Mount Pernon Gazette

Mount Vernon's Hometown Newspaper • A Connection Newspaper

June 15. 2023



The apartments at North Hill will be affordable for households with income between 30-60% of the area median.



The wall to hold back the marine clay was a big part of the project.

Ribbon Cut on Affordable Apartments

North Hill is part of Storck's Embark Richmond Highway vision.

By Mike Salmon The Gazette

n Wednesday, June 14, the ribbon was finally cut on the new Residences at North Hill housing development in Hybla Valley and the new community is a big plus to an area inundated with apartments, fast food and quick shop retail that once characterized this part of Mount Vernon.

Everyone at the June 14 ribbon cutting admitted that this moment was a long process. The project started in 1981 when former Mount Vernon Supervisor Gerry Hyland was involved, and that piece of land was purchased for \$5 million. "It was a long, long road to make this happen," said Hyland, one of the speakers at the event. He noted the people in the surrounding community that came together over the years as did Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon).

"We are a community that cares deeply," Storck said. "We have invested in the future of our families right here." The pricetag was \$113 million, Storck said, and the funding drew on 14 sources to come up with the money.

"Fourteen has to be a record," said Fairfax County Chairman Jeff McKay.

McKay grew up in the same area along Richmond Highway and knows the area well. It was once home to the Nightingale Trailer Park, Shakey's Pizza and the Fancy Dancer nightclub. McKay noted that this type of housing is needed not only in Mount Vernon, but other places as well.

"We need affordable housing in every corner of the county," he said.

One thing in the way of the development, a geological trait they call marine clay that has been cited in many projects throughout Mount Vernon. At North Hill, there is a big



Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck at the ribbon cutting ceremony for North Hill.

wall to hold back the clay, which Patrick Stewart at Penrose LLC knew all about. "It's extremely challenging to build on," he said, pointing over at the huge wall they constructed to hold back the land on the north end of North Hill.

Pennrose partnered with the Community Housing Partners, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority (FCRHA), and project partners to complete the Residences at North Hill, the affordable multifamily rental component of the large-scale revitalization transforming 34 underutilized acres off Richmond Highway.

The brand new community adds 279 high-quality, affordable apartments for families and seniors to this site, which also includes a 12+ acre public park and 175 forsale townhomes, project information said.

All 279 units at Residences at North Hill will be affordable for people at 30% to 60% of the area median income (AMI), rough-

ly \$29,900 to \$59,820 for a one-person household, the county information said. The community includes a mix of one-, two-, and three-bedroom apartments across five, four-story garden-style buildings.

Residents will have access to a host of on-site community amenities, including a community room, fitness center, recreational plaza, playground, landscaped grounds, on-site management services, and the public park. The community is located near shopping, dining, and entertainment, and within a mile of services and amenities, including banks, pharmacies, grocery stores, and health services.

Embarking on Embark

This is an improvement to an area formerly home to the Nightingale Trailer Park in the 1970s and 1980s, and many commercial properties that abut the high-speed traffic on Richmond Highway. The speed limit has been reduced in recent weeks for safety, and



Fairfax County Chairman Jeff McKay talks about the needs of this area.

there have been other improvements under the umbrella of the Embark Richmond Highway project to improve the whole corridor.

North Hill site is a piece of the Embark puzzle that is coming together for a multi-faceted project promoting revitalization along a 7.5 mile segment of the Richmond Highway Corridor. This revitalization is highlighted by a series of mixed-use activity centers supported by a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system. Other features of Embark include pedestrian and bicycle improvements, open space and park systems, and ultimately a three-mile extension of the Metrorail Yellow Line from Huntington to Hybla Valley, according to the plan description.

The segment for this area where the park will be located is labeled "Lockheed Boulevard." The other eight segments are the Huntington, Penn Daw, Beacon Hill, Hybla Valley, Gum Springs, South County Center, Woodlawn and Fort Belvoir. One of the five guidelines for urban design in the Embark plan is to cluster housing around transportation nodes like the future Lockheed Boulevard BRT station.

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Potomac Yard | \$1,199,000

This 4-level, 3-bedroom, 4.5-bath townhouse is the perfect blend of space and comfort. The open floorplan seamlessly connects the living area with the kitchen and dining area, making it perfect for entertaining guests. 1426 Van Valkenburgh Lane

Darlene Duffett 703.969.9015 www.DarleneDuffetRealEstate.com



Holland Court | \$965,000

This 4-bedroom home offers high ceilings and tall windows in the main level living room, dining room, and family room, featuring a handsome floor-to-ceiling stone fireplace. Located on a 13,000-SF cul-de-sac lot with extensive landscaping. 2800 Holland Court

Betsy Twigg 703.967.4391 www.BetsyTwigg.com



Waynewood | \$830,000

This spacious 4-bedroom, 2.5-bath home offers ample living and entertaining areas. The brand new kitchen & full bath on the main floor exude modern elegance. Outside, the property boasts a huge backyard, brick patio, and screened-in porch. 8606 Cyrus Place

Kate Bertles Hennigan 202.321.3427 www.KateBertlesHennigan.com



Carlyle Square | \$735,000

Stunning modern 2-bedroom, 2-bath, 2-level condo. Features 2 entrances (including a private entrance with patio), wood floors, soaring ceilings, built-ins, & tons of upgrades. 1 garage parking space and storage. 520 John Carlyle Street #116

Wendy Santantonio 703.625.8802 www.WendySantantonio.com



Bucknell Manor | \$645,000

www.EnjoyLivingHere.com

Fully renovated 3-bedroom, 2-bath home. Recent updates include new HVAC, exterior sewer line, and landscaping added. Renovated kitchen with stainless appliances, quartz counters, & white shaker cabinets, New electrical panel & so much more! 6511 Cavalier Dr Melissa Rosario 919.518.7288



River Towers | \$260,000

With 2 generously-sized bedrooms, 1.5 baths, and an updated kitchen, this corner condo is warm and inviting. Check out the pool next door or gaze out onto the beautifully landscaped property from any of the oversized windows. 6631 Wakefield Drive #308

Kate Bertles Hennigan 202.321.3427 www.KateBertlesHennigan.com

OPEN SUN 6/18, 2-4PM



Old Town \$1,175,000

Beautiful 2 bedroom, 2 full and 1 half bath row home near the end of a dead end block. Stone front with covered porch and front and back patios. Open plan with charming living room; stunning, open kitchen; and large, sunwashed family room addition. 929 S Saint Asaph Street

Sarah Bobbin 571.225.8716 www.929SouthSaintAsaph.com

OPEN SAT 6/17 & SUN 6/18, 2-4PM



Old Town \$1,025,000

Built in 1890, this endunit brick townhouse is two blocks from the Potomac River & King St. The main floor offers living room with fireplace, built-ins and is open to the dining room for fabulous entertaining. The kitchen overlooks the darling private patio. 305 Duke Street

Rebecca McCullough 571.384.0941 www.RebeccaMcCullough.com

OPEN SAT 6/17 & SUN 6/18, 2-4PM



River Farms \$554,000

Beautifully updated
4-bedroom, 3.5-bath,
brick townhome. Almost
everything in this home
has been updated and
refreshed! Fresh paint,
new flooring, new
carpet, all new lighting,
& updated bathrooms
make this home sparkle.
Even the attic insulation
and roof are new. 8241
Cedar Landing Court

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International Food



Nearby residents praise the authenticity at Pollo Campero.

Dining in Hybla Valley: Diverse and Delicious

Part two of a three-part series on the restaurant variety on Richmond Highway in Mount Vernon.

