing Fort Hunt. In 1947, the property was transferred back to the Department of Interior.

Today, Fort Hunt bears few reminders of its past. All the World

War II buildings and facilities that were once screened from the public view and where the POWs were kept are now gone. What does remain are the well-preserved fortifications of the coastal defense era which have been cleared out and will be the site of the summer concert series. The park uses Fort Hunt as a recreation area and houses a maintenance and police facility in addition to historical sites.

The name Fort Hunt has been prominent in unusual and unknown ways during the past century of history of the national capital region. Only the site, spirit and remnants of this silent history remain.

NEWS

# United Community Needs 75 Gift Cards

The start of the new school year is just around the corner with Fairfax County Public Schools beginning on Aug. 19.

Thanks to the generous support of donors like you, we are well stocked with backpacks and school supplies to ensure 1,000+ children in our community return to school well-prepared.

We like to provide high school

students with a \$25 gift card to help with extra expenses but we still need.

Here's how you can help make this happen:

- ❖ Make a donation online.
- ❖ Purchase gift cards from our Amazon Gift List.
- ❖ Purchase \$25 Walmart or Target gift cards and drop them at: 7511 Fordson Rd. Alexandria unitedcommunity.org/drives

# Fairfax County Expands Eligibility For Homeownership Program

On Tuesday, July 16, the Board of Supervisors approved an amendment to the county's Comprehensive Plan aimed at expanding affordable home ownership opportunities. The move comes after a series of recommendations from the Workforce Dwelling Unit (WDU) For-Sale Policy Task Force, which addressed affordability challenges and aimed to enhance the WDU program. Key changes include:

❖ Adjusting the affordability level of the WDU program to serve households earning up to 70% to 100% of the 2024 Area Median Income (AMI). The adjustment makes affordable homeownership accessible to individuals earning up to \$108,000 for an individual, and \$155,000 for a family of four. Previously, the program AMI range was up to 80% to 120% AMI.

❖ The amendment also expands guidelines for proportionality of bedroom counts, allowing flexibility for family-sized units.

❖ It also extends the policy's geographic applicability to properties outside designated development centers.

"The updates to the WDU homeownership program reflect a thoughtful re-evaluation of the program's scope and impact, making the dream of homeownership accessible for a broader segment of the Fairfax County community," said Tom Fleetwood, Director, Fairfax County Department of Housing and Community Development.

The county's Affordable Dwelling Unit (ADU) and WDU programs, which facilitate home purchases and rental opportunities at below-market prices for eligible low-to moderate-income households, are a cornerstone of Fairfax's strategy to provide affordable housing. These programs incentivize developers to include affordable units in exchange for the potential to build more market-rate units.

The amendment supports One Fairfax, the county's equity policy goal of creating a full spectrum of housing opportunities, according to the county statement. It also aims to make affordable homeownership more accessible by lowering the income threshold and addressing the need for larger family-sized units.

# 12.5 Percent Fare Hike Hits Fairfax Connector Riders July 29

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

On Monday, July 29, fare increases for riding the Fairfax Connector began. Riders will pay 12.5 percent more. Children 12 and under will continue to ride free with a paying adult. The last increase occurred on June 25, 2017, with a 12.5 percent adjustment.

The regular base fare for Fairfax Connector trips will rise from \$2 to \$2.25, whether by cash or Smart-Trip card. The base fare for seniors and those with disabilities will rise

from \$1 to \$1.10.

The 2024 increase is happening because, on July 16, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to increase Fairfax Connector fares by 12.5 percent. The supervisors copied the same percent fare increase that the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) implemented for Metro Rail and Metrobus on weekdays. WMATA's increase took effect on June 30, 2024.

The increase is not a small change, especially for Fairfax Con-

SEE 12.5 PERCENT, PAGE 11

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# BIRD ALLIANCE



PHOTO BY MUSA MURAWIH.

Northern Virginia Bird Alliance Board Member Musa Murawih led members of the Black Women Hike group in a bird walk at the Carderock Recreation Area, Potomac, MD.



