

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

SEPTEMBER 18, 2025



Transportation officials at Belle Haven included Virginia Bulger, Transurban; Vanessa Aguayo, Fairfax County Department of Transportation; Michelle Holland, VDOT; and Mark VanZandt, VDOT.



PHOTOS BY VDOT

The tolled express lanes could push across the Woodrow Wilson Bridge into Maryland.

Transportation Officials Highlight Plans To Keep Mount Vernon Moving

Maps and dates discussed at Belle Haven Country Club meeting.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

Transportation in Mount Vernon was the topic at the recent Mount Vernon Springfield Chamber Business Breakfast at the Belle Haven Country Club. Attendees talked about express lanes, the

Richmond Highway widening project and the future Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system that has been eyed for years by local officials.

Attendees learned about upcoming demolitions, project timelines, and how these improvements will shape mobility and business growth along the Richmond Highway corridor.

Speakers included Virginia Bulger, Government and Community Affairs Manager at Transurban; Vanessa Aguayo, Transportation Planner at Fairfax County Transportation; Michelle Holland, Northern Virginia megaprojects communications manager, VDOT; and Mark VanZandt, P.E., Location & Design, VDOT.

The one project that's underway

is the Richmond Highway widening project where VDOT will add another lane for a few miles between Fort Belvoir and Sacramento Drive. Construction on the widening project is scheduled to begin in mid-2027 and to be completed by early 2029. Some of the properties along this widening route have already been marked for destruction, which has prompted some disagreement among residents in this area.

The new lane on Richmond Highway will open space for a bus rapid transit line down the center island between the north and southbound lanes. The BRT line will run between Huntington Metro Station and Fort Belvoir. Construction is scheduled to be completed in 2033. According to

Fairfax County, the estimated cost of the Richmond Highway BRT project is approximately \$978.8 million. This includes the development of dedicated bus lanes, BRT stations, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, and various road safety enhancements.

This past August, officials put out a call for artists to design locally inspired artwork for wind-screens at the planned Bus Rapid Transit stations along Richmond Highway. Artists have until Sept. 30 to submit qualifications and portfolio to be considered, the county said.

VDOT's Michelle Holland was on hand to discuss the I-495 Southside Express Lanes Study where they are looking at an ex-

tension of the express lanes system on the southern section of the Capital Beltway by 11 miles from the Springfield Interchange in Fairfax County, across the Woodrow Wilson Memorial Bridge, to the MD 210 Interchange in Prince George's County, Maryland. They are scheduled to complete this study in early 2026, but no construction schedule has been established yet.

Although motorists won't see much benefits from these projects in the near future, there are a few lesser projects underway on Richmond Highway to help things in the meantime.

At Fort Hunt Road, there's an intersection improvement project aimed at improving pedestrian safety, and a crosswalk is being looked at for Fordson Road.

Be Creative Creating Affordable Housing

Chairman McKay outlines 7 ways to push for more housing.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

At its regular meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 9, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors grappled with some of the county's most pressing issues. The supervisors emphasized a new housing initiative, police accreditation, and community health,

including vaccinations, while also recognizing citizen action and other matters.

"Housing Initiatives to Increase Production and Sustain Our Economic Advantage," presented by Chairman Jeff McKay (D), featured a robust, seven-point request concerning affordable housing. McKay emphasized the urgency, stressing that every county

SEE BE CREATIVE, PAGE 15



PHOTOS COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY

Chairman Jeff McKay emphasizes the urgency of a new housing initiative at the recent meeting.



Supervisor Rodney Lusk says that nationwide, "The share of homeowners among Americans older than 55 years grew from 44.3 percent in 2008 to 54 percent in 2023."

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MCENEARNEY



Del Ray

2100 Mount Vernon Avenue

\$3,995,000 | The Duchess of Del Ray is For Sale for the first time in 25 years! The Anne Welsh Salon and the former Welsh Woodworking building are located on five commercial lots. The main building offers a two story apartment above the salon and the second building offers the workshop on the main level and an office/guest suite on the second level. There are 12 parking spaces on the property and potential for a third building and more parking.

Kate Patterson : 703.627.2166
KatePattersonHomes.com



Eddington Terrace

2929 Eddington Terrace

\$1,650,000 | NEW PRICE! Gorgeous 4 bedroom, 3.5 bathroom, all brick colonial with a 2-car garage, 3 gas fireplaces, and ample outdoor areas, also includes a stunning sunroom.

Heidi Burkhardt : 703.217.6009
RealtorHeidiB.com



OPEN SAT 9/20, 2PM-4PM

Mason Hill

2014 Mason Hill Drive

\$1,239,900 | NEW PRICE! Beautiful home with 5 beds, 4.5 baths, and over 5,000 sq ft living area. Beautiful kitchen with island and 2 story windows. Outside you'll find lush gardens and a new deck.

Rebecca McCullough : 571.384.0941
RebeccaMcCullough.com



OPEN SUN 9/21, 2PM-4PM

North Old Town

943 Powhatan Street

\$1,195,000 | Meticulously maintained 3-bedroom, 3.5-bath brick home with renovated kitchen and baths, luxurious primary suite, home office, gas fireplace, slate patio, and 2-car off-street parking.

Wendy Santantonio : 703.625.8802
WendySantantonio.com



Belle View Condos

6624 Boulevard View C1

\$310,000 | NEW PRICE! Largest 2-bedroom, 1-bathroom Belle View condo floorplan with updated kitchen, bath, windows, and HVAC. Treetop views, courtyard setting, and easy parking.

Heidi Burkhardt : 703.217.6009
RealtorHeidiB.com



Old Town

309 S Columbus Street

\$995,000 | Charming 2-bed, 1.5-bath detached townhouse features wood floors, wood-burning fireplace, renovated kitchen & stunning garden. 1 assigned off-street parking space. Close to shops, parks, metro & more!

Wendy Santantonio : 703.625.8802
WendySantantonio.com



Porto Vecchio

1250 S Washington Street #816

\$825,000 | Beautifully maintained 2-bedroom, 2-bath penthouse has sweeping views of Belle Haven, Hunting Creek and city night lights, a fireplace and enclosed solarium. Two prime garage parking spaces included.

Mary Taylor & Pat Tierney : 703.785.5619
MaryTaylorRealtor.com



OPEN SUN 9/21, 2PM-4PM

Hollindale

1506 Hollindale Drive

\$795,000 | 3 bed, 2 bath, one-level living (with bonus basement) on beautiful half-acre lot in prime location. Renovated kitchen and baths, wood burning FP, circular driveway, and fenced backyard.

Heidi Burkhardt : 703.217.6009
RealtorHeidiB.com



Belle Haven on the Green

1906 Duffield Lane

\$749,000 | IMPROVED VALUE! Light-filled, updated townhome with garage, 3 bedrooms, 2.55 Baths, and situated close to 495, 2 lights to Old Town Alexandria, and 12 minutes to Fort Belvoir rear gate!

Janet Caterson Price : 703.622.5984
JanetPriceHomes.com



Warwick Village

2933 Landover Street

\$749,900 | Beautiful 3 bedroom townhouse with 2 renovated baths, freshly painted throughout, refinished wood floors on 2 levels, new lighting throughout. Bright lower level rec room with new carpeting. Fenced yard with expansive patio.

Julian Burke : 703.867.4219
JulianBurke.com



OPEN SUN 9/21, 2PM-4PM

Old Town

110 Cameron Street #101

\$675,000 | Charming 1-bedroom, 1-bath corner unit with private entrance, hardwood floors, renovated kitchen, wood-burning fireplace, in-unit laundry, extra storage, and dedicated parking.

Lauren Bishop : 202.361.5079
LaurenBishopHomes.com

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MORTGAGE

SENIOR LIVING

Avoiding Scams and Fraud, Focus of Talk

Attention seniors, how to steer clear of scammers.

By GLENDA C. BOOTH
THE GAZETTE

Fraud is rampant. It's part of life," AARP volunteer Pam Chisholm told a Hollin Hall Senior Center audience on Sept. 5 in a talk titled "Fraud Basics," based on her experience as a Washington, D. C., police detective and an employee of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Scammers and fraudsters especially prey on seniors, she said, who may be gullible because of cognitive impairment, lack of computer literacy and naiveté. "They think you are old and stupid," she stressed.

"We have a dark web," she cautioned. What is that? Science News Today explains: "The Dark Web refers to a specific section of the internet that exists on an encrypted network, intentionally hidden and accessible only through specialized software."

From phishing to identify theft to romance scams, she described examples of fraudulent activity and offered advice.

Telephone Calls

Phony organizations like "Be-



AARP volunteer Pam Chisholm offered tips on avoiding fraud in a talk at the Hollin Hall Senior Center.

nevolent Friends of the Police" solicit donations over the phone and "they keep harassing," she said. Many fraudsters call seeking money, making claims like "Your grandson is in trouble. We have him in custody."

People's names, addresses, telephone numbers, age, income range and home ownership are easy to find on the Internet, she said, and that information is sold to scammers. She advised people not to identify themselves if unknown callers ask, "Is this Jane?" Chisholm often responds, "Who are you looking for?"

Some scammers call from a computer which makes it impossible to call back and verify their authenticity. And if you call back the number that pops up on your caller id,

you often find it is not a working number.

Her advice: "Just hang up. If you don't recognize the number, don't answer. If you answer, call back to verify the person or organization. Don't disclose your income, social security number or employment status."

"The less you tell them the better off you are," she advised.