> By Mike Salmon The Gazette

n the Fordson Place shopping plaza on Richmond Highway, lots of people in the surrounding neighborhoods flock to the Pollo Campero for foods that are served just like they get in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

"All they do is chicken," said Kevin Villanueva. "It's like it was back in our home country," he added.

A block away, a resident walked out of Best Pollo Latino with a bag full of their food for Sunday brunch. "This is good," he said, "I came with the family," he added as he headed to the car.

Pollo means chicken in Spanish and Italian, and the original Pollo Campero dates back to 1971 in Guatemala. It's seasoned with a little zest they say. There are quite a few fast food and sit-down places in Hybla Valley that serve pollo but the international cuisine varieties on Richmond Highway brings in all kinds of tastes.

The main shopping plaza offers Chinese, Mexican, Asian and Italian as well as burgers, pizza, wings and subs. Something for www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

everyone in this multicultural area.

A newcomer to the scene, Shah's Halal Food is more of a carry-out because there is no dining area. "Halal," is an Islamic term for permissible, especially food and meat in particular, associated with quality. Halal certified meat means the animal was slaughtered according to Islamic guidelines. Shah's owner Nadir Harooni is proud of the fact that when it comes to the halal side of the business, "We are certified." He points to the certificate on the wall from Halal Food Council of USA. Restaurant opened in March and the chicken over rice is their most pop-

Up the street a restaurant called Della J's that specializes in soul food, said manager Katrena Robinson. They pack them in on Sunday for brunch too. "The catfish was excellent," said one diner, but the shrimp and grits is their number one favorite, said Robinson. They cook in a "scratch kitchen," which means everything is fresh, she said.

Della J's Delectables opened a few years ago and brought some family recipes to the table. Their dishes include catfish, fried green tomatoes and homemade peach cobbler. "Southern home cooking, simply fresh," says their menu.

Next week, the Gazette goes into Huntington and more ethnic diverse foods.



Halal-certified at Shah's.



Nadir Harooni at Shah's



The shrimp and grits are popular at



Della J's fudge brownie sundae.

News



A passenger on the station platform of the newly opened Potomac Yard Metro station.



Stewart Schwartz took the June 6 group to the station's deck. The building under construc-

tion is the first of three planned for the new Virginia Tech campus.

The new Potomac Yard Metro station's north entrance

The New Potomac Yard Metro Station

Smart and special

By Glenda Booth Gazette

t's smart and it's special, stressed Stewart Schwartz, leading a walking tour of the new Potomac Yard-VT Metro subway station on June 6. Schwartz is the Coalition for Smart Growth's Executive Director.

The station, which opened on May 19, is the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's 98th and on the blue and yellow line in Alexandria between the Braddock Road and Reagan National Airport stations. Decades in the making, it was initiated by Alexandria and funded through tax revenue, developer contributions, federal and state grants, loans and regional sources.

It's Smar

"The Coalition for Smarter Growth advocates passionately for projects like Potomac Yard because they create sustainable, livable urban communities with dedicated affordable housing close to jobs and opportunity," said Bill Pugh, Senior Policy Fellow. He added, "This station improves travel options and will reduce miles of driving and greenhouse gas emissions compared to development in sprawling outer suburbs. The Potomac Yard 4 MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE JUNE 15-21, 2023

station and mixed-use community will show how well-planned urban infill can foster vibrant communities and reduce climate emissions, while being sensitive to existing neighborhoods and our treasured parks and historic resources like the George Washington Memorial Parkway."

"The Coalition for Smarter Growth advocates passionately for projects like Potomac Yard because they create sustainable, livable urban communities with dedicated affordable housing close to jobs and opportunity."

— Bill Pugh

The station has no commuter or Kiss and Ride parking, but has nearby DASH and Metroway bus stops, sidewalks, the Potomac Yard trail, bike parking and Capital Bikeshare. It will serve a burgeoning housing and commercial area.

Metro officials say that sustainability was a design focus and expect it to become one of the first rail stations in North America to receive Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) silver certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.

To receive this designation, the surroundings must promote walkability and sustainable transportation. Managers must divert construction waste from landfills to recycling or reuse and manage stormwater runoff "to help preserve local wetlands," says the WMATA website. They must use water-saving native plants and technology. State-of-the-art escalators, lighting, heating and air technologies should yield "reduced energy usage and carbon footprint."

Virginia Tech is building its innovation

campus just north of the station, today a rising edifice resembling a cruise ship. With the airport a stone's throw away, the building's design and shape are the maximum height and shape allowed by the Federal Aviation Administration to preserve flight sightlines, David Baker, Director of Operations explained to attendees.

Photos by Glenda Booth

Planned for a fall 2024 opening, the university will offer graduate level degrees in computer science and engineering and business administration, serving 1,000 full-time students a year plus researchers by 2028. The Potomac Yard station was a major draw, said Baker.

It's Special

Few rushing passengers pause to take in views, but the station has an observation deck offering expansive views looking north. "It's one of the fun things" about the station, Schwartz told the group.

See Potomac Yard, Page 10 www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Arrest in Attempted Rape and Abduction

etectives from our Major Crimes Bureau are investigating an attempted rape and abduction of a female victim near a bus stop near Richmond Highway and Ladson Lane.

At 1:50 p.m. yesterday, officers responded to the 7900 block of Audubon Avenue for a sexual assault. An unknown suspect assaulted the victim and attempted to rape her near a bus stop near Richmond Highway and Ladson Lane. The victim was able to fight the suspect off and run away. The suspect ran toward Richmond Highway and was not located initially.

Detectives determined the suspect walked in the street past a pole mounted FCPD license plate reader. The close proximity which the suspect was walking in the road past the camera caused the camera to take a picture. As officers and detectives established the timeline of events a search was conducted for the images captured by the license plate reader. An image of the suspect was captured, and officers recognized the suspect as a 36-year-old Alexandria man.

Around 8:30 p.m., officers from the Mount Vernon District located and arrested the suspect without incident nearby. He was charged with attempted rape and abduction and is being held with no bond.

Detectives are asking anyone with information regarding this incident to call the Major Crimes Bureau at 703-246-7800, option 3

VIDOT VIDIOT DE L'ADROCT MODE

Public Notice

Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

In accord with state and federal law, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has imposed new or changed existing weight restrictions and installed new signage indicating the updated weight restrictions on the following bridges and culverts (structures) in Virginia within the last 30 days.

Jurisdiction	Fed Struc Id	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Posted Date
SCOTT	16692	622	SINKS RD	COX BRANCH	5/30/2023
CARROLL	4780	881	CROSS CREEK RD/RTE 881	LITTLE REED ISLAND CR #2	5/30/2023
SCOTT	16725	632	POSSUM CREEK RD	BRANCH	5/8/2023
SCOTT	16929	859	ROBERTS CREEK RD	BRANCH	5/8/2023
SCOTT	16698	623	SPEERS VALLEY RD	N FORK CLINCH RIVER	5/3/2023
ALBEMARLE	746	680	BROWNS GAP TURNPIKE	LICKINGHOLE CREEK	5/2/2023
CARROLL	4683	679	WARDS GAP RD/RTE 679	JOHNSONS CREEK	5/2/2023
CAROLINE	24142	207	WBL BOW. GREEN BYP	RTE. 301 (2)	5/1/2023

The list above is not a comprehensive list of all structures with weight restrictions in the Commonwealth, but shows only structures that have new or changed weight restrictions within the last 30 days. The list contains only basic structure identification and location information and the date the new or changed weight restriction and signage became effective.

