

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

AUGUST 17, 2023

Filmmaker Addresses Cleft Lip Discrimination

NOVA native looks at cleft lip fixes on an international scale.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

When a nation is spread over 7,641 islands and a set of parents abandon a child because of a cleft lip, getting surgery to repair the lip seems impossible unless there's a big sister involved to get the wheels turning and make things happen.

This all takes place in the Philippines in a documentary called "Every Day After," produced and directed by a filmmaking couple Elisa Gambino and Neal Broffman. The film recently premiered to the public at the Shorts Festival, in Los Angeles with Gambino and Broffman in attendance.

Gambino grew up in Hayfield and followed a curvy career path before she found herself behind the camera in the Philippines.

"Lots of excitement last night, it's fun to see them on the big screen," said Gambino, who is married to Broffman and now lives in Atlanta.

It all started a few years ago with an organization called Smile Train, that works with people with cleft lips. It is an international organization that works on repairing the cleft lips so the children can lead normal lives. Smile Train has a mission statement that describes their effort: "A baby with a cleft is born every 3 minutes. These babies can experience isolation and often face prejudice in their communities. No child deserves to feel like an outcast."



Elisa Gambino grew up in Hayfield Farm.

The stars were Jary, a boy with a cleft lip, and his older sister Jessa.

Jary grew up in the Masbate Province in the Philippines where he was neglected until he was taken in by his older sister Jessa. Together they navigated medical care and recovery. The 35-minute documentary "honors the invisible labor of a sister whose love and action make it possible for Jary to experience the everyday joys and struggles of growing up," said the film description.

Smile Train reached out to the filmmakers. "No one thought

SEE FILMMAKER, PAGE 7



Elisa Gambino and Neal Broffman.



Jary was the subject of "Every Day After."



While filming in the Philippines, the weather was a factor.

United Community Pantry Needs Food

United Community's food pantry recently reopened for a choice shopping experience after a renovation and expansion. Between the continued high rates of inflation and reductions in government aid benefits that took effect this past spring, there has been a huge increase in the number of families coming to United Community need food.

Help these hungry families by donating nonperishables or hosting a food drive. You can shop from United Community's Amazon list, or donate financially. Rally your workplace, club, church, school, or neighborhood and host a food drive to help stock the food pantry.

Examples of needed items: soup, canned vegetables, canned fruit, canned meat, canned beans, shelf-stable milk, oatmeal, jelly, peanut butter, mustard, mayonnaise, ketchup, salt, tea, coffee, dry pasta, dry cereal (full-size box), sugar, flour, gluten free masa flour (instant corn masa flour), cooking oil, cans of tomato sauce (no glass jars), bags of beans (1-2 lb. bags), bags of rice (1-2 lb. bags)

Drop off your collection/donation at: 7511 Fordson Rd., Alexandria during the following hours: Monday: 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.; Tuesday: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.; Wednesday 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.; Thursday: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

For more information or to coordinate large donations, contact Mayleen Watson at 571-255-8918 or mayleen.watson@unitedcommunity.org

Shop United Community's Amazon List: Purchase most-needed items off their Amazon wish list. Items will be shipped directly to the food pantry. <https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/3AN3195BMUD9>

Cash donations can be made online at donateuc.org

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Featuring 1304 Gahant Rd

NEW BUILD IN FORT HUNT



1304 Gahant Rd, Alexandria, VA 22308 | Offered at \$1,899,000

Coming Soon in Fall of 2023! New construction by local builders WFB Companies, Inc. Currently framed and available to walk through with appointment. This custom energy efficient home sits on a half-acre lot and is nestled among mature trees in the beloved NOVA Fort Hunt community in the sought after Waynewood Elementary School District. With over 5,000 sq ft of above-grade living space, this one-of-a-kind home offers classic architectural features, lots of upgrades and a fantastic layout.



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5856 Doris Dr, Alexandria, VA 22311
Sold for \$926,000



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Information deemed reliable, but not guaranteed. Equal Housing Opportunity

Rescued Osprey Gets Second Chance

Many hands save injured raptor.

By SUSAN LAUME
THE GAZETTE

Earlier this month, we reported on an Osprey rescued after it was found entangled in a tree near the Laurel Hill Golf Club in Lorton on July 19th. Follow-up on the bird's story yielded additional information on how the incident unfolded and what has become of the young Osprey.

As reported (Springfield Connection, July 27-Aug 2, page 12) a call was placed to Animal Protection Police and with the help of Fire Station 441 and their ladder truck, they reached and rescued the bird. The alert eyes and reporting of Park Authority maintenance operations employees first spotted the bird. Maynard Slicker, working nearby, first saw the bird in distress, calling his supervisor, Beth Borostovik, who made the report.

Slicker shared that the bird was entangled in the branches of its nest platform when he heard its distress calls. The bird likely freed itself from one entanglement only to be caught again in a nearby tree, from which it was eventually rescued by Firefighter P. Cortes and his fellow 441 crew members. The bird was transported by Animal Protection Police to a local veterinary care center, then moved to the Wildlife Rescue League. The League enlisted a specialist in the care of raptors, Dr Belinda Burwell of Boyce Va., to treat the Osprey.

Burwell was presented with a young bird, a fully fledged juvenile female, that is known to have hatched at the nest platform site off Lorton Road this May. Burwell found and treated minor abrasions to the Osprey's left wing and foot. When placed in the flight cage that Wednesday, the bird was unable to fly, and initially was unable to use her left foot. Over the next five days, her strength increased to short flights and limping on her left foot, then to full recovery of her mobility. She was quickly released with another recovered Osprey into the Shenandoah River Valley that Sunday. Burwell commented that it is unwise to keep recovered birds longer than necessary since other problems may develop related to captivity.