PHOTO BY LIBBY LYONS

Members of NoVa Bird Alliance worked with local residents to improve the habitat at Monticello Park in Alexandria as part of the organization's Stretch Our Parks initiative. The group spread wood chips to reduce erosion on the trails and planted trees in the park. The park is a hot spot for migratory birds, and particularly warblers, in the spring.



PHOTO BY JERRY TOUVAL

NoVa Bird Alliance held a work day at the Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge to remove invasive species, and in particular Mile-a-Minute. Invasive plant species can out-compete native species and destroy local ecosystems



PHOTO BY JERRY TOUVAL

NVBA's Vice President Jerry Touvall teamed up with the US Fish and Wildlife staff from the Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge to do a presentation for the combined 3rd and 5th grade classes at Rockledge Elementary School in Woodbridge. Students learned about birds they can see at the Refuge and in their own backyards and neighborhoods.

## Local Audubon Chapter Drops 'Audubon' from Name

Now the Northern Virginia Bird Alliance, still a chapter of the National Audubon Society.

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH  
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

The Audubon Society of Northern Virginia, a 5,000-member chapter of the National Audubon Society, voted overwhelmingly to change the chapter's name to the Northern Virginia Bird Alliance (NoVa Bird Alliance), effective Aug. 1. The group's new motto is "Conserving and Enjoying Nature."



PHOTO BY JUDY GALLAGHER

Green Herons are small herons that are found at the edges of ponds, lakes and wetlands throughout northern Virginia. They wait patiently for a fish to swim near, then capture it with their dagger-like bill.

and Spotsylvania Counties; and the cities of Alexandria, Falls Church, Fairfax, Manassas and Manassas Park.

### MANY BIRDS IN DECLINE

For over 40 years, the group has surveyed birds, butterflies, dragonflies and bloom dates of plants in southeastern Fairfax County and Prince William County. The bloom dates project is one of the longest-duration such surveys in the country.

One study of North American birds showed that three billion birds – 25 percent of the total bird population – have been lost in the last 50 years, because of spreading agriculture and urbanization, and the pollution and loss of habitat that comes with that.

Nearly 500 species of birds spend part or all of the year in Virginia.

"Bird population trends in Virginia are consistent with the rest of North America," noted Blackburn. "Preliminary data from the state's Second Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas indicate that many bird species are in steep decline in Virginia.

The NoVa Bird Alliance's member territory encompasses all of Arlington, Fairfax, Prince William and Stafford Counties; portions of Fauquier, Loudoun, Rappahannock



PHOTO BY RANDY STREUFERT

The Elizabeth Hartwell Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge near Lorton was the first refuge in the United States established to protect nesting Bald Eagles. Bald Eagles were nearly eliminated from the lower 48 states in the 1960s, but populations have rebounded strongly thanks to protection under the Endangered Species Act, banning the chemical DDT, and protection of their habitats.

**"Our new, more welcoming name will enable us to conserve nature for the benefit of birds, other wildlife and people because it will help us engage and serve all of Northern Virginia's communities."**  
— Elizabeth Lyons, president, NoVa Bird Alliance

"Some birds, such as gadwalls and blue-winged teals, no longer breed in Virginia. Climate change has resulted in southern birds, such as Mississippi kites and anhingas, starting to breed in Virginia. Many bird species are nesting two to five weeks earlier than they were 35 years ago, when the first

Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas was compiled," he said.

Greg Butcher observed, "Northern Virginia remains one of the most rapidly developing regions in the world. A major downside to this development is that we are losing natural areas that support birds and wildlife. In



PHOTO BY RANDY STREUFERT

Wood Ducks are the most spectacular duck in Northern Virginia. They nest high in trees in wooded swamps. The ducklings jump out of the nest just a day after hatching then join their parents on a trek to the nearest water.



PHOTO CREDIT TONI GENBERG

NVBA's Wildlife Sanctuary program offers trained naturalists who provide advice on habitat improvements to homeowners, churches, HOAs and small businesses. Those who take the Healthy Yard Pledge and succeed in attracting key species to their property receive certification as a Wildlife Sanctuary.

the last few decades, we have lost the bobwhite quail as a breeding bird in northern Virginia and we no longer hear its namesake whistle in our neighborhoods.

