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ARTS ♦ ENTERTAINMENT ♦ LEISURE

Summertime Blooms

Alexandria's flora are showing their bright colors.

END NOTE. PAGE 8



OUTDOORS

Sundays at Overlook

Every Sunday, Potomac Overlook holds a family program.

BY BEN GEIER
GAZETTE

The earthy smells of dirt and the unmistakable sound of wind whispering as it passes through branches hit visitors to Potomac Overlook Regional Park as soon as they begin to walk the paths. In an attempt to have more people experience this sensory overload, the park began in May the “Come Hang Out... Outdoors!” program.

The program takes place at the park’s Nature Center, a small house located 300 yards from the parking lot. The walk is made more enjoyable by the presence of a “planet walk,” where plaques with information about each planet are placed at a distance from the Nature Center relative to the planets distance from the sun (with the fallen from grace Pluto tacked inside the Nature Center.) Outside the nature center, staff and volunteers were setting up that day’s activities.

“We want people to get outside,” said Heather DeVault, a summer naturalist at Potomac Overlook. She noted that the entire program is based on Richard Louv’s book “Last Child in the Woods,” which laments how little exposure modern children and families are given to the outdoors. Potomac overlook is seeking to reverse this trend by providing an easy outlet for local residents to experience the outdoors, as well as providing various nature and outdoors activities.

On this Sunday the crowd outside of the Nature Center is not overwhelming but definitely present. There are a number of families who have stopped for the complimentary lemonade and watermelon, to take a break from a hike, or to check out the what was on display for that day.

“Today we have the box turtle and the

mole king snake,” said DeVault.

The snake especially was popular among the younger crowd. In addition to the live animals, there was a “Touch and Feel Box,” where partners could take turns feeling natural artifacts and guessing to their partner what they were touching. Also, several volunteers were entertaining the very young visitors with colonial-era games, bubble blowing, and the painting of various objects.

The program not only serves the interest of promoting the outdoors to citizens, but of promoting the parks themselves.

“[The Park managers] would like to try to develop a program in which people could come to the park on a regular basis,” said Travis Anderson, who works with Park Maintenance.

Though the event has been a success thus far, there are even more plans for expansion in the future.

“It’s an evolving process,” said Rich Bailey, a naturalist at the Park. “We’d like to plan and schedule some community potlucks.”

The Park is also may promote environmentalism on a more universal standard, outside of the Park.

“We might have a hybrid car on display one Sunday,” Bailey said.

Based on the enthusiasm displayed last Sunday, they would certainly have an audience.



Caitlan, a park volunteer helps Sam Partin with a children’s game.



Potomac Overlook Park is home to three wild birds. Two owls and a red-tailed hawk. All the birds had been wounded in various accidents and recovered with the help of a wildlife rehabilitator. They are not able now to survive on their own and the naturalists at the park have made enclosures for them and provide food. Pictured is a red-tailed hawk.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE
KRAFFT/GAZETTE

“We want people to get outside.”

—said Heather DeVault, a summer naturalist at Potomac Overlook.



Summer naturalist Heather DeVault shows a full grown Mole King Snake to the visitors at the park on Sunday.



The staff at the park is featuring a special family program during the summer “Meet me on Sunday.” The program offers games for the children and refreshments during the early afternoon.

PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/
GAZETTE

ON THE COVER: A lily pond can be viewed down Allison’s Alley.

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ART

A Monumental Change

King Street intersection to be transformed by an obelisk and the debate it engenders.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE

What is good art? Like pornography, viewers are likely to know it when they see it. Yet not everyone views art through the same prism. That's why the John Van Alstine sculpture "Sacandaga Totem" is likely to spark a wide array of opinions when it's installed at the intersection of King and Fayette streets this fall.

The Alexandria City Council unanimously voted to accept the sculpture as a gift from a group known as the "Alexandria Sculpture Festival" in January. Since that time, city officials have been planning new landscaping and lighting with the Old Town architectural firm of Stephenson & Good. Earlier this month, the Board of Architectural Review approved alterations for the three-way intersection where the diagonally oriented Commerce Street intersects Fayette and King.

"It's an awkward space that doesn't quite work right now," said Matthew Harwood, chairman of the public arts committee of the Alexandria Commission for the Arts. "But this sculpture will really give the area a focal point."

