

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

NOVEMBER 23, 2023



Matteo Dunne, Queenie Cox and Aimee Vosper, FCPA staffer.



Little Hunting Creek wetlands on Nov. 18, 2023.

PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH

New Trail to Little Hunting Creek Is Coming

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

Gum Springs Trail Project

The Fairfax County Park Authority plans to build a walking trail from the Martin Luther King Jr. Park's parking lot to the Little Hunting Creek wetlands, park authority officials told a gathering on Nov. 18. The park, in Mount Vernon's Gum Springs community and dedicated in 1968, is a popular recreational site for its ballfield, swimming pool, tennis courts, playground and picnic area.

The trail's asphalt part will be 411 feet long and six feet wide or from 10-to-12 feet, including "disturbed areas" on each side. The trail will transition to a 231-foot, wooden boardwalk 30 feet above ground and terminate at an observation platform over the marsh.

Jai Cole, FCPA Executive Director, explained their rationale: "We're looking to create parks with a variety of experiences that appeal to all members of the community no matter their age, interest, ability or background. We've concentrated a lot on the active recreation amenities of Martin Luther King Jr. Park in recent years.

"The Gum Springs Trail will provide more leisure and contemplative activities as visitors will be able to hike the accessible, interpretive trail through the forest to a phenomenal wetlands and water view. Allowing safe access from the park to Little Hunting Creek has been a priority for this community for some time and I'm thrilled to be

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/planning-development/development/gum-springs>.

Send comments to Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov.
Martin Luther King Jr. Park, 8115 Fordson Road, Alexandria 22306,
<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/picnics/martin-luther-king-jr>.

The Friends of Little Hunting Creek seek partners. Visit <https://www.friendsoflittlehuntingcreek.org/news/access.htm>.

able to bring this dream to reality."

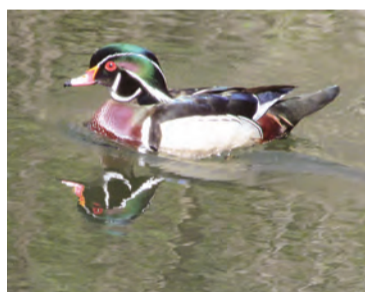
Fairfax County park staffers have prepared a conceptual design and this winter will start preparing permit applications. They predict that construction will start in the spring of 2025. The cost will depend on the final design.

Jim Corcoran, Trails Manager, told the group gathered that FCPA would choose "an alignment with the least impact on natural resources" and will "try to avoid big trees." Asked how many trees they would take down, he answered, "the least amount possible." They will plant some trees to have a canopy over the trail, he said.

Corcoran noted that some state endangered and threatened plants have been identified in the area. In completing the final design, park authority will conduct more studies to more thoroughly identify historic, cultural and natural resources, he said.

Newly re-elected Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck supports the trail because it "helps people better understand our natural world. Our natural world is under threat and we need to protect it," he remarked.

Betsy Martin, president of the



The Friends of Little Hunting Creek have installed wood duck nest boxes to attract these stunning birds.

Friends of Little Hunting Creek, applauded the project. "There is very little public access to the creek for its entire length," she commented. "The Friends promote low-impact access that will enhance local residents' ability to visit the creek, enjoy its beauty and find respite in nature. We are very pleased that the county appears to be taking great care to reduce the impact of the trail and its construction and to protect this sensitive wooded wetland and the wildlife habitat it provides."

Mateo Dunne, newly-elected Mount Vernon School Board member, urged that the trail connect to

SEE NEW TRAIL, PAGE 8



The entrance to Martin Luther King Jr. Park.



Jim Corcoran, FCPA Trails Manager, described the plans and noted many invasive plants that need to be controlled.



The Trusted Resource for Luxury Real Estate in Alexandria

To learn more about our Associates and our firm, visit www.WeAreAlexandria.com



Herbert Springs | \$5,000,000

Neighboring Old Town Alexandria in this exclusive and distinctive enclave is this two-year-old, custom build which has been carefully curated with detailed high-end finishes throughout. Here are featured the benefits of modern living with fashionably gracious, classic finishes. The high ceilings, large rooms, millwork and design details are incomparable, and there's almost two acres. 8104 E Boulevard Drive

Janet Catteron Price 703.622.5984
www.JanetPriceHomes.com

Robinson Landing | \$4,850,000

Waterfront perfection! Enjoy sophisticated living in this 3-bedroom + den, 2.5-bath penthouse featuring a spacious open plan, tall windows, sleek chef's kitchen, gas fireplace and a luxurious primary suite. Two balconies, private elevator, and 2 parking spaces. Exceptional community amenities include a fitness center, pet grooming spa, a bike room, and concierge service. 5 Pioneer Mill Way #501

Babs Beckwith 703.627.5421
www.BabsBeckwith.com



Belle Rive | \$3,300,000

City Close but Country Quiet...Wonderful one level living on the Potomac River. This home has been expanded and updated by the area's best craftsmen. Living space is extended outdoors by extensive terraces that encircle the in-ground pool. Wonderful nautical railings enhance the relaxing waterfront lifestyle while also minimizing any disruption to the view from the interior of the house. 3803 Belle Rive Terrace

Jeffery McGlothlin 703.798.0137
www.alexandria-homes.com

Alexandria/Fort Hunt | \$3,200,000

Show Stopper Luxury! This 7,000-SF main house has an attached 3,300-SF guesthouse, situated on over a 1-acre walled and private lot, which adds incredible flexibility for family and visiting friends. There are 8 bedrooms and baths in total, gourmet kitchens with entertaining spaces, a media room, a pool, and outdoor living areas. What an entertainer's paradise! 1500 Collingwood Road

Chris Robinson 703.898.9023
www.robinsonbriggs.com



Belle Rive | \$2,980,000

Rare, extraordinary waterfront property, just a few hundred yards from Mount Vernon Estate. Breathtaking views from virtually all rooms. Over 6,200 SF of finished space on three levels. Huge rooms, wonderful layout for entertaining. 6-7 bedrooms, including main level bedroom, and 5 full baths. Ample space for a dock or pool or join nearby Mansion House Yacht Club! 3901 Belle Rive Terrace

Peter Crouch 703.244.4024 & Katie Crouch 703.447.1345
www.CrouchRealtyGroup.com

Old Town | \$2,799,000

This magnificent 4-bedroom, 3.5-bath historic residence exudes sophistication and elegance. High ceilings, original floors, 2 wood-burning fireplaces, handsome millwork, eat-in kitchen with new stainless appliances, second level family room, sunroom, one off-street parking space, and other fine details showcase the perfect blend of old-world craftsmanship with modern conveniences. 411 Prince Street

Babs Beckwith 703.627.5421
www.BabsBeckwith.com

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



NEWS

Fairfax County Street Names Survived an Antiquated Labeling System

They hashed it out at a board meeting 59 years ago.

By MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

In the Beulah Street area of the Franconia District, lots of people on the street still call it Beulah Road, even though the name was officially changed in July 1964. In fact, that month 59 years ago, there were lots of name changes to streets in Fairfax County that were manually recorded in the “Old-New Street Name List,” which became effective in April 1965.

In the case of Beulah Street, there was a conflict with another Beulah Road in Vienna, but residents along the street resisted change and still refer to it as “Beulah Road.” There are many such situations across the county.

This Old-New Street Name List document was created at a county board meeting to “eliminate duplicate existing street names and to officially assign names to unnamed streets” the document states. The

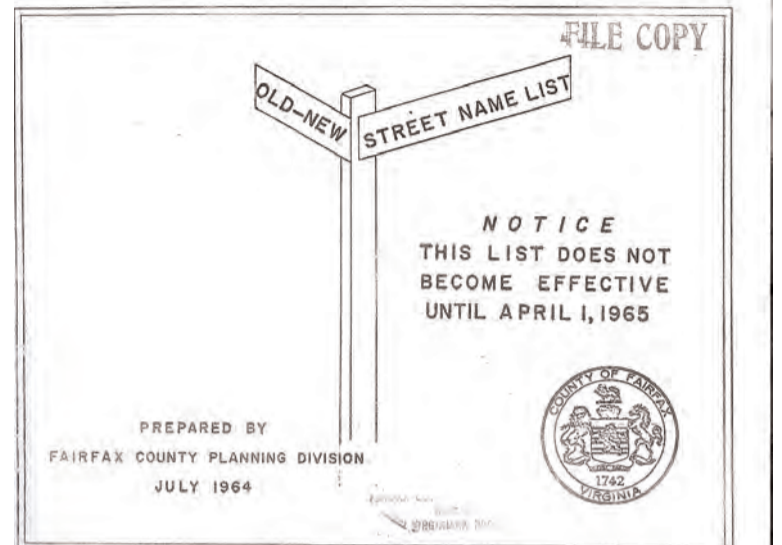
document is part of the “Official Street Names and Property Numbering Atlas,” and it looks like it was painstakingly produced on a manual typewriter. Oh the humanity! It was even signed by Edna A. Bicksler, the Clerk of “said” Board, whatever that means.

According to the document, Beverly Drive is now Beverly Manor Drive, and Boothe Place in Bellehaven (sic) is now called Edgewood Terrace. That’s a complete rename, could the original be named after John Wilkes Booth? Who knows.

Originally there were three Cedar Lanes, four Cedar Streets and the three Elm Streets are now Elm Terrace, Elm Place and Elm Drive. In addition, there were four Maple Streets, six Oak Streets, four Pine Streets and five Ridge Roads.

The numbered road system followed some kind of logic, although it isn’t entirely clear from first look at this pamphlet. For example, the stretch of road between Rt. 123 and Rt. 642 is now Rt. 600 or Silverbrook Road, while Rt. 640 between Old Keene Mill Road and Hooes Road is to be called Sydenstricker Road. This list goes on for 112 secondary roads.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/CONNECTION



Possibly created on a manual typewriter and copy machine.