Check Washing

Some thieves rob postal employees and steal mailbox keys and checks from mailboxes. Then they use chemicals to change the payee's name and dollar amounts on the checks and fraudulently deposit them. These schemes peak around the first or 15th of the month when people typically pay their bills.

Chisholm's recommendations: Use a red pen or gel pens because it is harder to change the ink, avoid using checks or set up online bill paying.

The U.S. Postal Service says that postal inspectors recover over \$1 billion in counterfeit checks and money orders every year.

Home Repairs

Senior homeowners may be especially vulnerable to home repair and tree work hucksters. Chisholm cited a man hired to replace windows who convinced the owner to go to the bank with him and withdraw money.

He never completed the job and ultimately duped 15 victims in Washington, D.C.

Gift Cards

Some scammers will call or email requesting a gift card. They may say they are "from the government" or that you've won a prize.

Some take cards off stores' shelves, use a device to activate them and put them back on the shelf.

Chisholm recommends never to send a gift card to a stranger or suspicious caller, and if you buy a gift card, buy it near the cashier, not off a shelf, and make sure the packaging is not torn.

Credit Cards

Using someone else's card or card information to make an unauthorized purchase or withdrawal is fraudulent, she explained. The fraudster may steal the card or card information online or with a skimming device.

Immediately call your credit card company if you see a questionable charge; notify the company of travel plans; and get a card with a low limit, for example, \$100.00, she suggested.

Shopping Online

Computers and the internet offer ripe opportunities for cybercriminals, like fake companies and advertisers.

Unsuspecting customers may make a purchase, get charged and never receive the item.

When visiting a website, beware of spelling errors and make sure you know who you are dealing with. Chisholm counseled, "Be

careful what you click on." If you doubt a website, check the link by hovering over it to see the full website address (URL). Research companies before doing business with them.

Use two-factor authentication.

If you fall victim, call your bank immediately. You may have to cancel your card.

Love Scams

Some scammers prey on people who use online dating apps or social networking sites to meet someone. Romance scammers usually seek money, after professing their love and trying to gain your trust.

If someone wants money, stop communicating with them, Chisholm says.

"Everybody can be a victim, even younger people," cautioned Chisholm. "Be smart and stay on top of things."

More Resources

Several websites offer tips on reporting and avoiding scams:

Fairfax County Police, non-emergency line at 703-691-2131; Financial Crimes Online Reporting (FiCOR) <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/HowDoI/Financial-Crimes>

Federal Trade Commission (FTC), www.ReportFraud.ftc.gov

AARP Fraud Network, <https://www.aarp.org/money/scams-fraud/helpline/>, 877-908-3360

U.S. Postal Service Inspection Service, www.uspis.gov

Run! Geek! Run! To Champion Senior Services of Alexandria

The Run! Geek! Run! 5K and 1-Mile Fun Run, is shining a spotlight on the Senior Services of Alexandria this year.

Run! Geek! Run! will take place on Sunday, Sept. 28, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. along Main Line Blvd. in Alexandria, with all proceeds going directly to Senior Services of Alexandria.

Each year, Run! Geek! Run! selects a local nonprofit as its beneficiary, with all proceeds going directly to support their mission. Senior Services of Alexandria (SSA) provides Meals on

Wheels, Groceries-to-Go, friendly visitors, transportation, education and other vital services that help seniors live independently and with dignity.

The 2025 RUN! GEEK! RUN! beneficiary is Senior Services of Alexandria. Senior Services of Alexandria (SSA) is a non-profit organization that has as its mission "to foster independence and self-sufficiency, enabling seniors within the City of Alexandria to age with dignity."

SSA operates the Meals on Wheels delivery program, a fee-free Groceries to Go service, a Friendly Visitor Program; AniMeals; DOT Paratransit transportation; and Education and Information programs including monthly webinars and the Senior Ambassador Program. If you would like to join the effort to enhance the lives of seniors in our community, please contact SSA at (703) 836-4414.

Since 2016, the Run! Geek! Run! race has raised over \$234,000 for Alexandria nonprofits, and this year they hope to continue that legacy of impact.

<https://rungeekrun.org/>

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. Or email to calendar@connectionnewspapers.com

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

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.

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.

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.

Promise and Oath: 9/11 to Patriot Day 2025

Commitment to ‘never forget’ and a legacy to serve with courage and strength spans generations of first responders.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE GAZETTE

A new generation of first responders, many not yet born on 9/11, is learning to live the promise of “never forget.” Upholding their oath of service, they and others are carrying on a mission to serve just as firefighters and paramedics did that day.

The Fairfax County community paused Thursday, Patriot Day, at ceremonies across the county to reflect on the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The events, attended by elected officials, members of the county’s fire and rescue and police departments, U.S. veterans, residents and others, highlighted the theme of remembering and honoring those who died.

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Chief John Butler spoke during the department’s annual 9/11 ceremony, a tribute to fallen first responders and victims. Held Thursday at Fire Station 25 in Reston, Va., the event was streamed live to all stations across the county.

The departments recognized the 343 firefighters, 60 law enforcement officers and emergency medical services personnel who died on 9/11, along with the 246 passengers, 184 victims at the Pentagon and 2,136 victims at the World Trade Center.

The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Academy draped a large U.S. flag over its rescue building for the ceremony.

Deputy Chief Brian Edmonston said the attacks’ legacy is a call to action. “It is more than a remembrance,” he said. “It’s a call to live

our values, courage, strength and service every time we put on the uniform.”

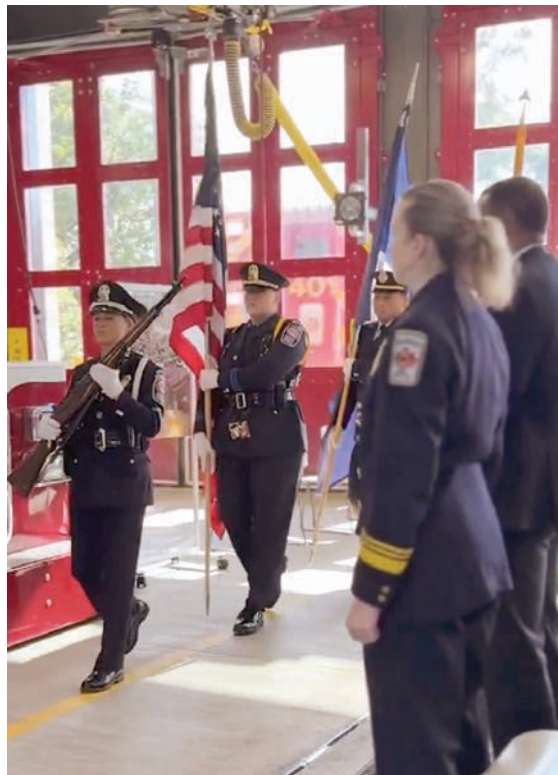
At the annual 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony in Great Falls, the keynote speaker was retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Marc H. Sasseville. In 2001, Sasseville was a lieutenant colonel with the D.C. Air National Guard and was one of four pilots given a mission to find and destroy United Airlines Flight 93.

Sasseville and pilot Heather R. Penney, then a first lieutenant, embarked on what could be a suicide mission. They would launch their F-16s without missiles, prepared to ram their jets into the aircraft to bring it down. Sasseville would hit the cockpit, and Penney would ram the tail to unbalance the plane, causing it to tip and crash.

The pilots never completed their mission. Before taking off, they learned that United Airlines Flight 93 crashed in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, after passengers and crew on board stormed the cockpit to fight the hijackers. Having learned of the other 9/11 attacks, the passengers acted to prevent the plane from reaching its likely target in Washington, D.C.

The ceremony, held at the Great Falls Freedom Memorial, honored the six Great Falls residents who died when Flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon, along with all others who lost their lives in the attacks. The Great Falls community paid tribute to retired Marine 1st Lt. Richard P. Gabriel, Ann C. Judge, Barbara K. Olson, Lisa J. Raines, Diane M. Simmons and George W. Simmons.

SEE PROMISE AND OATH, PAGE 9



Members of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue color guard enter Fire Station 25 in Reston, Va., on Thursday, Sept. 11, 2025. (From video)



Fairfax County Fire and Rescue personnel and others bow their heads in observance of Patriot Day outside the Public Safety Headquarters in Fairfax, Va., on Thursday, Sept. 11, 2025. (From video)



Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Deputy Chief Brian Edmonston speaks during a 9/11 ceremony at the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Academy in Fairfax, Va., on Thursday, Sept. 11, 2025. (From video)



Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Chief John Butler speaks during a 9/11 ceremony at Fire Station 25 in Reston, Va., on Thursday, Sept. 11, 2025. (From video)



PHOTOS BY COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE/RESCUE
During the presentation of colors at Fire Station 25 in Reston for 9/11, Fairfax County Police Chief Kevin Davis (front) and Supervisor Rodney Lusk (D) place their hands over their hearts

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Continuing Timeline of Tragedy

On Sept. 11, 2001, two planes struck the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City. A third plane hit the Pentagon in Arlington, Va., and a fourth plane, taken over by hijackers, crashed in a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

The 9/11 attacks led to the U.S. launching military operations in Afghanistan. The last U.S. troops departed on Aug. 30, 2021, just before midnight.

