



Spc. Craig Amundson



Eddie A. Dillard



Capt. Robert Edward Dolan



Cmdr. William H. Donovan



Diane M. Hale-McKinzy



Bryan C. Jack



Steven D. Jacoby



Terence M. Lynch



Maj. Clifford L. Patterson Jr.



Cmdr. Robert Allan Schlegel



Lt. Col. Gary F. Smith



Norma Lang Steuerle



Sandra C. Taylor



Meta L. Waller

'God Was Watching Over Us'

First responders remember 9-11.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The photograph remains instantly recognizable: A single fragment of time captured on Sept. 12, 2001, when firefighters and military personnel unfurled an American flag atop the Pentagon as a symbol of resilience and hope for a nation still paralyzed with disbelief at the events of the day before.

Eyes remained riveted to images of horror as a stunned world slowly came to grasp the carnage of what would turn out to be the deadliest terrorist attack in U.S. history.

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Battalion Chief Ramiro Galvez was assigned to an Annandale medical unit that was one of the first dispatched to the scene within minutes of American Airlines Flight 77 striking the Pentagon at 9:37 a.m. He would remain part of the search and rescue efforts for 10 days.

"We did not have a lot of information when we first got the call," said Galvez, now in his 27th year of service. "There were so many radio calls that we couldn't interact with dispatch. All we knew was that there was a fire at the Pentagon and that it was significant."

Galvez and other first responders worked tirelessly in the search and rescue efforts without knowing the scope of what had transpired.

"Because we didn't have the benefit of social media, we didn't have the ability to obtain information right away," Galvez said.



Firefighters from Alexandria and Fairfax County Fire and Rescue join soldiers atop the Pentagon to unfurl an American flag during rescue and recovery efforts Sept. 12, 2001.

"When we heard later that afternoon that the World Trade Center had collapsed, I couldn't picture what everybody had seen. The complexity of the situation didn't make any sense and we didn't know that these

were terrorist attacks. We are more familiar with terrorism today but it was not the same back then."

Alexandria Sheriff Dana Lawhorne was a detective with the police department in Sep-

"This was a huge concrete structure that became an incinerator when the jet fuel exploded."

— Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Battalion Chief Todd Barb on the 9-11 attack at the Pentagon

tember of 2001.

"When the plane hit the Pentagon several of us decided to respond there," Lawhorne said. "That plan was interrupted when the school superintendent called seeking guidance. The safety of our schools became my priority. I will never forget the courage of the first responders that day. Now 20 years later, that same courage still exists in those who chose to serve and protect."

Battalion Chief Todd Barb had just completed his rookie year of training on what he now calls a career-defining day.

"I was dispatched to Arlington to transport a burn patient to the hospital," Barb recalled. "A woman was walking on a sidewalk when the plane struck the Pentagon and a fireball consumed her from the waist up. I was then assigned to the Pentagon looking for survivors and stringing lights into dark corridors so that a task force could begin shoring up the structure."

Barb described the destruction at the Pentagon as "surreal."

SEE 'GOD WAS WATCHING', ON PAGE 4

PHOTO BY PAUL MORSE/THE WHITE HOUSE

McEneaney Associates has always had one motto in mind... not to be the biggest, but the best. For more than 40 years, our Associates have lived in and supported Alexandria, 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

#WeAreAlexandria



OPEN SUN 9/12, 1-3PM



Eddington Terrace | \$1,795,000

A Home For All Seasons! Beautifully presented center-hall colonial perched on a hill overlooking a quiet cul-de-sac in a prime location. Featuring a soaring two-story entry, gracious living and dining rooms, center island kitchen adjoining the family room, this house simply flows in harmony with everyday life! Four, five or six bedrooms offer loads of flexibility for different needs, while the outdoor patio and gardens offer casual entertaining options. 609 Oakley Place
Kate Patterson 703.627.2166
www.KatePattersonHomes.com



Hollin Hall Village | \$684,900

One level living at its finest. Adorable 3-bedroom, 2-bath home with a breezy and fluid flow throughout. Living room with wood-burning fireplace. Stainless and granite kitchen. Large multi-purpose room overlooks expansive and flat backyard. 7819 Yorktown Drive
Tracy Dunn 571.212.3658
www.tracybdunn.com

OPEN SUN 9/12, 1-4PM



Waynewood | \$679,000

Classic Radford model Rambler with 3 main-level bedrooms plus one on the lower level. Freshly painted, main level hardwoods, new lower level carpet. One-car carport, deck, & shed. Great opportunity to customize kitchen & baths. Superb location. 1207 Priscilla Lane
Peter Crouch 703.244.4024
www.CrouchRealtyGroup.com

OPEN SAT 9/11, 2-4PM



Alexandria | \$425,000

Convenient Woodstone townhome has ideal layout with two generous bedroom suites, open floor plan and professionally-designed yard with patio. Well-maintained with new HVAC and hardwood floors. 7129 Strawn Court
Ann McClure 301.367.5098
www.AnnMcClure.com

OPEN SUN 9/12, 11AM-1PM



Columbia Heights, DC | \$659,900

Stunning 2-bedroom, 2-bath, 2-level boutique condo with open floor plan, exposed brick walls, 3 walls of windows, wood floors & modern finishes. Close to 2 Metro stops, retail, restaurants, coffee shops, parks, gyms, grocery stores & more! 1233 Euclid St. NW #2
Wendy Santantonio 703.625.8802
www.WendySantantonio.com



**Del Ray
 \$799,000**

Brick duplex with large kitchen addition. 2 bedrooms, 1.5 bathrooms, generous sized living areas and a finished basement. Tons of storage and nice outdoor space! Walk to Del Ray! 114 E Nelson Avenue

Jen Walker 703.675.1566
www.JenWalker.com



**Townes at
 Cameron Parke
 \$654,900**

Beautiful 4-level, 2-car garage townhome featuring an open floor plan, separate rec room/office, 3 upper-level bedrooms, & hardwood floors throughout! Recent improvements include a new deck, roof, AC unit, remodeled primary bath, & more! 3863 Eisenhower Ave

Lauren Bishop 202.361.5079
www.LaurenBishopHomes.com



**St. Asaph Square
 \$570,000**

Stunning updated southeast quadrant condo! Rarely available 2-bedroom, 2-bath unit with garage parking! Move-in ready and available NOW! Convenient to shopping, the waterfront, and all Old Town has to offer! 800 S. St. Asaph Street #414

Janet Catterson Price 703.622.5984
www.JanetPriceHomes.com

Serving the Washington, DC Metro Area since 1980.
 703.549.9292 | 109 S. Pitt Street | Alexandria, VA 22314 | McEneaney.com



Food Distribution Slows But Doesn't Stop

Pandemic's impact continues in Lee District and Mount Vernon.

BY MIKE SALMON
GAZETTE PACKET

When the pandemic hit last year, it took a heavy toll on some of the residents along Richmond Highway that worked in the service industry businesses that were closed. Paychecks were drying up, so Supervisor Rodney Lusk (D-Lee) launched a food distribution early on with help from several area businesses, and he continues the program twice a month.

Now they're using community leaders to act as the middle man so there are no long lines winding out of the Gerry Hyland Government Center parking lot anymore.

"We've asked the community leaders throughout the area to distribute the food," said Deborah Claire, Director of Equity and Outreach in Lusk's office.

In May 2020, this distribution began and for a year, the lines of cars getting loaded up wound out of the various parking lots they used. In Franconia, cars backed up to the travel lanes, causing a traffic jam. Lusk updated his distribution in May 2021, so they now reach out to community leaders to come and get the food, and they distribute it back at the various apartment and mobile home communities.

Businesses in the community made it happen too. The Fastran buses provided transportation, as did the United Community organization, and the Capital Area Food Bank stepped up with food. DeLune Corporation in Lee District helped out with the food, and the bread was from the local Knights of Columbus. Last year, there were similar events at Journey Church of Franconia Road too.

"It's amazing how this came together," Claire added.

The Fairfax County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) participated as well. "They've been extremely helpful," said Aaron Campbell, the Transportation and Constituent Services Manager in the Lee District office.

Loaves of bread were given away along with boxes of vegetables. One per household, unless there were more people than five in the house, and then they got another loaf and box for the additional people.

The food distribution is now twice a month, and Lusk's office puts out the word through various means. "It's one of the most fulfilling things I've done as part of this job," said Campbell.

The next food distribution day is Oct. 7.



Fresh vegetables fill the boxes.



Aaron Campbell works with a member of United Community to unload some food.



In Mount Vernon, Deborah Claire is monitoring the conclusion of this early September food distribution event. The next food distribution day is Oct. 7.



Right off Janna Lee Avenue in Mount Vernon, Aaron Campbell hands out a box and a loaf.



Aaron Campbell at a distribution site by Janna Lee Avenue.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON \ GAZETTE PACKET



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Left to right: Fairfax School Board Member Karen Corbett-Sanders (Mt. Vernon); Milly Stanges, FCAP member and event organizer and Ambassador for USA Pickleball, Mount Vernon; Nick Rinehard, Pickleball staffer for Supervisor Dan Storck; Dan Storck; Helen White, Facilitator FCAP and District Ambassador for USA Pickleball; (also in attendance but not pictured, FCPA Board Member for Mount Vernon Linwood Gorham; and Christine Morin, chief of staff for Storck)

Pickleball Event Garner Competition And Further Discussion

Additional courts is a topic for virtual meeting.

BY MILLY STANGES

Pickleball enthusiasts gathered on Aug. 25, for a well-attended pickleball event at Collingwood Park. The Fairfax County Advocates for Pickleball hosted Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck; Fairfax County Park Authority Board Member Linwood Gorham; and Fairfax County School Board Member Karen Corbett-Sanders. The officials were given an "Introduction to a Pickleball" by Helen White, facilitator of Fairfax County Advocates for Pickleball camp and USA Pickleball District Ambassador.

