



Lightning Strike Causes Mount Vernon Hotel Fire

More than 100 hotel guests were in Woodlawn Court building in Mount Vernon on Tuesday around 1 a.m., but one guest who was outside alerted management to fire on the roof. Smoke detectors did not sound because of the fire location.

On Tuesday, July 7, at approximately 1:13 a.m., units from Fairfax County Fire and Rescue and Fort Belvoir Fire and Emergency Services were dispatched for a reported hotel fire in the 8600 block of Woodlawn Court in the Mount Vernon area of Fairfax County. Units arrived on scene to find a four-story hotel with fire evident from the roof. A second alarm was requested. Crews worked simultaneously to evacuate the hotel and extinguish the fire. The fire was contained to the roof. There were no reported firefighter or civilian injuries.

The hotel was occupied with approximately 108 occupants at the time of the fire. One occupant was outside when he noticed fire on the roof. He notified the manager on duty, who then called 9-1-1. Smoke alarms were present but



did not sound due to the location of the fire. Fire Investigators determined that the fire was natural in nature, caused by a lightning strike, and started on the parapet wall on the roof.

108 occupants were displaced because of the fire. Hotel management was assisting all occupants with alternate accommodations. Damages as a result of the fire were approximately \$100,000.



PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN DIGBEU

The Digbeu Family, (from left) Mary, Margo, baby Lemay and Christian.

County Supervisors Approve Paid Family Leave

Helping County employees meet family demands and employment responsibilities.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved Paid Family Leave for County employees during its June 23, 2020 Board meeting. Employees will be able to take six weeks of paid leave for the birth or adoption of a child, or when they or a family member can not work due to a serious health condition, chronic condition or ongoing medical treatment. Chairman Jeffrey McKay said, "I was proud to be able to push this needed flexibility for our staff with the partnership of the Service Employees International Union."

David Broder is President of Service Employees International Union, Virginia 512 which represents Fairfax County general employees, including nurses, social workers, child educators, mental health professionals, librarians, parks staff, maintenance workers, engineers, and more. Broder said that Paid Family Leave is essential because challenges happen in life. "The question is, do you have the paid leave at that moment, so you're not bankrupt, so your loved one doesn't have to quit their job," he said.

Broder added that union

members never gave up their fight. "This is an example of what happens when frontline workers and their union partner with County leadership to focus on what matters. This was an issue that our members raised over a year ago... They did their advocacy all through the fall and spring... It takes sharing stories, putting a face on it and building community support," he said.

Samantha Whitfield of Sterling is a county worker, as is Margo Digbeu of Centreville and Glenda Rosado of Alexandria. Whitfield said there was a "dire need" for paid leave. Even though she has worked 22 years for the county, Whitfield said she does not have any accumulated leave. "I'm the caregiver for my family... When you have someone who is chronically ill, a day's leave is nothing... It's a tremendous stress to have to worry about going to work versus taking a family member who is ill to an appointment," she said.

Margo Digbeu has worked for the county for 15 years, and although she could not use the new Family Leave Plan for the recent birth of her daughter, she will be able to use it to take care of her father and mother. "I

SEE COUNTY, PAGE 7

McEneaney Associates has always had one motto in mind... not to be the biggest, but the best. This year marks our 40th year in Alexandria, and we are celebrating our investment in helping to build our town into the thriving community it is today. To learn more about our Associates and our firm, visit www.WeAreAlexandria.com

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NEWS



Candlewood Suites and other local hotels, bucking national and global trends, have remained open during the pandemic. New sanitation procedures are keeping guests safe.



Roy Rogers is open for business. Local owner Jason Hunt and his daughter Delia welcome customers to their restaurant. The restaurant industry needs local support for a comeback.

Economic Confidence Survey of the Local Business Community

BY HOLLY DOUGHERTY
MOUNT VERNON LEE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Taking the temperature of the local business community Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce surveyed its members to find out how local businesses are reacting to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Survey results indicated that about half of businesses are operating normally (41.3%) or above 80% capacity (54.3%), while the remaining are operating at 70% capacity or below and a third (32.6%) had to either change their business model to stay open or are hanging on day-to-day.

"The results of this survey show how unevenly this crisis has affected our local businesses," said Travis Clarke, Burke & Herbert Bank and chair of the Chamber's finance committee.

"There is a big debate in the economic community as to what letter the recovery will be; such as 'V,' 'U,' 'L,' or 'W,' " Clarke said, "Our survey results show the recovery

is a 'K' shaped recovery where about half our business are operating normally while the remaining are operating at 70% capacity or below."

"This highlights the split we are seeing in different industries as we try to get back to a more normal level of business activity," Clarke said.

The Chamber also surveyed its members regarding the number of employees they have compared with pre-Covid levels and anticipated rehiring schedules.

"The responses to the employment questions further highlighted the "K" shape," Clarke said, "Overall our business laid off about 26% of their workers and 50% of business do not expect to add more employees at all going forward."

Clarke summed up the results by highlighting both the good and bad news from the survey. "The results are encouraging showing that half of Chamber members are maintaining their business at a high level during this crisis, but also discouraging in that there is a long way



With Covid-19 giving rise to changes in buying automobiles, some economists say auto sales may decline by 20% in 2020. The Ourisman dealerships on Richmond Highway are ready to provide service for your vehicle along with their customer-oriented sales teams.

to go to get the other half of businesses back to a more normal level of activity," said Clarke.

For more information on how you can support local businesses visit MountVernonLeeChamber.org

15 Companies Join Fairfax County EDA Virtual Career Fair

July 14 event for tech professionals.

Microsoft, Amazon Web Services and 13 other leading tech companies in Northern Virginia are bringing recruiters to a virtual career fair that the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority is presenting July 14 to help mid-career tech professionals find jobs. The companies represented will be offering a combined 3,000 job opportunities in Northern Virginia.

The Tech Virtual Career Fair is the latest FCEDA response to the COVID-19 crisis by connecting job-seekers with companies that are hiring now. While the fair is primarily for those in tech fields including data science, software engineering, IT, cybersecurity, defense and aerospace, some companies are featuring non-tech positions such as marketing, sales, finance, human resources and legal.

