Kayaking at Belle Haven Marina is one of life’s simple pleasures, says Alison Sigethy, a die-hard kayaker at the marina.
Welcome to the Mount Vernon District! For those of us who live, work, learn and play in the District, this is a wonderful place to live. From our incredible history and heritage — the Mount Vernon Estate and the Workhouse Arts Center for example — to the exciting revitalization of Richmond Highway and the new amenities coming to Lorton — the Lorton Community Center and South County Police Station and Animal Shelter — no matter where you live in the District, the future is bright!

Even if you are new here, you likely know that Fairfax County has one of the best school systems in the country, but for us it goes beyond that. Life-long learning is important to many of our residents and I am proud to say we are bringing more opportunities through our future partnerships at Original Mount Vernon High School (OMVHS) with the Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC) and Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS). In addition, the synergy created by collocating Teen and Senior Centers, the Library, Neighborhood and Community Services, and the Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC) in the new Lorton Community Center will provide many more active and passive learning activities for residents of all ages and abilities.

Fairfax is the safest community of its size in the country, with our Police force actively engaged in our neighborhoods and communities. National Night Out was a great example of residents and Officers coming together to build relationships, trust and community spirit! The new South County Po

Top 10 Places and Events
❖ George Washington’s Mount Vernon Estate
❖ Workhouse Arts Center Brewfest (Sept. 14) & Fireworks (June 2020)
❖ Tour de Mount Vernon – Oct. 19
❖ Woodlawn Plantation and Pope Leighey House
❖ George Washington’s Grist Mill and Distillery
❖ Fort Hunt Park
❖ Mason Neck State Park
❖ Occoquan Regional Park
❖ Pohick Bay Park
❖ Arcadia Farm

The Mount Vernon District abounds with history, heritage, recreation, art and community engagement. Spend some time this fall enjoying all the District has to offer.

A Place To Live, Work, Learn and Play

By Dan Storck
Supervisor, Mount Vernon District

Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck at the Mason Neck State Park Eagle Fest.
How County Has Changed

By Sharon Bulova, Chairman Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

When I was first elected to the Board of Supervisors in 1987 the Braddock District was called Annandale. Fairfax County’s population (now 1.15 million) was approximately 746,600. There was no VRE (Virginia Railway Express Commuter Rail System) nor was there a Springfield Franconia Metro Station or a Fairfax County Parkway. When I took office as a freshman Supervisor in January 1988, Fairfax County was, for the most part, a rapidly growing suburban bedroom community. Tysons was still just a shopping mall.

I will be retiring at the end of December, after serving 31 years on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors — 11 years as Chairman and 20 years before that as the Braddock District Supervisor. What I have come to understand over these many years is that the one thing you can be certain of is that things will change. Indeed, a lot has changed over that span of time.

During the past decade while I have had the honor to serve you as Chairman, Fairfax County has:

- Navigated the financial crises caused by the Great Recession with the County’s coveted triple A bond rating by all three rating agencies still intact;
- Welcomed Metro’s Silver Line to Tysons and Reston, with a station at Dulles Airport to open next year;
- Ushered in new land use plans for Tysons and other aging commercial and industrial areas of the County in need of revitalization;
- Reengineered our police policies to include more transparency and de-escalation tactics with a focus on the sanctity of life;
- Created Diversion First, a program for people with mental illness or developmental disabilities, experiencing an encounter with law enforcement to receive treatment instead of incarceration;
- Updated the County’s Environmental Vision to include a new focus on Energy Efficiency and Climate;
- Strengthened collaboration between the Board of Supervisors and the School Board in the areas of budget development, land use planning and joint environmental initiatives;
- Reduced homelessness by nearly 50% employing a Housing First strategy to put a roof over homeless individuals’ heads and connecting them to resources needed to help them get back on their feet;
- Lastly, and most importantly, our Board, in partnership with the School Board, established One Fairfax, a social and racial equity compact, to ensure that all residents of Fairfax County have access to equitable opportunities for success.

I have been deeply honored to serve the residents of Fairfax County for these many years. I will really miss this job! Jurisdictions throughout the country look to Fairfax County as a leader and innovator, and I am proud, working with my colleagues on the Board and our excellent County staff, to have led our county to where it is today.

Fairfax County is an awesome place, with a culture of engagement, acceptance of different cultures and backgrounds and a willfulness to work together to resolve conflicts. Fairfax County is poised for many exciting opportunities ahead. I am confident the next Board of Supervisors, in partnership with members of the community, will continue the positive momentum we are known for.

A year after
Rex
Ranks as a
top local
Real estate
Realtor.

A Leader in Mount Vernon Real Estate

Integrity, Experience, Results...
Rex is one of Re/Max’s top producers in Virginia and the Central Atlantic Region, and he can use his vast experience and extensive networking in the Mt.Vernon/Alexandria area to help you buy or sell a home. Rex and his team are available to assist you in your home purchase and sale. Rex’s business is built on referrals, and repeatedly his clients pay their highest compliment by sending friends and family to him when they are in the market to buy or sell a home.

Mt. Vernon is Rex’s hometown. He moved here in 1960 when his father, an Air Force pilot, was stationed at the Pentagon. Rex also became a pilot, graduating from the Air Force Academy and flying for 20 years with the Air Force and Eastern Airlines.

