



PHOTO BY ABBEY D

### Pet Gazette

Capt. Jack Sparrow enjoys wildlife watching from his perch on his new family's boat. See pages 4-5.

## Collingwood Mansion To Be Demolished

Mt. Vernon residents mourn a 150-year-old regional landmark.

BY ELISSA ESHER  
THE GAZETTE

Collingwood Mansion, a historic property on George Washington's River Farm, is set to be demolished before Christmas according to the Fairfax County officials. The owner, Tyler Murrell, plans to replace the building with a modern home and pool.

"Every time you lose a bit of history you change the feeling and sense of an area," said Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck. "It's always sad to see a building like this go."

Murrell, whose father founded the Five Guys restaurant chain, bought the property for \$2.6 million in 2015. The demolition permit was approved by Fairfax County on July 1. Murrell did not respond to a request for comment.

Built in 1852 by gentleman farmer Henry Allen Taylor, Collingwood consists of nearly nine acres of land and two stories of colonial revival architecture along the Potomac River between Old Town, Alexandria and George Washington's Mount Vernon. While the property was used as a farmhouse for the first time by Taylor, local legend holds that the original structure was George Washington's overseer's house in the 1780s.

Archeology and Collections Branch Manager Elizabeth Crowell of the Fairfax County Park Authority believes occupation of the Collingwood property may date back even before Washington.

"There are two archeological sites on the property," Crowell said. "We'd like to continue excavations both concerning Collingwood artifacts and con-



PHOTO BY SARAH SKLAR/THE GAZETTE

Sign next to Collingwood's front gate

cerning artifacts from native American occupation there. We think there is a high probability of success with both, but until we dig we'll never know."

Crowell said the current demolition will not affect the archeological sites. However, the county cannot require the owner to allow further excavation on the two sites.

"We'd love to know more and we'd love if he supported us, but he has no obligation to," said Crowell.

**COLLINGWOOD HAS BEEN** remodeled and repurposed on multiple occasions throughout its life. After Henry Allan Taylor's death in 1856, Quaker landowner Stacey Snowden purchased the property, having recently moved to Virginia as part of the mass migration of Quakers from New Jersey from which many residents of the Mount Vernon area descend. Stacey, along with his two broth-

SEE MANSION, PAGE 13

8/2/19  
REQUESTED IN HOME  
MATERIAL  
TIME-SENSITIVE  
POSTMASTER:  
ATTENTION  
PERMIT #482  
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Overlooking Windmill Hill Park, this 5-bedroom stunner offers panoramic views of the Potomac. Built in 1820, this historic home was meticulously renovated with improvements that incorporate modern amenities while preserving its charm. Original floors, interior trim, and windows have all been carefully restored. An expanded kitchen boasts premium appliances, Italian Carrara marble, and radiant heated floors. Exposed historic brick, radiant heated floors, high ceilings, windows and a graduated exit stairwell make the basement an inviting space.

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**Alexandria \$725,000**

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The Alexandria fireboat passes just south of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge.



At Belmont Bay Harbor Marina, the Fairfax County boat parks next to the Prince William County boat.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE GAZETTE

# Policing the River in Marine Patrol 1

Police boat plays many roles on local tidal waters.

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE GAZETTE

Marine Patrol 1 pulled out of the docks on the Occoquan River, and headed out through the no wake zone to the Potomac River as it does several times a week, but this time was a little different.

The boat is part of the Fairfax County Police Department, and officer Tim Judd grabbed the binoculars as what appeared to be a yellow seaplane was flying low to the water in the distance.

Judd's partner Alan Cordray commented how each patrol they take on the river was different, but a seaplane was an unusual sight. Due to the river's proximity to Washington, D.C. and several military bases lining the corridor, there are flight restrictions everywhere and the seaplane caught everyone's attention.

"This is pretty much a no-fly zone," he said, adding he had "never seen one out here."

The low altitude alarmed them as well. "He's just staying under the radar," Cordray said, as he pointed the boat down river and accelerated. The plane crossed from the Virginia side to Maryland side of the river, and down Mattawoman Creek, going out of sight. "He knows he's not allowed there," added Judd, who manned the radio, calling other units, including the FCPD helicopter, who got word to the Federal Aviation Administration. They pulled up to a Maryland Department of Natural Resources boat on the creek, talked with the officer, and watched the airplane pass over and out of sight. "We're waiting to hear back from the FAA," Cordray said. They filled out a computer-based log so their event was recorded

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Officer Tim Judd looks at the questionable seaplane in the distance.



The Fairfax County officers discuss the seaplane with an officer from the Maryland Department of Resources.

but nothing came of it and the officers resumed their patrol on the river. Just another day for Marine Patrol 1.

"The way he was dodging, definitely a little interesting," Judd said.

**MARINE PATROL 1** is a full-time job for two county policemen, and a part time gig for a handful of others that come over from other positions on the force, or within the county. Judd, for example, is a school resource officer from Kilmer Middle School in Vienna who is a marine officer who shifts to the boat for the summer. The boat parks in Belmont Bay Harbor Marina, next to the Prince William County boat, and patrols the river from the Woodrow Wilson Bridge down to Belmont Bay, and more when the need arises.

In the case with the seaplane, Marine Patrol 1 crossed over into Maryland waters and into the mouth of Mattawoman Creek.

A majority of the time, MP1 enforces the no-wake rule in Belmont Bay, the Occoquan River, Pohick Bay and out on the river, respond to emergencies, enforce alcohol limits for boaters and encourage safe boating. Fairfax County is responsible for patrolling

up the Occoquan River nearly to the town of Occoquan, north to the Woodrow Wilson Bridge and all other inlets and creeks that are considered Fairfax County. When requested, they assist in Alexandria and Arlington waters as well, but the river above Arlington is a little too rocky, and Montgomery County authorities cover that area. At a few points in Fairfax coverage area, the river is more than 70 feet deep.

On a good weekend in Belmont Bay, there are 300 boats so it's a busy time. As far as the no-wake rule, "you need to be going as slow as you can," said Cordray. A boat causing a wake in those areas can shake other boats, overturn a fisherman in a canoe, or cause boats that are docked to hit together, causing damage to the hulls. It can be expensive. A big wake causes erosion on the shoreline as well. All boaters need to have passed a boating course if their boat is 10 horsepower or more, and the officers check on that as well.

"We all started as regular police officers on the street," Cordray said.

On July 4, they got a call that a woman was in distress up near the bridge, so they headed up there and were caught in a thun-

derstorm. She somehow cut off part of her finger and needed help.

"We're more or less an ambulance on the water," Cordray said. "Depends on the day, what's going on, we're pretty busy," he added.

Drinking and driving a boat is "BWI," and they enforce that as well, but find the boating community helps out with that as well. If they see a fellow boater that's had too much to drink, they help get the boat back to the docks in other ways, they said.

Marine Patrol 1 is a boat with an aluminum chambered hull, an air conditioned and heated cabin, twin 300-horsepower engines and other special accessories that are needed out on the water, like forward looking infrared radar for seeing things the naked eye cannot. There is sonar for measuring the depth, which is important on the river. "This is not just your pleasure boat," said Judd. The \$350,000 boat was built by SAFE Boat Co. located in Bremerton, Wash.

While the meandering channel is good for boating, there are parts that are not as deep, and in low tide, this can be a problem for a pleasure boat flying along unaware. If they

SEE MARINE PATROL. PAGE 14

# Anchors Aweigh Sailing senior proves all cats don't hate water.

BY BARBARA S. MOFFET  
ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE OF  
ALEXANDRIA

**W**hat kind of future does a 14-year-old cat who has been returned to the shelter by his adopters have? Just ask a soft-gray, short-haired cat named Jack. He's now captain of a 34-foot catamaran sailboat docked in the Washington area, living there with his adopter, Abbey D. (name withheld to protect privacy), and her son, Greg, 15.

Abbey had decided a senior cat would be just the right addition to her floating family, and it didn't take long for her to spot Jack at the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria (AWLA) back in June. Jack, who had been returned to the shelter because he was not properly using his litter box, had few teeth and no front claws. "It was an instant love affair," Abbey says. She adopted him that day.

Jack, whom she has rechristened Capt. Jack Sparrow after the "Pirates of the Caribbean" film character, quickly took to the nautical lifestyle. "He is in heaven," Abbey says. "Living on a sailboat is like living in a giant cat playhouse — with all of the portholes and spaces to hide in and explore. Even though he's a senior cat, he is able to let his inner kitten out." And he seems to be faring better overall: medicine and a special diet have solved his litter-box issues.

Jack even has come to love the family's other pet, a guinea pig named Strange. Frightened of the little animal at first, Jack lately has been seen cuddling with Strange on a blanket in the boat's stateroom. The cat's at his calmest when they're at sail, Abbey says, soothed by the motion of the water and apparently not at all tempted to jump in.

Like Jack, senior pets are often available for adoption at the AWLA. On arrival at the shelter, senior animals (generally defined as age 8 or older for cats and dogs) receive full checkups with the staff veterinarian, including screening for liver, kidney and thyroid disease as well as dental problems.

The AWLA has found that an older cat, dog or other animal can be a perfect match for certain

adopters, especially if they are looking for a calmer animal with more experience living in a home. Often human senior citizens find a senior pet might be the perfect fit for their lifestyle, which is why the AWLA's Seniors for Seniors program waives adoption fees for people 65 and over.

The quiet energy of a senior animal also can be right for people who are away at work during the day. That is what Annie Kraft and her husband, Tom Berube, of Arlington had in mind when they visited the shelter last January.

Their previous dog had passed away a few years before, and they had decided they were ready to adopt. "We went to the dog area, and Nanny was just standing there, wearing a red coat and looking scared but so cute. Tom and I saw her and knew we needed her to become part of the family."

Nanny, an 11-year-old bluetick coonhound, has the true markings of her breed, with black-and-white dappled fur and big, black patches over her eyes. She had arrived at the shelter in April 2018 from southern Virginia in rough shape, suffering from ear infections, parasites, poor kidney and thyroid function and several masses under her skin. She also had a nagging cough. Months of medical care and healing time in foster homes addressed her problems, and in the process she became beloved by AWLA staff and volunteers.