Over 40 pickleball players in the Mount Vernon District demonstrated how they enjoy Community Play, set time where anyone can drop in with or without partners to take turns to play with whoever shows up.

Typically 12-40 players participate, depending on the number of courts. This is the reason that so many players are asking for clusters of 6 or more pickleball courts at selected venues around the county.

That said, the Mount Vernon District is proud to have more

courts striped for pickleball (on tennis courts) than any other district, thanks to the support pickleball has from our representatives. For example, the Park Authority striped four pickleball courts on tennis courts at Collingwood Park and Fort Hunt Community Park, and provided rolling nets for pickleball.

Advocates from around the county took a survey and submitted comments over the past year in support of pickleball only courts in each district.

In addition they pointed out the need for:

- ❖ Repair and resurfacing of existing courts
- ❖ Converting under-utilized used tennis courts to Pickleball only courts (e.g., GW Rec Center) or at a minimum stripe each of the four courts for two pickleball courts with portable rolling nets
- ❖ Courts with lights at one-two facilities in each district
- ❖ Designated days and times for pickleball only on shared venues
- ❖ More designated times for pickleball at indoor facilities

Background on FCAP:

A group of pickleball advocates joined together to form the Fairfax County Advocates for Pickleball (FCAP) with the primary purpose being to work with and urge the County to do more to support the growing interest in the sport. At this time Fairfax County has no out-

SEE PICKLEBALL, PAGE 9

19th Annual

ALEXANDRIA OLD TOWN

(Outdoors, formerly on King St.)

Art fest

September 18th-19th
Sat./Sun. 10am - 5pm



Bill Herb

John Carlyle Square @ Duke St.
Old Town Alexandria, VA

FREE ADMISSION

From the folks that bring you fine art shows in:
Aspen | Las Olas | Arlington



Howard Alan Events
ArtFestival.com
561-746-6615

Let's ride together
OURISMAN
LINCOLN OF ALEXANDRIA

CUTCO
The World's Finest Cutlery

NEWS

'God Was Watching Over Us'

FROM PAGE 1

"It was hard to imagine what had happened," Barb said. "This was a huge concrete structure that became an incinerator when the jet fuel exploded. I remember seeing the remains of people sitting at a conference table for a staff meeting who never had a chance to get out. I carry that image with me and it pushes me to do better to help people in their direst needs."

Firefighter Jim Morris, now retired, was one of the first responders pictured atop the Pentagon in the iconic photograph of the American flag as it was unfurled. As he participated in the recovery efforts in Arlington, his mind was 225 miles north in New York City, where his brother Seth was still unaccounted for in the rubble of the World Trade Center.

Seth Morris was a broker with Cantor Fitzgerald working on the 105th floor of World Trade Center One. He did not survive.

The coordinated attacks at the Pentagon, World Trade Center and outside Shanksville, Pa., resulted in 2,977 deaths. Remains of more than 1,700 of those who perished have never been recovered.

"God was watching over us that day," said Barb. "There are normally 20,000 people in those outer rings. If the Pentagon hadn't been under construction or the plane had hit on the other side of the building, it would have been a far worse tragedy."

As he looks back 20 years later, Barb said he will remember most the way the community came together.

"Cell phone companies provided phones for us to call our families, Home Depot and Lowes showed up with tractor trailers of supplies, restaurants like McDonald's and Burger King had their mobile restaurants there to feed the troops," he recalled. "In the depths of one of the worst tragedies of our lifetimes, there was still some good that it brought out of people."

Added Galvez: "A lot of first responders and citizens died that day. Each year we take time to remember those who lost their lives not only that day but in subsequent terrorist attacks and those who died serving their country. And we take time to remember the lessons that we learned."

Remembering Alexandria's victims of 9-11

Spc. Craig Amundson

Spec. Craig S. Amundson, 28, was assigned to the Army's Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel as a graphic artist and was at work at the Pentagon the morning of Sept. 11, 2001. He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and Meritorious Service Award. He left behind his wife, Amber, and children Elliot and Charlotte.

Eddie A. Dillard

Eddie A. Dillard, 54, was a passenger aboard American Airlines flight 77. He left behind a wife of 15 years, Rosemary, and

one son, Edrick L. Dillard.

Capt. Robert Edward Dolan

Captain Robert Dolan, 43, was working on the first floor of the Pentagon as head of the U.S. Navy's Strategy and Concepts Branch when American Airlines Flight 77 struck the building. He was a 1981 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and commander of the USS John Hancock. His class ring was found in the remains of the Pentagon. Dolan was survived by his wife Lisa and children Rebecca and Beau.

Cmdr. William H. Donovan

Commander William Howard Donovan, 37, was commissioned at the Naval Academy with the Class of 1986. He had been on the Chief of Naval Operations staff for a little over a year when Flight 77 struck the Pentagon. Known as "the Waynewood Dad," Donovan left behind his wife Elaine and three young children. His remains were never recovered.

Diane M. Hale-McKinzy

Diane Hale-McKinzy, 38, was a civilian employee for the U.S. Army at the Pentagon. Born in Lithonia, Ga., she served in the Army for four years before beginning a career in civil service.

Bryan C Jack

Bryan C. Jack, 48, was on American Airlines Flight 77 when the plane struck the Pentagon, where he worked as the head of the Defense Department's programming and fiscal economics division. Jack and his longtime companion, artist Barbara Rachko, were married on June 16, 2001, just 87 days before his death.

Steven D. Jacoby

Steven "Jake" Jacoby, 43, was the chief operating officer of Metrocall and a passenger on American Airlines Flight 77. A community leader, Jacoby sat on the board of Men Against Breast Cancer and was actively involved with the Camp Fantastic Special Love charity golf tournament as well as Catholic Charities. The weekend before his death, Jacoby had celebrated the birthdays of his wife Kim and son Nicholas.

Terence M. Lynch

Terence Michael Lynch, 49, was one of three consultants from Booz, Allen and Hamilton who perished during a meeting at the Pentagon. On the day of his death, he was attending a meeting to extend survivor benefits to military families. He was survived by his wife Jacqueline and daughters Tiffany Marie and Ashley Nicole.

Maj. Clifford L. Patterson Jr.

Major Clifford L. Patterson Jr., 33, was a native of Washington D.C. and graduate of St. John's College High School. In 1991 he graduated from Howard University as a Distinguished Military Graduate. He was working at the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001.

Cmdr. Robert Allan Schlegel

Cmdr. Robert A. Schlegel, 38, followed his

SEE 'GOD WAS WATCHING', PAGE 5

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

NEWS

“I will never forget the courage of the first responders that day. Now 20 years later, that same courage still exists in those who chose to serve and protect.”

— Alexandria Sheriff Dana Lawhorne



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Alexandria police officers and emergency personnel were part of the response at the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001.

‘God Was Watching Over Us’

FROM PAGE 4

father and brothers in the Navy. Prior to being posted to the Pentagon, he was executive officer of the USS Arthur W. Radford, a 9,000-ton destroyer.

Lt. Col. Gary F. Smith (Ret.)

Retired Army Lt. Col. Gary Smith, 55, was at a meeting at the Pentagon when American Airlines Flight 77 struck. A resident of Wayneswood since 1984, Smith coached his daughter’s soccer teams, kept time for the West Potomac High School track team and was a fixture at high school football games on Friday nights.

A 23-year Army veteran, Smith received the Soldier’s Medal for Heroism after saving a number of soldiers from a helicopter crash during his service in Vietnam. He was survived by his wife Ann and daughters Natalie, Nicole, Kristie and Tracy.

Norma Lang Steuerle

Norma Lang Steuerle, 54, was active in the Old Town community as a clinical psychologist and

through Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church. She was aboard American Airlines Flight 77 en route to visit a daughter in Japan and her husband Eugene, who was teaching a seminar in Singapore.

Sandra C. Taylor

Sandra Carol Taylor, 50, worked as a civilian for the U.S. Army for 30 years and at the Pentagon for almost 10. She was a volunteer at the Hospice of Northern Virginia and at the time of her death was engaged to Timothy Dudgeon. She left behind her daughter Samantha.

Meta L. Waller

Meta L. Waller, 60, was a 12-year civilian employee of the U.S. Army at the Pentagon and was at her desk when the hijacked airliner struck the building. Named after her grandmother, the African American sculptor Meta Warrick Fuller, Waller received a master’s degree in government from Harvard University and was active in civil rights affairs.

Saturday/Sept. 11

Fairfax County 20th Anniversary 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony. 2 p.m. At Bailey’s Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department, 3601 Firehouse Lane, Falls Church. Join Fairfax County to remember those we lost and honor those who served on Sept. 11, 2001. Now, 20 years later, we come together in remembrance at Fairfax County’s Fire Station 10, where many first responders deployed to assist at the Pentagon. This ceremony is taking place in the afternoon in order to accommodate the Pentagon’s 9/11 Ceremony and morning volunteer activities at the Government Center. RSVP to publicaffairs@fairfaxcounty.gov.

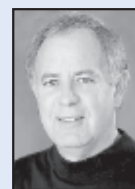
Alexandria to Host 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony

The City of Alexandria invites the public to attend a remembrance ceremony Saturday, September 11, from 10 to 11 a.m., at Waterfront Park (1A Prince St., Alexandria), to mark the tragic events of September 11, 2001. The event will remember all those killed, injured or otherwise affected; show gratitude

to those who risked their lives while responding to the incident; and honor those who gave their lives to save others. In the event of rain, the ceremony will take place inside City Hall in Council Chamber (301 King St.). Masks are required in City facilities, regardless of vaccination status. The ceremony will feature remarks from Mayor Justin Wilson and representatives from Alexandria’s public safety agencies, including: Fire/EMS Chief Corey Smedley, Acting Police Chief Don Hayes and Sheriff Dana Lawhorne. The tribute will also include a wreath-laying and “Return to Quarters” bell-ringing ceremony.

