

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

JUNE 5, 2025



Interpreters at the camp: Alex Crigger, Brian Strong and Matthew Kohler



Re-enactor Brian Strong at the cooking station and wooden barrels that stored food.

Revolutionary War Camp

Learn about a soldier's life onsite at Mount Vernon.

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

Going to war may be glory, guts and adrenaline rushes, but serving in wartime has its mundane side, as visitors to Mount Vernon's new Patriot Path can learn by experiencing a typical Revolutionary War Army camp, from sleeping on the ground to eating corn cakes.

Currently, the camp represents 1775, the war's first year. The com-

The Patriots Path, commemorating the 250th anniversary of the start of the American Revolutionary War.

For more on the encampment, visit <https://www.mountvernon.org/plan-your-visit/calendar/events/patriots-path-revolutionary-war-encampment>

More Events:

Mount Vernon will honor George Washington taking command of the Continental Army on June 14, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with horses and a boat parade on the Potomac River. Visit <https://www.mountvernon.org/plan-your-visit/calendar/events/250th-celebration-washington-taking-command>.

The National Museum of the U.S. Army at Fort Belvoir is hosting multiple events to celebrate the Army's 250th anniversary in June, including its exhibition, "Call to Arms: The Soldier and the Revolutionary War," opening June 7-8. Visit <https://www.thenmusa.org/events/>

ponents and activities will change somewhat over time to reflect each year of the war. Interpreters describe the daily life of a regiment,

typically 60 rank-and-file soldiers, officers and camp followers. Visitors can handle objects and talk to
SEE REVOLUTIONARY, PAGE 10



To pass the time, soldiers played games.



The Revolutionary War encampment at Mount Vernon.



The officer's tent with a decorative edge and wooden finial.



corcoran

MCENEARNEY

OPEN SUN 6/8, 1PM-4PM



Waverly Hills/Willett Heights

4610 17th Street N

\$2,875,000 | New Springstreet home on 8,400 sf level lot with rentable one bedroom apartment in lower level. SubZero, Wolf, Cove appliances, screened porch, bath adjoins main level den.

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BetsyTwigg.com.com



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Rebecca McCullough : 571.384.0941
RebeccaMcCullough.com



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AnnMcClure.com



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Marjorie Leighey Saved an Architectural Gem

How and why
did she do that?

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

To learn that state highway officials will route an interstate highway through your house two months after your husband's death had to be an overwhelming double-whammy. In 1964, when the Virginia Department of Highways wanted to condemn her Falls Church house and pay her \$25,605 to make room for Interstate 66, Marjorie Leighey did not whimper or cower. She swung into action.

She asked Governor Albertis Harrison to reroute the road. He refused. Her house was not only special to her, but special to the country and to history, she believed. It was a distinctive, 1,200-square-foot house designed by the famed architect Frank Lloyd Wright.

Leighey contacted Secretary of Interior Stewart Udall, mobilized others and donated the house to the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The Trust dismantled and rebuilt it at Woodlawn.

Woodlawn is celebrating the 60th anniversary of the house's move with an exhibit titled, "Saving Pope-Leighey House: How Marjorie Leighey Rescued her Frank Lloyd Wright Home."

While attention is often focused on Wright and his talents, this exhibit spotlights the woman who saved the house.

Who Was Marjorie Leighey?

Marjorie Folsom grew up in Washington, D. C., and graduated in 1931 from George Washington University where she met and married Robert Leighey before graduating. Both were on GWU's rifle team. They had no children and Robert died in 1963.

When Leighey got the state's notice and reached out to Udall and others, according to a 2017 National Trust article: "Transportation officials were adamant that the highway could not be routed around her home. Mrs. Leighey was adamant it could not be demolished. It must have been a rather tense meeting, made all the more so by where the meeting occurred -- inside the very house that teetered on the chopping block."

When she transferred the title, she gave the Trust a check for \$31,500, the amount Virginia paid her and used that to pay part of the \$46,087 cost to move and reconstruct the house.

Leighey chose the Woodlawn setting because it resembled the house's original treed lot in Falls Church for which Wright designed it to integrate with the natural setting.

Leighey did not want to witness her house torn apart so she went to Japan for three years as a missionary and taught English. From 1965 to her death in 1983, she lived



PAUL BURK

The Pope-Leighey House.



The Exhibit

Saving Pope-Leighey House: How Marjorie Leighey Rescued Her Frank Lloyd Wright Home

The exhibit will continue until Dec. 29, 2025, Thursday through Monday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House
9000 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, VA 22304
Visit www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org.

Woodlawn will host a commemoration event, including tours, on June 7, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$60. Visit <https://fareharbor.com/embeds/book/woodlawnpopeleighey/items/624459/?full-items=yes&flow=34465>.

For more visit: www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org; Facebook: www.facebook.com/woodlawnandpopeleigheyhouse; Instagram: www.instagram.com/woodlawnandpopeleighey and Twitter: www.twitter.com/WoodlawnPopeL.

The National Trust for
Historic Preservation
A photograph of Marjorie Leighey seated in the living room of the Pope-Leighey House.

Democratic Candidates Vie in Primary

PHOTOS FROM INTERNET CAMPAIGN SITES

Do you know the Primary Election candidates?

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE GAZETTE

Democrats will hold a Primary Election on June 17 to select their candidates for Lt. Governor and Attorney General. Early voting is open now through June 14. Virginians go to the polls this November to select new top state officials: Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Attorney General. The slate for the parties' gubernatorial candidates is set: Democrat - Abigail Spanberger; Republican- Winsome Earle-Sears; Independent - Andrew White. Republicans have single candidates for Lt Governor - John Reid, and for Attorney General - Jason Miyares.

Vote by June 17; in person early voting until June 14; request mailed ballot by June 6.

Many voters may be attempting to differentiate between the candidates who ascribe to the same Democrat party philosophies. In making a choice for your vote, one might consider each candidate's past experience to identify elements important to you. Did he/she hold a past government office, align with a union, participate with a particular volunteer group or association? Is law experience, a historical development ground for politicians, important to you or are you looking for a different background? Is there a particular issue of importance to you on which the candidate has taken a position?

A brief summary of the six Democratic Lt. Governor and two Attorney General candidates running in the Democratic primary is provided here. To find more in-depth information, see campaign web sites.

More details

<https://www.elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/calendars-schedules/upcoming-elections.html>

Local News?

If you find local news coverage helpful, consider donating to help the Connection continue to publish. See GoFundMe <https://gofund.me/333a276b>

DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY CANDIDATES FOR LT. GOVERNOR

The lieutenant governor serves as the president of the Senate of Virginia, running the Senate sessions when the body meets; and votes only to break ties. The lieutenant governor is first in the line of succession to the governorship if the governor dies, resigns or leaves office. The elected position was created by the Virginia Constitution of 1851. Between 1776 and that time, a Speaker of the Senate had been chosen by its elected members. The position is part-time with a salary set by the Virginia Constitution at \$36,321. There have been 42 lieutenant governors in history, including during the Confederacy. Some have gone on to serve as governor or to other political offices.

The candidates are:

Alex Bastani

Worked as an economist for the Department of Labor; served as local union president; experience as an attorney, and character actor. Education: Law degree, George Mason University, 1994; Bachelor, George Washington University. Lives in Arlington.

<https://progressivevirginiansforalex-bastani.com/>



Alex Bastani

Dr. Babur Lateef

Physician and owner of Advanced Ophthalmology Inc; currently elected as member at large for Prince William County School Board from 2018 to 2028. Education: Northeast Ohio University College of Medicine; Bachelor, Youngstown State University. Lives in Prince William County.

<https://lateefforva.com/>



Dr. Babur Lateef

Victor Salgado

Worked as Senior Litigation Counsel for the Department of Justice, Public Integrity Section, and as adjunct professor of law at Georgetown University. Education: Law degree from Wisconsin Law School; Bachelor, George Washington University. Lives in Arlington County.

<https://www.victorforvirginia.com/>



Victor Salgado

Sen. Ghazala Hashmi

First elected to the Senate in 2019; and currently elected as Senator for District 15 with a term through 2028. The first Muslim and first Asian American in the Virginia Senate. Thirty year career as a professor, teaching at Reynolds Community College, and the University of Richmond. Education: PhD in American literature from Emory University; Bachelor, Georgia Southern University. Lives in Chesterfield County.

<https://ghazalaforvirginia.com/>



Sen. Ghazala Hashmi

Sen. Aaron Rouse

First elected to Senate in a special election from 2023 to 2024; currently elected to Senate District 22, 2024-2028. Served as at large member of Virginia Beach City Council, 2019-2022. Former NFL/UFL professional athlete. Founder of non-profit organization, Rouse's House. Education: Bachelor, Polytechnic Institute and State University. Lives in Virginia Beach.

<https://rouseforvirginia.com/>



Sen. Aaron Rouse

LeVar Stoney

Former mayor of Richmond, 2016 - January 2025; first African-American Virginia Secretary of the Commonwealth, 2014-2016. Education: Bachelor, James Madison University. Lives in Richmond.

