

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

JUNE 20, 2024

Mattie Palmore Honored at Gum Springs Community Day

BY MARY PADEN
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

Mattie Palmore was honored for more than 30 years of community service and leadership at the annual Gum Springs Community Day and Juneteenth Celebration Saturday by county and state officials, the Gum Springs Advisory Council, and the New Gum Springs Civic Association. Gum Springs is the oldest African American community in Fairfax County, founded in 1833, by West Ford who had been enslaved by the Washington family.

Although not a native of Gum Springs, Palmore is the unofficial matriarch of the community — the person people turn to for help and wise counsel. She is also an unrelenting advocate and largely responsible for bringing a domestic violence shelter to Mount Vernon District.

State Del. Paul Krizek presented Palmore with a General Assembly resolution “commending her for more than three decades of hard work” and expressing “admiration for her achievements in support of fellow community members.”

Palmore was also presented with a community service award by Gum Springs Community Service Advisory Board president Debra Sanders Graves and a medallion by New Gum Springs Civic Association president Vince Carter.

Franconia Supervisor Rodney Lusk, Mount Vernon School Board Member Mateo Dunn, and County Equity Officer Karla Bruce all spoke with warmth of Palmore’s work with women, especially domestic violence survivors, in her Gum Springs community and beyond.

“Mattie Palmore has touched countless lives through her leadership, generosity, compassionate advocacy, and unfailing commitment to service,” the resolution read. That was apparent by the outpouring of gratitude from officials and community members at a brief mid-afternoon ceremony at Martin Luther King Park Saturday.

Palmore, 77, was seated in her wheelchair in front of the stage. After the resolution was read, admirers carrying red roses lined up to praise her courage, generosity and tenacity before adding their rose to a bouquet at her feet. The ceremony was orchestrated by L. Joyce Brown, president of Christians in Action for Positive African American Males Corporation in collaboration with former Mount Vernon School Board member Karen Corbett Sanders and Carter.

Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck and Sen. Scott Surovell were out of town but sent their regards, as did many others according to Palmore.

Palmore thanked the assembly with characteristic quiet humility, flanked by her daughter, Pryannah Palmore Arrington, and eldest son, D.R. Bacife, who have helped her through repeated bouts of respiratory illness over the past few years.



New Gum Springs Civic Association President Vince Carter (left) praises Mattie Palmore (seated) before adding a rose to her bouquet. Mount Vernon School Board Member Mateo Dunn, Del. Paul Krizek (holding the General Assembly resolution), and Franconia Supervisor Rodney Lusk stand behind her.

Asked her feelings about the ceremony and I enjoy helping other people. And that’s later, Palmore said, “I love my community it.”



Mattie Palmore (seated) thanks supporters after being presented with a General Assembly resolution honoring her service to the community. From left, Delayni Rose, Palmore’s granddaughter; Vince Carter, president of the New Gum Springs Civic Association; Ayannah Palmore Arrington, Palmore’s daughter (white hat); D.R. Bacife (holding resolution) Palmore’s son; and Franconia Supervisor Rodney Lusk (striped tie). Palmore’s fans record the event.

A native of Washington D.C., Palmore came to this area over 40 years ago. Professionally, she served as a Fairfax County magistrate and as director of the homeless transition program at Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services, according to the resolution.

She was known for her longtime personal volunteer work to coordinate with county services, the judicial system, nonprofits, and businesses to provide services to people in need.

From her home at Spring Garden Apartments, she conducted unofficial “case work” by contacting whomever it took — the sheriff, supervisor, housing director, ministers — to get assistance for the many people who called her for help.

She is probably best known locally for co-founding the Mount Vernon Women’s Group, a network for women suffering from domestic abuse, and working with others to bring a domestic shelter to the Mount Vernon area. Palmore spoke publicly about escaping her own domestic abuse and her story inspired others.

Palmore represents Mount Vernon District on the Community Services Board. She serves on the New Gum Springs Community Association executive committee, the steering committee of the South County Task Force, and as co-chair of the Fairfax NAACP Women’s Committee. She served on the statewide Josiah H. Beeman commission, which studied changes to Virginia’s mental health system.

In 2006, she received the “Women We Admire Award” from Black Women United for Action, in 2011, the Joe Adinaro Award, and in 2012, the Community Champions Award from Molina Healthcare. She was named Lady Fairfax for the Mount Vernon District by Supervisor Dan Storck in 2017.

BABS BECKWITH

Specializing in Old Town Properties for 25+ Years

WSJ



RECOGNIZED AS TOP 1% OF AGENTS NATIONALLY



211 Duke Street
\$2,250,000



411 Prince Street
\$2,439,000



10 Pioneer Mill Way
\$3,000,000



702 Prince Street
\$1,663,000



523 Duke Street
\$1,955,000



526 North Pitt Street
\$2,200,000



734 Fords Landing Way
\$1,850,000*



201 Cameron Street
\$1,548,000



622 South Lee Street
\$1,800,000



307 North Washington St
\$1,455,999*



610 South Lee Street
\$2,900,000



714 South Pitt Street
\$1,325,913

* Represented the Buyer



If you're thinking of selling your Old Town home, call Babs and put her expertise to work for you!



703.627.5421 | OldTownAlexandriaLiving.com

Babs@BabsBeckwith.com

109 South Pitt Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 | 703.549.9292

Equal Housing Opportunity



Dry Conditions, Unsafe Practices Lead to Area Fires

Clifton fire led to two fatalities.

By MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

With fireplace activity out of the picture, it would seem house fires are minimal in the warm weather, but around Fairfax County this spring, there have been several fires, including one that killed two people, put families in danger and temporarily displaced others as their homes are rebuilt.

BELLE HAVEN: The latest fire took place around noon on Saturday, June 15. The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department responded to a two-alarm house fire in the 2200 block of Yale Drive in the Belle Haven area. Crews responded to reports of a fire in an attached carport extending to the home. Firefighters arrived to heavy fire showing from the carport and second floor of the home. The fire was brought under control and there were no reported injuries. The Alexandria City Fire Department and the Prince George's Fire Department from across the Potomac River assisted in this emergency.

DOUBLE FATAL IN CLIFTON: On Wednesday, April 10, at approximately 9 a.m., Fairfax County Fire and Rescue units responded to the 13900 block of Whetstone Manor Court in Clifton for reports of smoke in a home. While enroute, the call was upgraded to a house fire with two occupants trapped.

Upon arrival, units observed smoke and a large volume of fire coming from the home. Crews worked to get the fire under control. Firefighters initiated searches for the two occupants. The occupants were located and removed

from the home by firefighters as the fire was brought under control.

A total of five occupants were transported to local hospitals. Three occupants were transported with non life-threatening injuries. The two occupants removed from the home were transported with life-threatening injuries and later succumbed to their injuries, FCFR said.

Smoke alarms alerted the occupants to the fire and three occupants got out and called 911. The fire displaced eight occupants and two pets. Red Cross assistance was offered and accepted. The origin and cause of the fire remain under investigation.

OAKTON: Improperly discarded smoking materials were to blame for an Oakton fire on Wednesday, April 17 that seemed to start on the deck, FCFR said. At approximately 8:54 a.m., units from the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, along with mutual aid partners from the City of Fairfax Fire Department, were dispatched to a house fire in the 3000 block of Steven Martin Drive in the Oakton area of Fairfax County.

Units arrived on the scene of a two-story, single-family home with fire showing from the deck. Crews were quickly able to contain and extinguish the fire.

Despite the presence of smoke alarms, there was no indication that they activated during the incident. One occupant was transported for non-life-threatening injuries. No firefighter injuries were reported.

Preliminary findings from the ongoing investigation indicate the cause of the fire was accidental, stemming from improperly discarded smoking materials on the deck. The total property loss is estimated at \$303,000.

This fire in Clifton led to two deaths.



Two-alarm house fire in the 2200 block of Yale Dr in the Belle Haven area.



PHOTOS COURTESY FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE

Prince George's Fire Department from across the Potomac River assisted in this fire in the Belle Haven area.



Man Dies of Injuries from Crash Earlier in May

A 69-year-old man succumbed to his injuries sustained in a single-vehicle crash in May; the crash caused by a medical emergency.

On May 13, around 10 a.m., officers responded to View Lane and Bold Lion Lane in Newington for a single-vehicle crash into a house.