For a full listing of all bridge and culvert weight restrictions with detailed information about specific structures, including location data and actual weight limits, visit https://www.virginiadot.org and navigate to Info Center/Trucking Resources. This page references a posted structures report and a GIS map tool that contain detailed information about restricted structures in Virginia. To receive email notifications regarding new or updated weight restrictions for structures statewide, complete the sign-up form on the web page.

Notices regarding bridges and culverts with new or updated weight restrictions are published monthly by VDOT. For additional information or questions, please contact haulingpermits@vdot.virginia.gov.

The Virginia Department of Transportation is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any of its programs or activities on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on VDOT's Title VI Program or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Program Specialist at 804-786-2730.



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OPINION

Summer Brings Happy Adventures

By Supervisor Dan Storck Mount Vernon District

s I sit at my desk on this beautiful summer afternoon, I am reminded of long, hot summer days, breezy evenings under the stars and kids splashing in pools – ah, the lazy days of summer! I hope as you begin your summer adventures, you consider the many natural, historic, cultural and entertainment sites in the Mount Vernon District.

This is a great time to visit a new park, kayak on the river, hike a forest trail or attend an outdoor concert. We have a plethora of parks in our area, ranging from parks that feature playgrounds and pools at MLK Jr. Park to waterfront and hiking parks like Mason Neck State Park. Check out our parks page to learn how to visit. https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon/mount-vernon-district-parks-trails

The County's FREE Mount Vernon Nights Concert Series features local entertainers and a wide array of musical styles at 7:30 p.m. on Fridays at Grist Mill Park and Saturdays at the Workhouse Arts Center. The National Park Service also offers free concerts at Fort Hunt Park on Sundays throughout the summer. The Workhouse continues its Saturday Community Markets and our Farmers Markets are open at the Sherwood Regional Library and Lorton VRE on Wednesdays and Sundays, respectively.

A visit to our many historic, cultural and arts sites is a wonderful way to spend a summer day or week – think staycation Mount Vernon. Everyone knows you can visit George and Martha, but what about hidden forts, sustainable farming at Arcadia, the Gum Springs Museum and Historical Society, a Frank Lloyd Wright House, the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial, a local brewery and so much more.

My efforts to connect our many visitor experience sites has led to the creation of Potomac Banks – Explore Fairfax South and an accompanying Savings Pass. Visit our Potomac Banks website to learn more about the many locations and how you can save by visiting. https://www.fxva.com/southcounty/

Looking for something more adventuresome? Check out the multitude of mountain biking trails in Lorton, the Cross County Trail and the

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



FireWorks 2023, 6-10 p.m., Workhouse Quad. For tickets see https://www.workhousearts.org/calendar/fireworks



Mount Vernon Nights Concert Series, free, at 7:30 p.m. on Saturdays at the Workhouse Arts Center. Also on Friday evenings at Grist Mill Park.

Mount Vernon Trail, to name a few. Golf, frisbee golf, miniature golf, boating, camping, hiking, playgrounds and the Pirates Cove Waterpark can all be found at Pohick Bay Park.

The Workhouse Arts Center features one of the best Fireworks displays in the area on July 1. Visit the new National Museum of the U.S. Army to experience the life-size, engaging, hitech and interactive narrative of the history of our U.S. Army.

Amid the excitement of your busy summer, I hope you will take time to vote in the Democratic primary election. Early voting is open at the Mount Vernon Governmental Center and the Lorton Community Center until Saturday, June 17 and the primary is on Tuesday, June 20 at your local voting precinct. All registered voters are encouraged to vote in this important election for the Fairfax County Board

Chair, Mount Vernon District Supervisor, state representatives and Commonwealth's Attorney. This election is only a primary for Democratic Party candidates because the Fairfax County Republican Party committee chose to select its candidates by other means. In Virginia, political parties decide how they nominate their candidates, including using caucuses, mass meetings, primary elections and other methods. https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/upcoming

I encourage you to take time this summer to visit the many area attractions we have right here in our neighborhoods, to bask in the wind and the sun, feel the peace and tranquility of a day on the water, listening to music, exploring history or the comradery of enjoying a great meal at a local restaurant. I know I will be and hope to see you there!

'Feeling Less and Less Safe in My Own School'

To the editor:

My name is Eli Kopp and I am a Jewish student at West Potomac High School. On June 6, our spirit rock was spray painted with antisemitic and homophobic language. The rock had been previously painted in honor of Jewish heritage and AAPI month before it was defaced. Today, at graduation, hundreds of students and their families walked by the vandalized rock on their way to claim their diplomas.

Next year, I will be the president of the Jewish Americans Club at WI 6 MOUNT VERNON CAZETTE JUNE 15-21. 2023

West Potomac. I hope that the club can provide a safe space for Jews to talk about their culture as well as their experiences with antisemitism, and what we can do to make a difference in the community.

As stated in West Potomac's beliefs on their webpage "An atmosphere of mutual respect, open communication, and trust will extend across all West Potomac stakeholders". In the past and especially now, I am feeling less and less safe in my own school.

Antisemetic hate crimes like the one last night have been occurring since the first Jew, but I hope that this event can shed light on a problem that I face every day.

Eli Kopp WPHS, 16, 10th grade

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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.

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A Connection Newspaper



Club at WPHS, 16, 10th grade http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe/ www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



Congratulates the Class of 2023!



Photo courtesy of Musa Visual Media

Back Row L-R: Zackary Foster, Cooper Kalan, Christopher Duffield, Liz Joyner, Olivia Barr, Emma Jones, Sydney Hartman, Andreas Askjaer-Thomas, Henry Wegner, Charlie Konrad

Second Row L-R: Lia Noriega, Ellory Gray, Zoe Schlise, Eliza Spivey, Abby Stump, Londyn Tucker, Reagan Lady, Lucy Kidd, Sabrina Dunton, Wallie Komnik Front Row L-R: Brenden Mahoney, Chloe Campbell, Kathryn Easton, Kaia Corens, Ambika Varma, Amirah Jackson, Maddy Campbell, Mary Caroline Ingols, Abigail Hailu, Bennett Goeas

Members of the Class of 2023 have been offered admission to and/or will be attending the following high schools:

Alexandria City High School STEM Academy, Asheville School (NC), Bishop Ireton High School, Bishop McNamara High School, Bishop O'Connell High School, The Calverton School, Commonwealth Academy, Edmund Burke School, Episcopal High School, The Field School, Flint Hill School, Gonzaga College High School, The Hotchkiss School (CT), The Howard Gardner School, McCallie School (TN), McLean High School, Middlesex School (MA), National Cathedral School, The Potomac School, St. John's College High School, and St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School

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Environment



Monarch butterflies are well know to prefer laying their eggs on the underside of Milkweed leaves to provide their hungry caterpillars nutrition for their growth through several stages into the orange and black beauties of their adult stage



Purple Coneflowers (Echinacea purpurea), a popular Eastern wildflower, attracts a variety of insects, including bees and butterflies



Common Buckeye (Junonia coenia) butterflies visit Coreopsis and other wildflowers between

Welcome Pollinators to Improve the Environment

Native plants are your garden's welcome mat.

BY SUSAN LAUME THE GAZETTE

he month of June is National Pollinator Month. The recognition encourages people to protect pollinators by providing them with the right environment for plant pollination and avoiding the use of pesticides. Protecting pollinators provides for the steady production of food resources for humans and many other creatures. Originally established by the U.S. Senate in 2007 as National Pollinator Week, June 19-25, the recognition has expanded to include the full month of June.

Over the centuries, specific pollinators developed a special relationship with the plants they pollinate. Since local plants and insects evolved together, native plants are essential for hosting the egg laying and larval stages critical to insect life cycles, and their flowers provide food in an abundance of pollen and nectar for adult butterflies, moths, bees and other insects. Nectar provides carbohydrates for energy, and pollen provides protein and other nutrients.

