

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

OCTOBER 24, 2024



Lafayette and Vicky Embrey who came from Savage, Maryland, in 19th century dress for the event.



In the re-enactment, Lafayette studied the ring containing a lock of George Washington's hair.



Inside the tomb. A sign says that 20 people were buried here.

'Lafayette' Is Back, Retracing His 1824 Visit

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

Two hundred years to the day, Major General Marquis de Lafayette was again honored by admirers when Mount Vernon Estate held a re-enactment of his Oct. 17, 1824, return to George Washington's home.

"Lafayette stood right here 200 years ago today," said Chuck Schwam, Executive Director of the American Friends of Lafayette, at the "old tomb" overlooking the Potomac River where George and Martha Washington and 18 other family members were interred. (They were later moved to the "new tomb," as Washington instructed in his will.)

President James Monroe invited Lafayette to visit America to help celebrate the nation's 50th anniversary. On Aug. 15, 1824, he arrived in New York City with his son, George Washington Lafayette, and was met by over 80,000 cheering fans, his first trip to America in 40 years.

He had originally come to America in 1777 from France at age 17. In the Revolutionary War, Congress made him a major gen-

Information and Other Events
<https://friendsoflafayette.wildapricot.org/>

eral without pay or command, and later, Washington put him on his staff, promoted him to general and gave him command of a division. Describing Lafayette's relationship with Washington, Patti Maclay said, "It was more than a wartime alliance. Washington was his beloved adopted father. Washington treated him as a son." Maclay is National Vice Chair of the Lafay-



At the Oct. 17 event, members of the Maryland Society of 1812 posted the colors at the tomb.



The wooden door to the "old tomb." Washington directed in his will that a new tomb be built.

ette Bicentennial Committee.

At the ceremony, Ben Goldman, re-enacting Lafayette, got teary-eyed when he received a replica ring that had a lock of Washington's hair from Michael Halbert, portraying George Washington Parke Custis, Washington's adopted grandson.

In 1824, Lafayette's secretary, Auguste Levasseur, wrote about the poignant moment at the tomb: "Lafayette descended alone into the vault, and a few minutes after re-appeared, with his eyes overflowing with tears." Lafayette had commented at that time, "This moment oppresses my heart," said Schwam. The Frenchman then went into the mansion and viewed

SEE 'LAFAYETTE' IS BACK, PAGE 5



This portrait of Lafayette was painted by American Rembrandt Peale from life in 1825 at the height of Lafayette's fame. From the collection of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

Lafayette's portrait on the historic marker at 301 South St. Asaph Street in Alexandria.



Mount Vernon's Lafayette Drive intersects with Fort Hunt Road.

PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH



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On October 20th, McEneaney Associates joined the Walk to Bust Cancer at Fort Hunt Park in Alexandria. We are proud to support the National Breast Center Foundation's annual event that celebrates survivorship, honors those we've lost, and helps those currently receiving treatment.

We were honored to carry the National Breast Center Foundation's banner and lead Sunday's walk for its 1,200 attendees. We were also recognized as the top sponsor and raised more than \$11,000.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the walk and supported our team.



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Equal Housing Opportunity | Photos Courtesy of Chris Bishop



Tour de Mount Vernon Celebrates Biking under Blue Skies and Sunshine

By Mike Salmon
Mount Vernon Gazette

Last Saturday, cyclists came out to join Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon) for the 9th annual Tour de Mount Vernon Community Bike Ride to show off the ever-growing network of trails in the Mount Vernon District. Riders gathered early at the Workhouse Arts Center and talked cycling for a while before heading off on the designated route.

Chairman Jeff McKay (D) was there alongside police officers from the Mount Vernon District Station and cyclists groups like Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling, Handy Bikes, the Washington Area Bicyclists Association and Rats Cycle as well as other food and drink organizations in Mount Vernon.

Many other organizations helped put together the event including Workhouse Arts Center, Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services, Nicole Cousins-Girl Scouts, Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, Full Service Bicycle Shop, Casey Whitmarsh-State Farm Agent, South Fairfax Chamber of Commerce, Fairfax County Transportation, La Prima Catering, Bunnyman Brewing Lorton, RatsCycles, and Celebrate Fairfax.



At another spot near the Workhouse, the guard tower in the background is a reminder of its historic purpose.



Children enjoy a bike rodeo.



Supervisor Storck discusses the bike rodeo strategies.



Cyclists are underway, helmets and all.



PHOTO FACEBOOK
Jeff McKay and Dan Storck.

SENIOR LIVING

Extensive Mount Vernon Mansion Revitalization Underway

Two-year project limits access at certain locations to this popular attraction.

By MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE



The four-phased revitalization project is scheduled to be completed in 2026.

Phase I of the multi-phased project at George Washington's Mount Vernon is finishing up this month but this is only a small step in the four-phased revitalization project that is scheduled to be completed in 2026.

In phase II, only the new room, the servants hall and kitchen will be open to visitors while the remaining three quarters of the mansion will be closed. Phases III and IV have similar closings.

This may temporarily thwart this large tourist attraction in this area but it needs to be done to "save the mansion for generations to come," said President and CEO of George Washington's Mount Vernon Doug Bradburn in a project video.

A couple of the elements of renovation include the eighteenth century cellar where last year they found preserved cherries likely from between 1758 and 1776; to a new HVAC system that will clear out the humidity that may add to deterioration of certain parts.

