

South County Government Building Named for Gerry Hyland

Legendary former supervisor's efforts to help people was his top achievement.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

Former Mount Vernon Supervisor Gerry Hyland was known around the board of supervisors as the king of puns, and they wouldn't let him forget it at the naming and dedication of the Gerry W. Hyland Building on Sept/ 20. Throughout his career in Mount Vernon, Hyland looked out for people, and the former South County Government Center houses some of the Fairfax County offices dedicated to human services, which was appropriate for Hyland. All the speakers talked about the fun times they had with Hyland.

"When I was on the board, he was the other Gerry," said U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (VA-11).

Gerry Hyland was elected to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in 1987 and was the Mount Vernon District Supervisor from 1988-2015. His many victories along the way included protecting the Huntington area from floods, acquiring the prison land in Lorton, and keeping the Mount Vernon Hospital open. The energy behind the accomplishments was his desire to help people.

"I miss being your supervisor, the best job I ever had," said Hyland.

The room at the South County Government Center was full of former elected offi-

cial, staff members in Hyland's old office and residents of Mount Vernon that had worked alongside of Hyland to get things done in the district.

"He truly is a leader that listens," said Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon), Hyland's successor.

"So many things that never would have happened had he never been on the job," added former Congressman Jim Moran.

Hyland did note the role that humor does play in situations in the county government, and he used it to get people to let their guard down and talk things out. "It changes the conversation," he said. "If you can make people smile and laugh, you have made progress," he said.

Chairman Sharon Bulova had her stab at comedy, and was making fun of her own effort at stand-up comedy as she got up on the podium. "We'll see how this goes," she said, looking at her notes. "Gerry was known on the board for being 'punny'" she said, getting a laugh from the audience. She then handed him a caricature she did at one of many meetings they attended.

The elected officials then filed out front of the center for the sign unveiling, which was covered in a black shroud. There were even jokes about that.

It was that kind of afternoon, but the smile on Gerry Hyland's face as he looked at the new sign was genuine.



Former Congressman Jim Moran ran into some familiar faces as well.



Former Supervisor Gerry Hyland was joined by friends from the old days to celebrate the event.



Congressman Gerry Connolly was in from his Capital Hill position to celebrate the occasion.

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OPINION

Tourism Gets a Big Boost in the Mount Vernon District

Fairfax County Board approves new funding for tourism.

On Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved a \$100,000 budget consideration item brought forward by Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck to fund a new tourism initiative in the South County area.



The Army Museum

This effort supports the work of the Tourism Task Force started by Storck earlier this year. The mission of the Tourism Task Force is to tell the story of the Mount Vernon and South County region, create synergy between historical, recreational and ecological venues, provide new employment opportunities, and enhance visitors' experiences.

"In its earliest days, Historic Route 1 and the Potomac River were the two major ways for colonial families to travel north and south in the region. Later years saw families taking Sunday drives along the parkway to venture

out of the city for recreation and relaxation," Storck said. "Today, we want residents and visitors, alike, to continue these traditions by biking, hiking or driving along the corridor to sample the wide variety of history, food and fun we have here in the Mount Vernon District."

Today, visitors to southeastern Fairfax County enjoy everything from birdwatching to kayaking, strolling the Mount Vernon Estate,

SEE TOURISM, PAGE 14



Bay view boardwalk at Mason Neck State Park



Mount Vernon Estate

Steps to Fight Climate Change in Virginia

BY DEL. PAUL KRIZEK (D-44)

“Virginia is a state that is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, which means that Virginia also has the opportunity to lead the country forward in finding holistic solutions to this problem. I have said before that climate change is one of the greatest threats to not just the 44th district but to our planet. Climate change is not only a health crisis, but it is also a threat to our Virginia economy and the preservation of our land for future generations to come. The decisions we make (or don't make) in the face of this crisis today will be the consequences that our descendants will be faced with during the years ahead.

This administration has abdicated its leadership and responsibility to tackle the immense challenge of climate change. So, it is left to us as individuals and at the state and local government levels to do what we can to combat the problem and mitigate the damages caused by climate change. It is not just the far off peril you read about where icebergs are melting. In the 44th district, we experienced firsthand this summer a catastrophic July thunderstorm event that dumped more than 4 inches of rain

in a single hour which flooded many homes and streets. Our community too is paying the price with once trickling creeks turning into deepening, dangerous ravines filled with trash, chemicals, and debris making its way into the Chesapeake Bay where it meets up with ever more pollutants.

Climate change's impacts on our collective health are great. Higher temperatures increase the instances of asthma due to increased amounts of pollen in the air. According to the American Lung Association, about 160,000 children and 520,000 adults in Virginia live with asthma, which costs each person an average of \$2,200 a year and results in approximately \$75 million in lost work and school days. Here in Fairfax County, about 21,376 kids and 78,010 adults are living with asthma. Rising temperatures have also significantly increased the range of blacklegged ticks carrying Lyme disease, and mosquitoes carrying West Nile disease. In the past 20 years, the number of counties in Virginia with blacklegged ticks has increased from 12 to 72 (out of a total of 95), and they are now active earlier in the year, increasing opportunities for infection during the many outdoor activities that Virginians enjoy.

In addition to health concerns, climate change will be costly to

Virginia's economy. Due to rising temperatures over the next half-century, yields of Virginia's staple crops of corn and soybeans are projected to decrease by 16% and 33%, respectively. This will cause a reduction in food availability, taking a toll on Virginia's key agricultural industry. Ocean acidification, higher sea temperatures, and increased salinity are threatening Virginia's precious Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay's aquatic life and marine ecosystems. Many species of fish and shellfish are at risk of severe population declines, which will impact not only biodiversity but economic activity.

Virginia ranks in the top ten for clean energy jobs in the country, but our potential is far greater, and we should not be outpaced by our neighboring states. Virginia currently has over 4,200 jobs in the solar industry but ranks 34th in the country for per-capita solar jobs. North Carolina has twice as many solar jobs, and Maryland has 25% more. Every state on the Atlantic seaboard, except for Georgia and Pennsylvania, has more solar workers per capita than Virginia. Because of this, the Commonwealth is missing out on huge economic opportunities. In the past five years alone, nationwide solar employment increased 70%, adding 100,000 new jobs. Clean

energy jobs outnumber fossil fuels jobs nearly three to one, and solar energy alone employs more than double the number of coal workers. We would do well to invest more in this rapidly growing industry, as it will be beneficial for the future of Virginia's workers and the environment.

All this being said, the good news is that we have not reached the point of no return, and there are still many things that we can do to stop and even reverse some of the effects of climate change.