In addition to Microsoft and AWS, other companies in attendance will be AppGuard Inc.; CGI; CVP (Customer Value Partners); Expedition Technology; EntropyZero Consulting; FireEye; Ipsun Solar; General Dynamics Information Technology; ManTech International; MicroHealth; NTT Data Federal; Serco, Inc.; and SOSi.

Participants will be able to browse companies in a virtual lobby, enter companies' virtual booths, view open positions, engage in video conferencing and chat with HR representatives in real-time – all from the comfort of their homes. If you are (or know) a tech professional looking for a meaningful, new

job or career change, please view the registration page here. Individuals with security clearances are strongly encouraged to attend.

The Tech Virtual Career Fair is the second in a series of online hiring events presented by the FCEDA. The FCEDA's first virtual career fair for recent college graduates drew nearly 1,000 attendees and 13 participating companies, resulting in more than 900 completed conversations between hiring reps and job seekers.

"We connected almost a thousand college graduates with job opportunities last month, and now we have the opportunity to get mid-career professionals in front of diverse Northern Virginia companies with thousands of open jobs during the pandemic – this is why we do what we do," said Victor Hoskins, president and CEO of the FCEDA.

"Every job represents a household, so when we connect people — whether newly minted graduates or those midway through a career — to thousands of open jobs, we are really improving lives, saving households and communities."

With 8,900 technology establishments and more than 50 Cybersecurity 500 firms, Fairfax County is a resilient tech hub.

Organizations promoting the career fair to their members include the NOVA Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Women in Technology, the Soldier for Life-Transition Assistance Program, and more than 30 university career offices.

In addition to the Tech Virtual Career Fair, FCEDA is also sponsoring the Northern Virginia Hispanic Chamber's virtual career fair slated for Tuesday, July 28.



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NEWS



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Inova Mount Vernon Hospital

Mount Vernon Inova President Has Sports Medicine Background and a New Baby

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

The Inova Hospital in Mount Vernon has served the nearby residents for since 1976. In challenging times with the pandemic, their new president at the Inova Mount Vernon Hospital, Roberta Tinch, has the experience needed to meet that challenge. With initiatives from the other Inova locations, patients benefit. “We work collectively,” Tinch said. “We share positive best practices.”

In October, Roberta Tinch joined Inova Mount Vernon from HCA Johnston-Willis Hospital in Richmond, a 300-bed hospital and Level 3 Trauma Center, where she served as Chief Operating Officer. Prior to that, she had positions at HCA Spotsylvania Regional Medical Center in Fredericksburg, and Brandon Regional Hospital in Tampa, Florida.

Mount Vernon is a full-service hospital facility with an emergency room that just opened a few years ago, and Tinch feels many aren’t aware of the hospital’s facilities.

“We don’t tell our story enough,” she said, and that’s a goal early on in her time at Mount Vernon. “I want to increase the exposure of what we do here,” she said.

In addition to her job as president, she is taking on a position as the Administrator of the Musculoskeletal service line, which is a concentration on orthopedic joints. “That’s an area I’m passionate about,” she said. Mount Vernon since it is a nationally recognized Inova Joint Replacement Center and the Inova Rehabilitation Center.

Tinch is a Virginia native, attending University of Virginia for undergraduate, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology and Virginia Commonwealth University where she earned her master’s of health administration. In addition, Tinch has done extensive volunteer work with the YMCA, March of Dimes annual March for Babies, and she has a seat on the University of Mary Washington’s College of Business Advisory Board.

Her knack for helping out in the commu-



Roberta A. Tinch

nity and volunteering will be useful in the Mount Vernon area as well, and she’s planning on reaching out to the Fairfax County Public Schools to volunteer. “I’m interested in seeing what opportunities there might be,” she said.

But first, there’s her infant daughter Harper, born this spring. In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, her baby arrived in good health, and the pandemic restrictions at the hospital could be seen as a good thing to Tinch. The fact that there weren’t as many visitors “gave me some time with our daughter,” she said.

The pandemic has given some the impression that it might be better to avoid hospitals, but at Inova, they’ve gone the extra distance to make it safe. “We have taken extra measures,” said Melissa Poretz Riddy, Director, Eastern Region Government & Community Relations at Inova. Their program, “Safe@Inova,” focuses on all the COVID-19 precautions. “All surfaces receive a thorough antiviral cleaning between all patient visits throughout the day and a deep cleaning each evening.”

Their safety steps are outlined on a video program called “The Motew Minute,” with Steve Motew, Chief, Clinical Enterprise at Inova Health Systems. “Safety remains our number one priority,” he said.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

NEWS

Health Care Heroes

#CAREavanChallenge visits assisted living facilities.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE GAZETTE

The gauntlet was thrown. ElderTree Care Management Services challenged care providers to get creative and show appreciation for health care aides at local assisted living facilities. On June 30, Synergy Home Care did just that, bringing entertainment and smiles to residents and workers at Paul Spring Retirement Community and Mount Vernon Nursing and Rehabilitation Center as part of the #CAREavanChallenge.

"We wanted to do something fun," said Synergy Home Care CEO Mitch Opalski. "At the same time, we wanted to let these tireless workers know how much they are appreciated for their commitment during this challenging COVID-19 situation."

Opalski enlisted the services of flame throwing jugglers and other entertainment as part of a Synergy Home Care caravan that visited six different facilities in Northern Virginia. Gift baskets and signs scrawled with words of thanks and appreciation were presented to staff and residents.

"Now more than ever, the most valuable people in our lives require special attention and compassionate care," Opalski said. "Along with Synergy Home Care, the dedicated staff at these facilities have been true heroes during the COVID-19 pandemic. The #CAREavanChallenge gave us an opportunity to show them just how much they are appreciated."

www.synergyhomecare.com



Mount Vernon Nursing and Rehabilitation Center staff watch a juggler brought to the facility June 30 by Synergy Home Care in a show of appreciation for their dedication during the COVID-19 pandemic.



A duo of jugglers entertains staff at Mount Vernon Nursing and Rehabilitation June 30 as part of a show of appreciation by Synergy Home Care for health care providers during the COVID-19 pandemic.