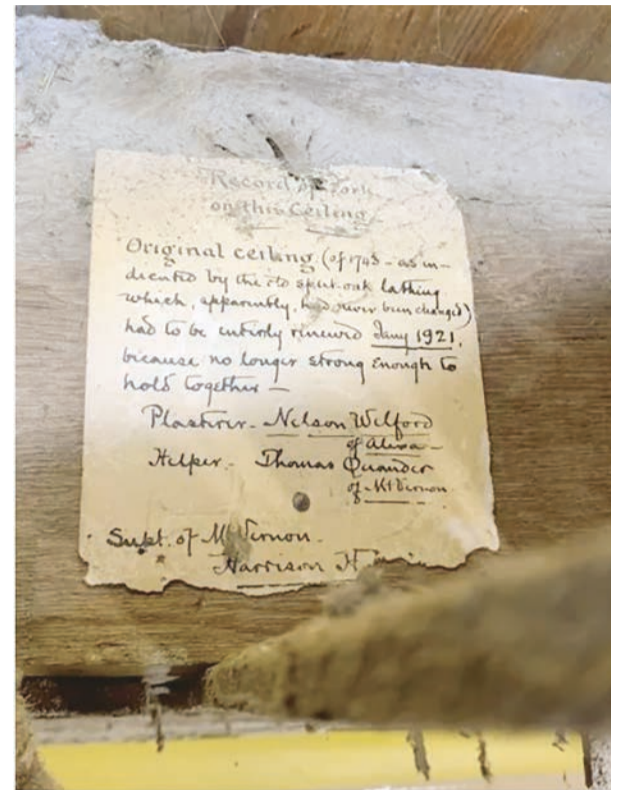
"While excavating Washington's cellar during the Mansion Revitalization Project, Mount Vernon's archeologists made a thrilling discovery - sealed glass bottles containing cherries," the description said.

Another discovery were several hidden messages throughout the Mansion from Harrison Howell Dodge, the longest-serving superintendent. There were two notes in a bottle describing work on the mansion and the people involved from 1893 and 1932. "Mr. F.W. Pilling, Architect and builder, took immediate direction of the work," said one message from 1893.

In 1932, Dodge took note of the materials used. "Reinforced foundation, covering with copper to keep down Termites, and substituting new curbing next the house (Acquia Creek Sandstone)" it read. There were two pills in the bottle too, but they were not identified. One theory is that the pills were put in the bottle as drying agents so the paper messages would remain legible.

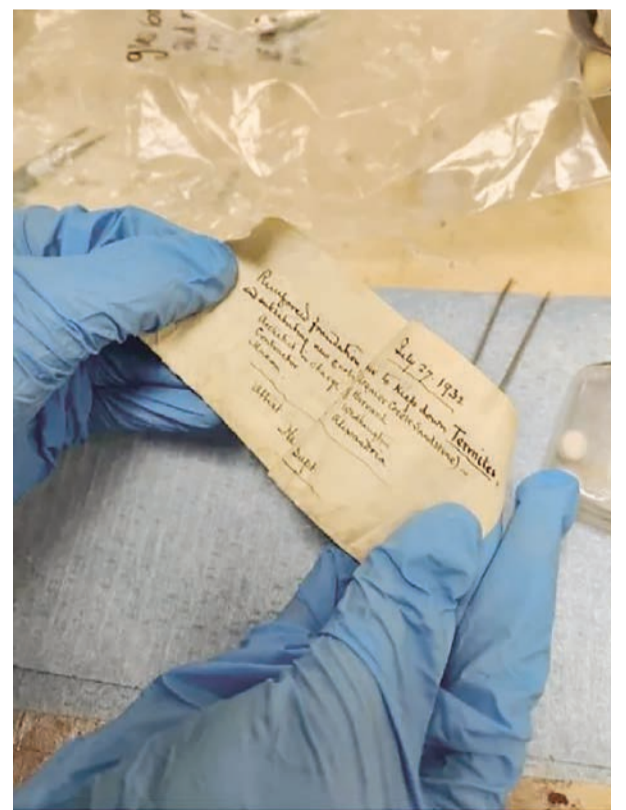
Dodge wrote a couple of more notes about the building process that were found in other places in the mansion.

This isn't the first restoration project de-



A handwritten note from Dodge on Mount Vernon letterhead was found tacked to the side of a ceiling joist. The "Helper" listed, Thomas Quander, was a descendant from one of the families enslaved at Mount Vernon in the 19th century. (MVLA)

A note from 1932.



Dodge's second note, from July 27, 1932, concerned the installation of copper termite shields. (MVLA)

One of the notes that was found at Mount Vernon.

signed to save this historic structure. In 1858 when the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association took possession, it was already 100 years old and was showing wear and tear from the visitors and weather. The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association raised the funding to save the structure.

To follow the project, there is a Mansion Revitalization Blog at Mansion Revitalization Blog | George Washington's Mount Vernon

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'Lafayette' Is Back, Retracing His 1824 Visit

FROM PAGE 1

the key to the Bastille prison on the wall which he had sent to Washington as a gift in 1789. The key is

“Lafayette was America’s first rock star. He had 80,000 people in New York City [in 1824]. The Beatles only had 6,000.”

— Chuck Schwam,
American Friends of Lafayette

still there today.

The event was organized by the Sons of the American Revolution and the American Friends of Lafayette. Schwam told the crowd of around 200, “This is a very special day.” He lauded Lafayette as one who “crossed the ocean to fight for independence, liberty and equality. His visit was a tribute to the cause of freedom and justice.”

Several speakers related that Lafayette fought for freedom in both America and in France, calling

him a “hero of two revolutions.” He played a prominent role in the French Revolution and proposed a declaration of rights. “Lafayette was a deeply committed abolitionist, and the great irony that the land of liberty prospered due to the forced labor of millions of enslaved people was certainly not lost on him,” according to “The Nation’s Guest: Lafayette’s Grand Tour of America,” in the current Virginia History and Culture magazine.

In an interview, Goldman, a Washington, D. C. resident who did five re-enactment events in five days, said he only portrays Lafayette because of the Frenchman’s “commitment to a revolutionary mission.” Doing Lafayette re-enactments is my “side hustle,” he quipped.

“Lafayette was America’s first rock star,” Schwam told the gathering. “He had 80,000 people in New York City. The Beatles only

had 6,000.”

A Visit to Alexandria Too

Historic Alexandria also hosted several events commemorating Lafayette’s visit where in 1824 he was honored with a grand parade. “Women waved handkerchiefs from open windows along neighboring buildings,” says a new placard at 301 South St. Asaph Street, where he spent the night.