• Rex returned to his roots in Mt. Vernon where he and his wife, Doris, raised their four children, and where Rex embarked on a second career in Real Estate.

www.RexReiley.com
1300 Lafayette Dr. #200
Alexandria, VA 22308
(next to the Hollin Hall shopping center)
703-768-7730

Newcomers & Community Guide
Boating in Mount Vernon is as popular as ever and the Belle Haven Marina is the boating Mecca for many in this part of Alexandria. With Labor Day approaching, it’s a busy place during the good weather, and a windy day is good for the sailing community.

“Go down river, don’t go up because the way the tide is,” said dockmaster Chip Johnston to a group of teenagers getting on a “Flying Scot,” the model of beginner sailboats available for rental at the marina. Johnston is a veteran of the facility where he has been giving sailing lessons for over 20 years, and knows everyone there. “Boating here is fantastic through the fall,” he said, “lots of bass boats.”

Belle Haven Marina is a spot just south of Old Town Alexandria, off the George Washington Parkway. The main office is in a trailer on the premises, spots for about 100 boats, and 35 more that are kept in moorings off shore in the cove. The fishing for catfish and bass is good there in the cove, and it’s tidal waters, so anyone launching a boat, or keeping one on the docks should know their way around the waters.

Alexandria resident Alison Sigethy is a kayaker at the Marina and has been coming for years. “I love the connection with the water, feels very free,” she said. Sigethy had lessons in Maryland years ago, right across the river, and has met many people at the marina since she’s had her boat. She is a die-hard kayaker at the marina. Dockmaster Chip Johnston helps teens get out to the open water.

Marina Caters to the Waterman in Everyone

Cove right off the marina is sheltered for beginners and veteran sailors.

Details

BELLE HAVEN MARINA
703-768-0018
www.saildc.com
Newcomers Guide

My Community

To the Editor:

In 2013 when my son encouraged me to move to Alexandria after my husband died, I looked at several apartment and condominium complexes in the Belle View and Huntington areas. I was leaving a large house in New Hampshire on an acre of land near the Piscataqua River that separates New Hampshire and Maine. In Virginia, I visited a lovely retirement village in Mt. Vernon—but I didn’t feel ready to live only with people who were all around my age.

To my great delight, a cousin recommended Montebello, a condominium community for people of all ages, with four tall buildings on a high hill near the Richmond Highway and the Huntington Metro.

Montebello has trees, grass, flowers, and wooded walking trails. It has a cafe I can visit when I want to be with other people—the monthly condo fee doesn’t include a required visit to the restaurant, but it does cover the cost of having other people mow that lovely grass! Like one of the other communities I first saw, Montebello has many interest groups—book groups, a music club, art club, indoor and outdoor pools, a bowling alley, tennis courts, and a great fitness center. I feel lucky to live here.

Carole Appel
Alexandria

Residents can sign up for the Community Fire and Rescue Academy.

Learn about Firefighting

Want to learn more about the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department? Want to participate in a fun-filled, eight-week program that will show what firefighters and paramedics do every day? Residents can now apply to the Community Fire and Rescue Academy (CFRA). The CFRA is open to persons 18 and older who live in Fairfax County. Each session will cover different aspects of the organization, providing an in-depth overview of the department and its uniformed and civilian workforce. Program topics include: fire suppression, emergency medical services, training, recruitment, special operations, and other interesting topics.

CFRA Application will be accepted until Sept. 13. The Academy will begin Sept. 26, and will meet for eight consecutive Thursdays, from 6-9 p.m. and ending on Nov. 14. To learn more about the program and to sign up, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fire-ema/cfra.

Westminster at Lake Ridge

Westminster at Lake Ridge is changing! Transformations are currently underway and will bring a renewal of amenities and décor to the community. Near the historic town of Occoquan, the serene location has all the small town charm and friendliness you desire, yet is just a few miles from the excitement of our nation’s capital.

Westminster at Lake Ridge offers beautiful maintenance-free cottages and apartment homes, all with the security of onsite health care. Visit us today and see for yourself.

Experience life in balance, and call 703-291-0101 for a personal tour today!

Residents can sign up for the Community Fire and Rescue Academy.
Fairs & Festivals

September 2019
MONDAY/SEPT. 2
Herndon Labor Day Festival.
11 a.m. - 5 p.m. at Herndon Town Green, 777 Lynn St., Herndon. Great music, a craft fair, 12 wineries and micro-brews and culinary delights. Free. Visit herndon-va.gov/recreation/special-events/labor-day-festival for more.

SATURDAY/SUNDAY/SEPT. 7-8
Burke Centre Festival. 9:30-5 p.m. at Burke Center Community 6060 Burke Centre Parkway Burke. Festival includes an Arts & Craft Fair, festival food vendors, amusement rides, pony rides, musical entertainment provided by local and nationally recognized performers, nature shows, after-hours Wine Garden. Visit www.burkecentreweb.com; ad: Denby Day - Yeh!-Chill - Come, Hail for more.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 14
Dulles Day Plane Pull. At Dulles International Airport, Dulles. The 2019 Dulles Day Fair, Family & Plane Pull is a full day of excitement with airplane and auto-related children’s zone and bus pull, varied displays and activities, vendors, food and entertainment. Visit www.planepull.com for more.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 28
Reston Multicultural Festival. 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. at Lake Anne Plaza, Reston. The Reston Multicultural Festival celebrates all the entertainment, dress, food, and cultural treasures from all over the world that are all here in Reston. Rain or shine. Free. Visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com/attend-shares/community/festivals/reston-multicultural-festival for more.