A Paul Spring Retirement Community staff member and resident show off a thank you sign from Synergy Home Care in appreciation for the facility's commitment and caring during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Paul Spring Retirement Community staff member Rachel Bell, left, receives a goodie basket from Synergy Home Care CEO Mitch Opalski June 30 in a show of appreciation for the health care aides during the COVID-19 pandemic.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/CAZETTE PACKET



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RENTAL

Alex/Riverside Estates \$3,000
8318 Orange Court
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Alex/Montebello \$274,900
5901 Mount Eagle Drive #202
Spacious & lovely 1BR condo w/balcony in sought after Montebello, a resort-like community in a natural wooded setting, located just a few minutes from Old Town. Updated kit w/ new appliances & stacked washer/dryer in 2016. Tiled bath w/contemporary walk-in shower. Large enclosed balcony/terrace off the living room overlooks peaceful treed setting. Spacious MBR w/walk-in closet. Amenities at Montebello abound. Pet friendly-walking path or free shuttle to Yellow Line/Huntington Metro that lets you conveniently access all that the D.C./NoVa area has to offer.

UNDER CONTRACT

Alex/Riverside Estates \$605,000
3026 Battersea Lane
Riverside Estates, the Biggest Bang for your Buck!! This large Virginia model offers 5BRs, 3 updated baths, a gorgeous upgraded kitchen w/granite counters, cherry cabinets & 12" ceramic tile flooring. Beautiful hardwood floors on the main level plus upgraded, energy efficient DBL pane windows throughout. The electric panel had major upgrades in 2008, & the deck was rebuilt in 2016, it looks out at the beautifully landscaped backyard complete w/a new privacy fence & underground sprinkler system. Don't miss the 2 car garage as well - Check out the competition, then come talk with us. We're always ready to reach out with a helping hand.

SOLD

Alex/Riverside Estates \$580,000
8501 Wagon Wheel Road
Beautifully updated 4BR, 3BA Split w/carport - 2500+ square ft. on a large landscaped .3 acre lot w/fenced-in back yard. Freshly painted interior, newly refinished hardwood floors throughout the main level. Large family room w/wood burning fireplace. Perfect for workshop/storage. You can't find a better value or neighborhood for this price! 5 minutes to Fort Belvoir, (S) 15 minutes to Old Town Alex. (N) along the beautiful GW Parkway.

SOLD

Mt. Vernon/Wessington \$759,900
3102 Cunningham Drive
Gorgeous, newly renovated 4 Bedroom, 3 BA contemporary home in sought after waterfront community of Wessington, 1 car garage, new deck, .34 acre lot. Large, spectacular new kitchen w/all the bells & whistles. Beautiful new bathrooms. Separate dining room. Living room w/fireplace. Large picture windows on back wall overlook private wooded setting. Family Room w/ nice wood paneled ceiling. Wessington amenities include tennis courts, swimming pool, walking paths, & boat ramp on Little Hunting Creek which flows to the Potomac River. Located just a half mile from Mount Vernon Estate & the GW Parkway, it is a mere 10 minutes to Ft. Belvoir, 20 mins to Old Town, & 30 mins to D.C.

SOLD

Alex/Mt.Zephyr \$515,000
4100 Woodley Drive
Lovely all brick 2 level raised/ranch ramble deep in the heart of Mt. Vernon - Large .25 acre corner lot with carport. Lovely hardwood floors on the main level, double pane windows. 2 updated baths on the main level and an updated 3rd full bath on the lower level. 2 wood burning FPJs, one on each level. Potential 4th bedroom on the lower level. Roof is 10 years old, furnace 5 months, A/C 7 years. Commute along GW Pkwy to Old Town-minutes to Ft. Belvoir.

SOLD

Alex/ Woodleigh Woods \$701,000
3709 Maryland Street
Welcome to this stunning 4BR, 3BA, 2 car garage, contemporary-complete w/a gorgeous court yard out front & a large deck & hot tub which overlooks a beautifully landscaped bkyd. Numerous updates to include: kitchen w/granite counters & SS appliances, recently replaced DBL pane, energy efficient windows, freshly painted interior, & all 3 baths. The kitchen, dining & living rooms all face out back & have a wall of picture windows looking out at the deck, hot tub & fenced bkyd. The lower level offers a 4th BR, 3rd full bath & family room that opens out to the court yard. As you walk thru this home you marvel at the open contemporary design that makes you feel like you are one w/your environment. Walkable ¼ mile to Mt. Vernon bike/walking trail along the Potomac. Five minutes to Ft. Belvoir (S), 15 minutes to Old Town (N), 25 minutes to National Airport (N), all along the scenic GW Pkwy, each season gives you beautiful views.

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Protecting Our Planet

BY DELEGATE PAUL KRIZEK

I hope your Fourth of July holiday was restful and enjoyable, and that you are staying safe wearing your mask in public and exercising prudence through social distancing and good hygiene. As you might have read in my column last week, we have much to celebrate with the passage of so many beneficial new laws here in the Commonwealth that went into effect on the first of July. These include sweeping environmental reforms that bring Virginia to the forefront of leaders in environmental protection and climate change prevention and mitigation — transitioning Virginia into a new carbon-free energy era. The laws are barely on the books, and just this week Dominion Energy announced it has cancelled the Atlantic Coast Pipeline project that would have locked in natural gas as one of our energy sources for decades, and would negatively impact many communities, waterways too numerous to count, and some of our most pristine wild spaces on both sides of the Appalachian Trail.

This cancellation of the gas pipe-

line project is an incredible development and cause for much celebration not just by environmentalists and affected community members but by everyone who cares about our planet's future. Yet, it happened not just due to tremendous work by these grassroots activists who have fought this project every step of the way, but because now our new laws have made renewable energy the better choice. Indeed, Dominion Energy also announced that it has entered into an agreement to sell off its gas transmission and storage assets for \$9.7 billion. This move is a significant pivot away from fossil fuels and towards investment in a commitment to pursuing clean energy alternatives to meet our energy needs. The old carbon power-reliant Dominion Energy company that you used to know will become a leader in carbon-free power: transforming Virginia's electrical grid with new business opportunities in the clean energy sector, which could be a big help in pulling us out of this COVID-19 economic malaise.