Saturday/Sept. 11

Forest Bathing at Laurel Hill Park. 9:30-11 a.m. In keeping with the national day of remembrance, the Laurel Hill Park Volunteer Team offers an opportunity for quiet reflection in a peaceful natural setting. This complimentary offering provides a short introduction to the practice of forest bathing, or shinrin-yoku, and a brief forest habitat building exercise on Laurel Hill’s Apple Orchard Trail. Pre-registration required. Sign up at Fairfax FCPA Programs and Special Events, keyword ‘forest’. Age 16-adult. The group will meet at Laurel Hill Park’s Apple Orchard Trail at 9500 Furnace Road in Lorton.



Rex Reiley
RE/MAX Allegiance
703-768-7730
rex.reiley@rmxtalk.com

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4



Alex/Wellington Estates \$694,500
7968 Bolling Drive

A wonderful opportunity for someone who is looking for a rare one-level Rambler in the coveted community of Wellington Estates which has homes selling in the upper \$600,000s to as high as \$1,600,000! You can move into this charming 3 bedroom, 3 bath home & update to match your specific taste, or... If you are a contractor you can do a complete remodel & flip. Or...like many contractors have done in this community, you can start over & build a 1.5-million-dollar home like the neighbors across the street which just sold for \$1,625,000. One block to the bike path & GW Pkwy-8 mins to Old Town, Alex, 15-20 mins to National Airport & 25-30 mins to the Pentagon & D.C. Take advantage of this wonderful home, location & endless possibilities! Home being sold AS IS -



Vienna/Acadia Condo \$389,900
9480 Virginia Center Blvd. Unit 120

Beautiful 2BR, 2BA Condo located in South Vienna. Good Sized Bedrooms each with their own walk-in closet and bath. Kitchen is open to the eating area and family room & has beautiful corian countertops. Attractive laminated flooring through the kitchen, family room and hallways. Don't miss the office station and the lovely balcony off the family room. 2 convenient garage spaces below are reserved for this unit. Tremendous community amenities highlighted by a wonderful swimming pool, gym, recreational room and office room. Finally, a perfect location with quick and easy access to Rt. 66, 495 and Rt. 50. If you want to leave your car behind, a quick 2 block walk will put you at the Vienna Metro Station. This wonderful property can be yours to enjoy!!



UNDER CONTRACT

Alex/Riverside Estates \$699,000
3105 McGeorge Terrace

This lovely brick split with 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2,500 finished sq ft and attached garage can be yours! Settled in a charming cul-de-sac, with Winter time views of Little Hunting Creek! Updated kitchen with quartz counters, stainless steel appliances and grey wood-look tile floors compliment the lovely white cabinets. The bathrooms are updated and have marble tile floors. Beautiful hardwood floors throughout the main level and updated double paned windows. Quick and easy access to Little Hunting Creek to launch your kayak and enjoy the spectacular wildlife up and down the creek. 5 minutes S to Fort Belvoir - 2 minutes to Mount Vernon Estate & GW Parkway - 15 minutes N to Old Town - 25 Minutes N to National Airport and approximately 35 minutes to DC and the Pentagon.



SOLD

Alex/Mt. Vernon \$414,900
4125 Buckman Road

Contractors/Investors, come take a look at this beautiful potential work of art. A traditional Cape Cod: 4BRs, 2BAs & a full sized, unfinished basement that is waiting for you to work your magic on. What will also get you excited is the gorgeous .49A lot! It adds so much charm & has just the right number of trees & open spaces. Many years ago, the owners had a nice firepit adjacent to a volleyball court & hosted many parties there-- it is perfect for entertaining both friends & family. There is constant bird activity around the feeders & just the other day, while sitting on the deck w/the owners, we watched a beautiful Doe graze in the backyard. Great location: 5-minute drive to Ft. Belvoir (S), 15 minutes to Huntington Metro & Old Town (N), 27 minutes to National Airport (N), & 30-35 minutes to Pentagon/ D.C. (N). Finally, adjacent to the house is an oversized 1 car garage w/room for both your car & a workshop. This house & lot has so much potential & is waiting for the right person to come along & to restore it to its beautiful former life. Selling “As Is” @ \$414,900 & looking for a cash buyer. Come by & take a look.



For more information: www.RexReiley.com

Each Office Independently Owned and Operated



Thank You for Supporting LOCAL Businesses and Attractions!



MountVernonLeeChamber.org

Save River Farm

Despite announcing in May of this year that they would begin formal negotiations with NOVA Parks and the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust (NVCT) to sell River Farm, the American Horticultural Society (AHS) has done little to honor that agreement and instead made excuses and requested delays. Now four months later, during which time AHS continued to list River Farm as 'on the market', it appears that a developer has submitted a

letter of intent to purchase River Farm – along with several adjacent properties – to build a large-scale commercial business there.

Accepting such an offer would be a betrayal of the original intent of Enid Annenberg Haupt's financial gift that AHS used to purchase River Farm in 1973 and would cast aside their commitment to work with local government, parks organizations, and conservation groups to ensure the future of this unique community asset. No such offer from a developer to despoil River Farm can be allowed to move forward.

It is imperative that the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors move expeditiously to pass the now twice-delayed Historic Overlay District addition to River Farm they first considered earlier this summer, and AHS must reaffirm that they are working exclusively with NOVA Parks and NVCT towards an agreement. Not only have NOVA Parks and NVCT had a fair market offer to purchase the property on the table for the last 9 months, they have consistently negotiated in good faith while proposing numerous options for AHS

to consider. Those options include co-ownership of property, renting the site back to AHS, and a full purchase.

The time is long past due for all sides to work together in earnest towards a solution that protects River Farm, and the residents of Northern Virginia expect nothing less than for this special place to be open to the public and safeguarded for all time.

Alan Rowsome
Executive Director
Northern Virginia
Conservation Trust

Redistricting the 44th, and the Rest of Virginia

BY DELEGATE PAUL KRIZEK

The COVID-19 pandemic has had countless impacts on both our public and private lives in the last year, and the collection of the Census, which has taken place every ten years since 1790 in the United States, was no different. Efforts to conduct interviews and collect survey results in person were significantly delayed due to lockdowns, social distancing, and health concerns, making extensions necessary to ensure accurate data. These delays have created numerous challenges across the country as states prepare to develop new voting districts.

The Virginia Redistricting Commission, which was granted the authority to draw the new district boundaries for our statewide and local elected officials by Constitutional Amendment in the election last November, now faces a tight schedule to complete these new maps ahead of the constitutionally mandated deadline.

In a typical year, states can expect to receive completed census

data in the spring following a census year, but Virginia did not receive any data until a few weeks ago on Aug. 12. This data came in an outdated format that was incompatible with the advanced mapping tools the Commission intended to use, and the census bureau said the data will not be released in a usable format until Sept. 30. To speed up this process, the Commission had asked a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) firm to process the data and turn it into usable material. That data was delivered on Aug. 26. Receiving data this late has made it impossible to complete new district boundaries in time for the November elections, so for now, Delegates will compete for reelection in their current districts.

Now that the data has been received, what will the redistricting process look like?

After the receipt of usable census data, the Commission has 45 days to submit maps for the House



Krizek

of Delegates and the Senate and 60 days for Congressional maps to the General Assembly, making the deadlines Oct. 10 and Oct. 25, respectively. To be submitted as a proposed plan for districts, a plan must receive the affirmative votes of at least six of the eight legislative members, including at least three of the four legislative members who are members of the body (House of Delegates or Senate) whose districts are being drawn, and at least six of the eight citizen members.

As a reminder, the Virginia Redistricting Commission is not non-partisan but bipartisan and made up of 16 members: 8 legislators (4 Senators and 4 Delegates) and 8 citizen members. Within fifteen days of receipt of a plan for districts, the General Assembly must vote on those plans. If the General Assembly fails to adopt a map by this deadline, the Commission shall submit a new plan for districts to the General Assembly within fourteen days of the General Assembly's failure to adopt the map. The General Assembly shall take a vote on these maps within seven days of receipt of the second plan. If the General Assembly fails to adopt a map by this deadline, the districts shall be established by the Supreme Court of Virginia.

The Virginia Redistricting Commission held a virtual meeting last Thursday to discuss the draft maps for the new Northern Virginia districts. These are only initial proposals, as public comments will soon be gathered, keeping communities

of interests together (that means making sure district boundaries don't divide cities and counties unnecessarily), incumbent addresses, and preventing split precincts will be considered.

If you are interested in submitting your own comments or trying your hand at drawing district maps, visit the Commission's website here: <https://virginiaredistricting.org/Commenting.aspx>.

It is still unclear how much deference will be given to legislators when it comes to redrawing district lines. In procedural votes, the Commission has taken opposing votes on issues related to incumbent protection. By 9-6, the Commission agreed to allow mapmakers to consider where lawmakers reside, however it also voted 12-4 to start the process with a clean slate and not consider current district boundaries.

Visit <https://virginiaredistricting.org/> to see the full report presented to the Commission.

Let Us Know Your View

Connection Newspapers welcomes views on any public issue. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers; we will only print your name and town name. Letters are routinely edited for length, libel, grammar, good taste, civility and factual errors.