61-4 In Dowden Terrace, change (1) Maple Street, Lacey Boulevard, and Oakville Lane to LACEY BOULEVARD; (2) Scoville Street to ARNET STREET; (3) Rosser Street to N. ROSSER STREET; (4) Grove Street to BRADLEY BOULEVARD; (5) Davis Avenue to N. STEVENS STREET; (6) Wainwright Boulevard to DAWES AVENUE; (7) Lacey Boulevard to N. CHAMBLISS STREET; (8) Marshall Boulevard to COLFAX AVENUE; and (9) Van Dine Avenue to HAWTHORNE AVENUE.

Street instruction 61.4, is enough to drive a person crazy.

Recognizing Pedestrian Safety as a Public Health Concern

World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims is a global event that takes place annually on the third Sunday in November. This year, on Nov. 19, Northern Virginia Families for Safe Streets hosted a World Day of Remembrance event at Wakefield High School in Arlington. Fairfax County Health Department staff participated in the event to share new data on the state of pedestrian safety in the county. Northern Virginia Families for Safe Streets is a non-profit organization whose mission is to end pedestrian and cyclist fatalities and injuries caused by motor vehicles.

The World Day of Remembrance event recognized the 18 pedestrians killed in traffic crashes in Arlington, Alexandria, and Fairfax County since November 20, 2022 as well as unnamed pedestrians who were killed or seriously injured in the region. Seventeen of these 18 deaths occurred in Fairfax County.

On average, there are 172 crashes involving pedestrians every year in Fairfax County and new data shows that Black and Hispanic people are both injured and killed at more than

double the rate of white people.

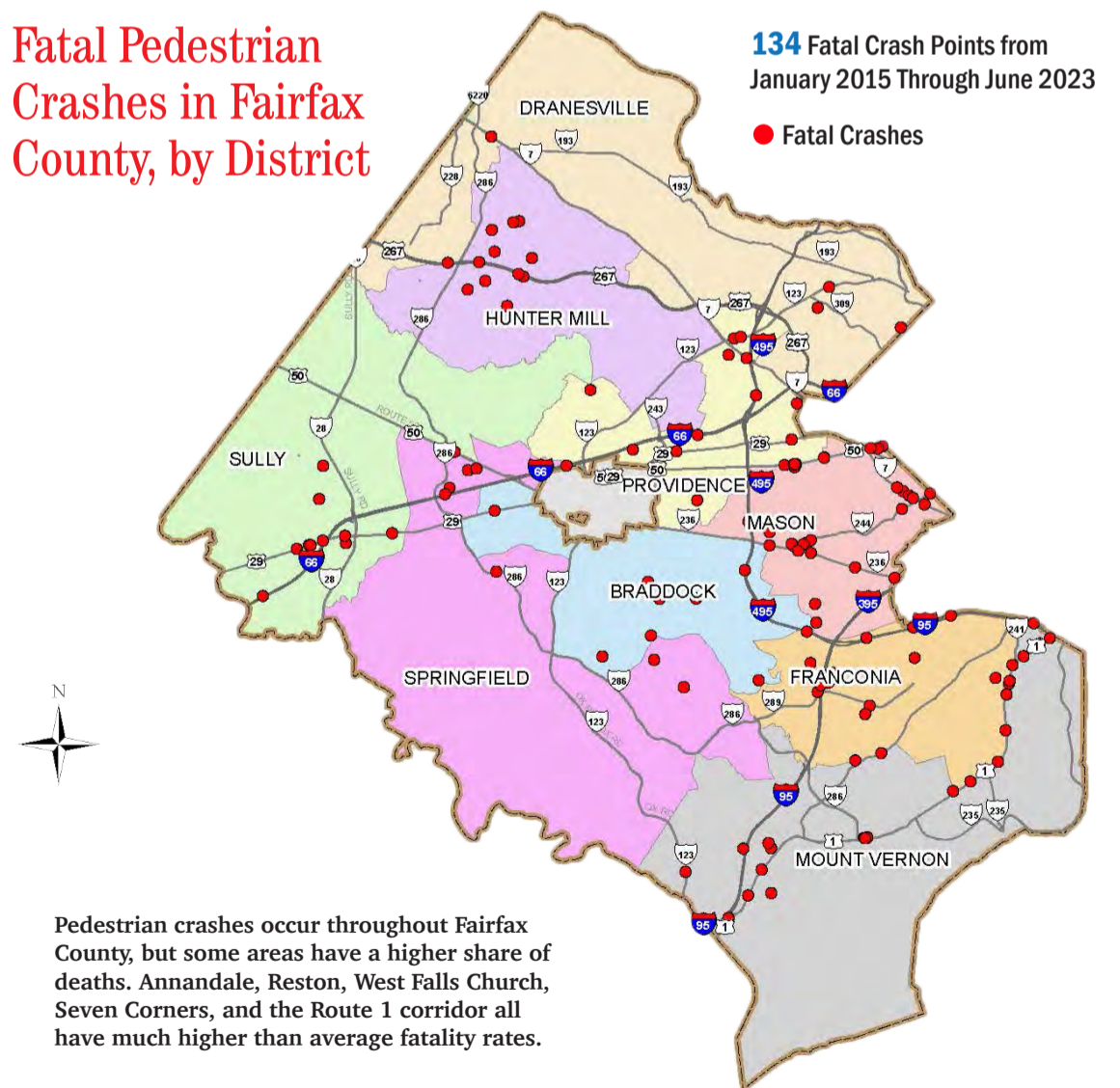
“We have analyzed the past eight-and-a-half years of traffic crash data and see traffic safety, especially for pedestrians, as a health issue that requires a multidisciplinary, systems level response,” said Anna Ricklin, MHS, Health in All Policies Manager at the Fairfax County Health Department. A forthcoming pedestrian and bike safety report will take a deeper dive on the state of pedestrian and bicycle safety in Fairfax County as well as recommended actions to reduce pedestrian and bicycle crashes.

Traffic safety is recognized as a public health concern in the U.S. and across the world. Healthy People 2030, developed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, set a target to reduce deaths from motor vehicle crashes by 10%.

In recognition of this solemn day, the Fairfax County Health Department developed a fact sheet, Pedestrian Safety Isn’t Just a Transportation Problem, to highlight factors related to pedestrian safety as a public health concern. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/topics/sites/topics/files/assets/documents/pdf/pedestrian-safety-fact-sheet-2023.pdf>

Source: Fairfax County Health Department

Fatal Pedestrian Crashes in Fairfax County, by District



Pedestrian crashes occur throughout Fairfax County, but some areas have a higher share of deaths. Annandale, Reston, West Falls Church, Seven Corners, and the Route 1 corridor all have much higher than average fatality rates.

Challenges Don't Take a Holiday

What about those experiencing hunger and homelessness?

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Thanksgiving marks the beginning of the holiday season and the countdown to a new year. On Thursday, many will gather with family and friends in a welcoming home. After the kisses, hugs and updates, and stories told once again that always bring smiles, conversations might shift to emerging issues that are on the horizon in Fairfax County — casinos or data centers, possibly — or those concerning the more local community.

Looking over at the tables and counters, groaning under the weight of food and drink, and feeling the home warm and toasty, perhaps thoughts of those less fortunate people experiencing homelessness and hunger will come to mind.

THE CONNECTION asked Fairfax County Board of Supervisors members to share their thoughts on some hot-button issues, the factors influencing them, and where they stand now.

❖ Possible casino along the Silver Line, especially if such impacts their districts

❖ Data centers in their district and elsewhere in the county

❖ Pending board item, consideration, or action proposed to come before the supervisors before January 1, 2024, that matters most to them and why

POSSIBLE CASINO along the Silver Line, especially if such impacts your district

James Walkinshaw, Braddock District Supervisor: I'm skeptical that a casino would make sense in Fairfax County and even more skeptical that it would have any hope of passing by referendum, as Virginia law requires. But if the General Assembly intends to consider legislation regarding a potential casino, it has to be a local option so that the decision is made at the local level with input from the community.

John Foust, Dranesville District Supervisor: We need to focus development along the Silver Line on creating communities where employers want to locate and families want to live. In my opinion, a casino would not be consistent with those goals. I believe that any net economic benefits to the county would be relatively insignificant and that any benefits that might be derived would be outweighed by the problems a casino could create.

Walter Alcorn, Hunter Mill District Supervisor: There has been a lot of discussion in the community and reported in local media regarding a gambling casino being built in Hunter Mill District along Metro's Silver Line. At [last week's] Board of Supervisors meeting, I reiterated my opposition to the



James Walkinshaw



Rodney L. Lusk

gambling casino proposed in SB 1543 and HB 2499 during the last session of the General Assembly. Organizations such as Reston Association and Reston Citizens Association have also voiced their strong opposition. While there is no active proposal on the table at this time, I asked the county executive for further information about the process for casino authorization that will be shared with the Board of Supervisors and the community before the beginning of the 2024 General Assembly session. (Oct. 25 Weekly Hunter Mill District News)

Rodney L. Lusk, Franconia District Supervisor: I have concerns about developing casinos in Fairfax County because they tend to attract patrons from the most vulnerable populations. These residents struggle to meet basic needs and are better served with support, resources, and opportunities instead of a casino and the distractions it may cause.

DATA CENTERS

James Walkinshaw, Braddock District Supervisor: Fairfax County currently has a modest number of data centers, and even with a handful of recent proposals, I don't expect that will change. Some of our neighboring jurisdictions have staked their economic development on hosting hundreds of data centers. Here in Fairfax County, data centers are a small part of our broader eco-



John Foust



Walter Alcorn

Walter Alcorn, Hunter Mill District Supervisor: Waiting for the staff report that was discussed at the Land Use Policy Committee meeting.

Rodney L. Lusk, Franconia District Supervisor: In Franconia District, we have one data center that is currently under construction, a 240,000-square-foot facility in an industrial area on Loisdale Road. This data center will replace two vacant office buildings built approximately eight years ago. The County should encourage data centers if they complement the proposed area and if they do not cause extensive negative environmental, energy or land use impacts to neighboring residential communities.