Unfortunately, this year's budget bill effectively restricted the Commonwealth's ability to participate in programs like the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), which is a regional market for the trading of carbon dioxide allowances. Participation in this program could create over \$200 million of revenue each year that could be used to mitigate climate change and assist Virginia communities in adapting to sea-level rise. In my next term, I will work to make sure that Virginia can participate in this initiative and reduce our carbon emissions. I also support measures such as providing tax rebates for Virginians who purchase energy-efficient vehicles or install solar panels, among

SEE KRIZEK, PAGE 5

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Jean Card
Production Editor
jcard@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Worker
Contributing Writer
aworker@connectionnewspapers.com

Jeanne Theismann
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com
@TheismannMedia

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
sales@connectionnewspapers.com
703-778-9431

Debbie Funk
Display Advertising/National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

Julie Ferrill
Real Estate, 703-927-1364
jferrill@connectionnewspapers.com

Helen Walutes
Display Advertising, 703-778-9410
hwalutes@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin
Marketing Assistant
703-778-9431
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Classified & Employment
Advertising
703-778-9431

Publisher
Jerry Vernon
703-549-0004
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

Art/Design:
Laurence Foong, John Heinly,
Ali Khaligh
Production Manager:
Geovani Flores

CIRCULATION
Circulation Manager:
Ann Oliver
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

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Senior Living

Exploring Art in Retirement

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By MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

It was in third grade when Barb Cram first discovered her artistic talent. Her teacher asked to use one of her drawings as an example to teach a technique to other students.

Though she was lauded for her artistic talent from elementary school through high school, upon graduation, she says she put that interest on hold and engaged in educational pursuits that she was told were practical.

"When my generation as growing up it was all about getting skills like typing, bookkeeping and stenography so that you could get a job after you graduate said Cram, now 72.

After a long career, which included a stint in the White House, Cram has reengaged with her creative side. Now as President of Falls Church Arts, she is helping other retirees live out their passion, discover their talent or simply learn to appreciate art.

"Art can do so much for seniors. It's like a vacation for the mind," she said. "Whether as an artist, a teacher, a docent or an art student, there's place for everyone."

Retired clinical psychologist, Carolyn Jackson Sahni, spent her career practicing in settings ranging from state universities to non-profit organizations. Retirement has offered her the opportunity to explore her creative interests.

"I have never been employed as an artist or in a specific art related field, [but] art has always been my first love, said Jackson Sahni, who lives in Vienna. "I see art as our ultimate means of personal expression. I have an overwhelming preference for beauty and nature. Art has been my way of indulging this preference."

Sahni says that art has given her the gift of living out her dedication to life-long learning. "I believe in ... growing, expressing and discovering, she said. "While I am not quite ready to accept the definition of senior that I am, I cherish every day of my seventy-one years."

Though she spent 32 years as a government employee working in a variety of agencies including the National Institutes of Health and The Department of Homeland Security, Cynthia Miller had always wanted to explore visual arts. A few discouraging childhood experiences left her afraid to try.

"I have been interested in art my whole life, but my hands were frozen until I found my courage" she said. "I decided at age 70 that it was my time to learn and explore my desires as an artist."

Not only is Miller an artist, but she volunteers her time as a docent, sharing her passion with others. "I often speak with others who are seniors with few outside interests," she said. "They think I am brave in approaching my art as another career. I have a love of life, and feel I have a gift yet to develop and offer to others."

McLean resident Sallie Evans once worked as a recreation therapist, in retirement she works as an art instructor at Falls Church Arts teaching. "I love



Sallie Evans of McLean loves teaching art and helping students experience the job of creating art.



Cynthia Miller, who says that she enjoys experimenting with angles and shades, describes her art as abstract explosion.

teaching because it allows me to be an active participant when students experience the joy and absolute empowerment of making art. Teaching not only children, but she leads art projects for Fall Church Art's Memory Café, a social and recreational gathering of individuals with memory loss and their caregivers, friends, and family.

Deborah Conn, 70, retired from a career in marketing and began taking lessons in watercolor at the Art League in Alexandria. These days she's an active and prolific artist. Her medium is watercolor, frequently on textured paper that she makes by crinkling tissue paper and gluing it on the painting surface. Humans are the subjects of most of her work, but as one of the resident artists at Palette2 restaurant in Shirlington, she sketches dogs for patrons while they eat.

"I've been experimenting with making parts of my paintings less defined so viewers can fill in with their own mind," said Conn, who teaches art out of her home studio and works as an art curator. "In the last ten years or so, painting and art have become enmeshed in nearly every area of my life. Many of my closest friends are artists."

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NEWS

Krizek

FROM PAGE 3

other environmentally-friendly purchases. I would like to see Virginia invest in more clean energy and mass transit, and I would like to pass legislation to curb pollutants such as single-use plastics and styrofoam that contaminate our waterways and kill wildlife.

In our everyday lives there are several small, but important, steps we can take to reduce our pollu-

tion. First, we must properly recycle everything we can. Fairfax County has great resources available to learn about what can be recycled and how they can be turned in. Next, we can limit our usage of single-use items such as plastics and try to buy grocery bags that are reusable. You can create a compost pile in your backyard. Planting more trees in our communities is very helpful, as they work to reduce the amount of carbon in the atmosphere. Additionally, you can make sure your home

is properly insulated. Statistically, homes that are properly insulated use far less energy because they use less heat or air conditioning. I just replaced my old HVAC with a new energy star rated system to reduce my own footprint. These are just a few of the many measures that we can all take to minimize our fossil fuel usage. The changing climate affects us all and we all need to work together to combat it. The longer we take to limit our carbon footprint the more costly and painful it will be."

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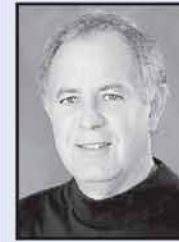
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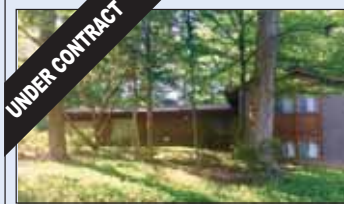
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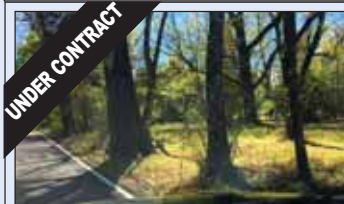
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COMMUNITY

Craft Fair Raises Funds for Needy

PHOTOS BY JERRY FILL/GAZETTE

Once again this past Saturday, Saint Luke's members, staff, and volunteers joined in a successful craft fair to raise money for the needy both locally and internationally. St Luke's Episcopal Church is on Fort Hunt Road, three miles north of the Mount Vernon Estate of first President George Washington, and five miles south from historic Alexandria. The church has been sponsoring the Craft Fair for years and proudly shares the news of the fund raising efforts and how it helps those in need.



Elizabeth Thornbury at Saint Luke's Craft Fair



"Artsy Like Whoa" Natalia Lee; Stephanie Steinmetz, with knitted and crocheted fashion accessories and home decor at Saint Luke's Craft Fair.



PHOTOS BY JERRY FILL/GAZETTE

St. Lukes' Craft Fair volunteers and staff who make it all happen at the fair. From left: Terri O'Connor, Charity Emeronye-Swift, Tom Hargrove, Molly O'Brien, Alan Hope, Eunice Theobalds, Reisa Kall, Scott Solak, Jo MacMichael.