Detectives from FCPD Crash Reconstruction Unit determined the driver of a 2012 Toyota Camry was traveling west on View Lane when he left the roadway and struck a house. The driver, Ellsworth Jackson Jr., 69, of Alexandria was transported to the hospital with life-threatening injuries. Officers determined Jackson suffered a medical emer-

gency prior to the crash. Speed and alcohol were not factors in the crash.

On May 22, Jackson died at the hospital. Crash Reconstruction detectives received notification from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner confirming Jackson's death was a result of injuries sustained in the crash, despite the underlying medical emergency.

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

JUNETEENTH

City Hosts Freedom Day Celebration

By JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Crowds gathered in Market Square to celebrate Juneteenth, also known as Emancipation Day or Freedom Day, with entertainment and storytelling to commemorate the annual holiday.

Celebrated each year on June 19, the annual holiday observes the emancipation of enslaved African Americans in the United States. It marks the day in 1865 when Union General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, and issued General Order No. 3, officially proclaiming freedom for the remaining enslaved individuals in the state, although resistance to the order was strong.



Members of the Washington Revels Jubilee Singers perform at the Juneteenth Celebration June 19 in Market Square.



A young boy enjoys the Juneteenth ceremony June 19 at Market Square.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

“It is very special to be here today,” said Veronica Robin, who attended with 95-year-old Bernice Alston. “Bernice’s father was enslaved so that history is really not that far behind us.”

Market Square activities included storytelling with Oumie (Hassanah Thomas)

and Vann Di Galloway and music to celebrate Juneteenth and African American heritage.

The Washington Revels Jubilee Voices performed a lively, interactive concert featuring traditional music, dance, and spoken word that celebrated Juneteenth, local sto-

ries, history, and the legacy of the African American quest for freedom and equality.

The presentation was co-sponsored by Washington Revels and the Office of Historic Alexandria.

Said Robin, “There is such a historical significance that not many fully understand.”



Storyteller Hassanah Thomas performs as Oumie at the Juneteenth celebration June 19 at Market Square.



Attendees watch a performance at the Juneteenth ceremony June 19 at Market Square.



Veronica Robin and Bernice Alston at the Juneteenth celebration June 19 in Market Square.

New Rabbi for Congregation Adat Reyim of Springfield

Congregation Adat Reyim of Springfield has a new permanent religious leader, Rabbi George D. Billinson. A resident of Northern Virginia for more than 40 years, Rabbi Billinson previously served as the Rabbi for the Fort Belvoir Jewish Congregation in Fairfax, Va. Before that he spent more than two decades serving the Jewish community in various capacities, including as a lay cantor, Ritual Chair, adult education and religious-school teacher, and President of George Mason University Hillel.

Rabbi Billinson said of his new position, "I am honored to have been selected as Congregation Adat Reyim's permanent rabbi. Adat Reyim is a very special, welcoming community, and my family and I have really appreciated getting to know this vibrant congrega-

tion. I look forward to a wonderful relationship with this community of friends."

An unaffiliated congregation, Adat Reyim serves the Northern Virginia communities of Springfield, Fort Belvoir, Fairfax Station, Burke, Alexandria, Vienna, and the Fairfax County section of Alexandria. From the name – which means a "community of friends" – to an inclusive approach to Judaism, this is a place members feel at home. Activities draw on the richness of Jewish tradition and respect the many ways our diverse community members connect to each other and the Divine. Interfaith families are welcome.

Congregation Adat Reyim is located at 6500 Westbury Oaks Court in Springfield, Va. For more information, please contact us at office@adatreyim.org or 703-569-7577.

VDOT Makes Roadsides A Refuge for Pollinators

Pollinator conservation provides bird and insect habitats and improves agency efficiencies.

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) will install 135 new acres of pollinator habitats this year to support pollinators such as bees, birds, butterflies, bats, beetles, flies, and more.

Since 2014, VDOT's Pollinator Habitat Program has created naturalized areas of native plants along state-maintained roads and properties that provide habitats to threatened and dwindling pollinator species. The program began with four plots in Northern Virginia.

This year marks five years since VDOT joined the nationwide Monarch Butterfly Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances, a voluntary agreement between energy and transportation partners and the programs' administrator, the University of Illinois-Chicago. VDOT's initial five-year goal was to proactively implement conservation measures on roughly 3,100 acres of interstate roadsides to support the monarch butterfly. Five years into the program, VDOT estimates contributing around 8,000 acres of pollinator habitats along VDOT roadways, well above the initial goal. VDOT performs monitoring

each spring season to document milkweed and nectar flowering species.

"Supporting pollinator conservation is a win-win for VDOT, because the agency can save money and improve efficiencies, and pollinators gain thousands of acres of habitat," said Chris Swanson, director of VDOT's Environmental Division. "We value being good stewards of the environment, which is why, throughout the Commonwealth, we're working to provide safe habitats for pollinators to ensure a healthy and sustainable future."

This year, VDOT and partners will add 107 acres of pollinator habitat plantings in Hampton Roads, 22 acres in the Greater Richmond region and about six acres in Southern Virginia. Last year, VDOT planted 82 new acres across the Commonwealth.

Pollinator corridors assist VDOT in efficiently delivering a safe transportation system. Roadside vegetation reduces erosion and stormwater runoff while providing sediment control. With more flowers and vegetation, VDOT beautifies the roadsides and saves time and money by reducing how

SEE VDOT MAKES, PAGE 7



Public Notice

Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

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

Jurisdiction	Fed Struc Id	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Posted Date
ROANOKE	15085	699	BENDEMEER ROAD-RTE 699	MASON CREEK	5/29/2024
FRANKLIN	7916	705	CHESTNUT HILL RTE 705	PIGG RIVER	5/21/2024
GRAYSON	8730	58	HIGHLANDS PKWY	CABIN CREEK	5/14/2024
SCOTT	16799	665	MANVILLE ROAD	BLACK OAK BRANCH	5/9/2024
ALBEMARLE	839	745	ARROWHEAD VALLEY ROAD-RTE 745	BRANCH MOORES CREEK	5/8/2024
ALBEMARLE	880	810	SIMMONS GAP ROAD	LYNCH RIVER	5/1/2024

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 vdot.virginia.gov and navigate to Traffic and Travel/For freight operators/Truck restrictions. 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.

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

DESCENDANTS

Douglass Cemetery Remembrance

Descendants gather to celebrate Juneteenth.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE GAZETTE

Generations of descendants of those buried at Douglass Memorial Cemetery gathered for a Juneteenth celebration and remembrance ceremony June 15 at the historic site on Wilkes Street.

Named in memory of abolitionist Frederick Douglass, the cemetery was established in 1895 as a segregated, nondenominational African American cemetery. Douglass died that same year.

“This is a significant historic site,” said city archeologist Eleanor Breen. “Historic cemeteries are a creation and a reflection of the individuals, families and communities that once comprised Alexandria.”

Douglass Memorial Cemetery is the final resting place for over 2,200 African Americans, making it the largest African American cemetery in Alexandria.

“I did not even know my grandfather was buried here,” said Myron Contee, a minister at St. John’s Church. “The older generations didn’t really tell history. I got to meet my grandmother but it wasn’t until the city did the research that I learned where my grandfather’s body was buried.”

Elizabeth Lewis-Clark, a history professor at Howard University, was a guest speaker at the event.

“Frederick Douglass was a towering figure in US history,” Lewis-Clark said. “He was born in enslavement but more importantly he was a gifted writer and speaker. Like those who are buried right here, he knew from the start what it was like to



PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/THE GAZETTE

Guests and descendants of those buried in Douglass Memorial Cemetery gather for a photo at the Douglass Cemetery Juneteenth Remembrance ceremony June 15.



Myron Contee at his grandfather’s gravesite June 15 at Douglass Memorial Cemetery.



Michael Johnson with his grandsons at the Douglass Memorial Cemetery Juneteenth Remembrance ceremony June 15.



Michael Johnson, with grandson Warner at the headstone of his great-grandfather Warner Johnson June 15 at Douglass Memorial Cemetery.

“This cemetery is named after a leader who in his speeches encouraged people to celebrate freedom all year long.”

— Howard history professor Elizabeth Lewis-Clark

move up from the bottom. He knew terror. But he knew perseverance and never stopped working.”

Michael Johnson, who has been instru-

mental in the preservation of the cemetery, was in attendance with his five grandsons.