The house today is known as the Lafayette House.

He had planned on a three-month tour, but it evolved into a 13-month journey in the nation’s 24 states.

He spent more time in Virginia than any other state.

He named his son George Washington Lafayette to honor his spiritual father and hero and named his daughter Virginie after Washing-

ton’s home state. His grave in Paris is covered with soil from Bunker Hill.

The Office of Historic Alexandria reports that 35 U.S. cities took on his name. In Alexandria, Fayette Street is named for him. The Mount Vernon area has Lafayette Drive.

Information and Other Events
<https://friendsoflafayette.wildapricot.org/>

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Lafayette spent the night at 301 South St. Asaph Street in Alexandria, before going to Mount Vernon.

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BIRD SAFE



PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH

Yellow outdoor lights are less attractive to and kill fewer insects than brighter white lights. Many birds are insect eaters.

Glass and Light Pollution Threaten Birds

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
THE GAZETTE

On the Saturday overnight of Oct. 19-20, 352,400 birds crossed Fairfax County, most migrating to their wintering grounds. Every fall, around four billion birds fly from Canada into the United States and another 4.7 billion fly over the U.S. southern border, according to Cornell University experts. But birds face multiple hazards, including collisions into windows and human-caused light pollution, three speakers told 75 attendees at an Oct. 9 online program sponsored by the Northern Virginia Bird Alliance.

NVBA has launched a campaign to prevent bird deaths, citing a National Audubon Society study that found a 30 percent drop in bird populations in North America since 1970, which means more than one in four birds or three billion birds have been lost since then.

Most birds migrate in the fall to find food, explained Greg Butcher, retired Migratory Species Coordinator for U.S. Forest Service. While some birds like swallows and finches migrate during the day to feed on the wing, 80 percent migrate at night, he said.

COLLISIONS WITH GLASS

Over one billion birds die by colliding with glass in buildings in the U.S., Christine Sheppard of the American Bird Conservancy, told the group. A few bounce off, but “scavengers are good at snatching up carcasses,” she added.

“We are getting collisions everywhere because the birds are sucked into the built environment, not just high up in skyscrapers,” Sheppard explained. A Smithsonian Institution analysis estimated that houses and other buildings one-to-three stories tall account for 253 million bird fatalities; low-rise



PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH

Yellow outdoor lights are less attractive to and kill fewer insects than brighter white lights. Many birds are insect eaters.

buildings four-to-11 stories high account for 339 million bird deaths; and high-rise buildings 11 floors and higher cause the deaths of 508,000 birds a year. Taller structures like skyscrapers have higher per building mortality rates, but residences are responsible for most because of their numbers.

Birds crash into windows because they perceive glass reflections of vegetation, landscapes or sky to be real and they try to reach the area. Last October, in one night, nearly 1,000 birds collided into Chicago’s mostly-glass McCormick Place Lakeside Center, the highest number on record then. American Bird Conservancy reports that once New York City’s Javits Convention Center was renovated and bird-friendly glass installed, collisions dropped by 90 percent.

NVBA is promoting bird-friendly designs for buildings and bird-friendly glass, for homes, for example, screens, decals and tape on windows’ exteriors.

Some localities have adopted bird-friendly building requirements, Sheppard said, including Washington, D.C.; Howard County, Maryland; New York City; and Portland, Oregon.

Dark Sky’s Principles for Responsible Outdoor Lighting:

- Use light only if needed.
- Direct light so it falls only where needed.
- Light should be no brighter than necessary.
- Use light only when needed. Use controls like timers and motion detectors.
- Use warmer color lights where possible.

SOURCE: [HTTPS://DARKSKY.ORG](https://darksky.org)

Find Out More:

Reducing collisions, <https://abcbirds.org/glass-collisions/>; www.Birdsmartglass.org.
Lights out, <http://www.darkvirginiasky.org/>
Bird migration, <https://birdcast.info/>

LIGHT POLLUTION

Laura Greenleaf from Dark Sky Virginia began by saying, “In the last 100 years, we’ve turned night into day ... natural darkness is fundamental for all of us.” She contends that on the east coast, light pollution is increasing ten percent every year. The NVBA campaign brochure defines light pollution as “lights that are too bright, too white, misaligned or on all night,” like lit parking lots.

“We’re lighting up so much more than we need to, especially landscaping lighting,” she argued. “You can light sport fields without lighting the sky.”

Artificial night light affects birds’ foraging, predator-prey balances, emergence from shelter, communication, navigation and migration, Greenleaf maintained. “Insects are the foundation of the food web, but lights suck them out of the environment.”

Lights Out D.C. volunteers walk Washington’s streets before sunrise during the migration season and collect dead and stunned birds.

Advocates are urging government officials to enact policies to “adopt lighting, construction and other measures to protect birds and other wildlife from the worst impacts of

our built-up environment,” explained Tom Blackburn, NVBA Advocacy Chair. He added, “Revisions to lighting ordinances could be very effective in reducing light pollution. Rapidly-developing areas such as Tysons, Reston and Leesburg could require new construction to include bird-safe windows and incorporate Dark Sky International’s Principles for Responsible Outdoor Lighting into building design.”

The campaign also seeks to “convince business owners to adopt ‘Lights Out for Birds’ practices during spring and fall migration seasons, as many other towns and cities have done and to convince developers and architects to incorporate bird-safe windows into building designs.”

FAIRFAX COUNTY

Government policies vary widely. Kelly M. Atkinson, with Fairfax County’s Planning and Development Department, said, “Fairfax County is committed to safeguarding local wildlife and has implemented measures to mitigate the effects of outdoor lighting on birds and other wildlife. In 2020, the county amended its Zoning

SEE GLASS AND LIGHT, PAGE 8
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Tired of Big Trucks Parking on Our Public Roads, Blocking Your View and Creating Safety Hazards? Use the NEW Parking Reporter Tool!