The exact number of first responders who have died from related health issues after 9/11 is a complex and ongoing process. The World Trade Center Health Program, a federally funded program that provides medical monitoring and treatment for 9/11-related conditions, had over 6,300 deceased enrollees as of June 2023. The number is constantly increasing as more individuals are diagnosed with illnesses linked to exposure to the toxic dust and debris at the crash sites. A significant portion of these deaths is attributed to cancers, respiratory diseases and digestive disorders



2025 Elly Doyle Park Service Award Winners

2025 Elly Doyle Park Service Award Winners Honored

Last week, Fairfax County Park Authority honored the 2025 Elly Doyle Park Service Award Winners, an inspiring group of people that stood out in the parks around the county. These individuals provided leadership, service, and impact to inspire others in the parks.

In Mount Vernon, Cynthia Gamble was recognized for her 30 years as Huntley Meadows Park Site Manager and the hours she volunteered at Historic Huntley. Other individual winners included Ken Quincy, Aimee Vosper, Marc Kohn,

Sara Holtz, Mary Lipsey, Helen Kafka, and Tim Bowers. There were a couple of group awards too.

U.S. Rep. James Walkinshaw (D-11) was on hand to recognize the winners and entered the list into the congressional record. "Volun- SEE 2025 ELLY DOYLEY, PAGE 7

NOW IS OUR MOMENT

Now is the moment we've been waiting for. With new treatments emerging in the fight against Alzheimer's and all other dementia, now is the time for hope. But not the time to stop.

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Eastern tiger swallowtail

PHOTO BY STEVE GARRON



Gray hairstreak

PHOTO BY STEVE GARRON



Sachem

PHOTO BY STEVE GARRON

Butterflies Lift Late-Summer Spirits



Monarch butterfly caterpillar



Luna moth caterpillar



Cabbage white butterfly

Information

- ❖ Supporting Butterflies, <https://xerces.org/bring-back-the-pollinators>
- ❖ Virginia Native Plant Finder, <http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/native-plants-finder>
- ❖ Native Plants for Northern Virginia, <https://www.plantnovanatives.org/>
- ❖ Butterfly checklist with host plants, <https://www.fodm.org/images/Butterfly.pdf>

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

As Northern Virginia slides into summer's last gasps, balmy, sunny days bring out the butterflies.

At this time of year, orange and black monarch butterflies are migrating through the area going south to central Mexico's mountains to join up to 100 million that cluster on oyamel fir trees at nine to 11,000 feet through the winter. Weighing only 598 milligrams or one-fifth the weight of a penny, some will fly 2,000 miles from Canada to reach their winter sites. The monarch is the only butterfly that makes two-way migration. Come spring, monarchs mate, head north and females lay eggs. The eggs become adults and this new generation flies north, mating along the way. The next generation does the

same.

"The eastern population of monarchs is faring better this year than it was for the past two years," said Larry Meade, adding, "That's largely because we have not experienced the drought conditions that adversely affected both the host milkweed plants and the nectar

"You will find very few species of butterflies on large, manicured lawns — these are essentially biological deserts."

— Jeffrey Glassberg,
Butterflies through Binoculars

plants that the butterflies depend on." Meade leads local surveys for the North American Butterfly Association, including one on Sept. 13.

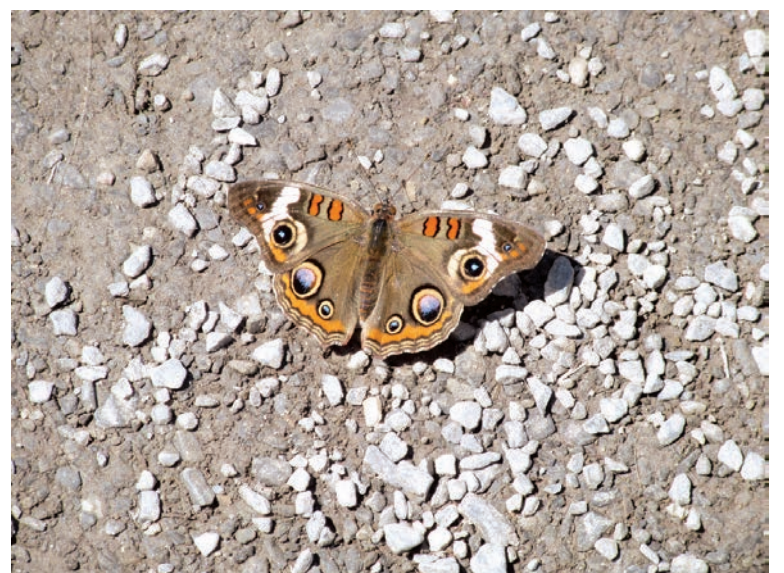
On an Aug. 30 walk in the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve, a group's species count was 15 butterflies, five dragonflies and two damselflies. While most people looked for butterflies on vegetation, the group delighted in spotting a fat and fuzzy luna moth caterpillar, three to four inches long, on a concrete curb. This moth, with a wingspan of three to four inches, is one of the largest in North America.

Observers have documented over 100 butterfly species in Northern Virginia, according to Meade. There are around 120 species in the U.S. mid-Atlantic.

People see butterflies in a variety of habitats, but most prominently around blooming plants, grasses, trees and wildflowers.

Keen Observing

On the Aug. 30 walk, Meade



PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH

Buckeye butterfly

highlighted the abundant sachems nectaring on purple ironweed blossoms. Common buckeyes have prominent eye spots along the margins of both wings, he pointed out. Two red-spotted purple butterflies were likely competing for mates, he said. The yellow and black-striped eastern tiger swallowtails were attention-getters.

The females have two forms, some yellow similar to males and some with black wings.

Disturbing Decline

More than one-fifth of the butterflies in the U.S. disappeared between 2000 and 2020, reported the Xerces Society in June.

SEE BUTTERFLIES, PAGE 11

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NEWS

2025 Elly Doyle Park Service Award Winners Honored

FROM PAGE 5

teering brings us together in a way that we need at this time," he said.

Drew Wilder, a reporter at NBC4, was a

past Elly Doyle award winner and the emcee at the event. His three-year-old daughter just celebrated her birthday at one of the county parks.



Cynthia Gamble was recognized

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REMEMBERING The Victims

16 local lives lost in terrorist attacks.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

It has been 24 years since an unimaginable act of terrorism took the lives of 2,977 Americans, including 16 Alexandria residents on Sept. 11, 2001. The City of Alexandria marked the anniversary of what remains the worst terrorist attack in U.S. history with a ceremony remembering those who were killed and honoring the first responders who answered the call.

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

Alexandria's victims of 9-11

Spec. Craig Amundson

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



Spec. Craig Amundson

Eddie A. Dillard

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



Eddie A. Dillard

Capt. Robert Edward Dolan

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



Capt. Robert Edward Dolan

Cmdr. William H. Donovan

Commander William Howard Donovan, 37, was commissioned at the Naval Acad-

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



Cmdr. William H. Donovan

Diane M. Hale-McKinzy

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



Diane M. Hale-McKinzy

Maj. Wallace Cole Hogan Jr.

Maj. Wallace Cole Hogan Jr., 40, served with the Green Berets, the Special Forces and, ultimately, as a general's aide at the Pentagon. The 21-year Army veteran was an avid cyclist and regularly commuted by bike from his Alexandria home to the Pentagon. He was survived by his wife Pat, an Air Force doctor that he met when he fell ill at the Jungle Warfare School in Panama. Other survivors included his parents Wallace and Jane Hogan and sisters Meg Campbell and Kris Leggett.



Maj. Wallace Cole Hogan Jr.

Bryan C. Jack

Bryan C. Jack, 48, was on American Airlines Flight 77 when the plane struck the

Pentagon, where he worked as the head of the Defense Department's programming and fiscal economics division. Jack and his longtime companion, artist Barbara Rachko, were married on June 16, 2001, just 87 days before his death.



Bryan C. Jack

Steven D. Jacoby

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



Steven D. Jacoby

Terence M. Lynch

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



Terence M. Lynch

Lt. Col. Dean Mattson

Army Lt. Col. Dean Mattson, 57, was less than three months away from retiring when he was killed while working in the Office of the Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Army at the Pentagon. A 35-year Army veteran, Mattson had plans of being a Lutheran pastor before committing to the Army when he was drafted in 1964. The Belle Haven Towers apartments resident left behind his mother Bernice and brothers Glenn, Dwain and Dale.



Lt. Col. Dean E. Mattson

Maj. Clifford L. Patterson Jr.

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



Maj. Clifford L. Patterson Jr.

Cmdr. Robert Allan Schlegel

Cmdr. Robert A. Schlegel, 38, followed his father and brothers in the Navy. Prior to being posted to the Pentagon, he was executive officer of the USS Arthur W. Radford, a 9,000-ton destroyer.



Cmdr. Robert Allan Schlegel

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

Retired Army Lt. Col. Gary Smith, 55, was at a meeting at the Pentagon when American Airlines Flight 77 struck. A resident of Waynewood since 1984, Smith coached his daughter's soccer teams, kept time for the West Potomac High School track team and was a fixture at high school football games on Friday nights. A 23-year Army veteran, Smith received the Soldier's Medal for Heroism after saving a number of soldiers from a helicopter crash during his service in Vietnam. He was survived by his wife Ann and daughters Natalie, Nicole, Kristie and Tracy.



Lt. Col. Gary F. Smith

Norma Lang Steuerle

Norma Lang Steuerle, 54, was active in the Old Town community as a clinical psychologist and through Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church. She was aboard American Airlines Flight 77 en route to visit a daughter in Japan and her husband Eugene, who was teaching a seminar in Singapore.



Norma Lang Steuerle

Sandra C. Taylor

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



Sandra C. Taylor

Meta L. Waller

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



Meta L. Waller

Mark Your Calendar

Early voting starts Friday for General Election 2025

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE GAZETTE

On Nov. 4, Virginia will hold an election for governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, all 100 seats in the House of Delegates and multiple local offices and referenda. The state Senate will not be on the ballot until 2027.