Looking just locally to where so



much trash clogs our creeks, pollutes our Potomac, floats down to the Chesapeake Bay, and into the ocean beyond, we passed my bill to add a \$100 penalty for delinquency on litter tax payments. In addition, Delegate Lopez's bill to double the litter tax, which has remained stagnant since its inception in 1977, went into effect. The additional revenue produced from these measures will help the Litter Control and Recycling Fund, which is used for local litter prevention and recycling grants. Fairfax County, due to size and population, receives the largest amount, approximately \$100,000 per year from this program for litter mitigation. With these new laws, that number could be closer to \$250,000 going forward. A bill introduced by Senator Surovell, which I have supported for a number of years, is now in effect which creates a penalty for abandoned shopping carts that end up polluting our waterways, especially in our local creeks here in Mount Vernon.

At the state level, and having a

big impact on combating climate change, Virginia is no longer prohibited from joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), a multi-state cap-and-trade program on carbon emissions. Joining this initiative will go a long way towards reducing Virginia's carbon footprint. Most importantly, the Virginia Clean Economy Act went into effect, which makes Virginia the first Southern state with a 100 percent clean energy standard to advance wind and solar energy alternatives to break our reliance upon fossil fuels.

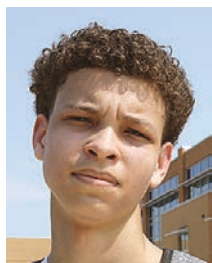
Furthermore, the State Corporation Commission has been tasked with creating a shared solar program to allow Dominion Energy customers to purchase electric power through a subscription in a shared solar facility. Under this program, a subscriber receives a bill credit for the proportional output of a shared solar facility attributable to that subscriber. Under this law, at least 30% of these customers must be low-income, allowing them to not only benefit from the lower cost of energy but also contribute to a lower carbon

SEE PROTECTING, PAGE 7

Viewpoints

VIEWPOINTS BY MIKE SALMON/THE GAZETTE

Should the Washington NFL team change its name, and do you have any suggestions for a new name if they do?



"No, in my opinion."
- Christopher Barlow, upcoming West Springfield High School junior



Springfield senior

"They should definitely rename, the 'Red Tails,' the nickname for the Tuskegee Airmen" — Cooper Johnson, upcoming West



were the first to come"
- Malissa Lawrence, upcoming West Springfield senior

"I feel it's a change well needed, it's a negative connotation with the history of this country. Maybe the 'Settlers,' because they



college student

"I think it's a wonderful idea, but I can't think of a new name right now."
- Adrianna Johnson, 19, Alexandria,



games."
- Pete Costigan, 21, Fort Hunt, University of Charleston student

"I don't think they should change their name, they have a good tradition, a good franchise, people might not come to



thing."
- Megan Gottemoeller, Fort Hunt

"I'm strongly in favor of them changing their name, anything would be better. I've heard Red Hawks, Warhogs, any-



"I think the Washington Natives would be a better alternative."
- Trevor Hilko, Fort Hunt



would be appropriate, should be done in a raffle with fans."
- Philip Wilkerson, Mount Vernon, his family has had season tickets to the Redskins since 1943.

"With the severities now, it's tough to be politically correct, so it should be changed, something along the patriotic line

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OPINION

Protecting Our Planet

FROM PAGE 6

footprint through solar power.

Offshore wind development is now a top priority, with the new laws determining that construction of offshore wind facilities are in the public interest. Dominion Energy has already broken ground on a new offshore wind development that will be among the largest on the eastern seaboard. This alone is a powerful move to wean the Commonwealth off of non-renew-

able energy.

This past General Assembly session was a historic one for our environment and towards a cleaner, healthier future. We will continue to build on this success with the Governor's just-announced "Clean Energy Virginia Initiative" to push investment in renewable energy business opportunities where the jobs of the future will drive a new modern, clean energy economy for our Commonwealth.

County Supervisors Approve Paid Family Leave

FROM PAGE 1

know it's going to be there when I need it. I don't have to decide between having more children and taking care of my dad," she said.

Glenda Rosado of Alexandria said she has been working with Head Start for 18 years, and it would have been beneficial to have the Paid Family Leave this year. Instead, she had to use her personal leave, and from there, it went downhill. Multiple health challenges arose for her and her

family. "I'm a Head Start teacher. I work with children all day... Before I'm able to care for someone else, I have to be able to make sure that I'm taking care of myself.

It's taken a toll on me... I know I did the best I possibly could, but I wasn't at my full potential," she said.

Broder called Chairman McKay, "a real champion." "McKay deserves a lot of credit for saying this is important. We have to get this done," said Broder.

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Dining Out, Phase 3: Two Restaurateurs Discuss the Latest

BY HOPE NELSON
GAZETTE PACKET

Now that Alexandria is solidly in Phase 3 of the Virginia Forward reopening plan, restaurants and cafes are wide open – with social distancing in place – both inside and out. But for restaurant owners and others in the business, the economic threat is far from over. Mix in customers' varied views on everything from mask-wearing to whether dine-in is comfortable for them just yet, and it's a rocky landscape to be sure.

Chadwicks' Trae Lamond and Captain Gregory's/Elizabeth's Counter's Rob Krupicka share a snapshot of how their establishments are navigating Phase 3 – and all it entails.

Trae Lamond, Chadwicks

"Enforcing the mask policy has been a lot like herding cats. I believe most folks mean well, they just don't fully understand the rules. You must wear a mask to enter. As soon as you are seated, you may remove your mask.

If you get up for any reason (like going to the bathroom or leaving after your meal) you should be wearing a mask. Standing, mask. Sitting, no mask. If you don't want to wear a mask you should stay home, we deliver.

"We are still offering carryout/ curbside dining and delivery. We encourage anyone with health concerns to stay home and we will bring dinner to your door. Check our website (chadwicksoldtown.com) or call us (703.836.4442)."