"Fortunately this juvenile was a healthy weight and had fledged weeks before, so I'm sure she'll be fine on her own with a good food supply available," Burwell shared. "I wish we had received more information than only an address where found, but that is all I usually receive. It would be helpful in these cases to know the circumstances - for example if the bird was in the road and possibly hit, or in a yard near a window it could have struck, or how long it had been seen injured. Any little detail helps with these patients that can't talk to us." While it would have been preferable to return the young Osprey to her family and home territory, Burwell indicated, "This juvenile very likely was hunting on its own and should be fine on the Shenandoah River." Osprey diets



Rescued juvenile Osprey held in one set of the many hands that gave her a second chance at life.



Dr Belinda Burwell, certified rehabilitator, rescuing wildlife since 1987, with a hawk.

are mostly live fish which they dive into the water to catch.

Certified wildlife rehabilitator Nancy McDonald, known to many in Maryland as the 'Osprey Lady,' says, returning a bird to the nest or home territory is always preferable, however, not always possible. "I rescue a lot of young ospreys that have fallen or been blown out of a nest that is inaccessible for multiple reasons." She considers fostering rescued chicks or fledglings in another nest if a nest with the right number of similarly aged birds can be found. Osprey nests are numerous along Maryland's Patuxent River and Jug Bay and their associated creeks and tributaries. She says, "Ospreys are challeng-



Rehabilitator Nancy McDonald works with displaced young Ospreys.

ing, since they need Mom and Dad to help them out right up to the moment they begin migration, and in a lot of cases, the parents leave before the babies."

The remaining Lorton Osprey family, two parents and a second juvenile, are expected to leave their nest platform in September or October to migrate south for the winter. According to the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, most Ospreys, who frequent the wider Chesapeake Bay region in the summer, spend the colder months in South America, ranging from Venezuela to as far south as Paraguay and Argentina. Adults typically return to their prior nesting sites in March, as the Lorton pair has done for multiple years. Young birds are thought to remain in the south until their second Spring season and don't mate until their third year.

Looking beyond raptor rescue to the many species with which the Animal Protective Police officers must interact, Dr. Katherine Edwards, Fairfax County Wildlife Management Specialist, notes that "APP Officers respond to numerous calls for service for sick and injured wildlife, potential rabies exposures, orphaned or abandoned baby animals, wildlife within living spaces of homes or businesses, and animals that pose a threat to humans or pets. Public safety is paramount and is the first consideration for any response. Animal welfare is also taken incredibly seriously for both domestic animals and wildlife. ... Officers make the best decision possible with the information and resources they have available at the time about whether an animal should be released, receive further evaluation by a rehabilitator or medical professional, or humanely euthanized to prevent suffering."

As a result of the feedback provided by rehabilitators and veterinarians in the Lorton Osprey's rescue, Edwards indicates the division is "taking measures to strengthen collaboration with local wildlife rehabilitators to incorporate their guidance into future practices."

One young Osprey will never know the names, Slicker, Borostovik, Cortes, unnamed APPO, Burwell, McDonald, Edwards, or Ivancic. Yet readers do know and can be grateful for the many people who work hard to save the lives of wild things. All, as Edwards put it, "are thankful this young osprey has a second chance."



Maynard Slicker with Park Authority maintenance operations saw, heard and reported the Osprey in distress.



Capt Eric Ivancic who heads the Animal Protection Police division assures officers receive best training to adopt best practices.



Firefighter Cortes disentangled the bird and wanted to know how she fared.



Young Osprey begins her second chance over the waters of the Shenandoah.

Hurricane Preparedness

BY DELEGATE PAUL KRIZEK

As hurricane season progresses, it's important to remain vigilant and prepared for potential storms. While we are fortunate to live in Northern Virginia, even this region can experience the damaging effects of hurricanes. Just a few years ago, in 2020, the United States faced one of the most active hurricane seasons on record, with 12 tropical systems making landfall. 88% of this year's hurricane season is still ahead of us. As we enter the mid-August to mid-October period, historically known for heightened storm activity, it's crucial to reflect on the potential impact of hurricanes on our community.

Two recent hurricanes, Irene in 2011 and Isabel in 2003, left a lasting mark on the Alexandria area. Isabel alone caused over \$5 billion in damages from North Carolina to Pennsylvania.

The area experienced wind speeds peaking at 71 mph, resulting in severe tidal flooding and extensive tree damage. Power outages lasting a week or more were common, and Old Town's storm

surge surpassed its historic record from the hurricane of 1933.

With this in mind, here are steps you can take today to ensure your safety and preparedness:

1. Understand Hurricane Alerts: Distinguish between a hurricane watch (possible conditions) and a hurricane warning (expected conditions). Sign up for local alerts, monitor news and weather reports, and be informed.

2. Evacuation Plan: Have a well-defined evacuation plan, including a designated place to stay and a "go bag" containing essential emergency supplies.

3. Home Protection: Safeguard your home by clearing drains and downspouts, securing outdoor furniture, and anchoring items susceptible to strong winds.

4. Document Safeguarding: Collect and store vital financial, medical, and legal documents in a secure location.

To stay informed during emergencies, sign up to receive alerts through the National Weather Ser-



Krizek

vice and NOAA Weather Radio. If authorities issue an evacuation notice, follow it promptly, and bring your "go bag." Create a family emergency communication plan with designated contacts.