Key dates for the Virginia General Election 2025

❖ Sept. 19: Early voting begins.

❖ Oct. 24: Deadline to register to vote and update registration; deadline to apply for a mail-in ballot.

❖ After Oct. 24: Voters may register and vote using a provisional ballot in person through Election Day.

❖ Oct. 25: Voter registration offices open for early voting.

❖ Nov. 1: Early in-person voting ends at 5 p.m.

❖ Nov. 4: General Election Day
Apply for a ballot to be mailed to you through 5 p.m., Oct. 24: Your request must be received by your local registrar's office. Apply for an absentee ballot online using the Citizen Portal. See who is on your ballot by viewing the candidate lists.

Statewide Offices and their candidates on Fairfax County Ballots (Source: Virginia Department of Elections)							
Office Title	Political Party	Candidate Name	Incumbent	Candidate Status	Campaign Email	Campaign Phone	Campaign Website
Governor	Dem.	Abigail D. Spanberger	No	Qualified	info@abigailspanberger.com	804-223-0770	www.abigailspanberger.com
Governor	Rep.	Winsome Earle-Sears	No	Qualified	info@winsomeforgovernor.com	804-223-0896	winsomeforgovernor.com
Lieutenant Governor	Dem.	Ghazala F. Hashmi	No	Qualified	ghazala@ghazalahashmi.com	804-475-9429	ghazalaforvirginia.com
Lieutenant Governor	Rep.	John J. Reid, II	No	Qualified	johnreidonline@gmail.com		johnreidforvirginia.com
Attorney General	Dem.	Jay C. Jones	No	Qualified	info@jayjones.com	757-625-8989	www.jayjones.com
Attorney General	Rep.	Jason S. Miyares	Yes	Qualified	info@jasonmiyares.com	757-263-0859	www.jasonmiyares.com

Fairfax County is represented by 15 delegates in the Virginia House of Delegates.. Each delegate's district serves a specific area. District Offices and their candidates for the Virginia House of Delegates on Ballots in Fairfax County (Source: Virginia Department of Elections)					
District	Political Party	Candidate Name	Campaign Email	Campaign Phone	Campaign Website
4	Democratic	Charniele L. Herring	info@charnieleherring.com		www.charnieleherring.com
6	Democratic	Richard C. "Rip" Sullivan, Jr.	ripsullivan@gmail.com	571-210-5876	www.ripsullivan.com
6	Republican	Kristin L. Hoffman	kristin4NOVA@gmail.com		
7	Democratic	Karen A. Keys-Gamarra	karen@karenkeysgamarra.com	571-332-5789	karenkeysgamarra.com
7	Republican	Cassandra R. Aucoin	cassaucoin@yahoo.com		
8	Democratic	Irene Shin	hello@ireneforva.com	703-677-8334	www.ireneforva.com
8	Republican	Indira S. Massey	info@indiraforva.com	703-282-9522	
9	Democratic	Karrie K. Delaney	DelaneyforDelegate@gmail.com	703-996-9415	www.KarrieDelaney.com
9	Republican	Nhan C. Huynh	huynhforvirginia@gmail.com	703-717-1099	www.huynhforvirginia@gmail.com
10	Democratic	Dan I. Helmer	danhelmerv@gmail.com	571-762-4583	https://danhelmer.com/
10	Republican	David Woodrow Guill	davidguill@cox.net		
11	Democratic	David L. Bulova	delegate@davidbulova.com	703-220-4934	davidbulova.com
11	Republican	Adam J. Wise	wiseforva@gmail.com		
11	Forward	Brandon N. Givens	brandongivens1010@gmail.com		
12	Democratic	Holly M. Seibold	Holly@HollySeibold.com	202-297-4438	www.hollyseibold.com
12	Republican	Nelson Figueroa-Velez	evite@hotmail.com		
13	Democratic	Marcus B. Simon	info@MarcusSimon.com	571-327-0053	www.MarcusSimon.com
13	Republican	Sylvia Oleksy	ylvia.oleksy@gmail.com		
13	Libertarian	Dave A. Crance Jr.	davecrance@yahoo.com	703-639-7535	http://www.dave4va.com/
14	Democratic	Vivian E. Watts	vwatts@erols.com	703-978-2989	https://vivianwatts.com/
14	Republican	Eric Johnson	eric.johnson2020@outlook.com		
15	Democratic	Laura Jane H. Cohen	nfo@laurajaneccohen.com	703-261-9171	laurajaneccohen.com
15	Republican	Saundra T. Davis	saundrad70@gmail.com		
16	Democratic	Paul E. Krizek	paul@paulkrizek.com		www.paulkrizek.com
16	Republican	Richard T. Hayden	info@haydenforva.com	703-967-8147	HaydenForVA.com
16	Independent	Shelly M. Arnoldi	Shelly4VA@gmail.com	202-285-7474	ShellyArnoldi.com
17	Democratic	Mark D. Sickles	info@marksickles.com	703-922-6440	www.marksickles.com
17	Republican	Naomi Mesfin	naomimhaile@gmail.com		
18	Democratic	Kathy K. L. Tran	kathy@kathyfordelagate.com		www.kathyfordelagate.com
18	Republican	Edward F. McGovern	office@woodfinlaw-va.com	757-808-5236	
19	Democratic	Rozia A. "J.R." Henson, Jr	info@Henson4va.com	703-594-7151	www.Henson4va.com

Promise and Oath: 9/11 to Patriot Day 2025

FROM PAGE 4

In a solemn 9/11 ceremony on the Town of Vienna's Freeman Store lawn, U.S. veterans from American Legion Post 180 and others paused Thursday to remember the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. They honored first responders and those who died in the wars that followed. The community event featured remarks from former fire chief Jim Morris, Vienna Mayor Linda Colbert and Post 180 Commander Dave Wallace. The ceremony included live music and the ringing of Vienna Presbyterian Church bells at the exact times of each plane's impact, a reminder to "Never Forget."

U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., said in a statement, "I'm praying for the loved ones of the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in Virginia, New York and Pennsylvania, and all those who lost their lives in the wars in Afghanistan that followed. Now and always, our veterans and thousands of first responders, service members and others who bravely risked their lives to save fellow Americans and complete dangerous remediation work after



COURTESY OF TOWN OF VIENNA

U.S. veterans from American Legion Post 180 and others attend the 9/11 remembrance ceremony held on the Freeman Store lawn in Vienna, Va., on Thursday, Sept. 11, 2025.

the attack deserve our support." U.S. Sen. Mark R. Warner, D-Va., also released a statement, saying, "Today we pause in remembrance of the thousands of lives lost on Sept. 11, 2001. To the families and communities still grieving their loved ones, no matter how many years pass, we will never forget your loss."



COURTESY OF UNITED STATES AIR FORCE VIA FACEBOOK

The Pentagon Memorial in Arlington, Va., is illuminated in remembrance of the victims of the 2001 terrorist attacks. (From video)

Virginia Can Lead on Waste Reform

BY DELEGATE PAUL KRIZEK

This was Delegate Paul Krizek's opening statement at the new Litter Tax Study Group on Sept. 16 in Glen Allen, Virginia at DEQ Headquarters

Thank you for allowing me to address you as we begin this two-year journey to comprehensively update Virginia's Litter Tax, which has quietly supported environmental stewardship for nearly half a century. Since the late 1970s, this modest tax has funded local cleanups, recycling education, and community engagement across the Commonwealth. It has equipped volunteers in Fairfax County with gloves and vests for Adopt-A-Highway programs, supported soil and water districts in Southwest Virginia, and fueled coastal cleanups along the Eastern Shore. For every dollar raised, our communities have multiplied their impact tenfold. I myself have spent many days engaged in these community cleanup efforts in my district, utilizing the equipment paid for by this small tax, so I know firsthand its value.

But today's reality demands more. These once-a-year cleanups are no longer enough to remove seemingly endless amounts of newly accumulated litter. The current litter tax policy was designed for an era when aluminum cans littered our roadways, but many of the most common pollutants seen

today were not even conceived of back in 1976!

Now, the greatest threats come from plastics like bottled water, food wrappers, other single-use packaging, and even tire shreds. Did you know that tires are mostly made out of plastic? Every year, more of it finds its way into rivers, the Chesapeake Bay, and eventually the open ocean. Out there, it becomes part of the enormous floating garbage patches — massive amounts of trash that now span areas larger than countries. These so-called islands of waste break down into microplastics that poison fish, birds, and even our own food supply. The danger is clear: our current system doesn't just fail Virginia — it contributes to a growing global crisis.

Not only has the litter tax not been recalibrated to match modern waste streams, but it also hasn't kept up with inflation, and it treats every business equally, from small corner stores to multinational chains. This means that the producers contributing most to the problem aren't held accountable to pay their fair share. Meanwhile, other states raise five to ten times more revenue to fight litter and expand recycling, leaving Virginia a laggard in the fight to clean our environment.

This is why your work — the work of the Litter Tax and Recycling Study Group — convened



Paul Krizek

under my HJ 448, is so important. Our host today, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), has brought together a diverse membership: representatives from local government, private industry, and environmental organizations, as well as a member of the Litter Control and Recycling Fund Advisory Board. This mix is important and reflects the reality of how Virginia manages waste. Local governments not only rely on litter tax grants, but they are also tasked with solid waste planning, meeting recycling benchmarks, and reporting recycling rates. Often, these services are carried out in partnership with private industry, which runs recycling centers, transfer stations, and disposal facilities.