The Board of Architectural Review approved steel base plate that will be installed on a concrete foundation surrounded by a granite curb about 3 inches taller than the brick paving. Harwood said the minimal elevation of the sculpture will give the 9-foot Sacandaga Totem a "human scale" by presenting it to viewers without setting it apart from the streetscape. Two new black aluminum "light poles" will be installed toward the center of the plaza to illuminate the sculpture and provide lighting enhancements to the plaza.

"Instead of harmonizing with the historic nature of the things around it, the sculpture acts as a sort of counterbalance to its setting," said Harwood. "I think the juxtaposition will make Old Town seem older."

THE DEBATE OVER public art is one that has been waged by the Alexandria Sculpture Festival since a 1987 showing along Alexandria's waterfront. At the conclusion of the 1987 event, several of the artists involved decided to donate a piece of modern sculpture to the city. Finally — late last year — all of the pieces began falling together. The group, known as the "Alexandria Sculpture Festival" even though only one actual festival was ever staged, offered to donate Sacandaga Totem to the city late last year. The Public Art Committee initially voted to reject the gift because its members disagreed with the proposed site location, but the Arts Commission later overturned that decision. City Manager Jim Hartmann called the totem "a valuable addition of a sculpture by a prominent artist to the city's arts inventory."

"If it causes conversation, that's a good thing in my opinion," said Ellen Harris, a network administrator who is an art lover

and a former member of the commission. "Even if you hate it."

John Van Alstine is a name that is well known in the rarified world of American sculptors, and he has exhibited at institutions such as the Hirshhorn Museum, the Phillips Collection, the National Building Museum and the National Academy of Sciences. He uses massive stone formations and cast-off industrial elements to create juxtapositions of the natural elements and metallic scrap. Inspired by the Washington Monument, Sacandaga Totem is a prime example of Van Alstine's work. Created in 1997, the totem is about 9 feet tall and weighs about 5,000 pounds.

"Ultimately, this is a work that's a cross between what's natural and what's man made," Van Alstine told the *Alexandria Gazette Packet* in February. "And that's what all my work is about."

WHEN THE TOTEM is installed on historic King Street, the sculpture is likely to turn heads. Its nonrepresentational form and modernistic design are certain to make a lasting impression, whether its viewed by pedestrians walking along the corridor or riders in the city's new free trolley service. The sculpture will be placed near the center of the existing brick plaza surrounded by four benches.

"We wanted the finishes and the materials we used to integrate into the fabric of King Street, including the lighting," said Robert Good, the architect who designed the base and lighting that will be used. "It's relatively central in the plaza but behind the façade lines of the buildings."

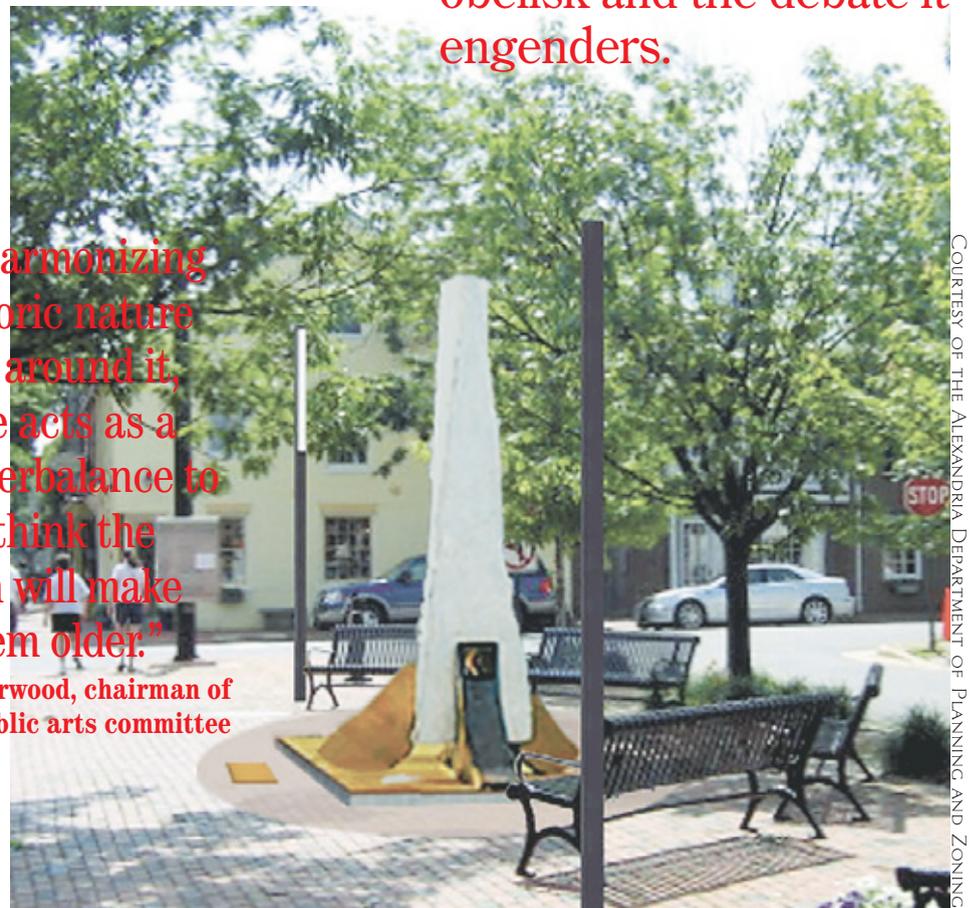
Like other well-known pieces of public art, Sacandaga Totem has its detractors. During the Board of Architectural Review's public hearing on alterations to the plaza, several speakers opposed the installation of the sculpture. Because the City Council never held a public hearing on the sculpture's installation at the corner of Fayette and King, those in opposition felt this was their moment to register their complaints. But Board of Architectural Review Chairman Tom Hulfish said the vote would be limited to a consideration of the pedestal and the lighting.