BY SUPERVISOR DAN STORCK

More and more lately, we are seeing our public streets littered with illegally parked commercial vehicles like large box trucks, dump trucks and tractor trailers. Not only is this a safety hazard, it's intrusive to our neighborhoods, blocks our businesses and limits walkability, while diminishing the sense of community we are striving to create. My office continually hears from frustrated residents who consider Richmond Highway our main street and expect it to reflect our vibrant growing community.

Here in the Mount Vernon District, our primary roadways are some of our most visible public places. However, state law does not allow localities such as Fairfax County to regulate truck parking on primary roads such as Richmond Highway. Currently, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) only considers line-of-sight when regulating truck parking on the Highway. This limits the ability of our local governments to create attractive, vibrant places and other features conducive to pedestrian and bicycle utilization and improved safety for all roadway users.

While I continue to work with

our state colleagues to implement improvements, we need to be further addressing this problem now. My office has been working for the last year to gain consensus with VDOT and the police as to what can be enforced and the most effective way to identify illegally parked vehicles and report them. We hear from residents who strongly object to seeing these trucks every day and advise me that they often have difficulty clearly reporting parking violations to the police.

I am very pleased to announce our new reporting tool, making it easier for you to report illegal truck parking to the police. My team has worked diligently with County IT, to create a new online tool for anyone to easily report parking violations. The tool features a simple questionnaire and maps to help you pinpoint the exact location of violations, categorize the type of infraction and even identify vehicles with out-of-state plates. Reports are then sent directly to the traffic enforcement team and the appropriate District Supervisor's office, ensuring that action can be taken swiftly with priority. We look forward to you joining us to clean up our roadways!

You can NOW use the new Parking Reporter Tool at <https://tinyurl.com/stoptruckparking>.

WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT COMMERCIAL TRUCK PARKING



"Like many of you I have been frustrated at the numbers of commercial trucks parked on community roads. While I work with our state officials for changes, here is information you can use to help us make a difference now." - Dan Storck, Supervisor, Mount Vernon District

DO YOU KNOW VDOT'S RULES ON COMMERCIAL TRUCKS PARKING ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD?

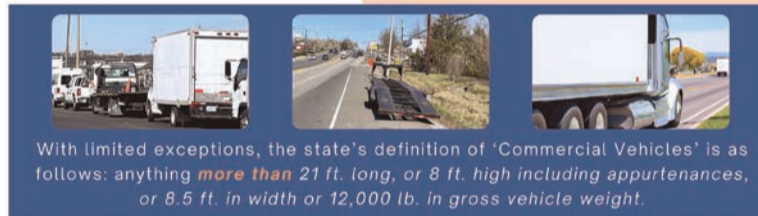
STATE LAW

The County enforces adopted state law and regulations regarding parked vehicles. You can determine for yourself whether a commercial truck is legally parked along the road, as the rules may be summarized into six questions.

QUESTIONS TO ASK

1. Is the vehicle "obstructing traffic," meaning, parked in a travel lane?
2. Is it a signed "no parking" area?
3. Is the commercial truck parked in a residentially zoned area?
4. Is the vehicle parked "long-term," meaning, 15 days or longer from when the police first 'tag' the vehicle?
5. Is the vehicle part of a "fleet," meaning, two or more vehicles of the same company parked on a public road?
6. Is the vehicle parked closer than 10 ft. from a driveway, closer than 20 ft. from an intersection/crosswalk or closer than 30 ft. from a stop sign?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, report the vehicle online (<https://tinyurl.com/stoptruckparking>) or call the FCPD non-emergency line, (703) 691-2131, TTY 711.



With limited exceptions, the state's definition of 'Commercial Vehicles' is as follows: anything **more than 21 ft. long, or 8 ft. high including appurtenances, or 8.5 ft. in width or 12,000 lb. in gross vehicle weight.**

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Kamala Harris Inspired Me to Fight Against Gun Violence

N. Virginia history teacher wants his students to be safe.

BY BEN BERNIER

In 2019, as a junior at the University of New Hampshire, I asked then-Senator and presidential candidate Kamala Harris how she would address the epidemic of gun violence in our schools. As an aspiring educator getting ready to start my career, it horrified me that public schools had become targets for these horrific events. I wrote to lawmakers and drove to Washington for the March for Our Lives, but I knew that more had to be done at the national level.

Harris agreed and laid out strong, practical steps she would take as president to prevent gun violence and school shootings.

Voicing her support for an assault weapons ban and universal background checks, Harris showed that she was committed to act on this issue. Would-be perpetrators of gun violence all too often slip through the cracks of

a broken system. Had these laws been in place, they very well may have prevented tragedies such as those in Newtown, Connecticut and Parkland, Florida from happening — the facts prove it. To me, Harris' determination to put an end to gun violence within school communities was evident.

That summer, I scrapped my plans and went to work on her campaign in New Hampshire, driven by the belief that Kamala Harris would be the president we need to enact real change on this issue. I believe that today, more than ever.

Since taking office, Vice President Harris has proven that she meant it when she said in 2019 that she was not afraid to lead on this issue. Under the Biden-Harris administration, the most significant gun safety legislation in decades was passed: the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act. Harris heads up the first-ever White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention and has

shared her personal experience as a gun owner to prove that responsible gun owners can support both the Second Amendment and common sense safety laws.

"We must be willing to have the courage to say that on every level, whether you talk about changing laws or changing practices and protocols, that we must do better," she said to a group of Parkland survivors earlier this year.

Compare that to the Republican nominee for president, who told Iowans the day after a shooting in their state they "have to get over it," and his running mate who called school shootings a "fact of life." Trump's Project 2025 play-book calls for more guns in schools, itself a reminder that when he was

SEE GUN VIOLENCE. PAGE 10

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Ideally, letters will be original, about local issues and less than 300 words. Please submit letters by noon Friday before publication week, although letters received on Mondays can be considered. Letters must include your first and last name, home address and a phone number. Letters are routinely edited for libel, length, grammar, good taste and accuracy. Your name and town will be published with your letter; other personal information will not be shared. If you are a student, your school name, age and grade will also be published.

