

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

AUGUST 22, 2024

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION



American Legion Color Guard tops the Veteran Bridge horizon



New garrison commander David Stewart and Supervisor Rodney Lusk follow the Color Guard across Veterans Bridge



American Legion Historic Color Guard members Anthony Esteve, Peter Tuttle, Royes Gernandt prepare to join the walk in historic uniforms

Historic Bridge Walk Continues

Community Covenant between Fort Belvoir and Springfield celebrated anew.

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

For nearly two decades, neighbors, businesses, civic organizations and representatives of Fort Belvoir military command have gathered to walk over Springfield's Veterans Bridge as a united community. The walk and ensuing celebration, hosted by American Legion Post 176, includes signing the Community Covenant, an agreement to solidify the strong ties between the greater Springfield commu-

nity, veterans and Fort Belvoir. Franconia Supervisor, Rodney Lusk, calls the partnership "unique and special," saying, "With the signing of the covenant, we prioritize communication and collaboration, which together ensure a successful partnership."

This year's Aug. 17 walk, the first since 2019 due to Covid 19, began at Bland Street and Amherst Avenue, making a symbolic crossing of Veterans Bridge in Springfield's Revitalization District.

Lusk introduced new Fort Belvoir garrison commander Col. David J. Stewart to the community. Moving to the area in 2019, Stewart held prior positions at the Pentagon, and Joint Base Lew-

is-McChord, before his assignment to the Fort Belvoir garrison command position on Aug. 8. Also introduced, new Mount Vernon District Police station commander, Marisa Kuhar; members of the State legislature, Delegates Kathy Tran and Mark Sickles; Supervisor Dan Storck, and American Legion Post 176 Commander, Kevin Gaddis.

Fort Belvoir and its families significantly contribute to the County's economy. The base is the largest employer in Fairfax County, with nearly 26,000 service members, Department of Defense civilians and contractors. In addition, there are more than 2,100 families that call Fort Belvoir home; Springfield has a population of approximately 31,339 (2020 Census).

The Bridge Walk initially began to mark the installation of new lighting on Veterans Bridge, located in central Springfield. The bridge pro-

vides a link to both sides of Springfield's Commercial Revitalization District. Along with District acorn lights, wide sidewalks, pedestrian stairway and attractive façades, the bridge linkage symbolizes the vision for a revitalized Springfield, providing an attractive gateway to the central business district. The four color diamonds decorating the bridge display the color logo for the revitalization efforts; also seen on the new commuter garage.

Other new District improvements expected include: 140 bed boutique hotel, construction beginning this year; 400 unit multi-family housing; a 240,000-square-foot data center; new 750,000-square-foot hospital space; and a coming mural project with details yet to be announced.

SEE TRADITION, PAGE 3



Members of the Legion Riders, motorcycle enthusiast group motor the bridge



The Woman's Club of Springfield, recently recognized for 70 years of community service, joins the bridge walk



Friends of Richard Byrd library glam up their book carts to participate

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New Alexandria | \$1,550,000

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Ft Williams Park | \$1,450,000

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OPEN SUN, 8/25 1-3

Beverly Hills | \$950,000

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OPEN SAT 8/24, 2-4 & SUN, 8/25 1-4

Del Ray | \$889,500

Beautifully renovated 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom duplex plus extra lot! 3 blocks to The Avenue and 1.5 blocks to Potomac Yard. Walk to Metro and airport shuttle. Remodeled kitchen with stainless appliances and granite counters. 410 E. Custis Avenue
Peter Crouch 703.244.4024
Katie Crouch 703.447.1345



OPEN SAT 8/24, 12-2 & SUN, 8/25 1-3

Montclair | \$585,000

Beautiful 5-bedroom, 3-bathroom detached home on a large lot in Montclair is move-in ready and sure to pleasantly surprise its next owners with detailed upgrades, 2,500 square feet of living space, and parking for 4 cars. 16204 Edgewood Drive
Selena Alexander 202.983.3930
www.SelenaAlexanderRealtor.com