"Folks, it looks like somebody took some Cialis," said Julie Crenshaw Van Fleet. "And that's what you are putting on the sidewalk."

"This train has left the station," responded Hulfish. "If you have any further arguments with this process, go to City Council. That's what they're there for."

"Instead of harmonizing with the historic nature of the things around it, the sculpture acts as a sort of counterbalance to its setting. I think the juxtaposition will make Old Town seem older."

— Matthew Harwood, chairman of the city's public arts committee



COURTESY OF THE ALEXANDRIA DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ZONING

This site photo composite shows how Sacandaga Totem will look once it's installed this fall at the intersection of King and Fayette streets.

Walk, Talk, Eat

A sidewalk-level view of Alexandria history and cuisine.

BY CHUCK HAGEE
GAZETTE

Hungry for history? Or just hungry? Either way, those desires can be fulfilled by taking an Old Town Alexandria Tasting and Historical Walking Tour.

The brainchild of Jeff Swedarsky, founder, DC Metro Food Tours, the Old Town tours offer a wide range of cuisine and special insights into some of Alexandria's most noteworthy historical attractions as well as its abundant 18th- and 19th-century architecture. Each tour group is purposely kept small, approximately eight to 10 people, to allow personal interaction among the participants and with Swedarsky and his wife Sharone, who serve as guides.

"We want this tour to be unique and different than the other tours offered in Old Town. Since there are so many places to eat in Old Town, it is difficult, for both visitors and residents, to know what to try," Swedarsky said.

"We want to promote our area's local favorites to a much larger audience. We want to show everyone some of the special dishes

that can be found in our beloved city," he stated with the verve of a true Alexandria resident.

Each tour begins at Market Square at 1 p.m. and ends back there at 4:30 p.m. Tours are designed to appeal to both Alexandria visitors and local residents, particularly those in the latter category who have recently moved to the area, according to Swedarsky.

"Tour restaurants were painstakingly chosen to represent a variety of local flavors that would appeal to a wide audience. They have regional acclaim as well as a strong local following. They range from small, casual 'hole in the wall' type places to hip, trendy hangouts," Swedarsky said.

The five tour participants, plus Jeff and Sharone Swedarsky, this past Saturday dined at Bilbo Baggins Cafe, 208 Queen St.; Union Street Public House, 121 S. Union St.; and Pita House, 407 Cameron St. The mini menu selections were made by the Swedarskys from some of their personal favorites and assembled in a taste titillating array by the restaurants.

"Living in this area, we get a lot of out-of-town visitors and we like to take them to our favorite places. That's what originally gave me the idea for this venture," Swedarsky said.

A NATIVE OF INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.,
SEE WALK, PAGE 6

CALENDAR

E-mail announcements to the Gazette, gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Photos and artwork are encouraged. Deadline is Thursday at noon for the following week's paper. Call Rebecca Halik at 703-917-6407 with questions.

OTHER ITEMS

The Alexandria Choral Society announces auditions for the Adult Chorus. Auditions will be held Aug. 5 from 6-9 p.m. and July 26 and Aug. 9 from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Road. Sign up for an audition time at www.AlexChoralSociety.org. If you have any questions about the audition process, e-mail AlexandriaChoralSociety@gmail.org.