"Similarly, the wood thrush used to provide a familiar and lovely song that is increasingly rare to hear anywhere near Washington, D.C., where it is the official bird." Butcher is



PHOTO BY RANDY STREUFERT

The Prothonotary Warbler nests in swampy woodlands, including in nearby Huntley Meadows Park. Its numbers are declining due to the loss of forested wetlands in the United States and in the mangroves of its wintering grounds in Central and South America.

the retired Migratory Species Coordinator for U.S. Forest Service International Programs and former Director of Bird Conservation for the National Audubon Society.

He continued, "Our parks provide our best chance to maintain healthy bird populations. We need to add more parks, increase their sizes and promote their natural values.

"Both grassland birds and forest-interior birds require large patches of habitat to survive and breed. These large habitat patches are the first to disappear during urbanization. Species like bobwhite quail and wood thrush are at risk when these large habitat patches disappear."

### WHY CARE ABOUT BIRDS?

"Many studies have shown that exposure to nature contributes to human health and happiness," Butcher said. "Birds are especially important because they provide both visual and aural beauty.

"In addition, birds are easy-to-measure indicators of the health of the environment. Birds need many of the same natural elements that humans need, so when bird populations decline, it's a warning that human wellbeing is also at risk."

### CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

With a 44-year history, the organization, newly renamed Northern Virginia Bird Alliance, offers educational programs on birds, conservation and natural history and leads walks. Their Stretch Our Parks initiative



PHOTO BY TOMICAH TILLEMANN

These young birders, from left, Nero Disparte, Lincoln Tillemann and Ryan Weber, at Huntley Meadows Park are participating in a Birdathon, NVBA's annual fundraising campaign. Teams compete to see how many bird species they can find in one day in northern Virginia and how much money they can raise for the organization. This year's winning team found 124 species in one day.



PHOTO BY TANIA ROMERO GONZALEZ

NVBA volunteers prepare to tackle invasive plants at the Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Left to right: Judy Gallagher, NVBA Board; Isaiah, OBNWR staff member; Jerry Touvall, Vice President, NVBA; Gail Youngken, OBNWR Visitor Services Specialist; Libby Lyons, President, NVBA; Andreas Seiter, NVBA Board.

works with people to expand the ecological impacts of parks beyond their borders and into surrounding neighborhoods. The Wildlife Sanctuary Program offers trained ambassadors to help property owners restore natural habitat, including free on-site visits.

The Advocacy Committee works with

elects and other officials and "sister" organizations on local, state and federal policies to preserve and restore wildlife, habitats and ecosystems.

For more information and to join, visit [www.nvbirdalliance.org](http://www.nvbirdalliance.org) or email president@nvba.org. Annual dues are \$20.

# Smiles all Around at the Mount Vernon Pet Event

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE GAZETTE

**O**n Saturday, July 27, Supervisor Rodney Lusk (D-Franconia) sponsored the Pet Lovers and Resource Fair at the Sequoyah Community Center in Alexandria. There were pet owners, representatives from the Fairfax County Animal Shelter and pets of all kinds at this community in Mount Vernon. The Pet Resource Center gave out information about vaccines, microchips, and spay/neuter services. The treats were also a big hit with all the furry attendees.



PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/CONNECTION

And they call it puppy love, with Supervisor Rodney Lusk.

## BULLETIN BOARD

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

### VOLUNTEERS WANTED

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

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

# Drought Watch

FROM PAGE 1

the river. A drought watch is the level in the plan before drought warning, when additional water restrictions are requested and could become mandatory should conditions worsen.

"As officials continue to closely monitor drought conditions in the region, it is important for the public to use water wisely," said Clark Mercer, COG Executive Director, adding that "with a few simple measures, we can all aid in water conservation efforts and help ensure an adequate water supply for our region."

