

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

FEBRUARY 7, 2013



PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/THE GAZETTE

The USO Warrior and Family Center at Fort Belvoir officially opened Feb. 5. Participating in the ceremony are: Lt. Gen. William Troy, Kuwaiti ambassador Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Elaine Rogers, Col. Gregory Gadson, Sloan Gibson, Wes Bush, Ed Reilly and Gen. Frank Grass.

For Those Who Serve

World's largest USO facility opens at Fort Belvoir.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE GAZETTE

Less than two years ago, it was just an overgrown lot in the shadows of Fort Belvoir Community Hospital. But on Feb. 5, the world's largest USO facility welcomed the community with a grand opening celebration of the new USO Warrior and Family Center.

"There were a lot of personal emotions watching this building go up," said Fort Belvoir Garrison Commander Col. Gregory Gadson, a 1989 graduate of West Point who made history last summer as the first double amputee to take the



Elaine Rogers thanks Col. Gregory Gadson for his efforts in completing the new USO center at Fort Belvoir.

reins of a major Army installation. "Now the building is about to come alive with so much hope and promise for the service members and families who

SEE USO FACILITY, PAGE 14



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE

Kathleen Causey's husband Aaron lost both his legs in Afghanistan.



BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE

USO of Metropolitan Washington COO Cheryl Laaker Hall by the lobby fireplace.

Two Years Away

Huntington residents remain unprotected in the face of flooding.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE GAZETTE

Fairfax County voters may have approved a \$30 million floodwall for Huntington, but neighbors in this working-class neighborhood don't seem particularly satisfied. Instead, they look to every major storm event with fear and trepidation, lugging out the sandbags and preparing for the worst.

Again.

The last few years have been devastating for Huntington, a low-lying warren of streets near the border with the City of Alexandria. In 2009, residents here dealt with a devastating flood. Then, in 2011, another devastating flood. Many neighbors just recently finished renovations from the last flood. So the threat of yet another flash flood as the result of a winter storm became an unsettling reality.

"We're blue collar, so they could care less about us," said Randy Huggins, who has lived in Huntington since 1985. "If this was happening across the bridge in Old Town Alexandria or Reston or Herndon or Belle Haven, this would have been fixed immediately."

Many neighbors here blame the construction of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge for the persistent flooding problems, but Fairfax County officials say the Huntington community floods because of tidal surges from the Potomac River and flash flooding from the Cameron Run watershed. Because the houses were built before modern floodplain regulations, county leaders say, the neighborhood needs special protection. The floodwall is at least two years away, leading many neighbors here to worry that another flooding event could come any day.

"We would hope that we wouldn't have the same problem, but there's no guarantee of that," said Mount Vernon Supervisor Gerry Hyland. "We don't have a silver bullet that's going to keep a whole bunch of water out of that community absent a levee."

Back in 2006, the Army Corps of Engineers recommended the construction of a levee. But county leaders failed to take action. That's why the 2011 flood created so much frustration in Huntington.

"People here are frustrated, upset and distraught," said David Coon shortly after the 2011 flood. "The county has basically dropped the ball."

Now, feelings in the Huntington neighborhood have turned from anger and frustration to disbelief and cynicism. Many neighbors here say they would like to see compensation from the government for expenses they have paid to clean mold out of their house and renovate their basements. When asked about the \$30 million floodwall, several neighbors here responded with flashes of anger.

"That \$30 million doesn't have anything to do with what it cost us to get back into our homes," said Titus Boyd, who has lived in Huntington since 1966. "Give us that first."

Everyone here has a story about mold and mildew, fish swimming in standing water along the street. In 2006, county officials declared 160 homes uninhabitable after a major storm. Neighborhood residents were hit again in 2011, when another major flood evacuated the neighborhood yet again.

"I had to evacuate when I was seven months pregnant," said Dana Hoekstra, who moved here in 2009 "I had to walk three or four blocks uphill to get to a car that could take me somewhere because my husband wasn't here."

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Springfield
\$424,999
8429 Millwood Drive
 Beautiful brick front garage townhome in wonderful location for commuting and convenience! Bus stop at front of community & shopping center across the street! Lovely home features gleaming hardwood floors, large country kitchen & delightful sun rm adjoining the deck. Spacious living rm and formal dining rm. Master bedrm suite w/vaulted ceiling, dressing area & luxury bath.
Becky Berning
703-030-3400



Alexandria
\$407,500
7712 Bartley Way
 Sparkling white-glove home in popular and convenient Island Creek Custom kitchen, Family Room and Laundry Room Expansive storage throughout HVAC contract Seven-day bus service at corner Convenient to Metro, shopping, library, restaurants, Fort Belvoir, Pentagon, DC, etc. Extra parking across the street.
Phyllis Hoag 703-517-0008



Alexandria
\$439,950
6805 Stoneybrooke Lane
 Large center hall colonial "JAMESTOWNE MODEL" located at close in Stoneybrooke... original hardwood floors on main and upper level (including staircase)...remodeled kitchen and baths, granite and ceramic tiles in kitchen, replacement windows, French door to deck off formal dining room...main level includes formal living room and separate dining room, family room w/frpl, also a separate office/den.....
Steve Frishmuth 703-346-6854



Culpepper, VA
\$270,000
111 Queen Victoria Street
 This beautiful home was used as the model. Never been lived in! Hardwood floors, huge kitchen with morning room. Surround sound through the house. Spacious bedrooms! Master with luxury bath and huge walk-in closet. Finished basement, landscaped yard with sprinkler system. A must see.
Allison Gillette 703-307-5698



Alexandria
\$325,000
6461 Silver Ridge Circle
 Large TH located w/in walking distance to Springfield metro! Updated kitchen with Silestone counters, updated baths, newer W/D and AC, newer windows & gutters, wood & parquet floors, walkout basement with fenced yard. Lots of visitor parking, minutes to 95 and FFX Co Pkwy, shops, movie theater, and restaurants in Kingstowne.
Valerie Hardee 703-401-9169



Vienna
\$560,000
1212 Ware Street
 Well maintained home by original owner in desirable Vienna Woods! 4BR, 2.5BA, two lvl home on .23 acres, in ground heated pool, covered porch area w/ceiling fan, eik, formal DR & LR w/neutral carpet. MBR & two addl BRs on ML. Addl large BR on LL, rec room w/woodburning FP. Lrge laundry area w/utility sink. Tons of space & storage. A must see.
Meg Olympis 703-475-1552



Woodbridge
\$344,990
12743 Stone Lined Circle
 Large end TH extended on 3 levels. Many side windows & Light filled. Beautiful floor plan with many options for furniture placement. You'll enjoy the Morning Room gas fireplace & French doors to the deck. LR Full Bay window, Curved staircase to BR level, crown moldings, Kitchen Island, Master Suite with Sitting Room, vaulted ceiling, walk in closet, Luxury Bath. Beautifully maintained
Jeannie Hicks
703-403-5446



Annandale
\$659,000
3718 Merrimac Trail
 Large 3 Lvl. Colonial In Lafayette Village. Brick Front, Front Porch, Lrg. Screened Porch With Spa, Beautifully Maintained And Updated By Original Owners. Large Master W/ Sitting Room, Mn. Lvl. Fr. W/ Fp., Updated Kit. W/Granite Ctrs. Wood Flrs., Pantry W/ Pull-Out Shelves, Mn. Lvl. Library, Mn. Lvl. Laundry, Spacious Secondary Brs., Freshly Painted And New Carpet, Prime Lot Surrounded By Trees....
Allan Price 703-861-2424



Fairfax Station
\$965,000
9764 Viewcrest Drive
 X ft. ceiling. Master Suite features luxury bath w/two person tub. Lower level has au pair/in-law suite, as well as full kitchen, den and second washer/dryer. Professionally landscaped yard w/beautiful views & irrigation system. Moments from Ffx. Co Pkwy. and Rt.123.
Lenny Marsh 703-282-6511



Alexandria
\$562,000
4114 Robertson Blvd.
 Beautiful home in popular Mount Vernon neighborhood. Incredible screened porch (26X14) facing secluded backyard setting of trees and flowers. Extensive renovations including large In-law suite, kitchen and baths, cherry floors, crown molding, and built-in bookcases. Walking distance to swim/tennis/boat club. Priced to sell!
Eric Holland 703-919-1702



Reston
\$600,000
11171 Lake Chapel Lane
 End unit townhome backing to Lake Audubon!! Gourmet kitchen w/granite, upgraded cabinetry, ceramic tile, formal LR and DR, 3 gas FP, lrg master BR w/dressing area, master bath with sep so tub. 2 additional bedrooms on UL w/full bath. LL rec room views of the lake. Full bath on LL. Lrge deck. A must see!!
Meg Olympia 703-475-1552



Woodbridge
\$349,900
12608 Harbor Drive
 Big price reduction \$25,000.It is a regular sale. Beautiful single family home has five bedrooms, three full baths, and one half baths. There are two kitchens one in main level and one in the basement. The house has Hardwood floor and ceramic throughout with many updates. The roof and deck are two months old. It has nice backyard. You must see it.
Fawzia Noori 571-276-1336



Arlington
\$349,900
4067 S. Four Mile Run Drive #203
 Sunny and bright 2 BR, 2BA, condo w/sunroom and extra storage. Fully loaded kitchen w/stainless steel appliances, granite counter-tops, 42 in cabinets, hardwood floors, community amenities. Please be considerate of very nice tenants who will be leaving by May 15. Subject to 3rd party approval. Property sold in "as is" condition.
Rita Tassa 703-629-8624



Falls Church
\$410,000
2785 Sikes Court
 Like new, new roof, new vinyl windows, totally new kit. w/42" cabinets, new granite ctrs, new appliances, new ceramic tile flooring, new neutral carpet throughout, crown molding, 6 panel doors, new full spectrum storm door, new sgd lower level, updated baths, new HVAC. Its a beauty and a great location!
Allan Price
703-861-2424



Alexandria
\$249,900
4862 Eisenhower Ave. #464
 Beautiful split BR model with upgrades feat's granite counters, SS appl's, lan. wood floors throughout, generous BR's w/great closet space. Full sz w/d, upgraded bath canities & fixtures. Excellent building location near elevator, easy access to 2 garage spaces. Great neighborhood amenities & location, near Van Dorn Metro. Short sale, being prof negotiated.
Von Morris 703-501-2191



Alexandria
\$569,900
3432 Kings Cross Road
 Great Family Home at end of Cul-de-sac in Quiet Neighborhood. Freshly Painted Inside and Out, Deck recently Power Washed, Great for Outdoor Entertaining. Two Storage Sheds. Nice Built In's, Including New Stove. Nice Lot, 2 Car Garage. Large Master Bedroom with Separate Bath. Lots of Potential in Basement. Very Good Condition. Offering Great Opportunity to Move Right In!
Terry Rader 703-887-3735



Leesburg, VA
\$2,900,000
18680 Riverlook Court
 Stunning custom home on 8+ wooded acres in Lansdowne! Cul-de-sac lot. 6 car garage. 2 Br guest house above detached garage. Over 11,000 finished sq ft. A chef's dream kitchen. Travertine & hwd floors on ML. 3Fp. MBR w/sitting room, wet bar, screened in veranda. Luxury master bath w/jacuzzi tub, spa shower. W/O LL rec room with stone bar. Wired media room. Gym area. BR w/full bath. Patio. Upgrades throughout!
Meg Olympia 703-475-1552