For evacuation planning, learn your community's evacuation plan and routes. Identify emergency shelter locations. Prepare for pets and practice your plan.

Remember to secure critical documents by storing important records, licenses, and certificates in waterproof containers. Maintain at least a week's supply of medications and prescriptions. Establish an out-of-state contact for reuniting with family.

Essential supplies for preparedness include:

- ❖ A 3-day water and non-perishable food supply.
- ❖ Infant and pet supplies.
- ❖ Medications and medical equipment.
- ❖ First aid kit and personal hygiene items.

Additional crucial items:

- ❖ Tools like flashlights, batteries, and multipurpose tools.
- ❖ Fire extinguisher, matches, and utility tools.
- ❖ Plastic sheeting and duct tape for sheltering in place.
- ❖ Clothing, blankets, and personal identification.

Hygiene and comfort items:

- ❖ Antibacterial soap, hand sanitizer, and personal hygiene products.
- ❖ Garbage bags, toilet paper, and surface disinfectants.
- ❖ Valuables, sentimental items, and comfort items for children.

Lastly, be a good neighbor! Check on elderly and vulnerable community members before, during, and after emergencies. Collaborate and support each other during challenging times.

While the odds of a significant hurricane impacting our region may be slim, taking these precautions ensures you're ready for any situation. Whether you're at home or on vacation, being prepared is a responsible and proactive choice. Stay safe!

Blood Donations Needed

Inova's blood supply has reached critically low levels and there is dire need of type O blood donors immediately.

Multiple traumatic incidents and other medical emergencies have left our blood inventory for Type O blood critically low. We need all

blood types, but a boost to the supply of Type O will help patients in need significantly.

Inova Blood Donor Services supports a Level I Trauma Center and two Level III Trauma Centers. Maintaining a sufficient blood supply is critical to the safety and

well-being of our community. It is imperative that we do everything we can to increase and maintain the blood supply to support our community's sickest patients. The need for blood never stops and there is no substitute for human blood when it is needed for a patient.

Please help us with donations today so that we can help provide our patients with a better tomorrow.

Call 1-866-BLOODSAVES (1-866-256-6372) or visit inovablood.org to schedule your appointment or inquire about your eligibility to donate today.

Robust Registration Underway for 2023 NoVa Senior Olympics

Registration opened July 6 for the 2023 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics. Herb Levitan, NVSO chair said, "We are really off to a robust start with a 30% increase over this time last year." Registration is online at www.nvso.us through Thursday, Aug. 24. Events begin Saturday Sept. 9 and continue until Sunday, Sept. 24.

Most events are in five or ten year age groups and by gender.

Registration fee is \$20 which covers unlimited events. There are additional fees for ten pin bowling, orienteering, cycling and 3 par, 9 hole golf.

Adults 50 years of age by Dec. 31 who live in a sponsoring jurisdiction are eligible to participate. There is no onsite registration. The website also has multiple pho-

tos taken by the Osher Life Long Learning's Photography Club at George Mason University as well as this year's full schedule of events and venues.

2023 events include track, ERG rowing, cycling, swimming, diving, Wii bowling, ten pin bowling, eight and nine ball pool, tennis, scrabble, crossword puzzle, croquet, Mexican train dominoes, Sudoku, handball, rummikub, football and frisbee throw, softball hit and throw, jigsaw puzzle, Mah Jongg, bocce, horseshoes, cribbage, cornhole toss, pickleball, table tennis, 5K Trail race, basketball field goals and free throw, orienteering, field events, racquetball, bunco, line dancing, miniature golf and Canasta. New this year are disc golf, synchronized diving, advanced sudoku, and 9 hole, 3 par golf.

Gold, silver and bronze medals are awarded after each event. Members of the general public are welcome to watch those participating. For additional information, email, nvso1982@gmail.com.

NVSO is sponsored by the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun and Prince William and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax

and Falls Church. NVSO is also supported by Gold Patrons who contribute \$1000 enabling NVSO to purchase and replace equipment and services, promote participation and provide awards of recognition. 100% of money donated is used entirely for NVSO activities. It is a non-profit 501-C-3 organization.

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.

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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

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A Connection Newspaper



Brillman Named Director of 9-1-1

Scott L. Brillman is the new director of the county's Department of Public Safety Communications (DPSC). Also known as Fairfax County 9-1-1, DPSC is the largest public safety communications center in the Commonwealth of Virginia and one of the 10 largest in the United States. Fairfax County DPSC receives approximately one



Scott L. Brillman

million calls annually. Brillman was appointed Baltimore City's Director of 9-1-1 in 2012, where he oversaw one of the busiest 9-1-1 centers in the country, handling 1.5 million calls per year. During his tenure the agency was recognized with the International 911 center "Team of the Year Award" from the International Association of Public Safety

Communications Officials. In March 2020, Brillman was appointed Deputy Director of Emergency Management to help lead the COVID-19 response for the City of Baltimore. He also served as Deputy Director of Emergency Management from 2007 to 2012, where he helped to manage many large-scale emergencies in Baltimore. Prior to his appointment to Baltimore City 9-1-1, Brillman also served as a paramedic and mentor

with the Baltimore City Fire Department. He has maintained his paramedic certification and served as a Medical Specialist on Maryland's Urban Search and Rescue Task Force. Brillman received a bachelor's in emergency health services management from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, and a master's in management/executive leadership from Johns Hopkins University.

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.