“My great grandfather Warner Johnson was the first of 33 kids that Peyton Johnson had,” Johnson said, noting that he was married three times. “It’s important for my family to learn the history here.”

Lewis-Clarke recalled one of Douglass’ last speeches, that took place in Alexandria.

“It was in September of 1894 that Douglass was speaking right here in Alexandria,” Lewis-Clark said. “He reminded everyone that day that although it was a place that once fought for enslavement, Alexandria was a city that he looked upon from his home with great love and respect. This cemetery is named after a leader who in his speeches encouraged people to celebrate freedom all year long.”



City archeologist Eleanor Breen at the Douglass Memorial Cemetery Juneteenth Remembrance ceremony June 15.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

LEADERSHIP ALEXANDRIA

The Chamber ALX is excited to bring Leadership Alexandria, a dynamic nine month civic-based leadership development program to new and established leaders in Alexandria. This program features three components that provide participants with an extraordinary experience:

- Alexandria Up Close and Personal:** Participants will have the opportunity to hear from and speak candidly with the elected officials, public and private sector heads, change makers and innovators who make Alexandria run.
 - Leadership Development Training:** Leadership Alexandria utilizes the Work of Leaders framework to give cohesion and continuity to the developmental component of the Leadership Alexandria experience. The culmination of six years of research and development, The Work of Leaders presents a unified model of leadership—Vision, Alignment, and Execution—that neatly captures the complexity of contemporary leadership.
 - Connections to last a lifetime:** Due to the small class size, participants build strong and lasting bonds with their classmates.
- The class will meet once a month on a Friday for a full day of programming from September 2024-May 2025. The application deadline is Sunday, June 30th. Visit: <https://thechamberalx.com/program/leadership-alexandria>

WANT TO BE A CHANGE-MAKER?

A shout-out to young people who are aspirational change-makers is wanted in a new youth-led initiative to help address high rates of illiteracy within the community. The Youth Ambassador role in Alexandria provides a young person with a platform to advocate and talk about the falling rates of reading skills and create increased community education and awareness about the vital importance of foundational literacy skills for lifelong benefits. Registration for the Youth Ambassador Program is now available. The 4-month youth

leadership development initiative will provide training and support, plus connection to 600 other young people around the world. Email: Ambassador@worldliteracyfoundation.org

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Alexandria Families for Safer Streets - Executive Assistant to AFSS Board of Directors. The agency is seeking an executive assistant to help coordinate a diverse group of tasks necessary to keep us on track and moving forward. Someone with office manager skills would be the ideal candidate. www.volunteer-alexandria.org

ALIVE! Volunteers are needed to assist with multiple programs relating to their Food Program, ALIVE! House, and Alexandria Eviction Prevention Partnership Program will distribute food at Mobile Pop-ups and Truck to Trunk events, etc. <https://www.volunteer-alexandria.org/ALIVE>

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.

Volunteer Drivers Needed. Drivers needed by the American Cancer Society to take cancer patients to treatment in Northern Virginia. To volunteer, call 1-800-227-2345 or go to cancer.org/drive.

Join Friends' Board. Those who care about mental health, the Alexandria community, and collaborating with fellow residents to make sure the City's most vulnerable residents have a chance to thrive, then consider joining the Board of Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center. The Friends Board is an all-volunteer group of residents that oversees the administration of one of Alexandria's top mental health charities. Friends has no paid staff, so Board members, working on average 10 hours per month, share the day-to-day work needed to accomplish its goals. Interest-

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 13

VDOT Makes Roadsides a Refuge for Pollinators

FROM PAGE 5

often it needs to mow areas along the roadways. Additionally, roadsides with healthy plant communities can better resist invasive plants that can require the use of herbicides.

Governor Glenn Youngkin proclaimed June 17-23 as Virginia Pollinator Week in

recognition of the important role of pollinators to the Commonwealth's environment and agricultural economy.

Wildflower and Protect Pollinators license plates help fund the Pollinator Habitat Program. VDOT has partnered with the Department of Motor Vehicles to offer special license plates to support the program.

Amelia Heart & Vascular Center is pleased to introduce

Dr. Daniel Gates



As the newest addition to our Cardiology team, Dr. Gates specializes in treating various cardiovascular conditions, including coronary artery disease, congestive heart failure, and arrhythmias such as atrial fibrillation, supraventricular tachycardia, and premature ventricular beats. Dr. Gates is a member of the American College of Cardiology and holds board certification in Cardiovascular Medicine. Originally from Pennsylvania, Dr. Gates has called Northern Virginia home since 2011. He obtained his undergraduate education at Pennsylvania State University. Following his graduation from PSU, he attended medical school at Uniformed Services University in Bethesda and ultimately completed cardiology fellowship training at Walter Reed.

He served honorably for 26 years in the United States Army before retiring from military service, including positions as the chief of cardiology at Womack Army Medical Center and Fort Belvoir Community Hospital. He is pleased to continue serving the medical needs of the National Capital Region following his time in the military.




(703) 866-3131

6136 Brandon Ave, Springfield, VA 22150

Let us know about an upcoming event
www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar



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 

SHOP LOCAL SUPPORT LOCAL



Visit www.mountvernon.springfield.com and click "Find A Business" to find local businesses.

 Phone
703.360.6925

 Email
info@mountvernon.springfield.com

 Website
mountvernon.springfield.com



PUBLIC NOTICE

Please be advised that a fireworks display will take place as part of a public evening event, Independence Fireworks at George Washington's Mount Vernon on the following dates:

Friday, June 28, between 9:15 p.m. and 9:45pm (15 minutes)

Saturday, June 29 between 9:15 p.m. and 9:45pm (15 minutes)

There will also be a brief (5-minute) daytime fireworks display will take place as part of the annual American Celebration public event at George Washington's Mount Vernon on Tuesday, July 4 between 1:00pm and 1:30pm..

The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association thanks you for your tolerance and apologizes for any disruption. To receive Mount Vernon fireworks notifications via e-mail, write to Events@MountVernon.org

**GEORGE WASHINGTON'S
MOUNT ★ VERNON**



Rollins Drive Safety Measures Fairfax County

Virtual Design Public Hearing

Wednesday, July 10, 2024, 7 p.m.

<https://www.vdot.virginia.gov/RollinsDrive>

Find out about plans to implement safety measures at the Rollins Drive and Fort Hunt Road intersection. The project aims to improve pedestrian and driver safety and operations at the intersection.

The meeting will be held as a **virtual/online meeting**. Information for accessing and participating in the virtual meeting is available at <https://www.vdot.virginia.gov/RollinsDrive>. The project team will make a presentation beginning at 7 p.m. and answer questions after the presentation.

Review project information and meeting details on the webpage above or during business hours at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030. Please call ahead at 703-259-2330 or TTY/TDD 711 to make an appointment with appropriate personnel.

Give your comments during the meeting, or by **August 7, 2024** via the comment form on the project website, by mail to Mr. Gilbert Chlewicki, P.E., Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030 or by email to meetingcomments@VDOT.virginia.gov. Please reference "Rollins Drive Safety Measures" in the subject line.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT Civil Rights at 703-259-1775 or TTY/TDD 711.

*In case an alternate date is needed, the meeting will be held
Wednesday, July 17, 2024 at the same time.*

NEWS

PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH



Officials cut the ribbon unveiling the new signs. From left: Chris Paolino, Tenisha Lewis, Dr. Tom Foster, Henry Ward and Emily McGee.

National Airport Recognizes Enslaved People of Abingdon Plantation

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
THE GAZETTE

For at least 7,000 years, people have used the land that is today's sprawling 860-acre Reagan Washington National Airport, a complex of runways, roads, terminals, parking garages, vehicles, subway tracks and trains, airplane takeoffs and landings, and over 50 million passengers a year.

On June 17, airport officials spotlighted a group associated with the land but largely overlooked over time, the dozens of enslaved African and African-American people who toiled there when it was Abingdon Plantation. On a grassy knoll between garages 1 and 2, a triangular brick wall stretches to the sky, one remnant of this 18th and 19th century plantation and rarely noticed by hurried travelers.

As airplanes roared up and down and Metro trains rumbled by incessantly, officials cut a ribbon to unveil three new interpretive signs to honor people "previously unrecognized and highlight the enslaved population, a living part of Abingdon's history," said airport Acting Manager Chris Paolino. Many historic homes, especially plantations, have traditionally recognized only the white owners.