OPEN SAT, 8/24, 12-2

Pembroke Village | \$325,000

Coming this Friday! Fabulous 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom, 2-level condo in popular Pembroke Village. Open house Saturday, August 24th, from 12-2. Come take a look because it won't last long! 4433 Pembroke Village Drive #112
Melissa Rosario 919.518.7288
www.EnjoyLivingHere.com



Old Town

\$1,485,000

Spectacular 1-bed, 1.5-bath, Captain's Row home on cobblestone street features outdoor living space, chef's kitchen, living room with built-ins and fireplace, upper-level bedroom with full bath, loft space for home office. Renovated in 2017. 102 Prince Street

Lauren Bishop 202.361.5079
www.LaurenBishopHomes.com



OPEN SUN, 8/25 2-4

Old Town

\$1,375,000

This 3-bedroom 2-bath plaqued brick Federal Style townhouse is 1 of 4 homes built by Lumber Merchant Alexander Veitch in 1818. Fully renovated in 2017 with additions by the current owner, the house blends historic charm along with modern conveniences and function. 1110 Prince Street

Gordon Wood 703.447.6138
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OPEN SUN, 8/25 2-4

Fairfax

\$859,900

Expertly maintained, 3-bedroom, 2.5-bathroom, end-unit townhome. Beautifully landscaped side yard and corner property allows for ample light with windows on three sides. The sellers have spent over \$100,000 in updates! 11456 Log Ridge Drive

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PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION



Veterans Bridge built in the 80s is amid revitalization efforts, such as the commuter parking garage standing behind it



Kimberly Palmer sang the National Anthem for the ceremony



View of Old Keene Mill Road from atop the Veterans Bridge leads the eye into the business section of Springfield

Boy Scout Troops 4673 and 1518 walk the bridge

Tradition

FROM PAGE 1

Franconia museum historian Nathaniel Cary Lee shares that the bridge was built in the 80s and was updated in the early 2000s. Last inspected in December 2023, it was rated “a good bridge” by VDOT.

Entertainment by dancers of Morgan Legacy Irish Dance Academy, music, a routine by the Friends of Richard Byrd Library with their book carts, and craft and information tables and refreshments added to the event at the American Legion Post 176 grounds.



Color Guard stands during remarks by Fort Belvoir Commander Col. David J. Stewart



Commander Col. David J. Stewart and Supervisor Rodney Lusk display the signed Community Covenant



Neighborhood & Community Service’s Leslie Hernandez adds a butterfly to the face of high school junior, Lynn Corpus, of Alexandria



Not your school’s quiet library and scholarly calm librarians, one member noted, “We’re not in the library now!”



Members of the Morgan Legacy Academy perform Irish dance

First Day of School! Changes and challenges ahead in changing county.



On the first day of school for FCPS students, Monday, Aug. 19, the bell rings, and the doors open at Coates ES.



The youngest FCPS bus riders arriving at Coates ES are carefully watched by Michelle Spencer, supervisor A3, as they go down the steps.

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE GAZETTE

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE GAZETTE

Fairfax County Public Schools began their first day of classes on Monday, Aug. 19. For its second year, the division's Strategic Plan 2023–30, deemed its “North Star” by Superintendent Michele Reid, aims to ensure excellence, equity, and opportunity for all its students.

Traditional photos typically show young students sporting new, supply-filled backpacks on the first day of school. Other images show the county's yellow buses arriving at the schools and students stepping down to be greeted by administrators, staff, and police School Resource Officers (SRO).

When thinking of typical FCPS back-to-school photos, students preparing to don construction site hard hats, such as those at Edison Academy, one of six academies, generally do not come to mind. The academy is located in Alexandria's Mount Vernon District. According to FCPS, Edison Academy “offers career and technical education programs and courses that provide credit for supervised work-based learning experiences that meet the minimum curricular requirements.” Its programs, such as those in architecture, construction, and information technology, including its capstone cyber program, help prepare students for college or a career after high school graduation.