<https://www.le-varstoney.com/>



LeVar Stoney

DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY CANDIDATES FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL

The Attorney General of Virginia is the Commonwealth's legal representative and chief law enforcement officer. The primary duties include managing a legal staff, and providing legal advice and representation to the governor, members of the General Assembly, and other state agencies and officials; enforcing state laws, and conducting investigations into various criminal activities. The position is full-time for four years and without term limits. The current salary is \$150,000. The candidates, by law, must be at least 30 years old, a US citizen, and have been a member of the Virginia bar for at least five years prior to election.

The two Democrat candidates are:

Shannon Taylor

Currently serves as Commonwealth's Attorney for Henrico County, elected in 2011. Serves as president, Virginia Commonwealth's Attorney Association. Education: Law degree, University of Virginia Law School, 1995, Bachelor University of Virginia. Lives in Henrico County.

<https://shannontaylorva.com/>



Shannon Taylor



Jay Jones

Jay Jones

Currently a practicing trial attorney; served as state delegate for District 89, 2018-2021. Formerly an Assistant Attorney General in DC for the Office of Consumer Protection.

Education: Law degree, University of Virginia, 2015; Bachelor, in history and government, William and Mary University. Lives in Norfolk.

<https://jayjones.com/The>

Affordable Rental Housing Waitlist Applications Open in Fairfax County, Just Until Sunday

The Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority (FCRHA) is accepting waiting list applications for both privately-owned and Fairfax County-owned Project-Based Voucher (PBV) units. Applications came online Monday, June 2, 2025 at 8 a.m., and will remain open through Sunday, June 8, 2025.

Affordable Rental Housing Opportunities

Waitlist applications will be accepted for properties located throughout Fairfax County including:

- ❖ Hollybrook III (one and two bedroom), 3012 Patrick Henry Drive, Falls Church, VA 22044,
- ❖ Creekside Village (one, two and three bedroom), 7979 Janna

Lee Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22306

- ❖ The Arden (one, two and three bedroom), 2317 Huntington Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22303

- ❖ One University - The Robinson (two bedroom), 4530 University Drive, Fairfax, VA

- ❖ Madison Ridge (one and two bedroom), 14806 Rydell Road, Centreville, VA 20121

- ❖ Ovation at Arrowbrook (one and two bedroom), 13325 Fairfield Ridge Avenue, Herndon

Waitlist applications will also be accepted for one and three bedroom Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) PBV units owned and operated by the FCRHA. Locations can be found on the website. (Please note: Briarcliff II in Vienna is not included in the waitlist applications.)

How to Apply

Interested individuals can apply on the Fairfax County Housing and Community Development website. Applications will be accepted until Sunday, June 8, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. Application instructions are available in English and Spanish.

Individuals who need assistance can call 703-246-5100 or visit the FCRHA office at 3700 Pender Drive in Fairfax, VA during normal business hours 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

ness hours 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

How Waitlist Applications Work

Waitlist applications will be selected at random and placed on the waiting list. Once a unit becomes available, the waiting list applicants will be contacted, screened, and determined eligible based on income level, household size, and the size of the rental unit.

About the Project-Based Voucher Program

The Project-Based Voucher program is a subsidized rental housing program where households pay a portion of the rent up to 35 percent of the adjusted gross household income, while the FCRHA pays the remaining portion of the rent to the owner. Program participants are ineligible to receive other Federal Housing Assistance subsidies.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Alexandria will host Al Ain FC of the United Arab Emirates as part of the inaugural FIFA Club World Cup 2025.

Goal!

City to serve as FIFA Club World Cup 2025 team base camp site.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE GAZETTE

FIFA, the world governing body for soccer, announced that Alexandria has been selected as one of 34 cities to serve as an official base camp site for the upcoming FIFA Club World Cup 2025.

Alexandria's Episcopal High School will host Al Ain FC, one of the world's top clubs from the United Arab Emirates. The team will stay in and train in Alexandria throughout the group stage of the competition. Its games will be played at Audi Field in Washington, D.C.

"Alexandria is proud to be a part of this global tournament and to host Al Ain FC in our community," said Mayor Alyia Gaskins in a statement. "This opportunity reflects the strength of our city as a great place to live, work, visit and play."

The inaugural FIFA Club World Cup

SEE WORLD CUP, PAGE 6

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Left to right, Don Cammarata, Reworld; George Ksenics, Andrews FCU; Mae Lazear, Lewis High School; Ella Ridgway, Lake Braddock HS; Brandon Dake, South County HS; Kyle Janer, Edison HS; Andres Villafuerte, South County HS; Lady Ankrah, Hayfield Secondary School; Carter Smith, Lake Braddock HS; Mia Inzerillo, Bishop Ireton High School; Roberta Tinch, Inova Health Systems; Bernice Wong, West Potomac High School; Eric Christensen, Springfield Town Center; Colette von Schamberg, Bishop Ireton High School; Alman Iqbal, Annandale High School; Mary Hammond, Mount Vernon High School; Michael Murphy, Mount Vernon Columbus Club; Tiffany Ling, South County HS; Kathleen Lugarich, Army Historical Foundation; Hong Song Nyugen, Lewis HS; Holly Dougherty, Mount Vernon Springfield Chamber.

Mount Vernon Springfield Chamber Awards \$32,000 in Scholarships

Sixteen scholarships were awarded to local high school students by Mount Vernon Springfield Chamber of Commerce to recognize the outstanding achievement of graduating seniors planning to continue their education in a business-related field.

The Chamber's 2025 Distinguished Business Scholars are Alman Iqbal, Annandale High School; Mia Inzerillo, Bishop Ireton High School; Colette von Schamberg, Bishop Ireton High School; Kyle Janer, Edison High School; Lady Ankrah, Hayfield Secondary School; Carter Smith, Lake Braddock High School; Ella Ridgway, Lake Braddock High School; Mae Lazear, Lewis High School; Hong Song Nguyen, Lewis High School; Mary Hammond, Mount Vernon High School; Brandon Dake, South County High School; Andres Villafuerte, South

County High School; Tiffany Ling, South County High School; Bernice Wong, West Potomac High School; Matthew Fisher, West Springfield High School; Kalina Rapoza, West Springfield High School.

The scholarships were presented May 28, at a special reception hosted by the Army Historical Foundation at the National Museum of the United States Army.

"Education is the foundation of a healthy business ecosystem," said Roberta Tinch, Chamber Chairman and CEO of Inova Mount Vernon Hospital. "It equips you with the skills to innovate, the knowledge to lead, and the confidence to collaborate. Whether you're pursuing medicine, technology, finance, or the arts, your education is your launchpad—not just for personal success, but for contributing to a thriving, resilient economy."

Speaking to the scholarship recipients Tinch continued, "Each of you, whom we are recognizing today through this scholarship process—have shown us what it means to persevere, to adapt, and to lead with purpose. These are the qualities that fuel not only academic success, but also the kind of leadership that strengthens our local businesses, our nonprofits, and our government institutions.

"And so here's my call to action to each one of you: Use your education to build something bigger than yourself. Start a business. Mentor someone younger. Speak up for what matters. Because when you do, you're not just advancing your own future, you're investing in the growth and prosperity of the entire community," said Tinch.

"The Chamber selects at least one scholarship recipient from each of the high schools in our service area," said Holly

Dougherty, president of the Mount Vernon Springfield Chamber of Commerce. "We were all inspired by these students and their goals. They have the potential to really contribute and become a positive influence in the community."

Scholarships are made possible by the generous donations of local businesses and by funds raised at the annual Chamber Golf Classic. Businesses that provided complete scholarships are Reworld, Ourisman Automotive dealerships, AHead, Mount Vernon Knights of Columbus and Cisco.

This continues the Chamber's annual tradition of providing scholarships to students planning to study business. The Chamber has awarded scholarships for more than 25 years and this year's scholarships totaling \$32,000 brings the Chamber's cumulative scholarship giving to more than \$364,000.

Alexandria City to serve as FIFA Club World Cup 2025 team base camp site

FROM PAGE 5

Cup will bring together 32 of the world's top clubs in the United States, including two matches for Al Ain FC at Audi Field.

Matches at Audi Field are scheduled for June 18, 22 and 26. Soccer fans will be able to take the City Cruises Water Taxi from Old Town to Navy Yard, steps from Audi Field, or connect to D.C. via Metro, Uber/Lyft, bikeshare and more.

"We are honored to welcome Al Ain FC to Alexandria as their practice homebase for the FIFA Club World Cup 2025," said

Todd O'Leary, President & CEO of Visit Alexandria.

A total of 63 matches will be played across 12 different venues throughout the United States. The tournament's opening game is scheduled for June 14 at the Hard Rock Stadium in Miami, while the championship final will take place July 13 at the MetLife Stadium in New Jersey.

"We're pleased to confirm the Team Base

"Alexandria is proud to be a part of this global tournament and to host Al Ain FC in our community."

— Mayor Alyia Gaskins

Camp Training Sites that will host qualified clubs throughout the group stage of the first-ever FIFA Club World Cup," said FIFA Secretary General, Mattias Grafström in making the announcement. "These sites and more significantly the people and

communities that surround them will welcome the world's best, providing first-class environments and hospitality in support of the teams."

DC United's MLS training center in Leesburg was also selected as a base camp training site for Al Hilal Saudi FC.

Tickets for FIFA Club World Cup 2025 matches are available at FIFA.com/tickets, while every match at the tournament will be streamed live and for free globally on DAZN.com.

ARTIST RENDERING



The climbing wall is just one of the new recreation options county residents will now have available in Mount Vernon.