Paolino credited Dr. Thomas Foster, a Howard University history professor, with advocating for the new signage and conducting much of the research behind them. "The signs are an important step to a



Chris Paolino, Acting Airport Manager, welcomed and backgrounded visitors.



Henry Ward led archaeological research at the site.

SEE NATIONAL AIRPORT, PAGE 9

National Airport Recognizes Enslaved People of Abingdon Plantation

FROM PAGE 8

fuller history,” Foster stressed.

Paolino also highlighted Henry Ward, Assistant Vice President of Archaeology at WSP USA, for documenting the land’s history. Ward told visitors, “Indigenous people were here thousands of years and they still exist today. It is their land as well.” He described finding pottery sherds, an adze and shells likely from a nearby midden and used to make mortar. On Abingdon’s enslaved people, he noted, “The Black population always outnumbered the White population,” citing as examples, the Lee and Custis families.

The New Signs

A new sign at the entrance lists the known enslaved men and women of Abingdon by their first name only. “That’s all we had,” explained Ward, because few records were kept or survived. “They were considered like cattle,” he said, “listed in records with the livestock. An [enslaved] adult Black man was valued the same as a roan mare.”

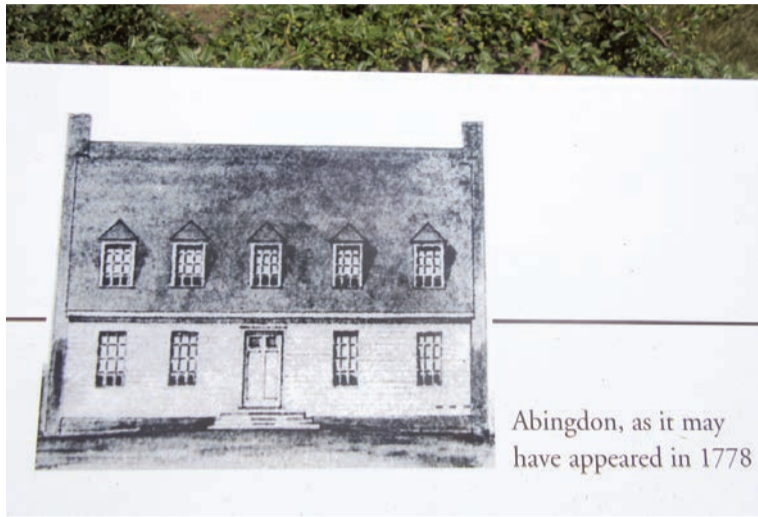
A second sign tells the story of Charlotte, a seamstress, who in 1786 was accused and found innocent of stealing a white woman’s chintz dress. Charlotte had actually bought it from an enslaved man at Abingdon and altered it to her liking.

A third sign describes Peter Hardman, an enslaved stable manager and groom for the plantation’s 29 horses. Hardman helped George Washington cross two donkey breeds and bred male donkeys and female horses to produce the American mule, Ward reported.

Multiple Owners

In the 1600s, ship Captain Robert Hawson was granted a land patent on 8,000 acres for bringing 120 colonists to Virginia, land that extended from today’s Arlington Cemetery to the Wilson Bridge. He sold it to John Alexander, whose grandson, Gerard Alexander, inherited the land and built a Georgian-style house in 1746. Terraces sloped down to the Potomac River, now home to airport terminals, runways and other infrastructure built on fill pumped from the river.

Owners changed over the years, including Martha Washington’s son by her first marriage, John Parke (“Jacky”) and his wife, Eleanor Calvert Custis. Eleanor and Jacky Custis had two children there, Eleanor, known as “Nelly,” and George Washington Parke Custis.



Abingdon, as it may have appeared in 1778

The house at Abingdon Plantation in 1778.



A juxtaposition, remains of the kitchen and laundry in the shadow of the airport’s control tower and terminals.

PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH



Few Metro subway passengers passing by notice the remaining foundation of the house on a grassy knoll.



Today’s remains of the plantation’s kitchen and laundry.



The remaining foundation of the house in the shadow of the airport terminals.



The ceremonial ribbon and two new interpretive signs at the site of Abingdon Plantation.

During the Civil War, the federal government confiscated the property and turned it into a Union Army base. After the war, the owners, the Hunters, wanted it back and hired future U.S. president

James Garfield who won their case in the U.S. Supreme Court. In the 1900s, the property had some brick manufacturing, highway materials testing and military structures.

In the 1930s, the two-story

house mysteriously burned down. Some boxwoods from that era survived.

National Airport opened in 1941. In the early 1990s, preservationists convinced airport man-

agers to abandon plans for a parking garage and to create an interpretive park on the site.

“Our history has bright sides and dark sides,” Ward summarized. “We must embrace it all.”

CONSERVATION



Ashley Palmer supervises water quality monitoring for the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District.



The group of volunteers scoop up sediment from the stream bed.

PHOTOS BY
GLENDA BOOTH

Fairfax County's Streams Are Degraded

Volunteers identify invertebrates in streams which indicate the water quality in the streams.

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
THE GAZETTE

Pohick, Accotink and Wolftrap Creeks.

I saw a wiggle," Ashley Palmer told 14 volunteers as they scratched through soggy stream sediments, adding that most of the organisms would be eyelash size.

Since 2016, Palmer and volunteer teams have collected samples from the bed of the unnamed stream that flows through Mount Vernon Park, Westgrove Dog Park, River Towers Condominiums property and into Dyke Marsh. Palmer supervises stream monitoring for the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District (NVSWCD).

The volunteers take 20 samples within a 300-foot span, seeking to identify 100 living invertebrates. What type of Invertebrates are found in a stream are an indicator of stream quality. Some species are tolerant of pollution and degraded environments and others are very sensitive. "We want 100 non-scuds," Palmer said, because scuds tolerate unhealthy habitats.

With around 85 volunteers, the NVSWCD does water sampling at nine sites, including

Mixed Results

The water quality scoring scale is 0 to 24, with 24 being a healthy stream. A stream that scores less than eight is considered to be in an ecologically unacceptable condition. A score of eight to 14 is in partially acceptable condition; greater than 14, acceptable.

On May 16 the group collected 84 organisms and the score was nine, which Palmer said is an "indeterminate ecological stream score." On April 11, they collected 146 organisms and the stream scored 18, which tied for the highest number ever recorded at the site over nine years.

Particularly captivating was a one-quarter to one-half inch long casemaker caddisfly tube, which looked like a minuscule stick. Its larvae make tiny tubes of leaves. Volunteers watched the insect emerge from its protective case. These are highly sensitive to pollution and found infrequently in the county.



Volunteers search through the sediments for invertebrates.

SEE WATER QUALITY, PAGE 11



Stormwater flowing from an outfall in Paul Spring Creek in the Mount Vernon area during a storm.

Water Quality In the Streams

FROM PAGE 10

This stream is both intermittent and ephemeral, fed by stormwater overflow from upstream development and from underground springs. Palmer calls it a “muddy bottom stream,” in contrast to many other county waterways that have rocky bottoms. The group collected samples from the stream-banks, woody debris, riffles and submerged aquatic vegetation.

In a 2023 report, Palmer wrote, “It’s very likely that one of the main reasons (if not the main reason) for the creek’s low numbers of organisms is that it dries up in summer and fall. It is important to note that although the number of organisms found at QC1 [this stream] are few, monitors have seen many species at the site which indicate promise. QC1 often holds both dragonfly and damselfly nymphs which are predators in the aquatic food web, indicating stability in prey populations.”

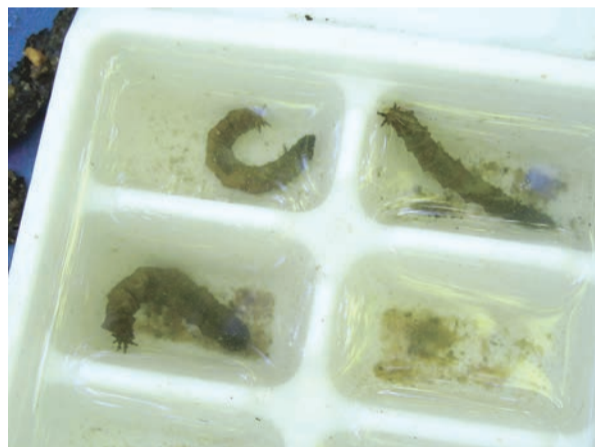
That report concluded that the creek “is in poor ecological health. A healthy stream is abundant in both quantity and biodiversity of macroinvertebrates, which serve many important functions in aquatic food webs...” Palmer urges continued monitoring “because it is a tributary to Dyke Marsh and one of the ways to check in on the health of Dyke Marsh is to monitor the small streams that feed into it. This creek has experienced erosion in the past and it’s important to keep an eye out for indicators for this problem arising in the future.”