“Together, we are a strong community of learners that support one another and provide the necessary caring culture so everyone will thrive,” said Monica Bentley, Academy administrator, in her newsletter to families about the new school year.

Typical first-day school photos generally do not include students entering Fairfax County's Juvenile Detention Center classrooms. FCPS provides a full 5.5-hour per-day instructional school program in all academic content classes, life skills and computer coding, art, and physical education there. For instructional days, the program follows the FCPS calendar.

These students and others are among the approximately 181,000 registered Fairfax County Public School students who reported to one of the division's 222 designated

schools, academies, and centers on Monday.

COATES ELEMENTARY School in Herndon, home to the “Stars,” embodies schools across the FCPS division in many ways. Coates has a majority-minority population, reflecting the overall division's changing demographics. Coates' ethnic demographics are 31.19 percent Hispanic or Latino, 26.01 percent Black (not of Hispanic origin), 20.83 percent Asian, 16.37 percent white (not of Hispanic origin), and 5.60 percent other. Along with

SEE CHANGES AND CHALLENGES, PAGE 6



School staff at Coates check the bus lists as children arrive.

What's new At FCPS in SY 2024–25?

The new school year brings changes, including implementing the revised FCPS boundary and cell phone policies, installing 50 school bus cameras, increasing speed cameras in the county school zones, and early release Mondays for elementary school students.

Boundary Policy

The Fairfax County School Board approved updates to the boundary policy (Policy 8130) at its July 18 public meeting before the start of the FY 2024–25 school year, completing a year-long comprehensive review of the policy for the first time in nearly four decades. The updated Policy 8130.8 provides a roadmap for future boundary changes. The policy aims to “define the school boundary policy for the assignment of students to schools and programs, to close, open, or consolidate schools and programs where appropriate, and to outline the considerations for such determinations.”

School board members sought to address the community's concerns, including temporary classrooms (trailers), instructional program locations, overcrowding, facility renovation timelines, and transportation. The division's boundary locator system identifies a student's given pre-K–12 school or center based on their residential address. According to the FCPS, the school board can change school boundaries. According to FCPS, it does not guarantee that the same elementary, middle, and/or high school(s) or AAP center(s) will consistently serve any residential address.”

Cell Phone Usage

Change is coming right now for schools in the cell phone pilot program: middle schools Frost, Irving, Jackson, Poe, Robinson, and Twain and high schools Edison Falls Church, Justice, Lewis, Madison, McLean Robinson, and Westfield.

The Fairfax County School Board initially discussed student cell phone usage at its July 16, 2022, meeting. The board approved the Student Rights and Responsibilities handbook for FCPS students, incorporating cell phone modifications as

SEE WHAT'S NEW, PAGE 7

NEWS

New Principal for Mount Eagle Elementary School

By MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

The new year welcomes a new leader to Mount Eagle Elementary School as Ms. Kate Kirkland will take over as principal at this Mount Vernon school, effective Sept. 3.

Ms. Kirkland is no stranger to this area. In the recent past, her career includes roles as a classroom teacher at Rose Hill Elementary School, a special education teacher at Island Creek Elementary School, a reading specialist at Lynbrook Elementary School, and both a classroom teacher and reading specialist at Hollin Meadows Elementary.

These diverse experiences have equipped her with a broad perspective on teaching and learning, as well as a strong foundation in supporting diverse student populations.



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Changes and Challenges Ahead in Changing County

FROM PAGE 4

Coates' successes this school year, it will face challenges, including possible accreditation change due to new state regulations and more capacity concerns.

Paul Basdekis is the principal at Coates ES. "At Coates this year, we are super proud to be a Title I school prepared with all of the support we need to maximize learning outcomes for our students," Basdekis said. He added that the school's collaborative teaching model and adoption of "The Power of We" mindset excite the school's team and allow them to give the best to the Coates community.