Gainesville, VA
\$410,000
13832 Tarleton Court
 3-story colonial home located in a cul-de-sac, 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, dual foyer, large eat-in kitchen next to family room w/fireplace & ceiling fan, separate den/office, dining, living rooms, 2-car garage, MBR w/tray ceiling & luxury bath, alarm system, 2-zone HVAC. Flat screen pad already set up. Move-in ready.
Michael Flowers 301-938-2590



Alexandria
\$114,000
8740 Walutes Circle #A
 Short sale, 2BR. 1 BA unit near Ft. Belvoir, easy access to public transportation. Sold as is.
Ihor Makara 703-402-2654



Arlington
\$1,049,000
5421 5th Street S.
 Brand new gorgeous home in historic Glen Carlin at an unbelievable price! Plenty of space! 7 BRs/5.5BAs, gourmet kitchen w/stainless steel appliances & granite counters. Stunning gas fireplace dividing dining & living rooms. Spacious bedrooms and master w/luxury bath! Finished basement with au pair suite and media room. Located next to parkland.
Sheila Gillette 703-307-5698



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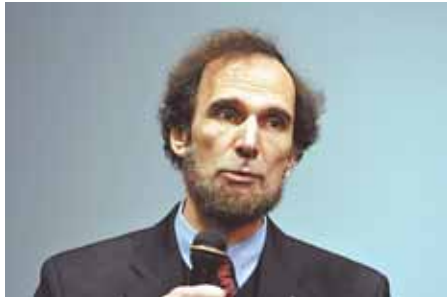
PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE

Mount Vernon Supervisor Gerry Hyland invited Frank Cohn, John Ribble, Linwood Gorham, Earl Flanagan, Col. Greg Gadson, Dan Storck, Ed Long and Sharon Bulova to speak and answer audience questions at the annual town hall meeting on Saturday morning, Feb. 2, at Mt. Vernon High School.

Hyland Hosts 26th Annual Town Hall Meeting



Mount Vernon District Supervisor Gerry Hyland



Mt. Vernon representative on the Fairfax County School Board Dan Storck



Commander of Fort Belvoir, Col. Greg Gadson



U.S. Rep. Jim Moran addresses current congressional issues that are under debate in congress.



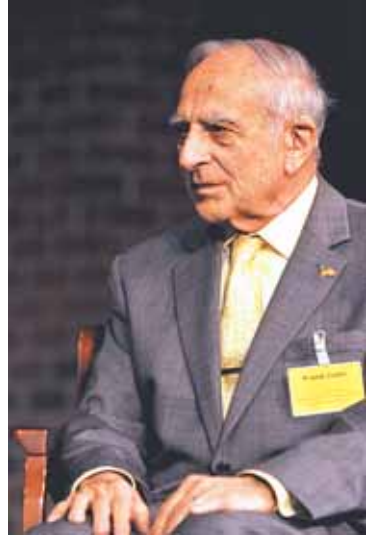
Mount Vernon representative on the Zoning Board John Ribble.



A Westgrove resident thanks the Board of Supervisors for allowing the off-leash dog park adjoining the community.



Linwood Gorham, Mount Vernon representative on the Fairfax County Park Authority.



Mount Vernon district representative on the county transportation committee Frank Cohn.

Expanding the Battlefield

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE GAZETTE

The idea of first aid dates back to Order of St. John, a medieval society of knights that offered training in how to treat common battle-field injuries. Now, the Virginia General Assembly may be bringing the idea to mental-health services in the wake of the school shooting in Connecticut. Last weekend, the House Appropriations

Committee approved \$1.85 million to expand training for Mental Health First Aid — arm today's knights tools for the modern battlefield, whether it be a schoolhouse corridor or a hotel lobby. "This is an important step forward to improve the capacity of Virginia to address mental-health issues," said Del. Rob Krupicka (D-45), who originally introduced a budget amendment for \$2.5 million. "By training teachers and other community members in Mental Health First Aid, people

Legislators to consider \$2 million for Mental Health First Aid.

can better identify individuals who require help and get them the support they need." Mental Health First Aid is a relatively new public education program, first created in 2001 by the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare, the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Health and the Missouri Department of Mental Health. Instructors explain how to identify and respond to signs of mental illness in an interactive 12-hour course. The overview of mental illness and

substance-abuse disorders introduces participants to risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems. "Being on the front lines, you don't always know if someone has mental illness or if they are just having a bad day," said Evelyn Quiles, an administrative assistant who works in the Alexandria JobLink office. "This training taught us to not pass judgment so quickly, which

SEE LEGISLATORS, PAGE 6

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OPEN SUNDAY 1-4 PM

Mount Vernon \$730,000
3451 Sun Up Way. Just Like New 1 year old home. 4 BR, 4 BA open floor plan on Quiet Cul-de-sac. Large 2-car garage, Gas stove and FP, 2-Story Foyer, Kitchen has Granite counters with gorgeous dark cabinets. Sun-filled breakfast room/sunroom attached to kitchen leading to backyard deck—perfect for entertaining! *Marsha Belvis 703-283-0765*



UNDER CONTRACT

Del Ray \$774,900
213 Oxford Avenue E. Beautiful 1920's detached farmhouse on spacious lot balances modern updates and classic charm. This unique home features 4 bedrooms, 2 full baths, a welcoming front porch, 9+ foot ceilings, a fabulous gourmet kitchen, a large stone patio, a fully fenced front & back yard, a detached two-car garage and a private driveway for convenient off-street parking. Just one block from shops, restaurants and weekend farmers market in Del Ray. More Info & Virtual Tour www.HomesofAlexandria.com
Bobi Bomar 703-927-2213



COMING SOON

Rosemont
12 W. Walnut Street. Lovely 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath 1920's Dutch Colonial with a detached garage just a few blocks from METRO. Full of Old World charm and updated for today's lifestyle. Living room with custom stone fireplace & formal dining room. Sun-drenched den and home office with oak cabinetry. Spacious gourmet kitchen with access to a fabulous back porch and yard.
Christine Garner 703-587-4855



Alexandria \$579,900
5706 Governors Pond Circle. Spacious and open Eliot model with 3 bedrooms & opt. guest room/home office on the lwr lvl along with 3 full baths and 1 half bath. Hardwood floors on the main level and numerous upgrades. A great location in Governors Grove just 7/10 of a mile to the Huntington Metro station and now with its own DOG PARK for your convenience. Low HOA fees.
Bob Bazzle 703-599-8964



UNDER CONTRACT

Old Town Greens \$503,000
713B Massey Lane. 2 Lights to Washington, D.C.! Rare TideWater Model. Soaring 20+ feet Vaulted Ceilings, 2 Bedrooms 2 Full Baths, Marble surround Fireplace, New Furnace and A/C Systems Wired for security alarm system. Wired for central audio/surround system in living room. Brand New Top-of-the-line Carpet with 8" padding. Enjoy Pool and lighted Tennis Courts.
Gary Chute 703-371-9926



COMING SOON

Alexandria
2411 Dearing St. Fairlington Towne perfection! Excellent value, 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath, two-level condo in Fairlington Towne. Great floor plan. Gleaming hardwood floors, private patio backs to common fenced green space. Tons of natural light; freshly painted. Walk to Starbucks in 2 minutes. Great location. Easy bus to Pentagon.
Julie F. Hall 703-786-3634



Alexandria \$530,000
5100 Sutton Place. 3/4 bedrooms with 3 full baths located on a quiet cul-de-sac backing to parkland in Alexandria City. Original hardwood floors throughout the main level and a rear screened-in porch overlooking a huge fenced-in quarter acre lot just perfect for your springtime activities. Close to EVERYTHING including the Pentagon, I-395 and downtown D.C.
Bob Bazzle 703-599-8964



Alexandria/Huntington \$240,000
Stress-free and Turn-Key with Garage at this price; just minutes from Old Town, and close to Metro. 970 square feet includes a spacious, enclosed balcony; loads of storage thru-out + storage unit off garage. See the Visual Tour with details at CindyandLeslieWeichert.com. 5904 Mount Eagle Dr 617.
Cindy Baggett 703-593-1418 • Leslie Rodriguez 703-400-3010



Beverly Hills \$974,900
706 Grand View Drive. Beautifully expanded 4 bedroom, 4 bath home with fabulous 2-story addition. Gourmet kitchen with breakfast room, spacious family room with vaulted ceilings, abundant windows and French doors to a lovely yard with wrap around deck. Four upper level bedrooms, including a large Owner's suite. Lower level recreation room, ample closet & storage space throughout, 2 fireplaces, custom built-ins and off-street parking. 1 block from Beverly Park (aka "The Pitt").
Christine Garner 703-587-4855



NEW LISTING!

Alexandria \$949,000
716 Day Lane. Elegant 4 BR/3.55 BA town house just 2 lights to D.C.! Open floor plan w/gorgeous hardwood floors, triple crown molding, high-end kitchen, 2-car garage & more. Enjoy pool, fitness center & tot lot. Walk to shops/restaurants.
Erika Carroll 703-568-7376



NEW LISTING

FIRST OPEN SUNDAY 1-4 PM

South Alexandria \$1,050,000
2415 Lakeshire. Your country estate on .97 private, wooded acres—complete with an exceptional home. Two additions create an efficient floor plan for busy families & entertaining. Hard to find 6 bedroom/4.5 baths on 3 finished levels, including practical lower level in-law suite. Wood floors plus Restoration Hardware colors, and a warm sunroom thanks to the Palladian windows. Convenient cul-de-sac location so close to Old Town amenities.
Joni Koons 703-209-7277 • Greg Koons 703-209-7678



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4 PM

Alexandria/Huntington \$310,000
Relax and enjoy the view! This spacious and bright two-bedroom, two-bathroom condo features large enclosed balcony overlooking the trees, with city lights at night! New carpet and paint, ready to move into. In beautiful Montebello, loaded with amenities; just one light from 495, 2 miles to Old Town. See Virtual Tour for details at 5903mounteagle306.com
Cindy Baggett 703-593-1418 • Leslie Rodriguez 703-400-3010



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'The Pink Panther Strikes Again'

Mount Vernon Community Children's Theatre, now in its 32nd season, will present "The Pink Panther Strikes Again," directed by John Waldron and performed by a cast of 18 local actors ages 12-18.

The play is a stage adaptation of the 1976 film featuring a madman threatening the world's survival with the ultimate Doomsday Machine. Performances will be Feb. 9, 15 and 16 at 7:30 p.m. and Feb. 10 and 17 at 3 p.m. at Heritage Presbyterian Church, located at 8503 Fort Hunt Road. Tickets cost \$10 and are available at the door. For more information, go to www.mvcct.org or call 703-360-0686.

Founded in 1980, MVCCT offers three annual productions, summer and spring break camps, and after-school programs for area youth. An ongoing scholarship program assures participation and accessibility for a broad range of area residents. MVCCT is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Virginia Commission for the Arts, and the Arts Council of Fairfax County.



From left: Julian Worth as Cato Fong and Eddie Perez as Inspector Jacques Clouseau.



Eddie Perez as Inspector Jacques Clouseau.



Ashton Barnes, Cameron Long, Shawn Moses and Eileah Morris.