Fairfax County Streams Degraded

County data show that 83 percent of Fairfax County’s streams were in fair to very poor condition in 2023, significantly impaired and lacking biological diversity.

One cause of poor water quality is polluted stormwater runoff, the only growing source of pollution to the Potomac River according to the Potomac Conservancy.

Impervious surfaces like roads, roofs and parking lots prevent rainwater from entering the soil. The water carries pollutants from those surfaces, like oils, metals and pesticides. “When impervious surfaces reach 10 to 20 percent of a local watershed area, surface runoff doubles and continues to increase until, at 100 percent impervious sur-

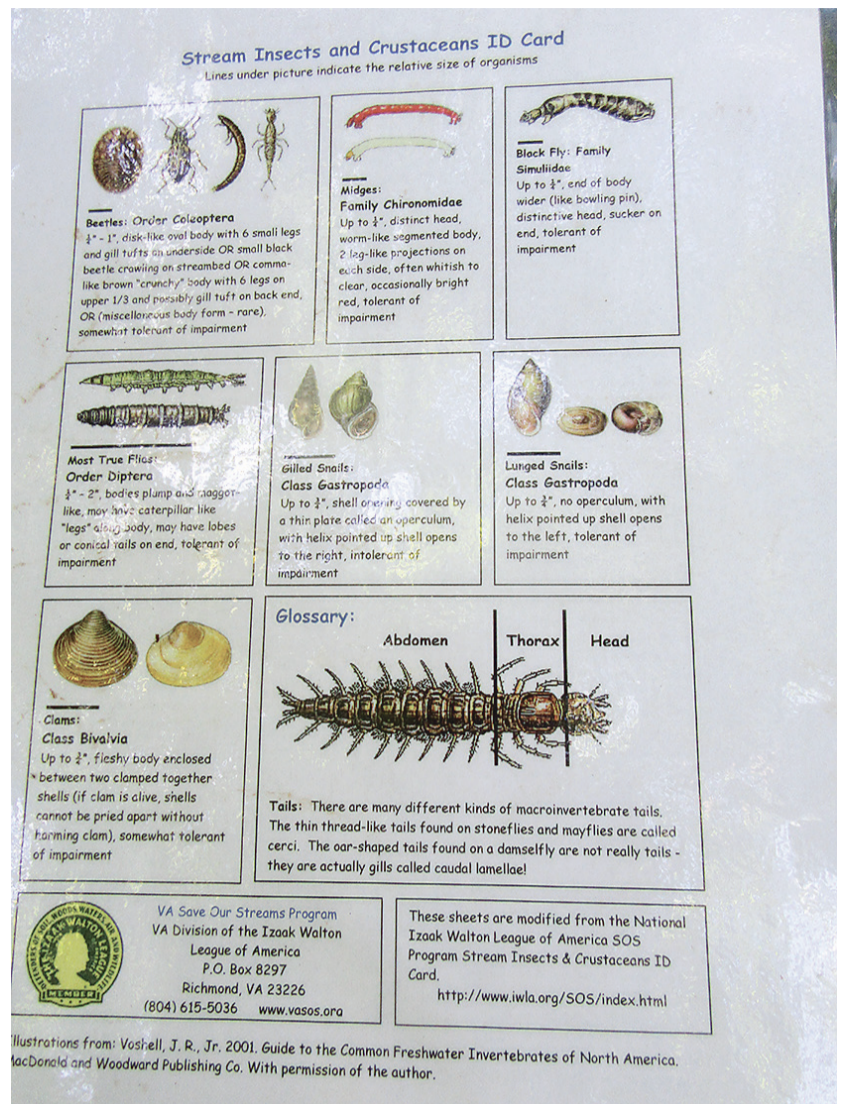


They place the organisms, like these wiggly cranefly larvae, in water in an ice tray.



They find a salamander, but it doesn’t count for this survey.

ing the soil. The water carries pollutants from those surfaces, like oils, metals and pesticides. “When impervious surfaces reach 10 to 20 percent of a local watershed area, surface runoff doubles and continues to increase until, at 100 percent impervious sur-



These cards help volunteers identify the invertebrates they find.



Skunk cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*) and deer tongue (*Dichanthelium clandestinum*) thrive along the stream bank.

PHOTOS BY
GLENDA BOOTH

face coverage, runoff is five times that of a forested watershed,” according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

If a watershed is as little as 2.5 percent impervious surfaces, stream invertebrate communities start to change, according to the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center.

The Little Hunting Creek Watershed Plan, completed in 2005, indicates that 25 percent of the watershed was impervious then. The 2007 Cameron Run Watershed Plan reported that each subwatershed’s imperviousness exceeds 23 percent, that “greater than 10 percent imperviousness has been shown to significantly diminish habitat quality and biological integrity in stream systems.” Given expanding development since those assessments, impervious cover has no doubt expanded. County officials did not provide more recent numbers.

On county streams’ condition, Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeff McKay said, “Fairfax County is dedicated to enhancing the health of our streams through numer-

ous projects and initiatives. We employ a team of ecologists to collect data through the Stream Quality Assessment Program, enabling us to monitor trends and make informed decisions. Through stream bank restoration efforts, we are providing essential plants to help filter rainwater, ensuring the protection of our waterways. There are several ongoing stream restoration projects actively working to restore over 16 miles of stream banks throughout the County. This is in addition to the numerous other stormwater management projects around the County. To see a list of all stormwater projects we currently have in the County, visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/stormwater/stormwater-improvement-projects>.”

More Information

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/stormwater/stream-quality-assessment-program

www.cleanwaterhub.org/organization/97

ENTERTAINMENT

POTOMAC HARMONY OFFERS HARMONY & LEARNING!

School may be out in June, but the learning gets started on Wednesday nights at Potomac Harmony chorus rehearsals! Learn the art of 4-part harmony treble singing while experiencing the joy of ringing chords! Together, guests and members will rehearse new music and create harmonies led by the expertise of our talented director Allison Lynskey. Potomac Harmony members are women and nonbinary individuals from all walks of life, live around the DMV, and have various levels of musical and singing experience. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings, 7-9 p.m., at The View Alexandria, 5000 Fairbanks Avenue, Alexandria. Questions? Contact Jackie Bottash, backrowlead@aol.com.

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/>

34TH SEASON OF THE LYCEUM CHAMBER SERIES

The Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association (WMPA) announces the 34th season of its Lyceum Chamber Series, under the guidance of Music Director Laureate Ulysses James. Hosted at the Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum, located at 201 South Washington Street in Old Town Alexandria, this series promises to offer an array of exceptional weekly performances throughout the summer. All concerts are at 3 p.m.; no tickets required. Suggested donation \$25.

LIVING. BREATHING. MUSIC.

Featuring Anna Binneweg, Music Director, Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic
Ulysses James, Music Director Laureate, Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic
Alberto Rodriguez, Music Director, Washington Metropolitan Youth Orchestra
Martin Garfield-Levine, Music Director, Washington Metropolitan Concert Orchestra
Caroline Mousset, Executive and Artistic Planning Director

MUSIC SCHEDULE
August 4: Alexandria Baroque
Michael De Sapio, Baroque Violin
John Armato, Lute, Baroque Guitar
August 11: Tapestry Cello Ensemble
August 18: Quodlibet, Flute/Clarinet/Bassoon
August 25: Samuel Runolfson, Cello
September 1: Michael De Sapio, Violin
September 8: Hai Jin, Piano
September 15: John Sutherland Earle: Piano & Friends

LYCEUM CHAMBER SERIES SUMMER 2024 CONCERT SCHEDULE
June 23: TBD



Del Ray Artisans Gallery presents "All About Love" for the month of June in Alexandria.