Persian New Year Celebration 2020
The Norwzh Festival celebrating the Persian New Year will include entertainment from musicians, dancers, artists, costumed characters, and traditional players. About 55 street vendors will be offering traditional and exotic foods, as well as jewelry, crafts, and other Persian products. Has previously taken place in March at Tysons Corner Center. Visit www.norwzhfestival.org for details.

October 2019
THURSDAY-SATURDAY/OCT. 10-12
Fairfax’s Fall for the Book Festival. 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Enjoy literature and hear authors give readings at the Fall for the Book Festival. Visit www.fallforthebook.org for more.

SATURDAY/OCT. 5
Taste of Annandale. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Towne Drive in central Annandale, between Columbia Pike and John Marr Drive. The fifth annual Taste of Annandale will showcase local restaurants during a daylong family-friendly celebration aimed at building community spirit, engaging young people, and promoting local businesses. Other activities include a SK: multicultural music, dance, and other live entertainment; a chili cook-off; and much more. Visit tastefaanndale.com for more.

THURSDAY-MONDAY/OCT. 24-28
Washington West Film Festival. Screening events in Reston, Arlington and other local areas. For tickets and schedule visit www.westfilmfest.com.

November 2019
FRIDAY/NOV. 29
Reston Holiday Parade at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. Reston. Holiday parade with tree lighting. Enjoy literature and hear authors give readings at the Fall for the Book Festival. Visit www.fallforthebook.org for more.

December 2019
SUNDAY/DEC. 1
Great Falls Celebration of Lights at Village Field. 3:45-6:30 p.m. Celebrate the beginning of the season with a Christmas Tree Lighting. Enjoy hot chocolate and seasonal music. Visit www.greatfallsmarket.com/ for more.

February 2020
APRIL 18-25
April 2020
APRIL 18-25
Historic Garden Week. This eight-day statewide event provides visitors with a unique opportunity to see elaborate gardens and more than 2,000 flower arrangements created by hundreds of garden clubs throughout Virginia. Members. Visit www.vga.gardenweek.org for more.

May 2020
Great Falls Artfest on the Green. On the Great Falls Village Green. Great Falls Studios Spring Art Show and Sale under the big tent and a few little tents, too. This annual event is a show and sale highlighting Great Falls Studios members both at Great Falls Studios and in the working studios in Great Falls Village Center. Visit www.greatfallsstudios.org/arts/ for more.

Great Falls Annual Charity Golf Tournament. Hidden Creek Country Club. 1711 Club House Road, Reston. Join for a morning or afternoon round of golf and support three Great Falls elementary schools. Opportunities for sponsorships and volunteering are available. Visit www.celebrategreatfalls.org.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 28-31
Herndon Festival 2020. Thursday, 6-10 p.m.; Friday, 11 a.m.-11 p.m.; and Sunday, 10 a.m.-11 p.m. at Herndon Free Library. The Festival includes a Wine Tasting, Food Trucks, Micro-brews and Wineries and a Live Music Stage with local bands and national acts. Call 703-381-6980 or visit www.herndonfestival.net for more.

THURSDAYS/MAY-AUGUST

FRIDAYS/MAY-AUGUST
Herndon Friday Night Live! 6:30 p.m.-9 p.m., 2000-27 Lynn St., Herndon. Listen to great music on Friday nights during the summer. Visit herndonrocks.com for more.

Cardboard Regatta. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Featured during SpringFest, the cardboard boat creations race along Lake Accotink's shoreline at 2 p.m. $4 vehicle fee. Call 703-569-0285 or email call703-569-0285@fairfaxcounty.gov for more.

Virginia Wine and Food Festival. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Bull Run Regional Chamber. The annual Virginia Wine and Food Festival is a fun-filled day of food, wine, fun and entertainment. Visit www.virginiaconnection.com for more.

Lake Anne Chalk on the Water Festival. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Lake Anne Plaza. Lake Anne is a walk on the water for participants who participate in street art. Festival goers can purchase a “plot” of brick space on the plaza and paint their own designs. Visit www.connectionnewspapers.com for more.

Farms Markets

Vendors will offer seasonal plants, produce, baked goods, fruits and more; all sold by local growers and producers. Some area markets also include seasonal events and entertainment.

Farmers Markets 2019

WEDNESDAYS
Oak Marr Farmers Market. 8 a.m. - noon, Wednesdays, May 1- Nov. 13. Oak Marr Park & REC, 3200 Jermaine Road, Oakton. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/oak-marr for more.

Wakefield Farmers Market. 2-6 p.m. Wednesdays, April 17-Oct. 30. 8100 Wakefield Drive, Fairfax. Featuring a master gardener plant clinic on site to answer questions about plants and landscaping. 6621 Old Town Herndon, 7000 Westpark Drive, Tysons. Visit www.community-foodworks.org/events/labor-day-festival for more.

THURSDAYS
Annandale Farmers Market. 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. Thursdays, May 2- Nov. 7. Annandale Farmers Market, 14738 Lee Highway, 11699 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/annandale for more.


FRIDAYS
McLean Farmers Market. 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Fridays, May 3-Nov. 15. 16598 McLean Market, McLean. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/mclean for more.

Kingstowne Farmers Market. 4-7 p.m. Fridays, May 3-Oct. 25. 5844-3862 Kingstowne Towne Center, Alexandria. Vendors products include fresh organic honey and hand held pies and rolls. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/kingstowne for more.

SATURDAYS

Springfield Farmers Market. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturdays, April 20-Nov. 23. Springfield Town Center, 6699 Spring Mall Drive, Springfield. Visit www.community-foodworks.org/springfield/ for more.