Donuts at Elizabeth's Counter

Rob Krupicka, Elizabeth's Counter and Captain Gregory's

"Our customers are amazing. They are supportive and positive. They put smiles on our faces. We opened Captain Gregory's at half capacity (about 12 seats) so it really has that quiet, cool, speakeasy vibe now. We also partnered with a local engineering firm, Building Momentum, to add a first-of-its-kind air filter system to help us keep contagions out of the air. Staff spirits are strong and [they] are well aware of how lucky we are to serve this city. We are just crossing fingers that the virus doesn't come back to Virginia. That would be tough to overcome. We still need all those curbside and online order customers. They are life and death for us."

Hope Nelson is the author of "Classic Restaurants of Alexandria" and owns the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at www.kitchenrecessionista.com. Email her any time at hope@kitchenrecessionista.com.



Dining is available inside at Chadwicks now. "Standing, mask. Sitting, no mask. If you don't want to wear a mask you should stay home, we deliver."

FUN THINGS TO DO THIS SUMMER

ONLINE DANCE CLASSES

Jane Franklin Dance of Arlington is hosting online dance classes via Zoom from July 6 to Aug. 15, 2020. Classes are 40 – 60 min in length. The enrollment is by donation. For class, exercise at your own pace, omit or alter portions that don't feel quite right, and make adjustments to improve your experience. Registration is required.

Schedule of Classes:

- ❖ Ballet with Brynna: Ballet Barre Monday at 1 p.m.;
- ❖ Making Connections: modern dance with Jane Tuesday at 3 p.m.;
- ❖ Afternoon Delight: improvisation with Kelsey Thursday at 3 p.m.;
- ❖ Happy Hour Fitness: fitness and hand/ankle weights Jane Friday at 5 p.m.;
- ❖ Abs with Amy: fitness exercise Saturday at 10 a.m.

Information and links to join: <https://www.jane-franklin.com/online-classes>. Call 703-933-1111.

METROPOLITAN SCHOOL OF THE ARTS CAMPS

Metropolitan School of the Arts in Alexandria is hosting its summer camps, but this year, camps are all virtual, live Zoom sessions, due to COVID restrictions.

Camps are geared toward students interested in music, vocal training or dancing from now through Aug. 21. Mini-camps and CAMP MSA are offered for all age groups in one hour or two hour segments to help students avoid screen fatigue. Camps are themed, to include: Tropical Paradise, Dora and the Lost



City, Toy Story, Frozen II, Color Me Crazy, Space is the Place, Barnyard Palooza, Bugs Life, Mary Poppins, Neverland, Olympic, Aladdin Jr., Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and the Addams Family. Camps range in cost from \$40 per week to \$350 per week.

To sign up for a camp, go to www.metropolitanschoolofthearts.org for more information.

THE BIRCHMERE REOPENS

The Birchmere in Alexandria is reopening with

Metropolitan School of the Arts Camps of Alexandria are geared towards students interested in music, vocal training or dancing from now through Aug. 21.

Schedule of Birchmere shows:

Friday, July 10: Billy Price Charm City Rhythm Band;
Saturday, July 11: Daryl Davis;
Friday, July 17: Skinny Wallace;
Saturday, July 18: Jumpin' Jupiter;
Friday, July 24: The Nighthawks;
Saturday, July 25: The Free Flowing Musical Experience;
Friday, July 31: The Roadducks.
The venue is located at 3701 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. Visit the Birchmere's website: <http://www.birchmere.com/>

VIRTUAL "THE DECAMERON" AT SYNETIC THEATER

On July 10, join Syntetic Theater in its first virtual production — "The Decameron," an adaptation of Giovanni Boccaccio's masterful collection of stories written in response to the Black Death of 1348. As an epidemic ravages their city, 10 young Florentines take refuge in a secluded villa, where they amuse themselves by each telling a story a day over the course of ten days—a hundred stories of romance, adventure and twists along the way. Syntetic's adaptation partners 35+ veteran company members and emerging artists from across the globe, each taking turns adapting one of the stories. This experience—told in serial format over

10 days—honors the unfolding of the source material and celebrates the human impulse to connect through storytelling in a time of despair and isolation. Pay-what-you-can ticket options begin at \$10. Visit the website: <https://syntetictheater.org/>

Data Proves Black People Treated Differently

Arrests of Black people disproportional in every police district in the county.

Of all arrests made by police officers in the county, Black people are arrested 38.54 percent of the time. Black people are targets of police use of force 45.63 percent of the time in the county. Black people make up less than 10 percent of the population. Black people are arrested and the subject of police force disproportionately more.

The data speaks for itself:

❖ In the Fair Oaks Police District, Black people were arrested 43.79 percent of the time but make up 7.22 percent of the population.

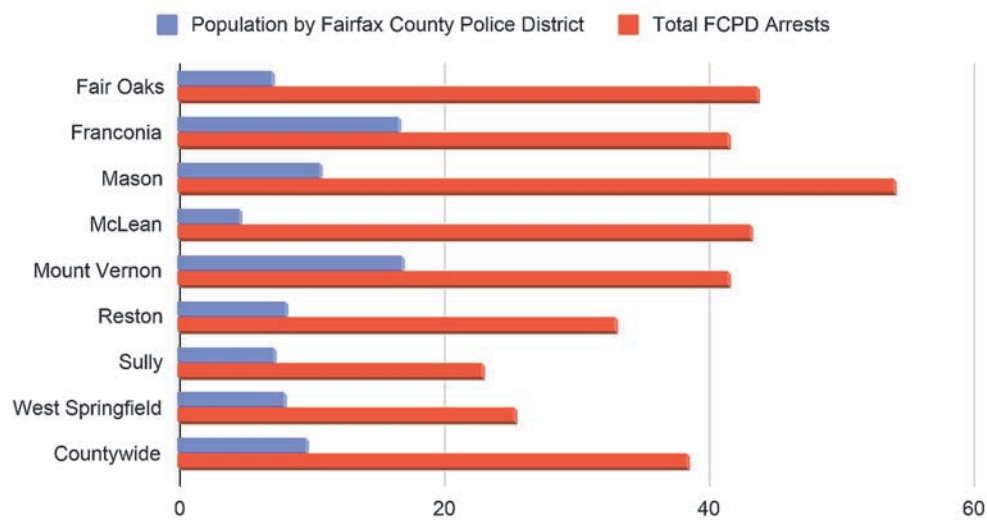
❖ In the Franconia Police District, Black people were arrested 41.65 percent of the time but make up 16.76 percent of the population.