PHOTO BY TOM BERUBE

**Bluetick coonhound Nanny, a "lovebug" adopted from the AWLA.**



PHOTOS BY ABBEY D.

**A sailboat home is "heaven" for adopted cat Jack Sparrow.**



**Capt. Jack Sparrow enjoys wildlife watching from his perch on his new family's boat.**

"Nanny was a field-trip favorite of our volunteers for a chill afternoon or for puppy gelato in Old Town," recalled Echo Keif, the AWLA's volunteer program manager. "Nanny also became the mascot at our monthly adoption events. We always dressed her up in the prettiest sweater, and she wore every outfit with the carefree confidence of a runway model. Nanny said hello to everyone who passed by and had a delightfully zen vibe. Nanny was and is magical in every way."

What's she like in her new home? "Nanny is a love bug," Kraft said. "She's confident, playful and patient, especially with little kids who play with her ears. We think she is the perfect dog."

One of Nanny's favorite activities is hiking with Kraft and Berube in Glencarlyn and Fort Ward parks — and visiting the Del Ray neighborhood for special ice cream "pup cups." She can walk more than two miles, Kraft says, and will sit by their door at home as if to say, "I want to go on an adventure now."

"We were really excited to give Nanny a retirement home, but she's actually aging backwards," Kraft said. "She has so much energy; she has a lot of life left in her."

The AWLA's Rosemary's Fund supports care of senior animals; go to [AlexandriaAnimals.org/Rosemary](http://AlexandriaAnimals.org/Rosemary) for information on donating. For more information on the Seniors for Seniors program, go to [AlexandriaAnimals.org/](http://AlexandriaAnimals.org/)



PHOTO BY TOM BERUBE

**Nanny explores Theodore Roosevelt Island.**

SeniorsforSeniors.

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria is a local 501(c)(3) organization. Operating the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter, which is Alexandria's only open-access animal shelter, the AWLA touches the lives of more than 6,000 animals every year, including strays, lost

pets, local wildlife, rescued animals and animals surrendered by their owners. The AWLA is committed to addressing animal homelessness, promoting animal welfare and serving as an educational resource for the community. More information can be found at [AlexandriaAnimals.org](http://AlexandriaAnimals.org).



PHOTOS BY ELISSA ESHER/THE GAZETTE

From left: Bryan Tuccillo, Executive Director Charlie Flynt, Jordann Long, Elizabeth Klein, and Francesca Baker sell Pawfectly Delicious Dog Treats at St. Luke's Farmer's Market.

## A Paw-Fect Way to Help

### Pawfectly Delicious Dog Treats provides jobs for young adults with disabilities.

BY ELISSA ESHER  
THE GAZETTE

If you ever thought you couldn't help man and man's best friend with one purchase, you're wrong. Pawfectly Delicious Dog Treats, a 2-year-old nonprofit native to the Mount Vernon area, sells canine snacks made by young adults with special needs and teaches job skills in the process.

Pawfectly Delicious began when Mount Vernon resident Anne Tuccillo noticed a lack of employment opportunities for her son, Bryan, after he aged out of state services for disability. Taking matters into her own hands, Tuccillo decided she would create a job for her son. After noticing dogs eating a friend's ginger Christmas ornaments off the tree, Tuccillo was inspired to teach Bryan and a few other young adults with similar disabilities to make and sell ginger dog treats.

"There is a great need for employment for young adults between the ages of 18 and 30 with disabilities," said Charlie Flynt, executive director of Pawfectly Delicious Dog Treats, and Bryan's attendant, "After they graduate high school they can participate in a swim team in the summer and a few other small things, but besides that there isn't much to do. We've always found staffing to be easy for that reason."

While managing Pawfectly Delicious from the Tuccillo kitchen was ideal in the beginning, the bud-

ding nonprofit's growing number of employees soon made it necessary to partner with Pulley Vocational Career Center (a job-training program for students with disabilities) and St. Luke's Episcopal Church. Now, Pulley students are making the dough employees at Pawfectly Delicious use to make treats in St. Luke's industrial-sized kitchen.

The company has also partnered with local businesses such as Nature's Nibbles, Head to Tail Spa, and Whole Dogz and PawsGo to sell their delicacies.

"We couldn't do what we do without making connections in the Mount Vernon area," Flynt said. "It gives us the help we need but also gives our employees a sense of purpose, pride and belonging in their community."

Most employees at Pawfectly Delicious work in the kitchen two days a week and sell at St. Luke's farmer's market on Saturdays. While the young workers are encouraged to use the cookie cutters independently, supervisors employ a hand-over-hand method to guide the cookie cutters of those with less manual dexterity. In this way, even employees with extreme need can take pride in their work.

For others who require less hands-on supervision, the social training that comes with working at Pawfectly

SEE PAWFECTLY DELICIOUS, PAGE 7



Employee Neil Dawes creates a package of dog treats.



Supervisor Terry Wilson employs a hand-over-hand method to help employee Bryan Tuccillo use the cookie cutter.



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OPEN  
SUNDAY 1-4



**Alex/Oxford \$1,149,900**  
**4201 Kimbrelee Court**  
Spectacular all-brick colonial home w/2 car garage on a cul-de-sac in exclusive Mt. Vernon waterfront community of Oxford. Partial water views and a beautiful multi-tiered deck. Five bedrooms & 4.5 baths. Grand 2 story foyer entryway. Large eat-in kitchen w/numerous upgrades & double butler pantry. Formal living & dining rooms. Family room off kitchen w/brick fireplace.

Library on main level w/built-in bookcases. 4 bedrooms & 3 baths on upper level, huge master suite w/large luxurious bath. Fully finished lower level w/5th bedroom & full bath, exercise, tv, & game rooms. Newly refinished hardwood floors. Recent updates include new roof (2019), new windows (2019), new deck (2018) High-end kitchen appliances (Wolf double oven; Subzero refrigerator). Main & lower level HVAC replace 2016. Backyard fence ('16). It's a wonderful home!

OPEN  
SUNDAY 1-4



**Alex/Mt. Vernon Forest \$654,900**  
**9209 Volunteer Drive**

Beautiful 2 lvl, 3BR, 3BA Split on a spectacular, landscaped .6 acre lot. Meticulously maintained & updated, i.e., roof replaced 2001, w/30 year shingles, furnace & A/C 2013, Superior Triple Paned Windows 2001, kitchen is open to the dining rm & has a lovely ceramic tiled floor & granite counters. Baths all updated in the past 3 yrs. Master bedrm expands into previous #2 bedrm & has a huge walk-in closet. The master bath is large & gorgeous. Finished lower lvl offers a huge (12x18) #3 bedrm & lovely L-shaped family rm w/wood burning FPL, also large & very organized laundry & utility rooms. The lower lvl walks out to a lovely, beautiful bkyd which backs to private woods. Great location for commuting-5 mins to the back gate of Ft. Belvoir (S), 15 mins to Old Town, Alexandria (N), & 30 mins (N) to Reagan National Airport - This is a Great Buy!!!

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**Alex./Mt. Vernon \$499,900**  
**8541 Mt. Zephyr Dr.**

Great price for this lovely two level solid all-brick home with garage on 1/3 acre in Mt. Vernon community. 3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths. Renovated eat-in kitchen, spacious and open, with sliding glass doors to private backyard. Charming front living room with ample windows, and wood burning fireplace with white, colonial style mantel. Spacious lower level has finished family room w/ 2nd fireplace and a bonus workroom. Conveniently located near Ft. Belvoir (10 mins), GW Parkway and Potomac River, Old Town Alexandria, Pentagon, and D.C.

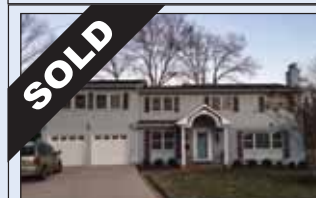
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**Ft. Hunt/Hollin Hall \$570,000**  
**7923 Jackson Road**

Gorgeous home offers 1 lvl living w/contemporary open floor plan in sought after Ft. Hunt community zoned for Waynewood Ele. This beautiful home has been completely remodeled & has stunning architectural features including an addition which has a Great rm w/high vaulted ceiling, a stone FPL, 2 skylights w/remote controlled shades, & a 2nd full bath, master bedrm, & enclosed washer/dryer area. Kitchen has SS appliances & silestone counters & shaker style maple cabinetry. Both baths renovated. New French doors off of Great rm open to beautiful 2 year old deck made w/low maintenance composite material, overlooks private, fenced bkyd. This home is a GEM and is in a great location!

SOLD



**Alex/Riverside Estates \$699,900**  
**8334 Blowing Rock Road**

Start with Riverside Estate's Popular "B" Model Colonial, add a 2 car garage, above that large garage add a huge addition consisting of 2BRs, & a 3rd full bath; not done yet, throw in a large in-ground swimming pool & separate hot tub, both updated in 2016, last but not least build a beautiful 12'x9' covered screened porch looking out at the pool & hot tub. Also, freshly painted interior, refinished hdwd flrs on main & upper lvls. Furnace & A/C replaced in 2016. Updated kitchen & baths. What you have...a once in a lifetime home which is expanded to offer a wonderful in-law/Nanny's suite, & lastly on a wonderful, quiet cul-de-sac!!

SOLD



**Alex/Riverside Estates \$583,000**  
**8318 Cherry Valley Lane**

Popular updated "B" model Colonial w/4BRs, 2.5BAs, 2 gas FPLs & a single car garage, all on a beautifully landscaped lot. Numerous updates: refinished hardwood floors on main & upper levels, freshly painted interior, double pane windows & a delightful screened porch overlooking a beautiful bkyd. Family rm on main level w/a gas FPL & a 2nd gas FPL in the finished basement. 10 mins to Ft. Belvoir- 30 mins to Nat'l Airport. This market is hot so come on over & take a look.



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## 400 Years of Democracy and Its Scars

BY SCOTT SUROVELL  
STATE SENATOR (D-36)

**O**n July 30, 1619, 22 men met in Jamestown for what eventually would become the longest, continuing, democratically-elected legislative body in the western hemisphere. They were originally called burgesses and their meeting was an experiment in representative democracy that changed the world. This week, the nation importantly celebrates the 400th anniversary of that historic gathering.