Great Falls Farmers Market. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Year round. Great Falls Village Center, 778 Walker Road, Great Falls. Visit www.greatfallsmarket.com/ for more.

Vienna Farmers Market. 8 a.m.-12 p.m. May 4-Oct. 26. Vienna Community Center, Park Ave & Cherry St., Vienna. Visit viennabohofestival.org/vienna/events/event.asp for more.


SUNDAYS
Lorton Farmers Market. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Sundays, May 5-Nov. 17. 8994 Potomac Bend, Lorton. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/lorton for more.


Oakton Farmers Market. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Year round. Unity of Fairfax Church, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Visit www.community-foodworks.org/oakton for more.


______________________________
6 Mount Vernon Gazette  News & Community Guide 2019-20

PHOTO BY ALI KAISI/A⁄The Connection
Persian dancers celebrate the Norwzh Festival 2018 at Tysons Corner Center.
**Arts in the Parks.**

Great Falls Concerts on the Green.

Reston Concerts on the Town.

**JUNE-AUGUST**

Celebrate Fairfax! Festival.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/JUNE 5-7

Yoga studios Love Your Body Yoga Festival.

Taste of Reston.

to their hearts delight whatever flows from their imagination. Visit www.chalkonthewater.com. 

**Taste of Reston.** Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Carnival games and rides with a family fun zone. Visit www.restontaste.com for more.

**Love Your Body Yoga Festival.** Yoga studios and wellness centers of Northern Virginia will be offering classes, services, and information on ways to care for your body, along with live entertainment and activities for children. Donations to participate in classes benefit Cornerstones. Presented by Beloved Yoga. www.belovedyoga.com.

**FRIDAY-SUNDAY/JUNE 5-7**

Celebrate Fairfax! Festival. Friday, 6 p.m.-midnight; Saturday, 10 a.m.-midnight; and Sunday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Musical performances, rides, games and food. Call 703-324-3247 or visit www.celebratefairfax.com/.

**JUNE-AUGUST**

Reston Concerts on the Town. Fridays, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Great Falls Amphitheater, E.C. Lawrence Park. Bring lawn chairs or picnic blankets and enjoy live music in the great outdoors. Call 703-532-3427 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/arts-in-the-parks for more.

Great Falls Concerts on the Green.

**Sundays,** 6-8 p.m. Great Falls Village Centre Green. Come out with your picnic baskets and chairs for an entertaining evening of free, live music! 776 Walker Road, Great Falls. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/arts-in-the-parks for more.

**Fairs & Festivals**

Enjoy old-fashioned family fun with carnival games, rides and tempting foods. Friday features the free Big Truck Night event from 5-7:30 p.m. "No Horn" hour is from 5-6 p.m. Tractor Pull at 4 p.m. on Saturday. Stop by the 4-H Fair throughout the weekend as exhibitors display their winning entries and get their farm animals ready to show. Try a turn at farm chores, watch stage entertainment and enjoy horse and livestock shows. In August at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Admission to the 4-H Fair and Carnival is free; $10 per car parking fee on Saturday and Sunday. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/frying-pan-park/4-h-fair for details.


**Great Falls 4th of July Celebration & Parade.** 5K Run, Blood Drive, Little Patriot Parade, and Route, horses, antique cars and pets making a loop in the Main Parade. Fireworks start after dusk. www.celebrategreatfalls.org/4th-of-july-celebration-parade/

**Vienna 4th of July Festival and Fireworks Show.** Live musical entertainment, arts and crafts for kids, antique and classic car show and fireworks. Visit www.viennava.gov for more.

**Fairfax’s Independence Day Celebration.** In the Downtown Fairfax Historic District. Independence day parade, historical tours, games, entertainment and fireworks. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/about-us/special-events/independence-day-celebration

**Obon Festival.** Highlighting Japanese culture at Ekoji Buddhist Temple, 6500 Lakehaven Lane, Fairfax Station. Visit www.ekoji.org for more.

**JULY-AUGUST**

**Braddock Nights Concert Series.** Fridays, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield or Royal Lake Park, 5344 Gainsborough Drive, Fairfax. Listen to musical performances in the great outdoors. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/braddock-nights for location and schedule.

**August 2020**

Fairfax County 4-H Fair and Carnival. At Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Enjoy old-fashioned family fun with carnival games, rides and tempting foods. Friday features the free Big Truck Night event from 5-7:30 p.m. "No Horn" hour is from 5-6 p.m. Tractor Pull at 4 p.m. on Saturday. Stop by the 4-H Fair throughout the weekend as exhibitors display their winning entries. Admission to the 4-H Fair and Carnival is free; $10 per car parking fee on Saturday and Sunday. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/frying-pan-park/4-h-fair for details.

**Welcome to the Neighborhood**

**NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE 2019-20**
Living in Mount Vernon District

FROM PAGE 10
life Station and Animal Shelter will enable even greater commu- nity engagement in Southeastern Fairfax County.

WHILE A DECADES LONG PROCESS, the revitalization of the Richmond Highway corridor will bring Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), higher density urban living with ecologically sensitive, walkable, livable neighborhoods. A focus on community development, preservation of existing community character, urban design and a variety of transportation modes will bring new residents, businesses and partnerships to the corridor. My Strategic Economic Development Team (SEDT) is working hard to bring the best commerce partners to the region, while my Tourism Task Force is working to enhance and grow our tourism market and our Embark Housing Advisory Committee keeps us grounded in the need for more affordable and workforce housing.