This year, Pollinator Partnership is emphasizing the connections between climate and pollinators. It is their mission to promote the health of pollinators through conservation, education, and research. The organization warns, "Pollinators are dying because their food and homes are disappearing, diseases have increased, and rising temperatures and natural disasters are affecting their ability to survive — all of which are related to cli-8 * Mount Vernon Gazette * June 15-21, 2023



Pollinator Week is designated as part of June Pollinator Month as an annual recognition of the importance of pollinators to food production

mate change. At the same time, the conservation of pollinators and their habitats can help combat climate change by supporting healthy ecosystems, air, soil, water, and plants. Combined, these results make planet earth a safer place for us to live."

Did you know, bees are attracted to bright white, yellow, blue, or ultraviolet colors; while beetles are attracted to dull white or green?

What's the best way to attract bees, butterflies, and other pollinators to your garden? Grow native flowering plants. Plant in the sun since adult butterflies generally feed only in the sun. Plant in groups to attract more pollinators. There are many plants native to Virginia to choose from when deciding what to grow. You might choose a familiar native species of Asters, Beebalm, Black-eyed Susans, Butterfly Weed, Core-

Tips for attracting pollinators to your garden: Use a wide variety of plants that bloom from early spring into late fall

- Avoid modern hybrid flowers, especially those with "doubled" flowers
- ❖ Avoid the use of pesticides
- Include larval host plants in your landscape
- Create a damp salt lick for butterflies and bees
- Spare a dead limb or build a bee condo
- * Add to nectar resources by providing a hummingbird feeder
- * Butterflies need resources other than nectar, such as overripe fruit.

For more information, https://www.fs.usda.gov/wildflowers/pollinators/documentsAttractingPollinatorsEasternUS_V1.pdf

More on Northern Virginia Native Plants https://www.plantnovanatives.org/



A variety of bee species are drawn to native Common Milkweed (Asciepias syriaca) flowers, from large Bumblebees to tiny Sweat bees, creating a busy frenzy of nectar seeking flight in a flowerbed

opsis, Milkweed, Purple Cone Flowers, Ragwort, Sundrops, or others. Find a planting guide by region, by entering your Zip Code at https://www.pollinator.org/guides.



Growing native plants in your garden brings butterflies and moths to your space to assure their caterpillars have needed food, such as this Virginian Tiger Moth (Spilosoma virginia) caterpillar, held by Lauren Struble, Alexandria

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Prioritizing Preservation

Northern Virginia Conservation Trust gala at Meadowlark.

By Glenda C. Booth The Gazette

he few celebrants who ventured onto the Meadowlark Botanical Gardens outdoor deck gazed at the hazy sky and gauzy sun in the early evening of June 8, a Code Purple day, according to the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG). Code Purple is a measure of air quality conditions and represents "very unhealthy levels for everyone, for fine particle pollution due to ongoing smoke from fires in Canada," said COG's alert.

Inside the atrium, the spirit was far from gray, as a crowd of 225 celebrated the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust's work to "save nearby nature" through conservation easements, land purchases, proffers and other methods. NVCT has conserved over 9,000 acres in the region, Alan Rowsome, Executive Director, told the gathering and adds six to eight properties each year.

Urging attendees to "enjoy biophilia in the comfort of air conditioning," Board member Shruti Kuppa, explained that a donor had offered a \$30,000 matching challenge to support three or four new nature preserves. A silent auction offered weekend getaways, art, custom clothing, fishing trips, golf excursions and more. Donors met the matching goal.

NVCT awarded the annual Richard Bliss Award to Nancy Hyde, a long-time board member who devoted 18 years to the organization and shepherded NVCT through its accreditation process. The Peggy Stevens award went to Joe and Laura Braceland, owners of Oak Hill in Annandale. Richard Fitzhugh built the house around 1790 in a late Georgian style and 1940s owners renovated it in the Colonial Revival style. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeff McKay said that the Code Purple alert is "a fitting reminder that the climate crisis takes all hands on deck." He commended NVCT's work to preserve River Farm, headquarters of the American Horticultural Society, in Mount Vernon district.

Del. Vivian Watts cited her work on the House of Delegates' Finance Committee to preserve the land conservation tax credit.

Del. Marcus Simon said that in the verdant Meadowlark park the air seemed clearer than in the Tysons Corner area where there are few trees, emphasizing the positive effects of "trees and green space on the air that we breathe."

Former House of Delegates Speaker Eileen Filler-Corn applauded the Northern Virginians' many outdoor options and touted the 2020 Clean Economy Act, enacted by the General Assembly and former Governor Ralph Northam, a bill that "created a path to carbon neutrality."

Mount Vernonite Christopher Morgan attended because, he said, "We need to ensure that everyone in the next generation has access to clean air, clean water and open park space." Morgan is an independent candidate for the Mount Vernon Board of Supervisors www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



The attendees enjoyed drinks, appetizers, awards and camaraderie.



Some attendees tried the outdoor deck, despite the Code Purple air alert.



Attorney and awardee Nancy Hyde



Former House of Delegates Speaker Eileen Filler-Corn



Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chair Jeff McKay

seat

Vienna resident Janet Peace was there because she wants to address climate change.

Mount Vernon residents Paul Siegel and Betsy Martin gave awards to three NVCT staffers – Alyssa Hemler, Rentz Hilyer and Amelia Wilt. Siegel and Martin, founders of the Friends of Little Hunting Creek, previously received a NVCT award for a conservation easement to protect property in a



NVCT Executive Director Alan Rowsome, Betsy Martin and Delegate Vivian Watts

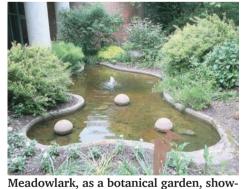


Prince William County House of Delegates member Briana Sewell attended, along with other elected officials,

natural state along the creek.

Although the event's theme was "An Evening in the Garden," given the Code Purple air, it turned out to be mostly an evening inside the glassy atrium amid many indoor plants. Guitarist Will Morales lifted spirits with tunes like the Carter Family's "Wildwood Flower," one line of which is "with roses so red and the lilies so fair."

The Northern Virginia Conservation Trust was founded in 1994 to "add to and sustain abundant, thriving natural places in our Vir-



cases many plants indoors and outdoors

ginia communities" and to conserve "land that has natural, historical and cultural value," states the website. The trust works in multiple jurisdictions, including the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church and Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, Fauquier, Stafford and Prince William Counties.

The Virginia United Land Trusts, which has 18 regional land trusts and eight that work statewide, reports that 80 percent of Virginia's land is privately owned.

Visit www.nvct.org and https://vaunited-landtrusts.org/.

News



The new Potomac Yard Metro station's south entrance



A sign welcomes riders.

The New Potomac Yard Metro Station

From Page 4

The otherwise steel-glass-concrete structure has artwork brightening up the two entrances, art that recognizes the station's Virginia roots and the nation's capital. The south pavilion features a representation of Virginia blue bells; on the north pavilion, cherry blossoms, both created by artist Rob Lev.

The design is intended to provide views that connect people to the natural environment. On the east side, riders can view a National Park Service wooded and wetland strip between the railroad tracks and the George Washington Memorial Parkway.

The station has public restrooms. Many Metro stations do not.

Some Locals Welcome It

Mount Vernonite Dave Wilson finds the station convenient for having after-work dinners and coordinating his doggie day care nearby. Another Mount Vernon resident, Amy Tryon, says, "It's inspiring to see the brand new station. I'm glad to see Metro offering public transit to more people." Kaiser Permanente patients welcome the convenience of going to appointments nearby without driving.