Mount Vernon Rec Center Opening on Schedule

New ice rink and fitness expansion took two years to build.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

The long-awaited improvement project at the Mount Vernon Rec Center is opening next week with a list of new recreation options to highlight recreation potential in the Mount Vernon community.

When the doors open early Monday, June 9, rec center participants will be greeted by two National Hockey League-sized ice rinks, a fitness center, indoor track, a rock climbing wall, indoor kids play area, a pool with beach entry, and drop-in childcare.

Although it will be fully open after two years of construction, some of these recreation facilities are opening on a rolling schedule to become available for people to use in the coming weeks.

The \$41 million project, originally called the “Mount Vernon Rec Center Renovation and Fitness Addition,” included an addition of a 35,000-square-foot fitness center and multi-purpose areas, and the addition of a 31,000-square-foot NHL ice rink, team rooms and indoor track.

Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon) was a big advocate to get this project done. “I’m thrilled to welcome everyone, from our littlest to our most experienced residents of all abilities, back to this new, vibrant, state-of-the-art facility,” Storck said. “I can already anticipate the excitement everyone is going to feel when they are gliding along on the ice, getting sweaty in fitness classes, scrambling up the rock wall and so much more. Can’t wait to see you there,” Storck said.

The rec center was built in 1979, and the pool added in 1983, so it’s been part of the Mount Vernon community for over 40 years.

During the closure, the county worked to mitigate the impact on existing rec center users, their memberships were accepted at all nine county Rec Centers.

DETAILS:

The Mount Vernon Rec Center, located at 2017 Belle View Blvd., Alexandria, will reopen on Monday, June 9 at 7 a.m.

The Park Authority says various amenities will open on a staggered basis that starts with access to the Fit-



A Zamboni ice grooming machine takes a lap on the new ice rink in Mount Vernon.

ness Center and ice rinks. Summer camps, Parktakes classes and drop-in group fitness classes start on Monday, June 16. Drop-in child care and the climbing wall will begin operating at the Rec Center later in June.

Currently the pool, natatorium, spa and sauna are closed while renovations are completed. These are scheduled to open later this summer.

The upgraded and expanded Fitness Center features various types of cardio and strength equipment, from recumbent bikes and stair climbers to Pilates reformers to strength equipment and free weights. A variety of low- and high-impact drop-in group fitness classes (yoga, Pilates, tai chi, Zumba, Les Mills Body-pump) for all ages and levels will be hosted in four new studio classrooms.

The Rec Center’s new ice arena upholds the legacy of creating today’s and tomorrow’s hockey and skating champions. The arena features two National Hockey League-sized ice rinks, a skate rental area, skate sharpening services, team locker rooms and party rooms with skate-friendly flooring for events. Public skate sessions and skating classes are available, so skaters can train and compete again here at Mount Vernon.

The facility will operate under modified hours until July 6:

Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Rec center hours will expand to normal rec center hours starting Monday, July 7.

Have additional questions? Contact FCPARECenters@fairfaxcounty.gov.

For the latest details about the facility and the grand reopening in late summer, visit the Mount Vernon Rec Center website. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/reccenter/mount-vernon/

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COMMUNITY

'They Are Not Forgotten'

**Gold Star family members join
in Memorial Day ceremony.**

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Gold Star family members of Alexandria's fallen Vietnam veterans were among the hundreds who gathered to pay tribute to the city's fallen during a Memorial Day ceremony May 26 at the Captain Rocky Versace Plaza and Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Del Ray.

The names of Alexandria's 68 fallen and missing in action service members from Vietnam were read aloud as part of the annual ceremony at the site named for Medal of Honor recipient and Vietnam POW Humbert Roque "Rocky" Versace.

The ceremony included a wreath laying by members of Versace's West Point class of 1959 and was attended by several Gold Star family members.

Friends of Rocky Versace representative Kevin Rue served as Master of Ceremonies, welcoming those in the audience and

introducing the Gold Star Family members in attendance. Gold Star family members included: Reba Bayliss, widow

of Capt. Paul Bayliss, and her son Patrick; Sue Harvey, sister of MIA 1LT Larry Lilly; CPT Henry Spengler widow Bette Meuleners and brother James Spengler; Earl Valentine, brother of PVT Jeron Valentine; and Curtis Versace, the sister-in law of Rocky Versace.

The ceremony included the reading of the names of Alexandria's 68 Vietnam War fallen heroes. A volunteer stood by the name chiseled into the stone benches arranged in the chronological order of their death in Southeast Asia (1963 – 1972) and read the name.

Rue emphasized that seven men remain Missing in Action: Rocky Versace, Tony Winkler, Doug Blodgett, Joe Davies, Mor-

gan Donahue, Leland McCants and Larry Lilly. He noted that these seven are a handful of the 1,576 Americans unaccounted for in Southeast Asia from the Vietnam War.

Two of the men whose names are on the Versace Memorial, Capt. Henry Spengler

**"Alexandria's
fallen heroes are
not forgotten."**

— Memorial Day ceremony
emcee Kevin Rue

SEE MEMORIAL DAY, PAGE 9

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OPINION

Community Resilience

BY DELEGATE PAUL KRIZEK

This past Friday, our community endured a storm unlike any we've seen in recent memory. With winds reaching 80 miles per hour and torrential rains that swept through Northern Virginia, the damage was swift and severe. My own home lost power for a day and a half, while many were still without power after 48 hours. Some community members saw trees do major damage to their homes. Sadly, we are mourning the loss of two lives, including one fatality right here on the George Washington Memorial Parkway in Fort Hunt. My heart breaks for the families of those lost, and on behalf of our entire community, I extend our deepest condolences.

In the aftermath of this devastating storm, we've seen how vulnerable our infrastructure and our neighborhoods are to the unpredictable force of nature. On the George Washington Memorial Parkway, approximately 15 trees were brought down by the storm. The National Park Service (NPS) reported that dozens more trees have been damaged, with cracked limbs, tangled branches, and unstable root systems posing ongoing risks.

Just this morning, the 2.5-mile stretch of the Parkway, between Belle View Boulevard and Alexandria Avenue was finally reopened. Crews have been working around the clock since Friday evening, clearing massive debris and removing trees that threaten the safety of travelers and residents.



I want to recognize the emergency responders, utility workers, and public service teams who acted quickly to address the hazards, clear our roads, and begin the process of recovery. Their commitment to our safety, even in dangerous conditions, should not go unnoticed. And, thank you to so many of you who had power restored early or had generators and supported their neighbors who needed access to electricity.

As we rebuild and assess the long-term impacts of this storm, let this moment serve as a reminder of our shared responsibility to one another. Moreover, we must continue to invest in climate resilience and disaster preparedness, and as your Delegate I am committed to doing that in Richmond. Certainly, also, Dominion needs to get even more electric lines underground. We must continue to support the agencies and personnel that keep us safe. And most importantly, we must care for each other, especially in the wake of tragedy.

In the coming days, I will be working closely with my colleague and our Senator, Scott Surovell, Supervisor Storck, and federal officials to assess damage, see all services restored, and ensure we are better prepared for future storms. I encourage all residents to stay informed through local alerts and to always heed safety guidance when traveling through affected areas. Our community is strong and resilient. We will get through this together.

Memorial Day

FROM PAGE 8

and Capt. Barry Lockhart, are former MIAs. During a first of its kind ceremony on POW/MIA Recognition Day in September 2024 at the Honolulu Memorial at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Hawaii, a rosette was placed adjacent to each man's name at the Memorial's Courts of the Missing indicating the remains were recovered and positively identified.

Six of Versace's USMA 1959 classmates, joined by members of the Affiliation Class of USMA 2009, presented a wreath at the Versace statue.

Members of the Saint Rita American heritage Girls Troop 1381 led the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance. Miss Arlington 2025 Madison Whitbeck sang the Star Spangled Banner with Bishop Ireton High School student Catherine Cassidy singing America the Beautiful and God Bless America. Lt. Col. Steve Tracy closed the ceremony with the playing of Taps and Deacon Steve Dixon, also from Saint Rita, provided the Invocation and closing prayer.

Dignitaries in attendance included State Sen. Adam Ebbin, Del. Charniele Herring, Del. Elizabeth Bennett-Parker,



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Former Vice Mayor Bill Cleveland salutes as LTC Steve Tracy plays TAPS to close the Memorial Day ceremony May 26 in Del Ray.

former Alexandria Mayor Allison Silberberg, former Alexandria City Councilman David Speck and former Alexandria City vice mayor Bill Cleveland.

Following the formal portion of the ceremony, Rue on behalf of the Friends of Rocky Versace presented Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pins from the Department of Defense to three qualified veterans.

"Capt. Rocky Versace is the U.S. Army's only Medal of Honor recipient from the Vietnam War whose remains have not been recovered and returned by the communists," said Rue. "This Memorial Day, Rocky Versace and Alexandria's 67 other Vietnam War Fallen Heroes are not forgotten."

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Soldiers from Maryland wore red and blue coats.



Soldiers wore whatever they showed up in, like this hunting frock.

Revolutionary War Camp

FROM PAGE 1

guides in period dress.

On May 4, re-enactors portrayed George Washington's departure from his beloved Mount Vernon to attend the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia where he was appointed commander-in-chief of the new Continental Army. Washington marched through the camp and out the front gates, accompanied by musicians and reenactors in 18th-century attire. On June 14, Washington will take command of the Continental forces.