With its English learner population, Coates' accreditation, like other schools across the division, could be threatened by the Virginia Board of Education's new regulations. Coates is a microcosm of FCPS schools with a high English learner population. For the 2023-24 school year, FCPS.edu reported Coates' general education student membership by enrollment at 849 students, of which 464 receive English learner services, 139 receive special education services, 240 are in elementary/advanced academics, and 22 receive advanced academics, Level 4.

On Thursday, July 25, the Virginia State Board of Education approved its new Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia, effective Sept. 25, 2024. The State Board of Education plans a final vote for Aug. 26 at the next board meeting.

Virginia proposes to raise the academic standards for English learners, among other things. The new regulations aim to lower the number of semesters that exclude English learners from the calculations from eleven to just three. In addition, "any student identified as an English Learner (EL) shall participate in the Virginia Assessment Program. A school-based committee shall convene and make determinations regarding the participation level of EL students in the Virginia Assessment Program. In kindergarten through grade eight, EL students may be granted a one-time exemption from SOL testing in the areas of writing and history and social science."

Melanie Meren, Fairfax County School Board member representing the Hunter Mill District, is concerned that the Virginia Board of Education's new school accountability system will likely over-identify schools as failing in their goal to educate students. "The Governor-appointed state Board Members approved the standards by vote over summer recess with minimal announcement, so I am working with fellow Fairfax County School Board members and the superintendent to gather more information," Meren wrote in her Aug. 14 newsletter. The Virginia Board of Education accepts public



Bahar Sarwary, 6, and her dad pose in front of Coates ES, a Fairfax County Public School, for the first day of the SY 2024-25. Bahar said, "I'm a little nervous."



Students and family members crowd the front door of Coates ES on the first day of school, Aug. 19.



Fairfax County Police Officers Anderson and Libby greet students on their first day of school at Coates Elementary.



FCPD Officer Libby shares a fist bump with a child at Coates ES.

Middle School Pilot

SCREENSHOT FCPS.EDU

On Tuesday, Sept. 3, students in FCPS' cell phone storage pilot program will receive a magnetic Yondr pouch, lock their cell phone within it and put the pouch in their backpack. Students will unlock their pouches at the end of the school day.





SCREENSHOT FCPS
Paul Basdekis, principal at Coates ES.



SCREENSHOT FCPS
Melanie Meren, School Board member



SCREENSHOT FXCO

After a successful pilot program, Fairfax County is adding more speed cameras in school zones throughout 2024.

comments via the Board of Education Comment Form.

Coates operates with a substantial capacity deficiency.

Coates is one of seven Fairfax County public schools as the most “substantial capacity deficit(s),” according to the Fairfax County School Board’s revised FY 2025–29 Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Table 5 in the CIP reports that in SY 2023–24, Coates ES was at 131 percent capacity, with elementary school runner-ups Wakefield Forest at 130 percent, Kent Gardens at 118 percent, and Pine Springs at 116 percent. The CIP reported capacity utilization for the three high schools in SY 2023–24: Justice at 119 percent, Centreville at 118 percent, and Chan-

Table 5

Schools With Substantial Capacity Deficit (115% or More Capacity Utilization) in SY 2023-24 With Modulars

SCHOOL NAME	CAPACITY UTILIZATION		CAPACITY UTILIZATION WITHOUT MODULARS CONSIDERED, WHERE APPLICABLE	
	SY 2023-24	SY2028-29	SY 2023-24	SY 2028-29
Coates ES	131%	172%	-	-
Wakefield Forest ES	130%	78%	-	-
Justice HS	119%	87%	-	-
Kent Gardens ES ¹	118%	113%	-	-
Centreville HS ²	118%	104%	127%	113%
Pine Spring ES	116%	103%	-	-
Chantilly HS	116%	104%	132%	118%

¹ Effective SY 2024-25, Kent Gardens ES will go through a phased-in boundary change, with all grades fully implemented by SY 2029-30.

² Centreville HS is in planning/design for a renovation that will be completed after SY 2028-29.