"Rabbit & Wren," Kate & Melvin Denwiddie at Saint Luke's fair.



"T's T-Shirt Plus," Jerry Terlitzky



Custom Home Decorations & More, Vicki Yawornicky, at Saint Luke's fair.

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ENTERTAINMENT



From left: paintings by Akemi Ohira, Jamaliah Morais and Marian Van Landingham.

Anniversary Event: Torpedo Factory Artists @ Mosaic Gallery

In celebration of Torpedo Factory Artists' Association's 45th anniversary, member artists have contributed 45 works of art. Ticket holders' names are randomly called and that person chooses from one of the available pieces of original art. Sunday, Sept. 29, 3-6 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Artists @ Mosaic 105 District Ave., Fairfax. Preview artwork Sept. 18-29; Wednesday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Ticket holders may bring a guest for free. \$200. Art Lovers Sweepstake: a \$45 ticket gives buyers an opportunity to take home one of three works of art, valued at \$1,500 or more. Purchase tickets at tinyurl.com/tfaacc19.

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

Senior Olympics. The Northern Virginia Senior Olympics features more than 60 events that challenge the mind as well as the body. New games this year: jigsaw puzzle and line-dancing. The public is invited, free of charge, to all NVSO events. The games run through Sept. 28. There will be no on-site registration for participants. Visit www.nvso.us.

Art Exhibit: "Patterns & Prints." Through Sept. 27, gallery hours at Scope Gallery, Studio 19, the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St. Ceramic Guild potters turn to hot togs as artistry en vogue, showing embossed patterns, aggressive elaborate exteriors and groovy grooving. Colors are confident with saturated statements and contrasts of black and white. Hand-painted touches are the hemline talk of the season, with abstracts, urban touches and industrial adornment paving the way. Call 703-548-6288 or visit www.scopegallery.org.

Art Exhibit: "It's a Jungle Out There." Through Sept. 29 at Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, Studio 29, Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St. Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery presents its juried show, "It's a Jungle Out There." Cheetahs, lions, rhinos, monkeys, hippos, and the lands that they inhabit serve as inspiration for the pieces in this show. Themed work will be eligible for recognition by the jurors. Non-themed work may also be exhibited. Visit www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com or call 703-548-0935.

Art Exhibit: High Note. Through Sept. 29, gallery hours at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mt Vernon Ave. Experience "High Note," exploring the connection between music and the mind. Music can unleash powerful memories, transporting listeners in space and time. Musical performance benefiting the nonprofit Friends of ROAM Friday, Sept. 20, 8-9:30 p.m. Visit www.DelRayArtisans.org/event/high-note for more.

Solo Painting Exhibition: Draftsman 2019. Through Sept. 30, gallery hours at Gallery

Underground, 2100 Crystal Drive, Suite 2120-A. Draftsman 2019 is the solo painting exhibition for the month of September of Arlington Artists Alliance member and T.C. Williams graduate Barry Barnett Keith. Free. Visit galleryunderground.org or call 571-483-0652.

Art Exhibit: Revival. Through Sept. 30 in the Van Landingham Gallery, Studio 311 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St. While looking at the darkened doorway of the ruins of Ephesus, a Greek city in what is now Turkey, Marian Van Landingham suddenly envisioned a window to the sky and an innate sense of hope and revival. In her studio in Alexandria's Torpedo Factory Art Center, founded by her as an art center in 1974, Van Landingham refines the images that first piqued her interest. Visit www.torpedofactoryartists.com for more.

Art Exhibit: Silo City. Through Oct. 13 at Multiple Exposures Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, Studio 312, 105 N. Union St. An exhibition of photographs by Eric Johnson made in a complex of historic grain elevators and processing facilities in Buffalo, New York. An opening reception is planned for Sunday, Sept. 22, 2-4 p.m. Visit www.multipleexposuresgallery.com for more.

"Board | out of our minds!" Through Nov. 10, gallery hours at the The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. "Board | out of our minds!" relates to the games we play. The included works exhibit the creative means in which people developed board games to reflect their thoughts and reflections on the role of chance in life. While some are actual games, some refer to the role of games in life. Visit www.nfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

Mount Vernon Farmers Market. Wednesdays (through Dec. 18), 8 a.m.-noon at Sherwood Hall Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. The McCutcheon/Mount Vernon Farmers Market opened May 1 with an array of farm-fresh produce and local foods, plus some new features (fresh brewed coffee!). 17 local farmers and producers will sell fresh, locally grown vegetables and fruits; meats; Chesapeake Bay seafood; breads and pastries; honey, jams and jellies; milk, cheese and eggs; herbs

and plants; and more. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets.

Band Members Needed. Join the Mount Vernon Community Band, a group of players who enjoy playing many styles of band music in a relaxed atmosphere. Rehearsals are Tuesdays 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the Mount Vernon High School Band Room, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road. No auditions. All instruments needed. Contact Eric Leighty directly 703-768-4172 or visit www.mvbands.com/join-us/.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 26

Fort Hunt Meetup, Walk with a Ranger. 10:30-noon at Fort Hunt Park, 8999 Fort Hunt Road. Join a national park ranger on a 1.5 mile walk through historic Fort Hunt Park, be prepared to learn about some World War II secrets. Meet at Area E parking. Free. Call 703-235-1530 for more.

New Neighbors Oktoberfest. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Port City Brewing Company, 3950 Wheeler Ave. Each year, The Campagna Center reaches out to the community to help support the New Neighbors program through their Oktoberfest fundraiser. Enjoy local brews, authentic bratwurst and German fare, and an evening of oompah-POW, all for a great cause. Tickets will not be sold at the door. Tickets will be sold online until they are at capacity. \$60+. visit www.campagnacenter.org/events/new-neighbors-oktoberfest.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 27

WayneWood 60th Anniversary. 6-7:30 p.m. at WayneWood Elementary, 1205 WayneWood Blvd. Welcome to all members of the community. Come see the completely renovated facility and grounds. The celebration will include a 60th anniversary ceremony, music, food trucks, and cake. This event is free and open to the public. Email wwpta1@gmail.com or call 703-704-7100.

Global Hip-Hop Excursion. 7-8:15 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Springfield. Join Duménil Right, Hip Hop pioneer and cultural ambassador, as he and other musical guests present an evening of rhymes, beats and cultural infusions. Free.

ASO's Imaginary Symphony

The "Imaginary Symphony" depicts visions of idyllic beauty against the realities of war.

BY MELINDA KERNC

The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra opens its 2019-2020 season on Oct. 5 and 6 with a re-imagining of the symphony. Maestro James Ross, known for his innovative formats and approaches to classical music, has arranged an "Imaginary Symphony," constructed from four different works across centuries and continents, commemorating the 75th anniversary of D-Day.

"Conductors are rarely composers, but we are certainly the most personal advocates for other composers' works," explains Ross. "By excerpting the strongest movements from these existing works, it creates a musical grab bag and new symphonic narrative. I hope to shed deserved light on composers and pieces that have lain unfairly absent from our concert halls."