The **City of Alexandria** will host its Second Annual Film Festival at the Lee Center's Kauffman Auditorium (1108 Jefferson St.) from Sept. 25 through Sept. 28. This year's Film Festival theme is "Politics in the USA," and the Alexandria Commission for the Arts is seeking short films, features, and documentaries supporting the theme. Winning films will be shown as part of the Festival. The Commission has extended the deadline to submit a film entry to July 30. To receive a submission form, visit www.alexandriacommissionforthearts.org.

ONGOING

Every Monday and Friday through August from 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. or 11 a.m. - noon Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria will be having **Harry Potter's Plants and Potions** for 6-12 year olds. The program teaches children how to craft a wizard's wand and make potions. \$6 for Students. Call 703-642-5173 to register. For more information visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/gspg

Every Monday and Friday through Aug 11-15 and 18-22 Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria will be having **Butterfly Lab** to teach children ages 6-12 to raise their own butterflies. \$135 for students, includes supplies and light snacks. Call 703-642-5173 to register. For more information visit

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/gspg

Visit **George Washington's Distillery & Gristmill** through Oct. 31 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. See how whiskey got started. \$4/adult; \$2/child. Get discounts with admission to Mount Vernon Estate. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

Take a **seasonal walking tour** from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Mount Vernon Estate. This 30-minute tour explores a variety of contributions. Free. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

On Sundays take a Potomac River Sightseeing Cruise at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. \$9/adult; \$5/child in addition to Mount Vernon Estate admission. Visit www.mountvernon.org for schedules.

Every **Tuesday and Thursday** through October from 5-8 p.m. at Hotel Monaco Alexandria, enjoy **Doggie Happy Hour**. Enjoy doggie treats and human treats.

Join City archaeologists and trained volunteers for an exciting program for kids of all ages at **Alexandria Archaeology Family Dig Days**. Be part of the fascinating archaeological investigation and discover firsthand the hidden clues left behind by the people who lived and worked there hundreds of years ago, by helping screen excavated soil. Monthly Family Dig Days will be held from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. on the grounds of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, in Alexandria. The 2008 dates are on Saturdays: Aug. 16; Sept. 20 and Oct. 18. \$5/person and spots fill up fast. Call 703-838-4399 or visit www.alexandriarchaeology.org to reserve a spot.

On Sundays from noon-5 p.m., visit the Waterfront and see **history-inspired performances** near the Torpedo Factory; do a "meet and greet" of early Alexandria residents and travelers near the Waterfront and lower King Street. Free. Visit www.historialexandria.org for more.

In celebration of the exhibition "**Setting the President's Table: American Presidential China**," visitors to

Mount Vernon will have a chance every day from June 1 to Aug. 31 to win a piece of porcelain featuring the Martha Washington "States" pattern. Drawings occur daily at 3 p.m. in the Shops at Mount Vernon, and the grand prize will be drawn on Aug. 31. No purchase is required, and visitors do not have to be present to win. Visit www.mountvernon.org or 703-780-2000.

On Saturdays through Aug. 16 from 1-3 p.m., children ages 8-12 years can learn how to **create a garden** with hands-on activities and will be able to grow a garden. \$10/student. At Green Spring Garden, 4603 Green Spring Road. To register, 703-642-5173.

See Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St., in a whole new light - **lantern light**. Tour the 1785 tavern and 1792 City Hotel during the summer season with costumed guides as you experience the tavern as patrons did more than 200 years ago before the advent of electricity. Tours are every Friday night, **June through August**, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Tickets are \$5 per person ages 5 and up. Tours last approximately 30 minutes, with the last tour starting at 9:15 p.m. Call ahead to confirm tour date. For more information, call 703-838-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org.

On Mondays, Aug. 25, Sept. 29, Oct. 27, and Nov. 24 at 2 p.m. Green Spring Gardens will be having **Family Story Time** for children of all ages where there will be stories and activities. Free. For more information visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/gspg

Children enter a world of fantasy and fables when costumed interpreters weave three tales together during **Mount Vernon's** outdoor storytelling session, "Once Upon a Time at Mount Vernon", held every Saturday and Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. **through Sept. 27** at the George Washington: Pioneer Farmer site. "Once Upon a Time at Mount Vernon" is included in regular Estate admission: adults, \$13.00; youth ages 6-11, \$6.00; and children under 5 are admitted free. Visit www.mountvernon.org or 703-780-2000.