WHAT PENDING BOARD ITEM, consideration, or action proposed to come before the supervisors before January 1, 2024, that matters most to you and why.

James Walkinshaw, Braddock District Supervisor: Earlier this year, I asked the Board to support the creation of the Task Force on the Future of Lake Accotink to help us develop a sustainable path forward for one of Fairfax County's most treasured assets, Lake Accotink. For months, they've been working alongside a new consulting team to identify new options, including a hybrid smaller lake/wetland option I asked them to consider. They'll submit their findings to the Board of Supervisors on Dec. 5 and present them at an Environmental Committee meeting on Dec. 12.

John Foust, Dranesville District Supervisor: My focus over the next two months is to ensure a smooth and seamless transition to Jimmy Bierman, Dranesville District's Supervisor-Elect. I want to help with the transition as much as I can.

Walter Alcorn, Hunter Mill District Supervisor: Not at this time, but I will let you know if something comes up.

Rodney L. Lusk, Franconia District Supervisor: I am looking forward to the Data Center White Paper presentation and the Manufactured Housing Task Force Recommendations presentation, which are anticipated to be presented to the board before the end of the year.

HIGHLIGHT winter weather clothing, shoes/boots, food, and gift drives.

James Walkinshaw, Braddock District Supervisor: The Braddock District office hosts a year-round donation box for Ecumenical Community Helping Others (ECHO). Donations of non-perishable items and clothing help individuals and families in need in the Burke/Springfield area.

John Foust, Dranesville District Supervisor: The Victim Services Division is gath-

SEE CHALLENGES, PAGE 11

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Stuff the Bus goes virtual

nomics development strategy, and we are updating our environmental standards to ensure that we continue to push the envelope on energy efficiency, the use of renewables, and water quality protection.

John Foust, Dranesville District Supervisor: Data centers have great potential to improve the County's commercial tax base while also having the potential to do much harm if not properly regulated. The revenues data centers can generate to fund services in our County are significant, and unlike most other types of development, the County's cost to service data centers is insignificant. I want to encourage data center development while being smart about how we do it. We are working with staff and the public to evaluate issues such as where data centers should be located and best practices for mitigating noise and water quality impacts. We also recognize that data centers can be eyesores, so we are looking at creating standards that regulate aspects of their appearance.

United Community Holiday Gift Card Drive

Help make the holidays special for children in our local community.

Donate \$25 Target, Walmart, or Visa gift cards to help parents buy gifts. Drop off or mail in gift cards. <https://interland3.donorperfect.net/webink/WebLink.aspx?name=E3464&id=151>

Gift cards can also be purchased from our Amazon Wish List.

<https://www.amazon.com/registries/guest-view/DCXZKRATR2GU>

United Community, 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, VA 22306, (571) 255-8979, <https://www.unitedcommunity.org/>

BULLETIN BOARD

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; honey, 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 bacon
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

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

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, guacamole 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 Park Authority (FPCA); for more information, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets.

FOSTER PARENTS NEEDED

Interested in becoming a foster parent? There is always a need for caring foster parents looking to open their homes to foster youth. Get in touch to learn more. Visit fcsvanow@gmail.com or www.FCSVA.org. Or call 703-817-9890.

LOOKING FOR SOFTBALL PLAYERS

The Golden Girls of Northern Virginia, a senior women's softball league, is looking for players. Any woman over the age of 40 is encouraged to join. All skill levels are welcome. They play most Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings in Vienna from May-July and September-October. For more

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 14



alexandria
REHABILITATION & HEALTHCARE CENTER

Helping you Transition from
Hospital to Home

Subacute Rehab • Long Term Care • Memory Care
Respite Care • Pulmonary Care • Urgent SNF™

900 Virginia Avenue, Alexandria, VA, 22302
(703) 684-9100 | alexandriahc.com  

PASSPORT AUTO



Family-owned and operated by local Alexandrians for over 30 years!

Get the
family
treatment.

Always expect savings
with all new vehicles
priced at MSRP or below!

PassportAuto.com



Thank You and Big Challenges Ahead in the State Legislature

BY SEN. SCOTT SUROVELL



On Nov. 7, 2023, the voters of the 34th Senate District cast 54,678 votes and elected me to a third term in the Senate of Virginia by a 40% margin (69.95% to 29.97%). Thank you for entrusting me to continuing to serve as your state senator. For the full election results for our area, visit:

34th District Election Results

Here are some other statistics:

- ❖ 34th District voters supported me in 46 of 47 precincts, ranging from 81.59% of the vote to 48.16%.
- ❖ 19,311 people voted early. In my last contested election in 2015, 1,994 people voted early. Early voting this year represented a 1,000% increase from 2015.
- ❖ 1,917 voters had their votes counted after the polls closed by mailing their ballots before the polls closed because of the new law we passed in 2020.
- ❖ 697 new voters participated in this election because they used same day registration.

❖ Early voting was up over 800% statewide compared with four years ago.

❖ 63% of ballots in my race were cast on Election Day.

Expanding the time for early voting has been a resounding success, as evidenced by voters' use of it. It has fundamentally changed Virginians' ability to participate in our democracy.

My opponent ran a civil campaign, which I thank him for and 16,538 people voted for him. I recognize their values and concerns and hope to continue to listen to everyone, incorporate many views and earn the trust of those who may not agree with me on everything.

Statewide, voters also affirmed the Senate Democrats' Blue Brick Wall and maintained our Senate Democratic majority which has rejected attempts to repeal the progress we made in recent years. Virginia voters also elected a Democratic majority to the House of Delegates which will enable a more united front and ensure more progress.

Protecting Our Progress

In terms of policy, here's what the election

results likely mean, based on the Youngkin administration's initiatives reported in the media:

- ❖ No 15-week abortion ban or further restrictions on women's reproductive healthcare. We will try to start the process of amending the Constitution of Virginia to permanently protect women's reproductive healthcare rights.
 - ❖ Protecting our expansion of Virginians' ability and opportunities to vote.
 - ❖ More adequately funding K-12 schools and higher education as Virginians expect.
 - ❖ Protecting the progress Democrats made to address climate change and criminal justice reform.
 - ❖ Reaffirming and expanding protections for LGBTQ Virginians.
 - ❖ Protecting our progress and expanding our ability to prevent firearm violence.
 - ❖ Protecting minimum wage increases, employee protections and civil justice reforms.
- The state legislature could approve these policies because of your support.

In our community, Del. Mark Sickles will return as Vice Chair of the House Appropriations Committee. Del. Paul Krizek will also serve as a senior appropriator and chair important sub

SEE OPINION, PAGE 15

Children's and Teen's Gazette

Our annual Children's Connection, including the Children's Gazette and Children's Almanac, has been a long-standing tradition. We are once again welcoming contributions from children, youth, and teens in public and private schools, as well as homeschool, after-school care, and other programs, art and writing classes, and from individuals.

We publish images of all types of visual art forms, from drawing, painting, printmaking, and graphic design to sculpture, extended media, crafts, and more. We welcome written works such as poetry, essays, opinion pieces, and short stories.

Visit <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/> and scroll down to the Children's Edition to see last year's editions. Our plan is for the Children's Connection/Gazette to publish the week of December 20, 2023, with overflow possible in January 2024.

Submission Directions

Artwork should be photographed or scanned and provided in jpeg format. These can be submitted via Google Drive. Writing should be submitted in text format (docx or Google Docs) or pasted in the body of an email. We ask that all submissions be digital so they can be sent through email.

Identify each submission as follows:

<First Name> <Last Name>, <Age>, <Grade>, <Residence Location (Reston Herndon, Springfield, etc.)>, <Title of the Work>, <Medium or Type of Writing> | <School/Center Name>, <School Location>, <Teacher Name>, < Title>

Artwork example

Sean Murphy, 12, Grade 7, Springfield, Summer

6 ❖ MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE ❖ NOVEMBER 23-29, 2023

Morning, watercolor on parchment | Irving Middle School, Springfield, VA, Elizabeth Carr, art teacher, MS

Writing example

Martina Alvarez, 17, Junior, Alexandria, I'm Not Just a Teen, essay | Mount Vernon High School, Alexandria, VA, Gratia Rodriguez, English Teacher, HS

Please email your submissions by 6 p.m. on Monday, December 11, 2023, [Earlier is Better] to Editor and Publisher Mary Kimm at kimm.mary@gmail.com and fill in the Subject Line as Children's Connection 2023



Submit a Letter to the Editor

To submit a letter to the editor, email editors@connectionnewspapers.com or via the following form <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter/>

Ideally, letters will be original, about local issues and less than 300 words. Please submit letters by noon Friday before publication week, although letters received on Mondays can be considered. Letters must include your first and last name, home address and a phone number. Letters are routinely edited for libel, length, grammar, good taste and accuracy. Your name and town will be published with your letter, other personal information will not be shared. If you are a student, your school name, age and grade will also be published.

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

www.MountVernonGazette.com

Twitter @MtVernonGazette

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

Published by Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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

NEWS DEPARTMENT: gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Mary Kimm
Editor and Publisher
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

Jeanne Theismann
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com
@TheismannMedia

Mercia Hobson
Staff Reporter
mhobson@connectionnewspapers.com

Mike Salmon
Contributing Writer
msalmon@connectionnewspapers.com

Ken Moore, Glenda Booth
Contributing Writers

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

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

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

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

Classified & Employment Advertising
703-778-9431

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

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

Art/Design:
Laurence Foong
Production Manager:
Geovani Flores

CIRCULATION Circulation Manager: Ann Oliver circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

A Connection Newspaper



6 Teens Seriously Hurt in McLean Crash

Detectives from FCPD Crash Reconstruction Unit are investigating a single-vehicle crash in Idylwood involving seven teenagers.

Early Monday morning at 4:56 a.m., officers responded to a single-vehicle crash in the 2600 block of Pioneer Lane. Six of the seven juvenile occupants were taken to the hospital with injuries considered to be life-threatening.