The "Imaginary Symphony" depicts visions of idyllic beauty against the realities of war. The first movement is borrowed from William Walton's Symphony No. 1 (mvt. I), composed prior to WWII and foreshadowing the impending war with dark and intense agitation. Next, Amy Beach's Gaelic Symphony (mvt. II) paints a pastoral, tranquil landscape — reminiscent and nostalgic. "On the Cliffs of Cornwall" from Ethel Smyth's opera *The Wreckers* furthers the comfort of peaceful times. (Incidentally, Beach and Smyth were pioneers of their times — one the first American woman to publish a symphonic work and the other a fierce suffragist.) The final excerpt is Honegger's Symphony No. 3 (mvt. III), conjur-

ing marching armies and evaporating into a call for peace.

In addition to the "Imaginary Symphony," the ASO will present Tidbit #1 by Lionel Semiati. The composer fought on the battlefield at Normandy, writing this piece shortly after as a love letter to America. Semiati's daughter, Gene Pohl, frequently plays in the ASO's viola section and will perform her father's piece for the first time; Pohl joins Maestro Ross for a pre-concert chat prior to Saturday's performance.

The program also features Beethoven's Triple Concerto with soloists Rita Sloan (piano), Nicholas Tavani (violin) and Alan Richardson (cello). Tavani and Richardson perform frequently as members of the famed Aeolus Quartet, and Sloan is internationally recognized as a leading teacher of collaborative piano and chamber music, performing through the United States and abroad.

The Alexandria Symphony is a fully-professional orchestra drawing from the Washington, D.C. metropolitan region's wealth of musical talent. Many musicians perform with other orchestras and top military bands. The ASO performs Saturday evenings (8:00 p.m.) at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center and Sunday matinees (3:00 p.m.) at the George Washington Masonic Memorial. Single tickets are \$20-\$85 for adults, \$5 for youth (18 and under), and \$10 for students (with ID). The ASO also offers senior and group rates and a special discount for military employees and veterans for this performance. For tickets and more information, visit www.alexsym.org or call (703) 548-0885.

Visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/5516705 or call 703-324-8428.

Alexandria Citizens Band. 8-10 p.m. at Del Ray United Methodist Church, 100 East Windsor Ave. Join the Alexandria Citizens Band, one of the oldest community bands in America, at their first rehearsals of the season. No auditions, they welcome all who want to have fun, find new friends, and play free concerts. Recruiting volunteer members in all sections — drum, tuba, baritone, trumpet,

French horn, trombone, saxophone, flute, clarinet, oboe, and bassoon players. Free. Call 703-920-8675 or go to come-play-with-us.eventbrite.com.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 28

Symposium with Gadsby's Tavern Museum and Emerging Revolutionary War. 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. In preparation for the 250th anniversary of 1776, public

CALENDAR

Can't Have Too Much Coffee

Work continues on the new site of For Five Coffee, a New York-based chain that is eyeing sites in DC, Arlington and Alexandria to open this fall. For Five also has locations in Los Angeles and Chicago. The Alexandria location is at 1600 Diagonal Road — offering a hearty boost of caffeine to Metro travelers.

PHOTO BY HOPE NELSON



historians share their research into this turbulent time during a one-day symposium in partnership with Emerging Revolutionary War. The symposium will be held at the Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum. \$60 per person, \$50 OHA members and students at AlexandriaVa.gov/Shop. Call 703-746-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org or emergingrevolutionarywar.org.

Native Plant Sale. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. in the parking lot at Saint Clement, 1701 Quaker Lane. Native plant sale hosts 12 vendors from three states selling native perennials, shrubs, and trees for sun or shade. Free admission. Call 571-232-0375 or visit www.NorthernAlexandriaNativePlantSale.org.

Genealogy Research in D.C. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Mount Vernon Genealogical Society, Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Claire Kluskens of the National Archives gives keynote; participants choose any three of nine additional presentations about researching in the many genealogical repositories in and near Washington, D.C. \$30 for MVGS members; \$35 for nonmembers. Visit www.mvgenalogy.org for more.

War of 1812 in Alexandria. 10 a.m.-noon at Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden, 614 Oronoco St. Guided walking tour of people and places in Old Town associated with the War of 1812 and the British occupation of Alexandria in 1814. \$10 in advance, \$15 at the gate. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org or call 703-548-1789.

Annual Community Country Fair. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Historic Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Enjoy a day of outdoor fun and learning with historic colonial church tours, organ concerts, children's games, barbecue, hamburgers and hot dogs, homemade apple butter, live music, and much more. All are welcome. Visit www.pohick.org or call 703-339-6572.

Historic Alexandria Homes Tour. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. in Old Town Alexandria. The Twig's 78th Historic Alexandria Homes Tour provides the opportunity to tour 18th and early 19th-century homes in Old Town and learn of their historic pasts. Tickets can be purchased in advance at thetwig.org/homes-tour, the Alexandria Visitor Center at 221 King St. or The Twig Thrift Shop at 106 N. Columbus St. The tour will also feature a raffle and prizes. All proceeds benefit Inova Alexandria Hospital. \$40 in advance; \$45 day of tour. Visit thetwig.org/homes-tour or call 703-683-5544.

Dyke Marsh Meetup, Walk with a Ranger. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Belle Haven Park/ Dyke Marsh Wildlife

Preserve. Enjoy the outdoors on this 2-mile walk with a national park ranger to see the largest freshwater marsh in the nation's capital. Bring a pair of binoculars for viewing an eagle's nest and other marsh life. Free. Call 703-235-1530 or visit www.nps.gov/gwmp/planyourvisit/dykemarsh.htm.

Downton Abbey Movie Party. 1-4 p.m. at Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden, 614 Oronoco St. Celebrate the release of "Downton Abbey: The Movie" at an ancestral home of the current Lord Carnarvon of Highclere Castle. Uncover the real-world connections between Downton Abbey and the Lee-Fendall House. Enjoy refreshments, trivia, scavenger hunt, and more. \$25 adult, \$15 youth. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org or call 703-548-1789.

18th Century Games. 6-8 p.m. at Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St. Learn how to play 18th century games such as Shut the Box, Whist, and more. Light hors d'oeuvres and two drinks per visitor are included in the price of the ticket. The event includes a tour of the first floor of the house. \$40 per person. Open to anyone 21 or older. Purchase tickets at apm.activecommunities.com/novaparks/Activity_Search/3187. Visit www.novaparks.com/parks/carlyle-house-historic-park for more.

Live Music: Lesson Zero. 8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. at The Greene Turtle, 7879 Heneska Loop. Admission is free. Visit www.youtube.com/lessonzero or www.reverbnation.com/lessonzero for more.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 29

Classic Car Show. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at River Farm, 7931 E. Boulevard Drive. Enjoy classic cars competing for trophies, guided garden tours, a 50/50 raffle, and refreshments. The event benefits American Horticultural Society and River Farm. Rain date: Oct. 6. \$10 per car for spectators; \$20 for show cars (pre-registration encouraged); \$5 for walk-ins/bikes; free for children 12 and under. Visit www.ahsgardening.org/carshow for more.