Three water supply reservoirs were constructed in the early 1980s to provide water during droughts. These reservoirs are full and, if needed, water can be released to supplement the flow in the river. "Fortunately, despite the current conditions, the region still has an adequate water supply to meet demands," said Fairfax Water General Manager Jamie Bain Hedges.

"Wise water use is a great habit to practice all year long to decrease water demand, protect our precious resources and help customers save on their water bills," said WSSC Water General Manager

Kishia L. Powell.

Residents and businesses are being asked to use water wisely as part of their daily routines. Increasing conservation efforts now will help optimize use of water resources, especially if dry conditions persist into the fall and winter. A detailed list of tips for wise water use can be found at [mwkog.org/wisewater](http://mwkog.org/wisewater).

While the region is currently at a low to moderate risk for wildfires, fire safety and protection is a concern due to dry conditions. Committee members encourage residents to use extra caution when smoking outside, using outdoor grills or engaging in other activities that involve flammable materials.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Over the past two months, the region has experienced record-breaking high temperatures along with some periods of historically low streamflow and groundwater levels. NOAA's Climate Prediction Center has declared that 95 percent of the Potomac River Basin is experiencing abnormal to extreme drought and precipitation levels have dropped almost four inches below normal in the past 60 days.

# Beyer Introduces Legislation to Support Older Workers

**U**.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-VA) today introduced the Older Workers' Bureau Act, legislation that would establish an Older Workers' Bureau within the Department of Labor tasked with identifying challenges facing workers aged 55 and older and developing policies to improve employment conditions and opportunities for older workers.

"As more Americans work into their later years and workplace conditions evolve, a larger share of our workforce is facing challenges such as age discrimination and work-limiting health conditions," said Beyer. "The establishment of an Older Workers' Bureau would provide a central office dedicated to supporting our older workers and ensuring they have the resources they need to be successful."

"Similar to during the Great Recession, older workers have lost jobs in massive numbers during the pandemic economic downturn, and they struggle with long-term unemployment at rates greater than their younger counterparts," said Ramsey Alwin, President and CEO of the National Council on Aging. Others have given up looking for work, and are facing financial risks in extended retirement, Alwin said.

Alwin praised Beyer for his leadership on

the Older Workers' Bureau Act to bring federal attention to the challenges and opportunities of an aging workforce, and he urged Congress to incorporate these proposals in upcoming workforce development policymaking.

Specifically, the Older Workers' Bureau Act would authorize \$10M per year to support the welfare of older workers by:

Establishing a data hub and coordinating research related to challenges facing older workers;

Developing potential policy solutions to improve employment conditions and opportunities;

Providing outreach and education to institutions supporting older workers; and

Administering grant programs to expand research into older workers and to combat structural ageism in the workplace.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics found that between 1995 and 2021, the share of older workers more than doubled to nearly 24 percent from 12 percent and is expected to continue to rise. The Older Workers' Bureau Act is endorsed by the National Council on Aging and sponsored by Reps. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) and Sylvia Garcia (D-TX).

Text of the Older Workers' Bureau Act is available here

[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

# ENTERTAINMENT

## WEDNESDAYS THROUGH SATURDAYS

**Tours Aboard Tall Ship Providence and Sen. John Warner Maritime Heritage Center.** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Alexandria's Waterfront Park, 1A Prince Street, Alexandria. Guests of all ages are recruited into the Continental Navy aboard Tall Ship Providence with legendary Captain John Paul Jones. Recruits are assigned jobs on the ship, learn where they will work and live, how to load a cannon, etc... Tours conclude in the Naval History Theatre with a film about the ship. The Heritage center is a floating museum on the Alexandria waterfront. Visit <https://tallshipprovidence.org/>

## 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

## NOW THRU AUG. 4

### Curators' Selects - Artomatic 2024.

At the Athenaeum, Alexandria. 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, Athenaeum Gallery Associate  
Twig Murray, Athenaeum Gallery Director  
Veronica Szalus, Athenaeum Executive Director

Their Selected Artists: Camron Anderson, Eric Celarier, Ellen Cornett, Louis Del Valle, Kim Dyer, Rita El-sner, Lewis Frances, Dennis Goris, A.D. Herzel, Martha Holmes, Jenny Kanzler, Phyllis Mayes, Bryan Sieling, Candice Tavares, Christian Tribastone



The Ska and Reggae band Eastern Standard Time will perform at Grist Mill Park in Alexandria on Friday, Aug. 2, 2024.