MT. VERNON FARMERS MARKET IS NOW OPEN

A mix of new and familiar vendors will be selling local, farm-fresh produce – including strawberries and asparagus – and more at the McCutcheon/Mt. Vernon Farmers Market. From 8 a.m. to noon every Wednesday (through December 20), 21 farmers and local food producers will sell fresh vegetables and fruits; meats; Chesapeake Bay seafood; breads and pastries; hon-

ey, jams and jellies; milk, cheese and eggs; herbs and plants; and more. The market is located at the Sherwood Hall Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane.

This year's vendors are:

- Arnest Seafood – crab cakes, scallops, shrimp, rockfish, oysters and more
- The Big Brine – Fermented foods, pickles and pickled vegetables
- The Fermented Pig- charcuterie and gourmet bacons
- Grace's Pastries - cakes, pastries and breads, with a Caribbean touch
- Great Harvest Bread - breads and pastries
- Honeycomb Heroes – Honey and beeswax-based products
- House of Empanadas –variety of

- empanadas
- King Mushrooms –variety of locally grown mushrooms
- Layla's Lebanese Restaurant – Lebanese hummus, eggplant dip, garlic sauce and more
- Linda Vista Farm - fruits and vegetables, specializing in Asian and Latin produce
- Misty Meadow Farm Creamery - milk, ice cream, cheese and eggs
- Ochoa Produce - vegetables, herbs and flowers
- Pasta Ilgatto – Fresh, handcrafted pasta and sauces
- PorkStork – Forest-raised heritage pork products, including bacon and sausages
- Salsa Las Glorias - fresh salsas, guaca-

- mole and chips
 - Sharkawi Farm - herbs, spices, teas, plants and flowers
 - Three Way Farms – vegetables, melons and herbs
 - Traveling Shepherd Coffee Co. – variety of freshly roasted coffee
 - Twin Springs Orchard - fruits, vegetables, cheese and more
 - Valentine's Bakery & Meats - meats and baked goods
 - WeGrow - Microgreens.
- All of the items sold at the market are grown or produced by the vendors and come from within a radius of 125 miles. The McCutcheon/Mt. Vernon market is one of 10 farmers markets run by the Fairfax County

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 8

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The appearance of a large LEGO giraffe presents a BIG sign that there's new entertainment in Springfield.



Eli Mechiche, 6 years old, of Ashburn, attending the grand opening ribbon cutting event at the Discovery Center with his mother and sister, who is a LEGO mini-builder, says, "I like LEGOs."



Each with their own version of expressing happiness at being on hand for the opening, Liam Meagher, 7, home schooled; Parker Ray, 6, Spring Garden Elementary; Kosten Meagher, 3 yo; Abby Meagher, 10, home schooled, could not resist a peek through the Center windows to see what waits inside.



Master Builder Andrew Litterst greeting participants later admitted to beginning evidence of callused fingertips after a LEGO brick building regimen of 7 to 8 hours a day to create the mini-worlds on display in the Center.



LEGO mini-builders assist LEGO's Theresa Alvich with a LEGO brick key ready to open the doors to the Discovery Center.



Herndon High School drum band and dancers led a parade of participants to opening ceremonies.



The invited crowd streams into the new Center as photographers capture the moment



Baxter Nichols, 24 of Alexandria; Lindsay McWilliams, 18 of Burke; Colton Jones, 17 of West Springfield, enjoying their new jobs and ready to serve food and drinks to sustain Discovery Center adventurers

LEGO Discovery Center Opens

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME

Promises entertainment for all ages.

By SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

A very tall LEGO Giraffe clues the first BIG sign of reaching a new destination for fun in Springfield. On Wednesday, kids by age, and at heart, found their way, by special invitation, to a new place of exploration. The LEGO Discovery Center Washington D.C. officially opened for all in Springfield Town Center on Aug. 14.

The 32,000 square foot family entertainment attraction and store on the mall's lower level boasts several sections. Twelve zones include multiple activities: LEGO block building areas, spaceship build, train ride with space pirates, Washington D.C. as a mini-world, 4D cinema, laser maze, and hero zone sure to help wear out even those with the most energy to burn. All this provided without the hazards of home carpet pedestrian danger.

The grand opening ribbon cutting event festivities included performances by the Herndon High School drum band and dance troupe, a participant parade and welcomes from general manager Theresa Alvich of the LEGO Discovery team and PREIT, the shopping center's owners, who recruited LEGO to the area.

Master Builder Andrew Litterst



An eager crowd of invitees of all ages awaits a first view of the Center.

later spoke of the opening, saying "It's just a relief, to summarize it in one word." Litterst won his position in February, in a brick building competition in the same spot where the podium stands for the opening event. He shared, "Ever since it's been pedal to the metal. I've been building stuff pretty much all day for the past couple of weeks."

In his opening remarks, District Supervisor, Rodney Lusk, commented on the importance of skills our children can learn through

play in activities the Center provides including collaboration, problem solving, and sense of accomplishment, all skills that are needed in the workforce. However, all thoughts of past and future work were forgotten as the confetti popped, the ribbon dropped, and the crowd plunged into the new adventures.

Advance tickets, for sale now with military discounts available, are encouraged for visits to the Center, open from 10 am to 6pm.



When you have a LEGO brick key to open the doors, of course you also need a LEGO brick scissors to cut the grand opening ribbon



Proud mom Britanni Osbourne, mother of mini-builder, Bryson, from Burke, records his moment on the stage during the opening ceremony



Jessica Grannis of Springfield gets close to examine the tiny pieces available for mini-figure building.