Preliminarily, detectives determined the 17-year-old driver was traveling southbound in a 2003 Lincoln Aviator on Shreve Road at a high rate of speed. As he crested the top of a hill, he lost control of the vehicle and struck a tree near Pioneer Lane. The vehicle then spun, ejecting five of the teenagers from the vehicle. One teen was trapped and was extricated from the vehicle. The five passengers ejected from the vehicle were not wearing seatbelts. All six passengers remain hospitalized with serious injuries.

Initially, the driver was arrested on scene for Driving Under the Influence. After consultation with the Office of the Fairfax Commonwealth's Attorney, he will not be charged today, and charges are pending as the investigation continues. Detectives believe speed and alcohol were factors in the crash.

Detectives would like to speak to anyone with information about this case. Those with information are asked to please call our Crash Reconstruction Unit at 703-280-0543. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by phone - 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477).

New Performance Auditor to the Board Appointed

Jennifer Girard has been appointed performance auditor to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, effective Monday, Nov. 27.

Working under the board's Audit Committee, the performance auditor to the board provides accurate information and objective advice to the board in its oversight of county programs by conducting performance, risk and financial reviews of county agencies, operations and county-funded programs; helping to ascertain that appropriated funds are expended for their intended purpose; and providing recommendations, consultation and insight on methods of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of county operations and programs.

This position is separate from the work of the Office of Internal Audit, which focuses on the day-to-day administration of the county under the direction of the county executive.

Girard will lead the Office of Financial and Program Auditor in planning, designing and conducting studies, surveys and evaluations of county agencies, programs and initiatives, as assigned by the Board of Supervisors or the Audit Committee.

Girard brings experience in data analysis

and visualization, risk assessment and mitigation, and senior leadership consultation on operational and strategic improvements, along with a history of building and supervising high-performing teams.

Girard previously worked for the American Red Cross National Headquarters, where she was hired in 2007. She began her career there as a grants and foundation partnerships senior associate and later served as knowledge management officer, before taking the role of audit analytics manager.

Girard earned a bachelor's degree in political science and Spanish from Furman University and a master's in Latin American studies from Georgetown University. She holds certifications in fraud management and data analytics and is a member of the Institute of Internal Auditors, among other affiliations. She is also a member of several local boards and foundations.

Practice Gun Safety for the Holidays

Fairfax County Police Department emphasizes the crucial importance of responsible gun ownership and firearm safety in the community. This initiative seeks to ensure that our community members enjoy a safe and joyous holiday season while reducing the risk of firearm-related accidents and incidents.

This year, we partner with the Fairfax County Circuit Court to provide new concealed carry permit applicants a gun lock. This gun lock will be given, free of charge, to applicants to ensure they have the proper equipment to secure their firearm. If you already have a permit for concealed carry, all our police stations have Crime Prevention Officers who can provide you with a free gun lock if you are a current or new firearm owner.

This holiday season, keep safety in mind, especially when it comes to firearms. Whether you're a gun owner or not, understanding and promoting gun safety can make a big difference in ensuring a safer and happier holiday season for everyone.

Ways You Can Practice Gun Safety:

❖ Secure Your Firearms:

If you own firearms, it's crucial to store them securely, especially when family and friends gather at your home. Unintentional access to firearms by children or unauthorized users can lead to tragic accidents. Ensure that your firearms are unloaded and locked in a secure safe, always storing ammunition separate from your firearm, treat every firearm as if it's loaded, and always keep the muzzle of any firearm pointed in a safe direction.

❖ Education Is Key:

Ensure that everyone in your household, especially children, understands the basics of firearm safety. Teach them to treat every firearm as if it is loaded and to immediately inform an adult if they come across an unattended firearm.

❖ Safe Handling:

Always follow proper handling procedures when using firearms. Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction, keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot,

NOTICE OF WATER RATE AND BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

December 14, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 14, 2023, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges. The hearing will be held in Fairfax Water's offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, VA.

The proposed changes, to be effective April 1, 2024, include the following:

- An increase in the Availability Charge from \$4,640 to \$4,800.*
- An increase in the Local Facilities Charge from \$22,090 to \$22,910.
- An increase in the Service Connection Charge from \$1,790 to \$1,830.*
- An increase in the Account Charge from \$44 to \$47.
- An increase in the Quarterly Billing Service Charge from \$14.95 to \$15.60.*
- An increase in the base Commodity Charge from \$3.65 to \$3.84 per 1,000 gallons of water.
- An increase in the Peak Use Charge from \$4.00 to \$4.10.
- An increase in the Turn Off / Turn On Charge from \$53 to \$57.
- An increase in the Fees for Use of Fairfax Water Fire Hydrants to include the increase in the Commodity Charge and Peak Use Charge.
- An increase in the Overhead Charges for Labor from 102% to 104%.
- An increase in the Installation of Sewer Use Meter Charge Inspection Fee from \$42 to \$46.

*Charges reflect fees associated with a standard 5/8" residential meter. Changes in charges for larger residential and commercial meters are reflected in the Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges.

Fairfax Water is also proposing a \$241 million budget for calendar year 2024¹. Water sales are expected to provide \$212 million, and the remaining \$29 million is expected from connection charges, investment income, and other sources.

The major areas of operation and maintenance expense are:

Category	-- \$1,000s --	
	2023	2024
Personal Services & Employee Benefits	\$ 63,208	\$ 67,746
Power and Utilities	14,457	15,190
Chemicals	12,068	13,625
Purchased Water	7,511	8,913
Supplies and Materials	5,591	6,449
Insurance	1,471	1,330
Fuel	821	930
Postage	602	620
Contractual Services	12,253	12,855
Professional Services	1,236	1,480
Other	2,295	2,739
Sub-Total	121,513	131,877
Transfer to Improvement Fund	(11,141)	(11,014)
Total	\$ 110,372	\$ 120,863

Net revenues are expected to be appropriated as follows:

Debt Payment	\$49,244,258
Improvement Fund	\$11,000,000
General Fund	\$58,974,000

¹ Fairfax Water's Board will continue to monitor economic factors and review revenues and expenditures at mid-year to determine if additional action is needed.

Visit [fairfaxwater.org/rates](https://www.fairfaxwater.org/rates) to view a copy of the proposed changes.

Those wishing to speak at this hearing or desiring a copy of the proposed changes should call Ms. Susan Miller at 703-289-6018. Interested parties may submit written comments to PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org or mail written comments to:

Fairfax Water
Public Hearing Comments
8570 Executive Park Avenue
Fairfax, VA 22031

All written comments must be received by close of business on Wednesday, December 13, 2023, to be included in the record of the public hearing.

SEE NEWS BRIEFS, PAGE 9

New Trail to Little Hunting Creek Is Coming

PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH

FROM PAGE 1

Mount Vernon High School to help students walk or bike to school. FCPA Board member Linwood Gorham joined the group.

What Will Visitors See?

On Saturday, with U.S. 1's traffic soundtrack humming about one-third of a mile west, the wetland's fuzzy cattails shimmered in the afternoon sun.

"We have all this nature out here," commented Queenie Cox from the Gum Springs Homeowners Association, representing 285 households. "What are cattails? What do they do?" she asked rhetorically, stressing that being outside in nature is "good for your health."

With two-foot tides, part of the creek is wetland habitat. From the future platform, visitors may see beavers and waterfowl like great blue herons, great egrets, Canada geese and ducks. The online eBird reports 140 bird species observed on the creek.

Some residents have put up wood duck nest boxes east of the proposed platform in hopes of attracting these birds in the spring.

Male wood ducks have exquisitely patterned iridescent green, blue, purple, black and white heads and red eyes. In the spring, ospreys and bald eagles will likely return and build nests and dragonflies will zip around the water's surface.

Locals have also spotted red foxes and turtles. Virginia wildlife officials have documented invasive snakehead fish in the creek.

The Creek

Little Hunting Creek is a tributary of the Potomac River bordered largely by residential communities. A George Washington Memorial Parkway stone bridge spans the creek's mouth. Much of the land along the creek was once owned by the Washington family, originally George Washington's great-grandfather, John, who named his property the Little Hunting Creek Plantation. Lawrence Washington, George's half-brother, changed the name to Mount Vernon in the 1750s.



The group walked the conceptual trail alignment through the woods.



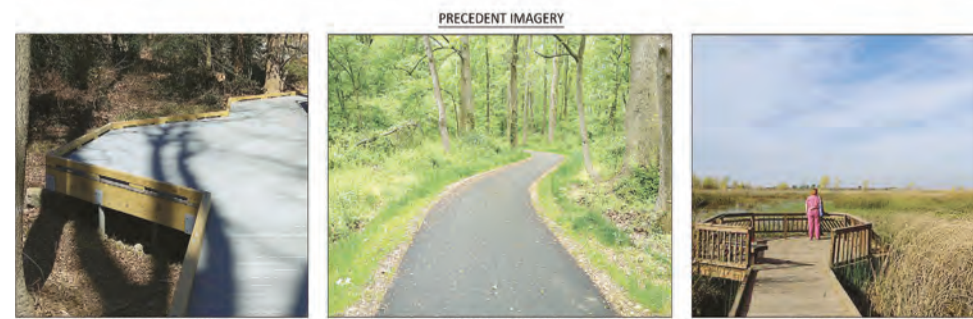
Supervisor Dan Storck, Benjamin Boxer, FCPA, and Linwood Gorham.



The GW Memorial Parkway's stone bridge over the mouth of Little Hunting Creek.



Rendering of Fairfax County Park Authority's conceptually alignment for the Gum Springs Trail.



An osprey builds a nest on a platform every spring on the creek.



Canada geese nest on the creek's shoreline in the spring.

NEWS BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 7

and be aware of your target and what lies beyond it.

- ❖ Alcohol and Firearms Don't Mix
Never mix alcohol or drugs with firearms. Keep firearms away from situations where impaired judgment could lead to dangerous accidents or incidents.
- ❖ Unwanted Firearms:
The holiday season is also an excellent time to consider removing unwanted or unused firearms from your home. If you are looking to get rid of a firearm, you can bring the firearm to any of the county's police stations. Returning your unwanted firearms helps reduce the risk of accidents or stolen firearms in our community.