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A Connection Newspaper





Alexandria's own brewery.



The Port City entourage.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE GAZETTE

Port City Lands a Gold Medal

At this year's Great American Brew Fest.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

October was good for Port City Brewery in Alexandria. Not only is the month full of brewfests and lederhosen outfits, Port City also landed a gold

medal at the Great American Brew Fest in Colorado for their skilled beer brewing.

Their medals awarded were a gold medal for their Port City Porter in the Robust Porter category and bronze for the Rauchbier in the Smoke Beer category.

Port City founder Bill Butcher was part of the 9-member entourage that traveled out to Colorado. "The Great American Beer Festival is a big event for us," he said, "we go every year."

There were over 50,000 people at this year's event in Denver which ran from Oct.

9-13. In addition to the medals, there were activities all week including live music, disk golf, beer bust bingo, karaoke and the hang-over brunch on Sunday.

"These awards are among the most coveted in the industry," read the festival write up. The Port City medals are on display in the tasting room. Port City has won medals in previous years as well. Another gold award went to Centreville-based Great American Restaurants/Sweetwater Tavern for its Crazy Jackass Ale in the Rye Beers category.

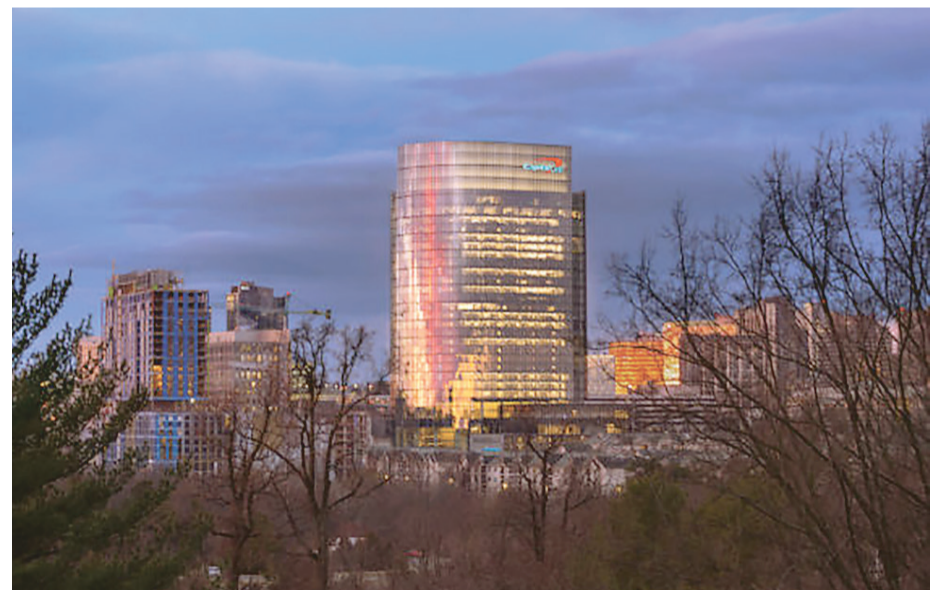


The beer medal podium.



PHOTO BY POWELL HUTTON

Paracord hung in front of a window to warn birds to not fly into it.



BONSTRA HARESIGN ARCHITECTS

The Capital One Tower at Tysons, 470 feet tall, the second-tallest building in Virginia.

Glass and Light Pollution Threaten Birds

FROM PAGE 6

Ordinance to adhere to updated lighting industry standards that prioritize energy efficiency and restrict outdoor lighting to a maximum color temperature of 3,000 K.

"During the review of commercial and multi-family proposals going through the public hearing process, we ask applicants

to provide information on bird-friendly design strategies which could include window glazing, lighting practices to reduce light emitted during evening hours and incorporation of natural landscaping around the building. Additionally, the Fairfax County Park Authority actively advocates for dark sky-friendly initiatives, urging residents and businesses to adopt measures that reduce

light pollution and protect local ecosystems."

Blackburn responded, "I am very pleased that Fairfax County has taken steps to reduce the adverse impacts of our built-up environment on birds and other wildlife. I am hopeful that we can work with county officials to promote additional measures, including supporting a 'Lights Out' policy during migration and reducing the recom-

mended color temperature for lighting to 2,500 K."

FIND OUT MORE:

Reducing collisions, <https://abcbirds.org/glass-collisions/>; www.Birdsmart-glass.org.

Lights out, <http://www.darkvirginiasky.org/>
Bird migration, <https://birdcast.info/>

ENTERTAINMENT



Alexandria Ghost Tours and Haunted Pub Crawls have started at various locations in Old Town Alexandria.



Celebrate Old Town Family Trick or Treat on Saturday, Oct. 26, 2024 at various locations in Old Town Alexandria.

ONGOING

Alexandria Ghost Tours and Haunted Pub Crawls. Alexandria Ghosts offers guided ghost tours and adults-only haunted pub crawls nightly that highlight the city's dark history and unique local lore highlighting Alexandria's haunted history. The tours feature stories from historic sites and iconic locations like the Carlyle House, Ramsey House, and the infamous Wilkes Tunnel. Each experience transports you to the city's eerie past, a time before it was a trendy place to live, work, and play. Alexandria has a tragic history so disturbing it's often hidden from tourists who descend upon the city daily.