Not Without Controversy

The station site generated controversy during the permitting phase when local conservationists and others expressed concerns about adverse wetland impacts on National Park Service land. The 2019 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit to the city authorizes 3.5 acres of temporary and permanent impacts to wetlands. "Mitigation for the impacts would be accomplished by purchasing credits from the Buena Vista Wetland Mitigation Bank or an approved bank," the permit states. It requires that some disturbed areas be "returned to preconstruction contours and replanted."

Basics

The station has two entrances: the north at 3201 University Drive and the south at 3001 Potomac Avenue, both connected to the station by a covered walkway.

Potomac Yard Constructors, a joint venture of Halmar International and Schiavone Construction Company, built the station at a cost of \$370 million. It sits on the former Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac railyard.

At the opening, local officials said it would generate billions in new private sector in-



An aboveground covered walkway connects the two entrances/exits of the new Potomac Yard Metro station.

vestment and support 26,000 new jobs. Alexandria Mayor Justin Wilson told reporters it will bring up to \$2 million in new tax revenue to the city over 30 years, and 13,000 new residents.

U.S. Representative Don Beyer (VA-8) commented, "The completion of the Poto-

mac Yard Metro Station is great news for the fastest growing area of Alexandria and will provide substantial benefits to Northern Virginia It took a determined effort to get here, and I commend the construction team, the involvement of residents, and the local, state and federal leaders who made this a reality."



Workers are now putting in plants and trees. The DASH bus has a stop nearby.



Rob Ley's cherry blossoms inside the north entrance of the new Potomac Yard Metro station.

NoVa Air Quality Index Reaches 'Hazardous' Levels

Just because you don't smell smoke doesn't mean the air is ok.

By Annika Duneja Gazette

orthern Virginia reached unhealthy to hazardous levels of air pollution last week as a result of wildfires occurring in Eastern Canada. An air pollution event like this one is very rare, with Virginia Department of Health Quality meteorologist Daniel Salkovitz saying he had not seen air quality levels that bad in nearly 20 years.

According to Director of the Air and Radiation Division of EPA Region 3 Cristina Fernandez, over 2,000 wildfires are burning throughout Eastern Canada, with some of the most severe ones in the Quebec region. Though Canada does have a regular wildfire season, the fires at this time of the year are more out of control than others, she said. Salkvotiz said the weather pattern at the time caused winds to blow from north to south, moving the smoke from the fires down along the east coast of the United States.

The smoke caused a haze over the sky along much of the East Coast, including northern Virginia. However, the main cause for concern was that the smoke contained PM2.5, or particulate matter the size of 2.5 microns. Jenna Krall, an assistant professor at George Mason University's Department of Global and Community Health, said the particle size is what made it particularly dangerous for people to inhale.

"They can travel deeper into the body," she said. "You think about larger particles, which are going to be the ones that make you sneeze or you cough up, but these particles will bypass those natural defenses and travel deep into the lungs."

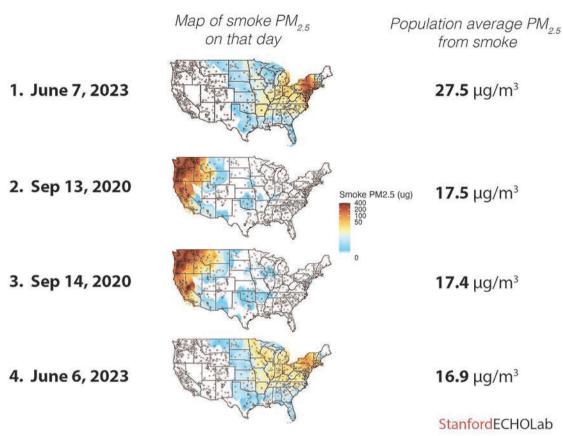
Inhaling the particles is particularly harmful for people with cardiovascular issues and asthma, but at the levels seen in Northern Virginia last Wednesday and Thursday, they can be harmful for anyone. Krall said that the specific particles in the air may be even more dangerous because of the fact that they were produced by fires and may contain unknown chemicals.

The EPA measures air quality using an Air Quality index, which has ranges that represent how unhealthy the air is. Beginning on June 5, Fairfax County's air quality index numbers began to increase, peaking at 314 the morning of June 8, which is classified as hazardous levels of air pollution.

In response, the Fairfax County Health Department released an air quality alert, recommending that people limit their time outdoors, specifically avoiding strenuous exercise outdoors and wearing N-95 www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Top 4 worst wildfire smoke days in recent US history

Jan 1 2006 - Jun 7 2023



Marshall Burke @MarshallBBurke via Twitter

June 7th was the worst wildfire smoke day on record in the US since 2006, by far. June 6th was the 4th worst. Just a massive, awful event, with highly populated areas getting hit with unprecedented levels of pollution. Great data work by @StanfordECHOLab @minghao_qiu Jessica Li.



Current Air Quality

Local air was hazardous to breathe on June 7 and 8.

masks if one must be outside. For the most outdoor after school activities and recess part however, they recommended people stay inside and keep windows closed. Fairfax County Public Schools also canceled

on June 7 and 8.

Airnow.gov

"One of the things we'll be doing in the Public Health Department is continuing

Airnow.gov

Local air was breathable at presstime, June 14.

to monitor the health impacts based on the current visits to our surrounding hospitals and emergency departments for conditions that could be attributed to this poor air quality index," Parham Jaberi, the deputy director for medical services in the FCHD, said.

On a county level and on a regional level, this amount of air pollution was not expected, as the wind and fire patterns are difficult

After June 8, air pollution levels in the Northern Virginia area decreased from a status of hazardous to unhealthy as wind patterns began to change. This past weekend, conditions improved and this week the air quality levels are back to normal. Fairfax County will continue to monitor the situation and release updated guidelines based on the air quality index. The EPA also has a website called AirNow.com that shows continuously updated air quality data throughout the day.

According to Jaberi, there was a 10-20 percent increase in emergency room visits on June 8 and 9 in Fairfax County and northern Virginia relating to symptoms associated with asthma and air pollution effects. However, he said that though the number of ER visits was relatively greater than the time period around those dates, they were not unusual as similar numbers have been seen in past months on multiple occasions.

"I think this is one of those cases where listening and taking in the information from your local public health and elected officials is important because every community may be facing a different impact as a result of these poor air quality levels," Jaberi said.



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Entertainment



2 dames and a stand-up dude

Musical Trio Scheduled to Play at River Farm

Outdoor concert kicks off River Farm activities for the summer.

BY MIKE SALMON The Gazette usic is coming to River Farm this summer as the American Horticultural Society presents its first-ever "Music at the Manor," which is an evening featuring live music by the group "2 dames and a stand-up dude." The concert will be held on Thursday, June 29, 5-7 p.m and guests are welcomed to pack a blanket and picnic basket with their choice food and beverage for an evening of music at sunset along the Potomac River. The BYOB outdoor garden event is free and open to the

Mary Bowers, Lynne White, and Scott Freeman are "2 dames and a stand-up dude." They play an array of cover songs that span several decades and multiple genres; from Bossa Nova and show tunes like

Girl from Ipanema and Fly Me to the Moon to singer-songwriter and contemporaries like Sheryl Crow and the Indigo Girls, with some country and Americana tossed into the mix. The dames' two-part harmonies accompanied by acoustic guitar, keyboard and stand-up bass provide an organic sound experience great for kicking back and listening or singing along.

This group is from Mount Vernon and live within a 3-mile radius of River Farm, the AHS said.