While the experiment of democracy in the New World ultimately led to some incredible results, Virginia's democracy was far from perfect. Some of the most egregious scars were

### COMMENTARY

Virginia's laws that codified, encouraged, tolerated and forced enslavement on African people, forcibly first brought to Point Comfort in today's Hampton a few weeks after the House of Burgesses' first meeting.

For most Virginia's history, the state had laws designed to discourage voting and perpetuate elite power. In 1619, only adult, white men who were not enslaved or indentured servants could vote. After various experiments and Bacon's Rebellion, legislators enacted property ownership requirements for voting so onerous that three decades after American independence in 1776, one-third of adult white Virginia men still were still not allowed to vote. This law especially affected Virginians west of the Blue Ridge Mountains. In fact, the legislature did not abolish property ownership voting requirements until 232 years after democ-

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

## Best Way For Pedestrians To Cross?

To the Editor:

This week, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors endorsed VDOT's design plans for widening a 3.1 mile portion of Richmond Highway from four to six lanes. Included in the plans are pedestrian underpasses where the highway goes over Little Hunting Creek and Dogue Creek. I was, frankly, astonished in reviewing the board's endorsement that no alternative to these underpasses was apparently considered nor were the prospective costs of the underpasses contemplated or discussed.

In May, the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations (MVCCA) enacted a resolution supporting the underpasses. In their resolution, there is no discussion of the cost. I note that the MVCCA has 41 member associations, a small fraction of the over 200 community associations in the Mount Vernon District. The resolution was passed by a vote of 11-4, meaning 11 of the over 200 community associations weighed in in support of the resolution. I certainly respect their support but note that 11 community associations do not provide political cover for a supervisor to claim they represent the entire Mount Vernon District. They don't. The New Gum Springs Civic Association, representing a community close to where the

racy began in Virginia.

When Reconstruction Era constitutional reforms pushed voter participation to new levels, white backlash brought state-sanctioned discrimination openly directed at African and Native Americans resulting in voting policies designed to reduce turnout to only the "right" voters — wealthy white people. Voter turnout dropped from 264,000 voters in the 1900 presidential election to 130,000 four years later thanks to the poll tax, literacy test and felon voter disenfranchisement.

Like many other states, Virginia's laws also barred women from voting until the 19th Amendment became law on Aug. 18, 1920, 301 years after the founding of democracy in the western hemisphere that we celebrate. Virginia refused to even ratify the 19th Amendment until 1952. With women voting, Virginia voter turnout jumped from 232,000 in 1920 to 305,000 by 1928.

Virginia also has a long history of abusive gerrymandering. In the first 300 years, the legislature periodically refused to redraw legislative districts to perpetuate the power of wealthy landowners in the Tidewater. By 1960, fear of minority, lower-income whites and ultimately progressive Democrats meant districts had little relation to population and some congressional districts had 50 percent more residents than others. In 1962, Fairfax County was given one state senator after seeing 179% population growth between 1950-60. The U.S. Supreme Court ended this with "one man, one vote" in Baker v. Carr in 1962.

Entrenched power worked to keep minority influence down in other ways. For example, Virginia cities often annexed neighboring

Little Hunting Creek bridge will be located opposed the resolution.

Richmond Highway is shared by the Mount Vernon and Lee Districts. VDOT conducted an on-line survey to which 381 citizens responded. Of those respondents, 58% supported the Little Hunting Creek underpass and 59% supported the Dogue Creek underpass. Just over 220 respondents do not speak for the over 250,000 residents of the combined Mount Vernon and Lee Districts.

The proposed pedestrian underpasses are a bad idea and are likely exorbitantly expensive. The MVCCA dressed up their resolution by suggesting safety aspects such as cameras, panic buttons, lights, and emergency alarms. Frankly, none of these items will preclude a criminal from lying in wait within an underpass and raping and/or murdering a pedestrian. By the time the police arrive, there will be nothing but a dead body to collect.

The solution is actually quite simple, so simple that our politicians, eager to spend our limited funds, won't consider it. At the locations where the bridges over these creeks will be located, brightly lit and boldly painted crosswalks should be installed complete with traffic signals actuated by pedestrians so they can safely cross the road. The cost should not exceed low six figures and pedestrians crossing Richmond Highway in that manner will be much safer than those walking through an

county land as "white flight" gave rise to more minority voting in cities, particularly in Richmond. After many counties converted into cities (cities could not annex land from other cities), the General Assembly enacted an annexation moratorium in 1987.

Virginia's blemished history is one reason many Virginians object to efforts to restrictive measures like voter identification laws. When the current majority of the House of Delegates was decided by the flip of a film canister, one cannot help but think that these policies make a difference in maintaining power.

Last month, I was in Greece where democracy was invented. As I travelled the country and saw many old statues, I wondered how many were hated by subsequent generations, torn down and replaced. I also wondered how a society that achieved so much, ruled the western world and created much of the foundational elements of western culture could come crashing down but exists today with a population smaller than Virginia and an economy smaller than the states of Oregon or Tennessee.

Our current national political environment has demonstrated that many basic, norms that Americans thought were permanent can be shattered. The last two millennia and Virginia's last four centuries show that democracy can be a fickle thing if we do not protect it.

So while we honor the 400th anniversary of democracy in Virginia on July 30, 2019, please remember our scarred history. It has been an honor for me to serve you as part of this experiment started 400 years ago and I will continue to do my best to make Virginia's democracy as strong and participatory as it can be.

underpass where a criminal can easily lie in wait and pounce on an unsuspecting person. Why provide a convenient ready-made venue for criminals at high taxpayer expense?

In an era in which it has been widely reported and documented that Northern Virginia receives from Richmond only 25 cents for every dollar of tax money we send to Richmond, it is imperative that our politicians act with fiscal responsibility, even those who are running for re-election with no opposition. I urge VDOT to consider my suggested solution for pedestrians crossing Richmond Highway and reduce their budget for this project accordingly, so those funds can be reallocated to Northern Virginia for more pressing concerns.

**H. Jay Spiegel**  
Mt. Vernon

**Write** The Gazette welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors.  
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A Connection Newspaper



# Pawfectly Delicious

FROM PAGE 5

Delicious is more beneficial.

“We’re teaching them to manage the conflicts and minor catastrophes that would come up in a more serious work environment,” Flynt said. “Like, what happens if you drop an entire tray of cookies? They won’t get in trouble here, we just show them how to deal with it.”

Neil Dawes, an employee at Pawfectly Delicious who has been responsible for putting together treat bags for almost a year, said his work for the nonprofit has helped him overcome some of the social anxiety he experiences because of his autism.

“I’m proud that working here has made me work more efficiently and also build relationships with my coworkers,” Dawes said. “That was one challenge I had to overcome to work here — getting to know everybody. It takes me a while to open up to people. But now I have a lot of good friends here.”

Dawes is not the only one who has changed through this opportunity. Joey Cahill, a non-verbal autistic employee, found it hard to find a job because of his lack of social ability. Since working at

Pawfectly Delicious, where his affinity for art is channeled into cutting out dog treats, he is becoming more vocal and has generated creative ideas, such as suggesting the employees wear chef’s hats.

“Giving these kids pride in a job well done is the most important thing for us,” Flynt said. “For most of these young people, a single, quiet purpose is like heaven. Just to put the treats in a bag, close it, be able to say ‘I made that’ and sell it to someone means so much to them.”

Flynt said the nonprofit hopes to expand in the future to both help more unemployed youths with disabilities and spread awareness of the problem.

“It gives locals a good product along with a way to interact with and help these young people who want so much to belong,” Flynt said. “We are not just helping people with disabilities. We believe we are helping the whole community.”

For purchases, donations and employment inquiries, visit Pawfectly Delicious’ table at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church Farmer’s Market (Saturdays, 8 a.m.-12 p.m., 8009 Fort Hunt Road) or visit <https://www.pawfectlydelicious.org>.



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# ENTERTAINMENT

Submit entertainment announcements at [www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/). The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

## ONGOING

**Musical: "Be More Chill."** Extended through Aug. 2, at the Ainslie Arts Center on the campus of Episcopal High School, 3900 West Braddock Road. Be More Chill follows nerdy loner Jeremy, who ingests a supercomputer called a "SQUIP" in order to become cool and popular. Be More Chill is directed by Izzy Smelkinson with music direction by Marika Countouris. In addition to mounting the first professional production of the show in the D.C. metro area, Monumental Theatre Company will also be employing an all-female design team. Visit [www.monumentaltheatre.org/be-more-chill.html](http://www.monumentaltheatre.org/be-more-chill.html) for tickets.

**Junior Golf Fairfax Camps, Clinics and Competition.** Burke Lake Golf Center is located at 6915 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Pincrest Golf Course is located at 6600 Little River Turnpike, Alexandria. Twin Lakes Golf Course is located at 6201 Union Mill Road, Clifton. Oak Marr Golf Complex is located at 3136 Jermantown Road, Oakton. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/junior](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/junior).

❖ In one-session introductory Junior Golf clinics, kids and teens learn basic golf rules, etiquette of the game, get familiarized with different types of clubs and acquire skills for putting and chipping in a social and relaxed environment. Clubs and practice balls provided. Clinics are offered at Burke Lake, Oak Marr and Pincrest golf courses for \$15 each in August.

❖ Golf camp week-long sessions are still open – campers learn putting, chipping, iron and woods play from certified instructors in a friendly, group atmosphere. Course etiquette and best safety practices will teach kids and teens fundamentals while they socialize and have fun. Clubs are not required but suggested. All campers will receive a certificate and golf fun pack upon camp completion. Burke Lake Golf Center and Twin Lakes Golf Course offer half day summer camp, Pincrest Golf Course offers both half and full day summer camp options. Oak Marr Golf Complex offers half day spring and summer camp through Everybody



**High-fire sea otter and raccoon mugs by Peggy Reichard of Accokeek, Md.; high-fire sculptural wavy reed vase by Marsha Lederman of Arlington, Va.; crystalline-glazed soft Summertime blue and green bowl by Bikki Stricker of Falls Church, Va.; and Woodfired tea set in seafoam by Stephen Lally of Alexandria.**

## Ceramics Go Casual

The "Siestaware" Kiln Club show features calm colors and organic contours in a collection of blissed out dishes and shapely sculptural work by the Kiln Club artists.