HJ 448 asks for more than just a review of the Litter Tax. The study also calls for an analysis of Virginia's solid waste and recycling streams, assessment of market conditions, and identification of economic opportunities to increase recycling. That makes the composition of this Study Group critical. To succeed, DEQ must rely on the expertise of all sectors: local governments that deal with this problem firsthand, private companies that manage our waste infrastructure, and environmental advocates who fight to protect our land and water.

This study is our chance to be

bold! My hope is that this group can work together to create a new, modernized Litter Tax that reflects today's litter profile, adjusts automatically for inflation, and creates fairness by scaling contributions to impact, and most importantly, will reduce the plastics and microplastics entering our environment.

These reforms could include:

- ❖ Updating the Litter Tax to reflect today's waste stream, especially plastics and single-use containers.

- ❖ Indexing the tax to inflation, so it doesn't lose value for another 40 years.

- ❖ Exploring multiple incentive-based approaches, from advanced recycling credits to extended producer responsibility programs that make manufacturers accountable for the full life cycle of their products.

- ❖ Expanding support for local recycling infrastructure and markets, creating real economic opportunities and reducing the volume of waste headed to landfills — or worse, our waterways.

- ❖ Mandating reduced plastic packaging.

- ❖ Ensuring fairness, so the largest generators of litter bear the largest responsibility.

The Litter Tax has proven its worth as a starter fund for environmental stewardship. Virginia has the chance to be a leader in protecting our rivers, the Bay, and our future. We are the leaders in this room. Let's lead together!

Virginia Voters: Leave More Menhaden in Chesapeake Bay

As warning signs escalate in the Chesapeake Bay, a recent poll shows the vast majority of Virginians support increased protection of menhaden — a small fish that is an important food for larger fish, osprey and whales.

An overwhelming 92 percent of Virginia voters believe the state should leave more menhaden in the Bay, according to

a poll of 600 registered Virginia voters conducted by a pair of research firms — one Republican and one Democrat — between July 30 and Aug. 5.

Menhaden in Virginia's portion of the Chesapeake Bay are the target of Omega Protein, a subsidiary of Canadian corporation Cooke, Inc., and its partner Ocean Harvesters. In what is called a reduction fishery, this industry uses spotter planes, enormous purse seine nets, and vacuum hoses to harvest more than 100 million pounds of menhaden annually from Virgin-

ia's Bay waters.

Longstanding concerns about the appropriate size of a menhaden fishery in Chesapeake Bay are gaining attention amid reports of plummeting menhaden catches by Maryland watermen and small-scale Virginia fishermen, as well as unprecedented levels of starving osprey chicks. Industry efforts to block science and data on Chesapeake Bay menhaden has left Virginia without enough information to effectively manage the fishery.

"Virginians resoundingly want more menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay, and overwhelmingly back every single policy we tested for stricter management of the Bay's menhaden fishery," said Lori Weigel, a pollster with the Republican research firm New Bridge Strategy. "We almost never see this kind of consensus across party, age, and geography," said Miranda Everitt, a pollster with the Democratic research firm FM3.

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION-WILL POSTON

Menhaden caught by a small-scale waterman.

(CBF), which commissioned the poll with New Bridge Strategy and FM3 Research, has for decades advocated for better management of the Bay's menhaden resource.

Further delay of menhaden management reform and science only worsens the threats to the

Bay and all the dependent communities. Therefore, CBF believes the best approach is to pause industrial menhaden fishing in the Chesapeake Bay until science can show whether concentrating the fishery here is sustainable.

Chesapeake Bay Foundation

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A Connection Newspaper



Butterflies Lift Late-Summer Spirits

FROM PAGE 6

“Perhaps more alarming, over 40 percent of assessed species fell in numbers by 50 percent or more — and two dozen species suffered more than 90 percent losses,” their study reported. They attribute the drop to pesticide use, habitat loss and climate change.

Butterflies may take nectar from

several sources, but can be selective in choosing plants for laying eggs. Monarchs, for example, prefer milkweeds. Many insects have evolved over time with particular plant species and their survival depends on what’s called a host plant which provides shelter for eggs and food for subsequent larva and caterpillar growth.

The Xerces report’s “roadmap to recovery” stresses the need to plant more host plants for caterpillars and nectar plants for adult butterflies throughout the entire growing season and to avoid pesticides. “Butterflies need host plants on which to lay eggs, wildflowers on which to feed, a refuge from

pesticides and sites to overwinter,” said Scott Black, director of the Xerces Society and study co-author.

Some people plant milkweeds and nectar-producing plants in their gardens. A butterfly-friendly garden can be any size, from a window box to a multi-acre field. “No effort is too small to have a

positive impact,” says Monarch Watch’s website.

The Virginia Department of Transportation has a wildflower and pollinator habitat program and plants pollinator-friendly plants at some of their facilities, like the Dale City Interstate-95 rest stop.



Monarch butterfly on milkweed

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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
BUCHANAN	29736	2207	RHONDA LESTER BRANCH ROAD	KNOX CREEK	9/5/2025
GRAYSON	8910	732	LAUREL CREEK ROAD	LAUREL CREEK	9/2/2025
HENRY	10152	682	RIVER ROAD 682	JORDAN CREEK	8/22/2025
NELSON	12612	776	GRAPELAWN DRIVE	DAVIS CREEK	8/21/2025
GRAYSON	8943	797	SPENCER BRANCH ROAD	LITTLE HELTON CREEK	8/13/2025
KING WILLIAM	26122	30	ROUTE 0030	PAMUNKEY RIVER	8/6/2025

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 or the Load Rating Program Manager, Manjil Devkota at 804-786-4064.

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 or corina.herrera@vdot.virginia.gov.



A monarch butterfly waystation at the Hollin Hall Senior Center in Mount Vernon.

ENTERTAINMENT

NOW THRU SEPT. 21

Sally Kauffman - Pleasure Park. At The Athenaeum, Alexandria. Sally Kauffman, a Washington, DC-based visual artist, is known for her large-scale, abstract yet illusory paintings depicting people and animals in social and communal settings. Her recent series, inspired by scenes from Malcolm X Park, captures Washingtonians engaging in activities including picnicking, hula hooping, Jiu Jitsu, juggling, gymnastics, skating, playing, dancing, and listening to music. These works celebrate the joy of gathering after pandemic isolation, emphasizing the fundamental human instinct for connection and restoration.

MGNV PLANT CLINICS ARE OPEN

The Alexandria Old Town Farmer's Market Plant Clinic at 301 King St., Alexandria operates on Saturdays from 7 - 9:30 a.m. Del Ray Farmers Market Plant Clinic at Oxford & Mt. Vernon Avenues, Alexandria operates on Saturdays from 8:30 - 11 a.m. The Arlington Farmers' Market at N. 14th and N. Courthouse Roads, Arlington operates on Saturdays from 8 - 11 a.m. The Fairlington Farmers' Market Plant Clinic at 3308 S. Stafford St., Arlington, operates on Sundays from 9 - 11 a.m.

YEAR ROUND ON SUNDAYS

Farmer's Market. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. At Casa Chirilagua Community Center, 4109 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Experience fresh foods, native plants, artisan crafts, music and community at Four Mile Run Farmers & Artisans Market in the heart of Arlandria outside the Casa Chirilagua Community Center, every Sunday 9-1 p.m.

ONGOING

Revolutionary War Exhibit. At the National Museum of the U.S. Army, Alexandria. The National Museum of the United States Army has opened a special exhibition, Call To Arms: The Soldier and the Revolutionary War. The two-year exhibition commemorates this year's 250th Birthday of the U.S. Army and next year's 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. This 5,000 square-foot exhibition features a rare collection, specially curated by the Museum, that includes Revolutionary War artifacts from the original colonies, England, France and Canada. Among the exhibit's highlights are a pair of General George Washington's pistols, the original flag of the 1st Rhode Island Regiment carried by the Army's first African American Soldiers, and a complete Loyalist uniform—one of the rarest items in the collection. The sword of British General Charles Lord Cornwallis, presented to Washington at the surrender at Yorktown, Virginia, will also be displayed for a limited time.

AUG. 7 TO SEPT. 29

Masterpiece Mini Golf. Thursday: 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Friday and Saturday: 11 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.; Sunday: 12 – 5 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Masterpiece Mini-Golf isn't just a game—it's an interactive journey through the world of art like you've never seen before! Imagine 18 artist-designed holes bursting with bold colors, iconic imagery, and mind-bending creativity. From Monet's water lilies to Banksy's graffiti walls, every twist and turn brings you face-to-face with art history's greatest paintings—reimagined in wild, surreal, and playable form. It's part gallery, part game, and 100% fun for all ages. Visit the website: <https://www.workhousearts.org/masterpiece-mini-golf>

SEPT. 5-27

The "Second Time Around" exhibit at Del Ray Artisans gallery features artwork made out of recycled materials. This exhibit focuses on the thought-change concept of sustainable creativity and enhancing artistic environmental ethos, from the art to the earth-conscious workshops and events. View at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. Opening Reception: Friday, September 5, 7-9 p.m.. Gallery hours: Thursdays 12-6



The Taste of Old Town North takes place on Thursday, Sept. 18, 2025 in Alexandria.

p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays 12-6 p.m. Details at DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 18

Taste of Old Town North. 4 to 8 p.m. At Montgomery Park, 901 North Royal Street, Alexandria. The Taste of Old Town North is free, family- and pet-friendly, and features an artisans' market, gourmet restaurant tastings, and other activities for all to enjoy including music from two local bands. In addition, the City of Alexandria's Office of the Arts' Mobile Art Lab will be featured at the Taste event. The Mobile Art Lab offers supplies and support staff for kids of all ages to make art. Participating Old Town North restaurants include Lula's on the Potomac, Hank's Oyster Bar, MacMillan Spirit and Ale House, Hank's Pasta Bar, Hotel AKA Alexandria's a lounge + bar, and St. Elmo's Old Town North Coffee Pub. Live music at the Taste will include performances by Hope and Nate from 5:00- 6:00 p.m., followed by The Mod from 6:00-7:45 p.m. For more information visit www.oldtownnorth.org.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 18

Fall Garden Tour and Tea. 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road – Alexandria. (Adult) Tour the glorious demonstration gardens with an Extension Master Gardener docent. Hear about Green Spring past and present and discover a wealth of ideas for your fall home landscape. Afterwards, come inside the Historic House for a traditional British afternoon tea. \$42 (lecture + tea). To register, call Green Spring Historic House 703-324-3988.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 20

Write Like a Woman Networking Workshop.