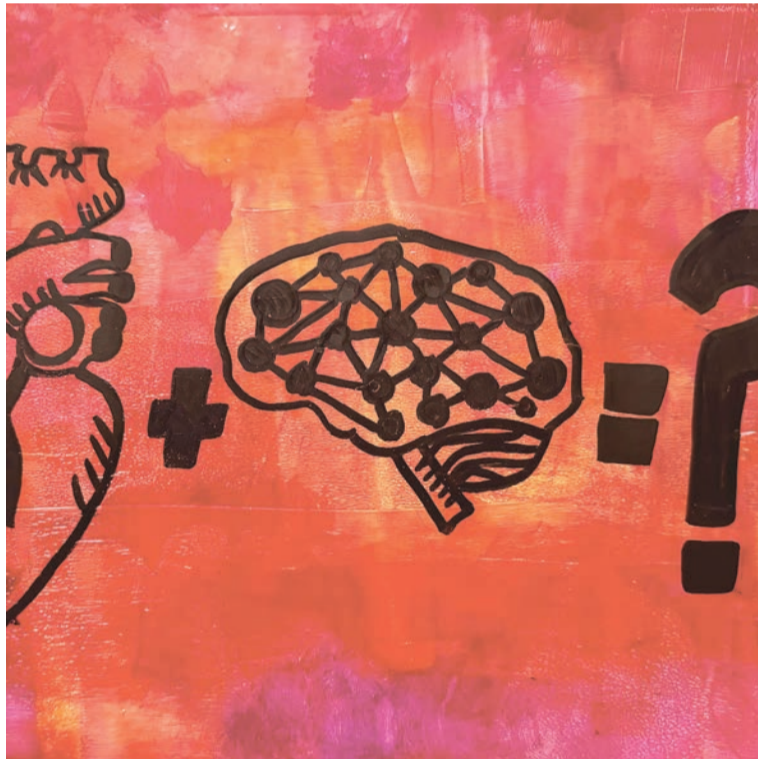
The Four Terrifying Tour Experiences of Alexandria Ghosts:

1. Alexandria Ghosts: Phantoms of the Potomac: Explore Alexandria's haunted history as you follow in the ghostly footsteps of George Washington and other restless spirits in this colonial city.
2. Alexandria Ghosts Boos and Booze Haunted Pub Crawl: Combine history, hauntings, and a lively pub crawl in Alexandria's haunted bars.
3. Alexandria Ghosts Ultimate Dead of Night Haunted Ghost Tour: A deep dive into Alexandria's eerie past, from Native American history to Civil War hauntings.

❖ Meeting Locations: 323 Cameron St, Alexandria, VA 22314 (Phantoms of the Potomac); 138 N Royal St, Alexandria, VA 22314 (Pub Crawl & Ultimate Dead of Night Tour); 301 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 (Washington's Footsteps). Visit <https://alexandriaghosts.com>.

WEDNESDAYS THROUGH SATURDAYS

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



The "Artificial or Intelligence?" Art Exhibit runs Oct. 4-26, 2024 at Del Ray Artisans Gallery in Alexandria.

GROW WITH YOUR GARDEN AT GREEN SPRING GARDEN TALKS

The Park Authority is here to help gardeners this fall with a plant-tastic lineup of Green Spring Garden Talks, 4603 Green Spring Road in Alexandria. Learn some tips and techniques that will spruce up your plants and other "soil-mates" with the help from fellow gardeners, VCE Master Gardeners and naturalists. All events are held at Green Spring Gardens and are \$12 per person. Additional fees apply for out-of-county residents.

- Make a Backyard Sanctuary for Wildlife. Saturday, Oct. 26, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Learn gardening techniques for attracting pollinators, birds and other native insects into your garden to improve habitat loss.
- Composting Made Simple. Friday, Nov. 8, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Learn the value that comes with putting compost into your yard and garden instead of your trashcan.
- Adapt & Thrive with Climate Change. Saturday, Nov. 16, 10:30-11:30

a.m. Extension Master Gardeners share ways to adapt your garden practices to changing climate patterns through plant selection, water management and more!

NOW THRU OCT. 27

Alexandria Plein Air. At The Athenaeum, Alexandria. Six artists began regular outdoor painting sessions in and around Alexandria, VA to help cope with the pandemic. They have continued the practice and this exhibit displays their interpretations of local sites, natural and man made, in a variety of seasons. Featuring: Mary Anne Cochran-Fox, Calina Franzosa, Seana Gallagher, Renee Lachman, Theresa Miller and Karen Thuermer.

OCT. 4-26

The "Artificial or Intelligence?" Art Exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Features art that explores what the future might look like with AI and whether machine learning feels artificial or



"A Focus on Nature" can be seen Oct. 24 to Dec. 21, 2024 at Coldwell Banker Realty in Alexandria.

intelligent at the present moment. Opening Reception: Friday, October 4 from 7-9 p.m. Open Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays 12-6 p.m. (Closed October 27). Details: DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

OCT. 24 TO DEC. 21

"A Focus on Nature." At Coldwell Banker Realty, 310 King Street, Alexandria. Opening reception Oct. 24 from 6-7:30 p.m. Art exhibit featuring the nature-themed photographs of Steven Halperson and mosaics of Nina Tisara. Steven Halperson, Tisara Photography, has over 30 years' experience in portrait and event photography. For this exhibit, he is returning to his roots in fine art photography and making use of digital camera software to create strikingly beautiful images. Nina Tisara retired from the photography studio in 2007 and began creating intricate mosaics which are now widely exhibited and collected. Nina is the founder of Living Legends of Alexandria. A portion of all sales will be donated to the Coldwell Banker Realty Cares Foundation, a program that helps support selected nonprofits in Alexandria and throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. For additional information, contact Rachel Carter,

RCarter@cbmove.com or Nina Tisara, Ninat@ninatisara.com.

SATURDAY/OCT. 26

Old Town Family Trick or Treat. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Various locations in Old Town Alexandria. Bring the family and enjoy trick-or-treating in various shops and restaurants in Old Town along upper and lower King Street and select side streets. Visit oldtownbusiness.org in the coming weeks for details on the starting point and map pick-up location.

SUNDAY/OCT. 27

Old Town Doggie Trick or Treat. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. At The Dog Park, 705 King Street, Alexandria. Bring your dog for a howling day of walking through Old Town and visiting participating merchants who will offer treats for your four-legged companion. Start at The Dog Park boutique, located at 705 King Street. Visit oldtownbusiness.org.