From left: Eddie Perez, Matthew Cheney and Charlotte Sendi.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Rex Reiley
RE/MAX Allegiance
703-768-7730
rex.reiley@rmxtalk.com



OPEN SUNDAY

Alex./Hollin Hall \$489,000

7926 New Market Road

Absolutely lovely home w/over \$130k in recent improvements in great location! Stunning front porch and Family Room addition in 2009 by custom builder. Slate floor on front porch and back patio. Replacement windows. New 2012 & '09: large shed, cedar fence, driveway, roof, dishwasher, hot water, stove, humidifier. Beautiful backyard. It's a gem! Waynewood Elementary, close to GW Parkway, Potomac River and minutes to Old Town.



Alex./Yacht Haven \$589,900

4612 Tarpon Lane

Lovely, updated 4BR, 4BA Split in sought-after Waterfront Community of Yacht Haven. Stunning sun rm addition w/vaulted ceilings, sky lites, hwd flrs and wall of windows overlooking a manicured backyard. Newer HVAC, updated baths, and replacement windows. Just down the street from prestigious Mt. Vernon Yacht Club w/all its amenities. 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 18 mins to Ntl Airport. This is prime property at a GREAT PRICE!



OPEN SUNDAY

Arlington

Dominion Hills \$669,000

904 North Lebanon Street
Beautiful 3BR, 2BA Colonial in the family friendly Dominion Hills neighborhood of North Arlington. Fully finished basement, screened in porch opening to a large deck and lovely fenced backyard. Granite counter tops, stainless steel appliances, built-in china cabinets, refinished hardwood floors, wood burning fireplace and just blocks from the Tots Lot playground and Upton Hill Regional Park!



RENTAL

Alex./Riverside Estates \$2,850

8332 Wagon Wheel Road

Gorgeous 5 BR/3.5 BA Colonial with 1-car garage in prestigious Mount Vernon Community of Riverside Estates. Freshly painted interior, beautifully refinished hwd floors on main & upper levels. Updated baths, large bedrooms, 2 Fpls (1 gas & 1 wood), 3 finished levels w/5th bedroom, 3rd full bath & Rec room & storage rm in finished walk-up basement. 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 15 to Old Town, 20 to Ntl Airport & 30/35 to Pentagon/D.C.



RENTAL

Alex./Riverside Estates \$2,800

8358 Orange Court

Enjoy living on the water! Lovely 4 BR, 3 BA Split, WATERFRONT, with spectacular water views across Little Hunting Creek in the heart of Mt. Vernon. Freshly painted, new carpeting plus hardwood floors. 10 minutes to Ft. Belvoir, 20 mins to Old Town, 35 to Pentagon/D.C.



SOLD

Alex./Wessynton \$590,000

8802 Four Seasons

Large, stunning, contemporary Colonial in popular Mount Vernon Community of Wessynton. This lovely home is highly updated: kitchen remodeled in '07, HVAC & hot water heater replaced '07, energy-efficient replacement windows, freshly painted interior - family room w/vaulted ceiling off kitchen - large beautiful picture windows throughout overlook a large, private, landscaped lot on a quiet cul-de-sac - In-law bedroom & bath on main level - 5 minutes to Fort Belvoir - This is a Keeper!



SOLD

Alex./Belle View \$248,000

6612 Boulevard VW #A2

Newly remodeled PORCH unit, shows beautifully. Lovely kitchen: granite counters, ceramic tile floor. Gorgeous bathroom with beautiful tile, everything brand new. Replacement windows. New flooring throughout, freshly painted. New screen door for porch. Convenient & ample parking next to bldg. FANTASTIC location: Steps to G.W. Pkwy, Potomac River, Bike Trail, 5 mins to Old Town. Bus to Metro.

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Preparing for 'Reach the Beach'

The West Potomac Dance Team and students from the recent dance team workshop performed at half-time at last Friday's basketball game. The dance team is in final preparations for the upcoming dance competition "Reach the Beach," to be held at Ocean City, Md. in the end of February.

A Gift of Dictionaries

Colonial Republican Women donates to Hybla Valley Elementary School.

A delegation from Colonial Republican Women presented Hybla Valley Elementary School staff with a donation of 100 dictionaries on Dec. 20.

Colonial Republican Women, a local club affiliated with the Virginia Federation of Republican Women and the National Federation of Republican Women, provided the dictionaries in participation with the Barbara Bush Literacy Project. The Republican group was represented by Debbie Bodlander, president; Kathleen Chevalier, secretary; Nanci Sale, treasurer; Christina Schinner, Barbara Bush Literacy Project chair, and Kimberley Harris, immediate past president.

Colonial selected Hybla Valley Elementary School because it serves a diverse multicultural population in

southeastern Fairfax County. More than 52 percent of its student body are enrolled in the English for Speakers of Other Languages curriculum, and over 87 percent are enrolled in the Free or Reduced Priced Meals program. Colonial Republican Women was attracted by the emphasis at Hybla Valley Elementary School on developing literacy, learning from hands-on experiences, practicing cultural sensitivity, and building character.

The dictionary chosen is "A Student's Dictionary," published by The Dictionary Project, Inc., and includes the Constitution of the U.S., the Declaration of Independence, brief biographies of all U. S. presidents, world maps, information about all 50 states, countries of the world, and the planets in our solar system.



From left: Kimberley Harris Granahan, CRW past president; Kathleen Chevalier, recording secretary; Deborah Bodlander, 2012 CRW president; Lauren Sheehy, Hybla Valley Elementary School principal; Denise Pinchback, school librarian; Marguerite Saitta, assisant principal; Christina Schinner; Barbara Bush Literacy Project chair, and Lorraine Boyd, CRW corresponding secetary.

Legislators Consider \$2 Million for Mental Health First Aid

FROM PAGE 3

could lead to the wrong conclusions."

CONSIDER THE SCENARIO: A woman enters a government building and begins acting strangely. She is bald and disoriented, explaining that she can't remember where she parked. The woman behind the front desk calls Adult Protective Services, which dispatches Alexandria social worker Sue Ellen Mawhinney to the scene. If the front desk worker had been a graduate of Men-

tal Health First Aid, Mawhinney says, he or she might have been able to handle the situation without calling in reinforcements.

"I think the sense was that this was some sort of medical crisis, when in actuality it wasn't," said Mawhinney. "I think this training would equip the average person to not necessarily think that this would be something beyond their scope to deal with and to give folks tools that they might not otherwise have to respond to people who are in some sort of crisis."

The 12-hour course has been presented

to primary care professionals, employers and business leaders as well as school officials and nursing home staff. Many graduates of the class have gone on to become certified instructors in Mental Health First Aid, expanding the universe of people with the skills to help diffuse situations before they escalate out of control.

"The first think you do is listen patiently," said Alexandria caseworker Wilma Roberts. "You don't argue. You don't make it seem like they are a liar."

If the Senate approves the \$2 million ap-

propriation, Krupicka says, he wants to fund the training programs for school staff members across Virginia.

"People need to be aware of the complexity of mental-health issues, and they need to know how to identify them and be sensitive to the challenges that go along with them," said Krupicka. "Having a Mental Health First Aid training program in place can really help people get the support and services they need so that we can prevent someone from going undiagnosed or unidentified."

Preserving Mental Health as People Age

Experts say diet, exercise and mental stimulation are key.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

Randy Weadon walks six miles each day around the perimeters of his retirement community, Greenspring in Springfield. He also does crossword puzzles daily.

"During tax season, I walk around the halls and mentally do my income taxes in my head," said Weadon, a retired Coast Guard officer. "If I had not started walking, I don't know if I'd be alive. I am 86-and-a-half years old, but I don't feel that age at all."

Geriatric experts say healthy lifestyle habits like regular exercise, eating a nutritious diet and brain challenges can help preserve mental health as we age.

"The one thing that I always tell my patients is that if you don't use it, you lose it. I recommend crossword puzzles, mentally challenging games and reading, especially about current events," said Dr. Lisa Calusic, a psychiatrist at Inova Behavioral Health

Services in Alexandria, and an Arlington, resident.

Researchers Pamela Greenwood and Raja Parasuraman, professors at the Department of Psychology at George Mason University in Fairfax, have spent more than 20 years studying the way the human brain ages with a focus on Alzheimer's disease. The two wrote a book, "Nurturing the Older Brain and Mind," in which they explore ways middle-aged people can stave off mental deterioration.

"We know that if we can put off dementing illnesses, even by a year or two through lifestyle changes, that will reduce the number of people with Alzheimer's disease, which is reaching epidemic proportions," Parasuraman says.

The duo says that preventing and staving off mental deterioration is more important than ever now that workers are staying employed longer for economic reasons. Physical activity is an important tool as well.

"Exercise [is] the 'lifestyle' factor with the strongest effect," said Greenwood. "A number of different research groups have found benefits of aerobic exercise on both brain structure and function, and on cognitive performance."

Joel Martin, a professor of kinesiology at George Mason, agrees: "Regular exercise

has been proven to slow the aging process," he said. "People have their actual age, which they can't do anything about, and their biological age. Someone could be 40 years old, live a very inactive lifestyle and not eat very well, which may cause them to be closer to 60 in terms of their biological age. Vice versa: Someone who is 60 could be very active and eat a healthy diet and feel like they are much younger, perhaps a biological age closer to mid-40s."

As an octogenarian, Weadon credits his sharpness to regular mental challenges. Martin agrees. "Regularly engaging in activities requiring cognitive function is important," said Martin. "Most tissues in the body respond to stress placed on it by becoming stronger or adapting to handle the stimulus you place on it. If you lift weights, your muscles get bigger and stronger. If you don't do any sort of physical activity to stimulate your muscles, then they get smaller and become weaker. The brain is the same way, it needs regular stimulation to maintain its function."

Experts also say not to rule out the importance of good nutrition. "The antioxidants in foods, especially fruits and vegetables, can help to preserve and protect tissues from damage that occurs as part of the natural aging process," said Martin.

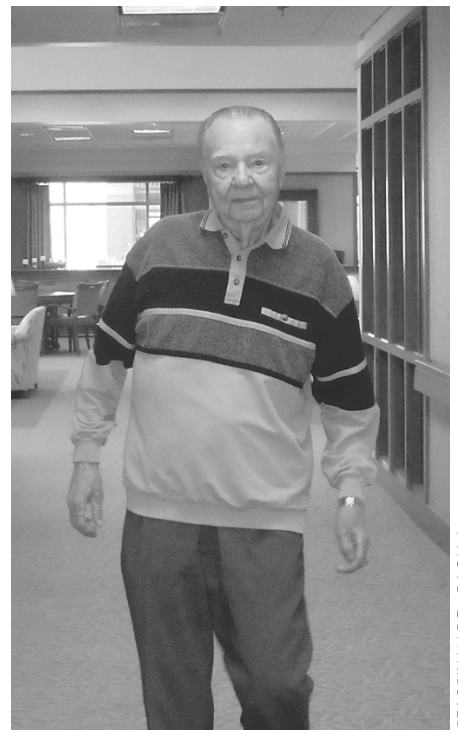


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Randy Weadon, 86, does crossword puzzles and walks six miles each day around the perimeters of his retirement community, Greenspring in Springfield.

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Mount Vernon Gazette



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UCM's food pantry is located at **7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, VA, 22306**, and accepts food donations Monday through Friday, 9 am to 5 pm and the first Sunday of every month, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Mount Vernon Gazette

UCM is thankful for the generous support of the Mount Vernon Gazette.