Drift dreamlike into endless combinations of color as lazy glazing encourages

Golf School.

❖ Course-ready juniors will enjoy the Junior Club Championship, Aug. 16, 8 a.m.-noon at Burke Lake Golf Center. Golfers participate in an 18-hole individual stroke competition. Competitors will be separated into three divisions with first, second, and third place prizes available in all divisions. Lunch provided. Call 703-323-1641 to register.

**The Producers – A New Mel Brooks Musical.** Through Aug. 17 at The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. Max Bialystock, the one time king of Broadway producers, is hungry to strike it rich. Leo Bloom, an accountant with dreams of someday becoming a theatre producer, discovers that they could get richer by producing a flop instead of a hit. They start by finding the worst show, worst director, and worst actors. When their new production, "Springtime for Hitler," turns out to be a smash success, the plan is thrown off and the partners lives are thrown into chaos. Note: This show contains language and adult themes. \$29-\$34. Visit [thelittletheatre.com](http://thelittletheatre.com).

**Registration Open: NVSO.** The Northern Virginia Senior Olympics features more than 60 events that challenge the mind as well as the body. New games this year: jigsaw puzzle and line-dancing. The games run Sept. 14-28. There will be no on-site registration. Paper registrations, available at most local recreation and senior centers, must be postmarked

by Aug. 24. Online registrations must be completed by Aug. 31 at [www.nvso.us](http://www.nvso.us).

**Art Exhibit: More Than A Body.** Through Aug. 4, gallery hours, at Target Gallery at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Target Gallery, the contemporary exhibition space for the Torpedo Factory Art Center, presents their competitive annual solo exhibition featuring Northern Virginia-based artist Julia Kwon. Kwon uses traditional Korean inspired textiles to create a dialogue on othering and objectification she experiences as a Korean-American woman. Visit [torpedofactory.org/target](http://torpedofactory.org/target).

**Ceramics Go Casual.** Through Aug. 4, gallery hours at Scope Gallery, ground floor Studio 19 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St. The "Siestaware" Kiln Club show features calm colors and organic contours in a collection of blissed out dishes and shapely sculptural work by the Kiln Club artists. Call Scope Gallery at 703-548-6288 or visit [www.scopegallery.org](http://www.scopegallery.org).

**Living Legends of Alexandria: African American Activists.** Through Aug. 10, Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. Living Legends of Alexandria: African American Activists highlights the work of African American men and women who have made important contributions to the growth and productivity of the City

of Alexandria. Call 703-746-4356 for more.

**Art Exhibit: "Some Like It Hot."** Through Aug. 25, gallery hours at Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, Studio 29, 105 North Union St. Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery presents its juried show, "Some Like It Hot" featuring work by artists and craftspersons influenced by the weather and the beautiful colors of the summer season. Themed work will be eligible for recognition by the jurors. Non-themed work may also be exhibited. Free admission. Visit [www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com](http://www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com) or call 703-548-0935.

**Creative Summer Programs.** Through Aug. 31 at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Del Ray Artisans' Creative Summer Programs is a series of workshops exploring the arts. Learn techniques in photography (macro and SmartPhone), painting, sculpture, mixed media, jewelry-making, sketching, and more; and discover how to use art for affirmation, communication, and intention. Details and registration at [DelRayArtisans.org/programs/creative-summer/](http://DelRayArtisans.org/programs/creative-summer/).

**Mount Vernon Farmers Market.** Wednesdays (through Dec. 18), 8 a.m.-noon at Sherwood Hall Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. The McCutcheon/Mount Vernon Farmers Market opened May 1 with an array of farm-fresh produce and local foods, plus some new features

(fresh brewed coffee!). 17 local farmers and producers will sell fresh, locally grown vegetables and fruits; meats; Chesapeake Bay seafood; breads and pastries; honey, jams and jellies; milk, cheese and eggs; herbs and plants; and more. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets).

**Band Members Needed.** Join the Mount Vernon Community Band, a group of players who enjoy playing many styles of band music in a relaxed atmosphere. Rehearsals are Tuesdays 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the Mount Vernon High School Band Room, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road. No auditions. All instruments needed. Contact Eric Leighty directly 703-768-4172 or visit [www.mvbands.com/join-us/](http://www.mvbands.com/join-us/).

## THURSDAY/AUG. 1

**Fort Hunt Meetup, Walk with a Ranger.** 10:30-noon at Fort Hunt Park, 8999 Fort Hunt Road. Join a national park ranger on a 1.5 mile walk through historic Fort Hunt Park, be prepared to learn about some World War II secrets. Meet at Area E parking. Free. Call 703-235-1530 for more.

**Summer Recess.** 4-7 p.m. at 2425 Eisenhower Ave. (on the grassy knoll). Enjoy live music, happy hour, lawn games, and food. Visit [www.FB.com/AlexandriaEcon](http://www.FB.com/AlexandriaEcon) for more.

## 5 Dates to Circle in August

BY HOPE NELSON

### My Persian Table event at A La Lucia, Aug. 1

A La Lucia owner and chef Michael Nayeri is hosting a second rendition of his "My Persian Table" menu on Aug. 1. The five-course menu will take diners on a tour of Persian cuisine ranging from appetizers to a fish course, a meat course and dessert. Wine pairings are optional. 315 Madison St. \$70. Reservations recommended.

### Port City Brewing Oktoberfest Release Party, Aug. 2

Sure, the sun may still be beating down with intense ferocity and you may be

working in one last beach weekend before school starts again, but Oktoberfest is right around the corner, and Port City is prepared with the release of its popular Marzen-style lager. The brewery opens at noon for an all-day celebration of Oktoberfest in August. Das Pretzel Haus will be on site with traditional pretzels to add a little heft to the launch. 3950 Wheeler Ave. Noon-10 p.m.

### Mozzarella Fest at Cheesetique, through Aug. 11

Del Ray's premier cheesemonger is giving patrons a peek behind the cheese-making curtain with a focused multiweek tour of all things mozzarella. From a "Mozzarella, Etc." class to special menu items (Caprese smashburger, anyone?) to a Negroni cocktail to wash it all down, Cheesetique is rolling up its sleeves and

getting into the stretchy, gooey thick of things. 2411 Mount Vernon Ave.

### Alexandria Restaurant Week, Aug. 16-25

Summer Restaurant Week is a time of celebration for restaurants hailing from all corners of Alexandria. From Belle View's Dishes of India to Shooter McGee's in the West End, from North Old Town's Hank's Pasta Bar to Hops n Shine in Del Ray, there's a menu and a location for every palate. Thirty-five dollars gets you a three-course meal or dinner for two at dozens of Alexandria's eateries, but plan ahead and make a reservation — most restaurants do book up.

### Second Annual DRP Wing Fest, Aug. 17

Do you have what it takes to win the Wings of Doom Hot Wing Eating Contest? Or are you just a wing aficionado with nothing to prove? Either way, Del Ray Pizzeria is celebrating both wings and those who love them with its second annual Wing Fest. Expect half-price wings at the parking-lot party (as well as inside the restaurant all day), and \$10 pays your way into the contest.

Three craft breweries – Firestone, Vasen and Stone – will offer up specialty beers to cool off your palate. 2218 Mount Vernon Ave. 3-7 p.m. \$10 for contest entry.

*Hope Nelson owns and operates the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at [www.kitchenrecessionista.com](http://www.kitchenrecessionista.com). Email her any time at [hope@kitchenrecessionista.com](mailto:hope@kitchenrecessionista.com).*



# ENTERTAINMENT

## FRIDAY/AUG. 2

**Andes to Romances.** 7 p.m. at Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. An evening of authentic Andean melodies from the Latin-American repertoire and international song book of Juan Cayrampoma and Ernesto Bravo, performing as Andes to Romances. Using an array of traditional Andean and contemporary instruments they perform music that embodies the soul of the Andes while paying homage to love, hope, romance and their native land. \$15. Visit [nvfaa.org](http://nvfaa.org) or call 703-548-0035.

**Mount Vernon Nights: Blue Highway (bluegrass).** 7:30-8:30 at Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Performances will feature musical styles from soul to and pop and bluegrass and rock. Bring a picnic dinner and a blanket and enjoy one of Fairfax County's summer traditions. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/mt-vernon-nights](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/mt-vernon-nights) for more.

## AUG. 2-SEPT. 1

**Art Exhibit: Fresh Meat.** Gallery hours at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. "Fresh Meat" features artwork by Del Ray Artisans' newest members from 2018-2019. "Fresh Meat" highlights new faces and new techniques. Opening Reception: Friday, Aug. 2, 7-9 p.m. Register in advance for a special acrylics painting workshop on Saturday, Aug. 10. Visit [DelRayArtisans.org/event/fresh-meat](http://DelRayArtisans.org/event/fresh-meat) for more.

## SATURDAY/AUG. 3

**Friendship Firehouse Festival.** 9



PHOTO COURTESY OF NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### Jones Point Lighthouse

## Jones Point Meetup

Join a national park ranger to explore the long history of this little piece of land and see the last remaining inland lighthouse on the Potomac River, once a beacon to boat captains and commerce on the river. Saturday, Aug. 3; and Saturday, Aug. 17, 11 a.m.-noon at Jones Point Park, Jones Point Drive. Free. Call 703-235-1530 or visit [www.nps.gov/gwmp/planyourvisit/jonespoint.htm](http://www.nps.gov/gwmp/planyourvisit/jonespoint.htm) for more.

a.m.-2 p.m. at Friendship Firehouse Museum, 107 S. Alfred St. The annual Friendship Firehouse Festival is a popular family event presented by the Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association (FVFEA). The festival features antique fire apparatus, craft booths, and displays by community organizations. Festival participants can visit the Friendship Firehouse Museum where the 1858 hose reel carriage, voted the favorite Virginia Association of Museums Top 10 Endangered Artifact, is on display. Children can explore please-touch artifacts, will receive free fire helmets and are treated to supervised visits inside City fire trucks. Free. Food and beverages available for purchase. Visit [AlexandriaVA.gov](http://AlexandriaVA.gov) or call 703-746-3891.