❖ In the Mason Police District, Black people were arrested 54.08 percent of the time but make up 10.8 percent of the population.

❖ In the McLean Police District, Black people were arrested 43.34 percent of the time but make up 4.69 percent of the population.

❖ In the Mount Vernon Police District, Black people were arrested 41.63 percent of the time but make up 16.84 percent of

Black People as a Percentage of...



SOURCE: [HTTPS://WWW.FAIRFAXCOUNTY.GOV/POLICE/REPORTS/ARREST-DATA](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/reports/arrest-data)

the population.

❖ In the Reston Police District, Black people were arrested 33.04 percent of the time but make up 8.24 percent of the population.

❖ In the Sully Police District, Black people were arrested 23.09 percent of the time but

make up 7.3 percent of the population.

❖ In the West Springfield Police District, Black people were arrested 25.54 percent of the time but make up 8.1 percent of the population.

❖ Countywide, Black people are arrested

38.54 percent of the time although they make up 9.73 percent of the population.

The Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission made explicit recommendations with regard to the public availability of such data, said Phillip A. Niedzielski-Eichner, who served on the ad hoc commission and is the Providence planning commissioner.

“The Board of Supervisors and Police leadership agreed with these recommendations. Nearly five years after completion of the Ad Hoc Commission’s work, the data released and the Department’s requirement to manually generate these reports, indicates that, while progress is being made, it is slow in how it is generated and inadequate in its format,” he said.

Latinx people weren’t even accounted for in the latest round of data offered by police, mentioned only in traffic stops.

See <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/reports/arrest-data>

— KEN MOORE,
THE GAZETTE

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NEWS



At the visitor's entrance of Mount Vernon, George and family are appropriately masked.

PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH

BULLETIN BOARD

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

NEEDLEWORK SHOW AT WOODLAWN

The 57th Annual Needlework Show at Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House re-opens to the public on July 15- August 2, 2020. The Show structure will be modified: Entry is by timed ticket, in smaller groups each half-hour, purchased online only. Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House is at 9000 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, VA 22309.

GOVERNOR PROHIBITS CONGREGATING IN BARS

Governor Ralph Northam announced that bar seating will remain prohibited in restaurants as the Commonwealth moves into Phase Three this week. While key health indicators in Virginia are improving, the Governor made clear that he is taking a cautious approach and is prepared to implement tighter restrictions if needed. To reduce the likelihood of patrons gathering in bar areas without observing social distancing guidelines, bar seating and congregating areas of restaurants will remain closed except for those passing through. Restaurants may use non-bar seating in the bar area, as long as a minimum of six feet between tables is provided.

PHASE 3 REOPENING

Fairfax County, along with the rest of the state, entered the third phase of reopening on Wednesday, July 1. Beginning July 1, social gatherings of up to 250 people will be permitted. The new guidelines also end the cap on the number of customers allowed inside non-essential retail stores, restaurants and bars. Previously, these businesses were limited to 50% capacity under Phase Two. These establishments must continue to follow physical distancing requirements, such as keeping tables six feet apart, including bar seating. The third phase also eases restrictions on other facilities:

Personal Care: Beauty salons, barbers, spas, massage centers, tanning salons and tattoo shops may reopen at their normal capacity — but customers still must make appointments to come in. Both customers and employees are required to wear face coverings.

Exercise Facilities: Gyms, recreation centers and sports centers may open indoor areas at 75% of their lowest allowed occupancy. Customers must be screened for COVID-19 symptoms before allowed inside, including whether they have a fever of 100.4 degrees or higher. Fitness equipment must be spaced 10 feet apart, and similarly, personal trainers or instructors and exercise class participants must stay 10 feet apart from each other.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11

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Here's how you can help support small businesses during the Covid-19 outbreak

GIVE THE GIFT OF BUSINESS

Buy a gift card to use at a later date and shop locally online when possible.



KEEP YOUR SUBSCRIPTION

To the gym, exercise class, painting class, music and dance lessons, etc. Many small businesses reply on your support to keep their doors open and pay their bills. Your support can save that business.



BUY NOW, PICK UP LATER

Planning to make a purchase? Call the business to see if you can make the purchase but pick it up later.



ORDER FOOD-TO-GO OR HAVE IT DELIVERED

Local restaurants are open and ready to provide their delicious food. Order and pay online. Consider adding a generous tip.



Wondering what local businesses are open?

Visit MountVernonLeeChamber.org

LOCAL BUSINESS INFORMATION: mountvernonleechamber.org/business-resources-for-coronavirus/
FAIRFAX COUNTY INFORMATION: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/covid19/information-businesses-impacted-coronavirus/
VIRGINIA INFORMATION: www.virginia.gov/coronavirus-updates/

Another **Mount Vernon Gazette** Community Partnership

NEWS

Early Morning Shooting Injures Five

Mount Vernon Police District officers responded to an apartment complex in the 7900 block of Janna Lee Avenue in Mount Vernon at 1 a.m. July 7 for a shooting. When officers arrived, they found five people suffering from gunshot wounds. There were four teen victims and one adult victim. The victims were inside the apartment complex when the suspect, believed to be a man, entered and discharged a firearm. All five of the victims were taken to a hospital. Four of the victims suffered injuries that were life-threatening but were later upgraded to stable but serious condition.

Victim specialists from Major Crimes Bureau's Victim Services Division have been assigned to ensure that the victims and families receive appropriate resources.

The identity of the suspect remains unknown and Detectives are asking anyone with information regarding the shooting to please call our Major Crimes Bureau at 703-246-7800, option 2. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by phone – 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477), by text – Type "FCCS" plus tip to 847411.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 10

Pools: Indoor and outdoor pools may reopen at 75% capacity, and pools are open for free swim, instruction and exercise classes. Swimmers must be screened for coronavirus symptoms before entering. Swimmers and divers must stay 10 feet apart.