OPINION

Five Bills Poised to Pass; Two Amendments Adopted

BY SCOTT A. SUROVELL
STATE DELEGATE (D-44)

The Virginia legislature is now approaching “crossover” — the day that each body must complete work on its own bills and begin work on bills from the other body.

As I write this, one of my bills has passed the House and four more are probably headed to the Senate for consideration. Earlier this year, I represented a client who had work done on his condominium by a contractor. My client did not know the contractor was unlicensed. An unlicensed contractor cannot sue because their contract is illegal (like trying to sue on a contract for cocaine), but he placed a lien on my client's condominium. I was shocked that there was nothing in the mechanic's lien statute that required a license. My bill requires all contractors to put their license number and information of any mechanic's lien. This will help protect consumers from predatory lenders. The House approved it unanimously.

My second bill requires each community college to have a point of contact for student mental health referrals and an express policy in place for teachers. A 2011 Virginia College Mental Health Study found that the number one shortcoming in the Virginia Community College System was the lack of a mental health referral process for students. Referral breakdowns played a part in the Jared Loughner (Arizona) and James Holmes (Colorado) shootings.

My third bill on the floor would add solar thermal energy to the Virginia Renewable En-



ergy Portfolio Standard to allow individuals, apartments or businesses with solar hot water to generate renewable energy certificates to be sold on the open market. Solar thermal energy is one of the most cost-effective

renewable energy solutions on the market.

I am also chief co-patron of legislation that allows some consumers to collectively net their electrical meters against renewable energy generated on their property to do what is called community net metering. Next year, I hope to expand this to suburban communities so families in neighborhoods with heavy tree cover can cooperatively construct solar projects to power their homes.

Legislation that I chief co-patroned making texting while driving is proceeding to the full House and my four-year battle to reconfigure the Commonwealth Transportation Board will be voted on by the full House soon as well.

The House Appropriations Committee accepted several of my budget amendments. First, they included language to require school systems to report on how many children have access to broadband and computers in their homes. If implemented, this would allow us to begin to address the “digital divide” in our schools — urban, suburban, and rural — that I attempted to address with my legislation addressing online textbooks.

The committee also approved my amend-

ment to restore one of Fairfax County's General District Court judgeships which is critical, in part because Transurban has predicted a massive increase in toll violations in the Beltway's new express lanes. Adding a judge will get you out of traffic court faster if you get a speeding ticket. If not, expect to spend most of the day in traffic court.

The House Appropriations Committee also recommended expanding Medicaid with major conditions. This could greatly benefit the 44th District which has the highest Medicaid population in Fairfax County, but the conditions needs to go. However, the Senate did not include an expansion.

Redistricting of state senate districts hangs over the chamber. The majority has not chosen to bring the bill up yet and it is not clear what will happen. I will vote no.

Some members also announced new funding last week for school safety officers. I spoke in the House on the failure to discuss the underlying problem, the availability of assault weapons, lethal bullets and multi-bullet magazines. You can watch my floor speech on my YouTube Channel which you can access from my website, online newsletter or YouTube.

We are having a huge transportation fight this week. It is unclear where it is going as I write this. Also, after 400 votes in the next two days, we will move to the budget and Senate bills. Stay tuned for more information by following my Twitter feed, following me on Facebook or reading my online newsletter, “The Dixie Pig,” at scottsurovell.blogspot.com.

It is an honor to serve as your delegate.

COMMENTARY



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Multicultural Fair

Hollin Meadows Elementary School will hold its annual Multicultural Fair on Saturday, Feb. 9 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. The event celebrates and showcases the many cultures and countries represented at the school. There will be exhibits, displays and food tasting demonstrations, plus live music and dance performances from around the world — classical Indian Dancers, square dancers, a Mariachi band, Tae Kwon Do demonstration and this year a Chinese Dragon Parade. Hollin Meadows is located at 2310 Nordok Place.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Update on 'Antenna Wars'

To the Editor:

The Jan. 17 article “Antenna Wars” and a Jan. 24 Letter to the Editor both help residents of Mount Vernon District understand past work of the Mount Vernon Council's Telecommunication Service Committee. The committee was formed in response to a request by Supervisor Hyland.

Residents should, however, be aware of the following additional information provided to the committee.

❖ The objections to and lack of tower sites is not peculiar to Mount Vernon District. Each of the other eight Fairfax County Districts have the same problems.

❖ Since 2005, four Fairfax County Districts, Dranesville, Providence, Sully and Hunter Mill, are being provided with antenna mounted atop telephone poles approximately every 1/4 mile instead of towers every two miles. This technology is known as the Distributed Antenna System or DAS for short and is less visible but more expensive. Six such systems have been installed in the four districts and two more are being considered.

❖ DAS antenna in Fairfax County are installed by the Crown Castle or American Tower Corporations and leased by AT&T Cingular, Sprint, T-Mobile and Cricket Phone Companies.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 10

Mount Vernon Gazette

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OPINION

On Medicaid, Road Funds and Uranium

BY ADAM EBBIN
STATE SENATOR (D-30)



This week's General Assembly session included "Crossover" on Tuesday — after which the House and Senate may only work on bills approved by the other body. I am pleased that 10 pieces of my legislation have advanced to the House of Delegates for further consideration — including measures to improve the electoral process

RICHMOND REPORT

by simplifying absentee ballot applications and disqualifying fewer of those ballots; and to codify nondiscrimination in state employment on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

The Senate Finance Committee's budget proposal was unveiled on Sunday. Though it has some merit, I was extremely disappointed that federal Medicaid expansion funds were not accepted in the document. Because of this omission, all Finance Committee Democrats united to oppose the draft budget. The expansion of Medicaid in Virginia could cover an additional 400,000 currently uninsured Virginians, resulting in savings from increased preventive care and fewer costly emergency room visits, and create an estimated 30,000 health care jobs. One hundred percent of the funds for expansion would come from the federal government for three years, and 90 percent thereafter. That money comes from federal income taxes paid for by Virginians, whether or not we accept this "Obamacare" (Medicaid) option. My Democratic colleagues and I will be working hard to win some Republican votes to accept the funding in the final Senate budget.

With regard to the Governor's transportation plan currently being debated, I agree that bold steps must be taken to address our transportation needs but do

not believe the governor's bill would adequately serve the Commonwealth as a whole or Northern Virginia. In years past I have argued against using the General Fund (spent on education, public safety, healthcare etc.) to fund transportation (which has its own dedicated fund). Governor McDonnell's plan to eliminate the

17.5¢/gallon gas tax and replace it with an .8 percent sales tax increase would go against that principle. Further, if the gas tax is eliminated and replaced by an increased sales tax, Virginia would lose the revenue currently collected when out-of-state drivers buy gas. Instead residents would pay a higher sales tax. We cannot afford this self-inflicted wound to Virginia's economy.

One notable bill that was scheduled to be heard in last week's meeting of the Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources Committee was a measure that would have lifted Virginia's 30-year moratorium on uranium mining.

Our climate is distinctly different than that of most locations where uranium is currently mined, and I believe that lifting the ban could have posed serious threats to the Southside Virginia water table and resulted in other significant environmental concerns. After counting the votes of members of the Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources members, including mine, the patron of the legislation decided to strike the bill, laying the issue to rest for this session.

To read more about what I'm up to, visit www.adamebbin.com. Your input helps me represent you better. Call my office at 804-698-7530 or email me at district30@senate.virginia.gov to share your opinion or if we can be of assistance.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 8

Verizon has currently elected not to use DAS. A lease by one of the above listed companies must occur before a corporation will plan for DAS. They have, however, shown the committee that DAS will work in Mount Vernon District.

Committee members are now pursuing why DAS is used only in the northern portions of Fairfax County.

I hope this brief update helps.

Earl L. Flanagan

Justice Prevails

To the Editor:

The fatal shooting death of unarmed Sunday School teacher Patricia Cook of Culpepper by Officer Daniel Harmon-Wright of the Culpepper Police Department on Feb. 9, 2012 has ended with the officer being charged and convicted of involuntary manslaughter and unlawful shooting into an occupied vehicle. A Culpepper Circuit Court jury recommended a three-year sentence this past Fri-

day. He faced a maximum sentence of 25 years in prison. The judge is scheduled to sentence the officer on April 10. He could decrease the jury's recommended sentence but not increase it.

The victim was in her car in a church parking lot when the officer approached her. When she began driving away, the officer fired at point-blank range into her Jeep and as she drove onto the street he shot five more times killing her.

This case is unusual as the police chief recused himself from the investigation and referred the matter to the Virginia State Police to investigate. In addition, a special prosecutor was appointed. In a highly unusual situation, a special grand jury indicted the officer who was convicted.

In this case, many citizens of Culpepper were pleased the people were represented by the special grand jury which allowed the people to make the decision in this tragic case.

Nicholas R. Beltrante

Executive Director
Virginia Citizens Coalition for

Police Accountability

Take Politics Out of Redistricting

To the Editor:

Let's face it — Virginia's Delegate and Senatorial district maps are a gerrymandered disgrace. In my letter to the editor published Aug. 25, 2011, I pointed out that Sen. Linda "Toddy" Puller's district extends from the Beltway to Fredericksburg. Sen. Adam Ebbin's district extends in a narrow strip from the 14th Street Bridge to Pohick Bay. On Inauguration Day, with one Democratic senator attending the Presidential Inauguration, the Virginia Senate passed a redistricting bill that attempted to render Senatorial districts more equitable, at least in the opinion of Republicans. The Democrats are now crying foul and the recriminations threaten to disrupt the current legislative session.

In his opinion column in the Jan.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

24, 2013 Gazette, Del. Scott Surovell described the Inauguration Day vote as a “dirty trick.” However, as I pointed out in my Gazette letter of Sept. 8, 2011, although Delegate Surovell had publicly expressed his opposition to “the state’s current redistricting system” (“My record is clear.”), when the proposed 2011 highly gerrymandered redistricting came up for a vote (HB5005) in the House of Delegates, in fact, he voted in favor of the bill.

In 2011, Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell constituted a bipartisan commission on redistricting. Their findings were ignored. The time has come for our elected representatives to fix a broken system. There is only one way: without regard to the minute data concerning precinct by precinct voting patterns, Delegate and Senatorial Districts must be reconstituted geographically in cohesive districts in which the citizens have some connection with one another. Senator Puller’s district includes parts of Fairfax, Prince William and Stafford Counties. Senator

Ebbin’s district resembles a strip of bacon barely a mile wide for a lengthy stretch. http://www.vpap.org/elections/large_map/103?map_type=district This is unconscionable. There is utterly no reason, except political ones, why Senator Puller should not have her district entirely within Fairfax County. According to Ballotpedia, each senator represents about 200,000 citizens. http://ballotpedia.org/wiki/index.php/Virginia_State_Senate With the county including just over 1,000,000 residents, there is no logical reason why the county should not be divided into 5 cohesive generally rectangular Senatorial Districts.

Politicians, put aside the politics and work together to fix a broken system. I frankly don’t care if every Senator and Delegate loses their seat, if our districts are reconstituted to be cohesive, rectangular and devoid of political considerations. Get going!

H. Jay Spiegel
Mount Vernon

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Email announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com.