SUNDAY/OCT. 27

28th Annual Del Ray Halloween Parade. 2 p.m. Begins at Mount Vernon Ave., south of E. Bellefonte Ave. Alexandria. One of Del Ray's

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 11

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NEWS

Gun Violence

FROM PAGE 7

president, he called for the arming of teachers. It is utterly unacceptable that the commands of the gun lobby are being listened to before the needs of our country's children. Vice President Harris knows that and is determined to have the backs of our teachers and students. She showed this by choosing Tim Walz — a former teacher beloved in his home state for signing legislation to support students — to be her running mate. It's hard to imagine a clearer contrast between the Harris-Walz ticket's support for educators and schools and the Trump-Vance position, which calls for abolishing the Department of Education.

This is my third year as a high school history teacher, and I will continue to lock my classroom door every day. I am still worried about the safety of my students and myself. I intend to have a long career and want my students to live free from fear that they won't make it to graduation — possible under courageous leaders willing to do what's necessary.

Unfortunately, the reality is that school shootings are increasing, and action must be taken to address them. It is past time the United States joined other countries in passing reasonable legislation to prevent more children from dying from gun violence.

I am no longer the college student I was when I first spoke to Kamala Harris, but I believe just as strongly in her mission today as I did then. It is inspiring and undoubtedly part of what made me the educator I am today. Kamala Harris is a strong leader, a fearless fighter, and genuinely driven to protect all Americans' freedoms.

She is unequivocally the right choice to lead our country; our schools, our children, and our future depends on her.

Ben Bernier is a history teacher at Hayfield Secondary School.

CALENDAR

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

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

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 9

favorite traditions, the annual Del Ray Halloween Parade, returns once again. Costumed children, pets and babies in decked-out strollers are invited to march and show off their finest and scariest Halloween garb. For more information, including details on entering the house decorating contest, pet costume contest and stroller decorating contest, head to visitdelray.com.

NOV. 1 TO DEC. 1

Del Ray Artisans “\$100 & Under” exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Showcases members’ artwork all priced at \$100 or less. The art is sold on an art-to-go basis. The gallery walls are packed with great art at prices all art-lovers can afford. Opening Reception: Friday, November 1, 7-9pm. Open Thursdays 12-6pm, Fridays 12-9pm, Saturdays & Sundays 12-6pm. Closed Thanksgiving Day. Details: DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

SATURDAY/NOV. 2

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>.

[county.gov/library/branches/friends-of-sherwood-regional](https://www.fairfax-county.gov/library/branches/friends-of-sherwood-regional).

NOV. 3 AND NOV. 7-10

18th Annual Alexandria Film Festival. Featuring more than 60 films and 40 filmmakers at four venues. For the schedule, tickets, and passes, visit AlexFilmFest.com.

THURSDAY/NOV. 7

Evening of Perfect Pairings: Wine + Chocolate, Women + Business. 5:30-7 p.m. At Goodwin House Alexandria, 4800 Fillmore Ave., Alexandria. Presented by The Chamber ALX’s Professional Women’s Network. Join in an unforgettable night of curated wine and food pairings, networking, and celebration. Contact Maria Ciarrocchi at mciarrocchi@thechamberalx.com

SATURDAY/NOV. 9

Designing American Living. 3-4:30 p.m. At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Hwy., Alexandria. Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House provide a unique opportunity to put two American styles of architecture – separated by over a century – in conversation with one another. Take a close look at both houses to examine what it was that the architects who built these homes were trying to convey about the people who lived here, the period they lived in, and what they thought the future held. Cost \$25 for adults, \$12 students (K-12). Website: <https://www.woodlawnandpopeleighey.org/upcomingevents/2024/10/12/designing-american-living>

SATURDAY/NOV. 16

Celebrate Gum Springs’ 191st Anniversary. 6-9 p.m. At George Washington’s Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon. Celebrate Gum Springs -- The oldest African American community in Fairfax County with keynote speaker Don Scott. Tickets \$125. Event host: The Gum Springs Historical Society and Museum and the Mount Vernon Ladies Association.

SATURDAY/NOV. 16

Alexandria Symphony Orchestra Presents Carmina Burana “Abound”. 7:30 p.m. At Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center. Featuring the Chorale and Youth Choir with Ingrid Lestrud, Artistic Director. Visit alexsym.org.

SATURDAY/NOV. 23

Alexandria Cider Festival. 1 to 5 p.m. At Lloyd House, 220 N. Washington St., Alexandria. Celebrate Virginia Cider Week with a special tasting event on the grounds of the historic Lloyd House in Old Town Alexandria. Event tickets include cider tastings, live music, a tasting glass and a little history, too. This event will take place outdoors. Proceeds benefit the historic Alexandria museums. Admission: \$50 (Presale through October 31); \$55 (November 1 to 22); \$65 (at the door); \$25 designat-

ed driver purchase.

SATURDAY/NOV. 23

The Good Folk Performs. 7 p.m. At Saint Aidan’s Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road, Alexandria. FocusMusic and WFMA present The Good Folk at Saint Aidan’s Episcopal Church. The Good Folk, Meghan Mette, Eileen Estes, Joanna Clare, Sophie Chang, Agi Kovacs, and Patrick Winch, deliver powerful instrumentals, haunting vocals and three styles of percussive dance. Cost is \$25 in advance (members \$22.50) / \$30 at door (members \$25) Virtual Tickets: \$15 (\$13.50 for members. Info at <https://focusmusic.org/shows#sat-11-23-the-good-folk-alexandria-and-virtual>

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.

OCTOBER

Wed. 23: Private Event
Thu. 24: AJ Ghent & His Singing Guitar \$35.00
Fri. 25: William Clark Green with Erin Kinsey \$29.50
Sat. 26: Tom Paxton & The Don-Juans with sp. guest Noel Paul Stookey of Peter, Paul & Mary \$49.50
Sun. 27: Oleta Adams “Farewell Tour!” \$55.00
Tue. 29: The Robert Cray Band \$59.50

Burton Will Be Hurtin’



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Of that I am certain, or maybe it’s me who’ll be hurtin’. And why might we both be hurtin’? Because on Wednesday, Nov. 20, I’ll be takin’ Burton to get neutered. I’ll need to drop him off between 7:00 and 7:30 am. He’ll be ready for pick-up between 2:00 and 3:00 pm later that same day.