The District is rich with parks and recreational opportunities. Put on your walking shoes and head to River Farm, Huntley Meadows (OK, not technically in the District, but very close) or Fort Hunt Park. Spend the day paddling on one of the many rivers and creeks at Pohick Bay Park, Dyke Marsh, Occoquan Regional Park or Mason Neck State Park. Ride some of the best bike trails in Northern Virginia at Laurel Hill Park and Meadowood, or use the many trails along our roadways for your daily commute. To find your adventure, checkout our parks page on the Mount Vernon District webpage: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon.

If site-seeing and history are your interests, visit George Washington’s Mount Vernon Estate, the Woodlawn Plantation or Historic Pohick Church, to name a few. If arts and culture inspire your creative spirit, spend a day at the Workhouse Arts Center visiting over 70 artists working in their studios, learning about the historic Lorton Prison, attending a concert or theater performance or joining your partner for ballroom dancing. Shopping at Farmers Markets, listening to free summer concerts and strolling along the river are all part of the experience in our corner of the county. I hope this small sampling of all that is available to explore in the Mount Vernon District encourages you to take the time to find the many experiences awaiting you.

PRESERVING OUR ENVIRONMENT BY addressing climate change, energy efficiency and resiliency planning will continue to be a focus as Fairfax engages in these important world-wide issues. The initiation of a Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP), the Joint County and School Boards Environmental Task Force (JET) and accelerated County initiatives to mitigate climate impacts, as guided by my Fairfax Green Initiatives Board Matter, are important to the health and wellbeing of all our people, places and property. Watch for more about how you can get involved and make a difference, one person at a time!

My number one priority is always you and our office is here to help! I strive to engage deeply and frequently with the people of Mount Vernon. TEAM MVD provides timely constituent service as we continue to build the ideal community in which to live and thrive. We are committed to performance standards that ensure we are a responsive, transparent and informative office. We are here to answer your questions and will respond to your communications within two business days or less.

Have a question about road construction, snow removal, trash collection, stormwater runoff or voting precincts? Email us at MTVernon@FairfaxCounty.gov. Want to book a community room for a meeting, or not a fan of email? Call us at 703-780-7518. Need a document notarized or just want to visit your District Governmental Center to see local government in action? Stop by our office at 2511 Parkers Lane, Mount Vernon.

TEAM MVD will also be hosting several signature events throughout the fall. Join us on Sept. 20, at 1 p.m. at the South County Center for the dedication of that building as the Gerry W. Hyland Governmental Center. Our 4th Annual Tour de Mount Vernon Community Bike Ride will take place on Oct. 19, at 8:30 a.m. at the Workhouse Arts Center. More information and registration can be found here: https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon/tour-de-mount-vernron-2019.

On Nov. 16, learn how to lessen your environmental impact at the 2nd Annual Environment Expo. And, finally, join us to celebrate the holidays at the Mount Vernon District Holiday Open House on Dec. 5. More details on all these events will be available on our website and in our newsletter.

If you haven’t figured it out already, you have chosen a great place to live, educate your children, grow your career and engage with your neighbors. Welcome to the Mount Vernon District, where history, heritage, outdoor living, educational opportunities and public safety come together to support our exciting future! Visit our website (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon) to sign up for our newsletter, follow us on Facebook and Twitter and learn about the myriad of District projects, important topics, area activities and upcoming events in your new community.

About the Gazette, a Connection Newspaper

From Page 11
people who are in a photo.

We also publish notes about news and events from local businesses. Notes about openings, new employees and announcements are welcome. It is especially important to us to let people know about events ahead of time in our calendar of events. We appreciate getting notice at least two weeks ahead of the event, and we encourage photos.

Your community Connection newspaper is one of 15 papers published by the independent, locally owned Local Media Connection LLC, serving the suburbs of Metropolitan Washington in Northern Virginia and Potomac, Md.

The Alexandria Gazette Packet, is one of the oldest continuously publishing papers in the country, beginning publication in 1784.

CONTACT
For advertising and marketing information, see www.connectionnewspapers.com/advertising email sales@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9431.

Send notes to editors@connectionnewspapers.com Follow Us On Facebook: www.facebook.com/ConnectionNewspapers Follow Our Papers on Twitter Connection Newspapers: www.twitter.com/ FollowFairFax, @FollowFairFax Alexandria Gazette Packet: www.twitter.com/AlexGazette, @AlexGazette Arlington Connection: www.twitter.com/Art.Connection, @ArtConnection Burke Connection: www.twitter.com/BurkeConnection @BurkeConnection Centre View: www.twitter.com/CentreView; @CentreView Chantilly Connection: www.twitter.com/ChantillyConn, @ChantillyConn Fairfax Connection www.twitter.com/FFXConnection @FFXConnection Fairfax Station-Clifton-Lorton Connection: www.twitter.com/LFSCConnection, @LFSConnection

Great Falls Connection: www.twitter.com/GFCConnection, @GFCConnection McLean Connection: www.twitter.com/McLeanConnect, @McLeanConnect Oak Hill/Herndon: www.twitter.com/herndonConnect; @HerndonConnect Reston Connection: www.twitter.com/RestonConnect, @RestonConnect Springfield Connection: www.twitter.com/SprConnect, @SprConnect Vienna and Oakton Connection: www.twitter.com/ViennaConnect @ViennaConnect

— Mary Kimm

mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
Enjoy and Save Dyke Marsh

Glenda C. Booth, President
Friends of Dyke Marsh

For respite from suburbia’s hubbub, newcomers may need what Henry David Thoreau called, “the tonic of wildness.” The Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve on the Potomac River’s Virginia shoreline, just south of Alexandria, can offer some of nature’s restorative elixir.