**Writer's Workshop for Adults.** 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Durant Center, 1605 Cameron St. Alexandria author

Sheila Moses leads a workshop for writers interested in the young-adult genre. She will provide tips on telling a good story and insight into working with a publisher to bring the story to market. Limited to 20 people. A bag lunch is recommended. Advanced reservations are required. Cost is \$75 and due by July 29. Call 703-746-5565 or visit [alexandriava.gov/Arts](http://alexandriava.gov/Arts) and scroll to Durant.

**Used Book Sale.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Selection of over 20,000 gently used books, including children's books, fiction, history, biography, home and garden, travel, CDs, DVDs, and more. Unless specially priced, \$1 for hard backs, 50 cents for large paperbacks, and 25 cents for mass market paperbacks. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-sherwood](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-sherwood)

regional.

**Story Time for Little Historians.** 11 a.m. at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St., Alexandria. Aug. 21 marks the 80th anniversary of the 1939 Alexandria Sit-Down Strike. This civil rights protest led to the creation of the Robert Robinson Library – a segregated library for African Americans. Learn about this monumental event of Alexandria's history. Enjoy cultural stories and creative craft activities that introduce world history and folklore. Afterwards, explore the museum exhibits to learn about local Black history. All ages welcome, but most suitable for children 4 and older. Admission is \$3 per person. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Call 703-746-4356 or RSVP at [shop.alexandriava.gov/Events.aspx](http://shop.alexandriava.gov/Events.aspx).

**Jones Point Meetup.** 11 a.m.-noon at Jones Point Park, Jones Point Drive. Join a national park ranger to explore the long history of this little piece of land and see the last remaining inland lighthouse on the Potomac River, once a beacon to boat captains and commerce on the river. Free. Call 703-235-1530 or visit [www.nps.gov/gwmp/planyourvisit/jonespoint.htm](http://www.nps.gov/gwmp/planyourvisit/jonespoint.htm) for more.

**Summer Saturdays.** 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton. Join Gunston Hall for a summer of fun. Each Saturday in June, July, and August, stop by for a historic adventure on the grounds and in the Visitor Center. Included with regular admission. Call 703-550-9220 or visit [www.gunstonhall.org/visit/guide/upcoming-events](http://www.gunstonhall.org/visit/guide/upcoming-events).

**The Drew-Smith School Reunion and Picnic.** Noon-5 p.m. at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park, 8115 Fordson Road, Gum Springs. Celebrating the Communities of Spring Bank, Gum

Springs, Hybla Valley, and Springfield. Share common history with photos, year books, and tributes to Fairfax County School leaders and community pioneers. Each family member must have a wristband. Tickets must be reserved and picked up before the event. Contact: Carolyn Quander at 703-772-9440 or [cquander@outlook.com](mailto:cquander@outlook.com); and Sharon "Shubby" Suggs at 703-371-3388 or [SuggsSharon3@gmail.com](mailto:SuggsSharon3@gmail.com). Order a Drew-Smith Reunion Picnic T-Shirt at 703-649-1769 or [popcornsb2@cox.net](mailto:popcornsb2@cox.net). In case of rainy weather, meet in the Gym at the Gum Springs Community Center.

### Pizzeria Paradiso in the Park.

Noon-8 p.m. at Waterfront Park, 1 King St. In celebration of Virginia Craft Beer Month, Pizzeria Paradiso in Old Town will host a beer festival along the Alexandria waterfront. Enjoy sips from 30 different Virginia craft breweries, pizza slices and meatballs from Pizzeria Paradiso's mobile brick ovens, as well as lawn games, splash golf, and live music. Free admission. Beer tickets are \$6 and food tickets are \$5 each, cash or credit card at the event. Visit [eatyourpizza.com](http://eatyourpizza.com).

**Tavern Day.** 1-5 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal St. Enjoy 18th-century entertainment, from dancing to dice, during Gadsby's Tavern Museum's Tavern Day. Experience Alexandria's five-star hotel of the 18th century during the free open house. Activities include 18th-century dancing, period games, and continuous tours of the historic site given by Junior Docents (grades 4-7). Interested in a period beverage? Rum punch will be available from a cash bar. Call 703-746-4242 or visit [www.gadsbystavern.org](http://www.gadsbystavern.org).

**Floral Design Workshop.** 1:30-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603

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# ENTERTAINMENT

Green Spring Road. (16-Adult) Create a summer flower arrangement with the help of certified floral designer Betty Ann Galway. Learn how to properly care for and handle flowers along with learning creative design ideas. \$39/person for the program and a \$30/person supply fee. Register online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes/) using code OD2.61CA or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

**Author Event: Mark Bergin.** 2-4 p.m. at Alexandria Police Association Hall, 3010 Colvin St. Author Mark Bergin's career as a police officer spanned nearly 30 years and put him in close encounters with a difficult and often overlooked issue in American culture: police suicide. Currently, more police officers are lost to suicide than to conflicts in the line of duty. Bergin brings awareness to this weighted issue in his debut work, "Apprehension" and plans to donate a portion of his sales directly to the National Police Suicide Foundation and similar programs. Visit [markberginwriter.com](http://markberginwriter.com) for more.

**Workhouse Mural Project and Festival.** 3-6 p.m. at Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Road, Lorton. Visit the inaugural Workhouse Mural Project (WMP) and Festival. This one-day event is the first mural project of its kind in Fairfax County and will showcase the creativity of regional artists whose primary art form is mural painting. This outdoor festival include live painting, live music and performances, food trucks, cash bar, local vendors and sponsor booths, and more. \$15-\$20. RSVP at [www.eventbrite.com/e/workhouse-mural-project-and-festival-tickets-61120026645](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/workhouse-mural-project-and-festival-tickets-61120026645). Visit [www.workhousearts.org/](http://www.workhousearts.org/) for more.

**Harry Potter Birthday Tour.** 5:30-8:30 p.m. at The Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105-107 South Fairfax St. In honor of Harry Potter's birthday, the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum is offering an adults-only tour: The Real World Science Behind Harry Potter. Explore the muggle science and medicine with tour guides, raise a toast to Harry's birthday with a magical cocktail, and allow Professor Severus Snape to ensnare your senses as he demonstrates his magical skills. Tours of 20 people will begin every hour. \$20 per person. Call 703-746-3852 or visit [www.apothecarymuseum.org](http://www.apothecarymuseum.org).

**Country-Western Dance.** 7-9:30 p.m. at Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 North Chambliss St. The Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association will hold a dance with lessons, 6-7 p.m. and open dancing, 7-9:30 p.m. A DJ provides music. Couples and singles of all ages welcome. Admission for members \$10; non-members \$12; children



## Friendship Firehouse Festival

The annual Friendship Firehouse Festival is a popular family event presented by the Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association (FVFEA). The festival features antique fire apparatus, craft booths, and displays by community organizations. Festival participants can visit the Friendship Firehouse Museum where the 1858 hose reel carriage, voted the favorite Virginia Association of Museums Top 10 Endangered Artifact, is on display. Children can explore please-touch artifacts, will receive free fire helmets and are treated to supervised visits inside City fire trucks. Saturday, Aug. 3, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Friendship Firehouse Museum, 107 S. Alfred St. Free. Food and beverages available for purchase. Visit [AlexandriaVA.gov](http://AlexandriaVA.gov) or call 703-746-3891.

under 18 accompanied by a paying adult \$5. Smoke-free, alcohol-free.

BYO refreshments. Visit [www.nvcwda.org](http://www.nvcwda.org) for more.



**High-fire contrast stoneware jewelry holder with earring hanger and ring basin by Chris Coyle of Glenn Dale, Md.; High-fire stoneware bowl glazed ocean blue with spiraled peek-a-boo detailing by Klaudia Levin of Silver Spring, Md.; Impressed porcelain ceramic collander for berries, cherries and more by Ana Cavalcanti of Bethesda, Md.; High-fire sgraffito contrast platter with etched turtle by Shirley Gromen of Arlington, Va.; Petite woodfired geometric vase with pricked detailing by Roni Polisar of Burtonsville, Md.**

## Art Exhibit: Piercings, Clay Body Art and Carving

The season is shaping up to be steamy as designs are working out, clay bodies are shaping up, donning some fierce detailing in "Piercings, Clay Body Art and Carving." Ceramic Guild art becomes less hippie and more hipster as artists go epic with an aggressive take on decoration outside the bowl. The exhibit runs Aug. 5-Sept. 1, gallery hours at Scope Gallery, Studio 19 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St. Call 703-548-6288 or visit [www.scopegallery.org](http://www.scopegallery.org).

### SUNDAY/AUG. 4

**Dyke Marsh Meetup, Walk with a Ranger.** 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Belle Haven Park/ Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve. Enjoy the outdoors on this 2-mile walk with a national park ranger to see the largest freshwater marsh in the nation's capital. Bring a pair of binoculars for viewing an eagle's nest and other marsh life. Free. Call 703-235-1530 or visit [www.nps.gov/gwmp/planyourvisit/dykemarsh.htm](http://www.nps.gov/gwmp/planyourvisit/dykemarsh.htm).

**Junior Docent Tours.** 2-5 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. These young historians, grades 4 and older, will be on hand to share highlights of the tavern and answer questions as guests journey through the museum. Great for families as children connect with the building through their peer tour guides as well as for adults looking for some inspiration. Included in regular admission: \$5 adults, \$3 children ages 5-12, and 4 and under are free. Call 703-746-4242 or visit [www.gadsbystavern.org](http://www.gadsbystavern.org) for more.

**Chamber Concert Series.** 3-5 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. The Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association sponsors a chamber music series, weekly through Sept. 15, at the Lyceum in Old Town featuring small ensembles and soloists. This week's performance features Lisa Park, violin, and Albert Kim, piano. Free. Donations are appreciated. Visit [www.wmpamusic.org](http://www.wmpamusic.org) or call 703-799-8229.