## 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](http://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.

### 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.

### 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)

## 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



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

2, 7-9pm. Open Thursdays 12-6pm, Fridays 12-9pm, Saturdays & Sundays 12-6pm (Closed September 1). Details at [DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits](http://DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits)

## AUG. 2-4

### Sales Tax Holiday at Home Depot.

With Virginia's Sales Tax Holiday coming up from August 2-4, The Home Depot is ready to help community members prepare their homes and families for any emergency situation. During this tax-free weekend, your readers can stock up on essential disaster preparedness supplies that every home and business needs. Our team has compiled some top recommendations from The Home Depot to help build effective emergency safety kits:

**On-Hand Basics** – Basics that you always want to have in case of any emergency include an assortment of batteries, flashlights or lanterns for every member of the family. Other basics include a first-aid kit, duct tape, weather radio and bottled water.

**Secure Outdoor Items** – Ratchet tie-

downs are great for securing outdoor items so they don't fly away with increased wind force.

**Back-Up Power Source** – Following some storms, people can go without power for days or weeks. A generator is a great resource to maintain power until it's restored. Have extension cords handy to provide power from generators to important items.

**Damage Control** – Durable tarps with weather-resistant polyethylene coating are good for covering roof damage after a storm to prevent further destruction.

**On The Road** – If you need to drive after a storm, there is a higher likelihood of experiencing a flat tire due to debris in the road. An aerosol tire inflator is the easiest and quickest way to repair a flat tire in an emergency.

## AUG. 2-16

**ALX Bark Bingo.** Come and celebrate Alexandria during the first two weeks of August with a free and fun game of bingo! ALX Bark Bingo is simple to play: 1) Fetch a bingo card from participating stores that

feature a bright yellow box on the storefront; 2) Scan the QR code on the storefront's yellow box to reveal a dog, and 3) Have a match on your bingo card? Pop into the store and get your card stamped! Win with one horizontal/vertical/diagonal bingo and email a photo of your winning card to [barkbingo@alxdogwalk.com](mailto:barkbingo@alxdogwalk.com). Winning cards will be entered into a drawing on 8/19, and four winners will receive a bag of \$300 worth of gift certificates from participating stores! ALX Bark Bingo participating stores include: Animal Welfare League of Alexandria, Bad Ass Coffee of Hawaii, Beeliner Diner, Bellies & Babies, Benny Diferza's Pizza, Boxwood, Cameron Café, District Biscuit Company, The Dog Park, ERA Clothing & Accessories, fibre space, Fiscus Glassworks, Frizzles Hair Salon, Kungfu Kitchen, Lost Boy Cider, Magpie Reclamations, Ms. Moxie's Moon Shop, Pippin Toy Co., Taqueria Picoso, Ten Thousand Villages, Today's Cargo, Top it Off Accessories, Whiskey & Oyster, and Zuki Moon. Visit [www.alxdogwalk.com](http://www.alxdogwalk.com)

## SATURDAY/AUG. 3

**BBC Annual Community Health and Wellness Fair.** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Bethlehem Baptist Church, 7836 Fordson Road, Alexandria. Free health screenings, i.e., blood pressure, Afib, HIV testing, etc. Information on wellness, health promotion and prevention, mental and physical health education, healthcare access resources and more.

## SATURDAY/AUG. 3

**Back to School Community Day.** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Lorton Community Center, 9520 Richmond Hwy., Lorton. Enjoy a day of family-friendly fun with free giveaways of back to school supplies, food, music, games, hearing, vision and dental screenings, vaccines, the Fairfax County Park Authority Wonder Wagon, exhibitors, touch-a-truck and more.