Simpson Park Gardens Fall Open House. 1-3 p.m. at Simpson Park Gardens, 420 E. Monroe St. Join Extension Master Gardeners at the Simpson Park Demonstration Gardens and visit the colorful, newly renovated gardens. Learn techniques for deadheading plants, and interesting container gardening ideas. Free. Questions? Telephone 703-228-6414 or email mgaralex@gmail.com.

Downton Abbey Tours. 2-3 p.m. at Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden, 614 Oronoco St. Explore the

surprising connections between people and places of the world of Downton Abbey and those of the Lee-Fendall House through special "Downton Abbey" themed tours of the museum this fall. \$10. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org or call 703-548-1789.

Anniversary Event: Torpedo Factory Artists @ Mosaic Gallery. 3-6 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Artists @ Mosaic 105 District Ave., Fairfax. In celebration of Torpedo Factory Artists' Association's 45th anniversary, member artists have contributed 45 works of art. Ticket holders' names are randomly called and that person chooses from one of the available pieces of original art. Preview artwork Sept. 18-29; Wednesday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Ticket holders may bring a guest for free. \$200. Art Lovers Sweepstake: a \$45 ticket gives buyers an opportunity to take home one of three works of art, valued at \$1,500 or more. Purchase tickets at tinyurl.com/tfaacc19.

SEPT. 30-OCT. 27

Art Exhibit: "Emotional Support: Animals." Daily, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Thursdays until 9 p.m. at Scope Gallery, ground floor Studio 19 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St. Kiln Club artists wax poetic on "Emotional Support: Animals" in the wholehearted exhibition of the exotic and domestic. Visit www.scopegallery.org or call 703-548-6288.

OCT. 1-NOV. 3

Art Exhibit: Day of the Dead. Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, Studio 29, 105 North Union St. The Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery presents its juried show, Day of the Dead. Neighbors in Mexico and Central America celebrate Day of the Dead. It is a joyful time that helps people remember the deceased and celebrate their memory. The colors and vibrancy of this holiday inspire artists of the Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery. Themed work will be eligible for recognition by the jurors. Non-themed work will also be exhibited. Visit www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com for more.

OCT. 4-27

Art Exhibit: Twilight Zone. Gallery hours at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. "Art Inspired by The Twilight Zone" is a collection of work inspired by the classic television series. An opening reception is planned for Friday, Oct. 4, 7-9 p.m. Free admission. Visit www.DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits.

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www.ConnectionNewspapers.com/contact/letter

APPETITE

Cider, Canine Costumes to Take Center Stage at Shelter Fundraiser

BY HOPE NELSON

Craft hard cider is taking the beverage world by storm. Sharing a pint of cider while hanging out with your furry Fido friends? Heaven.

That's just what the Animal Welfare League of Arlington has in mind with a new fundraiser, hosted by Alexandria's Lost Boy Cider. Taking place on Oct. 29 "Sit, Stay, Cider" is the first pairing between the shelter and the cidery and one of the shelter's newest ticket-limited events. Both dogs and humans are welcome at the cidery for a tasting, costume contest, tours and more.

"This is a new fundraiser for AWLA; we're trying to host some more medium-sized events in lots of different venues," said AWLA communications specialist Chelsea Jones.

And unlike some of AWLA's other more "free-for-all" events, the ticket quantity to this event is capped. Only 65 regular tickets and 16 VIP tickets are available for the event, ensuring a more intimate crowd (and more space for the pups). Regular tickets include a pass for a pint of Lost Boy's flagship cider; VIP tickets include a tour, early admission and a pint of one of the cidery's specialty drinks.

"We're super-excited to work with (Lost



Dress up your pup and enjoy a taste of craft cider at the Animal Welfare League of Arlington's fundraiser at Alexandria's Lost Boy Cider.

Boy)," Jones said. "Their space is dog-friendly, so people can bring their dogs to the event, which is great."

While guests sip on cider, they (or their pooches) can also participate in a doggy costume contest. Once solely the domain of the pups in question, many humans have begun to coordinate costumes with their pets to create a more "dynamic duo" affect. Both dog-only and pairs entries are accepted, Jones said.

"A lot of our supporters are really into this

and they dress up with them," she said.

The funds raised from the Lost Boy event will go into AWLA's general fund, Jones said: "That means the money can be used to wherever it's needed the most."

Such needs include caring for animals who enter shelter care with extensive medical needs, including heartworm treatment and emergency surgeries. Spay-neuter surgeries and adoption services are also funded from the general account.

"It enables us to do those above-and-be-

IF YOU GO

Sit, Stay, Cider event at Lost Boy Cider, 317 Hooffs Run Drive, Alexandria
When: Tuesday, Oct. 29, 6:30-9 p.m.
Tickets: \$45 for "Cider Sipper" ticket; \$75 for "Cider VIP" ticket.
How to register: Visit the AWLA's event website at <https://www.awla.org/event/sit-stay-cider/>

yond things we do here," Jones said.

One hundred percent of ticket sales go to AWLA, and Lost Boy is also earmarking 10% of to-go sales that evening for the shelter.

Along with the costume contest, cider tasting and tours, food trucks will be on hand to offer up meals and a live musician will take the stage to round out the event. All of the above, paired with the AWLA's mission at hand, is sure to yield a fun night, Jones said.

"Just hanging out and knowing that by coming to this fun party, you are helping us to save more animals!" she laughed. "What could be better?"

Hope Nelson owns and operates the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at www.kitchenrecessionista.com. Email her any time at hope@kitchenrecessionista.com.

CALENDAR

Saturday/Oct. 5

"Le Tour d'Alexandria" Bicycle

Tour. 10 a.m. Start and end at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Alexandria Library invites the community to participate in Le Tour d'Alexandria Library, the Library's annual bicycle tour of all library locations. In recognition of the Library's 225th Anniversary, this year's tour will highlight some of the Library's history dating back to 1794. Space is limited, registration is required. Riders must be over the age of 13 to participate. Children and teens under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Visit alexlibraryva.org/alexandria-bike-tour to register.

Used Book Sale. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Selection of over 20,000 gently used books, including 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, 50 cents for large paperbacks, and 25 cents for mass market paperbacks. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-sherwood-regional.

Civil War Artillery Day. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Fort Ward Museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road. Learn about the role and equipment of Civil War artillerymen in the Defenses of Washington. This living history program will appeal to Civil War enthusiasts of all ages. The event is weather dependent. Free. Call 703-746-4848.

24th Annual Art on the Avenue. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on Mount Vernon Avenue in Del Ray. Art on the Avenue is a multicultural arts festival celebrating Alexandria's diversity held the first Saturday in October, rain or shine. Discover more than 300 artists, from jewelers to glass makers to painters, while enjoying a variety of musicians

and food vendors.

Activities for children include scarecrow-stuffing, pumpkin-painting and more. Free admission. Visit artontheavenue.org/ for more.