1-3 p.m. At the Athenaeum, Alexandria. Founder and Facilitator, KaNikki Jakarta, welcomes you to year 9 of the Write Like a Woman Networking Workshop. This popular workshop invites amateur and professional women writers of all genres ages 18–100. Each workshop centers on uplifting and inspiring through writing and allows participants to enhance their writing styles through writing prompts and encouragement. Space is limited, RSVP to greatpublishing@yahoo.com

SATURDAY/SEPT. 20

Sunset Soirée - Botanical Bath Salts Workshop. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road – Alexandria. (Adults) Join us after-hours in the Horticulture Center. View the glasshouse tropicals in the light of the setting

sun and peruse the art exhibit while enjoying a refreshing mocktail made with herbs grown at Green Spring Gardens. In this workshop, learn about the calming and restorative properties of plants and how to blend them into a relaxing bath soak. Leave with a custom blend of botanical bath salts and the knowledge to make more at home. Bring your favorite glass jar for storage (12 oz or less) or use one that will be provided. No prior experience needed; all materials are provided. Includes entry, mocktail and all supplies for bath salt mix. Register online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes> or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Times: 5:30- 6:00 p.m. code: DTEODJJ 6:15 –6:45 p.m. code: DTEAH5D 7:00-7:30 p.m. code: DTFL3LP

SATURDAY/SEPT. 20

Sunset Soirée - Mini Herb Garden Workshop. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road – Alexandria. (Adults) Join us after-hours in the Horticulture Center. View the glasshouse tropicals in the light of the setting sun and peruse the art exhibit while enjoying a refreshing mocktail made with herbs grown at Green Spring Gardens. In this workshop, plant your own mini kitchen herb garden. Learn the basics of growing herbs at home—whether on a sunny windowsill or small patio—and get tips on care, harvesting, and how to use your herbs. No green thumb needed—just come ready to dig in. Includes entry, mocktail, and herbs with all the needed potting supplies. Register online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes> or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Times:

5:30- 6:00 p.m. code: GGX.50CE
6:15 –6:45 p.m. code: GGX.IIW1
7:00-7:30 p.m. code: GGX.3FRZ

SATURDAY/SEPT. 20

Watercolor Workshop – Landscapes. 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road – Alexandria. (16-Adult) Artist Dawn Flores helps you translate the beauty of nature into a watercolor painting by showing how to paint skies, trees, water, mountains and rocks. Learn strategies for building depth and focus in your work using color and value. Get techniques for building texture and masking to preserve the white of the page. A supply list will be emailed before the program. Bring a lunch. \$112 per person. Register online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes> or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code 68FUHWV

SATURDAY/SEPT. 20

Poetry Workshop – Harvest Season. 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road – Alexandria. (16-Adult) Join published poet Sherri Waas Shunfenthal and spend some time outdoors meditating on nature and the fall season. Using your senses, memories or an object found, Sherri will guide you in creating poetry. There will be discussion, writing and sharing time. Bring a journal or sketchbook to enhance with poetry. \$12 per person. Register online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes> or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code UM0.NYIL

SATURDAY/SEPT. 20

Family Fun – Backyard Birding. 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road – Alexandria. (6-Adult) Come backyard birding at White Gardens. Learn about different birds and their songs, then talk a walk around the gardens with a naturalist and see which feathered friends you can spot. Binoculars provided. All attendees, including parents, must be registered for the program. \$10 per person. Register online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes> or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code 5ZPLBEZ

SATURDAY/SEPT. 20

American Horticultural Society Gala. The American Horticultural Society (AHS), the national organization dedicated to inspiring Americans to garden for the benefits to all, will host its annual Gala at River Farm, its headquarters in Alexandria. Individual Gala tickets are available for purchase at ahsgardening.org/gala. AHS will honor Skipp Calvert, long-time Alexandria resident, local champion of River Farm, and former AHS Board member, and Brian Kemble, winner of AHS' 2025 Liberty Hyde Bailey Award. The Gala will feature a pop-up sculpture garden with whimsical works from Nepenthe Gallery, sure to surprise and delight. The sculpture garden will include works by Vadim Kharchenko, Kevin Carman, Dorothy Gillseppe Foundation, David Turner, and Michael Alfano – many available for purchase.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 20

The HalloWEIRD Art Market. 9 a.m.–2 p.m. Features a variety of artwork from local artisans celebrating the spooky and playful sides of the autumn season. Join us for lots of fun at this outdoor, family-friendly, rain-or-shine event. HalloWEIRD takes place in the Mount Vernon Recreation Center fields adjoining

ENTERTAINMENT

Del Ray Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria, VA. Details at DelRayArtisans.org/halloweird-2025

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 24

Evening with Dr. Krystyn R. Moon. 7 p.m. At The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington Street, Alexandria. The Alexandria Historical Society invites you to join them for an evening with Dr. Krystyn R. Moon as she presents Proximity to Power: Rethinking Race and Place in Alexandria. Dr. Moon will explore how Alexandria's proximity to the nation's capital shaped African Americans' access to schools, transportation, and resources compared to other southern towns. Her work highlights the long-standing advocacy of Alexandria's Black residents, offering new insights into the intersection of race, place, and power.

SEPT. 25 TO OCT. 5

Old Town Cocktail Week. At various locations throughout Old Town Alexandria. Presented By Suntory Global Spirits in partnership with Captain Gregory's, Old Town Cocktail Week is a celebration of the imagination and innovation within Alexandria's cocktail scene. Grab a featured cocktail from one of the over 40 participating restaurants or join us for a curated event and enjoy it all while on a staycation at one of the participating hotels with a stay and play package specially curated for Old Town Cocktail Week.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 26

Wright at Twilight. 6:30-9 p.m. At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 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.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 26

Garden Talk – Fall Lawn Care. 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road – Alexandria. (16-Adult) Fall is the best season to get your lawn in shape! Take the luck out of lawn care and learn the tips and tricks you need to keep your lawn healthy, thick and green. Extension Master Gardener discusses fertilization, seeding and weed prevention. \$12 per person. Register online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes> or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code B28.BOZM

SATURDAY/SEPT. 27

Rare Plants at Green Spring Gardens. 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road – Alexandria. (16-Adult) Many plants species are common in horticulture through legal propagation, but are rare, endangered or even extinct in the wild. Led by Green Spring's head of horticulture, Adam Bucher, take a tour of the gardens to learn about several of these "rare" plants, their ecological history and growing conditions for their care at home. \$19 per person. Register online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes> or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code TXWA3Z7

SATURDAY/SEPT. 27

Ikebana Floral Design Workshop. 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road – Alexandria. (Adults) Discover the elegance and simplicity of Ikebana, the traditional Japanese art of flower arranging. Alice Buch, 2nd Degree Master of the Ohara School, teaches you the basic techniques and principles of Ikebana while demonstrating a Hana Isho Rising Form arrangement that you will then get to make yourself. Supplies included are a plastic container, kenzan, and flowers. Participants are encouraged to bring their own flower scissors. No prior experience necessary. Please register for both the class and the \$30 supply fee. \$46



The HALLOWEIRD Art Market takes place on Saturday, Sept. 20, 2025 in Alexandria.

per person. Register online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes> or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code 3FB.DW91

SATURDAY/SEPT. 27

Northern Alexandria Native Plant Sale. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. At The Church of St. Clement, 1701 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Visit the largest native plant sale in the D.C. Metro area. Thirteen native plant nurseries will be hosted! Find native perennials, shrubs, and trees for sun or shade. Visit the website www.NorthernAlexandriaNativePlantSale.org.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 27

Alexandria Oktoberfest. 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. At John Carlyle Square, 300 John Carlyle Street, Alexandria. Celebrate the season with the best of German culture, food, music, and fun at the beautiful John Carlyle Square in Alexandria. This family-friendly event captures the unmistakable spirit of Bavarian merriment with traditional music, lively entertainment, and a lively beer garden. Whether you're here to enjoy the delicious food, shop for unique handmade crafts, or dance to the rhythms of authentic German tunes, there's something for everyone.