Sources:

- FCPS, *Certified Membership*, September 2023.

SCREENSHOT FCPS.EDU

Capacity Utilization at Coates ES dramatically increases to the highest in the division.

tilly at 116 percent.

In addition, Coates is experiencing “historical membership, capacity utilization, and solutions implemented for over ten school years.” The division predicted in the CIP that its total student membership overall would remain flat over the next five years, and the county’s demographic report projects a decline in the school-aged population by next year.

Of the seven schools with substantial capacity deficits in SY 2023–24, only Coates’ projected SY 2028–29 capacity utilization increased. Coates capacity utilization soars to 172 percent for SY 2028–29, while the other schools’ capacity utilization decreased below the substantial mark. After renovations, Wakefield Forest fell to 78 percent, and Justice High School fell to 87 percent. [Source: <https://www.fcps.edu/sites/default/files/media/pdf/Proposed-FCPS-FY-2025-29-CIP.pdf>]



Residential construction demands rise in the Coates ES area, and more townhomes and apartments are being built, likely bringing many more students.

What’s new at FCPS In SY 2024–25?

FROM PAGE 4

a component of the broader document. According to FCPS’ current cell phone policy webpage, usage policies apply to all FCPS students.

The exceptions are schools participating in the SY 2024–25 cell phone storage pilot program.

According to FCPS, on Tuesday, Sept. 3, students in the middle school pilot program will receive a Yondr pouch, a special cell phone storage pouch. It is magnetic and stops students from using their phones. Students are responsible for their pouch and will bring it to school daily. Students lock their cell phones in their Yondr pouches each morning and put them in their backpacks. Students must secure their AirPods in the pouch or place them in their backpacks. Smartwatches must be off or in airplane mode. Students must go to an unlocking station at the end of the school day. Individual teachers will not be able to unlock the pouches. Parents or caregivers can contact the school’s front office in case of a family emergency.

The high school pilot program starts on Tuesday, Sept. 3. Students will place their cell phones into a storage unit at the beginning of each class. Phones never leave the classroom without being in the student’s possession unless confiscated for policy violations. FCPS recommends reading the Frequently Asked Questions or contacting their local school for more information. <https://www.fcps.edu/cell-phone-policy>

School Buses and Speed Cameras

FCPS says on Facebook that the rules are straightforward. “If a school bus has flashing red lights, drivers must stop in both directions, UNLESS separated from the bus by a median. Check out all the back-to-school rules of the road from Fairfax County Government: bit.ly/BTS-RulesOfTheRoad.”

In his Aug. 13 newsletter, Jeff McKay, chairman of the Board of Supervisors, reminded drivers that the start of school brings changes in traffic and routines that affect everyone throughout the county. The county will install fifty school bus cameras to identify and cite drivers who refuse to stop while school buses are loading and unloading children. McKay said he led this initiative with former Sup. John Foust to better protect county students by changing driver behavior.

Early Release Mondays

The 2024–25 school year will see elementary school students released three hours early on seven Mondays. Teachers need time to prepare lessons, participate in professional development and training, and collaborate with peers. The early release days start in mid-September. Visit the FCPS’s Region and Pyramid Maps page. FCPS states online that they “will ensure that every student has supervised activities at the school and returns home at the regular time if that is what works best for your family.”

– MERCIA HOBSON

ENTERTAINMENT



FLEETING MOMENTS 2024 STREET PHOTOGRAPHY AT THE ATHENAEUM

Fleeting Moments: Street Photography II can be seen now thru Sept. 22, 2024 at the Athenaeum in Alexandria.

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/>

NOW THRU SEPT. 22

Fleeting Moments: Street Photography II. At the Athenaeum, Alexandria. Artist Reception: Sunday, August 18, 4 - 6 p.m. Artist Talk, Sunday: September 22, 2:30 p.m. Fleeting Moments features photographs that capture candid moments, revelatory interpretations, and brilliant reflections of the mundane - work commonly referred to as "street photography."