The Realities of Military Service

The camp has an officer's tent, 10 soldiers' tents, a cook station and a quarter master's station, the receiving point for supply wagons. The officer's tent, both an office and sleeping quarters, is oval shaped, nine by 15 feet and has a red, decorative, scalloped edge around the top.

In a clear contrast, five or six soldiers slept crammed into one of the seven-by-seven-foot, canvas wedge tents on a blanket between them and the hard ground. It was probably hot in the summer and cold in the winter inside.

Strewn about in some tents are clothes, knapsacks and a few games like dominoes and playing cards. "They had a lot of time to sit around and do nothing," said Daniel Cross, Manager of Encampment Interpretation. They were marching or in battle, probably less than 10 percent of the time, he estimates.

"Men spent much of the time playing cards until this practice took up so much time and generated so many arguments that all gambling was outlawed in the winter of 1777," wrote Bruce Chadwick in *The First American Army*.

Most of the Continental soldiers were single men, age 16 to 26 and from all walks of life. In 1775, there was no army. The men were initially militia companies raised locally, a ragtag group, by today's military stan-



The camp's cooking station under a fly tent.

dards. On June 4, 1775, the Second Continental Congress officially created a standing army and on July 3, 1775, Washington formally took command.

Some clothing, like a dull green hunting frock, hangs from tent poles. There was no real singular military uniform the first year. "It was come-as-you-are," says Cross, until

1777-1778 when they got some uniforms. Virginians wore red and brown. Marylanders wore red and blue.

Sustenance

Soldiers cooked for themselves over a wood fire. At the Mount Vernon camp's cooking station under what's called a fly

tent, interpreters cook in iron pots that came from England in the colonial period. The corps master delivers food in wooden barrels, typically salted beef, pork and fish and dried vegetables back then. A typical meal of rations per man consisted of salted

SEE REVOLUTIONARY, PAGE 11
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Interpreter Alex Crigger and a foraging basket.



Various kitchenware and utensils, including, top right, a butter churn and pot scrubbers made of corn stalks.

Revolutionary War Camp

FROM PAGE 10

meat, beans, rice from South Carolina and bread which was more like a corn cake, visitors learn.

“Men in the army indulged in considerable amount of drinking, a common activity in colonial America,” wrote Chadwick. In a

typical encampment, the beer was one to two percent alcohol and they imbibed rum from the Caribbean to “keep morale up,” Cross said.

Visitors to Mount Vernon’s Patriot’s Path will see a few women because some wives followed the Army, Cross explained. “Women

in camp had to earn their keep,” he offered. “Some were nurses, some petty sutlers (merchants) and some did laundry.” For every 24 men, there was one woman, he estimated. Some women trailed along because it could be dangerous living alone at home and they could not manage the farm or raise children

alone. They had little autonomy, were not wealthy and were better off in camp than on the farm, Cross said.

This living history camp and Washington’s departure represent the beginning of the nation’s multi-year celebration of its birth 250 years ago.

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. Or email to calendar@connectionnewspapers.com

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

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

Join Friends’ Board. Those who care about mental health, the Alexandria community, and collaborating with fellow residents to make sure the City’s most vulnerable residents have a chance to thrive, then consider joining the Board of Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center. The Friends Board is an all-volunteer group of residents that oversees the

administration of one of Alexandria’s top mental health charities. Friends has no paid staff, so Board members, working on average 10 hours per month, share the day-to-day work needed to accomplish its goals. Interested candidates should email FriendsOfAMHC@gmail.com.

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

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.

The Parkinson’s Disease Support Group of Alexandria meets the 1st Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m. At the Hollin Hall Senior Center, Room 109, 1500 Shenandoah Road. All Parkinson’s patients and caregivers are welcome.

The Caregiver Support Group is facilitated by the Alexandria Department of Community and Human Services Division of Aging and Adult Services. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at the Adult Day Services Center, 1108 Jefferson St., 4-5:30 p.m. Participants are full- or part-time caregivers providing care locally or long distance to a family member or friend. Participants share their experiences, provide support for each other and receive resources to assist them with caregiving. The next Caregiver Support Group meeting is June 7. For more information or to register, contact Jennifer Sarisky at 703-746-9999 or email DAAS@alexandriava.gov. FACE Center Support Groups provide parents with a space to share their daily parenting frustrations and triumphs while offering new strategies for helping parents to cope, build positive parent-child relationships and best support their

children’s learning.

❖ Support Group in English, every Monday, 6-7:30 p.m. at ARHA Main Building, 401 Wythe St.

❖ Support Group in Spanish, every Wednesday, 6-7:30 p.m. at Community Lodgings Brookside Center, 614 Four Mile Road.

Registration not necessary. A light dinner and childcare services provided free. Contact Krishna Leyva at 703-619-8055 or krishna.leyva@acps.k12.va.us for more.

Divorce Workshop for Women. Second Saturday of each month, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Hilton Alexandria Old Town, 1767 King St. The workshops are designed to provide education on the legal, financial, family and personal issues of divorce in a logical, yet compassionate way. The workshop fee is \$25. Visit www.novasecondsaturday.com for more.

ONGOING

Backflow Preventer (BFP) Assistance Program. The City of Alexandria has reinstated its sewer Backflow Preventer (BFP) Assistance Program for homeowners in design-

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 15

Wet Weather Does Not Stop the Market

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
 MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH

May 2025 was unusually wet in the Washington area, with over 20 rainy days of precipitation. Despite the soggy conditions, loyal vendors at the weekly Wednesday McCutcheon Farmers Market at the Sherwood Regional Library in Mount Vernon cheerfully greeted the hardy customers who turned out on May 28 to buy vegetables, fruits, chicken, beef, sausages, seafood, pastries, nuts, breads, jams, pastas, salsas, empanadas, flowers and more.

The market is open from 8 a.m. to 12 noon on Wednesdays until Nov. 26, 2025.



Karen Arnest's popular oysters from the Chesapeake Bay needed no protection.



Colorful beets and radishes from Montross, Virginia's Linda Vista Farm and flowers from Virginia's Northern Neck Ochoa Produce brightened the gloomy, damp day.



Shoppers came prepared with their raingear.



Puddles were more exciting than vegetables to this youngster.



The rain did not stop Jaisin Weets who crooned "because I love you too much baby," Elvis Presley's "Suspicious Minds."



Michael and Grace Banahene of Grace's Pastries brought tasty goodies from Herndon.

Marjorie Leighey Saved an Architectural Gem

FROM PAGE 3

in the house at Woodlawn. She is buried at Pohick Church.

Many preservationists credit her activism with the 1966 enactment of the National Historic Preservation Act which created a national program and some protections for historic properties. The bill became law at a time when some infrastructure and urban renewal projects were destroying many historically significant places.

The House

In 1939, a 28-year-old Washington Evening Star journalist, Loren Pope, wanted to build a modest house on his Falls Church lot. He contacted Wright who agreed to design a house. Pope envisioned spending \$5,500, equal to about \$86,000 today. The Papes spent \$7,000 and in 1941, moved in.

Today called the Pope-Leighey House, it is an example of Wright's 100 or so Usonian houses built between 1936 and 1959. He designed these houses to be efficient, functional and affordable for middle-income people. In 1936 Wright wrote, "The house of moderate cost is not only America's major architectural problem but the problem most difficult for her major architects."

"The Usonian house was intended to provide a radically rethought, partially shop-built, inexpensive yet sublime dwelling for the middle-income American family. Wright wanted to make these houses affordable to all who owned land by maximizing the use of readily available, local building materi-



PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH

Marjorie Leighey's feline perfume bottle made in Germany around 1920, a gift from Robert.

als," wrote Steven M. Reiss in his 2014 book, "Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House."

It is the only Wright house in the Washington area open to the public today.

The Exhibit

At the exhibit, visitors can read original letters of support from neighbors and others, can peruse GWU yearbooks featuring Marjorie and Robert and see some of their personal items.

Visitors can also listen to recordings in which Marjorie talks about her beloved house's connection to nature. She loved "its real union of the outdoors with the inside," she said.



WOODLAWN & POPE-LEIGHEY HOUSE

The living room at Pope-Leighey House.



PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH

The exhibit is in Woodlawn and features a chest and chair designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, architect for the Pope-Leighey house.

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PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH

Exhibit visitors are invited to leave a note on a paper flower.

MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE ♦ JUNE 5-18, 2025 ♦ 13

Taking on the Climate Change Challenge



Burke Lake Golf Course shop added a 60 kW solar energy in February.



PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE GAZETTE

Connector bus service added 12 BEBs like this one for zero emissions.

Sustain Fairfax outlines simple changes for significant benefits.

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE GAZETTE

Fairfax County is working to address both the cause and effects of climate change. They hope to set an example by government action, and that all residents will discover ways to join in the efforts. Jeffrey C. McKay, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, said “Simple lifestyle changes like conserving energy at home, composting food waste, driving electric vehicles or using public transportation can make a big difference in helping us create a greener, healthier future. Not only do these actions help the environment, but they also save money, improve our health and support the local economy.”