Aria Kim, 6 years old of Centreville, discovers worlds within the LEGO Tree of Imagination



Twins Laila & Mya Cavins, 14 of Beltsville Md. examine the intricacies of the Washington D.C. mini-world



Charles McCool of Reston, shares that he "used to build LEGO with his twins, but "nothing this intricate, just simple ones."



Elle Cole, of Beltsville, enjoys the calm of the inside cafe while keeping an eye on her children exploring the Center



Fryea the Firefighter and friend Catherine Stankewick greet participants at the stage in their new roles as LEGO Discovery Center employees after three weeks of job training



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 Struct Id	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Posted Date
ALBEMARLE	753	687	SHIFFLETTS MILL ROAD	BUCK MOUNTAIN CREEK	7/25/2023
TAZEWELL	18686	806	ROUTE 806	COAL CREEK	7/12/2023

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.

NEWS

Front Royal Man Charged in Shooting

Detectives have charged a Front Royal man for shooting in Hybla Valley.

At 3:49 p.m. Aug. 12, Fairfax County officers responded to the shopping center parking lot in the 7700 block of Richmond Highway for a shot person. Officers found an adult woman suffering from a gunshot wound to the upper body. Officers rendered aid until fire and rescue personnel arrived. The victim was taken to the hospital with injuries believed to be life-threatening.

Detectives determined Montez Damone-Faggins, 29, of Front Royal discharged the firearm inside the vehicle and struck the victim in the upper body. The victim's infant child was also in the car at the time

of the shooting and was unharmed and reunited with another family member. Kayla Thornton, 28, of Woodbridge was also inside the car. All parties were known to each other and remained on the scene. The firearm was found inside the car.

Damone-Faggins was taken to the Adult Detention Center and charged with malicious wounding and the use of a firearm in the commission of a felony. He was held on no bond. Thornton was arrested for outstanding warrants from another jurisdiction. She was held on a secured bond.

Detectives are asking anyone with information about this shooting to contact them at 703-246-7800, option 2.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5

Park Authority (FCPA); for more information, visit www.fairfax-county.gov/parks/farmersmarkets.

FAMILIES SOUGHT TO HOST INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
Families and individuals from the

Washington, D.C.-metro region are being sought to become hosts for international students for 12 weeks, a semester, or an academic year. Exchange students represent nearly 80 countries and cultures, including Kenya, Ukraine, Egypt, Turkey, Italy, Germany, Chile, Thailand and more.

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ENTERTAINMENT

NOW THRU 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

WEDNESDAYS THROUGH SATURDAYS

Tours Aboard Tall Ship Providence and Sen. John Warner Maritime Heritage Center. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Alexandria's Waterfront Park, 1A Prince Street, Alexandria. Guests of all ages are recruited into the Continental Navy aboard Tall Ship Providence with legendary Captain John Paul Jones. Recruits are assigned jobs on the ship, learn where they will work and live, how to load a cannon, etc... Tours conclude in the Naval History Theatre with a film about the ship. The Heritage center is a floating museum on the Alexandria waterfront. Visit <https://tallshipprovidence.org/>

JULY 25-SEPT. 17

Captured: Plants and Places. 1-4 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens Center, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Step into the world of plants across the region and in still life at a season-spanning photography exhibit July 25 to Sept. 17 at Green Spring Gardens Horticultural Center. The lyrical collection "Captured: Plants and Places" features botanical imagery drawn from the Washington area to Maine, including studio photos, intimate outdoor vignettes and landscape scenes. The photographers' varying visions and styles in color and black-and-white invite viewers to explore the wonder of wild and horticultural lands. An opening reception with the artists is July 30 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the Atrium at Green Springs Gardens Horticultural Center.

JULY 27 TO SEPT. 3

Obscura: Tinam Valk Exhibit. At the Athenaeum, Alexandria. Reception on Sunday, Aug. 13 from 4-6 p.m. Tinam Valk's work explores the ambiguity of subjects such as oceans, rivers, landscapes, sometimes a combination of land and water,

and figures or animals depicted within a land and water environment. Photographs, ranging from 60 to 100 years old in combination with sketches and memory and made-up environments, serve as a source for much of this work.

AUG. 4-26

The "Treasures of the DMV" exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Features art that celebrates the wonders of DC, Maryland, and Virginia. Come see famous and overlooked regional gems from the perspective of local artists. Opening Reception: Friday, August 4, 7-9pm. Open Thursdays 12-6pm, Fridays 12-9pm, Saturdays & Sundays 12-6pm (Closed on August 27). DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

SATURDAY/AUG. 19

School Supply Giveaway. At two locations: Charles Houston Rec Center, 901 Wythe Street, 10-12 p.m.; and William Ramsey Elementary School, 5700 Sanger Ave., 1-3 p.m. Hilco Redevelopment Partners in partnership with Firefighters & Friends and Alexandria Redevelopment Housing Authority will host a School Supply Giveaway. Volunteers will be giving away a total of 700-800 backpacks with school supplies for ARHA families.

TUESDAYS, AUGUST 22, 29

Simpson Park Demonstration Garden: Tuesdays@10. 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., Simpson Park Demonstration Garden, 420 E. Monroe Ave., Alexandria. When Mother Nature can't do it all...Simpson gardeners step in to offer a helping hand. Free. Contact mgnv.org for more information.

THURSDAY/AUG. 24

River Farm Anniversary Picnic. 6-8 p.m. At River Farm, Alexandria. Celebrating 50 years of American Horticultural Society at River Farm; featuring Soulfire. Free and open to the public. Guests are encouraged to pack a blanket and picnic basket with food and beverage favorites, find a comfortable spot on River Farm's lawn, and relax and enjoy the music, stunning gardens, and spectacular views overlooking the Potomac River.