I have waited until now (two-plus years old) to schedule this appointment for two reasons: (1) As a fellow male, I can feel/imagine Burton’s future pain. Having had a male golden retriever neutered once before (Bailey), I’ve witnessed how resilient dogs are. At the office where I went to get Bailey after his procedure, I remember I checked in and they said he’d be right out. As soon as I saw him, I called his name and he came running over to me, like nothing had even happened. Amazing. I realized, in the scheme of veterinary surgery, this procedure, especially for a male, is fairly straight forward/uncomplicated. Nevertheless, I’m sure I’ll be signing forms waiving the practice of any responsibility should something unexpected occur - just like we mostly do when we go for our own surgeries. But it’s this particular surgery which has me unsettled a bit considering they’re doing.

The second reason for the procedure to be scheduled two years and three months after Burton’s August birthdate is the relatively recent/evolving opinion in the veterinary world concerning the appropriate timeline for these specific procedures. Back in Bailey’s Day (golden retriever number two), the conventional wisdom/advice was neutering should occur six to nine months after birth. However, these days (and I’m not sure when this became a thing), the timeline has lengthened. The recommendation now is to wait 18 -24 months-ish. The thinking is that it’s better for the dog to wait until it reaches its physical maturity before any neutering happens so its development is not impaired by stunting the dog’s growth by “proceduring” prematurely.

Well, 27 months in, you can’t say we’re stunting Burton’s growth. He’s over 70 pounds now like he’s supposed to be. Moreover, having decided that we’re not interested in the future puppy-making business, which is very much a business, especially if your dog is registered with the AKC (America Kennel Club) which Burton most definitely is (meaning he has papers/is pure bred). Also, Burton having this surgery sort of nips him the bud as a potential sire. In addition, not getting involved in this breeding business will simplify our lives and save us from worrying about Burtons comings and goings - and wanderings, particularly as a male. They can smell a female in heat a mile away (it’s an expression, but far) and since we don’t have a fenced-in yard/have any real means of restricting his movements, it’s possible he could follow a scent and be who knows where in a matter of minutes. Not to mention the fact that we live a quarter mile from a relatively busy four-lane state road whose lights at nighttime and noise all the time fascinate Burton. I’m always afraid he’ll head up that way. The surgery, generally speaking, decreases some of these urges in the male dog.

Not to invoke “Forrest, Forrest Gump” yet again, but “one less thing.” And ‘one less thing’ for a cancer patient (yours truly if you haven’t been reading along for the last 15+ years) to worry about is super helpful. My goal is to minimize the negative and maximize the positive, especially since my late brother Richard is not here. Because being diagnosed with cancer is all it’s cracked up to be and oh by the way, so are golden retrievers. They’re full of positivity.

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

BULLETIN BOARD

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

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

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

ALIVE! Volunteers are needed to assist with multiple programs relating to their Food Program, ALIVE! House, and Alexandria Eviction Prevention Partnership Program will distribute food at Mobile Pop-ups and Truck to Trunk events, etc. <https://www.volunteeralxandria.org/ALIVE>

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

Join Friends’ Board. Those who care about mental health, the Alexandria community, and collaborating with fellow residents to make sure the City’s most vulnerable residents have a chance to thrive, then consider joining the Board

of Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center. The Friends Board is an all-volunteer group of residents that oversees the administration of one of Alexandria’s top mental health charities. Friends has no paid staff, so Board members, working on average 10 hours per month, share the day-to-day work needed to accomplish its goals. Interested candidates should email FriendsofAMHC@gmail.com.

STEM Professionals Needed. Help assist K-12 STEM teachers as part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science’s STEM Volunteer Program, stemvolunteers.org, during the 2018-19 school year. In the 2017-18 school year, there are 85 volunteers in 6 Northern Virginia school districts. Contact Don Rea at 571-551- 2488, or donaaldea@aol.com.

ALIVE! offers numerous programs that aid low-income families in Alexandria that rely on volunteers: monthly food distributions, furniture, houseware and emergency food deliveries, and community food drives. Individuals, families and groups are encouraged to participate. Students can earn community service hours by participating. Visit www.alive-inc.org/volunteer.htm or contact the Volunteer Coordinator at volunteers@alive-inc.org.

Volunteer Drivers Needed. Drivers needed by the American Cancer Society to take cancer patients to treatment in Northern Virginia. To volunteer, call 1-800-227-2345 or go to cancer.org/drive.

RSVP! a volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older. RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and

liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, email Carly Hubicki at chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-403- 5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit www.rsvpnova.org.

Mentors Wanted. Two creative programs that help transform the lives of Alexandria’s preteens are seeking volunteer mentors. SOHO, which stands for “Space of Her Own,” and “Space of His Own,” serves vulnerable fifth graders in Alexandria. The programs pair men and women with youth in need of positive adult role models, to help support and guide youth in making healthy choices and succeeding in school and in life. Visit www.spaceofherown.org and www.spaceofhisown.org. For more information on how to become a SOHO mentor, contact Sarah Maroney at sarah.maroney@alexandriava.gov or phone at 703-746-4687.

Farmer’s Market Volunteers Needed. To volunteer for the Farmer’s Markets, email Brian Morreale, brianmorreale@gmail.com

SUPPORT GROUPS

Postpartum Support Virginia sponsors a free, bi-monthly support group for women suffering depression and/or anxiety during pregnancy or in the first year following childbirth. Meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at Inova Alexandria Hospital, Health Education Center, rooms 1-2, 4320 Seminary Road. Contact co-moderator Susan Doyle at suzjdoyle@gmail.com or 571-403-0673.

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