FRIDAY/FEB. 8

Documentary Screening. 7 p.m. at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane. Watch “Little Town of Bethlehem” and discuss it. Free. Refreshments provided. 703-721-0595 or gpcourchot@yahoo.com.

SATURDAY/FEB. 9

Boater Education Course. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 8592 Richmond Highway. This course meets all the state requirements to allow people to operate boats. Contact Rich Miller at eaglesailor75@cox.net or 703-780-3765 to get an enrollment form.

Mardi Gras. 8-11 p.m. at Don Beyer Volvo, 7416 Richmond Highway. Meet all 2013 democratic candidates for lieutenant governor and attorney general and vote in a straw poll. Enjoy a buffet, open bar, music, dancing and auction. \$45/person. Visit www.mvdemocrats.com for tickets.

Multicultural Fair. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Hollin Meadows Elementary School, 2310 Nordok Place. Explore the sights, sounds and tastes of cultures around the world as students, families and professional groups share their talents and expertise.

THROUGH FEB. 9

Crystal Couture Fashion Event. From 6-10 p.m. each night, West Potomac Academy fashion design students will showcase their collections alongside professional designers. They will also have a boutique area to sell their original garments, with proceeds benefitting the program. Free. Located on the top floor of 251 18th St.

SUNDAY/FEB. 10

Volunteer Meeting. 1:30-3 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Anyone who is

interested in volunteering as a docent or historic program assistant can contact Site Coordinator Geoffrey Cohrs by email at geoffrey.cohrs@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-768-2525.

MONDAY/FEB. 11

Young Naturalist Science Series. The five-class series for students age 9-12 meet from 3-4:30 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Students will work on a journal where they will document observations, sketch and more. \$84/Fairfax County residents; \$99/non-residents. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes or 703-768-2525. Program #3401702501

TUESDAY/FEB. 12

Benefit Day. A portion of the proceeds will benefit UCM when an order is placed at Ledo Pizza at Mount Vernon Square, 7475 Richmond Highway from 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Mention UCM when an order is placed. 703-660-8989 to place an order.

Local History Talk. 10 a.m. at Franconia Museum. Refreshments will be served. Stories of the old gravel pits that dotted Franconia will be explored. Free.

THURSDAY/FEB. 14

Information Session. 9:20-9:50 a.m. at Mount Vernon High School. Get information on the three elements of the International Baccalaureate Program. Free. If interested in the new IBCC, contact Berkeley McHugh at BFMcHugh@fcps.edu or 703-619-3100. If interested in the IBMYP certificates, contact Karen Hertel at KJHertel@fcps.edu or 703-619-3261.

FEB. 15-17

UCM Coat Drive. Get free admission for two people by donating a clean, gently used coat or jacket (all sizes) at the International Gem & Jewelry Show at Dulles Expo Center.



photo: Enoch Chan

Jump for Joy.

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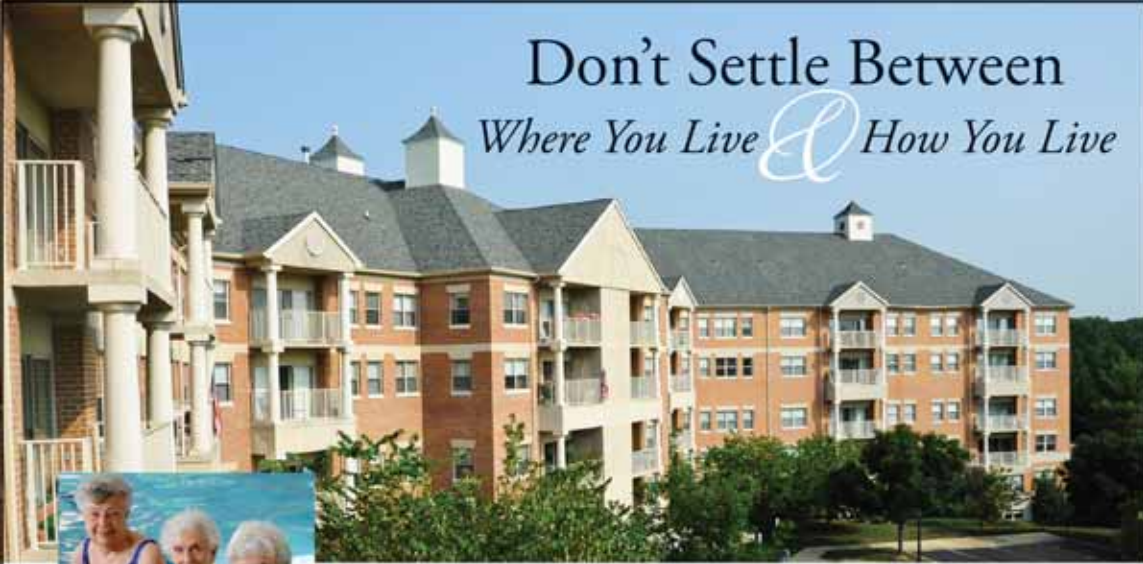



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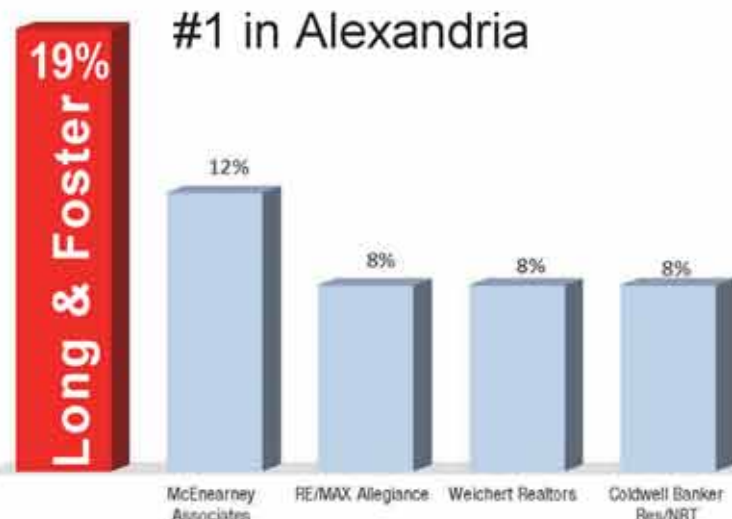
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USO Facility Officially Opens at Fort Belvoir

FROM PAGE 1

walk through the door.”

Open to all active duty military personnel, the new 20,000 square-foot facility was built to provide specialized care for returning service men and women as they cope with and recover from injuries sustained in battle. It will be run by staff and volunteers of the USO of Metropolitan Washington, who have been working with wounded warriors for more than a decade.

“I’ve seen many things in my 37 years with the USO,” said Elaine Rogers, president and CEO of the USO of Metropolitan Washington. “But I’ve never seen anything like today. This is a life-changing day for the USO.”

The \$12 million center was funded entirely through more than 250,000 individual and corporate donations, including \$5 million from the Northrop Grumman Foundation and \$2 million from the Kuwait America Foundation.

“We are very honored to be part of this exciting accomplishment,” said Northrop Grumman president and CEO Wes Bush of the largest single financial commitment in USO history. “This building will serve as a beacon for those who have given so much. To those who the center will serve, there are not enough words in our vocabulary to say ‘thank you.’”

The center’s design, developed by Huffman Development and Scott Long Construction and designed by Studios Architecture, was based on research gathered from hundreds of interviews with wounded warriors, their families, military medical pro-



The new USO Warrior and Family Center opened Feb. 5 at Fort Belvoir.

fessionals and experts in the care of wounded, ill and injured troops.

The Fort Belvoir facility is part of the USO program Operation Enduring Care, an ongoing \$100 million capital fundraising campaign: \$25 million has been allocated to build the Fort Belvoir and Bethesda, Md., Wounded Warrior and Family Centers; \$50 million will support programs at the centers and worldwide and \$25 million will endow the two centers.

“There were a lot of naysayers,” said retired Admiral Frank Thorp, now the senior vice president of marketing and communications for the Arlington-based USO headquarters.

“But we have seen what happens when

families come into a USO center. The brick and mortar here is awesome but the brick and mortar building only sets the tone for what the USO volunteers will do.”

Also participating in the ceremony was Kuwaiti Ambassador to the United States His Excellency Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

“A lot of you may be wondering why I am here,” said Al-Sabah as he addressed the crowd of dignitaries, wounded warriors and USO supporters. “But if not for the United States Armed Forces, I would not be standing here today as a representative of a free nation. Contributing to this building was an opportunity for my country to give back 20 years after our liberation.”



A rooftop terrace and future healing garden for meditation.

Other major donors to the project included Lowe’s, JC Penney, Jeep, The Coca-Cola Foundation, BAE Systems, the Anschutz Foundation, the Timken Group, News Corporation and actor Charlie Sheen.

Open to all active duty military, not just wounded warriors, the center officially opens its doors Friday and will provide a homelike environment for service members and their families to relax or receive training, education and job placement services needed to move forward in life.

“The USO is committed to providing for our service members,” Gadson said. “My family and so many other families are in a better place because of the efforts of the USO.”

Helping Nation’s Heroes Inside the new USO Warrior and Family Center.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE GAZETTE

Growing up in Richmond, Staff Sergeant Charles Eggleston never imagined what awaited him when two improvised explosive devices detonated next to his vehicle in Mosul, Iraq in 2006. The Cornell University computer science graduate was severely injured, his spine nearly severed and his face badly scarred as part of his mission during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Eggleston was taken to Walter Reed Army Medical Center, where he spent over 3 and a half years recovering from his injuries. It was there he became acquainted with the United Services Organization, or more commonly known as the USO.

“It was the USO that pulled me out of the hospital through one of its programs,” Eggleston said between practice swings in a golf simulator at the new USO Warrior and Family Center at Fort Belvoir. “As part of my rehab, I was introduced to golf but more importantly to the remarkable work of the USO.”

Eggleston was on hand as the new USO facility — the largest of its kind in the world — was officially opened Feb. 5.

The 20,000 square-foot facility will offer services for recovering soldiers and serve

as a family hub to support wounded warriors’ families. Built at a cost of \$12 million, the center is part of the \$100 million USO fundraising campaign Operation Enduring Care.

“A building like this is essential to the recovery for a lot of people,” said Kathleen Causey, whose husband Aaron lost both legs above the knee while serving in Afghanistan. “It serves both the wounded warriors and their family members.”

Causey had served as a volunteer for the USO at Fort Drum, N.Y. before her husband’s deployment. “It was a wholly positive experience when I was a volunteer,” Causey said. “You get to know the soldiers and understand why people volunteer. It’s quite a stretch to be on the other side of this equation but everyone treats me like a member of their family. It’s been an incredible experience to be here.”

The Fort Belvoir facility was developed by Huffman Development and Scott Long Construction and designed by Studios Architecture. The design was based on research gathered from hundreds of interviews with wounded warriors, their families, military medical professionals and experts in the care of wounded, ill and injured troops.

According to USO president and CEO Sloan Gibson, soldiers and their families put

recreation and a sense of normalcy at the top of their list. To that end, the new center features a sports cafe, theater room, a music and recording studio and video game room.

A full-service kitchen allows families to enjoy home cooked meals and a large community room can hold up to 150 people for events such as the recent Super Bowl party for wounded warriors and their families.

A separate section of the building is dedicated to healing and relaxation, with a respite room with yoga mats, art therapy room and outdoor healing gardens.