What to Expect: Live German Music and Traditional Dance Performances: Enjoy lively German tunes and classic Oktoberfest songs that will fill the air with festive energy all day long. **Beer Garden:** Sip on a variety of refreshing German beers in our beer garden. Whether you love a classic lager or something a little more adventurous, you'll find the perfect brew to enjoy. **Delicious German Food:** Indulge in delicious Oktoberfest favorites, from bratwurst and pretzels to strudels and more. It's the perfect way to experience authentic German flavors. **Handmade Arts & Crafts:** Explore a variety of unique, handcrafted items by local artisans. Whether you're looking for a special gift or something for yourself, you'll find a treasure here.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 27

Slavery and Freedom at Woodlawn. 12-1 p.m. At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, Alexandria. Explore the lives of the people enslaved at Woodlawn through original sources, objects, and historic places. This tour traces Woodlawn's transformation as a

plantation once part of George Washington's Mount Vernon, to an antislavery community over the course of the 19th century. Engage in thoughtful discussion about our shared past and the legacy of slavery.

SEPT. 27-28

Alexandria Symphony Orchestra. Presents Ger-shwin and Tchaikovsky Concerto in F at 100. Sept. 27 at 7:30 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center. Sept. 28 at 3 p.m. at George Washington Masonic National Memorial

OCT. 3 TO NOV. 1

The "Bump in the Night" art exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. This show explores those unsettling moments when you hear something strange and unexplained in the dark. Prepare for the shadows to take shape and for the mysterious bumps in the night come to life. Opening Reception: Friday, October 3, 7-9 p.m. Gallery hours are Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays 12-6 p.m. Details at DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

FRIDAY/OCT. 3

Leave the Leaves. 10-11:30 a.m. Online. For many people, fall cleanup means raking and disposing of the leaves that have tumbled from the trees. Join Extension Master Gardener Claudia Gerwin to learn about the many benefits of leaving the leaves to provide an overwintering habitat for pollinators and other invertebrates. You'll learn how to best manage your leaves to improve the soil, suppress weeds, and retain moisture, and we'll share tips on how to make leaf compost. If you leave the leaves, your landscape will reap the benefits of more pollinators, natural pest control and more abundant wildlife in the spring. FREE. RSVP online at <https://mgnv.org/rsvp-for-public-education-classes/> to receive the link to participate.

SATURDAY/OCT. 4

First Saturday 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.fairfax-county.gov/library/branches/friends-of-sherwood-regional> for information on other days and times for the library's ongoing book sale.

SATURDAY/OCT. 4

30th Annual Art on the Avenue. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. In Del Ray on Mount Vernon Avenue between Hume and Bellefonte Avenues, Alexandria. Art on the Avenue strives to reflect the diversity of the Del Ray community through the artists and their work. This year's festival will feature over 350 local and regional artists, live music, international food, children's activities, a pie-baking contest, and more. The event, voted by Virginia Living readers as the best art festival in Northern Virginia, is volunteer-run, with support from the local business community. Art on the Avenue is free and open to all.

SATURDAY/OCT. 4

The Listening Project. 1-4 p.m. At The Athenaeum, Alexandria. The Listening Project is an interactive performance piece that explores multisensory listening created by Anne Willieme, a multidisciplinary artist and leader of Sensverse Studio. The Listening Project invites you to share a story which will then be translated into visual terms by Anne Willieme and into movement by dancer Kate Walker. The program explores a multisensory-media translation from language to visual and movement-based expression. The work also aims to provide the participating audience with the feeling of being deeply heard.

SATURDAY/OCT. 11

Fall Fest: Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave, Alexandria. Join the Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia for our 2nd annual Fall Festival! We will have an "Ask the Master Gardener" table, kids' activities, a houseplant sale, free saplings, hand-crafted pottery, a food truck, tool sharpening, and more. Don't miss this fun-filled family event! Pick up some holiday gifts for your favorite gardeners or just come to learn more about gardening!

SATURDAY/OCT. 11

Garden Maintenance. 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m., Potomac Overlook Regional Park, 2845 Marcey Rd, Arlington. Extension Master Gardener volunteers will demonstrate the whys and hows of these final food garden tasks. Come learn how to make the most of your own vegetable plot.

SATURDAY/OCT. 18

FocusMusic and WFMA present Ali Tod. 7 p.m. At Saint Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Rd., Alexandria. Tickets \$25 in advance (members \$22.50) / \$30 at door (members \$25), \$15 virtual. Scottish guitarist and singer Ali Tod fuses classical training with percussive fingerstyle guitar, loop-pedal wizardry, and raw, soul-stirring vocals—drawing comparisons to Rodrigo y Gabriela and KT Tunstall. Info and tickets at <https://focusmusic.org/shows#sat-10-18-ali-tod-alexandria-virtual>

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.

SEPTEMBER

Wed. 17: The Hot Sardines \$45.00
Thu. 18: James McMurtry (Band) w/ BettySoo \$39.50
Fri. 19: The Second City presents "Laugh Harder, Not Smarter" \$49.50
Sun. 21: Kathleen Edwards \$35.00
Wed. 24: The Robert Cray Band \$59.50
Thu. 25: Iris DeMent \$49.50
Fri. 26: The Wallflowers w/ Brother Elsey \$75.00
Sat. 27: The Wallflowers w/ Brother Elsey \$75.00
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Sun. 28: Arturo Sandoval \$65.00

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ENTERTAINMENT

FILL THE BINS

To help Virginians protect their personal information and support neighbors in need, AARP Virginia hosts Fill the Bins — free paper shred and pantry events in October. Four collection locations — Woodbridge, Lorton, Dulles, and Manassas — make the secure disposal of personal documents available to more people. Examples of documents for shredding might include bank statements, cancelled checks, credit card junk mail and receipts with identifying information. Each vehicle is limited to no more than three bags or boxes of documents; registration for this free event is required.

Fill the Bins event dates, times and locations are as follows:
Saturday, October 4, 2025, between 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. at Parkway Church, 3713 Pennington Lane, Woodbridge
Sunday, October 5, 2025, between 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Lorton Community Action Center, 9520 Richmond Hwy, Lorton
Saturday, October 11, 2025, between 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. at Dulles South Food Pantry, 24757 Arcola Mills Drive, Dulles
Saturday, October 25, 2025, between 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church, 9325 West Street, Manassas

NATURE HIKE WITH A RANGER
Along the George Washington Memorial Parkway. Join a ranger on nature hikes:

Oct. 6 at 9 a.m. at Great Falls Visitor Center Courtyard
Oct. 21 at 9 a.m. at Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve
All hikes will be 1.2 to 2 hours of slow, moderate hiking. Turkey Run hike will have steep stairs both ways. Join NPS Natural Resources Program Manager Brent Steury for a hike. Brent has worked as a scientist in this area for over 20 years.

NOW THRU SEPT. 29

Masterpiece Mini Golf. Thursday: 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Friday & Saturday: 11 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.; Sunday: 12 – 5 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Masterpiece Mini-Golf isn't just a game—it's an interactive journey through the world of art like you've never seen before! Imagine 18 artist-designed holes bursting with bold colors, iconic imagery, and mind-bending creativity. From Monet's water lilies to Banksy's graffiti walls, every twist and turn brings you face-to-face with art history's greatest paintings—reimagined in wild, surreal, and playable form. It's part gallery, part game, and 100% fun for all ages. Visit the website: <https://www.workhousearts.org/masterpiece-mini-golf>

SATURDAY/SEPT. 20

Bug Fest. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Lake Accotink Park, Springfield. Step into the fascinating world of bugs at Bug Fest — Lake Accotink Park's annual celebration of all things that crawl, fly and buzz! A day packed with discovery, fun and outdoor adventure.

Perfect for families, nature enthusiasts, and curious minds of all ages, Bug Fest invites you to explore the vital role insects play in the environment through hands-on activities, live demonstrations and engaging

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 15

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Be Creative Creating Affordable Housing

FROM PAGE 1

agency has a role to play in solving the affordable housing challenge.

"This is meant to be all hands on deck," McKay said, calling for a countywide collaborative effort. McKay made clear that affordable housing is a shared priority and requires coordinated action from the entire county government, not solely the Department of Housing or the Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority.

McKay emphasized the need for creative solutions by encouraging staff and departments to use flexibility and creativity in addressing affordable housing. "This is our board signaling to the county executive to be creative, to our departments that are working on this, to be creative and help us meet this moment so that we continue, continue to make progress."

The strategies McKay proposed for review aim to increase affordable housing production through development incentives, expedited processing, and public-private partnerships, with the goal of adding 10,000 affordable units by 2034.

McKay outlined seven key actions.

"I have a number of initiatives that I am proposing for review as follows, which I expect will be helpful for both affordable housing for low- and moderate-income families as well as for the production of the full spectrum of housing generally," McKay said. "I recognize that this is a robust request with a number of components, but we know that addressing the problem in a multi-faceted, coordinated and timely manner is required."

❖ **Development Incentives and Process:** McKay suggested making it easier and faster to build affordable housing by offering new incentives and speeding up approval processes.

❖ **Assisting more individuals in purchasing their first homes,** including the exploration of small, affordable home villages.

❖ **Faith Community Properties:** He recommended working with faith-based groups to add affordable housing to their properties.

❖ **Public-Private Partnerships and Capacity:** More support and simpler rules for public-private partnerships to build affordable

housing.

❖ **Affordable Housing Finance:** McKay proposed finding new ways to finance these projects.

❖ **Sixth, The Role of the Private Sector.** McKay encouraged private businesses to get involved in creating more affordable and market-rate homes.

❖ **Finally, Legislative Priorities:** McKay requested changes to state and federal policies to better support the county's affordable housing goals.