To generate energy saving ideas that county residents might adopt, the Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination (OEEC) has issued the Sustain Fairfax Challenge. The online application highlights key actions individuals or community groups can take “to promote environmental stewardship and sustainable practices.” Newly launched, the public awareness campaign summarizes a large library of energy and money saving actions, from quick, inexpensive actions, to those that require substantial time or financial commitments.

What has the county done to lead the way? The Board of Supervisors adopted the county’s operational energy strategy in 2021 to reach carbon neutrality by 2050. Buildings and transportation are major factors in any energy saving or carbon reduction plan, both for individuals and government. While

residents might consider actions for a single home of an average 2,200 square feet and one or two vehicles, the county has about 500 buildings with 11 million square feet, and a fleet of 6,347 vehicles, the largest municipal fleet in Virginia. So government building and fleet efficiency improvements can do much to help meet county-wide environmental goals.

More efficient lighting and improving heating and cooling systems in county buildings and plans for installation of solar energy systems on system ready buildings are part of the plan. They claim a 16 percent facility energy use decrease in fiscal year 2024 compared to the 2018 baseline, aiming toward a 25 percent energy use decrease by 2030.

The county is transitioning its fleet, which includes motorcycles, fire and garbage trucks, and Connector and school buses, to hybrid or all electric vehicles. So far the transition includes 69 battery electric and 335 hybrid electric vehicles in the county operations fleet, 12 battery electric Connector buses (BEBs), and 73 electric school buses. The majority of the electric school bus fleet came from grants: eight from Dominion Energy; 20 from the state; 42 from the EPA; two were purchased by FCPS for their driver training center.

Currently, public registrations of all-electric (EV) or hybrid light vehicles in the county number about 29,000; only about 3.6 percent of the total registrations. The county is currently working with transportation stakeholders to promote more public and commercial electric vehicle use. According to OEE spokesperson John Wilcox, a

draft EV Readiness Strategy will be available for public comment in late July, with a virtual public meeting planned to share information about the plan and answer questions. A final plan is expected in September toward a goal of reaching 15% of all light-duty vehicle registrations to be electric by 2030.

To enlist public participation in reaching other environmental goals, the Sustain Fairfax Challenge is about much more than home energy, light systems and transportation options for saving energy and dollars. Could your household be more water wise? Sustain Fairfax suggestions include quick and easy actions like turning off faucets during tasks, filling the dish or clothes washer before running and running fewer loads, to more expensive options like upgrading washers more than ten years old with more efficient models to save gallons of water and lower water bills.

Could you eat greener with less waste? Using reusable water bottles, bringing your own mug to the coffee cafe, ditching plastic utensils and straws, and composting food waste are suggested ways to live greener.

The challenge app provides an opportunity to check off those practices already followed in your household, bookmark options for new actions, set goals, and earn points and badges for energy efficient practices.

The Sustain Fairfax Challenge, created under contract by BrightAction Communities, at this point seems a largely undiscovered gem. Going live a few months ago, to date, about 150 households have created accounts toward the goal of 1,000 households by March



Homeowners can record energy and water saving practices, such as solar panels and converting grass yard to native planting, in the Sustain Fairfax Challenge.

2026. Reported household actions amount to a five percent reduction of CO2 toward the target of a 1,000 ton decrease.

Find the web based app to join the effort at sustainchallenge.fairfaxcounty.gov/

As we watch our climate conditions become, as OEE describes them, “increasingly hotter, wetter, and weirder,” with increasing severity and frequency of storms, extreme heat, and flooding, this seems like the time for residents to give more thought to personal preparation to mitigate climate impacts. The county has adopted Resilient Fairfax, a plan to deal with the effects of climate change and reminds us how to prepare for climate impacts, such as insulating

by your home, readying for violent wind storms and possible power outages, and flooding.

(<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/environment-energy-coordination/resilient-fairfax>).

As you prepare, perhaps talk to your neighbors about their preparation as well. That would earn you a badge in the Sustain Fairfax Challenge.

Find more climate and environment resources at: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/environment-energy-coordination/resources-residents>.

Explore the county’s other climate plans, policies, and initiatives at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/environment-energy-coordination/policies-and-initiatives>.

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The Wall That Heals, a three-quarters size replica of the Vietnam Memorial Wall, will be on display at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial June 12-15.

The Wall That Heals

City to host Vietnam Wall exhibit June 12-15.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The Wall That Heals, a traveling replica of the Vietnam Memorial Wall, will be on display on the grounds of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial from June 12-15.

A three-quarters scale replica of The Memorial, the Wall That Heals provides an opportunity to view the exhibit that has been displayed across the country and provides visitors with an expanded experience from The Wall in DC.

“As a result of closures of streets and the National Mall for the military parade on June 14th in Washington, D.C., the largest annual event held at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was displaced,” said Jim Knotts, president and CEO of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund. “Fortunately, the George Washington Masonic National Memorial eagerly stepped forward to bring the sanctity and peaceful nature of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to the thousands of family and friends gather-

ing to honor their Vietnam veterans.”

The Wall That Heals will be open 24 hours a day and is free and open to the public. It honors the more than three million Americans who served in the U.S. Armed forces in the Vietnam War, and it bears the names of the 58,281 men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam.

A mobile Education Center features videos on the history of the war and the design competition and building of The Wall. It includes examples of things that were carried by soldiers and will feature a motorcycle tied to an Alexandria Vietnam servicemember.

“Most importantly the display includes photos of the 68 Hometown Heroes of those on The Wall from Alexandria,” said local hosting committee co-chair Cynthia Long.

“The display includes photos of the 68 Hometown Heroes of those on The Wall from Alexandria.”

— Exhibit co-chair Cynthia Long

“Also on display will be photos of the Hometown Heroes from Arlington and Fairfax counties, and Washington, DC.”

The Wall That Heals will open Thursday, June 12 at 2 p.m. and close Sunday, June 15 at 9 p.m.

Special events that will be held at the exhibit include an Agent Orange Awareness candlelight event on Thursday, June 12. Visitors will see the replica Wall and In Memory plaque lit in orange candlelight to bring light to the effects of Agent Orange exposure on our nation’s Vietnam veterans.

On Saturday, June 14, the annual In Memory ceremony will be held honoring a record high 774 Vietnam veterans who returned home from Vietnam and later died.

On Sunday, June 15, the annual Father’s

Day Rose Remembrance will be held at The Wall That Heals. Visitors can sponsor roses in advance and lay them at the replica Wall and In Memory plaque to honor and remember fathers who served in Vietnam and those that never had the chance to become fathers. Red roses are for those who died in Vietnam, yellow for those who are unaccounted for and white for those who returned home but later died.

Visitors will be able to do name rubbings of individual service member’s names on The Wall. It will be set upon the grassy knoll overlooking the National Masonic Memorial.

For the 11th year, USAA is the presenting sponsor for the national tour.

“Hosting the exhibit requires the equipment and resources to support the hundreds of volunteers and thousands of visitors across the four days,” Long said. “We’re optimistic local businesses and organizations will reach out to us to see how they can help us through in-kind or financial support.”

For more information or to volunteer or donate, visit: www.vvmf.org/the-wall-that-heals-alexandria.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 11

nated areas that historically experience basement back-ups or flooding. The program reimburses homeowners for up to 50 percent of the cost of installing a BFP device by a licensed plumbing contractor, up to a maximum of \$2,000. The current program period is through Dec. 31, 2019.

Alexandria homeowners should call the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services at 703-746-4014 or visit www.alexandriava.gov/tes. Robust Walking. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 9 a.m. at Mount Vernon Recreation Center, 2701 Commonwealth Ave. Free 55+ robust walking 1-hour exercise class (with chair exercise option). No class on holidays. Contact

jjkingconsulting@yahoo.com. Seeking Donations. Computer CORE, which is dedicated to helping low-income adults become computer literate is seeking donations. Visit www.computercore.org/contribute. Senior and Job Programs. 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Queen of Apostles Church, 4650 Taney Avenue, Alexandria. St. Martin de Porres Center offers senior and job placement

programming Monday through Friday at the parish. Email Kathryn Toohey, ktoohy@ccda.net. Be Heard at the City’s Monthly Public Hearings. A schedule of the meetings can be found at www.alexandriava.gov. Voice opinions, speak about something on the docket or just speak about something you are concerned about. Sign up in advance to speak through the city’s website. Anyone is welcome at any

of the public hearings. Public Space Recycling. Alexandria has placed more than 80 bright blue recycling containers next to public trash cans in the commercial districts along Mount Vernon Avenue and King Street, as well as other public spaces, including parks, recreation fields, and other high-traffic pedestrian areas. Visit alexandriava.gov/Recycling.

ENTERTAINMENT

MAY 30 TO JUNE 29

“Sing Me a Sea Shanty” Art Exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. The exhibit explores enchanting artworks inspired by the nautical spirit. Exhibit reception on Friday, June 6, 7-9 p.m. to meet the curators and artists. Gallery hours are Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays 12-6 p.m. Details at DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits.

JUNE 1 TO AUG. 31

Creative Summer Programs is a series of workshops exploring the arts. Learn techniques in collage, drawing, mixed media, photography, bead embroidery, and more from local artists. Delve into creative exploration solo or with friends. For children and/or adults, free and paid programs are offered. Sign up for what inspires you! Held at Del Ray Artisans (2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria VA) unless noted. Details: DelRayArtisans.org/creative-summer

JUNE 2-29

“Vibrancy Unleashed” Exhibit. At Van Landingham Gallery, Torpedo Factory, Alexandria. The Torpedo Factory Artists’ Association presents a group exhibition that showcases a stunning array of jewelry, paintings, photography, mixed media work, hand pulled prints, and more during the month of June.