Send letters
Online www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter
By email: editors@connectionnewspapers.com

By mail to: Letters to the Editor The Connection
1606 King St., Alexandria VA 22314

You can comment on our Facebook page or find us on Twitter
www.facebook.com/connectionnewspapers
<https://twitter.com/alexgazette>
<https://twitter.com/mtvermongazette>
<https://twitter.com/followfairfax>

www.MountVernonGazette.com

@MtVernonGazette

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

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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

NEWS DEPARTMENT:
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Jeanne Theismann
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com
@TheismannMedia

Mercia Hobson
Community Reporter
mhobson@connectionnewspapers.com

Mike Salmon
Contributing Writer
msalmon@connectionnewspapers.com

Ken Moore
Contributing Writer
kmoore@connectionnewspapers.com

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

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

A Connection Newspaper



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.

MONDAY/SEPT. 13

About Time Travel. 5-6 p.m. Via Zoom Meeting. Dr. Robert Ehrlich, professor emeritus and former chair of the Physics and Astronomy Department at GMU, discusses the possibility of time travel and how one might build a time machine. Free. Registration is required. Register here: <https://librarycalendar.fairfax-county.gov/event/7979664>
A Zoom link will be sent the day before the event.

COMMUNITY MARKET ON SATURDAYS

Workhouse Arts Center hosts its Community Market Every Saturday from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. through October 30, 2021. Located at 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. September celebrates Harvest Fest all month long. Local vendors include:
Bites by Sam
Apple Juice Tea Party
Honeycakes
Bangkok Bites
Bowls by Bowles
Jen and Pat Designs

Never miss an issue, get a free digital subscription, <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe/>

LIVE OAKS

658 Live Oak Drive
McLean, VA

\$12,495,999

Phyllis Patterson
+1 703 408 4232



McLEAN

8548-A Georgetown Pike
McLean, VA

\$6,495,000

Jonathan Taylor
+1 202 276 3344



McLEAN

8334 Alford Street
McLean, VA

\$5,995,000

Will Thomas
+1 202 607 0364



SPRINGHAVEN ESTATES

1048 Rector Lane
McLean, VA

\$4,450,000

Andre Amini
+1 703 622 4473



VARSITY PARK

4550 N Pegram Street
Alexandria, VA

\$2,349,000

Janet Million
+1 571 329 3732



ROBINSON LANDING

16 Bakers Walk #104
Alexandria, VA

\$1,395,000

Heather Corey
+1 703 989 1183



OLD TOWN COMMONS

819 Parker Gray School Way
Alexandria, VA

\$1,149,000

Sharon Wildberger
+1 703 597 0374
Heather Corey
+1 703 989 1183



BELLE HAVEN

6112 Woodmont Road
Alexandria, VA

6112WoodmontRoad.com

\$1,175,000

Lyssa Seward
+1 703 298 0562
Brittanie DeChino
+1 202 802 0158



PALISADES

4764 Reservoir Road NW,
Washington, DC

\$1,600,000

Michael Rankin
+1 202 271 3344



VILLAMAY

7413 Burtonwood Drive
Alexandria, VA

\$1,350,000

Tracy Shively
+1 703 930 0268



BELLE HAVEN

2305 Windsor Road
Alexandria, VA

\$935,000

Jeanne Warner
+703 980 9106



ST. ASAPH SQUARE CONDOMINIUM

801 S Pitt Street #219
Alexandria, VA

\$625,000

Heather Corey
+1 703 989 1183



ALEXANDRIA BROKERAGE 400 SOUTH WASHINGTON STREET, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314 | +1 703 310 6800 ttrsir.com

©2021 TTR Sotheby's International Realty, licensed real estate broker. Sotheby's International Realty and the Sotheby's International Realty logo are registered service marks used with permission. Each Office Is Independently Owned And Operated. Equal housing opportunity. All information deemed reliable but not guaranteed. Price and availability subject to change.

Insects and their Tree Hosts

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

Insects need trees, explained arborist Jessica Strother during a two-hour walk dubbed “Trees and Their Insect Friends” in the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve on Sept. 4. For the walk, the Friends of Dyke Marsh collaborated with Plant NoVa Natives, a coalition that launched a tree campaign on Sept. 1.

“If we eliminate native plants and trees, we eliminate insects,” Strother said. And while many may instinctively swat away insects or view them as pests, insects are important in nature for pollination, predation, decomposition, nutrient cycling, food for wildlife and other ecological functions. They are the “little things that run the world,” wrote naturalist E. O. Wilson.

Insects are an indicator of environmental quality, but many are in serious decline globally, studies show, a phenomenon that some call the “insect apocalypse.” Over one quarter of land-dwelling insects disappeared in the last 30 years, according to a 2020 study by the German Centre for Integrative Biology.

Host Plants

Strother explained to the 16-member group that certain tree species are host plants for certain insects. Host plants generally are the plants which insects need to live on and off of. “Bees go bananas over tulip poplar blossoms,” she told the group. These trees have yellow-orange spring flowers that look like tulips and bloom before many other plants. Bees carry pollen between flowers to pollinate plants and help them reproduce.

Holding a branch of catalpa leaves, Strother said that the catalpa tree is the host plant of the catalpa sphinx moth “that evolved together for thousands of years. Catalpa sphinx moths lay eggs on catalpa tree leaves.”

“When you lose something, you

Plant NoVA Trees

Plant NoVA Trees is a five-year campaign of multiple organizations that encourages all property owners, especially private property owners, to plant more native trees. Visit www.plantnovatrees.org for details and events.



Invasive porcelainberry vines are rampant. They outcompete and smother everything, including trees.



The spicebush butterfly caterpillar has eyespots.

lose something that nature engineered,” she said.

The smooth sumac, sporting deep red fruits or drupes in the fall, is the host plant for the banded hairstreak butterfly, Strother said, adding that in the 19th century, people dried the leaves and used them to tan leather.

Dyke Marsh has many sycamores, trees with scaly white, tan

and brown bark. Sycamores are host plants for tussock moths. Sweet gums have ball-shaped, spiky fruits with tiny seeds inside that birds and squirrels feast on.

Strother pointed out a spicebush shrub, the host plant for the spicebush swallowtail butterfly. This butterfly has a “freaky caterpillar with gigantic eyes,” she laughed. Nick McNair pulled out his butter-



PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH

Fall webworms (they are not worms) build a web on trees' leaves. Webworms become white moths.



Jessica Strother, the walk leader, explained what host plants are.

Why Are Trees Important?

Trees provide shade, can lower heating and cooling bills, reduce stormwater runoff, curtail erosion, support insects, birds and other wildlife, protect drinking water, sequester carbon, absorb pollutants and provide food, shelter, nesting sites and migration paths for wildlife.

Powerful Oaks

Oaks are “extremely important trees,” said Strother, citing University of Delaware entomologist Dr. Douglas Tallamy who contends that oak trees support more life than any other tree in North America, including caterpillars, wasps and other insects. His latest book is *The Nature of Oaks: The Rich Ecology of Our Most Essential Native Trees*, published earlier this year by Timber Press.

Deer eat oak saplings, Strother said, and with so many deer in Northern Virginia, oak-hickory forests are at risk. “Regeneration of oak trees is a huge problem,” she said.

Non-native or invasive plants are rampant and destructive. English ivy, for example, eventually overwhelms and weakens trees, Strother said. “Eventually, the tree falls.” Non-native porcelainberry vines are at their height now in Dyke Marsh and can smother valuable trees and native plants. With climate change, Strother said

SEE INSECTS, PAGE 9

fly guide to show the group photos of a bright green caterpillar with false “eyes,” actually eye spots, and pictures of the male and female adult spicebush butterflies.

Overlooking the wetland, its narrow-leaf cattails, arrow arum and other wetland plants, Strother explained that marshes attract dragonflies and damselflies. Friends of Dyke Marsh volunteers have documented 21 dragonfly species and 12 damselflies there.



Deborah Hammer showed the group how to take a photo at the native plant site at the Chronology station. Bear's foot plants grow to around 10 feet tall here.



Nick McNair shows photos of the spicebush butterfly and its caterpillar.

PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH

Insects and their Tree Hosts

FROM PAGE 8

that vines are thriving in the warmer, wetter weather, now growing more rapidly in Northern Virginia.

To help insects, she offered many tips including; plant native plants, maintain dead trees and stumps, reduce lawns, create diverse habitats, avoid pesticides, limit out-

door night lighting, and leave the leaves for overwintering insects.

As walkers got to the “dogleg” turn on the trail, they were captivated by crows squawking and warblers zipping about, a sure sign that fall migration is underway and the birds are making the most of the insects and trees of Dyke Marsh.



Tunnels in a tree's dead wood created by invasive emerald ash borer insects which are killing ash trees all over the eastern U.S.



The scaly bark of a sycamore tree, host plants for tussock moths.

Pickleball Event Garners Competition And Further Discussion

FROM PAGE 3

door courts dedicated to pickleball (i.e., not shared with tennis) although a couple are in the pipeline. Even pre-COVID Fairfax County had very few indoor court hours. The Park Authority (FCPA), along with the County's Neighborhood and Community Services department, has recognized the growth of pickleball and has recently completed a study to identify the needs of the pickleball community, determine how to address it, and identify potential locations where dedicated courts and other improvements can be developed.

The activity at Collingwood Park on Aug.

25 showcased the need for more pickleball courts in Fairfax County prior to the release of the final draft of the Park Authority's Pickleball Study at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/planning-development/pickleball-study>.

The Fairfax County Park Authority will hold a virtual public meeting on Sept. 14 at 7 p.m. Comments will be accepted from Sept. 1 to Oct. 3, and may be submitted during the comment period by emailing G4274@publicinput.com or contacting the Public Information Office at parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-324-8662.



FALL 2021

- SEPT 10-19** Old Town Cocktail Week
- SEPT 18-19** 19th Annual Alexandria Old Town Art Festival (at John Carlyle Square)
- SEPT 24-26** Shop & Stroll with Old Town Boutique District
- SEPT 25** 79th Historic Homes Tour, "Garden Glimpses"
- OCT 2** 26th Annual Art on the Avenue
- OCT 8-10** Fall Wine Festival & Sunset Tour at Mount Vernon
- OCT 24** Del Ray Halloween Parade

For more fall events & activities, check out:
VisitAlexandriaVA.com/Fall

Alexandria
EST. 1749

#VisitALX |    



When Odds Are Stacked Against the Many ...