Musician Performs

KEVIN DONAHUE
GAZETTE PACKET

Andy Zipf is a singer/songwriter who is scheduled to play at The Birchmere in Alexandria Tuesday, July 29. Zipf, who actually resides in Arlington, is going to be performing with Joshua Radin and Alexa Wilkinson. The multi-talented artist was able to talk about his music and his upcoming show at The Birchmere.



Andy Zipf

Introduce yourself:

My name is Andy Zipf. I'm a singer songwriter from the Washington, D.C. area (originally from the mid-west), and I've been playing around here for four or five years. I'm looking forward to playing The Birchmere with Joshua Radin on July 29.

How did you get your start in music and if applicable how did you form the group?

I grew up surrounded by music. My mom taught piano and voice at home, and she taught me some chords on her little nylon-string folk guitar when I was twelve or thirteen. I knew shortly after that I wanted to make this my life. I just didn't know how I was going to get there. That was just a minor detail.

FRIDAY/JULY 25

Mount Vernon Nights. Listen to a variety of music at 7:30 p.m. on Friday nights at Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance for more.

Friday Flicks. Noon at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Children up to age 5 can bring lunch and enjoy stories and a short movie. Free. 703-971-0010.

Lunch Bunnies. Noon at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Children ages 1-5 can bring lunch and enjoy stories. Free. 703-765-3645.

Wee Ones Story Time. 10:30 a.m. at Hooray For Books, 1555 King St. Children ages 2 and younger can enjoy songs and stories. Free. Visit www.hooray4books.com or 703-548-4092.

SATURDAY/JULY 26

Lee District Nights. 7:30 p.m. at Hayfield Elementary School, 7633 Telegraph Road. Hear Cathy Fink & Marcy Marxer perform. Free. 703-324-SHOW (7469).

Diverse World of Hydrangeas. 9:30-11 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. \$18/person. Learn everything about hydrangeas. 703-642-5173.

African Heritage Festival. 1-7 p.m. at Market Square, 301 King St. Free. Enjoy "Reaching Back, Moving Forward" with music, dancing, workshops, food and more. 703-838-

How long have you been performing?

About ten years.

What is it that you love about performing?

Music is about connection and escape for me. I love to connect with an audience.

What is your best memory when it comes to music?

There are so many. One that stands out to me is when my grandpa (a songwriter himself) bought me my first guitar. He said, "A musician should have his own instrument". Up until that time, I was borrowing a friend's.

4844.
African Culture Story Time. 11 a.m. at Hooray For Books, 1555 King St. Children ages 2-6 can hear stories about the culture. Free. www.hooray4books.com or 703-548-4092.

SUNDAY/JULY 27

Dress Up Your Walls Tea. 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn how to effectively display art in home. Includes a full tea. \$25/person. 703-941-7987 to register.

Music Performance. Pianist Stephen Bertino will perform with the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic at 3 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Free. Visit www.wmpa.us for more.

MONDAY/JULY 28

Writers' Group. 7 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Bring work and receive feedback. Free. 703-339-4610.

TUESDAY/JULY 29

Mother-Daughter Book Discussion. 7 p.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Daughters age 9-11 can join. Call for title, 703-971-0010.

Balloon Animals. 2 p.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Children ages 6-12 can learn how to make balloon animals. Free. 703-765-3645.

Library Lullabies. 7 p.m. at Sherwood



The Alexandria Citizens Band will perform a free concert on Aug. 1 and Aug. 8 at 7:30 p.m. at Market Square, 301 King St. Visit www.band.alexandria.va.us for more.

Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Children ages 1-5 can enjoy bedtime stories and activities. Free. 703-765-3645.

Theater Night. 8 p.m. at Little Theater of Alexandria. St. Mark's Episcopal Church is sponsoring a night of "1776." \$25/person. 703-765-3949.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 30

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Lee District Park Amphitheater, 6601 Telegraph Road. Hear John McCutcheon perform. Free. 703-922-9841.

On the Ball. 2:30 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Children ages 6-12 can see former Harlem Globetrotter Spinny Johnson perform tricks. Free. 703-339-4610.

Art Workshop. The Crossroads Gallery, 3440 S. Jefferson St., Falls Church, will host workshops with featured artist and Alexandria native Audrey Grissom on from 3-4 p.m. Free.

THURSDAY/JULY 31

Day at The Beach. 10:30 a.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Children ages 6-12 can learn about sand, waves, tides and sun along with creatures at the shore. Free. 703-971-0010.