Mirror Mirror: David

Shulman with Sarah Marie Hughes. 8 p.m. at Waterfront Park, 1 King St. The City of Alexandria commissioned a series of original site-specific performances for the sound-responsive, interactive installation Mirror Mirror. Composer and violinist David Schulman and Orange Grove Dance will perform on select dates between July and October. All performances are free and feature lawn seating. Lawn chairs and blankets are encouraged. Leave pets at home. Visit alexandriava.gov/publicart for details.

Performance: Alexandria

Symphony Orchestra. 8 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 4915 East Campus Drive. The ASO's season opens with music by Wagner, Beethoven and more under the direction of Maestro James Ross featuring soloists Rita Sloan, Nicholas Tavani and Alan Richardson. \$20-\$85 adults, \$5 youth, \$10 students. Visit www.alexsym.org or call 703-548-0885. ASO musician Gene Pohl's father, Lionel Semiatin, composed Tidbit #1 while fighting on the battlefield at Normandy. \$20-\$85 adults, \$5 youth, \$10 students. Visit www.alexsym.org or call 703-548-0885.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Campagna Oktoberfest

Enjoy all of your favorites with beer from Port City brews, bratwurst from Logans, sauerkraut, baked pretzels and, of course, German chocolate cake. The Campagna Center's annual Oktoberfest will be held Thursday, September 26 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Port City Brewing Company at 3950 Wheeler Avenue. The evening's proceeds will benefit Campagna Center's New Neighbors English Language Learner (ELL) and Family Literacy Program which helps immigrants and refugees on their way to self-sufficiency. The EEL program offers English language programs to immigrants and refugees from around the world who have settled in in Alexandria and the Northern Virginia area.

SUNDAY/OCT. 6

Breast Cancer Walk. 8 a.m.-11 a.m. at Fort Hunt Park, George Washington Parkway. Support the National Breast Center Foundation's

3rd annual Walk to Bust Cancer to increase awareness and celebrate survivorship. 7:30 a.m. check-in, 9 a.m. 1.2 mile walk. Entertainment and activities before and after the walk. Register ahead for planning. \$35. Visit www.walktobustcancer.org

or call 202-309-4026.
Downton Abbey Tours. 2-3 p.m. at Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden, 614 Oronoco St. Explore the surprising connections between people and places of the world of Downton Abbey and those of the Lee-Fendall House through special "Downton Abbey" themed tours of the museum this fall. \$10. Visit www.leeendallhouse.org or call 703-548-1789.
Performance: Alexandria Symphony Orchestra. 3 p.m. at George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. The ASO's season opens with music by Wagner, Beethoven and more under the direction of Maestro James Ross featuring soloists Rita Sloan, Nicholas Tavani and Alan Richardson. \$20-\$85 adults, \$5 youth, \$10 students. Visit www.alexsym.org or call 703-548-0885. ASO musician Gene Pohl's father, Lionel Semiatin, composed Tidbit #1 while fighting on the battlefield at Normandy. \$20-\$85 adults, \$5 youth, \$10 students. Visit www.alexsym.org or call 703-548-0885.
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original site-specific performances for the sound-responsive, interactive installation Mirror Mirror. Composer and violinist David Schulman and Orange Grove Dance will perform on select dates between July and October. All performances are free and feature lawn seating. Lawn

CALENDAR

chairs and blankets are encouraged.
Leave pets at home. Visit
alexandriava.gov/publicart

THURSDAY/OCT. 10

Luncheon: "Fashion in Bloom." 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at the Mount Vernon Country Club, 5111 Old Mill Road. Enjoy a fashion show, luncheon, silent auction and raffle. Yacht Haven Garden Club works to further education in horticulture, floral design and conservation among its members and the surrounding community. \$40. Reservation deadline, Sept. 27. Email yachthavengardenclubva@gmail.com.

FRIDAY/OCT. 11

Highland Echoes Show. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 4915 East Campus Drive. Highland Echoes is a vocal, musical, and dance journey through Scottish history and culture from the Highlands to America. Featuring "Celtic Album of the Year" recipient Jennifer Licko - the show combines traditional and original music and dance. \$10-\$45. highlandechoesalexandria.eventbrite.com for tickets.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 11-13

Mount Vernon Fall Wine Festival & Sunset Tour. 6-9 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Celebrate the history of wine in Virginia at the home of George Washington. Bring a blanket, relax on the east lawn overlooking the scenic Potomac River and enjoy live music while sampling wine from Virginia's wineries. Admission: Friday, \$48; Saturday, \$52; Sunday, \$42. Call 703-780-2000 or visit mountvernon.org.



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ACCT Presents 'The Giver'

Delivers a message about choice and being able to give and receive love in a utopian world.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE GAZETTE

Jonas' world is perfect. Everything is under control and safe. There is no war or fear or pain. There are also no choices. Every person is assigned a role in the community. But when Jonas goes to the Ceremony of Twelves, he is chosen for special training from The Giver to receive and keep the memories of the community. The Giver is the only person who holds the memories of real pain and real joy. Now Jonas will learn the truth about life and the hypocrisy of his utopian world. Through this moving adaptation, discover what it means to grow up, to grow wise, and to take control of your own destiny. Aldersgate Church Community Theater (ACCT) will present "The Giver" from Sept. 27 - Oct. 13, 2019.

Director Jen Lyman said she likes to direct dramas that deal with important, complex issues. "The Giver" explores the importance of memory, individualism, connection, and strong emotion, and how barren existence is when you try to live without them. I was also intrigued by the complex sound and projection design necessary to portray the memories, shared by the Giver, which are the catalyst of change in this story," she said.

Producer Leslie Teitel added: "As a teacher, I love bringing the stories that students read in school to life. It can give them a perspective or message that they might have missed when reading it as an assignment, hearing it spoken and seeing it in dimension on the stage."

She continued: "So many kids in their preteen and teen years can become engulfed in the strong emotions that they are experiencing. 'The Giver' shows us that as challenging as these emotions can sometimes be, they help teach us and guide us to having more colorful, poignant lives overall. That with the sadness and pain comes im-



PHOTO BY HOWARD SOROOS/THE GAZETTE

Paul Donahoe (The Giver) and Bret Medley (Jonas) rehearse a scene from ACCT's production of "The Giver," which will be produced from Sept. 27-Oct. 13, 2019.

mense joy and love."

Producer Marg Soroos added: "It is a wonderful story with such a good message about choice and being able to give and receive love. Many preteens and young people have read the story and to see it come to life may solidify the message of the story."

Brett Medley is playing the role of Jonas, a kid who has lived his entire life trying to be part of the group, much like everyone else in his society. "Jonas however, has always had a bit of a strange quality about him. Where his family and friends interact at a very basic level, Jonas has always felt emotions toward these interactions; as much as he's tried to suppress them. His journey with The Giver allows him to not only discover these emotions, as well as understand what they are; and express them in a whole new way."