BY ANDRES JIMENEZ

Out of many, one. It's a phrase carved into marble facades across Washington and the United States and woven into the founding fabric of our country. Whenever a moment arises where the odds are stacked against the many, unification is usually the only path forward -- unite or die.

This principle has been at the foundation of the three great passions of my professional life. First, I've spent decades fighting for our environment. I've seen that when it comes to tackling problems on a global scale, we need unified voices to carry a loud message to those that need to hear it.

Second, I fight every day to diversify organizations. I know that when a group of people don't have a seat at the table that it's time to get a bigger table.

And last but not least, I've always stood shoulder-to-shoulder with my brothers and sisters in the

We need our local leaders to set an example for the type of world class workers' rights that will attract and keep working families, budding professionals, and hungry entrepreneurs here.

labor movement. Their fight is the fight of all working families everywhere and they know that there's always strength in numbers.

For generations union members have organized, vocalized, and realized better outcomes for not only themselves and their co-workers, but the betterment of all in our society. The core mission of a labor union is to take the key components that make up a company (its employees) and unify them to provide equal and solid footing for the fair and equitable treatment of its workforce and serve as an example to all others. In essence, it is the most American, democratic, and equitable thing I can think of. It is no wonder that the United States is

a global leader on workers' rights -- it's in our society's DNA to fight for what's right.

Yet, it's not enough to simply know this. You have to understand it, appreciate it, and build upon it. That's why I'm hopeful that not only will the Commonwealth of Virginia continue to welcome this new era of labor organizing with open arms, but that my home locality of Fairfax County will usher it in by leading the way on thoughtful, respectful, and forward-thinking collective bargaining.

Fairfax County has a rich tradition of tackling new, complex problems head on. It's that spirit that's transformed this area into one of the country's most diverse, beau-

tiful, and prosperous economic engines. However, it's not enough to attract world class businesses to our community. We already offer incredible schools, safety, and transportation. Now we need our local leaders to set an example for the type of world class workers' rights that will attract and keep working families, budding professionals, and hungry entrepreneurs here. The Board of Supervisors can do that by passing a meaningful collective bargaining ordinance.

If we're going to live out the values we preach; if we're going to stand up in front of working families year after year and tell them we're here to fight with them; if we're going to truly live up to the

One Fairfax policy, then we need to admit that out of the many that make up Fairfax County, we can never be one until we recognize that its most significant constituency is that of its dedicated workforce across every industry.

Whether you're a fellow civil servant, advocate, worker, or simply a citizen that appreciates a 40-hour workweek, a newfound ability to work from home, or the sacrifices so many made to keep our community afloat through this pandemic, I encourage you to reflect on the many benefits we've all reaped from generations of labor organizing, learn more about how pivotal a tool collective bargaining truly is, and call on the County to pass collective bargaining today.

Andres Jimenez is an at-large Planning Commissioner in Fairfax County and sits on the Commonwealth's Attorneys Advisory Council on Criminal Justice Reform, among other community service positions.

Deer Management Archery Begins Sept. 11

Fairfax County Deer Management Archery Program begins Saturday, Sept. 11, 2021 and runs through Saturday, Feb. 19, 2022. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/wildlife/archery-program>

Under the oversight of the Fairfax County Police Department, in collaboration with the Fairfax County Park Authority, NOVA Parks, and other public landholders, the archery program is conducted in parks and other locations throughout Fairfax County.

The archery program began in FY 2010 and is part of an integrated Deer Management Program to reduce and stabilize the white-tailed deer population in Fairfax County in efforts to minimize safety and health hazards and other impacts related to an overabundance of deer. These impacts include deer-vehicle collisions, potential spread of diseases, and environmental damage attributed to deer that can impact the ecosystem. The program was approved by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in 2000 and is recognized as a safe and efficient method of deer population control by the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources.

Because of its proven track record of safety, archery is a preferred deer management method in Fairfax County. Archery is a compatible use with residential areas and community parks, allowing for deer population management in urban and suburban areas. Since Virginia began tracking hunting injuries in 1959, no bystanders have been injured by an archer hunting deer anywhere in the Commonwealth. The Fairfax County Deer Management Program is conducted on approximately 100 properties countywide. Last year, archery hunters in the county program killed 823 deer. The archery program accounted for 94 percent of the total deer harvests in the Fairfax County Deer Management Program.

Fairfax County's Archery Program standards require that all archers meet state hunter licensing, education and safety requirements and must pass qualifications to demonstrate skill and marksmanship, in addition to carrying program identification. Archers are also required to have completed additional training through the International Bowhunter Education Program to participate in the



The deer archery program is designed to minimize environmental damage from deer.

Fairfax County Deer Management Program. All archers must also pass a criminal background check to be eligible for the program.

Parks remain open to the public during the archery program. Fluorescent orange signs are posted in parks where hunting is authorized. Hunters can only take shots at deer from elevated tree stands; hunting from the ground level is prohibited in county parks. Tree stands must not be located closer than 100 feet from property lines or closer than 50 feet from established park trails. Archers are not allowed on private property without permission by the owner or tenant. Archers are approved to hunt at assigned sites Monday through Saturday during legal hunting hours, 30 minutes prior to sunrise until 30 minutes after sunset.

No hunting is allowed on Sundays in county parks.

More information about the Fairfax County Deer Management Program can be found at: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/wildlife/deer-management-program>

Unusual Increases For Car Tax

About 12% of Fairfax County residents will see an increase in their car tax bills because of the pandemic.

The average increase is \$25 compared to last year for vehicles valued at \$20,000 or less, say Fairfax County tax officials. The county wants to notify taxpayers now as personal property tax bills begin to go out in the mail.

What's driving the rise in tax bills for some vehicle owners? The low supply and high demand for used and new cars are pushing prices to record levels. Automakers have been hit by a global computer chip shortage due to the pandemic that's hampering their ability to build new cars. As such, many car buyers have turned to used vehicles instead, driving prices higher.

While a car's value normally decreases every year it ages, the price tag for used vehicles has been climbing steadily since last year. Low interest rates and stimulus payments are also helping to fuel car purchases, pushing prices higher.

Fairfax County bases car

taxes on a vehicle's value on the J.D. Power Used Car Guide. For most vehicles, the value is based on the "Clean Trade-in Value" as of Jan. 1 of the tax year.

Car owners can file an appeal of their taxes if they believe their vehicle has been overassessed. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/taxes/vehicles/appealing-your-vehicle-assessment> A vehicle's value can be appealed based on body damage, rusting or high mileage.

Car owners still must pay their tax bill by the due date.

Car tax bills are due on Tuesday, Oct. 5. Paying online is quick and easy, and it's free to use an e-check. The county offers other payment options, and cash or money order payments can also be placed in the red drop-off boxes at the Fairfax County Government Center. Additional drop-off locations at select library branches will be available starting Sept. 15.

Visit the Fairfax County Department of Tax Administration at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/taxes/> or call 703-222-8234, TTY 711.

NEWS

ASC High School Football Night Returns Rolander to be guest speaker Sept. 15.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The Alexandria Sportsman's Club opens its 2021-2022 meeting schedule with the annual High School Football Night featuring special guest speaker Tynan Rolander, Head Football Coach of South County High School.

Rolander will be joined by the football coaches of Alexandria City, Bishop Ireton, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes, and Episcopal high schools.

Born in Alexandria, Rolander attended Hayfield Secondary School then South County High School as a member of its first graduating class. Following high school, he attended The Citadel, earning a degree in Political Science.

Rolander returned to Northern Virginia and began coaching football at South County in 2011. As a part of the football staff he has won 6 District titles, 3 Region titles, and 1 State final. South County has consistently ranked in the top 10 schools for points scored since 2013 and have had no less than 30 players continue their careers in college.

He was named Head Coach in the Winter of 2020 before the COVID-19 pandemic. He guided his team through a spring season where they won their third district title in a row, repeated as Region champions, and made a second straight appearance in the state title game.

"We emphasize our Core Values of F.A.M.I.L.Y. above all else and believe these values are instrumental in



South County High School head football coach Tynan Rolander will be the featured speaker at the Sept. 15 meeting of the Alexandria Sportsman's Club.

building the type of young men we desire to see in the community," Rolander said. "These values are Focus, Accountability, Meaningful, Integrity, Leadership, and Yearning."

The meeting will be held Sept. 15 at the Old Dominion Boat Club, 200 Strand Street, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The meeting is free and open to the public. For more information, visit www.alexandriavasports.org.

Back to School

If your child is entering 7th grade they must have the Meningitis, HPV, and Tdap vaccines in order to enroll. Talk to your doctor and vaccinate them now!

SCAN ME

VDH VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

vdh.virginia.gov/backtoschool/

The annual Newcomers and Community Guides for each of our 8 communities with inside facts on what makes each community special, their secret places, the real power players, how to get involved and more.

Including the history, schools, parks, libraries, local people, elected officials, county/city offices, how decisions are made and other vital community information.