The final section of the facility is dedicated to continuing education and employment. Computer classrooms will allow for online learning and business seminars targeted to the transition of wounded warriors into the business world.

“The USO knows that some injuries are not always physical,” said Eggleston, a multiple Purple Heart recipient. “In the military, a hidden cousin to PTSD is suicide. I went through that kind of depression myself — it’s inevitable when your fellow soldiers are killed around you. But with USO rehab programs like golf, my depression and nightmares started melting away. The competitive challenge is a good teaching aid but also provides much needed stress relief.”

The Fort Belvoir Warrior and Family Cen-



Sgt. Major Bryan Battaglia and Brigadier General Eric Smith test out guitars in the music room of the new USO facility.

ter will be staffed by 350 volunteers from the USO of Metropolitan Washington.

“The USO has been such an integral part of my recovery as a spouse,” said Causey, whose husband hopes to retire later this year. “I am so glad a building like this exists. When I look at it I see a place for everyone and know that my husband and I are both taken care of and provided for.”

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- Beef Medallion – filet mignon sautéed with portabella mushrooms and reduced in a creamy Marsala sauce served with roasted potatoes and vegetable
- Kotopoulo – chicken marinated with rosemary, thyme, oregano slow roasted with lemony flavored potatoes
- Lobster Ravioli – tossed with a lobster base alfredo sauce, covered with mozzarella and baked
- Parmesan Crusted Salmon – seared with a flaky parmesan crust and served with sun dried tomato couscous and vegetable

Dessert (choice of one)

- Limoncello – lemon sorbet, with lemon liqueur served in a champagne glass
- Hazelnut Ganache – mini hazelnut cake with ganache
- Espresso Crème Brûlée – custard tart topped with caramelized sugar & espresso

SPORTS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

The Mount Vernon Magic 14U players after their Potomac River Clash NIT Championship win. From left are (front row) Christina Dillard, Izzy Crawn, Erin Rockwell, Harley Divine, Hannah Talbert, Grace Moery (back row) Rachel Deel, Micaela Neulight, Jordan Quinonez, Alyssa Dinkins, Emma Klein and Caroline Bowman. (Not pictured: Katie Reilly)

14U MV Magic Advances in Rankings

The 14U Mount Vernon Magic, a local Recreational/Travel softball team, is now ranked No. 1 in Virginia and No. 2 nationally in their class using the USSSA point system. The team also holds the No. 1 ranking in Virginia under USSSA's power ranking system.

Under the USSSA power ranking system, the team holds the No. 5 position in the nation. In the statewide Virginia USSSA coaches poll, the 14U Magic is ranked No. 2 with 16 votes, trailing the No. 1-ranked

Fauquier Fusion (17 votes) by a single vote.

Members of the 14U Magic include: Caroline Bowman, Izzy Crawn, Rachel Deel, Christina Dillard, Alyssa Dinkins, Harley Divine, Emma Klein, Grace Moery, Micaela Neulight, Jordan Quinonez, Katie Reilly, Erin Rockwell and Hannah Talbert. The team is coached by Mitch Rockwell, Karen Walker, Phil Klein and Ron Dillard.

"Obviously, our team members, their families and the coaching staff are filled with pride and elated by this news," Rockwell said. "We are thrilled to have moved into the No. 1 ranking in Virginia in both the USSSA point system as well as the USSSA power ratings. This is a wonderful bunch of hard working and determined softball players. Their high rankings are evidentiary proof of their hard work and talent."



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE

West Potomac sophomore Kwame Camon (23) jumps for the ball against West Springfield on Jan. 8.



Mount Vernon players Kelly Loftus (3), Chanise Ray (10) and Chanel Shannon (22) surround a Washington-Lee player on Jan. 17.



West Potomac senior Jayme Murray has signed a Letter of Intent to play baseball for the George Mason University Patriots in the fall. In 2012, the Wolverines baseball team advanced to its first regional playoff berth in more than 10 years with Murray leading the team in home runs, batting average, slugging percentage and on-base percentage. He also earned Patriot District honors, Northern Region honors and Washington Post All-Met honors, as well as his second MVP award at West Potomac. From left are Sherry Murray (mother), Jayme Murray, Mikel Murray (brother), Jim Murray (father), DSA Aaron Helmick and coach Jim Sullivan.

MV Girls' Basketball One Win from Perfect District Record

The Mount Vernon girls' basketball team will close the regular season with a road game against Falls Church at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 8. The Majors defeated Stuart 94-20 on Tuesday, improving their National District record to 13-0.

According to stats from the Washington Post's Web site, Kelly Loftus led Mount Vernon with 21 points. Tiffany Webster finished with 19 points, Samantha Porter had 17, Chanel Shannon had 13 and Kelly Quigley added eight.

The Majors played their closes district game of the year on Monday, beating Wakefield 41-37.

Mount Vernon's last district loss came

against Yorktown on Feb. 1, 2011. The Majors have won the last two district championships.

The Majors are 17-2 overall and ranked No. 7 in the Washington Post's top 20.

The National District tournament will begin on Tuesday, Feb. 12.

MV Boys' Basketball Snaps 5-Game Losing Streak

The Mount Vernon boys' basketball team defeated Stuart 46-42 on Tuesday, ending a five-game losing streak.

According to stats from the Washington Post's Web site, Bryce Washington led Mount Vernon with 20 points. Kwadwo Diawuo and Shawny Lovitt each had eight, and Anton Lucas added six.

Mount Vernon improved to 9-11 overall and 5-8 in the National District. Five of the Majors' district losses have come by four points or fewer.

The Majors will close the regular season with a home game against Falls Church at 7 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 8.

West Potomac Boys' Basketball Wins Third Straight

The West Potomac boys' basketball team defeated Lee 70-45 on Tuesday. According to stats from the Washington Post's Web site, Kwame Camon led the Wolverines with 18 points, and Devin Morrow and Brandon Pressley each scored 14.

The Wolverines improved to 12-8 overall and 9-4 in the Patriot District. The Wolverines will close the regular season with a home game against Lake Braddock at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 8.

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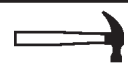
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Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICE
Pursuant to the provision of section 4-1-16 of the code of the City of Alexandria, the Alexandria Police Department located at 3600 Wheeler Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22304 is now in possession of unclaimed bicycles, mopeds, lawn equipment, money, scooters, and other items. All persons having valid claim to the property should file a claim to the property with reasonable proof of ownership or the items will be sold, destroyed, converted or donated. For a complete listing go to <http://alexandriava.gov/police/> and contact the Police Property Section at (703) 746-6709.

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OBITUARY

Roberta Hoy Bussard died peacefully on January 30, 2013 in Blacksburg, Va at the Warm Hearth Retirement Village. She is survived by her daughters, Ellen Braaten and Frances Bussard and her granddaughter, Lia Braaten Hager. Roberta was born in 1915 in Alexandria, Va where she resided until 1973. She was a secretary on Capitol Hill, started a business with her husband, Edward Bussard, and later in life, worked for the American Red Cross and as a hospital volunteer. Those who knew her were charmed by her grace, kindness and wit. She was beloved by her daughters and granddaughter whose lives she enhanced with her unwavering love and generosity.

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

Gyneth Arthur Kent



Gyneth Arthur Kent, 83, of 10713 Blue Ridge Drive, Hurt died Monday, February 4, 2013. She was the wife of James Paul Kent, Jr.

Shewas born August 23, 1929 in Pittsylvania County, the daughter of the late Albert Howell Arthur and Myrtle Chism Arthur. She was a member of New Prospect Baptist Church, a former teacher in the Fairfax County School System, and the owner of Kent Realty.

In addition to her husband, she issurvived by her son, John Arthur Grizzard and his wife Sally of Chantilly;three step-daughters, Eleanor Kent and her husband Will Holliday of Farmville,Susan Mattson and her husband Brad of Charlotte, NC, and Sarah Troiano and her husband Jason of Cary, NC; three grandchildren, Evan, Ross, and Daniel Grizzard; and four-step grandchildren, Andrew and Molly Mattson, and Ella and NaomiTroiano.

A funeral service will be conducted at2:00 p.m., Thursday, February 7, 2013 at New Prospect Baptist Church by the Rev. Brady Willis and the Rev. Jim Manuel with interment to follow in Green Hill Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 7-8:30 p.m., Wednesday at Finch & Finch Funeral and Cremation Service, Altavista and other times at the residence.

The family suggests that those wishing to make memorials consider New Prospect Baptist Church, PO Box 547, Hurt, VA 24563.

Please visit the online tribute at www.finchandfinchfuneralservice.com to share a memory or send a Condolence to the family.

Public Notice

ISSUANCE OF A STATEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FOR A PROJECT FUNDED THROUGH THE VIRGINIA CLEAN WATER REVOLVING LOAN FUND

Public Notice No.: VCWRLF-NRO-Woodbridge- EA13-01

First Publication Date: February 7, 2013

The Department of Environmental Quality has issued a Statement of Environmental Review for a wastewater project proposed to be funded through the Virginia Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund (VCWRLF). The applicant is the Alexandria Renew Enterprises (formerly known as Alexandria Sanitation Authority). The proposed Package C includes construction of a Nutrient Management Facility (NMF) and an athletic field, which will be built on an adjacent parcel located due west of Hoofts Run and 1500 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria's Main Wastewater Treatment Plant site. The NMF would consist of concrete rectangular holding tanks, a pump station, an odor control system and electrical facilities to power the new equipment. The NMF tanks will have 18 million gallons capacity and would be part of a partially buried large concrete structure. An athletic field and related amenities would be constructed on top of the tanks. There will be a generator for emergency use.

A review of the Environmental Assessment conducted on this project indicates that either significant environmental impacts would not result from the proposed project or significant environmental impacts have been eliminated by making changes in the project. Consequently, a preliminary decision not to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement has been made.

Persons may comment in writing to the Department on the proposed decision within 30 days from the first publication date. Comments, including electronically transmitted comments (i.e. e-mail), shall include the name, address, and telephone number of the writer and shall contain a complete, concise statement of the factual basis for the comments. Only those comments received within this period will be considered by the Department.

All pertinent information, including the Statement of Environmental Review, the Environmental Assessment and the support documentation is on file and may be inspected and arrangements made for copying at the DEQ Northern Regional Office at 13901 Crown Court, Woodbridge, VA, 22193, (703) 583-3903.

Following the comment period, the Department will make its final determination.

All comments should be addressed to:

Mr. Walter A. Gills
Program Manager
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Clean Water Financing and Assistance Program
629 East Main Street
P. O. Box 1105
Richmond, VA 23218
Email: walter.gills@deq.virginia.gov

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ENTERTAINMENT



“Love” by juror Maren Hassinger.

Trash Talk at Target

Trash Talk is an all-media exhibition featuring work made from recycled/found objects. The work may include new materials, but 50 percent must be made of found/recycled objects. It is open to all artists nationally and internationally. Deadline for Entry: Feb. 11. Exhibition Dates: April 10-28. Reception: April 11, 6-8 p.m.; Juror Talk at 7 p.m. with Maren Hassinger.

CALENDAR

E-mail announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Photos and artwork are encouraged. Deadline is Thursday at noon.

ONGOING

Winter Classes. Beginning Feb. 20 at Art at the Center, 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. Children ages 6-10 can participate. Register at www.artatthecenter.org or 703-201-1250.