## 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, 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](http://VisitAlexandria.com/SidewalkSale). Visit [AlexandriaVA.com/SidewalkSale](http://AlexandriaVA.com/SidewalkSale)

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 11



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**Legals**

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY  
FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESMENT AND  
DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR THE  
PROPOSED TRAVEL CAMP  
FORT BELVOIR, VIRGINIA**

The U.S. Army Garrison Fort Belvoir hereby gives Notice of the Availability (NOA) for the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the proposed construction of a travel camp expansion with 30 recreational vehicle (RV) camp sites with full utility hookups; a camping support facility with laundry, restrooms, showers, and associated vehicle circulation roads and walkways at Fort Belvoir in Fairfax County, Virginia. The purpose of this project is to build and operate an approximately 20-acre travel camp expansion at Fort Belvoir to be managed by the Installation Management Command's Family and Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) Directorate. The Proposed Action would provide needed space for customers at Fort Belvoir in a highly desirable area along the Potomac River.

The Draft EA has been prepared in accordance with the regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), (Public Law 91-190, 42 USC 43214347 January 1, 1970), amendments, and the Army's Implementing Regulations (32 CFR Part 651, Environmental Analysis of Army Actions). The EA is available to view in printed form at the Lorton Branch, Kingstowne Branch, Richard Byrd, and Sherwood Regional Branch of the Fairfax County Public Library system, or to view/download electronically at <https://home.army.mil/belvoir/index.php/about/Garrison/directorate-public-works/environmental-division>. Click the "Programs and Documents" tab, then "National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Program." Information about the EA and links to download the various documents are provided under the "Open for Public/Agency Review & Comment" heading.

Comments or questions on the Draft EA and Draft FONSI may be directed in writing to: Environmental Division, Directorate of Public Works, Building 1442, 9430 Jackson Loop, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060, or by email to: [belvoir.travel.camp.nepa@usace.army.mil](mailto:belvoir.travel.camp.nepa@usace.army.mil). Comments must be received no later than 30 days after publication of this NOA.

**AUCTION** Friday, Aug. 16, 12:30pm  
at Appomattox Inn & Suites,  
447 Old Courthouse Rd,  
Appomattox, VA

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A Connection Newspaper



# ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 9

## 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.



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

## 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.

## FRIDAY/AUG. 23

**Summer Concert Series.** The U.S. Air Force Band returns to the Air Force Memorial in Arlington. Free and open to the public. Friday, Aug. 23 at 7:30 p.m. - Airmen of Note Friday, Sept. 13 at 7:30 p.m. Air Force Birthday Concert.

## 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.

## SATURDAY/SEPT. 7

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

## THE BIRCHMERE

At 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. All

shows are at 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Tickets available at Ticketmaster.com. Contact The Birchmere at 703-549-7500 or [www.Birchmere.com](http://www.Birchmere.com).

## AUGUST

Fri. 2: Michael Franks \$65.00  
 Sat. 3: Michael Franks \$65.00 SOLD OUT!  
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 Thu. 8: Robert Earl Keen \$65.00 SOLD OUT!  
 Fri. 9: White Ford Bronco \$35.00  
 Sat. 10: 1964: The Tribute \$45.00  
 Sun. 11: Trevor Hall: An Evening in a Blue Sky Mind \$65.00  
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 Sat. 17: JON B. \$69.50  
 Sun. 18: The Secret Sisters w/ Jon Muq \$35.00  
 Fri. 23: Marcus Miller \$69.50  
 Sat. 24: Kim Waters \$35.00  
 Sun. 25: Sandi Patty \$59.50  
 Thu. 29: Dave Alvin & Jimmie Dale Gilmore with The Guilty Ones w/ Jon Langford & The Bright Shiners \$45.00  
 Fri. 30: Raheem DeVaughn \$85.00  
 Sat. 31: Raheem DeVaughn \$85.00

# 12.5 Percent Fare Hike Hits Fairfax Connector Riders July 29

FROM PAGE 5

connector riders who are already struggling with increased consumer costs and a dollar whose purchasing power has decreased by 22 percent since 2017.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) Summary, released on July 11, 2024, reports all items increased by 3 percent, with shelter +5.25% and energy services +4.3% according to Percent Changes in CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): U.S. city average, unadjusted 12-months ended June 2024.