For more information on this program, check out our website, here: Disposal of Unwanted Firearms and Ammunition Police (fairfaxcounty.gov)

Fentanyl and Fake Pills

The Department of Family Services wants to raise awareness of a hidden danger that is impacting families across Fairfax County and the United States.

Opioid overdoses continue to increase each year in our community. Overdoses can happen in unexpected situations – a social gathering, a school event, with a friend or family member, or other community event. Drug overdoses are a leading cause of unintentional death among children in the United States.

As a parent or caregiver, you play a vital role in educating your family members to make safe and healthy decisions. Being mindful of substances in your household and community could save a child's life.

- ❖ What is fentanyl? It is a deadly synthetic opioid that is being pressed into fake pills or cut into heroin, cocaine, and other street drugs. It is 50 times more potent than heroin. It's undetectable by sight, smell, or taste.

- ❖ What are fake pills? Fake pills are made to look like Oxy-Contin, Xanax, Adderall, and other pharmaceuticals. These fake pills contain no legitimate medicine. Fentanyl is also made in a rainbow of colors so it looks like candy. It can also be found in party drugs like cocaine and MDMA.

- ❖ Why is fentanyl so dangerous? U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration lab testing reveals that seven out of every ten fake pills with fentanyl contain a potentially lethal dose (2 milligrams) small enough to fit on the tip of a pencil.

- ❖ How would my child get fentanyl?
Drug traffickers are using social media to advertise drugs and conduct sales even to teenagers.

- ❖ What are the physical and mental effects of fentanyl? Fentanyl use can cause confusion, drowsiness, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, changes in pupil size, cold and clammy skin, coma, and respiratory failure leading to death.

- ❖ What are the signs of overdose?

- Face is pale or clammy
- Breathing is infrequent or has stopped
- Deep snoring or gurgling (death rattle)
- Unresponsive to any stimuli
- Slow or no heart rate and/or pulse
- Bluish purple, or ashen skin color
- Fingernails turn blue or blue-black

- ❖ What do I do in the case of an overdose? Call or text 9-1-1 if the situation is immediately life-threatening. Fairfax County Fire and Rescue personnel carry medication that can prevent death from an opioid overdose.

- ❖ What can I do to become better prepared? Take a virtual REVIVE! training to learn what to do in an overdose situation, how to administer naloxone (Narcan) nasal spray to reverse an opioid overdose and what to do afterward. Each attendee receives a free REVIVE! kit, which includes all the supplies needed to administer naloxone. An educational training video is also available to learn about Opioids, Naloxone, and what to do if someone overdoses.

Source: Fairfax County Department of Family Services

One-Man Show Tackles The Christmas Carol at the Workhouse



John Hardy does it all for this holiday production.



John Hardy brings his one-man show of the Christmas Carol to Lorton Workhouse Art Center.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

It takes a certain amount of skill and finesse to put on a production of “A Christmas Carol,” with only one person. John Hardy has been doing this for the past 12 years and is taking his play to the stage at the Workhouse Art Center this holiday season.

“This is a great production, I use my body and voice,” Hardy said.

He plays over 40 characters to put on the production including Scrooge, Tiny Tim and all the rest using just stage antics and voice depictions. At first, it might seem he’s up there throwing on outfit after outfit, running around like a madman, but that’s not the case. “That’s not at all what I do,” he said.

The voices and expressions tell the whole story.

In order to pull off something like this, it takes a good story and the well known Charles Dickens’ tale of Scrooge and bah-humbug has been used in many forms. The Grinch could be called a “Scrooge,” and even the Charlie Brown Christmas story is similar – they couldn’t be happy and were

looking for the true meaning of Christmas.

Hardy is into the story too, and the turnaround that happens to Scrooge is a favorite moment of his. “It surprises me and if it surprises me, it surprises the audience,” he said. “They’ll laugh and cry.”

Acting and Writing Career

Over 35 years onstage, Hardy’s career in the professional theater has taken him in all directions.

He has worked all over the country and overseas. Over the course of his career John has directed over one hundred professional productions including Macbeth, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Romeo and Juliet, Henry V, Julius Caesar, One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest, Oedipus the King, Man of La Mancha, The Taming of the Shrew and others. As an actor he’s played roles including Hamlet, MacBeth, Tom Wingfield in The Glass Menagerie, Teach in American Buffalo and many others. In 2009 John played George in a national tour of Of Mice and Men. As a playwright he has had over fifty productions

Clifton Holiday Homes Tour and Horse Parade

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Let the holiday season officially begin – it’s time for a full day of fun and merriment in the historic Town of Clifton. The festivities begin Saturday, Dec.

2, at 2 p.m. with a colorful horse parade, followed by the Holiday Homes Tour from 4-7 p.m.

Parade participants are members of the Clifton Horse Society, and they and their horses will be all decked out in their holiday finery as they jingle down Main

Street and loop through the town. Afterward, they and the attendees will gather together to enjoy cookies and other refreshments.

People are then invited to visit the charming shops and eat at Clifton’s restaurants before immersing themselves in the town’s storybook

setting of twinkling lights, the sound of caroling and beautifully decorated homes awaiting them during the homes tour.

On display will be four houses in town, an RV, plus a bonus fifth house, just outside Clifton. “You will not want to miss this home’s

floor-to-ceiling decorations spanning three levels, which have been featured in a national magazine,” said event Chairman Darah Curran. “This bonus house will open at 3 p.m. to accommodate the drive.”

The rest of the homes will open SEE CLIFTON HOLIDAY, PAGE 13
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



The Christmas Carol is just one of the productions on stage at the Lorton Workhouse Art Center.

of fifteen plays produced across the country and overseas.

Hardy has another one-person play called “Rattlesnake,” that he wrote and performs at theaters around the country. He plays 16 characters in that play.

The Workhouse Art Center in Lorton is having several holiday events over the next few weeks including a toy drive, a production of the Who’s “Tommy” featuring a pinball wizard, and Xanadu starring Jessica Barraclough.

If you go...

The Christmas Carol

Saturday, Dec. 2 at 7 p.m.,
Sunday, Dec. 3 at 1 p.m.

Workhouse Arts center
9518 Workhouse Way
Lorton VA 22079

For more, go to
workhousearts.org

CHALLENGES



BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

More than 1,300 people are unhoused in Fairfax county

FROM PAGE 4

ering pajamas to distribute to the children they assist who are most in need. Donate a pair of new pajamas for children aged infant to 17, Nov. 6 - Dec. 18. Drop off at McLean District Station, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean

Virtual Stuff the Bus https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/neighborhood-community-services/news/2023/1106a?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=social

Rodney L. Lusk, Franconia District Supervisor: Willie Bailey's Fire Station 11 Toy Drive will be held on Dec. 11 at 9:30 a.m.

Additional Giving Opportunities

The Adult and Aging Division of Fairfax County's Department of Family Services is seeking new throw/lap blankets to give to clients for this year's holiday project. If you wish to make a difference by buying one or more, please select this link <https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=y1Zhom9dckGdfZNOsKeydUZFgLV9kptPhJXVRc5PnMZUMkdBVFbBaSVM00DhEV0dNUDayNDkyRVIXSy4u> and fill out the information. Delivery/drop off new blankets by Dec. 4, 2023, to the Area Agency on Aging

Get involved with the Fairfax Food Council and explore ways to improve our food system and support healthy food access.

You can also help unsheltered people by donating to Fairfax County's network of nonprofit partners seeking donations of clothing, furniture, school supplies and more.

Job training, shelter support, fundraising, and other assistance are needed across the county. Volunteer opportunities can be found on the Volunteer Fairfax website.

Hunger and Homelessness in Fairfax County

Hunger and homelessness are not new problems in our community. As the holidays and cold weather approaches, these issues are top of mind.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Fairfax County Health and Human Services reports, food insecurity impacts more than 60,000 people in Fairfax County, according to Feeding America, the nation's largest domestic hunger-relief organization.

According to Fairfax County Health and Human Services, during its 2023 Point in Time Count in January 2023, 1,310 people were unhoused in the county. Homeless numbers have increased. The 2023 Point in Time Count homelessness numbers represent an increase of 26 percent from 1,041 in 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic began, and up 36 percent from a historical low of 964 in 2017's count. The biggest increase is in the number of people residing in emergency shelters.

Five years ago, 686 people were in shelters, but this increased by 53 percent to 1,049 people in the latest Point in Time Count. Forty-three percent of people experiencing homelessness in the latest count were under the age of 24, including 463 children."

The Fairfax County 2023-24 Hypothermia Prevention Program will run from Dec. 1, 2023, until March 31, 2024. Allyson Pearce, Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority shared additional information about hypothermia in Fairfax County.

The faith community's compassion for Fairfax County's most vulnerable neighbors is at the heart of its Hypothermia Prevention Program. "Over 40 houses of worship around the county rotate through the hypothermia period to provide extra warm space when needed. They open their houses of worship to provide overnight shelter," Pearce said. They also volunteer their time and offer many in-kind donations, such as food.

Virginia's Office of the Chief Medical Examiner provides some relevant data in its annual report. According to VDH's Office of the Chief Medical Examiner's most recent annual report (<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/medical-examiner/annual-reports/>) released July 2023, there were a total of 36 accidental deaths statewide in 2021 caused by exposure to cold.

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

TWO POOR TEACHERS

Kitchen and Bathroom Remodeling



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

Fully Insured & Class A Licensed
Since 1999



Free Estimates **703-999-2929**

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

Visit our website: www.twopoorteachers.com

A GAYLORD HOTELS ORIGINAL EXPERIENCE

ICE!

FEATURING **RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED REINDEER**

MERRY DISCOUNT DAYS
SAVE UP TO **20% OFF***
OVERNIGHT STAYS & TICKETS
Now through November 16

NOV. 19 - DEC. 31
ChristmasAtGaylordNational.com

SO. MUCH. CHRISTMAS.