THE CONNECTION
Newspapers & Online

Alexandria Gazette Packet

Mount Vernon Gazette

POTOMAC ALMANAC

Publishes:
Sep 29, 2021

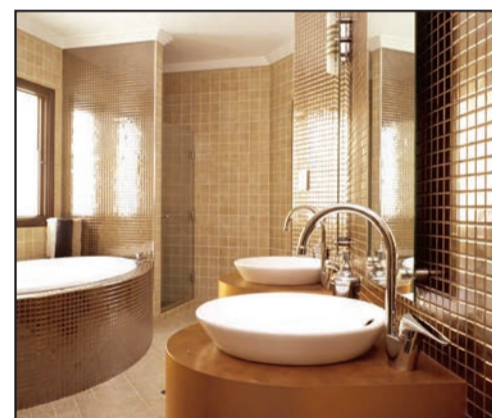
For Advertising: Call 703.778.9431 or Email sales@connectionnewspapers.com

2021-2022 NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

Perfect Advertising Opportunity for:
Hospitals | Healthcare | Wellbeing | New Homes | Realtors | Schools | Malls | Shopping Centers | Professional Services | And Much More

**Same Company, Same Employees,
Same Great Value - Now Celebrating 20 Years!**

TWO POOR TEACHERS Kitchen and Bathroom Remodeling



- Electrical (ELE)
- Gas Fitting (GFC)
- Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVA)
- Plumbing (PLB)
- Residential Building (RBC)

Fully Insured & Class A Licensed
Since 1999



10% down
nothing until the job
is complete for the
past 17 years

Free Estimates 703-999-2928

Check if your contractor is licensed at the state level
<http://www.DPOR.virginia.gov>

Visit our website: www.twopoorteachers.com

ENTERTAINMENT

NOW THRU SEPT. 25

ALEXANDRIA OLD TOWN ART FESTIVAL

19th Annual Alexandria Old Town Art Festival

Saturday, Sept. 18, 2021, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 19, 2021, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Where: 300 John Carlyle St. in Alexandria, VA

Free Admission

<http://www.artfestival.com/festivals/19th-annual-alexandria-old-town-art-festival>

"Stigma" Art Exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery in the Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. The STIGMA exhibit at Del Ray Artisans Gallery features art that shines a light on stigma — how it feels, how it affects lives, and how it can be overcome. Stigma affects many different people in many different ways. These art works include viewpoints on mental health disorders, HIV, homelessness, disabilities, sexual orientation, bullying, race and ethnicity, and more. Open Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays 12-6 p.m. Visit <https://DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits>

THURSDAY/SEPT. 9

Gadsby's Tavern Museum Society Virtual Trivia Night. 7-8:30 p.m. Grab your favorite beverage and settle down for some trivia fun (with prizes) that will test your knowledge of American history, the Presidents, Alexandria, and the American work force throughout the years in honor of Labor Day. You'll learn some fun and interesting facts as we reveal the answers! Tickets are \$20 per household, with all proceeds benefiting Gadsby's Tavern Museum. To register, visit gadsbystavernmuseum.us.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 10

Art on the Rocks. 5 to 8 p.m. At Waterfront Park, 1A Prince Street, Alexandria. Experience the exciting kickoff to Old Town Cocktail Week. Join the Art League in tasting cocktail creations and small bites crafted by competing bartenders from favorite local establishments. Find out who will win Judges' Choice and cast your own vote for the People's Choice award. Admission: \$55 per person. Visit Oldtownbusiness.org

SEPT. 10-12

Stonebridge Artists Tour. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. At three locations: 1234 Shenandoah Road, 2100 Mason Hill Drive and 2219 Martha's Road, Alexandria. The show will feature the work of nine prominent local artists with displays of painting, prints, bronze, ceramics, and photography, all in three relaxed residential settings. Friday time is 5-8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

SEPT. 10-18

By the Seashore. At Leonadus K. Plenty Amphitheater at Lee District Park, 6601 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. This sensory-filled production specifically designed for children ages 0-3 uses an imaginative mix of puppetry, movement, and sound to take children on a magical journey to the beach. Dates:



Old Town Cocktail Week will be held Sept. 10-19 in Alexandria.

Art On the Rocks Returns for Old Town Cocktail Week

The Art League is kicking off Old Town Cocktail Week with the return of Art on the Rocks, a spirited evening featuring fine art, refreshing cocktails, and tasty appetizers. This year's version is alfresco at Waterfront Park (behind the Torpedo Factory in Old Town Alexandria) on Friday, Sept. 10, from 5 to 8 p.m.

Art on the Rocks challenges local mixologists and chefs to create the most artistic cocktail and appetizer pairing, inspired by the artwork of a local Art League artist. Ticket holders get to sample all of the delicious pairings and vote for their favorites during the event. A panel of experts will crown the winners of the most creative cocktail, appetizer, and artwork pairing, and announce the crowd favorite.

Participating restaurants include Chadwicks, The People's Drug, Landini Brothers, Whiskey and Oyster, Bastille Brasserie, and King's Ransom. Beam Santory, the company behind Jim Beam, Courvoisier, Cruzan, and other popular brands, is the Spirit and Tasting Garden sponsor.

Tickets are \$55 and can be purchased here <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/art-on-the-rocks-2021-tickets-142805921355>

Location:

105 North Union Street
The Art League Gallery in Studio 21
(Located in the Torpedo Factory Art Center)
Alexandria, VA 22314

Information:

www.theartleague.org
703-683-1780

Friday, September 10 at 10:30 a.m.
Saturday, September 11 at 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

Sunday, September 12 at 11 a.m.
Thursday, September 16 at 10:30 a.m.
Friday, September 17 at 10:30 a.m.
Saturday, September 18 at 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

Visit the website:
<https://www.artsonthehorizon.org/by-the-seashore-2021.html>

SEPT. 10-19

Old Town Cocktail Week. Guests can celebrate the world of cocktail innovation enjoying special libations at Old Town Alexandria restaurants, bars, and as well as themed events at boutiques, historic sights, and other places. The week will kick off with Art on the Rocks on Friday, September 10, 5-8 p.m. at Waterfront Park, held by The Art League at the Torpedo Factory Art Center. The week will conclude

with a Meet the Makers Tasting Event at Market Square.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 11

Plants & Design: Perk Up Your Fall Garden. 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. (Adult) September is a great time to inject some autumn beauty into your home garden. Green Spring horticulturist Brenda Skarphol discusses dividing perennials, planting cool season plants, and beautifying your garden with fall season show-stoppers so it looks its autumn best. Special emphasis placed on plants for pollinators and other wildlife. \$18 per person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 12

Tall Ship Providence with Captain Gregory's. 1 Cameron St., Alexandria. Sail Times: 12:30 - 2:30

19th Annual Alexandria Old Town Art Festival

Saturday, Sept. 18, 2021, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 19, 2021, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Where: 300 John Carlyle St. in Alexandria, VA

Free Admission

<http://www.artfestival.com/festivals/19th-annual-alexandria-old-town-art-festival>

p.m. and 3 - 5 p.m. Be immersed in the seaside culture and history of rum as we learn the history of a maritime favorite. Guests can come aboard the Tall Ship Providence for tastings and sailing with entertainment by Captain Gregory's. Tall Ship Providence Happy Hour Cruises. Friday evenings throughout the fall, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Admission: \$45 per person. Call 703-772-8483. Visit Tallshipprovidence.org

MONDAY/SEPT. 13

Yoga for Gardeners I. 9:30-10:25 a.m. At Green Spring Gardens, Alexandria. (Adults) This class features a gentle introduction to the Vinyasa method which helps participants increase the strength, flexibility and endurance necessary for gardening. Class held indoors. \$130 for 11 lessons. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code 6E6.Z4N4.

MONDAY/SEPT. 13

Garden Sprouts Fall Nature Playgroup. 10:30 a.m. to noon. At Green Spring Garden, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. This playgroup is for parents and children age 3 to 5. Your preschooler will enjoy nature-themed toys and puzzles, while you meet other playgroup parents. Activities may include games, songs and a garden walk to explore seasonal topics. This program will take place outdoors, weather permitting. The cost is \$10 per person. Call 703-642-5173.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 16

Poetry & Reception. 5-7:30 p.m. At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Gather at Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey to immerse yourselves in the imagined emotions, words, and voices of enslaved ancestors of the former Woodlawn plantation as told through poetry, spoken word, music, and artistic expression. This event will include special readings from the Voices of Woodlawn poets, artwork by Diane Wilbon Parks, music by Cliff Bernier, and written poetry displayed throughout the Woodlawn mansion. Refreshments will be provided. Please register to attend this free event.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 16

Virtual: Love French films and cocktails? 7-8:30 p.m. Virtual event via Zoom. The Alexandria-Caen Sister City Committee invites you to join the online movie discussion to review "Le Chant du Loup" (The Wolf's Call), a 2019 French action thriller about a submarine's sonar officer who must use his brilliant sense of hearing to track down a French ballistic missile submarine and prevent a nuclear war. After the demo of the fun evening cocktail, they will lead a discussion about the story, its characters, and the military context with insights from our members and exchanges

with the audience. The movie is available on Netflix and you must watch the movie before participating in the online discussion.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 16

The Taste of Old Town North. 4-8 p.m. At Montgomery Park, 901 North Royal Street, Alexandria. The Taste of Old Town North is free, kid-friendly, and offers the chance to sample a variety of delicious food from local restaurants including Cafe 44, Grateful Kitchen and St. Elmo's Old Town North. Visitors to the Taste can also shop at the local farmers' market, try their hand at Art in the Park with KidCreate, watch a karate demonstration from Seichou Karate, and picnic in the park. Live music will be provided by two local bands - Sally and the Mander, starting at 5 p.m. and Three Man Soul Machine, starting at 6 p.m. The rain date for the Taste of Old Town North is Thursday, September 30, 2021 beginning at 3:30 p.m. Visit www.oldtown-north.org or call 703-836-8066.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 17

Garden Talk: Landscaping with Shrubs. 1:30-2:30 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, Alexandria. (Adults) Is it time to replace those overgrown and tired-looking shrubs? Fall is the best time to plant new ones. Extension Master Gardeners introduce you to easy-care shrubs that add shape and structure, fragrance, berries, and seasonal color to your landscape. \$12 per person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code HVL.ZX20.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 18

Floral Design Workshop: European Hand-Tied Bouquet. 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, Alexandria. (16-Adult) Hand-tied bouquets are the European standard for flower gift-giving and bridal bouquets. Certified designer Betty Ann Galway shows you the techniques for constructing and balancing this lovely arrangement, which you can use to make floral gifts and bouquets for any occasion. Please register for both program and supply fee. \$40 per person (plus \$30 supply fee). Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code CA0.U5DK.