**Fort Hunt Park Concerts.** Through Aug. 25, Sundays, 7-8 p.m. at Fort Hunt Park, Pavilion A, 8999 Fort Hunt Road. All are welcome for free community concerts held at Fort Hunt Park every Sunday. Free. Visit [www.nps.gov/gwmp/planyourvisit/forthuntconcerts.htm](http://www.nps.gov/gwmp/planyourvisit/forthuntconcerts.htm) for performer.

### AUG. 5-SEPT. 1

**Art Exhibit: Piercings, Clay Body Art and Carving.** Gallery hours at Scope Gallery, Studio 19 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St. The season is shaping up to be steamy as designs are working out, clay bodies are shaping up, donning some fierce detailing in "Piercings, Clay Body Art and Carving." Ceramic Guild art becomes less hippie and more hipster as artists go epic with an aggressive take on decoration outside the bowl. Call 703-548-6288 or visit [www.scopegallery.org](http://www.scopegallery.org).

### TUESDAY/AUG. 6

**Jones Point Meetup.** 11 a.m.-noon at Jones Point Park, Jones Point Drive. Join a national park ranger to explore the long history of this little piece of land and see the last remaining inland lighthouse on the Potomac River, once a beacon to boat captains and commerce on the river. Free. Call 703-235-1530 or visit [www.nps.gov/gwmp/planyourvisit/jonespoint.htm](http://www.nps.gov/gwmp/planyourvisit/jonespoint.htm) for more.

**Neighborhood Night Out.** 5:30-8:30 p.m. at Polk School, 5000 Polk Ave. Neighborhood Night Out is open to all and includes hot dogs, picnic foods and ice cream treats. It is sponsored by the Brookville-Seminary Valley Civic Association. There will be two Moon Bounces for the kiddies and Captain Token the Magician will be entertaining the audience. Local politicians will be on hand to talk with BSVCA residents, along with members of the Alexandria Police, Fire and Sheriff's Departments. Free. Contact Night Out chairman Sean Casey at [scasey2037@gmail.com](mailto:scasey2037@gmail.com). Volunteers to help serve the food and organize games for the children are also welcome.

**A Night at the Theatre with**

**Kiwanis - The Producers.** 7 p.m. (doors and reception); 8 p.m. (curtain) at The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. The plot is simple: a down-on-his-luck Broadway producer and his mild-mannered accountant come up with a scheme to produce the most notorious flop in history, thereby bilking their backers (all "little old ladies") out of millions of dollars. Only one thing goes awry: the show is a smash hit. \$35. All proceeds from ticket sales support the Kiwanis Foundation of Alexandria: [www.eventbrite.com/e/a-night-at-the-theatre-with-kiwanis-tickets-61446430929](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-night-at-the-theatre-with-kiwanis-tickets-61446430929).

### WEDNESDAY/AUG. 7

**Ready, Set, Grow.** 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. This highly interactive, professional development workshop helps teachers sprout successful learners in their PK-5 classroom. The workshop features cross-curricular, standards-aligned lessons and resources that use Virginia agriculture and natural resources to engage learners in science, mathematics, language arts and social studies. Leave with resource kits full of curriculum, books, posters and a class set of laminated Virginia maps. Free. Space is limited, and registration is required. Call 703-642-5173 to register.

### THURSDAY/AUG. 8

**Fort Hunt Meetup, Walk with a Ranger.** 10:30-noon at Fort Hunt Park, 8999 Fort Hunt Road. Join a national park ranger on a 1.5 mile walk through historic Fort Hunt Park, be prepared to learn about some World War II secrets. Meet at Area E parking. Free. Call 703-235-1530 for more.

**Summer Recess.** 4-7 p.m. at 2425 Eisenhower Ave. (on the grassy knoll). Enjoy live music, happy hour, lawn games, and food. Visit [www.FB.com/AlexandriaEcon](http://www.FB.com/AlexandriaEcon) for more.

### FRIDAY/AUG. 9

**Alexandria After Work Concert Series: Massive Donut.** 6-8 p.m. at Lloyd House, 220 N. Washington St. Join on the second Friday of the month for a concert sponsored by The Folklore Society of Greater Washington (FSGW) and The Office of Historic Alexandria. Locations will rotate between Lloyd House and the Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum. Great music with a suggested donation for the musicians. No ticket required. Beer and wine for sale; light refreshments available as well.

**Mount Vernon Nights: The Get Right Band (funk rock, reggae).** 7:30-8:30 at Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Performances will feature musical styles from soul to and pop and bluegrass and rock. Bring a picnic dinner and a blanket and enjoy one of Fairfax County's summer traditions. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance/mt-vernon-nights](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance/mt-vernon-nights) for more.

**Mirror Mirror: David Schulman with Tillery.** 9 p.m. at Waterfront Park, 1 King St. The City of Alexandria commissioned a series of original site-specific performances for the sound-responsive, interactive installation Mirror Mirror. Composer and violinist David Schulman and Orange Grove Dance will perform on select dates between July and October. All performances are free and feature lawn seating. Lawn chairs and blankets are encouraged. Leave pets at home. Visit [alexandriava.gov/publicart](http://alexandriava.gov/publicart) for details.

# ENTERTAINMENT

**Application Deadline: Master Naturalists.** The Virginia Master Naturalist program trains volunteers to provide education, citizen science, and outreach to help conserve and steward natural resources and public lands. Master Naturalist volunteers gain certification through state-approved natural history courses. Recognized experts in a wide range of disciplines such as ecology, botany, herpetology, ornithology, forest and aquatic ecosystems, and more provide fun and interactive training. Volunteers must commit to at least 40 hours of service and eight hours of continuing education annually to become certified. Training session is Mondays, Sept. 9-Dec. 9, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center. Visit [www.armn.org](http://www.armn.org).

## SATURDAY/AUG. 10

**War of 1812 in Alexandria.** 10 a.m.-noon at Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden, 614 Oronoco St. Guided walking tour of people and places in Old Town associated with the War of 1812 and the British occupation of Alexandria in 1814. \$10 in advance, \$15 at the gate. Visit [www.leefendallhouse.org](http://www.leefendallhouse.org) or call 703-548-1789.

## Family Fun: Summer Arts al

**Fresco.** 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. (5-Adult) Combine natural elements and various art media to make a cre-ative art project to take home. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. \$10/person. Register online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes/) using code A13.B32E or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

**Summer Saturdays.** 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton. Join Gunston Hall for a summer of fun. Each Saturday in June, July, and August, stop by for a historic adventure on the grounds and in the Visitor Center. Included with regular admission. Call 703-550-9220 or visit [www.gunstonhall.org/visit/guide/upcoming-events](http://www.gunstonhall.org/visit/guide/upcoming-events).

**Mount Vernon Nights: Paul Reisler & Three Good Reasons (folk jazz).** 7-8 p.m. at The Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Performances will range from disco to Indian Bollywood and acoustic blues to big band. Bring a picnic dinner and a blanket and enjoy one of Fairfax County's summer traditions. Come early to the Workhouse Arts Center to explore its vibrant arts scene. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/)

performances/mt-vernon-nights for more.

**Boardwalk Astronomy.** 8-10 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. What's new in the night sky this summer? Stroll the boardwalk with park naturalists as they take participants on a tour of constellations and comets and share update on astronomical current events. Designed for participants 12-adult. \$9 per person. Canceled in the event of rain or other severe weather. Call 703-768-2525 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows).

**Mirror Mirror: David Shulman with Sarah Marie Hughes.** 9 p.m. at Waterfront Park, 1 King St. The City of Alexandria commissioned a series of original site-specific performances for the sound-responsive, interactive installation Mirror Mirror. Composer and violinist David Schulman and Orange Grove Dance will perform on select dates between July and October. All performances are free and feature lawn seating. Lawn chairs and blankets are encouraged. Leave pets at home. Visit [alexandriava.gov/publicart](http://alexandriava.gov/publicart) for details.

## SATURDAY-SUNDAY/AUG. 10-11

**10th Annual Alexandria Summer Sidewalk Sale.** One of the longest running seasonal summer shopping events returns to the D.C. region's Shop Small destination for independent boutiques with the 10th Annual Alexandria Summer Sidewalk Sale throughout Old Town and Del Ray. The event features more than 50 Alexandria boutiques. New this year, the King Street Mile comes alive with storefront activations, giveaways and live music. Visit [VisitAlexandriaVA.com/SidewalkSale](http://VisitAlexandriaVA.com/SidewalkSale) for more.

## SUNDAY/AUG. 11

**Dyke Marsh Meetup, Walk with a Ranger.** 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Belle Haven Park/ Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve. Enjoy the outdoors on this 2-mile walk with a national park ranger to see the largest freshwater marsh in the nation's capital. Bring a pair of binoculars for viewing an eagle's nest and other marsh life. Free. Call 703-235-1530 or visit [www.nps.gov/gwmp/planyourvisit/dykemarsh.htm](http://www.nps.gov/gwmp/planyourvisit/dykemarsh.htm).

**Apothecary Geek Tour: An Outlandish Tour.** 11 a.m.-noon at Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105-107 S. Fairfax St. Tour this historic apothecary and learn about a few of the herbal medicines featured in Diana Gabaldon's

Outlander series of novels from cascara to dauco seeds. Recommended for ages 18 and up. Arrive at 10:45 a.m. to check in as the doors will be locked when the tour begins at 11 a.m. \$15. Visit [www.visitalexandriava.com](http://www.visitalexandriava.com) for more.

**Livestock Open House Event.** 11 a.m.-2 p.m. At George Washington's Mount Vernon. Join Mount Vernon's Livestock team for a self-guided tour of its brand new 12,500-square-foot livestock building featuring spacious stalls, a tack room, medical facility, grooming area, and office space. Meet Glory, the adorable donkey, and many of Mount Vernon's horses; some of Mount Vernon's Hog Island Sheep will be on hand for children to pet. Learn about Mount Vernon's rare

breeds program and the animals that would have populated Mount Vernon during George Washington's lifetime. The Livestock Open House event is included in general admission to Mount Vernon. Visit [mountvernon.org/livestockopenhouse](http://mountvernon.org/livestockopenhouse).