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

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Martin Garfield-Levine, Music Director, Washington Metropolitan Concert Orchestra

Caroline Mousset, Executive and Artistic Planning Director

MUSIC SCHEDULE

August 25: Samuel Runolfson, Cello
September 1: Michael De Sapio, Violin
September 8: Hai Jin, Piano
September 15: John Sutherland Earle: Piano & Friends

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.
AUGUST
23 Deanna Bogart (Blues, R&B)
30 Melissa Qinn Fox (Country/Americana)

AT WORKHOUSE ARTS CENTER

9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton
Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.
AUGUST
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 2, 7-9pm. Open Thursdays 12-6pm, Fridays 12-9pm, Saturdays & Sundays 12-6pm (Closed September 1). Details at DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

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.

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.

SEPT. 6-28

The "Fascinating Fiber, Alluring Fabric" Exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. Features art that is either created with fiber or fabric or depicts fiber or fabric as its subject. Opening reception on Friday, September 6, 7-9 p.m. Gallery hours are Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays 12-6 p.m. (Closed on Sunday, September 29). Details at DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

FRIDAY/SEPT. 6

Something Country. 8 p.m. to 12 a.m. At Electric Palm Restaurant, 12745 Sea Ray Lane, Woodbridge. Rockin' country that gets you dancing.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 7

Sidewalk Sale. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Experience a delightful day of shopping and dining at Belle View Shopping Center, 1632 Belle View Boulevard, Alexandria. Get ready for the Fall season by exploring the unique stores and savoring delicious meals at the local restaurants. More than 30 merchants will be offering exclusive deals and special offers throughout the day. Discover fantastic bargains at popular spots like Top It Off Outlet, Pampered Pet, LIGHT, and Virginia Florist, with sales tables set up

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 9



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

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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 8

both inside and outside. To add to the festivities, Revel and UnWined will be hosting a wine tasting from 2 to 5 p.m., either indoors or outdoors depending on the weather.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 7

Find Your Ancestors! 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Attend this conference featuring one of America's most popular genealogical lecturers. John Colletta will discuss how historical research can help to understand the day-to-day lives of our ancestors. Lively discussions will follow. Cost: \$40. Email: contact-us@mvgenealogy.org. Website: <https://mvgenealogy.org/store.php?sid=7>

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.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-sherwood-regional>.

SEPT. 17-23

Fall Book Sale. The Friends of the Beatley Central Library will hold their Fall Book Sale from Tuesday, September 17, 3:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

(\$15 memberships available at the door); Wednesday, September 18, 10:00 a.m.-7:30 p.m.; Thursday, September 19, 10:00 a.m.-7:30 p.m.; Friday, September 20, 10:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Saturday, September 21, 10:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sunday, September 22, Half Price Day, 1:00-4:30 p.m.; Monday, September 23, \$10 Bag Sale, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.. \$4 or less, unless specifically marked: hardbacks, paperbacks, children's books, and media. All genres. Charles E. Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria; info: 703-746-1702; www.beatleyfriends.org.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 25

"Life in Alexandria's Civil War Prisons Lecture. 7 p.m. At The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington Street, Alexandria. The Alexandria Historical Society is pleased to announce its upcoming lecture, "Life in Alexandria's Civil War Prisons." Local historian Madeline Feierterstein will present her research on the five military prisons of Alexandria during the Civil War. Her lecture will provide an in-depth look at life within these institutions for both Confederate and Union prisoners, examining how their presence disrupted the daily lives of Alexandria residents. Additionally, Madeline will explore the medical treatment of jailed soldiers and prisoners of war at hospitals such as Grosvenor Branch, which was the confiscated Lee-Fendall House. Attendees will gain insight into first-hand