Participating Artists:

Jordana Adelman, Ann Barbieri, Victoria Barnes, Lynn Chadwick, Andrea Cybyk, Eleftheria Easley, Sheila Flanders, Samuel Gyulnazarian, Camille Kouyoumdjian, Michal Mitak Mahgereteh, Anna Nazaretz Radjou, Rebecca McNeely, Diana Papazian, Catherine Rubin*, Kellie Sansone*, Karine Spondjian, Vita Sims*, Antonio Scott, Samantha L. Shelton, Pratibha Srinivasan, Hanin Tawfiq, Ana Tkabladze, Dixon Vergaray, Estelle Vernon, Karen Waltermire, Dina Wise, Guido R. Zanni

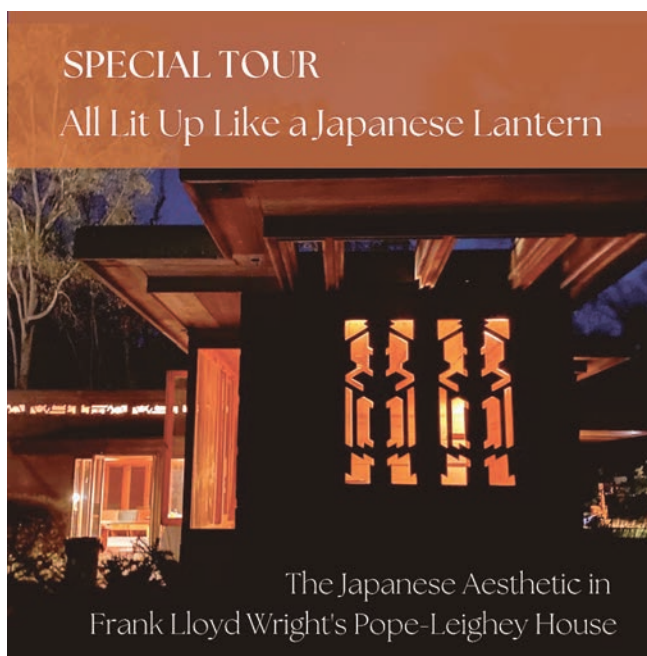
Visit <https://torpedofactory.org/today-hours/>

SATURDAY/JUNE 7

First Saturday Used Book Sale: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. 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> for information on other days and times for the library’s ongoing book sale.

SATURDAY/JUNE 7

Old Town Arts & Crafts Fair. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Waterfront Park, 1 Prince Street on the Potomac River. Presented by Volunteer Alexandria, the fair features local and regional artisans who showcase their pieces across various mediums including pottery, stationery, fabrics, paintings, jewelry, photography and more. Over 90+ vendors joined us last year, including food and drink to purchase. For more information, visit [Volunteer Alexandria | Arts](http://VolunteerAlexandria.org/Arts)



Like a Japanese Lantern takes place on Saturday, June 14, 2025 at Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House in Alexandria.

and Crafts Festival

SATURDAY/JUNE 7

First Annual Summer Palooza. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Mount Vernon Governmental Center, 2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria. Summer Palooza promises a day of fun in the sun for everyone — families, dog lovers, environmental enthusiasts and more. Highlights include live music from a favorite local band, Riptide, free food at the Taste of Mount Vernon, a petting zoo with animals from Frying Pan Park, a kids zone and touch-a-truck experiences. Attendees (21+) can also enjoy a beer garden hosted by Bunnyman Brewing.

SATURDAY/JUNE 7

60 Years of Preservation. 5:30-8:30 p.m. At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Hwy., Alexandria. They’re throwing a party to commemorate the historic move of the Pope-Leighey House from Falls Church, VA, to its current home at Woodlawn—a move that saved this Frank Lloyd Wright-designed gem, thanks to the dedication of Marjorie Leighey and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Now it’s time to party in true 1960s style! Slip into your best 60s-inspired attire—think mod dresses, bell bottoms, bold prints, and vintage vibes—and get ready for a night of great food, drinks, and live entertainment that will transport you back to the era of peace, love, and preservation! Whether you’re a history buff, an architecture fan, or just looking for a groovy time, this is one event you won’t want to miss.

SATURDAY/JUNE 7

Senior Law Day 2025. From 9 a.m. to 12 noon. At First Baptist Church, 2932 King Street, Alexandria. Featuring “The Cost of Aging: Mental, Physical, Financial, and Legal Perspectives.” Join Senior Services of Alexandria and the Alexandria Bar Association for the annual Senior Law Day! This year, plan to hear from estate planners, financial experts, and senior resource specialists as they share insights on caregiving challenges, healthcare and housing costs, and the essential legal documents everyone should have. The

presentations will include a panel on how to provide caregiving in ways that support and protect the dignity of aging friends and family. Chris Leighton of Hughes & Leighton PLLC will moderate and Heidi Travis and Ashley Wembley from ElderTree Care Management will provide their expert insights on compassionate and effective caregiving. Register by emailing events@seniorservice-salex.org or call SSA’s Office at 703-836-4414, ext. 110.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 11

“The Play That Goes Wrong” Benefit Performance. 8 p.m. At The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe Street, Alexandria. In this classic murder mystery, things don’t always turn out the way they were written. It’s curtain time, your leading lady is unconscious. The corpse has disappeared. The actors are tripping over everything. Who moved the scenery? Whose line is it? This is not a mystery - it’s mayhem! Admission - \$45, Patrons - \$65, Benefactors - \$125. Proceeds go toward the current pledge of the Board of Lady Managers of Inova Alexandria Hospital to purchase a Glide Scope Core for the hospital’s Emergency Department. For tickets, call 703-548-9485 or go to the Board of Lady Managers website <http://www.boardoflady-managers.org>.

SATURDAY/JUNE 14

Like a Japanese Lantern. 12-1 p.m. At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Hwy., Alexandria. Discover how Frank Lloyd Wright incorporated his love of Japanese art, architecture, and philosophy into Usonian homes, and how this East Asian influence shines in Wright’s Pope-Leighey House. Cost is \$25. Visit the website: <https://www.woodlawnpope-leighey.org/upcomingevents>

JUNETEENTH CELEBRATIONS

❖ **On June 19, enjoy traditional African American storytelling and songs reflecting the journey toward freedom at the Washington Revels Jubilee Voices Juneteenth**



Grab a Slice of History on Friday, June 20, 2025 at Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House in Alexandria.

Concert at Market Square then head to Juneteenth Celebration @ The Athenaeum to discover the history of Juneteenth through hands-on activities, art, and poetry readings at the.

- ❖ Keep the celebration going on June 21 and celebrate African American heritage through music, storytelling, food, and family fun at the Juneteenth Festival at the Charles Houston Recreation Center.
- Tours and Museums
- ❖ Reserve your spot for Specialty Tours: Tell Me Your Name at Carlyle House on June 19, focusing on the experiences of the enslaved community at Carlyle House and his plantations.
- ❖ Head to Mount Vernon between June 19-21 to take part in Freedom Before Emancipation: Family Day for Juneteenth, remembering how enslaved people resisted enslavement and sought freedom before the Emancipation Proclamation.
- ❖ Ride through 90 mins of powerful stories on board an Alexandria Black History Bus Tour from Manumission Tour Company on June 21.
- Black-Owned Businesses
- ❖ 1799 Prime Steak and Seafood: Dine at this steakhouse, owned by a member of one of the oldest documented African American families.
- ❖ Café du Soleil: Relax and enjoy coffee, pastries and classic French-style dishes at two Old Town locations.
- ❖ AR Workshop: This DIY craft studio offers hands-on classes for creating custom home décor.

SATURDAY/JUNE 14

Children’s Summer Reading Festival. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. At Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Fairfax Library Foundation will reprise its highly acclaimed Children’s Summer Reading Festival. The festival marks the Foundation’s third year hosting the free community event

to encourage summer reading among preschool- and school-age children and to prevent learning loss over summer break. The festival, designed in partnership with Fairfax County Public Library (FCPL), will feature a wide variety of fun activities for children of all ages, including facepainting, bounce houses, balloon and caricature artists, games and crafts, live entertainment, food trucks, and a photobooth.

THURSDAY/JUNE 19

Juneteenth at The Athenaeum. 1 p.m. Join them for this year’s Juneteenth celebration with poet, author, and the Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association Poet in Residence, KaNikki Jakarta. The event will be held in the gallery of the Athenaeum. Discover the history of Juneteenth through hands-on activities, art, and poetry readings.

FRIDAY/JUNE 20

Civics Pizza Party at Pope-Leighey House. 5:30-8 p.m. Celebrate Civics Season with (free!) pizza and history! Take a self-guided tour and engage in thoughtful reflection and dialogue about our shared past and its connection to today’s movements for justice. Visitors will also have the opportunity to view the new exhibit “Saving Pope-Leighey House: How Marjorie Leighey Rescued Her Frank Lloyd Wright Home.”