This national park preserve is one of the last tidal wetlands on the river. Tidal, freshwater marshes less common than tidal, are saltwater marshes. In 1959, Congress designated Dyke Marsh as a preserve “so that fish and wildlife development and their preservation as wetland wildlife habitat shall be paramount.” Today, it has at least 300 known species of plants, 6,000 arthropods, 38 fish, 16 reptiles, 14 amphibians and over 230 birds. Like all wetlands, Dyke Marsh provides ecological services: flood control, water quality enhancement, storm buffering, fish nursery, shoreline stabilization and passive recreation. Newcomers today can see two restoration projects. Over half of the marsh was hauled away by dredgers from 1940 to 1972, which destabilized the whole hydrologic system, two U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) studies confirmed. Said USGS: “Analysis of field evidence, aerial photography, and published maps has revealed an accelerating rate of erosion and marsh loss at Dyke Marsh, which now appears to put at risk the short-term survivability of this marsh.” It will be gone by 2035 without action, USGS scientists concluded.

The armor stone breakwater under construction in the south marsh is the first phase of restoration and stabilization, designed to replicate a protective promontory removed by dredgers. The breakwater would “redirect erosive flows in the marsh, particularly during strong storms and would re-establish hydrologic conditions that would encourage sediment accretion,” says the National Park Service’s restoration plan.

Another restoration effort is underway as well. Many of the upland areas of the marsh, especially along the trails, are overrun with invasive plants, like much of Northern Virginia’s habitat. Invasive plants usually outcompete native plants that native insects and other wildlife need to survive. University of Delaware entomologist Douglas Tallamy explains, in his book, “Bringing Nature Home”: “When a plant is transported to an area of the world that contains plants, animals and diseases with which it has never before interacted, the coevolutionary constraints that kept it in check at home are gone, as are the ecological links that made that plant a contributing member of its ecosystem.” Tallamy urged, “In order to let nature take its course, we must first recreate nature.”

In 2018, FODMers and National Park Service staff planted over 3,500 native trees and plants. Keeping the invasives out until the native plants are well established is now the challenge. A dedicated cadre of volunteers is tackling the invasives. More people are welcome. We hope newcomers and long- termers will come out, enjoy nature’s tonic and help us save and restore Dyke Marsh. Visit www.fodm.org.
VOTE HERE

On or About Sept. 20: Absentee Voting begins at the Office of Elections, 12000 Government Center Pkwy., Conference Rooms 2/3, Fairfax.

Offices on the Ballot, Fairfax County
❖ Member Virginia Senate, vote for one in your district
❖ Member House of Delegates, vote for one in your district
❖ Commonwealth’s Attorney, vote for one
❖ Sheriff, vote for one
❖ Chairman Board of Supervisors, vote for one
❖ Member School Board at Large
❖ Member Board of Supervisors, vote for one in your district
❖ Member School Board, vote for one in your district
❖ Soil and Water Conservation Director, Northern Virginia District
❖ School Bonds Referenda

Registration and Voter Photo ID Opportunities
The Office of Elections is open during normal business hours to provide residents the opportunity to register to vote or obtain a free voter photo ID if needed. The Office of Elections also provides residents opportunities to attend offsite events throughout the year.

Upcoming Voter Photo ID Events
❖ Sept. 7 and Oct. 5, 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306
❖ Aug. 27, 3 p.m. until 5:30 p.m., Burke Lake Gardens, Thursday, 9608 Old Keene Mill Rd., Burke, VA 22015
❖ Sept. 10, 1 p.m. until 4 p.m., Leroood Healthcare Center, Tuesday, 7120 Braddock Rd., Annandale, VA 22003
❖ Sept. 11, 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., Arleigh Burke Pavilion, Wednesday, 1739 Kirby Rd., McLean, VA 22101
❖ Sept. 16, 10:30 a.m. until 2 p.m., Chesterbrook Residences, Monday, 2020 Morewoodland St., Falls Church, VA 22043
❖ Sept. 20, 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., The Virginia, Friday, 9229 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax, VA 22031
❖ Sept. 23, 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., Goodwin House Bailey’s Crossroads, Monday, 3440 South Jefferson St., Fairfax, VA 22041
❖ Sept. 24, 10 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., Sunrise at Reston Town Center, Tuesday, Sept. 24, 10 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., 1778 Fountain Dr., Reston, VA 20191
❖ Sept. 25, 1 p.m. until 4 p.m., Tall Oaks Assisted Living, Wednesday, 12052 North Shore Dr., Reston, VA 20192
❖ Sept. 26, 11 a.m. until 1 p.m., The Crossings at Chantilly, Thursday, 2980 Centreville Rd., Herndon, VA 20171
❖ Sept. 28, Noon until 4 p.m., Reston Multicultural Festival - Lake Anne Plaza, Saturday, 2310 Cult Neck Rd., Reston, VA 20191
❖ Oct. 1, 10 a.m. until 1 p.m., The Woodlands Retirement Community, Tuesday, 4320 Forest Hill Dr., Fairfax, VA 22030
❖ Oct. 5, 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., 2019 First Baptist Church of Merrifield Harvest Festival, Saturday, 8122 Ranell Rd., Falls Church, VA 22042
❖ Oct. 5, 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306
❖ Oct. 7, 10:30 a.m. until Noon, Heathrow/Becker Health Care, Monday, 9642 Burke Lake Rd., Burke, VA 22015
❖ Sept. 20, 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., Goodwin House Bailey’s Crossroads, Monday, 3440 South Jefferson St., Fairfax, VA 22041
❖ Sept. 23, 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., Goodwin House Bailey’s Crossroads, Monday, 3440 South Jefferson St., Fairfax, VA 22041
❖ Sept. 24, 10 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., Sunrise at Reston Town Center, Tuesday, Sept. 24, 10 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., 1778 Fountain Dr., Reston, VA 20191
❖ Sept. 25, 1 p.m. until 4 p.m., Tall Oaks Assisted Living, Wednesday, 12052 North Shore Dr., Reston, VA 20192
❖ Sept. 26, 11 a.m. until 1 p.m., The Crossings at Chantilly, Thursday, 2980 Centreville Rd., Herndon, VA 20171
❖ Sept. 28, Noon until 4 p.m., Reston Multicultural Festival - Lake Anne Plaza, Saturday, 2310 Cult Neck Rd., Reston, VA 20191
❖ Oct. 1, 10 a.m. until 1 p.m., The Woodlands Retirement Community, Tuesday, 4320 Forest Hill Dr., Fairfax, VA 22030
❖ Oct. 5, 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., 2019 First Baptist Church of Merrifield Harvest Festival, Saturday, 8122 Ranell Rd., Falls Church, VA 22042
❖ Oct. 5, 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306
❖ Oct. 7, 10:30 a.m. until Noon, Heathrow/Becker Health Care, Monday, 9642 Burke Lake Rd., Burke, VA 22015