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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	16713	627	COPPER CREEK ROAD	CREEK	7/25/2024
SCOTT	16734	636	COWAN GAP TUNNEL R	COWANS BRANCH	7/11/2024
FRANKLIN	7920	713	POWER DAM ROAD 713	220 BP	7/10/2024
BOTETOURT	3537	T1003	2ND. AVE./T1003	TINKER CREEK	7/8/2024
LEXINGTON	20473	0	LIME KILN ROAD	WOODS CREEK	7/3/2024
FRANKLIN	7833	613	NAFF ROAD 613	MAGGODEE CREEK	7/3/2024

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

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

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

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

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Let us know about an upcoming event

connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar

Legals

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American Horticultural Society Gala at River Farm

The 2024 American Horticultural Society Gala at River Farm will be Sept. 21, co-hosted by Skipp Calvert, member of the AHS Board of Directors, and Lauren Bishop, award-winning realtor at McEneaney Associates. The annual soirée not only highlights the vibrant culture of gardening and horticultural practices but also raises vital funds to support AHS's outreach and educational programs and the stewardship of River Farm, headquarters of the AHS.

This year's event will present Marcia Zech with the AHS Gold Medal. A long-time dedicated member of the AHS Board of Direc-

tors, Zech has played a pivotal role in championing the society's mission, ensuring its financial sustainability, and safeguarding its historic River Farm headquarters.

The AHS will also posthumously honor Jim Nau, the 2024 recipient of the AHS's highest accolade, the Liberty Hyde Bailey Award, for his lifetime contributions to the field. A revered figure in the horticultural world, Nau dedicated his entire 37-year career to the Ball Horticultural Company, where he excelled as a plant expert, writer, speaker, historian, and garden designer. He passed away in June 2023.

The event at River Farm, located at

7931 E. Boulevard Dr., Alexandria, Virginia 22308, will be held Saturday, Sept 21, 6 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. The gala will feature cocktails, dinner, dancing and mingling set amongst River Farm's stunning gardens on the Potomac River. Attire is black-tie. Individual tickets are \$375 each, and sponsorships start at \$1,250.

For more information about the gala and sponsorships, contact AHS Director of Development and Engagement Katie Tukey at ktukey@ahsgardening.org / (713) 768-5700 ext. 144. Visit www.ahsgardening.org/2024gala to purchase tickets and sponsorships.

Workhouse Haunt: Twisted Tales of Terror Kicks Off Oct. 4 Northern Virginia's Popular Outdoor Haunted Trail Returns

Get into the spooky spirit of Halloween at the Workhouse Haunt. Back for its 11th season, one of Northern Virginia's most popular Halloween events is bringing even more scares (and laughter) to its creepy outdoor walk-through trail. The Haunt will lead guests on a frightening journey that brings them along the abandoned, historic buildings of the former prison, where they will encounter terrifying characters and sights and sounds that are not for the faint of heart. This year's event, Haunt: Twisted Tales of Terror will run on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from Oct. 4 through Nov. 2 and Thursday, Oct. 31, Halloween night. Tickets are on sale now; prices start at \$25 per person. Visit www.workhousearts.org for schedule and event details.

This year's theme, Twisted Tales of Terror, features more than a dozen creepy live-action scenes portraying classic fairy tales gone wrong, including Little Red Riding Hood, Rapunzel, Pinocchio and more. To keep everything moving along, guests will travel in small groups via a timed entry. While waiting for their time slots, or following their trail experience, guests can enjoy Halloween fun in the Rizer Pavilion: DJ-mixed music (Fridays, Saturdays, and Halloween Night); refreshments at the bar, including Halloween-themed alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks; sweet and savory food truck treats; and Halloween art and trinkets in the Haunt Pop-up Shop.



(Recommended: inquire what definition of "dispatched" is intended.)