Fairfax County describes the 12.5 percent fare increase as "slight" in its July 16 released statement, "Fairfax Connector Fare Change Effective July 29, 2024." Calling the fare increase "slight" would presumptively appear to be relative to what one has available in one's pocket.

The Consumer Price Inflation Calculator cites an erosion of a dollar's buying power in 2024 compared to 2017. In 2024, a dollar will buy 78 percent of what it did in 2017. In other words, the buying power of a 2024 dollar is 22 percent less than it was in 2017.

Fairfax Connector fares increase.

PHOTO BY  
 MERCIA  
 HOBSON/  
 THE AZETTE



## Another Why Me ...



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

... but not what you think. Once again, this 'why me' has nothing to do with cancer. It has to do with emails that I am receiving almost daily, including weekends. The email is addressed to me; 'Dear Kenneth' is how they begin. This recurring appearance in my inbox is being sent by alerts@neighborhoodalerts.com. What they are emailing to me are police-type reports, if not copies of the actual documents, of "non-violent crimes" in our community: thefts, car break-ins, robberies in homes, in addition to rather helpful advisories: flood watch, excessive heat warnings, properties for sale, permits applied for, and any buildings/new construction proposed. In summary, I am receiving unsolicited news of our community's goings on, the good, the bad, and the ugly, with apologies to Clint Eastwood and director Sergio Leone.

On the face of it, "Not horrible," which is exactly how a neighbor, Robert, described to us over the phone, the damage caused by a large tree that crashed into our house while we were away on vacation. But what bothers me most about this almost daily news feed, is the overwhelming percentage of these communiques have to do with crime. And from the consistency of the reporting of break-ins, car thefts, and all manner of relatively non-violent behaviors, I can't help feeling victimized even though I have not been, nor witnessed, or heard firsthand of any of these kinds of activities. Moreover, I just can't believe there's this much crime in my little corner of Montgomery County. And yet, every morning, or nearly so, I am the recipient of this drumbeat of low crimes and misdemeanors occurring practically under my nose. It's as if I'm part of an email group that includes the police commissioner, captain at of my nearby police station along with his chief of detectives, the desk Sergeant and so on who should receive and/or are on a need-to-know basis, whereas I'm neither part of the police and/or really don't need-to-know, this much. I've asked many of my neighbors if anybody else is receiving the daily updates that I am. No one is receiving these emails. Ergo, 'why me?'

This must be an error, right? I'm of two minds on the matter (I am married to a Gemini, after all); either there's this much crime occurring - for which I see or hear no evidence, and I'm lucky to even be hearing about it or, I'm unlucky to be hearing about it because what I wouldn't have known couldn't hurt me. But now, I know. Or do I?

It just seems that if crime was as rampant as this 'service' infers that it is, I would have heard about elsewhere, like from a person first, not a 'service.' But to quote the great Sergeant Schultz from "Hogan's Heroes:" "I see nothing." Perhaps, I'm playing the innocent here because I've never heard of nor requested (signed up) for this so-called service. Yet here I sit, computer in hand (on desk, actually) and there the email arrives - from alerts. More unpleasant activities that's fit to email.

What am I to make of this outreach? Why am I the one being informed? If this is a phishing expedition, where's the bait? I've not been asked for money, but maybe simply clicking on this email is somehow causing me problems even though I've never responded. I sure hope my curiosity isn't going to get the best of my bank account.

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



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8312 Wagon Wheel Rd | \$1,250,000



9394 Mount Vernon Cir | \$1,750,000



3317 Wessynton Way | \$1,050,000



9312 Boothe St | \$1,027,500



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



8337 Bound Brook Ln | \$890,000



9223 Presidential Dr | \$1,201,000



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



8705 Highgate Rd | \$913,000



2213 William & Mary | \$915,000



1919 Earldale Ct | \$985,000



4413 Dolphin Ln | \$960,000



8711 Falkstone Ln | \$865,000



8434 Cherry Valley | \$880,500

*78 homes sold in 2023!*

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