River Farm, headquarters of the American Horticultural Society, is located at 7931 E. Boulevard Dr., just off the GW Parkway in Alexandria. Regular hours are Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Saturdays, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Free entry and parking (excluding special events). For more information, call (703) 768-5700 ext. 114 or visit www.ahsgardening.org.



Entertainment

NOW THRU JULY 15

Alexander D'Agostino: "A Shrine for the Forgotten" Exhibition. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Baltimore-based solo artist exhibition recipient, Alexander D'Agostino, presents "A Shrine for the Forgotten." The work explores queer histories and images, through performance, installation, and reclaiming material from queer archives and other cultural resources related to the historic marginalization of LGBTQ people.

NOW THRU JUNE 25

Kandinski. At Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union Street, Alexandria. Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery announces the opening of its juried show "Kandinsky," which will run from May 23, 2023-June 25, 2023, featuring fiber art interpretations of Kandinsky's paintings.

JUNE 1-AUGUST 31

Creative Summer Programs. At Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Creative Summer Programs is a series of workshops exploring the arts. Learn techniques in drawing, mixed media, mosaic, jewelry, watercolor, and more from local artists. Delve into creative exploration solo or with friends. For children and/or adults, free and paid programs are offered. Sign up for what inspires you! Visit the website: DelRayArtisans.org/ creative-summer

JUNE 2-25

The "American Patchwork" exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Features art that highlights the diversity of cultures, landscapes, and artistic styles that make up the American experience. The exhibit broadly explores and captures the patchwork spirit of the United States and her people. Open Thursdays 12-6pm, Fridays 12-9pm, Saturdays & Sundays 12-6pm. Reception: Friday, June 2, 7-9pm. Details: DelRayArtisans. org/exhibits

JUNE 16-17

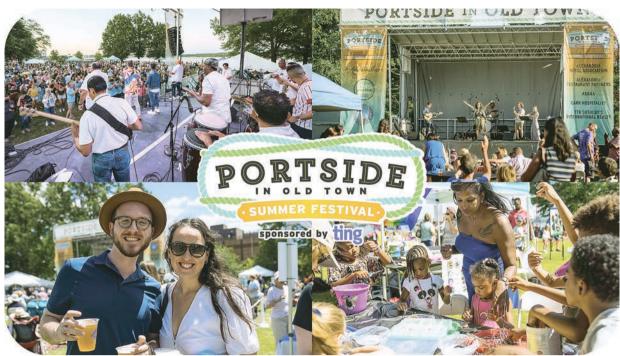
Portside in Old Town Summer Festival. Friday from 6-9 p.m.; Saturday from 1-9 p.m. At Waterside Park, 1A Prince St., Alexandria. Kick off summer with the return of the Portside in Old Town Summer Festival sponsored by Ting Internet. This free festival features an array of live music, local craft beer from Port City Brewing Company and fun for the whole family on the Alexandria waterfront. The event features Friday evening jazz performances and readings by Alexandria poets as part of the ALX Jazz Fest presented by the City of Alexandria's Office of the Arts. Saturday, the festival continues with an eclectic musical lineup, local food, hands-on art and history activities and more Visit PortsideFestival

SATURDAY/JUNE 17

com

Juneteenth Celebration. 12-4 p.m. At Carlyle House in Alexandria. The Athenaeum is partnering with the Carlyle House Historic Park and C. Alexandria-Bernard

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



The Portside in Old Town Summer Festival takes place June 16-17, 2023 in Old Town Alexandria.

Thomas, to present the annual Juneteenth Celebration. Discover the history of Juneteenth through hands-on activities, art, history, and poetry readings. Activities are part of the planned offerings for the day that marks the liberation of Black Americans on June 19, 1865. For this Celebration they are thrilled to host visual artist Michael Spears and four poets: Micah the Poet, Carlynn Newhouse, Mysfit, and Pi-Anir the Poet. Visitors will have the opportunity to talk with the artists after and in-between performances as well as share their written and/or drawn reactions to the powerful performances.

SATURDAY/JUNE 17

Tall Ship Providence's New Tour. At Old Town Alexandria's Waterfront Park, south of King Street, Alexandria. Tickets are now on sale for Tall Ship Providence's new interactive dockside tour, which will take place at the new Senator John Warner Maritime Heritage Center, Home Port of Tall Ship Providence. The ship will reopen at its permanent home in front of Old Town Alexandria's Waterfront Park, located just south of King Street. In addition to dockside tours, Tall Ship Providence will offer sunset sails, specialty sails and private charters. The Maritime Heritage Center will also be available as a venue rental. Tall Ship Providence will open for tours on Saturday, June 17 during Alexandria's Portside Festival. Visit TallShipProvidence.org.

MOUNT VERNON NIGHTS

Fridays at 7:30 p.m. at Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria JUNE

- 16 School of Rock Alexandria "House Band" (Rock)
- 23 The Revelers (Swamp Pop) 30 Collective Delusion (Rock)
- 7 Kickoman (Latin/Reggae) 14 Burn the Ballroom (Alternative
- 21 King Teddy (Swing)
- 28 The HalfSmokes (WHFS Playlists/ Alternative Rock)
- 4 Kadencia Orchestra (Bomba, Plena,
- 11 Collaboration featuring Lori Williams (Jazz)

18 Crack The Sky (Rock) 25 Deanna Bogart (Blues, R&B)

FRANCONIA NIGHTS **CONCERTS**

Wednesday evenings from 7:30-8:30

- At Leonadus K. Plenty Amphitheater, 6601 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. ЛЛУ
- 5 Natyabhoomi School of Dance (Indian Dance and Music)
- 12 The Pietasters (Ska)
- 19 Chuck Brown Band (Go Go/Funk/ Soul)
- 26 Silver Tones Swing Band (Swing Dance) AUGUST
- 2 Pablo Perez El Alcalde de la Salsa (Salsa)
- 9 Alexandria Harmonizers (Chorus) 16 The Nighthawks (Blues)
- 23 Dave Kline Band (World Jazz Fusion)

OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA WATERFRONT WEDNESDAYS **MUSIC SERIES**

Free Concerts. Wednesdays from 4-7 p.m. At Old Town Alexandria waterfront. Join in the Waterfront Wednesday Music Series featuring a range of music genres by local musicians. Bring a chair or simply stop by to enjoy some beautiful waterside beats. Free.

Weather permitting. June 14 - ilyAIMY (i love you And I Miss You) June 21 - Tobago Bay Calypso

June 28 - Adrian Duke

Project July 12 - Melissa Quinn Fox July 19 - Vaughn Ambrose and the SJE

July 26 - Amafujo's Moodswings August 2 - Chris Barrick

Vibes and Organ Trio August 9 - Sol Roots August 16 - Delta Spur

SUNDAY SOUNDS ON THE PROMENADE

Free Concerts. 11:30-1:30 p.m. At 7 Pioneer Mill Way, Alexandria. Yellow Door Music Concert Series presents a musical line up of artists on select Sundays.

June 25 - Damon Foreman July 30 - Vaughn Ambrose Jazz Trio August 27 - Trifilio Tango Music

On August 27th, in honor of National Dog Day that weekend, Robinson Landing encourages individuals to bring their dog out for a yappy social for play and fun for your furry ones.

The full event schedule of Robinson Landing programming is located at www.RobinsonLanding.com/WaterfrontEvents.

TUESDAY/JUNE 20

Mapping Ancestor's Neighborhood. 1-3 p.m. Via Zoom. Have you ever wondered where your ancestors lived, shopped, worked, attended church? Genealogy educator and lecturer Chuck Mason will discuss how a great deal of this information can be gleaned by matching genealogical records with maps printed during your ancestor's time. Register for this FREE ZOOM event by emailing a registration request to the Mount Vernon Genealogical Society at contact-us@ mvgenealogy.org. Find out more about this and other society events at https://mvgenealogy.org.