Special Sensory Friendly Trail Times

The Haunt is generally not recommended for children under 13 years old; however, special designated sensory friendly trail times are available on Sunday, Oct. 20 for



FILE PHOTOS FROM 2022

Terrifying actors from The Haunt 2022

families that would like to experience the trail without strobe lighting, overall lower volume levels of sounds, and scares that are not as intense. See the website for specific times. www.workhousearts.org

New This Year

The Workhouse Arts Center fall theater season kicks off with the production of Dracula: A Comedy of Terrors. During the month of October, guests can purchase a combo ticket that includes Dracula and the Haunt trail on the same night. See website for specific dates and times. www.workhousearts.org

Haunt: Twisted Tales of Terror Schedule

Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays in October

- ❖ Gates open at 6:30 pm, first group dispatched to trail at 7 pm
- ❖ On Fridays and Saturdays, final groups will be dispatched by 10:30 pm
- ❖ On Sundays, final groups will be dispatched by 9:30 pm

Thursday, October 31, Friday, November 1, and Saturday, November 2

- ❖ Gates open at 6 pm, first group dispatched to trail at 6:30 pm
- ❖ Final groups will be dispatched by 9:30 pm

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 9

accounts from individuals who experienced imprisonment within Alexandria's city limits, from the earliest days of battle to the beginnings of Reconstruction. For more information, contact David Heiby, Treasurer of the Alexandria Historical Society, at davidheiby@gmail.com or 703-869-0872.

SAVE THE DATE

Yacht Haven Garden Club's 40th annual Fashion Show, Silent Auction and Luncheon, "American Beauty" October 16, 2024 at the Mount Vernon Country Club in Alexandria. Fashions will be provided by Sara Campbell.

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.

AUGUST

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

Dream On



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Apparently, when you reach a certain age (older age) you don't sleep so well or so long. But last night was different. So much so that when I woke up this morning, I immediately and enthusiastically commented on it to my wife, Dina. Moreover, I had the longest dream, with the most detail of any I've had in forever. If I hadn't been woken by my wife's phone alarm, I'd still be sleeping.

Typically, my sleep is average. With so many cancer-related thoughts and concerns locked up in my compartmentalized vault, it's no wonder that occasionally anxiety seeps out and I'm ever more cognizant of my somewhat tenuous life expectancy. Not last night though. No seepage. Just REM sleep. So relaxing and so refreshing that I'm looking forward to bedtime tonight. But I imagine; what's the positive version of lightening striking twice, well, whatever it is, I doubt it will 'strike' me/the same person on consecutive nights.

And as unpredictable as a lightning strike is, for a cancer patient who lives everyday with the "terminal" prognosis I was given 15 and almost six months ago exactly (late Feb. '09), my life is pretty unpredictable too. A random pain here. A disappointing lab result there. A problematic PET scan everywhere. It doesn't take too much for a cancer survivor - still undergoing treatment, to fret and when negative results, values, miscellaneous diagnostics, et cetera, rear their ugly head, it's difficult to take it all in stride. I mean, your life seems stable, but maybe it's actually hanging in the balance for all you know so your reality is never far from your day-to-day existence. Nevertheless, the longer I live, the luckier I feel. Unfortunately, there's few guarantees in life, especially if you're an oncology patient.

With all this underlying fear and worry front and center, back and to both sides of your brain, falling asleep is not always an easy task. As hard as you try, getting away from your reality, as a cancer patient undergoing treatment; it's just not possible, the vault notwithstanding. All you can do is try not to be bogged down mentally by your less-than-ideal circumstances. After all, I was given a "13 months to two-year" prognosis way back when. Yet here I sit, pen in hand, writing about those 15 and a half years. Still, my overwhelming concern remains the same: "Am I further from the beginning or closer to the end?" I have no doubts that trying to fall asleep with cancer thoughts/life expectancy in your head is a sure-fire sleep inhibitor.

But what if you received some good cancer news? Would your sleep be affected? To quote any number of regulars and guest stars from the old "Laugh-in" series: "You bet your sweet bippy." And you might even have the kind of dream that I had last night. Almost as if my subconscious didn't have a care in the world. For a cancer patient originally diagnosed as "terminal," 'almost' is plenty good enough to help you get a good night's sleep. That is, as long as I wake up.

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



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