June 30: Luke Ratcliffe, piano
July 14: Crystal Lee, Flute | Brittany Pemberton, Clarinet | Eunae Han, Piano
Works by Emanuel, Debussy, Saint-Saëns, and Coleman
July 21: Sasha Beresovsky, Piano
July 28: Maxim Pakhomov, Piano
Works by Schubert, Dvorák, Poulenc, and Rachmaninoff

JUNE 1 TO AUG. 31

Creative Summer Programs is a series of workshops exploring the arts. Learn techniques in drawing, stone carving, jewelry, resin, mosaics, and more from local artists. Delve into creative exploration solo or with friends. Free and paid programs are offered. Sign up for what inspires you! Held at Del Ray Artisans (2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria) unless noted. Details: DelRayArtisans.org/creative-summer

MOUNT VERNON NIGHTS Friday and Saturday evenings at 7:30 p.m.

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

JUNE

21 Munit Meslin with Qlatse Band (Ethiopian Music)
28 The Artimus Plye Band - Honoring Ronnie Van Zant's Lynyrd Skynyrd (Lynyrd Skynyrd Tribute Band)

JULY

5 Cecily (Soul, Jazz)
12 Strutman Lane (Funk/Pop)
19 Doc Robinson (Rock and Roll)
26 Bio Ritmo (Salsa)

AUGUST

2 Eastern Standard Time (Ska and Reggae)
9 Project Locrea (World Music)
16 Burn the Ballroom (Alternate Rock)
23 Deanna Bogart (Blues, R&B)
30 Melissa Qinn Fox (Country/American)

AT WORKHOUSE ARTS CENTER
9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton
Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.

JUNE

22 Wicked Sycamore (Contemporary Folk)
29 Workhouse Fireworks Festival (Ticketed event. Visit www.workhousearts.org)

JULY

6 EU Sugar Bear (Go Go/Funk)
13 Robin and Linda Williams (Folk)
20 Fast Eddie & The Slowpokes (Blues)
27 Bela Dona Band (Funk/Jazz)

AUGUST

3 The U.S. Air Force Strings (Alt-country/Roots rock)
10 Ocho de Bastos (Latin/Pop)
17 Alex Hamburger (Jazz)
24 The U.S. Army Band Country Roads (Country)

JUNE 6 TO AUG. 26

"Nature's Spirit." Nina Tisara's mosaics and Steven Halperson's photographs and etched copper will be exhibited in the Estate House at River Farm, 7931 East Boulevard Drive, Alexandria. The public is invited to an Opening Reception on Sunday, June 23, 2-4 p.m. (RSVP: ninat@ninatistara.com). The Estate House is open to the public 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday - Friday and 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Saturdays. Since the Estate House will occasionally close for rental events the public is encouraged to call 703-768-5780, ext. 137, to be certain the exhibit is open for viewing.

JUNE 7-30

"All About Love" exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Features art that explores love broadly: romantic love, love of family, love of pets, strong friendships, etc. Works by dozens of local artists will be on display and available for sale. Opening Reception: Friday, June 7, 7-9 p.m. Open Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays 12-6 p.m. DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 19 Annual Juneteenth Celebration. 6 to



PHOTO BY JACK-POWERS

Vaughn and Robyn Ambrose, Saturday's master of ceremony for Portside in Old Town Summer Festival, June 21-22. Vaughn and Robyn are Alexandria-based musicians and founders of the Yellow Door Concert Series. Vaughn is the Director of Jazz at St. Stephens St. Agnes Upper school and has toured the world performing and lecturing.

8 p.m. At Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax Street, Alexandria. Join in the annual Juneteenth celebration in collaboration with The Carlyle House, and poet, author, and Athenaeum Poet in Residence, KaNikki Jakarta. Discover the history of Juneteenth through hands-on activities, art, history, and poetry readings. Featuring hostess KaNikki Jakarta and three magnificent artists: Ayanna Gallant, 13 of Nazareth, and The Healacist HipHop Momma Princess Best.

FRIDAY/JUNE 21

Mask-Making Workshop with Artist David Camero. 1-3 p.m. At the Athenaeum Gallery, Alexandria. Join in an exciting and artistic adventure at our Mask Making Workshop where you can design and create unique masks that reflect your creativity! Led by a talented artist, David Camero, who is currently exhibiting Coroto: Masks of Power at the Athenaeum Gallery, this workshop is divided into two parts for mask making and drying, and decorating purposes. This free workshop promises a fun-filled experience for participants of all ages. Please note that space is limited and your RSVP is required. Email admin@nvfaa.org to reserve your space!

JUNE 21-22

Portside in Old Town Summer Festival. A free festival of live music featuring the ALX Jazz Fest at Portside. Friday 6-9 p.m.; Saturday 1-8 p.m. At Waterfront Park, 1A Prince St., Alexandria. Kick off summer with the return of the Portside in Old Town Summer Festival. This free festival features an array of live music, local craft beer from Port City Brewing Company and fun for the whole family on the Alexandria waterfront. The event includes Friday evening jazz performances and readings by Alexandria poets as part of the ALX Jazz Fest @ Portside. Saturday, the festival continues with an eclectic

musical lineup, local food, hands-on art and history activities and more.

FRIDAY/JUNE 21

Wright at Twilight. 6:30-9 p.m. At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Enjoy the iconic Pope-Leighey House, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, at twilight! Sit back with complimentary snacks and a glass of wine, as you watch the changing light bring out the beautiful architectural details of the house. Play games in the yard, listen to period music, and tour the house at your leisure as the sun slowly sets. Tickets are \$25, with one drink included in the price of your ticket.

SATURDAY/JUNE 22

The Official Pride Bar Crawl in Alexandria. 4 p.m. to 11:59 p.m. At The Alexandria Bier Garden, 710 King Street, Alexandria. Celebrate Diversity, Be Bold, Be Colorful: Dress in vibrant attire and express your true self in a safe, welcoming space. This event is more than just a pub crawl; it's a celebration of love, diversity, and inclusion. Meet new friends and be part of a community that celebrates you!

JUNE 29 TO JULY 21

"American Psycho." At Ainslie Arts Center, 3900 West Braddock Road, Alexandria. Monumental Theatre Company will stage Duncan Sheik and Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa's "American Psycho." Based on Bret Easton Ellis's 1991 novel of the same name, the musical follows protagonist Patrick Bateman. A suave young Wall Street banker, Patrick enjoys the finer things by day with his elite friends, but as night falls, his taste for darker pleasures threatens to uproot his normal facade. Tickets are: \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door, and \$10 for students using code STUDENT (must show ID). Visit <http://www.monumentaltheatre.org>.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

ENTERTAINMENT



Historic Pohick Church in Lorton will host an Independence Day Program on Thursday, July 4, 2024. (Pictured): Rev. Tom Costa and his wife Susan of the Historic Pohick Church Docent Guild.

free docent tours of the Colonial church of George Washington, George Fairfax, and George Mason following the presentation. Visit the website at www.pohick.org.

SATURDAY/JULY 6

Used Book Sale: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. 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>.

SATURDAY/JULY 13

Celebrate 275 years with Alexandria! The City of Alexandria will celebrate its 275th and the USA's 248th birthday at Oronoco Bay Park (100 Madison St., Alexandria). The event includes live music by the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra and ends with the grand finale -- a fireworks display at 9:30 p.m. Admission is free.

SATURDAY/JULY 20

Second Annual Best of the West. 1-5 p.m. At Patrick Henry Recreation Center, 4653 Taney Ave., Alexandria. Best of the West is a community event showcasing West End Business Association members and restaurant tastings! This event is open to everyone. It is a great opportunity to enjoy a day out in the community, get to know local business owners, and sample some of the best food that the West End has to offer.

SATURDAY/JULY 20

Mount Vernon Flea Market and Arts and Crafts Fair. 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. At Mount Vernon Masonic Lodge #219, 8717 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Up to 45 vendors, inside and outside, great variety, refreshments on site and inside the lodge. Crafters, Artisans, Antique, Vintage, Collectibles, and neighbors downsizing with practical items/household, furniture, misc. This event takes place every third Saturday of the month from March to December. Next Dates: July 20, August 17, September 21, October

19, November 16, December 21 (+ bonus holiday market Dec 7 or 14). Visit the website: <https://mount-vernionfleamarket.wordpress.com/>

SATURDAY/JUNE 29

Fireworks at Workhouse. 6-10 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. Bring a chair or a blanket to relax on the lawn and enjoy a display of vibrant colors, brilliant lights and ground-breaking explosions, while also providing amazing and fun entertainment for all ages. The DJ leads the party on the Workhouse Quad with special performances from local music and dance groups. Food trucks and beverage options (food, soft drinks, craft beer and wine available). Price starts at \$40 per vehicle in advance; \$45 on-site. <https://www.workhousearts.org/fireworks>

SATURDAY/JUNE 29

Fireworks, Food and Family Fun at Lake Fairfax Park
1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston, VA 20190

Fun starts at noon, with fireworks starting at 9:15 p.m. Enjoy food trucks, live performances and fireworks at the annual celebration. The park will close to new arrivals at 8:45 p.m.