Art Exhibit. Alexandria artist Francis Seeger will display “People” in the Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince St. through Feb. 24. Free. Features a number of the artist’s larger figural paintings. Often appearing to be waiting for time to pass or expressing a touch of boredom, Seeger’s subjects are captured with vibrant palette. Visit www.nvfaa.org or 703-548-0035.

Tavern Toddlers. Mondays, 10:30 a.m.-noon. Mondays through the end of April. Designed for walkers through 36 months and their caregivers. Tavern Toddlers features a weekly open playtime in Gadsby’s historic ballroom. Gadsby’s Tavern Museum is located at 134 North Royal St. Call 703-746-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 6

Concert Tour. Alfie Boe, who starred as Jean Valjean in the 25th anniversary concert of “Les Miserables” in London will perform at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. For tickets visit www.ticketmaster.com/Alfie-Boe-tickets or birchmere.com.

Lecture. 7 p.m. at Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Dr. Peter Henriques will discuss why George Washington decided to stop being friends with George Mason, Thomas Jefferson and James Madison. \$12/person; \$10/GTMS member and volunteer. Reservations recommended. 703-746-4242.

Movie. 6:45 p.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Watch a noir romance starring Humphrey Bogart and Gloria Grahame. A discussion will follow at St. Elmo’s Coffee Pub. Free. Call 703-746-1705 for title.

Atomic Swing Club. 9-11 p.m. at Nick’s Nightclub, 642 S. Pickett St. \$10. Visit www.gottaswing.com.

WEDNESDAYS THROUGH FEB. 6

Picture Writing: Literacy through

Art. 7-8:30 p.m. at Art at the Center, 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. Children ages 8-12 will receive an introduction to an approach to writing that integrates visual modes of thinking at every stage of the writing process. \$150/student. Register at www.artatthecenter.org or 703-201-1250.

THURSDAY/FEB. 7

Art Focus Group. 7:30-9 p.m.

Printmaking — explore both direct and indirect print-making processes with stamping and mono-print trays. Classes are \$25 each or \$200 for the 10 class series. A school or group of teachers can share the registration for the full series. At 2804 Sherwood Hall Ln. Call 703-201-1250.

Performance. Sera Cahoon opens for Kathleen Edwards at 7:30 p.m. in the Music Hall at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com or 703-549-7500 for tickets.

Creative Writing Session. 1 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Get the creative juices flowing with the help of Camilla Clocker and Julie Ellis. Free, open to the public. 703-765-4573.

Lecture. 4:30-6:30 p.m. at Virginia Tech Center for Public Administration and Policy, 1021 Prince St. William Resh will give the lecture. RSVP to www.eventbrite.com/event/5430524846#.

Mother Goose Time. 10 a.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Children ages 12-24 months can enjoy stories, activities, more. Free. 703-746-1705.

Story Time. 10:30 a.m. or 3 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children ages 3-5 can enjoy stories, activities, more. Free. Registration required, 703-746-1702 ext. 5.

Story Time. 11 a.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Children ages 3-5 can enjoy stories and more. Free. 703-746-1705.

Classic Film Series. 3:30 p.m. at Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Watch “David Copperfield” in honor of Charles Dickens’ 200th birthday. Free. 703-746-1704.

Story Time. 4 p.m. at Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St. Children ages 3 and up can enjoy stories and more. Free. 703-746-1703.

Paws to Read. 5:30 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children in grades 1-6 can read to friendly dogs.



Capital Wind Symphony

What do a professional musician, geophysicist, doctor, music teacher, Ft. Hunt little league baseball president, web designer, engineer and FBI agent have in common? They are all members of the Capital Wind Symphony, a volunteer wind ensemble founded in 1991.

The Capital Wind Symphony is dedicated to celebrating and preserving the great American band tradition, and repertoire for each concert includes transcriptions, classic band works, and contemporary compositions for wind ensemble and wind orchestra.

Today, the Capital Wind Symphony is comprised of some of the finest musicians in the Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, D.C. area, more than 75 professional-level wind and percussion musicians. The group includes numerous U.S. service band members and music educators, as well as individuals in non-music related professions who maintain a high degree of musical excellence and a passion for performance.

This season, the Capital Wind Symphony is excited to be performing in the Garwood Whaley Auditorium at Bishop Ireton High School in Alexandria. This state-of-the-art auditorium was built in 1998 and is considered one of the most impressive venues in Northern Virginia.

The Capital Wind Symphony has many connections to the Mount Vernon and Alexandria area. The group’s founder and conductor, George Etheridge, led the nationally renowned Fort Hunt High School band from 1977 until its closing in 1985. Several current CWS members performed with the FHHS and Mount Vernon High School bands during that time.

Etheridge has also served as adjunct professor of saxophone at Howard University, Catholic University, Federal City College, George Mason University and the College of William and Mary. He was the Director of Bands at the College of William

Registration required, 703-746-1702 x5.

Pajama Party. 7 p.m. at Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Children ages 3-6 can come dressed in their favorite outfit/pajamas and listen to stories. Free. 703-746-1704.

FRIDAY/FEB. 8

Organ Recital. 7:30 p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church, 3601 Russell Road. Kyle Babin, director of music, will present works by Bach, Byrd and more. Freewill offering. 703-549-1980.

Chamber Players Concert. 8 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Hear the United States Air Force Band brass trio and brass soloists. Free. Visit www.usafband.af.mil or 202-767-5658.

Rock Against Hunger. 7 p.m. at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, 8009 Fort Hunt Road. Hear music by local band Black Moon Tonic, enjoy pizza, drinks and more. \$15/adult; \$10/student; children under 10 free. Portion of the proceeds benefit UCM.

FEB. 8 THROUGH MARCH 17

Art Exhibit. See Matthew D. Kiehl’s “Craft and Character: Wasteland” at the Schlesinger Center Margaret W & Joseph L. Fisher Gallery. See an exploration of pen and ink on paper. Free.

SATURDAY/FEB. 9

Children’s Art Workshop. 1-3 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Children ages 5-12 can enjoy expressing their

and Mary from 1985-1991.

In its 21 year history, the Capital Wind Symphony has performed at the Kennedy Center Millennium Stage, National Building Museum, St. Matthew’s Cathedral, and various Embassies in the Washington, D.C., as well as the prestigious Mid-West International Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago.

The symphony also gives back to the community by working closely with music educators throughout the metropolitan area. The Symphony Coaching Outstanding and Refined Ensembles program was created by Etheridge, and is an educational outreach program for Fairfax County Schools sponsored by the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra. Members of the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra and Capital Wind Symphony sit side by side with band students to teach young musicians about music and their roles in the ensemble. In addition, the CWS offers Partners in Performance, similar to the SCORE program, to middle school and high school bands visiting the Washington, D.C. area.

The Capital Wind Symphony will be performing on Feb. 10. The remaining performances this season will be on April 14 and May 12. All concerts will be held at Bishop Ireton’s Garwood Whaley Auditorium at 8 p.m.

The program for the Feb. 10 concert includes Suite of Old American Dances by Robert Russell Bennett, Vientos y Tangos by Michael Gandalfi, Four Scottish Dances by Malcolm Arnold, Alfred Reed’s The Hounds of Spring, Felix Mendelssohn’s Overture for Band, and Richard Wagner’s Homage March.

Tickets for the upcoming concert at Bishop Ireton can be purchased at the door, or in advance online at www.capitalwindsymphony.org.

— CAROLYN MURPHY AND PAUL MURPHY

creativity in this hands-on workshop. \$10/DRA member; \$12/non-member. Registration first-come, first served and 30 students max. Register by Feb. 3 at www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

Music Performance. Celebrate the City of Alexandria with a performance by the Alexandria Symphony, the Alexandria Choral Society and more at 8 p.m. at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Tickets are \$5/youth; \$10/student; and start at \$40 for adults. 703-548-0885.

Civil War Songs & Letters. 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Dead Men’s Hollow will perform songs of the Civil War and new, original songs about the war; actors will read letters and diary entries from that time period. Reception to follow. \$10/person.

Opening Reception. 3-5 p.m. at the Schlesinger Center Margaret W & Joseph L. Fisher Gallery. Meet Matthew D Kiehl and see his exploration of pen and ink on paper. Free.

Valentine’s Dinner and Dance. 7 p.m.-midnight at Good Shepherd Catholic Church, 8710 Mount Vernon Highway. Enjoy a cash bar, food and more. Proceeds benefit Progreso Literacy and Citizenship Center. Tickets are \$30/person and available at GSCC or Progreso LCC or at the door.

Lecture. 1:30 p.m. at Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St. Michael Lee Pope will discuss his new book

“Shotgun Justice: One Prosecutor’s Crusade Against Crime and Corruption in Alexandria and Arlington.” Free. Light refreshments to follow.

Mountain Music Project. 8 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Watch the documentary “Mountain Music Project” and then enjoy some music. \$20/non-member; free for FSGW members, but donation requested. 301-717-4641.

Civil War Recruiting Day. 1-4 p.m. at Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site, 4301 W. Braddock Road. Learn about period clothing and equipment, watch drills and more. Free.

Saturday Matinee Screening. 1 p.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Features a Tarzan movie starring Johnny Weissmuller and a second film starring Abbott and Costello. Free. Call 703-746-1705 for titles.

Valentine’s Day Cookie Workshop. Three sessions at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. or 3 p.m. at Occasionally Cake, 207 King St. Participants will be able to decorate cookies, get a demonstration and a cookie box to take home. \$25/person. Reservations required at www.occasionallycake.com or 703-647-9638.

Teen Production. 7:30 p.m. at Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road. See “The Pink Panther Strikes Again.” \$10 available only at the door.

Balducci’s Wine Day. 8 a.m.-8 p.m., at Balducci’s, 600 Franklin St. Join professional winemakers, importers

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 20

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ENTERTAINMENT



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— African-American Spiritual

Details

Alexandria Symphony Orchestra performs at Rachel M. Schlesinger Hall, 3001 North Beauregard Street. Visit www.alexsym.org or call 703-548-0885.

World Premier of River Poem

It's hard to believe that it's my 25th anniversary as Music Director of the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra. The centerpiece of my anniversary year will be the world premiere of an epic symphonic piece composed by yours truly and my wife, Kathryn Vassar Kluge. River Poem will receive its premiere at the ASO's Feb. 9 and 10 concerts. During these performances I will be honoring all of you who have helped me and the ASO during my tenure as Music Director of the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, and for me, the most meaningful way to thank you is through music.

MAESTRO'S MUSINGS

The most frequent question that I receive these days is "How exactly do you and Kathryn compose music together? Isn't that really difficult?" To be quite honest I don't know how we do it.

The whole process of musical creation is such a mystery and it becomes doubly mysterious when creating music with another person. Composing music is the most personal thing that I do, so writing music with Kathryn is an intensely intimate and revealing process and it makes me feel at my most vulnerable.

When we were commissioned by Virginia Bronze to write this big orchestral piece we decided to honor Alexandria. We took our inspiration from a very personal place in our shared lives — our beloved long walks along Alexandria's magical waterfront. On these daily walks along the Alexandria waterfront we became incredibly fond of the Potomac and more attuned to the many shifting moods of this majestic and historic river as the light changed at different times of day.

Sometimes it seemed almost as if the Potomac was speaking directly to us — sharing its secrets and stories.