**Junior Docent Tours.** 2-5 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. These young historians, grades 4 and older, will be on hand to share highlights of the tavern and answer questions as guests journey through the museum. Great for families as children connect with the building through their peer tour guides as well as for adults looking for some inspiratio. Included in regular admission: \$5 adults, \$3

children ages 5-12, and 4 and under are free. Call 703-746-4242 or visit [www.gadsbystavern.org](http://www.gadsbystavern.org) for more. **Chamber Concert Series.** 3-5 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. The Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association sponsors a chamber music series, weekly through Sept. 15, at the Lyceum in Old Town featuring small ensembles and soloists. This week's performance features The United States Army Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps' Historical Ensemble Presents: From Royalty to Revolution: Dance, Martial and Civic Music from Europe to the New World. Free. Donations are appreciated. Visit [www.wmpamusic.org](http://www.wmpamusic.org) or call 703-799-8229.



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**Oct. 12** • National Mall



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## Dyke Marsh

### Dyke Marsh Meetup, Walk with a Ranger

Enjoy the outdoors on this two-mile walk with a national park ranger to see the largest freshwater marsh in the nation's capital. Bring a pair of binoculars for viewing an eagle's nest and other marsh life. Upcoming dates include Aug. 4, 11, 17, 25 and 31, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Belle Haven Park/ Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve. Free. Call 703-235-1530 or visit [www.nps.gov/gwmp/planyourvisit/dykemarsh.htm](http://www.nps.gov/gwmp/planyourvisit/dykemarsh.htm).

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## PEOPLE

# A New Kind of Equine Therapy

Life coach Richard Griffin uses horses to help his clients become better communicators.

BY ELISSA ESHER  
THE GAZETTE

Local life coach Richard Griffin believes interacting with horses is sometimes more beneficial to his clients than interacting with people. That's why, in 2014, Griffin began taking his clients to Little Burgundy Farm and using their experience at this small stable to guide the rest of their therapy. The method, called equus coaching, combines the practices of equine therapy and life coaching to create a space where clients enhance their leadership, communication, and relational skills through working with a horse.

"Horses can't lie," Griffin, who is certified both as a life coach and an Equus Coach Master Facilitator, said. "Any issues my clients have — negative emotions, passivity, aggression, self-doubt — all come out when a horse doesn't respond well to what they're trying to get it to do. If you're sending out negative messages through your body language and communication, you may never know it until you work with a horse because people will never be as blunt with you as they are."

A movement begun by Californian life coach Koelle Simpson in 2006, equus coaching seeks to, as stated on Simpson's website, restore clients' "empowerment and self-trust" by using the horse as a "mirror" of their emotions. To generate this effect, the coach puts their client in a round pen with a horse attached to a lunge-line. After a short demonstration, the coach then asks the client to make the horse perform certain small tasks, such as walking in a circle around them, trotting, or changing direction.

"Whenever a crisis arises in the wild, a herd of horses will always follow whichever of them seems to have the clearest, most calm idea of how to escape," said Griffin. "I help clients learn to be good leaders, good communicators, good employees, whatever by teaching them to communicate in the clearest way possible what they want to happen without using words."

While the ultimate goal of equus coaching depends on the client, Griffin said his clients primarily want to work on their relationships — whether that be with a partner, boss, child, or parent. Griffin also uses horses in team-building workshops with corporate groups, in leadership coaching for those stepping into positions of power, and for those simply wanting to find out more about themselves. Most of Griffin's



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY GRIFFIN COACHING

Life coach and equus coach Richard Griffin.

clients have little to no prior experience with horses.

Pam Ray, founder and CEO of Building STEM Bridges and STEM4Parents, said that Griffin's equus coaching made her a more effective leader as she was starting her business. "I grew up in a thinking world," said Ray. "But it turns out horses don't communicate based on thinking. They communicate through feeling, intention, and vision in the moment. They wait for you to lead, follow when you do so well, and show pride in their energy and stance when together we achieved a common mission in the ring. Now, that pride is exactly the outcome I want with clients, business partners and even my family."

Griffin often uses horse work as a way to identify his client's issues in the first session. Then, he and the client discuss observations they both made during that session in future traditional life coaching sessions. "Life coaching is different than traditional therapy in that we are preparing the client for the future rather than trying to solve issues in their past," Griffin said. "By getting my clients in front of a horse, I can see what's going on inside them emotionally just by watching the way they and the horse interact in the first session. If their first reaction is 'I don't think this horse likes me,' for example, I know there's a little insecurity going on. Then we can integrate what I observed and what they learned with the horse and apply it to their lives in future sessions."

For more information on equus coaching, see: <https://koelleinstitute.com/about/who-is-koelle/>

To contact Richard Griffin, see: <https://www.richardgriffincoaching.com/contact>

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# Mansion To Be Demolished

FROM PAGE 1

ers, transformed the area from farmland to the neighborhood as it is known today.

“Because we’re so close to big, American landmarks like Mount Vernon, we forget how important the Snowdens were to this area — which used to be called Snowden, Virginia,” said regional historian Tammy Mannarino. “These guys named our roads, built a public steamboat to transport tourists from DC to Mount Vernon and started the first one-room schoolhouse in the neighborhood. Collingwood was right at the heart of all of that.”

Mannarino said the Snowdens established a post office at Collingwood, held monthly meetings there concerning local agriculture, and made Collingwood a stop where tourists could picnic on their way to Mount Vernon by steamboat. Additionally, Stacey Snowden served as district supervisor while living at Collingwood.

**FOLLOWING THE DEATH** of Stacey Snowden, Collingwood was repurposed as a restaurant until, in 1942, it was leased by Pennsylvania Central Airlines as a dormitory and training facility for pilots during World War II.

“Many country estates in Fairfax County were being put to use for war purposes at that time, and airlines were providing a lot of military service,” said Mannarino. “It made a lot of sense at the time, though it seems strange now.”

Mannarino said several renovations were made to the house during this time. She also said that it is rumored, though never proven, that the house was simultaneously used for intelligence purposes.

After the war, Collingwood became a restaurant again. It was later used as a theatre and a space for community meetings and weddings. In 1977 the National Sojourners purchased it as a library and museum containing over 4,500 books and artifacts. The foundation, however, went into debt, putting Collingwood back on the market.

Many argue the number of renovations Collingwood has undergone makes it less important as a historical site, but Mannarino disagrees.

“We know that Collingwood has been remodeled and repurposed over time, but some might say that’s the value of it,” said Mannarino. “It’s a house that evolved to meet the needs of this community. If Collingwood has to come down, my only hope is that the owner allows an expert to be present dur-



PHOTOS BY SARAH SKLAR/THE GAZETTE

The Collingwood mansion.

ing the demolition since it’s our last opportunity to analyze the evolution of this building.”

**WHILE COLLINGWOOD MANSION** was listed on the Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites, the designation is only honorary and does not prevent the property owner from modifying or destroying it. The Fairfax County Park Authority could only ask that the owner provide photo documentation of Collingwood as it stands today, which he has done. The property would have to be in the National Register of Historic Places to be protected from demolition.

Storck said that properties like Collingwood could be better defended in the future if citizens communicated with state officials.

“Collingwood hasn’t played an active role in our community for years now,” Storck said. “But there are some properties that, if lost, would be devastating. In Virginia, we have strong property rights, but that also means we have no tools or restrictions when it comes to regional historical sites. The best way to prevent those from being lost is to talk to your state senators and delegates about having laws that, at a minimum, would cause the developer to consult the community before destroying a building of local significance.”

According to Fairfax County History Commissioner Sallie Lyons, the Board of Supervisors recently created a Resident Curatorship program in which residents are selected by application to live with reduced rent at historic sites in return for maintaining and rehabilitating the property. The History Commission is also exploring the use of tax incentives to encourage owners to restore rather than demolish historic homes.

“The loss of this structure will have somewhat less of an impact than it might in other areas because we have so much history around us that reinforces our community identity,” Storck said. “But, once Collingwood is gone, we can’t get it back. Ideally, I wish the owner could build the kind of home they’d like while also recognizing and honoring this house’s role in making this community what it is today.”



Gate to Collingwood property

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### Obituary

### Obituary

#### COL RUSSELL LAWRENCE HENDERSON (age 75)



Of Alexandria, VA, died August 26, 2018. His survivors include wife Judith Manz Henderson, daughter Janine S. Kovack (Skylar), sons Richard R. Henderson (Peggy), and Ross E. Henderson; grandchildren Colin, Susan, and Tiffany Chatfield, Howard and Charlotte Henderson. Raised in a military family, graduated from Virginia Tech, received a Masters from Boston University (Manheim Germany), he retired from the US Army after a 27-year career, having served in Korea, Vietnam, Italy, and Germany. He was an Eagle Scout and active in Boy Scouts throughout his life. He was also a member of Friends of Fort Hunt Park, (MOAA) Military Officers Association of America, and the Scottish Clan Henderson Society. He and Judy hosted 15 international high school exchange students. Funeral services Fort Myer Old Post Chapel 11 am Friday, August 9, 2019 followed by interment at Arlington Cemetery. Enter through Fort Myer Hatfield Gate off South 2nd Street for access to the chapel, allowing sufficient time to clear post security.

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### Announcements

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An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.

-Werner Heisenberg

## Money For What, Exactly?



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Presumably, most of you readers are aware that many supermarkets have a rack located somewhere near the rear of the store that is stocked with off-price merchandise: discontinued items, items with damaged packaging, out of season products, etc.

Over the years, I have been a regular checker of this rack looking for such bargains. I have purchased breakfast cereal, soup, cookies, candy, and miscellaneous other non-perishables. I've even purchased two bags of Kingsford charcoal.

In addition, I've seen household products, health and beauty, school supplies; and everything else you can imagine, running the gamut from "A" to "Z," for sale. Recently however, on this rack I saw a product I'm not sure I even thought was available to the general public, and if it was, would not have thought buying it from the discontinued merchandise rack at the supermarket would not have been the way to go. But what do I know? As has been proven many times: not much.

The item? A DNA Paternity Test Kit. I guess, I thought, if this test was necessary, it would involve a physician or at least be administered by a health care professional and/or involve witnesses/legal representation (at least a notary). Going to the supermarket or even the drug store? And then testing yourself without necessarily knowing the precautions and proper procedures appropriate for the task at hand?