Candidates, General Assembly
House of Delegates
District 34
Kathleen J. Murphy (D), incumbent, Gary G. Pan (R)
District 35
Mark L. Keam (D), incumbent, unopposed
District 36
Kenneth R. “Ken” Plum, incumbent, unopposed
District 37
David L. Bulova (D), incumbent, unopposed
District 38
L. Kaye Kory (D), incumbent, unopposed
District 39
Nick O. Bell (R)
Vivian E. Watts (D), incumbent
District 40
Dan I. Helmer (D)
Timothy D. “Tim” Hugo (R), incumbent
District 41
Eileen Filler-Corn (D), incumbent
John M. Wolfe (I)
Rachel D. Mace (L)

District 42
Kathy K. L. Tran (D), incumbent
Steve P. Adragna (R)

District 43
Mark D. Sickles (D), incumbent
Richard T. Hayden (R)

District 44
Paul E. Krizek (D), incumbent
Richard T. Hayden (R)

District 45
Mark H. Levine (D), incumbent, unopposed

District 46
Charniele L. Herring (D), incumbent, unopposed

District 47
Patrick A. Hope (D), incumbent, unopposed

District 48
Adam P. Ebbin (D), incumbent, unopposed

District 30
Barbara A. Favola (D), incumbent
Arthur G. Purves (R)

District 31
Janet D. Howell (D), incumbent
Arthur G. Purves (R)

District 32
Jennifer B. Boysko (D), incumbent
Suzanne D. Fox (R)

District 33
J. C. “Chap” Petersen (D), incumbent, unopposed

District 34
Abrar E. Omeish
Cheryl A. Buford
Priscilla M. DeStefano
Rachna Sizemore Heizer
Vinson Palathingal
Illyong Moon, incumbent
Karen A. Keys-Gamarra, incumbent

District 35
Richard L. “Dick” Saslaw (D), incumbent, unopposed

District 36
Scott A. Surovell (D), incumbent, unopposed

District 37
Dave W. Marsden (D), incumbent, unopposed

District 38
George L. Barker (D), incumbent
S. W. “Dutch” Hillenburg (R)

District 39
Richard L. “Dick” Saslaw (D), incumbent, unopposed

District 40
Barbara A. Favola (D), incumbent
Arthur G. Purves (R)

District 41
Eileen Filler-Corn (D), incumbent
John M. Wolfe (I)
Rachel D. Mace (L)

District 42
Kathy K. L. Tran (D), incumbent
Steve P. Adragna (R)

District 43
Mark D. Sickles (D), incumbent
Richard T. Hayden (R)

District 44
Paul E. Krizek (D), incumbent
Richard T. Hayden (R)

District 45
Mark H. Levine (D), incumbent, unopposed

District 46
Charniele L. Herring (D), incumbent, unopposed

District 47
Patrick A. Hope (D), incumbent, unopposed

District 48
Adam P. Ebbin (D), incumbent, unopposed

District 30
Barbara A. Favola (D), incumbent
Arthur G. Purves (R)

District 31
Janet D. Howell (D), incumbent
Arthur G. Purves (R)

District 32
Jennifer B. Boysko (D), incumbent
Suzanne D. Fox (R)

District 33
J. C. “Chap” Petersen (D), incumbent, unopposed

District 34
Abrar E. Omeish
Cheryl A. Buford
Priscilla M. DeStefano
Rachna Sizemore Heizer
Vinson Palathingal
Illyong Moon, incumbent
Karen A. Keys-Gamarra, incumbent

District 35
Richard L. “Dick” Saslaw (D), incumbent, unopposed

District 36
Scott A. Surovell (D), incumbent, unopposed

District 37
Dave W. Marsden (D), incumbent, unopposed

District 38
George L. Barker (D), incumbent
S. W. “Dutch” Hillenburg (R)