Debbie Gray plays the mother of Jonas. "The Mother truly enjoys living in this ordered society. The Mother works in the area of Law and Justice. She follows the rules and appreciates the system that has been created to keep things orderly and functioning," she said. "The Mother has no hesitation in stifling natural feelings through medication and finds restraint in emotions to be quite natural. She takes pride in her family unit, but has no concept of what having love for her family would actually be. She recognizes the great honor of her son, Jonas, being selected as the Receiver, and feels this is a reflection of her success in raising her son in an orderly and appropriate fashion."

Jim Pearson plays the father — a nurturing soul, kind, empathetic to a fault, and committed to helping children grow and thrive. "He is also a very good citizen, fol-

lows the rules, and is well satisfied with his life and his place in the community," he said.

He continued: "I hope that the audience reflects on how they see the world, its colors and textures, and then considers that others may see the world and what is normal quite differently — different colors and textures, music, and views of the universal. Then, perhaps, think of how we may weave these different views and beliefs into a rich tapestry that supports and engages us all, sharing the delights and helping us through the traumas."

Katherine Watters plays the role of Lily, a 6-year-old girl who is very energetic. "She thinks outside of the proverbial 'box' although she can't think too far out of the box because she lives in such a reserved community," she said.

She added: "It is a deep show, and I had to spend some time with the script to understand it. It was hard memorizing my lines, and it was challenging learning the blocking. It was hard getting to know the other character's parts as well as my own character."

Paul Donahoe plays the role of The Giver, an old man who is the current Receiver of The Community. "He becomes The Giver when he transmits all his memories to Jonas who is to become The Community's new Receiver. In a world where no one feels pain and there are no emotions, The Giver is the only one who holds the memories of the whole world and is filled with emotion and pain that he passes on to Jonas. As the story is told The Giver becomes weaker and weaker as his memories leave him," he said.

Aldersgate Church Community Theater will present "The Giver" from Sept. 27 - Oct 13, 2019. Show times are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 2 p.m. (No performance on Saturday, Sept. 28, 2019.) Tickets are \$15 and \$18. The theater is located at Aldersgate Church, 1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria, VA 22308. Visit the website at <http://acctonline.org>.

CALENDAR

SATURDAY/OCT. 12

Portside In Old Town Fall Festival.

At Waterfront Park, 1 King St. Enjoy a day of live music, maritime history, nautical demonstrations and children's activities on the Old Town Alexandria waterfront. Savor local food, beer and wine while experiencing boat building demonstrations from Alexandria Seaport Foundation Apprentices and knot tying from tall ship Providence. Select activities benefit the Alexandria Seaport Foundation's mission to improve the lives of young people through adult mentoring, project-based learning and the craft of wooden boat building. Free admission; food and drink for purchase; fees for some activities. Visit www.visitalexandriava.com/event/portside-in-old-town-fall-festival/15351/ for more.

Celebration of Service. 6-9 p.m. at Ft. Belvoir Officers Club. Pastor Floyd C. Hawkins Sr. of Shiloh Church of

God in Christ is preparing to celebrate 31 years of leadership and service to his church and community by highlighting those giving back to Fairfax County. The inaugural Floyd C. Hawkins, Sr. Outstanding Leaders in Community Service Award will be presented to: Dr. Nardos King, Bob Diegelman, Velvet Abram, and Victoria Williams. Open to the public. To attend, visit hawkins31yearsofservice.eventbrite.com.

SUNDAY/OCT. 13

Downton Abbey Tours. 2-3 p.m. at Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden, 614 Oronoco St. Explore the surprising connections between people and places of the world of Downton Abbey and those of the Lee-Fendall House through special "Downton Abbey" themed tours of the museum this fall. \$10. Visit www.leeendallhouse.org or call 703-548-1789.

THURSDAY/OCT. 17

Make and Take Lunch Break

Social. 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at 2425 Eisenhower Ave (on the grassy knoll). Take a real lunch break outside to refuel and recharge with co-workers. Each month a DIY local business will pop-up and offer a themed craft (while supplies last). Email maurisapotts@gmail.com or visit www.FB.com/AlexandriaEcon.

TUESDAY/OCT. 22

Twilight & Tipple Tours. 6-9 p.m. at Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway. Experience Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House by twilight. This tour series is a rare chance to see one of Wright's houses illuminated against a night sky. Grab a drink, included in the price of the tour ticket, and walk through the house on a leisurely, open house style tour with plenty of time to take

stunning photos. \$35. Visit www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org/ for more.

SATURDAY/NOV. 2

Used Book Sale. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Selection of over 20,000 gently used books, including 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, 50 cents for large paperbacks, and 25 cents for mass market paperbacks. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-sherwood-regional.

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Community Dance. 7:30-9:30 p.m. every third Friday at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Live music. \$4. Call 703-

765-4573.

Life Drawing. Del Ray Artisans offers a range of open life drawing sessions for anyone to develop life-drawing skills further. Drop-in for the session and bring supplies to draw or paint live models. Fee ranges from \$8-\$12. All skill levels are welcome. Del Ray Artisans is located at 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org for a schedule.

The Harmony Heritage Singers (Mount Vernon Chapter of Barbershop Harmony Society), a daytime, a cappella, Chorus, rehearses on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, monthly, at Sherwood Hall Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Newcomers welcome for fun or to book for a performance. visit www.HHSingers.org, or call Bruce at 703-352-5271.

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Announcements

NEWS

Tourism Gets a Big Boost

FROM PAGE 3

painting at the Workhouse Arts Center, catching a history lesson at Gunston Hall, celebrating reunions at the new Army Museum, sipping a pint at a craft brewery and enjoying a variety of culinary experiences.

Over the last year, the Tourism Task Force has strengthened the bonds and communications between tourism sites, created cross marketing opportunities and brought partners together to tell their story.

This new funding will advance the group's branding efforts for the existing southeastern Fairfax County Cultural Corridor, provide greater opportunities to promote the numerous and varied cultural opportunities that abound in the area, while attracting new food and entertainment venues.

This fall a consulting team will begin work with the Tourism Task Force to identify opportunities and strategies to grow and develop the tourism infrastructure of southeastern Fairfax County. The consulting team will conduct a comprehensive study to assess the region's assets and key attractions from a visitor's perspective to understand the area's strengths, weaknesses, gaps and opportunities to increase awareness of this rich tourism area. The team, in conjunction with the Tourism Task Force partners, will then develop partnership themes and identify potential brand and marketing messages to promote the region as a whole.

As part of its collaboration, the Tourism Task Force

is creating connections between venues to encourage greater visitation between sites and enticing visitors to spend multiple days in southeastern Fairfax County. Some examples of future projects may include River Trail Experiences, History and Art Interpretive Tours, fine dining combined with professional theatre and additional outdoor recreational activities. Ultimately, the Tourism Task Force is focused on attracting a full-service hotel and more fine dining experiences to the area.

Barry Biggar, Visit Fairfax president said, "South County, especially the Mount Vernon District with its abundant tourism assets, contributes greatly to the economic impact of tourism to Fairfax County. Tourism as an industry in 2018 contributed \$3.3 Billion to the economy, supported over 30,000 jobs and contributed close to \$60 million to the local tax base here in Fairfax County. It is a sustainable industry and one that clearly is an industry that contributes to the diversity of our overall economy, providing vital contributions to our residents' quality of life."