Lutindo. 10:30 a.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. All ages can stomp feet and clap along with Ssuuna. Free. 703-768-6700.

FRIDAY/AUG. 1

Mount Vernon Nights. Listen to a variety of music at 7:30 p.m. on Friday nights at Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances for more.

SATURDAY/AUG. 2

Lee District Nights. 7:30 p.m. at Hayfield Elementary School, 7633 Telegraph Road. Hear SingCo Rhythm Orchestra perform. Free. 703-324-SHOW (7469).

The Fruits of Summer:

Tomatoes and Peppers. 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Green Springs Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn gardening secrets from Cindy Brown, Green Spring Horticulturist, and taste some tomatoes and peppers. \$18 for Adults. Visit www.faircounty.gov/parks/gsgp

Gadsby's Tavern Day. 1-5 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern, 134 N. Royal St. Free. Take tours, dance and more. www.gadsbystavern.org or 703-838-4242.

Railroad Days. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Browse through miniature towns, valleys and more. Free. Hand-on Thomas the Tank engine area. www.alexandriahistory.org or 703-838-4994.

Friendship Firehouse Festival. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the firehouse, 100 block S. Alfred St. Free. Look at antique and modern fire equipment, booths, food and more.

SUNDAY/AUG. 3

Railroad Days. 1-5 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Browse through miniature towns, valleys and more. Free. Hand-on Thomas the Tank engine area. www.alexandriahistory.org or 703-838-4994.

TUESDAY/AUG. 5

Theater Fundraiser. See "1776" at Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. Benefits Mount Vernon Community Children's Theatre.

Reception at 7 p.m. and show at 8 p.m. \$20/person www.mvctt.org or 703-360-0686.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 6

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Lee District Park Amphitheater, 6601 Telegraph Road. Hear Citizen perform. Free. 703-922-9841.

Benefit Concert. 6:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church, 2001 Sherwood Hall Lane. Bring canned or nonperishable food to benefit UCM. www.mvpconline.org or 703-765-6118.

THURSDAY/AUG. 7

Garden Sprouts: Green, Green Grasses. 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. at Green Springs Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Preschool children (3-5 years) with accompanying adults can visit a variety of ornamental grasses in the gardens and then make their own. \$6 for participants. For more information visit www.faircounty.gov/parks/gsgp

Music Performance. Dagmar and The Seductones will perform at 7 p.m. at Fort Ward Park, 4301 West Braddock Road. Free. 703-883-4686.

Theatre Performance. Morningstar

SATURDAY/AUG. 9

Lee District Nights. 7:30 p.m. at Hayfield Elementary School, 7633 Telegraph Road. Hear The Continentals perform. Free. 703-324-SHOW (7469).

Designing with Perennials. 9:30-11 a.m. at Green Spring Garden, 4603 Green Spring Road. Combine perennials and woody plants. \$18/session. 703-642-5173.

Theatre Performance. Morningstar Productions presents "Cheaper by the Dozen" at 2 p.m. or 7 p.m. at Plymouth Haven Baptist Church, 8523 Fort Hunt Road. \$7/adult; \$4/child, senior or student. 703-577-3966.

Garden Sprouts: Green, Green Grasses. 10 a.m. -11 p.m. at Green Springs Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Preschool children (3-5 years) with accompanying adults can visit a variety of ornamental grasses in the gardens and then make their own. \$6 for participants. For more information visit www.faircounty.gov/parks/gsgp

Theatre Performance. 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at Plymouth Haven Baptist Church, 8523 Fort Hunt Road. See "Cheaper by the Dozen." \$7/adult; \$4/child. 703-577-3966.



Dagmar and The Seductones will perform at 7 p.m. at Fort Ward Park, 4301 West Braddock Road on Thursday, Aug. 7.

Productions presents "Cheaper by the Dozen" at 7 p.m. at Plymouth Haven Baptist Church, 8523 Fort Hunt Road. \$7/adult; \$4/child, senior or student. 703-577-3966.

Garden Stroll and Tea. 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. at Green Springs Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Take a relaxing stroll through the gardens and enjoy a tea at the Historic House. Individuals and groups are welcomed. \$25 for individuals For more information visit www.faircounty.gov/parks/gsgp

Theatre Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Plymouth Haven Baptist Church, 8523 Fort Hunt Road. See "Cheaper by the Dozen." \$7/adult; \$4/child. 703-577-3966.