SATURDAY/JUNE 24

Alexandria Baroque. 2 p.m. At the Athenaeum, Alexandria. A Period-instrument Duo of Baroque Violin and Lute. Stop by for an engaging one-hour afternoon performance featuring duos for violin and lute from the 18th-century composers J.S. Bach, Silvius Leopold Weiss, Fridrich Wilhelm Rust, Paul Charles Durant, and colonial American tunes.

SUNDAY/JULY 9

The Capitol Collective Chamber Ensemble. 2 p.m. The Capitol Collective Chamber Ensemble is partnering with the Athenaeum to present an afternoon of chamber music. Consisting primarily of DC military band musicians, they seek to promote accessible chamber music throughout the DMV area. Enjoy works for strings, winds, brass, and percussion in this program featuring composers Jesse Montgomery,

Ivan Trevino, Aaron Copland, and Jean Francaix.

THE BIRCHMERE

At 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. All shows are at 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Tickets available at Ticketmaster.com. Contact The Birchmere at 703-549-7500 or www.Birchmere.com. JUNE

Wed. 14: America \$99.50 SOLD OUT!

Fri. 16: NRBQ \$45.00

Sat. 17: Atlantic Starr \$59.50 SOLD OUT!

Sun. 18: Atlantic Starr \$59.50 Tue. 20: Happy Together Tour 2023 featuring The Turtles, Little Anthony, Gary Puckett & The Union Gap, The Vogues, The Classics Iv, And The Cowsills \$99.50 SOLD OUT!

Thu. 22: The Voice of The Moody Blues JUSTIN HAYWARD with Mike Dawes \$79.50

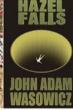
Fri. 23: Tarsha Fitzgerald Productions Presents "THE VOICES" Tribute To Motown \$35.00 Sat. 24: After 7 \$75.00

Fri. 30: Newmyer Flyer Presents The Songs of Burt Bacharach & Hal David \$39.50

'Hazel Falls,' Book Six!

John Wasowicz's Latest Book Release was Tuesday, June 20. at Elaine's Restaurant, 208 Queen Street, Alexandria. Elaine's was the site of the debut of "Hazel Falls," book six of the Old Town mystery series by John Adam Wasowicz. The story opens at the AlexRenew water restoration project site, where 'Hazel' is currently digging water lines 14 stories underground.





BOOK RELEASE PARTY!

TUESDAY, JUNE 20 AT 6 P.M.

Elaine's Restaurant 208 Queen St., Alexandria, VA

Release of Book 6 in the Old Town mystery series!

Special appearance by AlexRenew leaders to discuss Hazel's environmental impact on the Potomac.

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FAIRFAX COUNTY ENTERTAINMENT

SATURDAY/JULY 1

Fireworks. 6-10 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. The Fireworks will illuminate the surrounding landscape in an expertly choreographed display of dazzling pyrotechnic light and thunder. Launched from the historic, 55-acre campus, the region's largest pre-Independence Day Fireworks show celebrates the history of this amazing nation and honors the courage and sacrifice that have made America a beacon of hope and freedom around the world. Admission: \$40.

SUNDAY/JULY 2 Independence Day Fireworks. At

Yeonas Park, Town of Vienna. Festivities including live music, children's entertainment, games and

other family fun begin at 4 p.m., and a 20-minute fireworks display will begin at 9:30 p.m. Those who plan to attend the celebration are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or picnic blankets. The Vienna Little League concession stand will be open offering food and beverages for sale, or residents may bring their own snacks. No alcohol, glass containers, sparklers/fireworks or dogs are permitted. Lawn chairs are not permitted on the baseball fields but may be used anywhere else in the park. Visit www. viennava.gov/fireworks.

NOW THRU JUNE 25

Falls Church Arts All Member Show L-Z. At the Falls Church Arts gallery, 700-B West Broad St. (Route 7), Falls Church. Eighty-eight artists with last names from L-Z will be featured in the second part of the All Member Show at the Falls Church Arts Gallery. An opening reception will be held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday, May 27. The reception is open to the public. The show features the work of emerging and established member artists from Falls Church Arts and encompasses an extensive range of media from the more traditional watercolor, acrylic, mixed media, pastel, fused glass, oil, photography, and sculpture to a wide variety of mixed media and printing techniques. Visit the website www. fallschurcharts.org.

RESTON COMMUNITY CENTER 2023 SUMMER ENTERTAIN-**MENT LINEUP**

Saturdays, June 17 – August 5 10:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. At Reston Town Square Park, Reston Bring the kids for magic, comedy,

puppets, music and lots of laughs. Family Fun begins on June 17 with Guava Jelly. Other shows include Rocknoceros, Lohr Family Antics, The Uncle Devin Show and Turley the Magician. See the full schedule here: Family Fun Entertainment Series. Family Fun Entertainment is presented by RCC and Reston Town Center Association in cooperation with MSE Productions, Inc. Reston Town Center garages offer free parking on Saturdays. Sunday Art in the Park with the

Shenandoah Conservatory Sundays, June 11 – August 27 -8:00 p.mReston Town Square Park Wind down your weekend with classical, jazz and cabaret-style music provided by faculty and students from Shenandoah University's acclaimed music conservatory. The series starts June 11 with Ellington Caravan paying tribute to Duke

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



The Sully Car Show will take place on Sunday, June 18, 2023 at Sully Historic Site in Chantilly.

Ellington. This series will run through August 27. Visit Sunday Art in the Park for the complete schedule. Reston Town Center garage parking is free on Sundays. Sunday Art in the Park is presented by RCC and Reston Town Center Association in cooperation with Shenandoah University.

NOW THRU JUNE 25

"The Last Match." At 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road Tysons. Played out under the bright lights of the U.S. Open Semifinals, The Last Match pits rising Russian star, Sergei Sergeyev against American great, Tim Porter in an epic showdown that follows two tennis titans through pivotal moments in their lives both on-and-off the court. Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 and 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$50 general admission, \$47 seniors (65+), \$15 students, educators, and military. The first 20 tickets sold for every performance will cost only \$20. Thursday evening tickets are \$35.Purchase online at www.1ststage.org or 703-854-1856.

THURSDAY/JUNE 15

Anthem HealthKeepers Plus VA Community
Leaders Breakfast. 9:30-11 a.m. At Springfield Embassy Suites, 8100 Loisdale Road,
Springfield. Anthem HealthKeepers Plus,
Virginia's largest Medicaid provider, is hosting
a breakfast gathering with other community
leaders, nonprofit representatives, and local
professionals. This event will allow those
in attendance to network and discuss ways
to help support residents, particularly those
residents in need. The event is free. Visit:
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/community-forum-with-anthem-healthkeepers-plus-in-person-tickets-637270582467

JUNE 15-17

Forgotten Road Tour. 2-2:45 p.m. At Sully Historic Site, Chantilly. The tour at Sully Historic Site includes a walk into the original outbuildings and representative slave quarter cabin. Learn the history of the enslaved people who lived and worked at Sully more than 200 years ago. Sully is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, is on the National Register of Historic Places, and it is part of the National Park Service Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. Tour is held weather-permitting.

SATURDAY/JUNE 17

Mosaic Harmony Concert. 5 p.m. Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Sharing and Celebrating Songs of Joy Concert.