THURSDAY/AUG. 24

Book Discussion and Signing. 7 p.m. At George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate. First-Ever Book Discussion and Signing with Four Finalist Authors for the Prestigious



The Around the World Cultural Food Festival will take place on Saturday, Aug. 26, at Oronoco Bay Park in Old Town Alexandria.

George Washington Literary Prize. The authors will discuss their important new books related to the founding of America. The event is free; attendees can submit questions and have their books signed. The 2023 George Washington Prize finalists are:

Mary Sarah Bilder, *Female Genius: Eliza Harriot and George Washington at the Dawn of the Constitution*.
Fred Kaplan, *His Masterly Pen: A Biography of Jefferson the Writer*
Stacy Schiff, *The Revolutionary: Samuel Adams*
Maurizio Valsania, *First Among Men: George Washington and the Myth of American Masculinity*

AUG. 25-26

Colorful Begonias at Green Spring Gardens. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday; Noon to 4 p.m. Sunday. At 4603 Green Spring Road in Alexandria. Immerse yourself in the enchanting world of begonias, presented by the Potomac Branch of the American Begonia Society. Admire the kaleidoscope of begonia varieties as each boasts unique leaf shapes and colors that will leave you in awe. This free event offers a feast for the eyes and an opportunity for society members to guide you in selecting a stunning begonia to elevate your own garden. Call 703-324-8700.

SATURDAY/AUG. 26

Around the World Cultural Food Festival. 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. At Oronoco Bay Park, Old Town Alexandria. The seventh edition of the Around the World Cultural Food Festival, the largest outdoor cultural food festival in the Washington D.C. metro area with 50 countries par-

ticipating, is back at Oronoco Bay Park. Taste authentic traditional food from the food vendors while watching a diverse folk show with singers and dancers from countries around the world. The festival will be presenting ethnic cuisine from Cambodia, China, Colombia, Greece, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Korea, Laos, Lebanon, Nepal, Peru, Thailand, Turkey, Vietnam and United States of America, traditional dance performances from Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, Germany, Iran, Ireland, Japan, Panama, Scotland, Turkey and United Kingdom, as well as artisanal items from Angola, Benin, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Colombia, El Salvador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Peru, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Turkey, United States of America and much more. Visit the website www.aroundtheworldfestival.com.

SUNDAY/AUG. 27

Second Summer Sunday with the Arts. 1-4 p.m. At the 800 block of North Royal Street, between Madison and Montgomery Streets, Alexandria. Hosted by the Old Town North Alliance, this event will be larger than the first, with more than a dozen working artists displaying and selling their original works, from painted landscapes to textiles to concrete. Children's games and activities will be featured in the central area. The band Mars Video will perform. Civic organizations will provide snacks and beverages, as well as neighborhood informational displays. Lost Boy Cider will join the adjacent Farmers Market in Montgomery Park,

and several of the other vendors will extend their hours. The public is invited to attend. Admission and children's activities are free. Parking is available on surrounding streets; follow local signage.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 9

Benefitting United Community and in memory of Phil Bolin, come to a Memorial Benefit Concert/Recital on Saturday, Sept. 9, 2023, at 2 p.m. at Aldersgate United Methodist Church. Join us for an enchanting performance honoring the memory of Phil Bolin featuring mezzo-soprano, Caroline Nielson, and pianist, Eddie Rothmel. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students.

All ticket purchases are non-refundable and will be donated to support United Community. unitedcommunity.org/concerts

SEPT. 1-30

The "Farther Afield" Exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans gallery 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Featuring art by local artists that takes the viewer on a journey, whether that is someplace an hour away from Alexandria or halfway across the world. Opening Reception: Friday, September 1, 7-9 p.m. Open Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays 12-6 p.m. (Closed on October 1). Details: DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

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25 Deanna Bogart (Blues, R&B)

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Filmmaker

FROM PAGE 1

about getting his cleft repaired. Where he was born was a bit remote," said Gambino.

The wheels started turning though, and the film crew got on an airplane headed to the Philippines where there were challenges, including the weather. It was monsoon season and "it rained every day," Gambino said. This went on for 25 days where they spent long hours with the family. The Philippines has a variety of tropical wonders for tourists, but not on this trip. "We were too busy to enjoy it," she said. The film was made in black and white so viewers would pay more attention to the subject matter and not the scenery.

One in 700 babies are born with a cleft lip or palate globally, according to Smile Train. Clefts cause difficulties eating, breathing, hearing and speaking. A cleft occurs when certain structures don't fuse together during fetal development. Clefts can involve the lip and/or the roof of the mouth, which is made up of both hard and soft palate. Many children with clefts don't receive the reconstructive surgery they need.

Out of NOVA

Gambino grew up in Hayfield Farm and graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in marketing. In 1987 she started working with CNN, covering the war in Somalia, the Berlin Wall coming down, the war in Bosnia and the first Gulf War in the Middle East. It was here Gambino got her experience with film and then set her sights on health and environmental justice themes.

Other environmental and health topics she's addressed included "Wasteland," a CBS News docuseries for Paramount+ that examines the impacts of wastewater on four American communities, which won an award from the nonprofit Food and Water Watch. In 2020, she did "Welcome to Pine Lake," a story of a small Georgia town. Other films: "A Love Song for Latasha" (2021), "Quilt Fever" (2019), and "Outspoken" (2019).