*Terms and conditions apply. Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer and all related elements © & ™ under license to Character Arts, LLC. All rights reserved.

GAYLORD NATIONAL

Heeey was a misfit, so was Rudolph. They were two of a kind, so these new friends set off to see what they could find.

Alexandria Scottish Christmas Walk on Dec. 2

During Alexandria's Biggest Holiday Weekend, celebrate the return of top signature events, including the 52nd Annual Alexandria Scottish Christmas Walk Parade in historic Old Town Alexandria at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 2, 2023. The parade is sponsored by Wegmans.

Taste of Scotland

The weekend kicks off on Friday, Dec. 1 with the Campagna Center's Taste of Scotland sponsored by The Goodheart Group, a festive cocktail party at The Atrium Building featuring top-quality Scotch tasting stations and paired cuisine. Proceeds from the event benefit Campagna Center programs.

For more details on the parade route, transportation alternatives and weekend happenings, visit ALXScottishWalk.com.

Parading

Dozens of Scottish clans dressed in colorful tartans parade through the streets of Old Town, joined by pipe and drum bands, as well as terriers and hounds, community groups and more. Alexandria was founded in 1749 by Scottish merchants and was named after Scotsman John Alexander who owned the land that became Alexandria.

This year's Grand Marshals are Congressman Don Beyer and Director of the Office of Art in Embassies at the U.S. Department of State Megan Beyer.

Some highlights:

More than 120 parade units include nearly 35 Scottish clans from around the D.C. region and other parts of the U.S.



PHOTO BY E. PALLORINA FOR VISIT ALEXANDRIA

Bagpipers including the Kiltie Band of York and the City of Alexandria Pipes and Drums plus a bagpiping Santa closing the parade.

Scottish country and highland dancers from Northern Virginia Branch, Royal Scottish Country Dance Society and Alexandria School of Highland Dance

More than 10 dog groups including Scottish breeds of West Highland Terriers, Gordon Setters and Scottish Terriers along with other rescues and clubs

Don't Miss

After the last parade unit has finished the parade route, participating pipe bands will reassemble at Market Square under the direction of City of Alexandria Pipes and Drums' Drum Major Joshua Cease to play a few tunes as part of a massed band concert.

Plan Ahead

Parade-goers and others should plan ahead to avoid traffic delays, taking alter-

native transportation and, if driving, parking outside of the immediate parade zone. The parade kicks off on S. St. Asaph Street at the corner of Wolfe Street and progresses north to Queen Street, east to Fairfax Street, south to King Street, and west to terminate in front of City Hall. For the best views, spread out along the one-mile parade route. For a map of the parade route, visit ALXScottishWalk.com.

CALENDAR

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/>

OCT. 19 TO NOV. 26 Fleeting Moments | Street Photography. At The Athenaeum, Alexandria. Fleeting Moments features



The 23rd Annual Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights takes place on Saturday, Dec. 2, 2023 in Alexandria.

photographs that capture candid moments, revelatory interpretations, and brilliant reflections of the mundane — work commonly referred to as “street photography.”

In 1943 the New York Times referred to the street photography of Helen Levitt, as, “fleeting moments of surpassing lyricism, mystery and quiet drama.” Those qualities are

throughout Old Town and Del Ray will open their doors early on Friday, November 24th to participate in Plaid Friday - Alexandria's Small Business Black Friday. Come

the hallmark of the works selected for this show.

NOV. 3-26 The Housemates exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Exhibit showcases art from Del Ray Artisans members celebrating the beings we live with. Housemates may have fur, feathers, fins, scales, or be human. Opening Reception: Friday, November 3, 7-9 p.m.. Open Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays 12-6 p.m. (Closed on Thanksgiving Day). Plus bring in donations for cat and dog rescue groups. Details at DelRayArtisans.org/event/housemates

FRIDAY/NOV. 24 Plaid Friday in Old Town Alexandria. More than 50 participating businesses throughout Old Town and Del Ray will open their doors early on Friday, November 24th to participate in Plaid Friday - Alexandria's Small Business Black Friday. Come

patronize Old Town boutiques the day after Thanksgiving and enjoy great discounts, merriment and good cheer, all while shopping small, supporting local businesses and celebrating the plaid vibes that are iconic to Old Town Alexandria. Early shoppers will receive extra discounts. Early Bird Discounts: A special incentive to get up early the day after Thanksgiving are the early-morning deals offered by participating businesses: 6 AM - 8 AM: 30% off; 8 AM - 10 AM: 20% off; and 10 AM - Closing: 10% off!

DEC. 1-3, DEC. 8-10, DEC. 15-17 Del Ray Artisans 28th Annual Holiday Market. At 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Offers unique handmade fine arts and crafts from local artists. Choose from wall art, pottery, photography, jewelry, glass, and much more! Free admission. First three weekends in December (Dec. 1-3, Dec. 8-10, Dec. 15-17), plus bonus market days Dec. 22 & 23. Different artists each weekend! Open Fridays 6-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Hours for Friday, December 22 are 3-9 p.m. Details: delrayartisans.org/holiday-market

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 13

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 12

SATURDAY/DEC. 2

23rd Annual Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights. 5:30 p.m. At Waterfront Park, 1A Prince Street, Alexandria. More than 50 brightly lit boats cruise along one mile of the Potomac River shoreline from Canal Center to Ford's Landing Park. Head to Waterfront Park at the foot of King Street for festivities from 1 to 8 p.m. including a pop-up beer garden from Alexandria's Port City Brewing Company with hard cider from Alexandria's Lost Boy Cider. Also at Waterfront Park, from 1 to 5:30 p.m. enjoy hands-on activities from independently owned Alexandria businesses. Head to Canal Center on the Old Town North waterfront from 3 to 9 p.m. for the Canal Center Holiday Art Mart to enjoy family friendly festivities and watch the start of the Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights on the terrace with parade assembly anticipated between 5 and 5:30 p.m. At 3:30 p.m., Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive by fireboat at the Alexandria City Marina before attending the annual Holiday Festival at Torpedo Factory Art Center, which takes place from 12 to 6 p.m.

SATURDAY/DEC. 2

52nd Annual Alexandria Scottish Christmas Walk Parade. 11 a.m. In Old Town Alexandria. Dozens of Scottish clans dressed in colorful tartans parade through the streets of Old Town, joined by pipe and drum bands,

as well as terriers and hounds, community groups and more. Alexandria was founded in 1749 by Scottish merchants and was named after Scotsman John Alexander who owned the land that became Alexandria. Today, the city continues celebrating its heritage with the iconic parade. This year's Grand Marshals are Congressman Don Beyer and Director of the Office of Art in Embassies at the U.S. Department of State Megan Beyer. The 2023 Master of Ceremonies is Ian Houston, an international non-profit leader in the Washington, D.C. area who is dedicated to promoting cultural links between Scotland and the U.S. For more details on the parade route, transportation alternatives and weekend happenings, visit ALXScottishWalk.com.

SATURDAY/DEC. 2

Tall Ship Holiday Boat Parade of Lights Viewing Party. 5-7 p.m. Guests are invited to experience exclusive access to view Alexandria's Holiday Boat Parade of Lights. Guests can choose between two unique experiences: VIP Ticket (aboard Providence) \$85, includes glass of champagne upon boarding, onboard bar and food, TSP gift or General Admission Ticket (on dock) \$65, includes food and bar. Tickets at www.tallshipprovidence.org.

SATURDAY/DEC. 2

Classical Christmas Concert. 2 p.m. Featuring Barclay Brass and Adriano Spampinato. At St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 South Pitt

Street, Alexandria. The hour-long program will feature familiar carols, Classical masterpieces, and a few surprises, designed perfectly for families with young children, and the young-at-heart. Tickets are available through EventBrite. \$10 for individuals, capped at \$25 for a family of four. For more information: Lisa Eskew (703) 298-3901 or www.Stpauls-alexandria.com

SATURDAY/DEC. 2

Used Book Sale: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Selection of over 20,000 gently used children's books, fiction, history, biography, home and garden, cooking, crafts, sports, religion, travel, CDs, DVDs, and more. Unless specially priced, \$1 for hard backs and large paperbacks, and 25 cents for mass market paperbacks. Visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-sherwood-regional>.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

"Breakfast with Santa" will take place every weekend in December, from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in three locations in Alexandria: Joe Theismann's Restaurant, Mia's Italian Kitchen, Ada's on the River. Tickets range from \$0-\$65 and include a hearty and festive breakfast feast that will delight your taste buds. Children will receive take-home treats to continue the holiday spirit

at home, while adults can indulge in some celebratory Prosecco. Tickets can be purchased here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/breakfast-with-santa-in-old-town-alexandria-by-arp-1039279>

DEC. 8-9

Holiday Pops Concert. Friday and Saturday from 7:30-9:30 p.m.; Sunday at 2 p.m. At Washington Street United Methodist Church, 109 S. Washington Street, Alexandria. Share your spirit for the season. In lieu of a physical gift drive, online donations can be added at ticketing checkout for Alexandria's Carpenter's Shelter. Visit www.Alexandriasingers.com.

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.

NOVEMBER

Fri. 24: The Seldom Scene & Dry Branch Fire Squad \$45.00
Sat. 25: The Manhattans featuring Gerald Alston \$59.50
Mon. 27: Musiq Soulchild \$89.50
Tue. 28: Musiq Soulchild \$89.50
Wed. 29: Three Dog Night \$85.00 SOLD OUT!
Thu. 30: A Peter White Christmas with Mindi Abair & Vincent Ingala \$59.50

Clifton Holiday Homes Tour and Horse Parade

FROM PAGE 10

their doors to the public at 4 p.m. Three of them are historic and one is a modern, arts-and-crafts style. "While the homes' walls might not be able to talk, as you walk through them, docents will share stories about the houses, their previous homeowners and some town history/gossip," said Curran.