Recreational Sports: Indoor and outdoor recreational sports are limited to 250 people or 50% capacity whichever is less. No more than 250 players and attendees are permitted per field at a time, and a 10-foot distance is required between players, spectators and sports officials where possible. Players, coaches and officials must be screened for COVID-19 symptoms before entering a facility.

Entertainment: Outdoor entertainment and amusement venues, such as zoos, gardens, drive-in movie theaters and museums, may reopen at 50% capacity with a maximum of 1,000 people at a time. Performers and audience members must stay 10 feet away from each other, and cars must be parked six feet from each other at drive-ins. Indoor entertainment and amusement businesses continue to remain closed, including museums, movie theaters, concert venues, bowling alleys, trampoline parks and arcades.

Religious Services: Churches, synagogues, mosques and other houses of worship may now reopen at

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 14

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Ads submitted by:
July 23, 2020

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PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

The pool house has a kitchen to make entertaining convenient.

A Summer Oasis

Pool house evolved into a space that incorporates the beauty of the outdoors into the interior design.

MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

The combination of sunny, warm weather and the current pandemic can make staying home a wise, but stifling choice. However, one Bethesda, Maryland, builder made that a pleasurable decision for one Great Falls, Virginia family.

Jim Rill of Rill Architects transformed their expansive, but empty and unused, backyard into a summer oasis by designing a pool and adjacent pool house.

The end-goal was to combine functionality, style and comfort, says Rill. "The furniture and fabrics are easy to maintain and care for, while also being functional and pretty," he said.

Originally tasked with building a screened-in porch, Rill's design process evolved into a space that incorporated the beauty of the outdoors into the interior design. "The owners became more and more inspired to use the building year round," he said.

Both flooring of the pool deck and pool house are flagstone. The furniture is by luxury design company Janus et Cie and a chandelier by the same company hangs from the ceiling.

Rill and his team added a powder room and changing room. There is a kitchen with an island made of maple and topped with a waterfall countertop of quartz by Caesarstone.

Three walls of the pool house are glass and can be covered with retractable screens.

"The owners wanted rustic with lots of glass," he said.

Transforming the expansive backyard into a summer oasis by designing a pool and adjacent pool house.



Three of the four walls of the pool house are made of glass and give the space a rustic feel.



FILE PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE GAZETTE

Robert Reed enjoys the company of canine friends.



FILE PHOTO BY ABBY SACKS/THE CONNECTION

Henry Phillips lives with dogs Gus, an American Bulldog, and Buttercup, a Husky mutt.

Send Photos for The Pet Connection

The Pet Connection, a twice-yearly special edition, will publish the last week of July, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by Thursday, July 23.

We invite you to send stories about your pets, photos of you and your family with your cats, dogs, llamas, alpacas, ponies, hamsters, snakes, lizards, frogs, rabbits, or whatever other creatures share your life with you.

Tell us the story of a special bond between a child and a dog, the story of how you came to adopt your pet, or examples of amazing feats of your creatures.

Just a cute photo is fine too. Our favorite pictures include both pets and humans.

Please tell us a little bit about your creature, identify everyone in the photo, give a brief description of what is happening in the photo, and include address and phone number (we will not publish your address or phone number, just your town name).

Email to editors@connectionnewspapers.com or submit online at www.connectionnewspapers.com/pets.

For advertising information, email sales@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9431.

NEWS

An FCPS employee prepares a classroom for In-Person Instruction with Social Distancing, one of two plans for academic year 2020-21.



SCREENSHOT FCPS

Q&A on Back to School

Superintendent takes questions at Virtual Town Hall.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE GAZETTE

FCPS hosted a virtual Town Hall Meeting on July 6, to answer questions about its two Return to School Plans-Full-time Online Instruction Details or In-Person Instruction with Social Distancing Details. Superintendent Scott Brabrand said, "Our kids need us to return to school in a responsible, safe manner... And we are returning to school, empowering you to make the choice of what's best for your child, and for your family."

Brabrand announced the school system extended the deadline for plan choice from July 10 to July 15 and that he would recommend to the school board on Thursday to push back the first day of school to Sept. 8. "Our teachers and staff would still come back at their normal times," he said.

Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services Sloan Presidio and director of the office of special education procedural support Jane Strong joined Brabrand. Questions covered various topics, including the switching choices, safety, curriculum, technology and extracurricular activities.

Q&A

What if my child isn't thriving in a virtual or in-person setting?

Brabrand: We're building two completely different school systems... for a whole year... We can't simply have a preference to change back and forth week to week, month to month.

How, are you going to track the testing for the coronavirus if children are showing symptoms?

Brabrand: A student that comes in not wearing a mask will be subject to a temperature check... Any kid that presents with concerns... will be sent down to the school clinic. If they make an assessment that there are concerns, they will be sent to an isolation room... Parents will be... asked to come as expediently as possible to pick up their child. According to Brabrand, the County is committing to hiring 200 more contact tracers for the schools.

How will they ensure each teacher at high schools and middle schools sanitize all desks and chairs in the 5-8-minute periods rotation of students?

Brabrand: I would not be honest as superintendent to tell you that every time your child changes classes that the desks will be wiped.

What online platforms will be used for virtual options?

Brabrand: We're going to continue to use Blackboard Collaborate Ultra... We will also allow Google...

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FCPS

FCPS Superintendent Scott S. Brabrand answers questions at the July 6 Return to School virtual Town Hall Meeting.

and we will be piloting a new platform Schoology.

I'm wondering about the Academy.

Brabrand: We have no plans to cancel the Academy Programs... Academies offer very unique courses that will be dependent-based on whether the teacher is returning and, in the manner, that the teacher is returning.

Children...may not get every elective class that they wanted.

I want to know about sports, Marching Band, and extracurricular activities.

Brabrand: The Department of Education is working with the Virginia High School League... No decision has been made yet about high school sports. We have allowed conditioning to resume for fall sports.

What standards will be implemented to monitor student and staff physical and mental wellness?

Brabrand: We have a protocol in place where we look at student data around absences... We've already identified... children and those families who weren't able to connect as much with teachers.