There seems as if there's a bit more at stake here than an at-home pregnancy test, a test with which many of us are familiar. But DNA testing at home?

What is this, the Maury Povich Show?

Having not traveled down this particular road myself, perhaps I'm unaware of the realities. All I know is what I've seen on television or read about in the papers.

I guess I just assumed (generally a bad thing), that the steps one takes to verify/confirm/resolve paternity-type issues were a bit more involved than a visit to the supermarket.

Apparently, this subject is just another where I know very little about, like tools and how to use them, automobile repair, home maintenance, lawn and garden, cooking, and on and on and on. But enough about me.

What about those wanting answers to extraordinarily important questions: Who's the father? And is that my child? Looks can be deceiving so a professional, or so I thought, incorrectly, is brought in to oversee the process.

Nope. No professional need apply. Just go to your local "chemist," as they say in England. No need to visit "the surgery," as they also say over there.

Just find a box with the right letters on it and go back to your home/work and swab, stick, pin-prick or whatever and the results will be known soon enough if you or someone else is whomever they claim to be or not to be. That is the question which begs an answer, Shakespeare notwithstanding.

It seems only fair that one's birthright should be gotten wrong. And not that home-testing can't be trusted. Just the opposite. Nevertheless, some things, like circumcisions, though they can be performed at home (see "Shaky the mohel" from a long ago Seinfeld episode).

I would have thought, a DNA Paternity test, given the need/want of a resolution/clarification which could possibly impact multiple individuals/families over generations, be similarly performed in the most careful of conditions. This kind of test has no margin for error – or humor.

"Bought the kit in the discount rack at my local supermarket." Is that the answer you want to give when all eyes are on you? And saying how much you saved over regular price is unlikely to endear you to any and all of the interested parties on hand.

After all, money really isn't the issue.

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

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## NEWS



PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/THE GAZETTE

**Officers Alan Cordray and Tim Judd at the Belmont Bay Marina which is actually in Prince William County.**

## Marine Patrol

FROM PAGE 3

hit a rock or the bottom, "the boat stops but they of course don't," said Cordray. "We always have to be wary of the tides," he added.

**AT TIMES**, they work with the dive team, a special team of police officers with scuba equipment who dive for body recovery or evidence retrieval.

The waters of the Potomac River here are considered brackish waters, and are partially salt water so crabs can be found almost everywhere south of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. There are crab pots to watch out, along with other things floating in the water. The ideal time for crabbing is late summer when the water is saltier, and poaching crab pots is "a felony in Virginia," Cordray said.

There has been talk of a high-speed ferry to carry commuters from Prince William County to Washington, D.C. but for such a boat to leave the Occoquan River and head north, they would most likely have to be exempt from the wake rule to keep with a commuter schedule, and this could cause problems. The marine patrol looked at the parameters of the proposed ferry, and Cordray feels "there would have to be some major changes," he said.

## BULLETIN BOARD

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**Deadline: School Supply Donations.** Join United Community to equip children and youth who are living in hardship with tools for success, by making a financial contribution or by donating new backpacks. They especially welcome larger-sized, durable new backpacks for middle and high school students. Gender-neutral colors are preferred for all grade levels. Purchase or collect any of these most-needed items: 10-pack markers (thick or thin); dry erase markers; highlighters; plastic folders; earbuds; pencil boxes or pouches; composition notebooks. A gift of \$40 will outfit one student with a new backpack and basic school supplies. Donate online at [ucmagency.org](http://ucmagency.org) or make checks payable to United Community (designate "school supplies"). Mail checks to 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, VA 22306. Contact Shannon White at [shannon.white@ucmagency.org](mailto:shannon.white@ucmagency.org) or phone 571-255-8993 about other ways to help, with questions or to plan a donation drive.

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**\$589,500**

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**JUST LISTED! OPEN SUN!**



**4296 Neitzey Pl**  
**\$1,850,000**

Truly spectacular estate in premier setting near the river in prestigious Oxford on the Potomac. Custom home capitalizes on its location with soaring high ceilings, glass walls and multi-level decks designed to capture sweeping views of the river & adjoining wooded areas. Special features include: multi-story entry foyer, grand room sizes, elegant interior finishes, elevator, truly breathtaking master suite with dramatic river views, and his & hers private baths. Nothing was spared in creating this unique, one of a kind masterpiece!

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**RIVER VIEWS!**



**4401 Ferry Landing Rd**

Most house for the \$ in fabulous Yacht Haven Estates! Classic Mid-Century charm. Features: open floor plan, large room sizes and expansive walls of glass to bring the natural beauty of the grounds to every corner of the home. Exceptionally spacious with two full finished levels, 4 BR's, 3 Full BA's, 2 FP's, all glass thermal replacement windows, gorgeous .5 acre lot, walk to river and MV Yacht Club

grounds to every corner of the home. Exceptionally spacious with two full finished levels, 4 BR's, 3 Full BA's, 2 FP's, all glass thermal replacement windows, gorgeous .5 acre lot, walk to river and MV Yacht Club

**COMING SOON!**



**9303 Reef Ct**  
**\$699,000**

Exceptionally attractive opportunity! Spacious colonial with New Orleans flair on gorgeous half acre lot on quiet cul-de-sac just steps from the Mt. Vernon Yacht Club. Special features include: main level master bedroom, upgraded Kitchen and baths, and

oversize two car garage plus detached garage! Multi-level deck overlooks expansive half acre grounds!

**GORGEOUS LOT!**



**3249 Woodland Ln**  
**\$1,060,000**

Stunning opportunity! Custom home by Wakefield Homes, the area's leading luxury home builder. No expense was spared in this estate caliber property which was built with numerous upgrades and expanded floor plan. Special features include: stunning bright and open floor plan, 2 story entry foyer and family room, Chef's kitchen open to family room, huge master suite, gorgeous hardwood floors, finished lower level w/ full walk out, side load 2 car garage. Gorgeous setting on half acre lot in neighborhood with community access to Little Hunting Creek. Same home build today would cost thousands more!

2 story entry foyer and family room, Chef's kitchen open to family room, huge master suite, gorgeous hardwood floors, finished lower level w/ full walk out, side load 2 car garage. Gorgeous setting on half acre lot in neighborhood with community access to Little Hunting Creek. Same home build today would cost thousands more!

**STUNNING SETTING!**



**3717 Carriage House Ct**  
**\$950,000**

Riverwood gem with all the updates and improvements you're looking for. Classic colonial façade enhanced with custom brick work and trim. Floor plan enhanced by 2 sunrooms creating open and bright interior.

Special features include: 3 finished levels, updated kitchen and baths, sun room additions, freshly refinished hardwoods, large deck overlooking serene back yard with ponds, basement with fireplace and custom bar, oversize 2 car garage. Great opportunity to be in one of the area's premier neighborhoods for under \$1 Mil!

**RIVERWOOD GEM!**



**3808 Colonial Ave**  
**\$849,500**

Updated colonial in prime location on quaint street near Mt. Vernon Estate! Fabulous home features bright, open floor plan and many updated items commonly found in \$1 Mil+ homes! Special features include: high ceilings, open kitchen-family room, stunning master suite, finished lower level, and side load 2 car garage. Large deck overlooks back yard and private conservation land. Gorgeous setting!

include: high ceilings, open kitchen-family room, stunning master suite, finished lower level, and side load 2 car garage. Large deck overlooks back yard and private conservation land. Gorgeous setting!

**SOLD!**



**9316 Heather Glen Dr**  
**\$775,000**

Fully renovated and expanded. Idyllic pool scene emphasized by walls of glass allowing views of the pool and tranquil back yard scene from many rooms! Special features include: 3 finished levels, updated kitchen and baths, 4 bedrooms on upper level, incredible pool scene, and 2 car garage. Your own private oasis in Mt. Vernon!

levels, updated kitchen and baths, 4 bedrooms on upper level, incredible pool scene, and 2 car garage. Your own private oasis in Mt. Vernon!

**SOLD!**



**9505 Lynnhall Pl**  
**\$1,250,000**

Just completed. Top to bottom renovation maintains the stunning Antebellum character and charm! Potomac River views, expansive verandas & half acre lot give this home a classic Tidewater Virginia feel. Brand new kitchen, baths, fixtures, flooring, the list goes on and on! Great opportunity for virtually new home in desirable Oxford neighborhood!

classic Tidewater Virginia feel. Brand new kitchen, baths, fixtures, flooring, the list goes on and on! Great opportunity for virtually new home in desirable Oxford neighborhood!

**SOLD!**



**4710 Dolphin Ln**  
**\$629,500**

Exceptional opportunity near river just steps from marina and club house in prestigious Yacht Haven Estates! Imposing home in commanding setting on elevated grounds overlooking neighborhood with some views of water. Huge room sizes and very few steps offer great potential for creating your own estate with close to one level living. Features include 5 bedrooms/4 full baths and amazing oversize two car garage. Rare opportunity to acquire property with true nautical estate vibe in premier setting for remarkably reasonable price!

your own estate with close to one level living. Features include 5 bedrooms/4 full baths and amazing oversize two car garage. Rare opportunity to acquire property with true nautical estate vibe in premier setting for remarkably reasonable price!

**SOLD!**



**3601 Riverwood Rd**  
**\$785,000**

Nicely situated 4 Bed, 2.5 Bath updated home in lovely Riverwood Community. Home features: updated custom Kitchen with granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, beautiful hardwood floors on main and upper level, master suite with private bath and custom closet, replacement windows by Pella, gas fireplace, screened porch, fenced rear yard, and side load 2 car garage. Community has serene riverfront walking path and beachy area!

suite with private bath and custom closet, replacement windows by Pella, gas fireplace, screened porch, fenced rear yard, and side load 2 car garage. Community has serene riverfront walking path and beachy area!

**SOLD!**



**4706 Tarpon Ln**  
**\$715,000**

One Story luxury-expanded & updated Ranch just steps to Mount Vernon Yacht Club. Prime location on 1/2 Acre Lot just steps from river. Spectacular property, bright, White custom Kitchen, updated

baths, main level master suite, newly finished lower level with direct walkout, 2 Fireplaces, oversized 2 Car Garage, spectacular grounds with large brick patio!

**SOLD!**



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