One house stands on the rumored moonshine stills of the 1920s, another home showcases stained-glass doors that were once part of a suite at the Clifton Hotel - and prior to that, served as the interior cabin-doors on a Trans-Atlantic steamship. The historic homes served many purposes; visitors will be able to learn about their former uses as a barbershop, grocery store, saloon, church, livery, etc.

In addition, the Clifton Caboose will be open for curious train enthusiasts of all ages

to view. And all three town churches will have holiday performances over the course of the evening, and the public is welcome to attend, free of charge.

Except for the bonus house, the entire event is walkable throughout the town. Tickets for the homes tour will be available at these Clifton shops and restaurants: Main Street Pub, Little Villaggio, Belle Jar and Virginia Mercantile, as well as at Pickett Fence in Burke.

The cost through Dec. 1 is \$25, adults; \$5, children. On the day of the event, tickets will be \$30 and \$5. Proceeds benefit the Town of Clifton and a designated, town charitable cause. Ticket booklets will contain each home's address, plus detailed information and histories about all of them.

- DARAH CURRAN

CONTRIBUTED TO THIS STORY.



Horses make their way through town during a past Clifton Horse Parade.

BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Past issues of

THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

back to 2008
are available at

<http://connectionarchives.com/PDF>

TURKEY TROT

5K



CAN the Bird

Thanksgiving Day

November 23, 2023

Race Starts 8:00 a.m.

Walmart, 5885 Kingstowne Boulevard

Rudy's
Golf & Sports Bar



SCAN TO REGISTER

Medals will be awarded for
1st, 2nd and 3rd Overall men and women
12 years and under / 13-19 years
20-49 years / 50+ years master runners
Doggie Duo and Stroller Run

Retirement Unlimited
INCORPORATED

Ironistic

CANned Food Drive for
Koinonia Foundation
STAY FOR THE PIE!

MVS
Mount Vernon • Springfield
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

www.mountvernonspringfield.com/can-the-bird-5k/

**The Bath or Shower You've Always Wanted
IN AS LITTLE AS A DAY**



\$1000 OFF*
AND
**No Payments & No Interest
For 18 Months****
OFFER EXPIRES 12.31.2023

BCI BATH & SHOWER
CALL NOW (844) 945-1631

*Includes product and labor; bathtub, shower or walk-in tub and wall surround. This promotion cannot be combined with any other offer. Other restrictions may apply. This offer expires 12/31/23. Each dealership is independently owned and operated. **Third party financing is available for those customers who qualify. See your dealer for details. ©2023 BCI Acrylic, Inc.

**PROTECT
WHAT MATTERS MOST**

Whether you are home or away, protect what matters most from unexpected power outages with a Generac Home Standby Generator.

\$0 MONEY DOWN + LOW MONTHLY PAYMENT OPTIONS

Contact a Generac dealer for full terms and conditions.



**REQUEST A FREE QUOTE
CALL NOW BEFORE THE
NEXT POWER OUTAGE
(844) 947-1479**

FREE 7-year Extended Warranty* - A \$735 Value!

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

GENERAC

Leaf Filter CLOG-FREE GUTTERS
GUTTER PROTECTION **FOREVER**



EXCLUSIVE LIMITED TIME OFFER!

15% OFF + **10% OFF** + **0%**
YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE* SENIORS & MILITARY! APR FOR 24 MONTHS**

USA **Promo Code: 285**

FREE GUTTER ALIGNMENT + FREE GUTTER CLEANING*

**CALL US TODAY FOR
A FREE ESTIMATE 1-877-614-6667**

Mon-Thurs: 8am-11pm, Fri-Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: 2pm-8pm EST **A COMPANY OF LEAFHOME**

**Wells Fargo Home Projects credit card is issued by Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., an Equal Housing Lender. Special terms for 24 mo. apply to qualifying purchases of \$1,000 or more with approved credit. Minimum monthly payments will not pay off balance before end of promotional period. APR for new purchases is 22.99%. Effective: 01/01/2023 - subject to change. Call 1-800-431-5921 for complete details. The leading consumer reporting agency conducted a 16-month outdoor test of gutter guards in 2010 and recognized LeafFilter as the #1 rated professionally installed gutter guard system in America. *For those who qualify. One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. Offer valid at time of estimate only. See Representative for full warranty details. Manufactured in Flannell, Michigan and processed at LWHMerger Group in Ohio. #R #0356920022, CA #1025795, CT #HC0649095, FL #C066676, IA #C127250, ID #RCE51604, LA #59544, MA #176447, MD #MHC148329, MI # 2102212986, #262000403, #2106212946, MN #R751894, MT #226192, ND 47304, NE #50145, NJ #130409951900, NM #408693, NV #080690, NY #H19114, #552229, OR #218294, PA #A0165383, RI #5C41354, TN #7056, UT #10783658-5501, VA #2705169445, WA #LEAFFR16202, WY #W056912.

CLASSIFIED
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM
TO ADVERTISE IN THIS PAPER, CALL BY MONDAY 11:00 AM 703-778-9411

Obituary

Patrick J. Reidy, 63, of Alexandria, VA, passed away on November 9, 2023. He was born in Chicago, IL to Patrick and Catherine "Kay" Reidy, nee Sullivan. Patrick served in the US Navy for almost 40 years on active duty, reserves, and as a contractor and civil servant. Patrick is survived by his sister and brother-in-law, Chris and Brian Bewley, his brother, Kevin Reidy, two nieces, fond uncles, cousins and an aunt, plus many wonderful friends. A visitation will be held on Thursday, November 30th from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Everly Wheatley Funeral Home, 1500 W. Braddock Rd., Alexandria, VA. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on December 1st at 3:00 p.m. at Good Shepard Catholic Church, 8710 Mount Vernon Hwy., Alexandria, VA. His ashes will be interred at a later date. Please see <https://www.everlywheatley.com/tributes/Patrick-Joseph-Reidy> for more information.

**Make the smart and ONLY CHOICE
when tackling your roof!**



ERIE FREE ESTIMATE
Metal Roofs **1.844.902.4611**
Expires: 12/31/2023

**Limited Time Offer!
SAVE!
UP TO
50% OFF
ON YOUR INSTALLATION
+
TAKE AN ADDITIONAL
10% OFF**
Additional savings for military health workers and first responders.

New orders only. Does not include material costs. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Minimum purchase required. Other restrictions may apply. This is an advertisement placed on behalf of Erie Construction Mid-West, Inc ("Erie"). Offer terms and conditions may apply and the offer may not be available in your area. If you call the number provided, you consent to being contacted by telephone, SMS text message, email, pre-recorded messages by Erie or its affiliates and service providers using automated technologies notwithstanding if you are on a DO NOT CALL list or register. Please review our Privacy Policy and Terms of Use on homeservices.compliance.com. All rights reserved. License numbers available at eriemetalroofs.com/erie-licences/. VA License Number: 2705029944.

MADE IN THE U.S.A.

**ESTATE SALE
LOG HOMES**

PAY ONLY THE BALANCE OWED!
**JUST RELEASED: AMERICAN
LOG HOMES** is assisting estate &
account settlement on houses

**LOG HOME KITS
selling for BALANCE OWED with FREE DELIVERY**

Model #101, Carolina, \$40,840	BALANCE OWED \$17,000
Model #203, Georgia, \$49,500	BALANCE OWED \$19,950
Model #305, Biloxi, \$36,825	BALANCE OWED \$14,500
Model #403, Augusta, \$42,450	BALANCE OWED \$16,500

NEW HOMES: Serious Inquiries only **Call: 704 368-4528**

- Never been manufactured
- **NO TIME LIMIT FOR DELIVERY**
- Comes with complete building blueprints and Construction Manual

* Windows, Doors and Roofing not included

**Before Calling View House Plans at
www.americanloghomesandcabins.com**

Past issues of

**THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS**

back to 2008
are available at
<http://connectionarchives.com/PDF>

BULLETIN

FROM PAGE 5
information, visit the web site www.goldengirls.org.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
STEM VOLUNTEERS. The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) needs scientists, engineers, mathematicians, and physicians to assist K-12 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) teachers in the Northern Virginia Area, during the 2016-17 school year. In the 2015-16 school year, the numbers of STEM volunteers in Northern Virginia were: Fairfax County - 40, Arlington - 20, and Alexandria - one. Details of the collaboration are worked out between the teacher and the volunteer, and may involve giving demonstrations, assisting in lab experiments, lecturing on special topics, assisting with homework, etc. The hours are flexible, and volunteers attend a one-day training in September before being assigned to schools. To see how volunteers are assisting their teachers, view the video clips at www.seniorscientist.org. To volunteer, contact donaldea@aol.com.

Assistance League of Northern Virginia is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that feeds, clothes and provides reading assistance and books to children in need. Assistance League's programs touch the lives of hundreds of children in Fairfax and Prince William Counties and the City of Alexandria. There are many volunteer opportunities for community members to contribute to helping those in need. To learn more, email info@alnv.org, or visit www.alnv.org.

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

Volunteer Adult Mentors Needed. Help assist the Department of Family Services' BeFriendA-Child mentoring program. The mentors provide opportunities for companionship, guidance and support to children who have been abused and neglected, or who are at risk of abuse and neglect. Contact Ibrahim Khalil (Ibrahim.khalil@fairfaxcounty.gov) at 703-324-4547.

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

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

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

Hunger Is Closer Than You Think

November 2023 marks the seventh anniversary — and tremendous growth — for Food For Neighbors, a grassroots nonprofit tackling teen food insecurity in partnership with local middle and high schools.

Founded in 2016 to address the weekend food gap for hungry students attending Herndon Middle School and Herndon High School, Food For Neighbors responded to other schools that learned about the reliable and nutritious supplemental food and requested services for their students. The nonprofit is now partnering with 42 schools in Arlington, Fairfax, and Loudoun counties, and, with its Nov. 11 collection, has provided over 425,000 pounds of food and toiletries to schools. Food For Neighbors credits this success to the generous community spirit found throughout the many neighborhoods surrounding schools.