FRIDAY/AUG. 8

Mount Vernon Nights. Listen to a variety of music at 7:30 p.m. on Friday nights at Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances for more.

Theatre Performance. Morningstar Productions presents "Cheaper by the Dozen" at 7 p.m. at Plymouth Haven Baptist Church, 8523 Fort Hunt Road. \$7/adult; \$4/child, senior or student. 703-577-3966.

SUNDAY/AUG. 10

Music Performance. The Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Winds will perform at 3 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Free. Visit www.wmpa.us for more.

This Week in History Tea Program. 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. at Green Springs Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn how to use the Fairfax County Public Library's Historical Newspaper Index. \$25 for participants. Call 703-941-7987 to register. Visit www.faircounty.gov/parks/gsgp

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 13

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Lee District Park Amphitheater, 6601 Telegraph Road. Hear Washington Balalaika Orchestra perform. Free. 703-922-9841.

THURSDAY/AUG. 14

Opening reception. 6:30-8 p.m. The Art League presents its International Landscape Show. See works from all types of media. Free. Located at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.



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Admission is free and reservations are not required.

Call 703.820.8600 for details

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These Kids Need Your Help

August 9, 2007 the Mount Vernon /Lee Education Foundation, 501 (c) 3 arm of the Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce, will sponsor the 6th Annual Back to School Physicals Clinic.

This program enables children who are not insured, but whose parents are working, to receive the necessary physical examination and inoculations to start in Fairfax County Schools.

Your donation of time, school supplies or money to purchase school supplies enables us to impress on the children entering school the value we place on them and their education. Please call the Chamber office at 703-360-6925 or Bonnie Lilley at 703-780-4844 or Katy Fike at 703-683-2700 for information on how you can be involved.

FOOD & DRINK

Eating, History In Town

FROM PAGE 3

Swedarsky holds a Masters Degree in Business Administration from Purdue University. He and his wife have lived in Alexandria for two years since he came here as a government employee. Some of his other endeavors include marketing management and being a new business consultant. "We got this underway in May. But we've been working on it for about a year," he said.

"They have this concept in New York. But it's not the same. This is a particularly great place to do this, with all its history. I took the idea of a food tour and put my own spin on it. Besides, I love food and I love to cook," he said.

At each restaurant, tour participants are personally greeted by either the owner or manager, who explains the history of the restaurant and the various menu offerings. "It gives it a very personal touch," Swedarsky said.

That assessment was buttressed by Arlington resident John Dandeneau. "I wasn't sure what to expect. I've lived around these parts for over 20 years and thought I was very familiar with Old Town Alexandria. We saw this food tour and thought it'd be fun to try something new," he said.

"By the end of the tour, I was blown away by how much I didn't know about our local history, and the food tastings were awesome and incredibly generous. Jeff and Sharone were wonderful hosts," Dandeneau said.

Rick Joseph, an Alexandria resident, also found the tour an eye-opening experience. "I have lived

here for the past eight months and had never understood why everyone was so fascinated with Old Town. Well, I'm here to say this tour put the "Ole" in Old Town for me," he said.

"It did not only reveal the deep history of the city, but also it allowed me to see and enjoy some of the diverse restaurants within the city. It opened not only my eyes but also my taste buds," Joseph said.

"I can't wait for friends and family to come visiting. Not only do I have somewhere to take them but also to let them discover the beauty and history of Old Town. I hope everyone who comes to visit or live here takes the time to learn about Alexandria's deep history as well as enjoy the richness this city has to offer," he said.

IN ADDITION TO visiting an array of Old Town eateries, the tour includes such historic landmarks as Gadsby's Tavern, The Lyceum, the Torpedo Factory Art Center, Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Shop Museum, and Lee-Fendall House. Tour participants get an opportunity to enhance both their palettes and their knowledge of both Alexandria and American history.

Priced at \$50 per person plus a \$2 ticketing fee, it includes all food and beverages at the various restaurants plus gratuities. Additional information and frequently asked questions about the tours can be found at www.dcmetrofoodtours.com. To check availability and buy tickets online go to Zerve: Old Town Alexandria Tasting and Historical Walking Tour or call Zerve at 800-979-3370.

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BRIEFS

Whiskey and Fables

Mount Vernon Estate is offering summer extras for visitors of all ages. From storytelling by costumed interpreters to the debate over President Washington's decision to quell the Whiskey Rebellion, America's colonial history comes alive.