<https://www.smiletrain.org/>

CALENDAR

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Obituary



Khosrow Matini, M.D., F.A.C.S.
July 23, 2023

Dr. Khosrow Matini, 81, of Mount Vernon, VA died on July 23, 2023. He is survived by his wife, Joanie Newhart, and his daughter, Lily Monir Matini. He was a beloved plastic and hand surgeon in Northern Virginia.

Dr. Matini was born in Tehran, Iran. He graduated from the University of Meshed School of Medicine. He immigrated to the United States and completed his medical training. In 1979, Dr. Matini started his private practice in Mount Vernon, Virginia. During his tenure at Inova Mount Vernon Hospital (IMVH), he served as the Chairman of the Department of Plastic Surgery, and President of the Medical Staff. In the early 2000s, he spearheaded the effort to prevent the closure of IMVH. Dr. Matini retired in 2012 after 33 years of solo practice and an illustrious career.

He will be missed by the multitude of patients he cared deeply for and whose lives he changed, by his many friends, and most of all by his family. The family will be holding a private memorial to celebrate his life. In lieu of flowers, please donate to your charity of choice in Dr. Matini's name.

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\$590K In Arts Grants to 50 Nonprofits

ArtsFairfax, the nonprofit designated as Fairfax County's local arts agency, today announces over \$590,000 awarded in Operating Support Grants to 50 nonprofit arts and culture organizations based in Fairfax County, the City of Fairfax, and the City of Falls Church.

Operating Support Grants are foundational to the stability of Fairfax nonprofit arts and culture organizations by providing County funds, distributed by ArtsFairfax, for the basic operation of invaluable programs, services, and facilities these organizations provide to Fairfax County area residents.

"ArtsFairfax received a record high number of Operating Support Grant applicants, in part because of our constant communication with grantees to understand their needs and make arts funding more accessible throughout the creative community" says Linda Sullivan, ArtsFairfax President & CEO.

New for Fiscal Year 2024, the minimum eligible budget was lowered to \$5,000 to allow more organizations to apply. Additionally, in recognition of the rising costs of labor and materials, small organizations were able

to apply for 25% of their eligible operating expenses (as opposed to a limit of 15% as in previous years), and for all organizations, the maximum allowed request was raised from \$50,000 to \$60,000.

Though the County allocation for arts grants remained flat from last year, the distribution of existing funds increased by 35.5% in support of nonprofit operating expenses.

FY24 ArtsFairfax Operating Support Grants by the Numbers

- \$591,786 awarded to 50 organizations
- 74% female leadership
- 44% small budgets under \$100K
- 28% BIPOC leadership
- 12% veteran leadership

Applications are reviewed and scored by an independent grant panel comprised of local professionals with expertise in various arts disciplines, knowledge of arts management, and/or knowledge of the Fairfax community. To ensure transparency of ArtsFairfax grantmaking practices, all panel reviews are made accessible to the applicants and general public.

Fiscal Year 2024 Operating Support Grantees

Organization

1st Stage
Amadeus Concerts
American Youth Philharmonic Orchestras
Artisans United, Inc.
Artists in Motion / Alchemy Ballet
BalletNova Center for Dance
Cappies NCA
City of Fairfax Band Association, Inc.
City of Fairfax Theatre Company
Creative Cauldron
Daily Poetry Association
DanceArtTheater
Fairfax Jubil-Aires
Fall for the Book, Inc.
Falls Church Arts, Inc.
Gin Dance Company
Greater Washington Chinese Dance IACC
Jazz4Justice
McLean Community Players
McLean Project for the Arts (MPA)
Mosaic Harmony
Mount Vernon Community Children's Theatre
Music for Life
National Concert Band of America
New Dominion Chorale
NextStop Theatre Company
Northern Virginia Chorale
Novasian Chorus Inc.
Providence Players of Fairfax
Public Art Reston
Reston Community Orchestra
Reston Community Players
The Choralis Foundation
The Fairfax Ballet Company
Tephra Institute of Contemporary Art
The Reston Chorale
The Vienna Jammers Percussion Ensemble, Inc.
Traveling Players Ensemble, Inc.
Vienna Arts Society
Vienna Choral Society
Vienna Community Band, Inc.
Vienna Falls Chorus Sweet Adelines International
Virginia Bronze Handbell Ringers of Northern Virginia
Virginia Chamber Orchestra
Virginia Winds Academy, Inc.
Washington West International Film Festival
We Rock Cancer
Woodbridge Flute Choir
Workhouse Arts Center

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Dranesville
Mason
Mason
Dranesville
Mason
Dranesville
City of Fairfax
City of Fairfax
City of Falls Church
Braddock
Braddock
Springfield
Braddock
City of Falls Church
Hunter Mill
Dranesville
Providence

City of Fairfax
Dranesville
Dranesville
Providence
Mount Vernon
Braddock
Mount Vernon
Dranesville
Dranesville
Braddock
Sully
Providence
Hunter Mill
Hunter Mill
Hunter Mill
Dranesville
Hunter Mill
Hunter Mill
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Providence
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Hunter Mill
Dranesville
Springfield
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Thank you to the hundreds of supporters who helped to keep all your Connection Newspapers alive throughout Alexandria, Fairfax County Arlington County and Potomac, Md. along with affiliated websites and digital media. Now we need help again in 2022.

Each local newspaper's mission aspires to provide greater community service, and we do know that our communities are better off if we continue to publish. Last year's financial support from readers and supporters like you bridged the shortfall before Federal PPP funding arrived, and both made our survival possible. We now await a decision for a grant from Rebuild Virginia in early February that we hope will help us in 2022 and beyond. But we need help to survive the first quarter, always a brutal time for cash flow in weekly newspapers. Thank you.