District 39
Richard L. “Dick” Saslaw (D), incumbent, unopposed

District 40
Barbara A. Favola (D), incumbent
Arthur G. Purves (R)

District 41
Eileen Filler-Corn (D), incumbent
John M. Wolfe (I)
Rachel D. Mace (L)

District 42
Kathy K. L. Tran (D), incumbent
Steve P. Adragna (R)

District 43
Mark D. Sickles (D), incumbent
Richard T. Hayden (R)

District 44
Paul E. Krizek (D), incumbent
Richard T. Hayden (R)

District 45
Mark H. Levine (D), incumbent, unopposed

District 46
Charniele L. Herring (D), incumbent, unopposed

District 47
Patrick A. Hope (D), incumbent, unopposed

District 48
Adam P. Ebbin (D), incumbent, unopposed

District 30
Barbara A. Favola (D), incumbent
Arthur G. Purves (R)

District 31
Janet D. Howell (D), incumbent
Arthur G. Purves (R)

District 32
Jennifer B. Boysko (D), incumbent
Suzanne D. Fox (R)

District 33
J. C. “Chap” Petersen (D), incumbent, unopposed

District 34
Abrar E. Omeish
Cheryl A. Buford
Priscilla M. DeStefano
Rachna Sizemore Heizer
Vinson Palathingal
Illyong Moon, incumbent
Karen A. Keys-Gamarra, incumbent

School Bond Ballot Question
This is the text of the public school bond question that will be on the Nov. 5, 2019, general election ballot:
Shall Fairfax County, Virginia, contract a debt, borrow money, and issue capital improvement bonds in the maximum aggregate principal amount of $360,000,000 for the purposes of providing funds, in addition to funds from school bonds previously authorized, to finance, including reimbursement to the County for temporary financing for, the costs of school improvements, including acquiring, building, expanding and renovating properties, including new sites, new buildings or additions, renovations and improvements to existing buildings, and furnishing and equipment, for the Fairfax County public school system?
Newcomers & Community Guide

School Improvement Projects
In 2019 FCPS School Bond

New Construction (Locations to be Determined)
❖ Fairfax/Oakton Area elementary school (construction) $ 35,330,490
❖ Silver Line elementary school (planning) $ 2,007,500

New Construction Subtotal: $ 37,337,990

Capacity Enhancement (Additions and other modifications)
❖ Relocation of 1 Modular Addition $ 2,000,000
❖ West Potomac High School Addition (construction) $ 22,298,143
❖ Justice High School Addition (construction) $ 14,595,641
❖ Madison High School Addition (construction) $ 19,543,731

Capacity Enhancement Subtotal: $ 58,437,515

Elementary School Renovation
❖ Hybla Valley (construction) $ 27,302,053
❖ Washington Mill (construction) $ 28,727,060
❖ Braddock (construction) $ 33,039,232
❖ Fox Mill (construction) $ 28,379,862
❖ Oak Hill (construction) $ 33,497,669
❖ Wakefield Forest (planning) $ 1,172,318
❖ Louise Archer (planning) $ 1,728,657
❖ Crossfield (planning) $ 1,416,325
❖ Mosby Woods (planning) $ 1,717,009
❖ Bonnie Brae (planning) $ 1,615,034

Elementary School Renovation Subtotal: $ 158,595,219

Middle School Renovation
❖ Cooper (construction) $ 49,660,553
❖ Frost (construction) $ 53,688,723
Middle School Renovation Subtotal: $ 103,129,276

Project Subtotal $ 357,500,000
Bond Cost $ 2,500,000
REFERENDUM TOTAL $ 360,000,000

School Board

FROM PAGE 19
Springfield District, School Board
Laura Jane L. Cohen
R. Kyle McDaniel
Elizabeth L. Schultz, incumbent

Sully District, School Board
Stella G. Peckarsky
Tom A. Wilson, incumbent

Soil and Water Conservation Director Northern Virginia
C. Jane Dudik
Chris E. Koerner
Christopher A. Bowen
Edward F. McGovern
Jonah E. “Jet” Thomas
Monica A. Billger
Gerald Owen “Jerry” Peters Jr., incumbent

Changes on Board of Supervisors

Fairfax County has an elected Board of Supervisors consisting of nine members elected by district, plus a chairman elected at-large. The law requires that districts be of approximately equal population and that the supervisors (other than the chairman) be residents and qualified voters of their districts and be elected only by voters living in those districts. All voters in the county may vote for the chairman.

All seats on the Board are on the ballot in November, and in December, the new members will be sworn in. Chairman Sharon Bulova, John Cook (Braddock), Cathy Hudgins (Hunter Mill), and Linda Smyth (Providence), did not seek reelection. Jeff McKay (Lee) is giving up his district seat to run for Chairman.

The Board elects the vice chairman annually from among its members at its first meeting in January. Board members are elected for four-year terms.

ENRICHING LIFE’S JOURNEY

Quiet, comfortable living minutes from the byway and our nation’s capital. Hermitage Northern Virginia offers rooftop views of Washington, D.C. surrounded by seven acres of beautifully landscaped gardens. Free yourself from the hassles of home ownership, and spend time exploring your passions or finding new ones. At Pinnacle Living, our team works closely with residents, families and loved ones to fulfill our mission of Enriching Life’s Journey. We are here for those who seek independence, combined with a secure plan for the future.

HERMITAGE NORTHERN VIRGINIA
Pinnacle Living
5000 Fairbanks Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22311
P: 703-797-3800
HERMITAGENOVA.ORG
facebook: HERMITAGENOVA