Children enter a world of fantasy and fables as interpreters weave three tales together during Mount Vernon's outdoor storytelling session, "Once Upon a Time at Mount Vernon." It is held every Saturday and Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. through Sept. 27 at George Washington Pioneer Farmer site.

During each 20-minute session, children learn Aesop's fables, listen to stories about Washington's life, and watch as Mount Vernon's livestock are incorporated into the stories. This program is recommended for children ages 3 to 8, and parental supervision is required.

"Once Upon a Time at Mount Vernon" is included in regular Estate admission: adults \$13; youth ages 6 to 11 \$6; and children under 5 free.

While visiting the Pioneer Farmer site, visitors can listen to a dramatic surround-sound interpretation in the 16-sided barn, where costumed staff will lead Estate horses as they tread wheat at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

On August 9 and 10 the Whiskey Rebellion controversy comes to Mount Vernon's Distillery and Gristmill for the first time with dramatic performances, a military encampment, militia drilling, music, and open-hearth cooking.

Young men gathered at the Gristmill to debate whether to take up arms against their fellow Americans.

Activities are included in regular admission to the

Distillery and Gristmill, located just three miles from the Estate on Rt. 235: adults \$4; youth ages 6 to 11 \$2; and children ages 5 and younger free.

'No Reservations' at Eammons

"That's evil!" Anthony Bourdain said with a grin as he bit into Eamonn's newest addition to the fry menu, 'The Chip Butty,' golden fried chips stacked between a bun smothered with Kerrygold Pure Irish Butter. Yes! A french-fry sandwich, but Irish style.

Bourdain, a chef, author and media star reveled in the glory of Old Town's neighborhood eatery and fry house Eamonn's A Dublin Chipper, while filming a segment this past Saturday night. Eamonn's inclusion is set to air on a future episode of The Travel Channel's "No Reservations: Washington DC."

Irish born owner Chef Cathal Armstrong and Bourdain shared Dublin tales, pints of Guinness and Eamonn's signature fish; sweet, juicy, flaky white Cod. A man of tradition, Bourdain devoured it with salt and vinegar.

Bourdain and his production crew were happily fed all night, as manager Clinton Terry and I served up our fryers' bubbling menu items; bunless "burgher" bangers and another favorite, fried milky way bars.

A grand time was had by all particularly when the filming ended with a trip to PX; our throw back social lounge where 'Spirits are Raised' by Todd Thrasher, resident mix master. Todd shook the ice and poured as Bourdain sipped on his favorite drink, The Negroni.

We collectively agreed. He's really as cool as he is on TV.

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Thursday - Italian Night
Calamari and Lasagna

Friday - South of the Border Specials
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Unconcerned with the heat well into the 90s, a horse shakes his mane near a garden wall.



A Koi comes out from under a lily pad.



A crane wears a thin strand of green from a climbing Morning Glory.



A lion reclines in the dappled light of a plum tree.

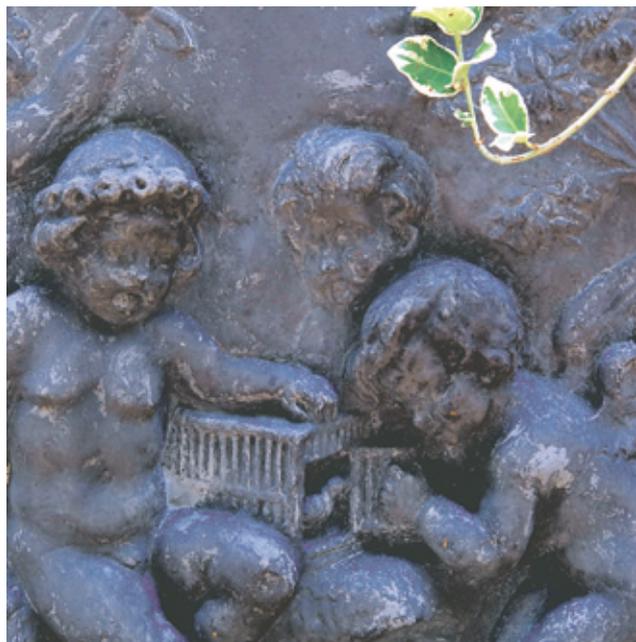


A garden gate of roses.

A Sunday Stroll Down Allison Alley

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/
GAZETTE

A double daylily is ablaze of color against a backdrop of ivy.



Allison Alley was so named after the track of land was given to Robert Allison upon his marriage to the daughter of Mayor William Ramsay of Alexandria.