Admission is free. Parking: \$15 ahead of the event date; \$20 at the gate. The park is the location of the Water Mine Family Swimmin' Hole. Tickets for the Water Mine, which will be open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., are sold separately.

SATURDAY/JULY 27

Beats, Bites & Brews - Summer Extravaganza. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. At John Carlyle Square, 300 John Carlyle St., Alexandria. Featuring Live Beats: Groove to the sounds of summer with live music performances that will set the perfect tone for your sun-soaked day; Delectable Bites: Indulge your taste buds with a variety of summer-inspired bites from local food vendors; Refreshing Brews: Quench your thirst with an array of cold beverages, including craft beers and refreshing summer cocktails in the Beer Garden; Summer Shopping: Explore local artisans and vendors offering a curated selection of summer goodies, from fashion finds to unique crafts.

SATURDAY/AUGUST 17

Del Ray Bands & Brews Bar Crawl. 12:30- 6 p.m. At Del Ray Business Association, 2308 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Join the fun and vibrant Del Ray community for a special summer event, featuring live music in outdoor restaurant venues along the Avenue! Bands & Brews. This event is being brought to you by the Del Ray Business Association and will benefit a local non-profit. The first 250 registrants will get a swag bag with a 16 oz souvenir collectors cup! Advance tickets are \$15 (\$25 at the door), and include specials on cocktails, beer, and food at each of the 20+ participating restaurants, live music at every venue, trolley transportation, 50/50 raffles, a photo booth, and many more fun giveaways. You must be 21+ to participate in the crawl, but children and families are welcome at family friendly establishments and at the main stage at Pat Miller Square. Visit visitdelray.com.

SATURDAY/AUG. 24

Around the World Cultural Food Festival. 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. At Oronoco Bay Park, 100 Madison Street, downtown Old Town Alexandria. Come and enjoy delicious foods from around the world while watching a diverse folk show with singers and dancers from different countries, then take a break and go shopping from the ethnic artisans and crafters participating in the festival.

THE BIRCHMERE

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

JUNE

Fri. 21: Tarsha Fitzgerald Prod. Presents Voices of Motown 'Anniversary Show' \$39.50
Sat. 22: Judy Collins w/ Oakland Rain \$59.50
Sun. 23: Christian de Mesones aka Big New York \$39.50
Mon. 24: The Wallflowers w/ Justin Trawick \$75.00
Tue. 25: The Wallflowers w/ Justin Trawick \$75.00
Fri. 28: Bela Dona Band \$39.50
Sat. 29: Gary Puckett & The Union Gap \$45.00

SUNDAY/JUNE 30

Angels and Demons: Violin Masterworks performed by Michael DeSapio. 2 p.m. At the Athenaeum, Alexandria. Angelic sweetness and demonic fury have both been part of the violin's personality for ages. Violinist Michael De Sapio takes you down some lesser-known byways of the repertoire for solo violin. Hear works by Pierre Rode, Benjamin Godard, Arthur Honegger, Richard Rudolf Klein, and Eugène Ysaÿe's spectacular and haunting Solo Sonata No. 2 to mark the centenary of its composition.

THURSDAY/JULY 4

Independence Day Program. Noon to 1 p.m. At Historic Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Featuring a Special Reading of the Declaration of Independence. As part of the 250th Anniversary Celebration of Historic Pohick Church, the community is invited to a free public reading of the Declaration of Independence at Historic Pohick Church by historical re-enactor, the Rev. Dr. Thomas Costa, portraying the Rev. Mr. Massey, the Rector of Pohick Church in 1776. The reading will take place at 12 noon, with

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 7

ed candidates should email FriendsofAMHC@gmail.com.

STEM Professionals Needed. Help assist K-12 STEM teachers as part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science's STEM Volunteer Program, stemvolunteers.org, during the 2018-19 school year. In the 2017-18 school year, there are 85 volunteers in 6 Northern Virginia school districts. Contact Don Rea at 571-551-2488, or donaldrea@aol.com.

ALIVE! offers numerous programs that aid low-income families in Alexandria that rely on volunteers: monthly food distributions, furniture, houseware and emergency food deliveries, and community food drives. Individuals, families and groups are encouraged to participate. Students can earn community service hours by participating. Visit www.alive-inc.org/volunteer.htm or contact the Volunteer

Coordinator at volunteers@alive-inc.org.
RSVP, a volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older. RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, email Carly Hubicki at chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-403-5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit www.rsvpnova.org.

Mentors Wanted. Two creative programs that help transform the lives of Alexandria's pre-teens are seeking volunteer mentors. SOHO, which stands for "Space of Her Own," and "Space of His Own," serves vulnerable fifth graders in Alexandria. The programs pair men and women with youth in need of pos-

itive adult role models, to help support and guide youth in making healthy choices and succeeding in school and in life. Visit www.spaceofherown.org and www.spaceofhisown.org. For more information on how to become a SOHO mentor, contact Sarah Maroney at sarah.maroney@alexandriava.gov or phone at 703-746-4687.

ONGOING

Backflow Preventer (BFP) Assistance Program. The City of Alexandria has reinstated its sewer Backflow Preventer (BFP) Assistance Program for homeowners in designated areas that historically experience basement back-ups or flooding. The program reimburses homeowners for up to 50 percent of the cost of installing a BFP device by a licensed plumbing contractor, up to a maximum of \$2,000. The current program period is through Dec. 31, 2019. Alexandria homeowners should call the Department of Transpor-

tation and Environmental Services at 703-746-4014 or visit www.alexandriava.gov/tes.

Robust Walking. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 9 a.m. at Mount Vernon Recreation Center, 2701 Commonwealth Ave. Free 55+ robust walking 1-hour exercise class (with chair exercise option). No class on holidays. Contact jjkingconsulting@yahoo.com.

Seeking Donations. Computer CORE, which is dedicated to helping low-income adults become computer literate is seeking donations. Visit www.computercore.org/contribute.

Senior and Job Programs. 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Queen of Apostles Church, 4650 Taney Avenue, Alexandria. St. Martin de Porres Center offers senior and job placement programming Monday through Friday at the parish. Email Kathryn Toohey, ktoohey@ccda.net.

Before



After



Make the smart and ONLY CHOICE when tackling your roof!

LIMITED TIME OFFER! SAVE!

UP TO 50% OFF INSTALLATION

FREE ESTIMATE 1.844.902.4611

ERIEHOME. Expires 7/31/2024 **MADE IN THE U.S.A.**

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 homeservicescompliance.com. All rights reserved. License numbers available at eriehome.com/erie-licenses/

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

LeafFilter GUTTER PROTECTION

CALL TODAY FOR A **FREE INSPECTION!**
1-877-614-6667

20% OFF + **10% OFF**
 Your Entire Purchase* Seniors + Military

++ We offer financing that fits your budget!

+ See Representative for full warranty details. *One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. 1Subject to credit approval. Call for details. AR #0366920922, CA #1035795, CT #HIC.0649905, FL #CBC056678, IA #C127230, ID #RCE-51604, LA #559544, MA #176447, MD #MHIC148329, MI # 2102212986, #262000022, #262000403, #2106212946, MN #IR731804, MT #226192, ND 47304, NE #50145-22, NJ #13VH09953900, NM #408693, NY #86990, NY #H-19114, H-52229, OR #218294, PA #PA069383, RI #GC-41354, TN #7656, UT #10783658-5501, VA #2705169445, WA #LEAFFNW822JZ, WV #WV056912

Mount Vernon Gazette

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



The Bath or Shower You've Always Wanted IN AS LITTLE AS 1 DAY



\$1000 OFF* AND **No Payments & No Interest for 18 Months****

Military & Senior Discounts Available

OFFER EXPIRES 6/30/2024

CALL NOW!
BCI BATH & SHOWER (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 6/30/2024. Each dealership is independently owned and operated. **Third party financing is available for those customers who qualify. See your dealer for details. ©2024 BCI Acrylic Inc.