The Mount Vernon District is not only home to George Washington's Estate and the powerful story of our first president, but also the oldest African American community in the County, started by one of his freed slaves. Southeastern Fairfax is also home to the father of the Bill of Rights George Mason's Gunston Hall, the new Army Museum, the Workhouse Arts Center, the Woodlawn Estate and Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House, premiere golf courses, extensive mountain biking trails, riverfront parks and activities, and a wide variety of other opportunities.

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BULLETIN

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

MONDAY & WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 30-OCT. 23

Community Emergency Response Team Training. 7-11 p.m. at the Fire and Rescue Academy, 4600 West Ox Road, Fairfax. The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program trains county residents in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. Emphasis on hands-on skill development and Fairfax County protocols and procedures. Instructor will provide syllabus with class schedule at first session. This training does not require any special physical strength or agility. Visit volunteer.fairfaxcounty.gov/custom/1380/#/opp_details/184991 to register.

SATURDAY/OCT. 5

Mental Health and Wellness Conference. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at Fairfax High School. The morning will focus on social and emotional learning, with a keynote address given by Dr. Marc Brackett, founding director of the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence. A special session for high school students, the Our Minds Matter Teen Summit, will take place in the morning as well. Attendees are encouraged to stay for Inova's Act on Addiction Summit, which will be held from 12:30-4 p.m. Breakout sessions, exhibit tables, and resources will be available to all attendees throughout the day. Lunch will be provided. Visit www.fcps.edu/resources/student-safety-and-wellness/mental-health-and-resiliency/mental-health-and-wellness to register.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Assistance League of Northern Virginia, a volunteer nonprofit, invites community members to join the organization to participate in its Reading Express program. Volunteers provide one-on-one tutoring to first grade students during the school year. To learn more contact VP Membership Mary Gronlund at gronbiz@aol.com or Program Coordinator Lynn Barron at lynnieb517@verizon.net.

United Community (formerly UCM), with main office located at 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, seeks volunteers for Food Pantry assistance, Early Learning Center teacher aides, basic needs counselors, youth tutors and mentors, office administration/data entry, and community outreach. Flexible hours and schedules. Opportunities for all ages to serve, including community service hours. More info at ucmagency.org/volunteer-opportunities or email volunteer@ucmagency.org.

Operation Paws for Homes, a Virginia based 501(c)(3) organization seeks volunteers, especially to foster dogs. See www.ophrescue.org for information and all volunteer opportunities.

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.

Line Dance Instructor needed for the Gum Springs Senior Program once a week on either Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. Volunteer Solutions, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711.

Volunteer Fairfax makes it easy for individuals and families, youth and seniors, corporate groups and civic clubs to volunteer. Fulfill hours, give back, or pay it forward through a variety service options. Visit www.volunteerfairfax.org or call 703-246-3460.

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Engineering a Solution



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Though not exactly "The Continuing Story of Bungalow Bill," ("The Beatles," 1968) but for those of you regular readers still interested in the presumptive outcome - in my lifetime, of my 250 year-old home's "structural integrity" - as it relates to my pending refinance application, we may now have lift off, so to speak. (Hopefully Houston, we don't have a problem.) A structural engineer came by the house yesterday at my request and examined and measured the cracks in the concrete slab which "porches" the front of my house. After which he offered his professional opinion, a more detailed version of which will be emailed to me in a few days (copies of which I will forward to all the interested parties). According to this engineer, there is a concrete solution which, cost notwithstanding (or even known yet) will secure my home's structural foundation and assuage the appraiser.

The problem, as I understand it, concerns the possibility of my house falling down, from back to front. On my porch there are five wood pillars which stand floor to ceiling equidistant across the porch. They are not embedded in the concrete (nor are they cracked or rotting). They are supporting the weight of the house, but apparently are on shaky ground. What has happened is, due to the improper preparation of the soil onto which this concrete slab was originally poured (100 years ago - or whenever), the concrete has buckled under the pressure, and the house is tilting, sort of (and/or has the potential to slip further and fall). And if this happens, neither my wife nor I will be able to get up, whether we're owners of Life Alert medallions or not.

There is a solution however, which doesn't require "a pick and shovel and 20 men" (to invoke a Three Stooges reference). Nor will it require any heavy equipment and/or cabling of my house in some way to lift it off the ground in order to break up all the length, width and depth of approximately 150 square feet of concrete (I don't know about the cubic exactly). The plan seems to be for the house to be temporarily supported by wood beams as it is raised up a bit and then one foot square sections of the concrete surrounding each of the pillars will be broken up. According to the engineer, not a major undertaking. Then piers, which are structural engineering jargon for whatever I need to have supporting the pillars, will be placed on the ground/ foundation beneath each pillar and then back-filled with concrete and Bob's your uncle: structural integrity. At least that's as much as I can understand/explain, anyway. Orthotics for the house you might say.

Now whether my description of the repair is at all accurate, the engineer was clear. Though the repair is delicate, he agreed, nobody is reinventing the wheel here, and the solution as proposed is not that complicated. (As for the "structural integrity" of our 100 year-old stable, another concern of the appraiser, the engineer said "We don't certify the structural integrity of 100 year-old buildings." Now whether this out-building situation becomes a deal-breaker, I can only hope that reasonable minds prevail. Check back to this space for future updates.)

At present, I fear there will be fits (by me) and starts (by the various external parties lining up to solve my homes structural problems) to get me to the refinance finish line with some financial integrity still intact. I won't lie, there's a bit at stake here, and I can't afford (literally and figuratively) any slip ups. As I approach my 65th birthday, my goal is to simplify my life and secure my future, not complicate my life and "insecure" my future. I had hoped this refinance would accomplish the former. I had no idea that it would lead to the latter.

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



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bring the natural beauty of the grounds to every corner of the home. Exceptionally spacious with two full finished levels, 4 BR's, 3 Full BA's, 2 FP's, all glass thermal replacement windows, gorgeous .5 acre lot, walk to river and MV Yacht Club

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Stunning opportunity! Custom home by Wakefield Homes, the area's leading luxury home builder. No expense was spared in this estate caliber property which was built with numerous upgrades and expanded floor plan. Special features include: stunning bright and open floor plan, 2 story entry foyer and family room, Chef's kitchen open to family room, huge master suite, gorgeous hardwood floors, finished lower level w/ full walk out, side load 2 car garage. Gorgeous setting on half acre lot in neighborhood with community access to Little Hunting Creek. Same home build today would cost thousands more!

STUNNING SETTING!



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\$995,000

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beautifully manicured grounds backing to private parkland with community path leading to river. The home is an attractive three level colonial featuring 3 levels, 4 bedrooms on upper level, bright white kitchen, two car garage, walk out lower level and large deck providing elevated private views of woods and river. A true natural wonderland!

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www.chrisandpeggywhite.com

chris.white@longandfoster.com

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