"I will continue to do everything I can to reach out to this community and give you the honest truth as best that I can, with all the information that I can. That is my commitment to you today, tonight, tomorrow and for the year ahead," said Brabrand.

THE WEEK BEFORE, Fairfax County Federation of Teachers, Fairfax Education Association and Association of Fairfax Professional Educators issued a joint statement. "Our educators are overwhelmingly not comfortable returning to schools," said Trina Williams, President of Fairfax County Federation of Teachers. "It is absolutely unacceptable that FCPS has established an arbitrary deadline for employees and students to make decisions about the next school year without adequate data or specific information," said Becca Ferrick, President of Association of Fairfax Professional Educators. "We believe our community as a whole should not return to in-person learning until a vaccine or treatment is widely available for COVID-19," said Kimberly Adams, President of the Fairfax Education Association.

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An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.
-Werner Heisenberg

Questions and “Canswers”



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

“Very interesting,” to quote Artie Johnson from “Rowan & Martin’s Laugh-In,” that “crazy-kooky” comedy show from the 70s. What’s interesting is what my oncologist will say concerning the July 6th CT scan of my upper torso (lungs), the first such scan I will have had in almost six months. That interval being twice the usual and customary three-month schedule I’ve been on for years. The reason for this abnormally long interval? As you regular readers know, I was being treated for my second cancer: stage II, papillary thyroid cancer. Now that the treatment and all is complete, we can return to the scene of the original crime, if you know what I mean, and begin assessing/treating my underlying cancer: stage IV, non small cell lung cancer, which presumably has not disappeared in the last six months. To say my life depends on these findings is a bit obvious. Nevertheless, keeping one’s eye on the ball is what is characterized-as-“terminal” patients have to do. (We’re in constant touch with our mortality.)

Losing sight of the obvious is the ultimate presumption, not unlike one being innocent until proven guilty. In the cancer world in which I live exists the exact opposite: your cancer is never in remission (innocent). Ergo, you are always guilty (of having cancer). Now whether it moves or grows, the results of one’s scan will confirm. It’s challenging to not expect the worst, even after 11+ years of experience often receiving good news; the inevitability of the eventual bad news is occasionally overwhelming. I mean, one is not characterized as “terminal” because they’re expected to live. The writing may not exactly be on the walls, but apparently it’s in the handbook that oncologists use to determine the proper protocol to treat their patient’s cancer.

Generally speaking, a serious/terminal diagnosis is rarely affected by the advances of modern medicine and/or a patient’s disparate hopes and prayers. For us cancer patients, we’re only as secure as the results of our most recent diagnostic scan says we are. So yes, July 6th is an important date for Team Lourie as will the follow-up telephone appointment with my oncologist on July 13th. That’s when we’ll learn if the road is hitting back at the rubber and whether or not I go forward in hope or backward in despair.

As much ado about something as I am making this situation to be, it’s not as if I haven’t been down this road before; many, many times since my original diagnosis in late February, 2009. This is just “another day in paradise” to quote Phil Collins. And though this road is the one most traveled, it still doesn’t minimize the stakes. It just means that I’ve been incredibly and amazingly lucky not to have succumbed to this killer disease (lung cancer is by far the leading cause of cancer deaths) as so many hundreds of thousands already have. And though experience helps, it doesn’t really change the stakes; it sort of maintains them. All I can do in the interim is try not to consider the negative and recommit to the positive. That positive mantra for me has been, “it’s nothing until it’s something.” And if it is something, it will be bad enough to hear about it then so I don’t need to hear about it (presume) it’s bad now. For the moment, to quote Sergeant Schultz (John Banner) from Hogan’s Heroes: “I know nothing!”

For some reason though, and I may be reading more into it than is appropriate, this July 6th scan seems to be carrying some additional weight. Not that there’s anything different in and of itself with this scan compared to the previous one hundred or so that I’ve had - with or without symptoms, it just seems as if I’m spending more time trying to convince myself that it isn’t.

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

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BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE II

their normal capacity, but worshipers must continue to be seated six feet apart except for families. Food or beverages must be served using disposable containers. Childcare: They will be able to reopen.

PHOTO CONTEST TO CELEBRATE VIRGINIA WILDLIFE

Wildlife Rescue League (WRL) is hosting a photo contest, Wild Neighbors, to celebrate Northern Virginia’s wildlife. Open to anyone, the contest asks shutterbugs to submit any number of photos that capture local wildlife (wild undomesticated animal species) taken in Northern Virginia and surrounding areas. Entries will be judged by the board members of WRL, and the winning photos will be featured in the organization’s monthly newsletter, social media channels and website. Photo entries are accepted now through July 15, and the winner will be announced at the end of July. To enter the contest, post your photos on Facebook or Instagram. Tag Wildlife Rescue League (@wildliferescueleague on Facebook and @wildliferescueleagueva on Instagram) and include #wildneighbors. Afterwards, email your original photos to wrl@wildliferescueleague.org and include your name, the category you are entering (junior or adult), the type of animal in the photo and location (optional). For full details please visit <https://www.wildliferescueleague.org/wild-neighbors/>

METRO REOPENING

MOST CLOSED STATIONS

Metro announced that 15 rail stations that had been closed as part of the transit agency’s COVID-19 response reopened on Sunday, June 28.

They include the following stations: Grosvenor-Strathmore, Cleveland Park, Federal Center SW, Federal Triangle, Mount Vernon Square, Judiciary Square, Archives and Smithsonian. After June 28, Arlington Cemetery will be the only Metrorail station without regular service. Arlington National Cemetery is currently closed to the general public.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Help the Alexandria Domestic Violence Program (DVP) and Sexual Assault Center (SAC) make a positive impact for those in need and increase awareness of domestic violence and sexual assault in our community by becoming a volunteer. Volunteers benefit from the unique experience of interacting personally with victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

There are opportunities in DVP for special events volunteers, court advocates and shelter supervisors. Call 703-746-4911 or visit alexandriava.gov/DomesticViolence. To become a SAC volunteer, which includes opportunities for Volunteer Hotline Advocates, call Lydia at 703-746-3127 or visit alexandriava.gov/SexualViolence.

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 lynnib517@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 c

ommunity 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.

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