Please, help save these historical papers. 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.

The ongoing pandemic continues to crush many newspapers across the country, and our newspapers continue to be at risk. The Northern Virginia area's best read and most trusted source for community news includes the Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette and all Connection Newspapers in the metropolitan region.

The pandemic has been a bear, financially and otherwise. Revenue plummeted at the beginning in 2020. Some beloved advertisers have stayed the course supporting us throughout, and many more have done what they can. In the fall of 2021 we saw the return of some advertising for events and Grand Openings, but now omicron clouds the horizon in so many ways. Revenue still remains short of expenses despite our greatly curtailed costs.

Connection Newspapers has been offering these local newspapers to residents for over 200 years. Countless residents have grown up with these papers covering significant moments in the lives of family and children, news, community events, school activities, and even pictures of your dogs and cats. Internet news and large national newspapers cannot provide the local connection or historical connection that local papers like Connection Newspapers and the Alexandria Gazette Packet provide. If your child, dog, mother, father, neighborhood, school has been featured, you understand the value of local community newspapers.

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Can't Claim Much Progress



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Two and a half weeks since the tree hit our house. Yet, minimal contact/movement from the insurance company/adjuster. In fact, it's been 10 days since the adjuster arrived at our house, iPad in hand. After the initial exchange of pleasantries, he walked around the house, making notes, while asking lots of questions. Even though he didn't go inside the house to "ladder" up into our first-floor attic to inspect the roof damage for himself (in fairness, before this his first on-site visit, I had forwarded to him a dozen or so email photographs, as provided to us by the water-mitigation team, so he kind of new the lay of the land, so to speak), he seemed as sincere, empathetic and understanding as you'd hope from the person tasked with rebuilding your life, so to speak. Since this first meeting, however, there has been radio and electronic silence. Subsequently I've called and emailed. Not an excessive amount but enough to be squeaky on his wheel. Still, nothing.

Originally, I had been promised an itemized list of damages and their respective repair dollars – and a Zelle payment possibly a few days later. Thankfully, I haven't been holding my breath. If I had, I'd be dead now, at least blue in the face. But I never thought his timeline was realistic. Still, the adjuster was very reassuring and confident; specifically, about when we might expect to be paid. (The process will be that I will receive a payment and then "general contract" my way through the repairs. I was further informed that if the reimbursements weren't quite right, that the adjuster is flexible and will work together with us to remedy any discrepancy. No problem, or so I was told. However, so far, all it's been is a problem.)

Yet here I sit, twiddling my thumbs and wiping my brow, looking for some kind of relief from the allocating-powers-that-be. At present, on my own, I have received three estimates on replacing the two air conditioning units, two estimates on repairing the roof and none so far on addressing the electric issues, inside and outside painting, chandelier replacement, refinishing the den's wooden floor – which was soaked, all of which seem to be cart-before-the-house until I see the estimates from the company to learn what they'll cover. Moreover, I've likewise received no communication or direction from the company/adjuster about replacing/reimbursing the oriental rug and pad that were destroyed by the water leaking through the roof and puddling on the floor in our den. All damages caused by the tree falling on our house during a rain/storm event, the kind all of us Washingtonians are familiar with, thereby creating a hole in the roof. All of which seemed well within our expectations for coverage according to the words of the adjuster. It seemed all so easy and reasonable that a delay and/or dispute seemed unthinkable. I joked that if I knew the process and all was going to be this easy, I would have knocked down the tree myself. Little did I know; very little, in fact.

However, not to balance the company's/adjuster's lack of follow up with reality, but the company promptly sent over a water-mitigation team. (I was advised to mention the possibility of mold – since it had already been three days since the storm, as an inducement to get the company to act. Sure enough, I called Monday; I mentioned the mold; the water-mitigation people arrived Tuesday. Unfortunately, that's all they've sent of done so far.) And I was grateful for what seemed like on that Tuesday, the beginning of a speedy resolution to our house's damage, a start, certainly. First things, first. And water is very often 'first.' (I remember being asked rhetorically, by the inspector who "inspected our home in 1992 "What are the three most important words in home ownership"? His answer: "Water, water, water." And I've been mindful of it ever since.

But it's not just water that has seeped into our house, it's reality as well. It feels like we're "Stuck in Mobile with the Memphis Blues Again" (a song written by Bob Dylan and often covered by "The Grateful Dead"). In total, we're sort of stuck – waiting for financial details, sort of confused and not at all thrilled by our circumstances and/or claim's experience. It's not as if I'm clueless about such quandaries. I realize as they do in the horse world: "Manure Occureth." And in every other world too, as water flows downhill – literally in this case, and of course, figuratively as well. At the end of the day – and the beginning too, I may be powerless to affect any action, certainly on my timetable, anyway.

Nevertheless, if I do indeed want to "Keep hope alive," to invoke the Rev. Jesse Jackson, I need a sign. Is anybody paying attention to claim #12J14658? You already have my cellphone number, email address and claim paperwork. Please act like it. Thank you.

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



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4108 Old Mill Rd | \$730,000



5210 Burke Dr | \$877,000



4325 Tarpon Ln | \$950,000



9390 Warburton Ct | \$1,200,000



8353 Wagon Wheel | \$650,000



4106 Faith Ct | \$940,000



1112 Cedar Dale Ln | \$1,220,000



2210 Londonderry Rd | \$900,000



3600 Riverwood Rd | \$1,150,000

49 homes sold in 2023 so far!

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