ALEXANDRIA OLD TOWN ART FESTIVAL

19th Annual Alexandria Old Town Art Festival

Saturday, Sept. 18, 2021, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 19, 2021, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Where: 300 John Carlyle St. in Alexandria, VA

Free Admission

<http://www.artfestival.com/festivals/19th-annual-alexandria-old-town-art-festival>

CLASSIFIED

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

TO ADVERTISE IN THIS PAPER, CALL BY MONDAY 11:00 AM 703-778-9411

Yard Sale

Mason Hill Community multi -Family yard sale Sept 11 from 8 am to 1 PM. Mason Hill is off Fort Hunt Road just north of Sherwood Hall Lane. Look for homes with white or red balloons on Rippon Rd, Mason Hill Dr. and Windmill Ln.

Services

Fairfax Plumbing NV Inc A-Z Plumbing Service.

Drain Cleaning
Gas Piping & More
Family Owned 35 YR Exp.

\$35
coupon

Tel: 703-987-5319

Be a part of our:

Wellbeing pages, the first week of every month.

Delight in our **HomeLifeStyle** sections, the second week of every month. Peek at the top real estate sales, glimpse over-the-top remodeling projects, get practical suggestions for your home.

Celebrate students, camps, schools, enrichment programs, colleges and more in our **A-plus: Education, Learning, Fun** pages, the third week of every month.

Senior Living, fourth week of every month.

Questions?

E-mail sales@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9431

THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS



Let us know about an upcoming event

connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar

Obituary



Irene C. Swiadek, 94 years young, passed away on August 14 with all her family around her. Irene was affectionately known as "Nani", to her family and friends. Irene was born October 2nd, 1926, in Akron, Ohio. She is survived by her four children, Gene Clark (Sandy) of Dardanelle, Arkansas; Troy Clarke of Sierra Madre, California; Marlene Clarke of Alexandria, Virginia; and Nancy Gallentine of Post Falls, Idaho. Irene was preceded in death by her husband, Stanley Swiadek, feline and canine companions, Katrina and Zsa Zsa. Nani will be missed by Quincy, her feline companion, and a litany of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren.

The daughter of European immigrants, Nani's first language was Slovak. Although she was born in Ohio, Nani was raised and spent the first 50 years of her life in Southern California, where she had many great adventures. Living through the Great Depression, Nani entered the workforce during a time when many women were at home, and continued working until retirement at the age of 85. Nani enjoyed traveling the world from Mexico to Vietnam, for fun and for work.

Nani was often mistaken for a woman at least ten years younger; she was a quiet force to be reckoned with. Her condo unit door was always adorned with beautiful wreaths, and opened to her meticulously maintained home. Nani had an open-door policy to her neighbors for delicious holiday meals or just pleasant visits with her friends. She loved her collection of printed flannel pajamas and matching ballet slippers, which was unparalleled. She brought many smiles by her wit, sharpened with over 90 years of refinement.

Nani's favorite color was blue; her favorite candy was See's Chocolate; and favorite past-times included watching golf, football, doing crossword puzzles, dining at the Historical Mount Vernon Estate, and last but not least avidly cheering on the New England Patriots and Tom Brady. She will be missed.

Obituary

TRANSFORM YOUR BATH OR SHOWER IN AS LITTLE AS ONE DAY



CALL NOW

FOR **\$500 Off**
OR
NO PAYMENTS & NO INTEREST FOR 18 MONTHS**

Offer Expires 9.30.2021

*Includes product and labor, bathtub, shower or walk-in tub and wall surround. This promotion cannot be combined with any other offer. Other restrictions may apply. This offer expires Sept. 30, 2021. Each dealership is independently owned and operated. **Third party financing is available for those customers who qualify. See your dealer for details. ©2021 BCI Acrylic, Inc.

BCI BATH & SHOWER Military & Senior Discounts Available
844-945-1631

Leaf Filter
GUTTER PROTECTION

BACKED BY A YEAR-ROUND CLOG-FREE GUARANTEE

EXCLUSIVE LIMITED TIME OFFER!

15% OFF & **10% OFF**
YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE*
+ 5% OFF TO THE FIRST 50 CALLERS ONLY!
SENIORS & MILITARY!
WE INSTALL YEAR-ROUND!

FINANCING THAT FITS YOUR BUDGET!

Promo Code: 285

*Subject to credit approval. Call for details.



CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE

1-877-614-6667

Mon-Thurs: 8am-11pm, Fri-Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: 2pm-8pm EST

*For those who qualify. One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. **Offer valid at time of estimate only. †The leading consumer reporting agency conducted a 16 month outdoor test of gutter guards in 2010 and recognized LeafFilter as the "#1 rated professionally installed gutter guard system in America." Manufactured in Plainwell, Michigan and processed at LMT Mercer Group in Ohio. See Representative for full warranty details. CSL# 1035795 DOP# 10783658-5501 License# 7656 License# 50145 License# 61354 License# 99388 License# 128344 License# 218294 WA UDR# 603 233 977 License# 2102212586 License# 2105212946 License# 22051821533 License# 1EATMWS2217 License# W056912 License# WC-289981417 Nassau HIC License# H01067000 Registration# J25442 Registration# HIC 0649005 Registration# C127229 Registration# C127230 Registration# 365920918 Registration# PC6475 Registration# H0731804 Registration# 13WH09953900 Registration# PA069383 Suffolk HIC License# 52229-H License# 205169445 License# 262000022 License# 262000403 License# 0089590 Registration# H-19114

A Smarter Way to Power Your Home.

GENERAC PWRCELL
SOLAR + BATTERY STORAGE SYSTEM

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!

ACT NOW TO RECEIVE A \$300 SPECIAL OFFER!*

1 (833) 688-1378

*Offer value when purchased at retail. Solar panels sold separately.



GENERAC

Prepare for power outages with a Generac home standby generator

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!
844-947-1479

FREE

7-Year Extended Warranty*

A \$695 Value!

Limited Time Offer - Call for Details

Special Financing Available

Subject to Credit Approval

*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.



Back to School

If your child is entering 7th grade they must have the **Meningitis, HPV, and Tdap** vaccines in order to enroll. Talk to your doctor and vaccinate them now!

VDH VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

vdh.virginia.gov/backtoschool/

Left Wondering If I'm Right

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



I admit, I watch more than my share of television. However, that being admitted, there certainly seems to be an awful lot of campaign-style, public service-type, advertising/announcements on television. From Medicare negotiating drug prices - or denying access to much-needed medication, to building back America by fixing our infrastructure, to creating millions of climate-improving, alternative energy driven "good paying jobs" to the NRA espousing their core values that everyone should carry a gun, and on and on and on. Where it stops, nobody knows.

I can appreciate how important it is for one to get their message out as often as possible, but now the message is not only often, but on multiple channels. And it's not even an election year. However, it is a legislative year and there's still a few months before Christmas recess. Will all the bills presently under consideration, amid the hyper partisan politics affecting pending legislation, allow any bills to ever see the tip of President Biden's pen? Nevertheless, there appears to be no shortage of dollars to promote any and all viewpoints. Now how much of it makes sense is beyond me. But since I don't really have a direct vote, I suppose a phone call will have to suffice. It seems too little too late though. The elected officials have their own agendas, and my voice is really only heard every two years anyway.

But with the Republican Party making it ever more difficult for us average voters (those of us not already in "the Big Tent"), perhaps all these "info-type-mercials" will fall on deaf ears, so to speak, or at least attached to heads attached to bodies finding it ever more difficult to actually vote. Granted, I may not be in the minorities that seem to be particularly targeted, but I am in a minority nonetheless: the percentage of Americans that actually casts a ballot. Often elections are won not by a majority, but by a plurality. If more people voted, perhaps some of us wouldn't be so angry about a regularly disenfranchised minority being further discriminated against. It's not fair, but apparently it's partisan: divide and conquer.

And right now, with all this pointed outreach on television, I feel, as a country, we're going backwards instead of manifesting our destiny going forward. So what if there's diversity? My grandparents were part of that diversity. It's what made all of us big and strong. Obviously it's wrong to restrict access for any segment of the population. America has always been about diversity. That's what's been right about this country ever since George Washington crossed the Delaware and forever changed the fortunes of America. You can't stop a trane (and I don't mean the HVAC company) of thought that is, or change; and certainly you can't stop free speech (except in a movie theatre). It happens naturally and frequently because it's been characteristic of America ever since the Founding Fathers took quill to parchment.

Now, after some of the legislative changes which have occurred, and some others which have been "filibustered" to near death, there's a sense that what's blowing in the wind is not going to make Bob Dylan happy or guarantee my constitutional rights since I may play for the wrong team. I'm not looking to denigrate a percentage of the population, or restrict people's access to life-saving medication or censor all the news that's fit to print. Moreover, I don't want anything inhibiting my ability to find a job, raise my family, get an education or deny other groups similar opportunities. Quite frankly, I wish I could just mind my own business. Unfortunately, that seems short sighted and ill-advised. And besides, there's no "I" in my team.