Sign up for FREE DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION to any or all of our 15 papers

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM/SUBSCRIBE



Be prepared before the next power outage.



It's not just a generator. It's a power move.™

Receive a free 5-year warranty with qualifying purchase* - valued at \$535.

Call 844-947-1479 to schedule your free quote!

GENERAC

*Terms and Conditions apply.

Sign up for FREE DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION to all of our papers



www.connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

Future Looks Bright for Fairfax Couple Who Made the Switch to Solar

POST FROM FAIRFAX COUNTY
WRITTEN BY JOHNNY WEN,
FAIRFAX COUNTY RESIDENT

Johnny and Joanna Wen are helping lead a solar revolution in their Fairfax County neighborhood. The couple switched to renewable energy in 2019 and now more than seven of their neighbors have gone solar too.

Q: How long have you lived in Fairfax County and what do you like most about living here?

A: My wife, Joanna, has lived in Fairfax County her entire life. In fact, her parents live next door in the same home she lived in growing up. I was born and raised in Warrenton, Va., and moved to Fairfax County in 2006. There is so much we love about Fairfax County. From the diverse community to the amazing schools, the list is long, but if we were to pick a single thing it would be our family and friends.

Q: What made you decide to go solar?

We've always been eco-conscious, trying to make choices to minimize our carbon footprint. We bought our first electric vehicle (EV) in 2015. In conjunction with a home renovation, we took the opportunity to invest in solar and install a 10 kW (kilowatt) system on our new roof.

Q: Where did you go for information on what to do and how to do it?

We learned a great deal from the Solarize Virginia program by attending an event at the Fairfax Government Center. Unfortunately, the timing of the program didn't match up with our renovation schedule. So when we were ready, we did some additional shopping around and came across a fellow Virginia Tech Hokie who had (at the time) recently started a solar installation business.

Q: What was the process like – from finding an installer to turning the system on?

The process was so simple and painless. We were given a couple of options to choose from that were very competitive in price with others we had received quotes from. The project was coordinated seamlessly with our home renovation contractors and Dominion Energy, and the system was installed in two days. We had it activated before we even fully moved back into our home.

Q: What type of savings have you seen on your energy bills since you got the system?

For five months out of the year, our bill from Dominion is \$7 (service fees). Even in the winter, our electric bill is reduced.



Johnny and Joanna Wen

Overall, our energy bill was cut in about half. This includes the energy consumed by charging our two EVs.

Q: We understand a lot of your neighbors have gone solar too – are people learning from each other?

Yes! It's been a solar revolution on Marymead Drive. We're a small community of 32 homes and 8 of us have gone solar. The benefits and positive reviews spread across our tight-knit community quickly. Several homeowners are now looking to expand their systems to cover more of their energy usage.

What would you tell other families thinking about installing solar?

Solar comes with a hefty up-front cost,

but the cost is well worth it in the long-run and if it works on your home. To take advantage of solar you need to have an unshaded roof preferably south-facing. There's a great website (<https://sunroof.withgoogle.com/>) which will give you a general sense of the solar potential of your home.

County note: You can also investigate your property's solar potential by visiting the Northern Virginia Regional Commission's NOVA Solar Map.

Have you made any other energy improvements at your home?

As part of our home renovation, we changed out our 30-plus year-old windows which had the most noticeable energy improvement. Some other changes we've made over the years have been changing out all our lights to LEDs, having problem areas professionally spray foamed to increase insulation effectiveness, and swapping out all our lawn tools to electric-powered ones.

Climate Matters is the blog of Fairfax County's Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination, where we share stories, insights and information related to climate change and environmental sustainability. Posts are written by knowledgeable and passionate OEEC staff members and guest authors. To read all blog posts, visit Climate Matters.



Wen Family home, pictured from above, showing off their solar panels.

No More Diverting



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

After meeting with my new oncologist on Mon., I can say with tepid certainty that I am not at death's door. However, I may be a death's sidewalk. Meaning I'm hardly a casual observer and much too close for comfort. Specifically, what I am is more of what I've been for the past 15-plus years: a cancer patient being treated for a terminal form of cancer. Initially I was diagnosed with stage IV non-small cell lung cancer, a killer if there ever was one and more recently, perhaps correctly, I was re-diagnosed with stage IV papillary thyroid cancer. Terminal because an operation I had was unable to get "all" the cancer and the medicine I was prescribed post-surgery has a one to three-years window of effectiveness. As you regular readers know and recent columns have stated, I am eight months into year four and am now starting a new medicine with all sorts of side effects possible and a new medical problem/side effect resulting from the years of taking my papillary thyroid cancer medicine: chronic kidney disease stage IV. In summary, previously I was at a hard place. Now I'm between a rock and that hard place. Which is a bit more than I bargained for since late Feb. 2009 when Team Lourie first heard my-diagnosed-with-cancer news. Still, it's hardly a place anybody wants to be.

Nevertheless, what's left of Team Lourie (my wife, Dina, minus my brother Richard who died Dec. 3, 2022) met our new oncologist this past Mon. We switched oncologists because we had lost confidence in our original one (and to quote "Forest, Forest Gump: that's all I want to say about that"). We were a bit more prepared this time than we were at that first meeting in 2009. We had a frank exchange offering assessments, analysis, suggestions, and occasional scenarios, but most definitely, no guarantees. Pills, procedures, and schedules (lab work, scans, in person) were reviewed and tweaked a bit. New medications were ordered, and a few future appointments were made. As much as anything, you could say this was a strategy meeting. More than most, we understand you need a game plan and once again we have one.

From what I've been told, the chronic kidney disease (with dialysis to follow if I deteriorate further), may cause me to be, as the Brit's like to say: "In for a spot of bother." Having been there and done that, I'm just glad there's still something to be bothered about. And there's still something I can do about it. I must watch what I eat (not as I eat it) and be mindful of the consequences of sodium, potassium, phosphate and so forth. I'm now reading product labels. It's not for certain whether this food awareness/change will really help, but it gives me hope. And though 'hope' may be overrated by some, I'm happy and motivated to embrace it figuratively speaking to "make my day," notwithstanding Dirty Harry aka Clint Eastwood. And since the alternatives are grim, I'm willing to give a little to possibly get a lot.

The "little" I won't bore you with, but it involves some adjustments, shall we say as to how I consume my daily bread. These changes are, if I get lucky, made in the near/short term but will ultimately get me a longer term. However, since there are no guarantees in the cancer business (other than cancer untreated will grow), I need to stay positive about the negative. A doctor can't tell me with any certainty that because I survived the original non-small lung cancer diagnosis, later re-categorized to papillary thyroid cancer, it enables/provides me with the necessary tools/wherewithal to survive my current double whammy: thyroid cancer and chronic kidney disease. Unfortunately, there's not even a road map as my misdiagnosis/change to thyroid cancer, now complicated by chronic kidney disease offers little other than lots of twists and turns and bumps along the way. My experience tells me to try and take it all in stride, not to get too high or too low and not get bogged down by the potential medical complications. None of those complications happen until they do so overreacting to a possibility that isn't yet a reality is unhelpful. What is helpful is finding the humor and normalcy in life without looking through the cancer lens. When I divert into a non-cancer subject, it's the best possible thing I can do; not be cancer centric. So, when I meander into a non-sensical subject like "backparking" or resealable packaging, it's not only a literary pursuit, it's a sign that even though I have cancer, it doesn't have me, yet.

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!!!!***



3317 Wessyton Way | \$1,099,000



9301 Old Mansion Rd | \$998,500



9394 Mount Vernon Cir | \$1,875,000



8337 Bound Brook Ln | \$890,000



3425 Ramsgate Ter | \$799,000



9223 Presidential Dr | \$1,201,000



3106 McGeorge Ter | \$875,000



9330 Boothe St | \$849,500



3725 Woodley Dr | \$1,420,000



8705 Highgate Rd | \$913,000



2213 William & Mary | \$915,000



1919 Earldale Ct | \$985,000



4413 Dolphin Ln | \$960,000



8711 Falkstone Ln | \$865,000



8434 Cherry Valley | \$880,500

78 homes sold in 2023!

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