“Our ability to help so many students is directly tied to the interest and support of our wonderful community members,” explained Karen Joseph, Founder and Executive Director of Food For Neighbors. “Our innovative Red Bag Program focuses on mobilizing community members of all ages and backgrounds to support their local schools, which means that the food and toiletries they donate are helping students living and learning in their neighborhood or one just down the street.”

The Red Bag Program provides shelving/storage units for schools to establish in-house pantries and then mobilizes community members to fill the pantries. Five times a year, Red Bag donors use a specific grocery list to shop for toiletries and shelf-stable, single-serve foods that provide nutrition and variety, so all students may enjoy the food regardless of their access to special ingredients or large appliances. The donors then fill their bags with their purchases and set the bags on their doorsteps. Volunteers, organized by neighborhoods, collect the donations and bring them to one of now nine locations for sorting and then delivery to nearby partnering schools. At the schools, social workers, counselors, and/or family liaisons identify students in need and connect them with the resources.

Food For Neighbors has registered over 2,700 volunteers and over 2,700 Red Bag donors, and more donors are always needed to address the need. For the most vulnerable students, Food For Neighbors also offers interested schools grocery gift cards, which enables students and their families to shop for their most-needed food, like fresh fruits and vegetables.

“Every time I participate in a Red Bag Event, I feel the community spirit and am moved to do all I can to support Food For Neighbors, our amazing area schools, and the students they serve,” said Anne O’Flaherty, Director of Operations for Food For Neighbors. “I see people of all ages and



In the Springfield area, a young volunteer enthusiastically helps unload car after car delivering food and toiletries for Key Middle School, Washington Irving Middle School, John R. Lewis High School, Thomas A. Edison High School, and West Springfield High School. Overall, volunteers in Springfield collected and sorted 2,656 pounds of food and toiletries donated by 219 local families. www.FoodForNeighbors.org

Food For Neighbors celebrates its 7th anniversary and over 425,000 pounds of donations.

backgrounds, school groups, businesses, and service organizations coming together to make a difference. It’s very inspiring.”

During the Nov. 11 Red Bag Event, over 800 volunteers helped to collect, sort, and deliver more than 24,000 pounds of food and toiletries donated by over 1,800 households in the areas of Arlington, Annandale, Falls Church, Alexandria, Fort Hunt, Mount Vernon, Springfield, Lorton, Centreville, Chantilly, Vienna, Reston, Herndon, Sterling, Potomac Falls, and Ashburn.

Supporting the event with food drives and/or hands-on help were families with children, teens, adults of all ages, and representatives from 26 different businesses, service organizations, and school groups. All contributed with enthusiasm to make a direct, positive impact on students in their local schools.

For Centreville High School, Nov. 11 marked the eighth time it served as a major donation collection and sorting site. Heather Ellison, the Centreville Area Manager for Food For Neighbors, found the school buzzing with activity and her heart full of appreciation for other volunteers on the Centreville leadership team as well as for the many donors and additional volunteers working together to make a difference.

“Bags were overflowing with generosity from our donors and food drives,” shared Ellison. “There were the familiar faces of our amazing repeat volunteers, who were smiling ear to ear as well as new volunteers and organizations eagerly learning the ropes. Even the teenagers were beaming with pride as they stacked filled bins in our pantry.”

Food For Neighbors invites additional community members to join in the fight against teen food insecurity. The next Red Bag Event will be held on January 13, 2024, and new Red Bag donors, volunteers, community partners, and financial contributors are always welcome. To learn more visit,

<https://www.foodforneighbors.org/get-involved/>.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

CALL 703-549-0004

FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION

ELECTRICAL	ELECTRICAL
K & D ELECTRIC	
COMMERCIAL / RESIDENTIAL SERVICE	
Family Owned & Operated	
Recessed Lighting	Licensed/Bonded/Insured
Ceiling Fans	Office 703-335-0654
Phone/CATV	Mobile 703-499-0522
Computer Network Cabling	lektkrman28@gmail.com
Service Upgrades	
Hot Tubs, etc...	

LANDSCAPING	LANDSCAPING
Landscape Drainage	Landscape Drainage

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

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

We Need Your Help Again

We are sincerely grateful and thankful to you for helping in 2021 to save one of America's oldest newspapers, the Alexandria Gazette Packet, publishing continuously since 1784

And affiliated newspapers:
THE CONNECTION Newspapers & Online
Mount Vernon Gazette
Potomac Almanac
Centre View

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 hit small businesses hard, which in turn has reduced advertising revenue that keeps these local newspapers alive to provide hyper local news to residents. It feels like no small miracle to be looking forward into 2022.

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.

Visit connectionnewspapers.com or <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-keep-your-newspaper-printing>

Connection Newspapers... Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette, Centre View, Potomac Almanac
1606 King Street • Alexandria, VA • 703-778-9431

October 28, 2023
(In Case Anyone Missed it)



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As I sit and write this column on Saturday, Oct. 28, 2023, I do so with a heavy heart, heavier than usual I should say. And it is heavier than usual because today is my recently deceased brother's 74th birthday — or rather it would have been. We won't be celebrating it this year — or ever again. In fact, this is his first birthday since he died semi unexpectedly last Dec. 3rd. Another one of those firsts that survivors everywhere must endure when a significant person in their lives dies. And my brother Richard's death was very significant. A huge loss. He leaves a gaping hole in my life, as he does for his widow, Vanessa, and hundreds of his clients for whom Richard was more than simply an insurance broker. He was, as Father Mulcahy was on M*A*S*H, a caretaker of souls, sort of.

Do any of you remember where you were on Oct. 28, 2022? It was a Friday night. Ordinarily, recalling a random-ish day a year or so ago, maybe even a few months ago, is challenging as so often the days, weeks and months tend to blend and it all becomes a blur. Well, this is one date that will never be a blur to me. That's because the Friday night to which I refer was the last night I saw my brother, Richard alive. My wife Dina and I and Richard's wife Vanessa gathered at Richard's home for a surprise birthday dinner for him.

Back home finally, after two months in the hospital (six weeks of which were in the I.C.U.), followed by another two weeks in the adjacent rehabilitation center, Richard was thin and weak, understandably. But he was home at last and happily making progress rehabbing in his in-house exercise room. Slowly but surely becoming even ambulatory. If I'm not mistaken, Richard was driving a bit, with the help of a caregiver, of course. He boasted about walking around the Costco on South Dakota Ave, NW — with a walker. But he was up and at'em generally and improving. When he came down the inclinator (the stair lift), that early evening from his upstairs' bedroom and got into his downstairs' wheelchair, he then rolled into the dining room to his right, where we all were sitting at the dining room table eagerly awaiting his arrival: "Surprise," we all yelled. He had a huge smile. It was his birthday after all. But considering his month's-long ordeal, he wasn't quite ready for prime time. Nevertheless, we forced the issue and there we all were. That evening was the last time I saw my brother alive, and it's a memory that will never blur. I'll always know where I was on that date, his 73rd birthday. Though we spoke regularly over the phone in the weeks that followed, the timing hadn't presented itself to visit him again as he was busy with his rehab, - and tired from the exertion, and going to sleep early. And besides, he was home, having survived all those weeks in I.C.U., and was even receiving infusions for his colon cancer again. In naive truth, we all sort of figured he dodged/survived a bullet — figuratively speaking. And he did survive sepsis after all, as serious as that is, (as we learned from his physicians), so his progress was encouraging/ almost amazing. Though we all anticipated a long, slow recovery; all signs, generally speaking, were positive.

He was eating. He was walking. He was exercising/ rehabbing at home in his home gym. He was out driving occasionally. He was investigating buying a scooter so he would more mobile, and on the "q.t." on his phone, he was researching cruise lines as he was thinking about travelling with Vanessa in the spring. And then on the Sat. morning Dec. 3rd at 8:30 am, I received a call from Vanessa, crying, frantic, having found Richard laying on the floor by his bed, telling me he was "gone." Impossible for me to process, on such short notice, especially considering he had been doing so well that his doctor had restarted his colon cancer infusions to once and for all knock the remaining colon cancer out of his body. After two bi-weekly infusions, he seemed to be on track to a miraculous recovery which, given Richard's personality and determination, was what we had come to expect.

The few days after were a blur. Meeting with funeral parlor people, coordinating with Vanessa about an obituary, deciding the date and place for the memorial service, calling friends and relatives. The following Friday, we had Richard's service at Judean Gardens in Silver Spring. The packed house was a testament to the kind of person my brother was. I thought I knew him. But after hearing so many kind words from so many people in attendance, most of whom, I had never met before, I knew him even better. I realized Richard's loss even more than I had realized, and it made me proud to be his brother. RBL, we miss you terribly. Rest in peace, and please come to me in a dream. I want to see how you're doing. Love, KBL.

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



CHRIS WHITE
 FAMILY REAL ESTATE
 OF LONG & FOSTER
*Leading the Area in Real Estate **SOLD!!!!***



9308 Allwood Dr | \$815,000



4300 Neptune Dr | \$925,000



6310 Golf Course Sq | \$899,000



8524 Wagon Wheel Rd | \$850,000



9334 Mount Vernon Cir | \$989,000



4008 Old Mill Rd | \$760,000



8511 Wagon Wheel Rd | \$905,000



1909 Earldale Ct | \$920,000



3114 McGeorge Terr | \$850,000



3801 Colonial Ave | \$1,565,000



5109 Mount Vernon Mem | \$615,000



9333 Mount Vernon Cir | \$1,595,000



4325 Tarpon Ln | \$950,000



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



5210 Burke Dr | \$877,000

66 homes sold in 2023 so far! **703.283.9028**

LONG & FOSTER
 REAL ESTATE

www.chrisandpeggywhite.com
chris.white@longandfoster.com

Alexandria/Old Town Historic ~ 110 N. Royal St. 3rd Floor Alexandria, VA 22314

BEST OF
WASHINGTONIAN
 TOP PRODUCING AGENT 2015-2022