The stories of past and current Alexandrians seemed to come alive — their spirits and voices living and flowing perpetually through the Potomac.

Bells are used in cultures throughout the world to invoke the spiritual realm, and the bells in River Poem are used to invoke the voices and spirits of Alexandrians — past and present.

At the world premiere the bells will be placed in different locations on the stage and the balcony to simulate the sound of voices rising from the river. Sometimes gigantic bells will be struck with mallets like a surreally oversized xylophone. Sometimes the bells will be rung. Sometimes they will be hit with chopsticks. Sometimes their eerie voices will be initiated like Tibetan singing bowls. But always they will be integrated into the majestically flowing symphonic textures of the orchestra and double chorus, as sung by The Alexandria Choral Society and Heritage Signature Choral.

River Poem sounds so very dramatic and so personal because its inspiration comes from a very personal place within both myself and Kathryn. What I can say about the joint-composing process is that we collaborate on every aspect of writing, from the initial discussions about the concept and the sound world, to the writing of melodies, to the choice of orchestral colors and instruments. It is sometimes a difficult and complicated process but I can honestly say that we elicit the best music from one another — a gift indeed.

I'll see you at the concert!

—KIM ALLEN KLUGE, MUSIC DIRECTOR
ALEXANDRIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 19

and aficionados as they sample various wines, trade recommendations and share stories; 25 percent off 12-plus bottle purchases. www.balduccis.com.

Peace, Love and Chocolate for the Cure. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at 1200 Croton Drive. Enjoy a fundraiser and ladies' social benefiting breast cancer. RSVP to Holly at hjracer@gmail.com or 703-835-5534

Indoor Fly Fun. West Potomac High School is holding an event at the high school from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. for people who love model airplanes. Free, but a small fee for those who want to fly their plane.

Saturday Stories. 11 a.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. All ages can enjoy stories and songs. Free. 703-746-1702.

Meditation. 11 a.m. at Burke Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Take a free workshop and be guided through meditation and the proper breathing techniques. 703-746-1704.

Jewelry Workshop. 2 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Shannyn will help people capture the literary inspirations of Jane Austen, Emily Bronte and others in this romance inspired workshop. Free. Registration required, 703-746-1743.

Author Signing. 2-4 p.m. at Grounded Coffee Shop, 6919 Telegraph Road.

Pat Britz will read and sign copies of "Animals Need Zz's Too." Free. Visit www.groundedcoffeeshop.com/ or 703-341-6612.

Swordsmen's Rendezvous. Noon-4:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. See a re-enactment of 18th-century swordplay, display of weapons and more. Recommended for families with children in grade 2 and up. \$6/person. Reservations required, visit www.gadsbystavern.org or 703-746-4242.

SUNDAY/FEB. 10

10,000 Maniacs. 7:30 p.m. \$35. Visit www.maniacs.com/ The Birchmere Music Hall is located at 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

Ladies 18th-Century Tea. 3 p.m. or 3:15 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Sip the museum's special blend and eat period-inspired delicacies. \$35/person. Reservations required. 703-746-4242.

Music Performance. Celebrate the City of Alexandria with a performance by the Alexandria Symphony, the Alexandria Choral Society and more at 3 p.m. at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Tickets are \$5/youth; \$10/

student; and start at \$40 for adults. 703-548-0885.

Film Day. 2 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Watch "Akeelah & the Bee" in honor of African-American History Month. Free. Visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us or 703-746-1702.

Capital Wind Symphony Concert. 8 p.m. at Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door, and \$5 discounts for seniors and students. The program will include works by Robert Russell Bennett, Malcolm Arnold, Wagner and Mendelssohn. For tickets and additional information, see www.capitalwindsymphony.org, or for other questions contact 703-822-8282.

Teen Production. 3 p.m. at Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road. See "The Pink Panther Strikes Again." \$10 at the door only.

Music Performance. 3 p.m. at Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road. Hear the world premiere of "I Have Felt To Soar" by Christopher Weiss, winner of the 2012 Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association Composition Competition; piano recording artist Anna Balakerskaia and solo violinist Zino Bogachek will perform with the Washington

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 21

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 20

Metropolitan Philharmonic. \$20/ general; age 18 and under are free. Visit www.wmpamusic.org for more.

Civil War Sunday. 1-5 p.m. at Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 N. Union St. See an original May 26, 1861 edition of the "New York-Tribune" detailing Col. Elmer Ellsworth's death in Alexandria, an exhibit on a Lee Street archaeological site and more. Free. Visit www.alexandriaarchaeology.org or call 703-746-4399.

THROUGH FEB. 10

Art Exhibit. Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, located in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St., has on display "QR Codes." Free. Visit www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com.

Call for Applicants. Apply for the Visiting Artist Program for residency at the Torpedo Factory. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for details on how to apply.

MONDAY/FEB. 11

Performance. John Mayall celebrates "80th Birthday Celebration Tour!" at 7:30 p.m. in the Music Hall at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com or 703-549-7500 for tickets.

Deadline for Submission. All entries for "Trash Talk" can be submitted to Target Gallery, Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Visit www.torpedofactory.org or 703-838-4565.

Duncan Poetry Society Meeting. 7 p.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Discuss the sonnets of William Shakespeare, bring a favorite to read, or, if time permits, read a piece of published or unpublished original work. Free.

Burlesque-A-Pades for Valentine's Day

For the past seven years, **The World Famous Pontani Sisters** have made a Valentine's Day pilgrimage to the **Birchmere Music Hall** with their classic burlesque revue **Burlesque-A-Pades**. This consistently sold out extravaganza has garnered dedicated fans, glowing press review and thousands of happy customers. It is the perfect go-to destination for those looking to celebrate the spirit of St. Valentine's Day with a little romance, laughter and good times. This year is no different as the sister's pack their travel trunks full of glittering costumes, bursting feather boa's and towering top hats and return to the Birchmere with a whole new show on **Thursday, Feb. 14.**

In the great spirit of classic burlesque and vaudeville, **Burlesque-A-Pades** combines highly choreographed production numbers featuring chorus lines of cuties, sultry strip tease, magic, illusion, live music and even classic burlesque and vaudeville skits in the spirit of Jackie Gleason, Fanny Brice and even Abbott and Costello. The tradition doesn't end there, we are over the moon to announce this year's spectacular will be backed by live music from the Brian Newman Quintet. Live music is an integral part of any burlesque show and pays tribute to the history of this great American theatrical art form.

Tickets are \$29.50. Doors open at 6 p.m., the show begins at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 14. The Birchmere Music Hall is located at 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

703-747-1704.

Little One-Ders. 10:30 a.m. or 11:15 a.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children ages 12-23 months can enjoy stories and more. Registration required, 703-746-1702 ext. 5.

Baby Time. 11 a.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Children up to 11 months can hear stories and more. Sign up half-hour before it begins. Free. 703-746-1705.

Animal Shelter Visit. 3:30 p.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. An employee from the shelter will talk about the animals they have, their habits and more. Animals usually come along. For children in grades K to 5. Free.

703-746-1705.

Read, Sing & Play Baby. 4 p.m. at Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St. Children up to 11 months can enjoy stories and more. Free. 703-746-1703.

Interfaith Book Club. 7 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Read nonfiction works that strive to find common ground through recognizing and celebrating common values. Free. Call 703-746-1743 for title.

Let's Talk Books. 7 p.m. at Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St. Discuss "The Black Count" by Thomas Reiss. Free. 703-746-1703.

Auditions. 6 p.m. at Job Stuart High

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 22



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 Submission deadline is February 22.

ENTERTAINMENT

Share a Sweet Day



Occasionally Cake of Old Town Alexandria (207 King St.) is featuring a hands-on Valentine's Day Cookie Decorating workshop Saturday, Feb. 9. For all ages, three sessions available: 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. \$25 per person. Reservations required. Call 703-647-9638 to register or visit www.occasionallycake.com.

FROM PAGE 21

School. Audition for The Youth Orchestras of Fairfax. Contact Teresa Smith at teresa@tyof.org to arrange an audition. Audition materials can be found at www.tyof.org/.

Tavern Toddlers. 10:30 a.m.-noon at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Toddlers, walkers through 36 months old, can enjoy crafts, playtime and more. \$7/group of three which must include an adult; or \$30/5-week pass. No reservations required. Visit www.gadsbys-tavern.org or call 703-746-4242.

TUESDAY/FEB. 12

Antique Furniture: Fake, Fraud or Genuine? 7 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Dr. Oscar Fitzgerald, local author and professor, will discuss the principles that guide antique dealers and collectors to distinguish the fake from the genuine and the masterpiece from the mistake. Free. Visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us or 703-746-1702.

Stories and Songs. 10 a.m. or 11 a.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Children ages 1-4 can enjoy stories and more. Sign up half-hour before. Free. 703-746-1705.

Mother Goose Time. 10:15 a.m. at Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St. Children ages 12-24 months can enjoy games, rhymes and more. Free. 703-746-1703.

Time For 2s. 10:30 a.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children age 24-36 months can enjoy stories and more. Free. Registration required, 703-746-1702 ext. 5.

Tuesday Tots. 11 a.m. at Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Children ages 2-3 can enjoy stories and more. Free. 703-746-1704.

Stories to Grow On. 11 a.m. at Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St. Children age 2 and up can enjoy stories and more. Free. 703-746-1703.

Baby Rhyme Time. 11:30 a.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children up to 11 months can enjoy rhymes and more. Free. Registration required, 703-746-1702 ext. 5.

Paws to Read. 5:30 p.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Children in grades 1-6 can read to friendly dogs. Registration required, 703-746-1705.

Game Night. 7 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children ages 8-12 can play with their friends. Free. 703-746-1702.

THROUGH FEB. 12

Introduction to Cartoon Drawing. 6-7:30 p.m. at Art at the Center, 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. Children ages 8-12 will receive an introduction to materials, figure drawing, character creation and storyboarding. \$180/student. Register at www.artatthecenter.org or 703-201-1250.

FEB. 12 THROUGH MARCH 24

Art Exhibit. Multiple Exposures Gallery in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St., will showcase work by three new artists: Tim Hyde, Soomin Ham and Fred Zafran. Each artist will showcase the world around us. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 13

Mother Goose Time. 10:15 a.m. at Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St. Children ages 12-24 months can enjoy games, rhymes and more. Free. 703-746-1703.

Time For 2s. 10:30 a.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children age 24-36 months can enjoy stories and more. Free. Registration required, 703-746-1702 ext. 5.

Stories to Grow On. 11 a.m. at Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St. Children age 2 and up can enjoy stories and more. Free. 703-746-1703.

Spanish Story Time. 1 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. All abilities and all levels can join in for stories. Free. 703-746-1702.

Celebrate the Presidents. 4 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children ages 6-12 can hear stories about the presidents and more. Free. 703-746-1702.

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6:30 pm Mass (from Sept. 9 until mid June)	Sign Language Interpreter Sunday at 9:00 am Mass

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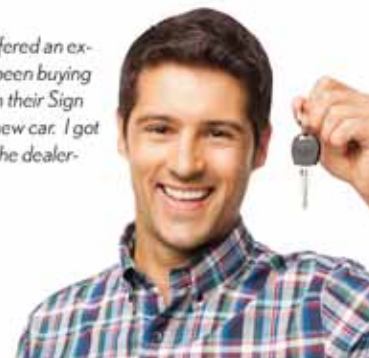
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