The board matter directed "the county executive to provide a roadmap to address the requested information holistically no later than next spring at a land-use policy committee meeting, since many of these items are land-use related, including how they might fit into the update of the housing element of the comprehensive policy plan expected in 2026. Other topics may need to come back to the housing committee or other board committees as determined by staff, my office, and specific committee chairs," McKay said.

Supervisor Pat Herrity (R) said, "Clearly affordability in housing is one of the top issues in Fairfax County."

Herrity praised the focus on home ownership and its benefits, such as building generational wealth and providing certainty for residents. Herrity expressed skepticism about the effectiveness of currently giving away county land and subsidies to build 10,000 units of housing. He highlighted the need for streamlined permitting and zoning processes, saying they are still burdensome and slow, making it difficult for businesses and even for simple improvements. Herrity discussed the high regulatory costs, particularly for smaller units, which increase the cost and development time for housing projects. Herrity liked the idea of involving industry partners like NVBIA and NAIOP and the inclusion of incentives for affordable housing developers.

Supervisor Rodney Lusk (D) shared information on the demographic and generational shift in homeownership, raising a question that remains an open topic for future research and policy consideration for the

board.

"It's typical for older Americans to occupy our largest share of home ownership," Lusk said. "The share of homeowners among Americans older than 55 years grew from 44.3 percent in 2008 to 54 percent in 2023. So clearly there is an opportunity here," Lusk said. He asked, "Is there a process or program methodology that we could employ to help maybe some of our younger residents move into their homes?"

The board discussed leveraging AI tools and public-private partnerships to facilitate housing transitions. They emphasized the need for efficient processes to avoid losing talent due to a lack of affordable housing.

Tenant Protections

Beyond the new housing initiative, the board also updated a key county policy to enhance tenant protections, approving revisions to the "Fairfax County Relocation Guidelines." The revisions provide a framework for negotiation rather than strict requirements, applying to property owners when tenants are temporarily or permanently displaced from affordable housing during redevelopment projects.

Tom Fleetwood, director of the Department of Housing and Community Development, stressed that the new guidelines were developed through a collaborative process involving community stakeholders to address the concerns of affected tenants. "The product before you is the result of a collaborative process where we engaged a number of stakeholders in the community to be able to ensure that we understand their concerns and are addressing the needs of folks who might potentially be affected by redevelopment," Fleetwood said.

Herrity raised concerns about the cost implications for developers. "Did we look at what this will cost the developer on a kind of a permit per unit basis to comply with this?" he asked. Herrity also suggested that the industry could help estimate those costs. "I just want to clarify that these are recommendations, not requirements, and they wouldn't be a reason for them to be denied or excluded," Herrity said.

Amazing



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

For those of you regular readers wondering about my most recent scan results - and what it means to my health status, written about a few weeks ago in a column titled, "Clear as Mud," the answer is, to quote Ken Jennings, the current host of Jeopardy, the oncologist wrote "overall, an excellent PET report." As for my 'overall' health, I'm way past one day at a time, and I'm way past my original "13 months to two years" prognosis which I received in late February 2009. I am not however in remission. Nor have I passed the need for quarterly PET scans - to be followed up by quarterly in-office appointments, monthly lab work and five daily pills. I am, as the cover of this quarter's AARP magazine teases: "Living with Cancer."

When I saw that headline on the cover, which of course led to an inside story, I said out loud to my wife Dina, "I could write the book on that." Actually, if you tally up all the columns I've had published (nearly 800 columns on the subject) beginning in June '09 and continuing without interruption through to this very column, I've published a book or two, sort of. F.Y.I., moreover, to give this column a little context, I have published a weekly column since Dec. '97 (beginning Jan. '25, the Connection is now published two times per month). Before the cancer diagnosis, I characterized my columns as "Everything in General About Nothing in Particular." That all changed when I was diagnosed with stage IV, non-small lung cancer, an extremely terminal form of cancer.

But cancer is the exact opposite of 'nothing in particular' as it is also the exact opposite of 'everything in general.' It's as specific as one can get, especially when asked about one's health/life. Nevertheless, short of wearing a tee-shirt emblazoned with "F-ck Cancer" or the more acceptable: "Cancer Sucks," I pretty much keep myself to myself unless asked. If, to quote Lily Tomlin as the kookie switchboard operator "Ernestine," from the irreverent comedy show of the 60s and 70s: "Laugh-In," if "the party to whom I am speaking" doesn't know I have cancer, I will not offer it up for conversation. If on the contrary, inquiries are made about my health status, I have plenty of stories to share about my 16 1/2 years defying the odds and living despite being told a time or two that my chances of surviving beyond two years were in the low single digits.

But here I sit, writing about survival of the not-so-fittest: me. I wouldn't say I've survived by ignoring advice or burying my head in the proverbial/figurative sand - below or above ground. Nor have I read everything on the subject or followed a strict regimen of non-Western alternatives, though I have embraced some: drinking alkaline water, spooning down a tablespoon of purred asparagus at least once a day, mixing Bragg's Apple Cider Vinegar and/or baking soda in my daily drinks, plus swallowing upwards of 60 pills a day (vitamins, minerals, supplements, et cetera), some over the counter, some under the counter and a few even around the counter all selected to flush out the toxins in my body or to build up an immune system ravaged by chemotherapy. Whether, and to what extent, incorporating/adding these 'alternatives' to my Western care: chemotherapy, immunotherapy and targeted therapy, mattered I'll never know.

However, doing all this stuff/being proactive made me feel less a victim and more like a victor. And as they say, "To the victor go the spoils." In my case, the spoils refer to a life I wasn't supposed to live. And not a day goes by where I take any of it for granted.

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

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 14

presentations. Here's what you can experience:
Insect Safaris – Embark on a guided trek to find bugs in their natural habitat.
Live Bug Encounters – Meet fascinating insects up close.
Insect Collections & Log Rolling – Discover hidden critters by turning over logs and inspecting natural habitats.
Soil Stations & Bug Walks – Explore how bugs contribute to healthy ecosystems.
Critic Talks – Hear from experts who study and care for insects.
Bug Science & Crafts – Create your own insect-inspired art and try interactive science activities.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 20

Taste of Annandale. 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. At Eileen Garnett Civic Space, 7200 Columbia Pike, Annandale. Here's what's

planned so far for the event:
Food – Food trucks and other food vendors are offering culinary delights from Thailand, Vietnam, Jamaica, Korea, Latin America, Indonesia, China, and good old American fare like barbecue and funnel cakes.
5K – The Taste of Annandale 5K run will be located entirely at Mason District Park, 6621 Columbia Pike, Annandale, starting at 9:30 a.m.
Live entertainment – The performance schedule isn't finalized yet, but the plans call for a lion dance; music and dance groups from Korea, Vietnam, Bolivia, Scotland, and Indonesia; martial arts demonstrations; musical theater; and much more.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 20

2025 South County Marching Band Invitation-al. 12 p.m. to 7 p.m. At South County High School, Lorton. South County High School Band is hosting a Marching Band Invitational

with over 20 marching bands to be participating. General Admission \$10.

SEPT. 20 TO NOV. 2

"Evil Dead, The Musical." At Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. The Workhouse Arts Center is raising the curtain on its bold 2025–26 Performing Arts Season this fall with the cult-classic sensation "Evil Dead The Musical," running September 20 – November 2, 2025 at the Workhouse's intimate W-3 Theatre. Perfectly timed for Halloween season and paired with the Workhouse's Haunted Trail, this outrageous rock musical comedy offers a theatrical experience unlike anything else in Northern Virginia—complete with a "Splash Zone" for adventurous theatergoers ready to get (fake!) blood-soaked. Visit www.workhousearts.org.

www.MtVernonSpecialists.com



CHRIS WHITE
FAMILY REAL ESTATE
OF LONG & FOSTER



75 Homes SOLD in 2024 & 61 Homes SOLD in 2025 so far!

As we approach the fourth quarter of 2025, the Chris White Family Real Estate Group thanks our Mt. Vernon neighbors for another overwhelming vote of confidence resulting in 61 homes sold to date in 2025. Hear directly from two recent clients:



"We had an outstanding experience working with Chris White and his entire team. From start to finish, they demonstrated exceptional professionalism, deep local knowledge, and a level of responsiveness that truly set them apart. We've bought and sold several homes - this was the best experience we've had to date! Chris knows this market inside

and out. Whether it was pricing strategy, neighborhood insights, or identifying the right time to list, his guidance was spot-on every step of the way. Thanks to his expertise and honest advice, we always felt like we were one step ahead. What really impressed us was the team's communication. Any time we had a question or needed an update, someone was there with a quick, clear answer. We never felt as though we were "in the dark." Their attention to detail—from staging and marketing to navigating offers and closing—was flawless. Chris and his team didn't just help us buy/sell a house—they helped us make a smart move, both financially and personally. We look forward to working with them again and highly recommend them to anyone looking for a knowledgeable, responsive, and trustworthy real estate team. Thank you, Chris and team! You're the best." -The Chretien Family



"Chris and his family were outstanding to work with selling our home. Not one question went unanswered, and within a very short amount of time. The process of scheduling showings and the Open House was laid out perfectly. They were so helpful in not only identifying what repairs/upgrades were needed to best show our house but also took on

the task of making the arrangements for those repairs to be made. They really are the "Mt. Vernon Specialists". 10/10 recommend The White Family " -The Ohagan

Mortgage rates are falling and we are seeing new buyers coming into the market. If you're considering selling in 2025 or even 2026, now is the time to call the area's proven leaders for a consultation!



4412 Tarpon Ln | \$999,950



4112 Ferry Landing Rd | \$1,275,000



9401 Forest Haven Dr | \$869,500

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