FRIDAY/JUNE 20

Slice of History. 5:30-8 p.m. At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Hwy., Alexandria. Celebrate #CivicsSeason with (free!) pizza and history! Take a self-guided tour of Woodlawn and learn about the site’s profound legacy of transformation.

ENTERTAINMENT EXTRA

JUNETEENTH EVENTS ACROSS THE COUNTY

The Fairfax County Park Authority invites the community to honor Juneteenth through a series of engaging events at multiple park locations, highlighting African American history, resilience and cultural contributions.

Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated remembrance of the end of slavery in the United States. Observed each year on June 19, it commemorates the day in 1865 when the last enslaved people in Galveston, Texas, were informed of their freedom—more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation.

In Fairfax County, the Park Authority recognizes Juneteenth by sharing stories of the African American men, women and children who shaped the region's history through their labor, leadership, creativity and community.

Featured Events

Juneteenth Celebration at Sully Historic Site

Sully Historic Site, Thursday, June 19
Celebrate African American history through guided interpretive tours of original outbuildings and the first floor of the main house. Experience storytelling, music, children's activities, quilt exhibits, touchable artifacts, interpretive displays, and a free health clinic. Food trucks will be available and picnic tables provided. Free admission.

Juneteenth Smudge Stick Floral Workshop

Green Spring Gardens, Thursday, June 19

Join BLK FLWR MKT, a Black woman-owned business, in creating a floral smudge stick—a botanical bundle used in cultural and spiritual practices. Learn about the historical significance of these plants for Black Americans and engage in reflective activities, such as writing affirmations and sensory play. \$60 per person. Registration required

GARDEN TOURS

Visitors can plan self-guided tours of the region's most splendid gar-

dens, including these not-to-miss sites (check with the individual gardens for hours of operation):

Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, a 90-acre oasis featuring more than 100 cherry trees surrounding a lovely lake, plus an extensive shade garden, native wildflowers, gazebos, birds, butterflies, seasonal blooms and the very unique Korean Bell Garden.

Green Spring Gardens, an outdoor classroom, national historic site, and museum featuring a wooded stream, a valley with ponds, a native plant garden, over 20 thematic demonstration gardens, and a greenhouse filled with tropical plants.

River Farm, a historic 25-acre site on the banks of the Potomac River that was once part of George Washington's original five farms and is now the headquarters of the American Horticultural Society.

George Washington's Mount Vernon, the home to America's first president, features four bountiful gardens to explore and enjoy. In addition, experience wide-open spaces, wooded landscapes, and a quarter-mile-long forest trail – not to mention the vast educational resources available on site.

NOW THRU JUNE 9

Required Reading: A Visual Poetry

Exhibition on Language & Silence. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. "What happens when words are rearranged, erased, or transformed into something new? Required Reading is an exhibition that challenges the limits of language, bringing together eight artists who break traditional communication structures and invite the viewer into an unexpected dialogue. Visit the website <https://www.workhousearts.org/required-reading-exhibit>

MAY 10-JUNE 15

"Jesus Christ Superstar." 8-10 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Produced by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice, this groundbreaking musical

has captivated audiences for over 50 years. Set against the backdrop of the final days of Jesus Christ's life, the story is uniquely told through the eyes of Judas Iscariot. Explore the personal relationships, struggles, and betrayals between Jesus, Judas, Mary Magdalene, and others, all told through a powerful rock score.

Visit <https://www.workhousearts.org/calendar/jesus-christ-superstar>

SATURDAY/JUNE 7

Celebrate National Trails Day. With

334 miles of trails to explore, there's no better time to hit the trail than National Trails Day. Whether you're walking, running, biking or horseback riding, Fairfax County offers something for everyone – from forested natural and hard surface trails to scenic boardwalks and interpretive trails. Fairfax County's trails are for everyone. With accessible options, bike trails and nature-rich routes winding through parks, stream valleys and forests, residents and visitors alike are invited to reconnect with the outdoors and discover the everyday beauty that's right in their own backyard. As part of the national celebration, the Park Authority will host a National Trails Day event at Hidden Pond Nature Center, located at 8511 Greeley Blvd. in Springfield on June 7 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Enjoy guided hikes, hands-on nature activities and opportunities to learn about trail safety and etiquette. It's a fun way to meet fellow trail lovers and kick off your summer adventures. All ages are welcome.

SUNDAY/JUNE 8

Table Top N Gauge Model Train

Show. 1-4 p.m. At the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Table Top (TTRAK) N gauge model trains will be on display and running at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. Admission: Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-12, \$3; ages 13 and older, \$5 and \$6 for special events. Seniors, \$4. Military (active and re-

tired) \$4. <http://www.fairfax-station.org>, <http://www.facebook.com/FFXSRR>, 703-425-9225.

STARTING JUNE 9

New Traveling Exhibit WWII: Voices of Service. At Fairfax Museum and

Visitor Center. Open Wednesdays through Mondays, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Voices of Service: This traveling banner exhibit from the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History explores major events of the war through the photographs, letters, and oral histories of everyday Americans. From the attack on Pearl Harbor through the GI Bill, it provides an overview of important events on the battlefield and the home front.

SATURDAY/JUNE 14

Juneteenth Celebration. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Old Town Square, Fairfax. Featuring music, speakers, historic information, children's activities, food vendors and more!

SATURDAY/JUNE 14

A Midsummer Night's Dream: 40th

Anniversary Gala. 6 p.m. At Great Meadow in The Plains, VA. Guests are invited to an evening featuring cocktails, dinner, live music and dancing, entertainment, and live auction. The gala will be hosted by renowned actor Christopher Hanke, known for his appearances on the HBO mini-series, I Know This Much is True. Entertainment will be provided by the talents of Freedom Imani and Bryan Fox and Friends, who have shared the stage with music legends like Patti LaBelle and paid tribute to Frankie Beverly. Go to www.greatmeadow.org for tickets.

SUNDAY/JUNE 15

JUNE 16 TO AUG. 15

2025 Summer Art Camps. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. 2025 Summer Art Camps at Workhouse Arts Center for ages 6-16. Spots are filling fast—secure your child's summer adventure today! Get ready for 9 unforgettable weeks of creativity

and fun! Workhouse Arts Center's 2025 Art Camp kicks off June 16, offering dynamic, hands-on experiences for young artists, performers, and musicians. Whether your child joins us for one week or all nine, they'll explore new passions and build lasting friendships.

Choose Your Track:

Visual Arts – From clay to canvas, campers dive into a world of color and creativity.

Theater – Lights, camera, action! Budding performers learn acting, directing, and playwriting.

Music & Dance – Let the rhythm move you with vocals, instruments, and high-energy dance.

Visit the website: <https://www.workhousearts.org/camps>

SUNDAY/JUNE 22

Craft Fun. 1-4 p.m. At Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Join craft experts at Fairfax Station Railroad Museum for Whirling Wonders. Create a DIY Pinwheel Craft. This fun and easy project is perfect for some summer fun. Just like the wheels on the train, the pinwheels you can create will spin gracefully in the breeze. Or make a "flower" pinwheel stake for a garden pot, even a pinwheel wreath. Not all will spin, but the beauty of what your family will create is sure to fill all with joyful memories. All supplies are included, one craft per person while supplies last. Admission: Museum Members and children 4 and under, free. Ages 5-12, \$3; ages 13 and older \$5, \$6 for special events. Seniors, \$4. Military, active and retired, \$4. www.fairfax-station.org, www.facebook.com/FFXSRR, 703-425-9225.

SATURDAY/JUNE 28

Free Talk. 2 p.m. At Historic Blenheim, Fairfax. Explore "The Creation of Black Mistrust in Police: An Exploration of the White Policing of Black Bodies in Fairfax County"; "A slave caught without a pass." George Mason University

SEE ENTERTAINMENT EXTRA.
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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE

FRIDAY/JUNE 27

Wright at Twilight. 6:30-9:30 p.m.

At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Enjoy the iconic Pope-Leighey House, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. Sit back with complimentary snacks and a glass of wine, and watch the changing light bring out the architectural details. Visit the website: <https://www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org/upcomingevents>

JULY 14-18 OR JULY 21-25

Art Camp 2025. Del Ray Artisans invites youth ages 8-12 to Art Camp 2025 for a week of professional art instruction! Campers will have an immersive creative journey: painting, sculpting, journaling and more. During nice weather, campers will have outdoor time to get fresh air, unwind, and replenish their creative energy. All art supplies are provided. Choose July 14-18 or July 21-25 (9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily). \$350/child; scholarship support available. Registration at www.connectionnewspapers.com



Visit Wright at Twilight on Friday, June 27, 2025 at Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House in Alexandria.

delrayartisans.org/art-camp-2025

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.

JUNE

Wed. 4: Scott Thompson is "Buddy Cole" in The Last Glory Hole \$39.50

Sat. 7: The Smithereens with guest vocalist John Cowsill \$45.00

Sun. 8: Happy Together Tour 2025 Featuring The Turtles, Jay & The Americans, Little Anthony, Gary Puckett & Union Gap, The Vogues, and The Cowsills \$109.50. SOLD OUT!

Tue. 10: Happy Together Tour 2025 Featuring The Turtles, Jay & The Americans, Little Anthony, Gary Puckett & Union Gap, The Vogues, and The Cowsills \$109.50

Thu. 12: Robert Glasper \$79.50. SOLD OUT!