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

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

CALL 703-549-0004
FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION

ELECTRICAL	ELECTRICAL
K & D ELECTRIC	
COMMERCIAL / RESIDENTIAL SERVICE	
Family Owned & Operated	
Recessed Lighting Ceiling Fans Phone/CATV Computer Network Cabling Service Upgrades Hot Tubs, etc...	Licensed/Bonded/Insured Office 703-335-0654 Mobile 703-499-0522 lektrkman28@gmail.com

LANDSCAPING	LANDSCAPING
Quality Tree Service & Landscaping	
Reasonable prices. Licensed & insured.	
Summer Cleanup...	
	Tree removal, topping & pruning, shrubbery trimming, mulching, leaf removal, planting, hauling, gutter cleaning, retaining walls, drainage problems, etc.
25 years of experience - Free estimates 703-868-5358	
24 Hour Emergency Tree Service	

Landscape Drainage	Landscape Drainage
A JES Services, Inc Company Eco-Friendly Landscape Drainage Experts Drainage, Erosion, Landscaping, Hardscaping, Patios, Retaining Walls & More Your Neighborhood Company since 1987!	
703-772-0500 www.ProDrainage.com VA. Licensed Class A Contractor	

**Sign up for
FREE DIGITAL
SUBSCRIPTION**
to any or all of our 15 papers
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM/SUBSCRIBE

HOME LIFESTYLE

Mud Room Design that Keep Chaos at Bay

Style and function
combine to create
an organized space.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

A mud room is a small space with a big job. It needs to be hearty enough to stand up to items ranging from muddy soccer cleats to overflowing backpacks is no small feat. Local designers share ideas that marry style and function.

"Mudrooms continue to be a popular request when renovating as young families search for ways to organize backpacks, school books, sports equipment, team uniforms, cleats and sneakers," said Stephen Gordon, president of InSite Builders & Remodeling, based in Bethesda, Md. "Traditionally, mud rooms were attached to or an extension of the garage; however, I'm seeing a trend towards placing mud rooms in a wider variety of locations throughout a home — off a kitchen or eating area, at a basement entrance, and even as an addition on the front of a house."

When creating a mud room, assessing your needs is the first step. "A mud room is a great landing zone for everyone's shoes, jackets and backpacks," said Jessica Parker Wachtel, GTM Architects. "A few must-haves include a locker or cubbie for each family member, a dog washing station, and a closet for additional out-of-season jackets. Each member of the family can have their own hooks and baskets for extra storage. Additional elements to consider include durable flooring and lots of baskets."

The purpose of a home's mud room will vary, but organization is the end goal. "For families, mud rooms serve as a great drop zone for everyday items [such as] car keys, purse, wallet, shoes, coats, jackets, dog leashes, kids' sports equipment and backpacks," said Danielle



PHOTO BY JENN VERRIER

Mud rooms serve as a great drop zone for everyday items — car keys, purse, wallet, shoes, coats, jackets, dog leashes, kids' sports equipment and backpacks, advises Danielle Steele, designer for Marks-Woods Construction Services.

"Having a dedicated mud room prevents clutter from happening in other areas of the home."

— Danielle Steele,

Marks-Woods Construction Services

Steele, Lead Designer, Marks-Woods Construction Services, based in Alexandria. "Having a dedicated mud room prevents clutter from happening in other areas of the home."

Function might be the impetus for including a mud room in the design of a home, but elements of style can be just as important.

"[They] are the perfect place for a surprise, whether it's crazy wallpaper, a colorful floor, brightly painted cubbies, or a whimsical light fixture," said Annie Elliott, Annie Elliott Design. "Because mud rooms are separate from the main living area, they don't have to match anything else in the house, and they don't have to stay tidy. They're chaotic spaces by nature so why not have a little fun?"



PHOTOS BY STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG

Mud rooms are the perfect place for a surprise, whether it's crazy wallpaper, a colorful floor, brightly painted cubbies, or a whimsical light fixture says Annie Elliott of Annie Elliott Design.



Mud rooms continue to be popular as young families search for ways to organize backpacks, school books, sports equipment, team uniforms, cleats and sneakers, says Stephen Gordon, InSite Builders & Remodeling.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Jack Taylor's
ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA

WE NEED TRADES!
GET OVER KELLEY BLUE BOOK VALUE FOR YOUR TRADE THIS WEEK!

NEW 2022 TOYOTA COROLLA LE SDN

LEASES STARTING FROM...

\$179 /MO



MODEL# 1852. MSRP \$21,520. LEASE OFFER FOR QUALIFIED LESSEES. BASED ON 36 MONTHS, 10K MILES/YR & \$2999 DUE AT SIGNING. SECURITY DEPOSIT WAIVED. PLUS TAX, TAGS, FREIGHT AND \$789 PROCESSING FEE. FACTORY PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

NEW 2021 TOYOTA CAMRY LE SDN

LEASES STARTING FROM...

\$239 /MO



MODEL# 2532. MSRP \$25,965. LEASE OFFER FOR QUALIFIED LESSEES. BASED ON 36 MONTHS, 10K MILES/YR & \$2999 DUE AT SIGNING. SECURITY DEPOSIT WAIVED. PLUS TAX, TAGS, FREIGHT AND \$789 PROCESSING FEE. FACTORY PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

NEW 2021 TOYOTA VENZA LE

LEASES STARTING FROM...

\$249 /MO



MODEL# 2810. MSRP \$33,645. LEASE OFFER FOR QUALIFIED LESSEES. BASED ON 36 MONTHS, 10K MILES/YR & \$2999 DUE AT SIGNING. SECURITY DEPOSIT WAIVED. PLUS TAX, TAGS, FREIGHT AND \$789 PROCESSING FEE. FACTORY PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

NEW 2021 TOYOTA SIENNA HYBRID LE

LEASES STARTING FROM...

\$319 /MO



MODEL# 5402. MSRP \$35,635. LEASE OFFER FOR QUALIFIED LESSEES. BASED ON 36 MONTHS, 10K MILES/YR & \$2999 DUE AT SIGNING. SECURITY DEPOSIT WAIVED. PLUS TAX, TAGS, FREIGHT AND \$789 PROCESSING FEE. FACTORY PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

**SERVICE & PARTS HOURS:
MON-FRI 6A-7P & SAT 7A-5P**

**BATTERY SPECIAL
FREE**

BATTERY CHECK-UP
INCLUDES: CHECK COLD CRANKING AMPS AND VISUAL INSPECTION OF BATTERY CONDITION. INCLUDES BATTERY CONDITION PRINT OUT.

TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. OFFER ENDS 09/30/21.

**LUBE, OIL & FILTER SPECIAL
\$39.95**

\$44.95 FOR SYNTHETIC OIL CHANGE
INCLUDES: CHANGE OIL (UP TO 5 QTS.), INSTALL GENUINE TOYOTA OIL FILTER, INSPECT & ADJUST ALL FLUID LEVELS AND COMPLIMENTARY MULTI-POINT INSPECTION WITH PRINT OUT.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER ENDS 09/30/21.

**ALIGNMENT SPECIAL
\$89.95**

4-WHEEL ALIGNMENT
INCLUDES: 4-WHEEL ALIGNMENT, INSPECT SUSPENSION, BALL JOINTS, STRUTS & SHOCKS, TIRE CONDITION AND SET TIRE PRESSURE.

TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. OFFER ENDS 09/30/21.

**BRAKE PAD SPECIAL
\$99.95**

BRAKE PAD REPLACEMENT
INCLUDES: INSTALL GENUINE TOYOTA FRONT BRAKE PADS, INSPECT FRONT & REAR ROTORS AND/OR DRUMS, CHECK TIRE CONDITION AND INSPECT ALL HARDWARE. TCMC PADS ONLY. MACHINE ROTORS AN ADDITIONAL \$199.95

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER ENDS 09/30/21.

**TOYOTACARE PLUS
\$329.00
SPECIAL**

MAINTAIN PEACE OF MIND BY EXTENDING YOUR TOYOTACARE COMPLEMENTARY MAINTENANCE PLAN TO 4 YEARS/45,000 MILES!

TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. OFFER ENDS 09/30/21.

**SERVICE VARIABLE DISCOUNT
THE MORE YOU SPEND, THE MORE YOU SAVE!**

\$10 OFF... WHEN YOU SPEND \$50-\$99
\$15 OFF... WHEN YOU SPEND \$100-\$199
\$20 OFF... WHEN YOU SPEND \$200-\$499
\$50 OFF... WHEN YOU SPEND \$500+

TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. OFFER ENDS 09/30/21.



Toyota's
President's Award
34 years in a row!

Se habla español

Jack Taylor's
ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA

3750 Richmond Hwy • Alexandria
703-684-0700
AlexandriaToyota.com



CHRIS WHITE

FAMILY REAL ESTATE
OF LONG & FOSTER

Leading the Area in Real Estate **SOLD!!!!**

83 homes sold so far in 2021!



1707 Hollindale Dr
\$1,398,500



3404 Ramsgate Terr
\$599,950



6402 14th St
\$695,000



4303 Granada St
\$658,000



9315 Ludgate Dr
\$1,399,500



9435 Mount Vernon Circle
\$1,195,000



8802 Menard Ct
\$572,500



4413 Neptune Dr
\$825,000



655 S. Columbus St
\$649,500



8608 Mount Vernon Hwy
\$775,000



4605 W. Marcia Ct
\$589,000



1613 Belle Haven Rd
\$837,500



8402 Wagon Wheel Rd
\$649,000



9201 Cherrytree Dr
\$775,000



4329 Tarpon Ln
\$720,000



4816 Stilwell Ave
\$744,900

LONG & FOSTER
REAL ESTATE

CHRISTIE'S
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE

703.283.9028

www.chrisandpeggywhite.com

chris.white@longandfoster.com

Alexandria/Old Town Historic - 400 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

BEST WASHINGTONIAN 2020

BEST BEST BEST BEST
WASHINGTONIAN WASHINGTONIAN WASHINGTONIAN WASHINGTONIAN
2016 2017 2018 2019