SATURDAY/JUNE 17

Celebrate Juneteenth. 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Hosted by NOVA Parks and Fairfax NAACP at Bull Run Regional Park, 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville. Guest Speaker Bishop Brett Fuller, Washington Commanders Chaplain and founder of Grace Covenant Church. Join us for our Second Annual Juneteenth celebration! We'll recognize the largest private emancipation of the enslaved, commemorate the cemetery where many of the freed are interred, and visit the site where black and white people worshiped as early as 1775.

JUNE 17, JULY 15, & AUGUST 19
Summer Concert Series: Genres. 7-9 p.m. At
Tysons Corner Center, The Plaza, McLean.
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Join the Summer Concert Series featuring performance artists Jarreau Williams on June 17 with an R&B night, Keeton on July 15 for a Pop throwback, and Delta Spur with Country & Classic Rock on August 19. Enjoy takeout and cocktails from our restaurants while dancing and singing along to your favorite tunes!

SATURDAY/JUNE 17

Juneteenth Event. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Frying
Pan Farm Park Meeting House, Herndon. The
Juneteenth Event offers families activities including a special guest storyteller, live music,
history and food trucks offering African American cuisine. (All ages) free but registration
required. Sessions start at 11 a.m., noon and
1 p.m.

SATURDAY/JUNE 17

Kids' Stuff Sale. 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. At St. Mary of Sorrows Catholic Church, 5222 Sideburn Rd., Fairfax. Huge selection of kids and maternity clothing, baby items, toys, books, and gear available for bargain prices. Proceeds support St. Mary's Family Ministry. Visit the website: https://www.facebook.com/SMOS. KSS

SATURDAY/JUNE 17

First Mosby Tour. The 42nd Annual Spring Civil War Mosby Bus Tour is titled "Mosby and the Gettysburg Campaign." The tour is sponsored by the Stuart - Mosby Historical Society. The Tour Leaders will be Kevin Pawlak and Rob Orrison - and this will be their "INAUGURAL TOUR!" The tour will include stops such as Ewell's Chapel, Middleburg, Aldie, Rowser's Ford, and many others. The bus will leave Truro Parish (10520 Main Street, Fairfax City) promptly at 8:30 a.m. The cost will be \$80 for members of the Stuart-Mosby Historical Society and \$90 for non-members. Lunch will be on your own. To sign up contact Rob Orrison at 703-431-2869 or email him at: orrison76@hotmail.com or send your check to Rob Orrison (make checks payable to Rob) at 16937 Monmouth Ct. Dumfries, VA 22026

JUNE 17-18

Father's Day Weekend Model Train Show. 1-4 p.m. At Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. N Gauge (NTRAK) model trains will be running at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum on Father's Day Weekend. Admission: Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-12, \$3; ages 13 and older, \$5. \$6 for special events. Senior and military, active and retired, \$4. www.fairfax-station.org, www. facebook.com/FFXSRR, 703-425-9225.

SUNDAY/JUNE 18

Underground Railroad Quilt Codes. 1-2 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, Alexandria. According to legend, fabric quilts were stitched with coded patterns to assist escaped enslaved people moving along the historic Underground Railroad to find safety. While historians debate this legend, local quilter, Sharon Tindall supports this theory of quilt codes through her specialization in African American quilt patterns. View her handmade quilts, created with fabrics and patterns typically used in the mid-1800s and learn more about these storied quilts and what they mean to our American history. The cost is \$15.

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Each local newspapers mission aspires to provide great er community service, and we do know that our communities and better off if we confine to publish. Last year flexible support from readers and of provides like you bridged the shortfall before Federa IPPP funding armive and both made our survival possible. We now await decision for a grant from Rebald Virgina in early Febru any that we hope will help in 2022 and begrowth. But we meet help to survive the first quarter, always a brotal lime.

All gifts will be used to fund our printed newspapers and websites and to meet obligations to our loyal and patient employees, writers, contractors and suppliers.

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In Sync with the In-Laws



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Granted, Dina and I were on our best behavior. However, we didn't exactly only speak when spoken to, but we did stay away from politics and religion/abortion and so far as expletive-"deleteds" uttered, I had a few missteps but nothing anywhere George Carlin's "seven dirty words." Generally speaking, the four of us meshed very well, amazingly even. No awkward moments, no pregnant pauses, no arguments/disagreements and "neither was there heard a discouraging word." In that word our time together was fabulous.

We picked them up Saturday night at Reagan National Airport and drove them to their hotel in Old Town. The talk between us was cordial and friendly enough that we agreed to spend the next day together: at Arlington National Cemetery, particularly visiting the Kennedy gravesites and the changing of the guard at The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. And if we had time, we would stop by my favorite memorial (convenient to the cemetery as well): The Iwo Jima Memorial (officially known as The US Marine Corps War Memorial).

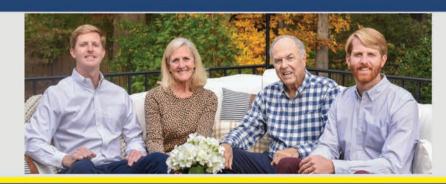
The weather was perfect on Sunday. We spent almost four hours on the grounds. They absolutely loved the experience, especially astonished by its size and scope. And since we took the tram/talking tour, we learned about many of the other notable people buried there: Thurgood Marshall, William Rehnquist, Omar Bradley, "Black "Jack Pershing, and the "presiding judge" at the Nuremberg Trials: Michael Musmanno, among so many more. Eventually we made our way back to the parking lot and due to time constraints, skipped Iwo Jima and headed back to their hotel. As we pulled into their hotel's circular drive, the discussion about dinner didn't really happen. It seemed natural that we go our separate ways. We made tentative plans for Monday and agreed to confirm in the morning.

The next day didn't happen as one of our in-laws had a bad sleep and didn't feel up to the rigors of touring/walking around Washington, DC. Tuesday was a different story however as our in-laws were rested and ready. We planned a driving/parking/walking tour of Washington, DC. First, we were able to find relatively convenient parking along the Potomac River near the Lincoln Memorial. We then made all the local Memorial rounds: The Lincoln Memorial, The Vietnam Veteran's Memorial, the M.I.A. statue, the nurse's statue, the Korean War Memorial and finished up at the World war II Memorial. Walking back to the car, we stopped by the Martin Luther King Memorial and then the Roosevelt Memorial. After we reached the car (no ticket) I suggested that we drive to Alexandria by way of Roslyn and see the Iwo Jima Memorial. We parked nearby and then walked right up the immense statue. In this instance, size did matter. Its awesomeness was not lost on our visitors. They continually shook their heads in amazement. Dinner again didn't happen as we had another big day planned for Wednesday: a tour of the US Capitol and the Library of Congress - with a walkby of the Supreme Court.

Another beautiful day and another jaw-dropping reaction to Washington, DC. Whatever amazement was left over from the previous day gushed over into this Wednesday. To invoke Yoda's syntax: gob smacked they were. The tour and all were nearly four hours long – and with walking from nearby Metro stops, we were all a bit spent and again dinner was spent apart. It all seemed very natural and normal. We were all enjoying each-other's company. The next two days were spent apart as we left our visitors to explore on their own and see whatever drew them to Washington in the first place (it wasn't us).

Our last night together was dinner at a Greek Restaurant on King Street. We sat outside in their moonlit garden. The weather and all were perfect, yet again. Afterwards we walked the few hundred yards back to their hotel where before saying our final good-byes, they asked up their room. Upon entering their suite, we noticed two beautifully decorated gift bags sitting on the dining room table which they eagerly presented to us with effusive praise and gratitude for our participation in their Washington week. We thanked them and kissed each other good-bye. In the hallway walking to the elevator, Dina and I spoke nearly at the same time: "What a wonderful couple! They're the nicest people we've met in a long time."

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



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