Fri. 13: TWEET \$49.50

Sat. 14: Tarsha Fitzgerald Presents VOICES OF MOTOWN Father's Day

Anniversary Show! \$45.00

Mon. 16: The Musical Box performs Genesis Live \$59.50

Wed. 18: Acoustic Alchemy \$35.00

Thu. 19: Tower Of Power \$89.50

Fri. 20: AJ Ghent & His Singing Guitar \$45.00

Sat. 21: Ohio Players \$79.50

Sun. 22: Stacey Kent \$39.50

Wed. 25: Tartan Terrors \$29.50

Thu. 26: Peter Asher: A Musical Memoir of the 60's & Beyond \$49.50

Fri. 27: Pieces Of A Dream \$55.00

Sat. 28: Kasey Chambers w/ Sunny Sweeney \$39.50

Sun. 29: Joshua Redman \$49.50

JULY

Wed. 2: Three Dog Night \$95.00 SOLD OUT! 2nd Night Added on 7/29!

Sat. 5: Donnell Rawlings \$49.50

Sun. 6: The Milk Carton Kids \$45.00

Wed. 9: Big Bad Voodoo Daddy \$65.00

Fri. 11: LAUREL CANYON: Golden Songs of Los Angeles '66-'72 \$39.50

Sat. 12: Classic Stones Live! \$35.00

Thu. 17: OMAR with special guest Tabi Bonney \$45.00

Sat. 19: Tell Me Lies – The Fleetwood Mac Experience \$35.00

Sun. 20: Hubert Laws \$55.00

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An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Free digital edition delivered to your email box. Go to connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

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A Connection Newspaper



Beyond Park Maintenance: Restoration & Preservation

Park Authority working to conserve natural environment.

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE GAZETTE

Fairfax County Park Authority has a mission that goes well beyond daily park maintenance. Certainly maintaining playgrounds and sports courts, mowing ball fields and removing trash are important basic functions of park management. However, the Park Authority's mission goes beyond this usual care, to include managing park natural environments and restoring park meadows and forests. These efforts conserve our natural park resources for future generations. Much of this work may not be immediately recognized; in some cases, not noticed at all, and take years to come to full fruition.

For example, users of Laurel Hill Park may have noticed recently that many large trees are felled along the trails there. While it's easy to recognize the downed trees were not the result of wind storms, it might not be clear why the trees were downed. These trees are a non-native species called Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*). It's a species that is infamous for its rapid spread. Spreading by seed, rhizomes, and cuttings, it quickly edges out slower growing native trees. It also has a role as a host plant for the equally infamous Spotted Lantern Fly (*Lycorma delicatula*). The insect is actually not a fly at all, but scientifically classified as a True Bug. It doesn't bite or sting, but is feared for its potential destruction of crops, such as soybeans; of hardwoods, such as Walnuts; of stone pit fruit trees, such as peaches; and grape vines. One can understand why discovering the insect in Northern Virginia has caused alarm given our wine industry alone. In parks, large masses of the insects that tend to collect after hatching could be a disturbing nuisance to park goers.

John Burke, manager of the Natural Resources Branch of FCPA, says his group is using \$100,000 in annual funding from state grants to the county's Urban Forest Management Division to treat Tree of Heaven in several parks. While Laurel Hill has the greatest concentration of Tree of Heaven, other parks treated include Blake Lane, Sully Historic, Frying Pan, and River Bend. Treatment with herbicide began in 2021 and has continued for three years. Initially, treated trees were left standing in place as they died, as is typical, to provide habitat for native wildlife. Since many of the dead trees were located near trails and were starting to fall in wind storms, another contract was let to down those dead trees as a matter of safety, to prevent their falling on someone, or something. The trees, now decomposing on the ground, will be left for a season to dry. Burke shares, "If left in large piles, as in some areas of Laurel Hill, they can serve as lattice work to let other invasive plants grow. Those may be burned." He explains it's also good practice to eliminate accumulations of dry wood.

Seeing Tree of Heaven down represents a victory for the environment that may not be immediately recognized by many park users. Natural Resources Branch ecologists manage several additional projects within Laurel Hill Park that are easier to immediately appreciate. Two projects can be spotted along the park's Apple Orchard Trail. One, behind the Stempson House is a five-year reforestation project. Small flags mark new tree seedling plantings. Nearby, a second field is considered a "managed area" rather than a formal project. A "forestry mulcher," used there to grind down woody material, creates a visually open field where tangles of bri-



PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME

FCPA manager John Burke, oversees several projects to improve the environment within area parks.

ars once stood. Mowing in a one-to-three year cycle suppresses the non-natives seedlings and plants and gives the native plants an opportunity to reestablish themselves, Burke said. This is the same philosophy behind mowing behind the nearby Barrett House, by county Park Maintenance, where Callery pear incursion is rampant. After mowing, native grasses are more visible as well as the birds visiting them to enjoy the seeds.

Two more restoration areas in Laurel Hill Park, along the Gerry Connolly Cross County Trail, include a meadow restoration and a reforestation area. In past years, controlled burns were used there an important tool in the ecology toolbox. Rejuvenation of the meadow has seen the return of native plants, and habitation by red fox and wild turkeys. Over 3,000 tree seedlings of six different native species, oaks and hickories, added to the reforestation area, will extend the park's woodland habitat. Park users notice small pink flags marking the plantings within the deer fencing, and tree cages which protect new trees from deer predation outside the fencing.

Projects such as these take five to twenty years to come to full maturity, however, the environment is improved for wildlife and park users in the intervening years as well.

For more on the FCPA Natural Resources Management Plan, see <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sites/parks/files/Assets/Documents/naturalcultural/NRMP-01-29-14.pdf>

Accidentally Not on Purpose



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Other than not getting a handicapped sticker for my car - which I briefly considered back in the early daze of my cancer life, or affixing a "new driver, please be patient"-type bumper sticker on the rear of my car to provide me some leniency and/or latitude behind the wheel, I've never "weaponized" my affliction as a means of avoiding us meeting by accident. Nevertheless, it's becoming increasingly clear of late that even a short drive (seasons notwithstanding, although winter does provide unique challenges) to my local Giant (less than 1.5 miles) shouldn't encourage this driver to put on the blinders. I have to respect the fact that there are plenty of other drivers who regard these local-type errands as a bit of a race.

"Drive defensively" is a phrase which has been drilled into our driving heads for as long as I can remember in an attempt to prevent drivers meeting by accident. Although plenty of accidents can't be prevented/avoided, at least we drivers can be alert and not increase the likelihood that we'll meet unexpectedly, shall we say. Which means paying attention when behind the wheel and not taking our local errands/routines for granted because there are many other drivers who will. This also means not to fuss with the radio or the windows, keep your windshield clear and your wiper fluid full, buckle up, and most importantly keep your eyes focused on what's ahead, not behind you or to the side.

However, a major design upgrade to automobiles of late that I have finally embraced are the radio's controls being relocated from the dash to the wheel. No more looking down and to the right, generally describing, to adjust your radio preferences. I was guilty of that misdirected focus much too often. Finally, I have started pressing the radio's buttons on my wheel. Now I can increase/decrease volume and search up or down the radio dial all while keeping my eyes on the road; especially when you consider the number of satellite stations on your car's radio. A search, if done manually, could take more than a few seconds, time when you're not paying strict attention (or any kind of attention for that matter). Eliminating that manual temptation has enabled me to keep my attention where it belongs: on the road and away from the radio. As such, I feel so much more in control, even without my handicapped tag or new driver bumper sticker.

Still, most of us living in the suburbs need a car for commuting or "erranding." Walking to and from or using public transportation eliminates these car-related distractions (Duh!). Unfortunately, much of suburban life requires - or works better/more efficiently with an automobile at your disposal. Therefore, it makes logical sense to behave/drive responsibly since the regularity/frequency of driving in your car increases exponentially the chances (I didn't say likelihood) that you might get into an accident. Logically thinking, why not make a commitment to the activity which exposes you to your greatest risk of death or disability: driving your car.

If any of these accidents could be predicted/planned for, you would, as my friend Beverly refers to it, be called an "on purpose." Since it's rare that these driving actions occur on purpose, why not act your age and drive like you have a future. Sure, we have a present, but as I know all too well, your future is hardly guaranteed. As in the game of Monopoly, and the overall game of life, it's usually riskier to take a "chance" than it is to grab an "opportunity."

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

ENTERTAINMENT EXTRA

FROM PAGE 17

graduate Andrew Snowman's ongoing scholarship explores the Black experience with white policing through the study of Fairfax County's Antebellum policing and its evolution through Reconstruction, Jim Crow, and the Civil Rights Movement.

New scholarship from African American studies have provided tools that help revisit older examples of historical scholarship to help understand reasons for the current Black perspective toward police.

SATURDAY/JUNE 28
Workhouse Fireworks Festival.

4-10 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. The Workhouse Arts Center is thrilled to announce the return of Northern Virginia's largest and most anticipated summer celebration—the Workhouse Fireworks Festival. This free, family-friendly festival draws thousands annually for its high-energy live music, carnival

games, interactive art zones, food trucks, and a dazzling fireworks finale that lights up the Northern Virginia sky. Headlining this year is local favorite The Outer Loop, bringing danceable hits across the decades, along with DJs, a new art-themed mini golf course, and even a dunk tank featuring the CEO!

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