

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

SEPTEMBER 12, 2013

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Inside



Remembering Those Who Serve First Lady marks Patriot Day at Fort Belvoir.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE GAZETTE

First Lady Michelle Obama marked the 12th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon with a visit to the new USO Warrior and Family Center at Fort Belvoir.

Following morning ceremonies at the White House that included a moment of silence at 8:45 a.m., Obama arrived at the base just after 1:30 p.m. to visit with military families and participate in a patriotic craft project with children.

"Do you know you are heroes?" she asked the children of military families. "I am here to shine a light on all the great work the USO does for military families."

In honor of Patriot Day, a Na-

tional Day of Service and Remembrance, the USO of Metropolitan Washington hosted the First Lady at the new facility as part of a worldwide salute to the nation's troops and their families.

Also in attendance were USO President and CEO Sloan Gibson, Elaine Rogers, CEO and President of USO Metropolitan Washington, Col. Gregory Gadson, Commander

of the U.S. Army Fort Belvoir Garrison and actor and veterans advocate Gary Sinise.

Later in the day, Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band were scheduled to perform a concert to a crowd of 5,000 at Pullen Field on the base.

Opened on Feb. 5, 2013, the 20,000-square-foot facility is the largest center in USO history.

SEE REMEMBERING, PAGE 5



PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/THE GAZETTE

First Lady Michelle Obama talks with children as they work on a patriotic craft project.

Actor and veterans advocate Gary Sinise looks at the children's craft work.

Stable Instability Feds offer to construct new horse stable at Woodlawn.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE GAZETTE

Officials with the Federal Highway Authority have offered to construct a new horse stable at Woodlawn to replace the one that will be demolished as part of a project to re-route parts of Richmond Highway. But leaders at the National Trust for Historic Preservation have not yet decided whether or not they want to continue allowing horses on their property, a land use that dates back at least a century. For now, though, the business that rents space at the existing Woodlawn Stables expects that it will be forced to close down or move on.

"We will no longer be at this location," said Cindy Mitchell. "We will try to go somewhere else and keep doing what we do and be another part of another community."

Mitchell said that nobody from the Trust has approached her about moving into a barn that would be constructed by the Federal Highway Administration. As



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/THE GAZETTE

Woodlawn Stables has been in operation for more than 50 years.

a result, she said, she's expecting to close a business that's been in operation for more than 50 years. Even if she is able to find a new location outside of Fairfax County, the business would be radically different — the end of an era for a business that's been a part of the Mount Vernon community for generations.

"The morale is down," said Arvin Reynolds, a blacksmith for the business. "It's just a sad thing to see such a historical property go away."

THE DEBATE about the future of Woodlawn began when thousands of new employees were moved to Fort Belvoir as part of the Base Closure and Realignment process several years ago. The increased traffic load caused major problems on Richmond Highway, the major north-south corridor in the region. U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8) secured a \$180 million appropriation to widen the road.

"This agreement is great news for the commuters along the already crowded Route 1 corridor,"

said Moran in a written statement. "This is a good outcome following a thorough process — everyone with something at stake was able to arrive at a compromise."

But that compromise created a

new dilemma. Leaders at the National Trust for Historic Preservation said widening the road would encroach on land protected by federal law. And leaders at Woodlawn Baptist Church said they were concerned widening in place might cause dozens of graves to be interred. So leaders at the Federal Highway Administration created a plan called the "southern bypass," re-routing the road to the south in an effort to avoid federally protected land and the Baptist cemetery. But that plan put the new road directly in the path of the horse stable at Woodlawn.

"We can empathize with them as neighbors and with people in the community," said Travis Hilton, pastor at Woodlawn Baptist

SEE STABLE, PAGE 10

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NEWS

Bicycling for Research

Annual ride raises funds for lymphoma research.

By ASHLEY CLAIRE SIMPSON
GAZETTE PACKET

On Sunday, Sept. 22, the Lymphoma Research Foundation will hold its seventh annual Lymphoma Research Ride. Hundreds of present and former lymphoma patients, as well as families, friends and supporters, will embark on a fundraising bike ride on a 25, 39, or 50-mile route, through Montgomery County, Md.

The National Capital Chapter of the Lymphoma Research Foundation, which includes Washington D.C. and its surrounding areas in Maryland and Virginia, was formed seven years ago, according to Jennifer Davis, senior director of Chapters and Events for the Foundation. She added that this cycling event has raised millions of dollars for lymphoma research.

"Over the past seven years, the Lymphoma Research Ride has raised more than \$2.5 million for lymphoma research, with last year's ride netting a record of more than 530,000 dollars raised," Davis said. "We are aiming to beat that number this year with a goal of reaching 550,000 dollars, and we are more than halfway there."

People of all different biking levels are encouraged to ride, even cyclists who have never pedaled even a mile, or have not been on two wheels in years.

"Currently, we have 248 individuals and 34 teams registered," Davis said. "We expect to have at least 300 participants across all skill levels join and ride for the cause through Montgomery County."

ONE OF THE 248 signed-up individuals

Details

Visit www.lymphoma.org/ride2013 to register for or donate to the Lymphoma Research Foundation's Ride, which will start at The Barnesville School in Dickerson, Md. on Sept. 22 at 9 a.m.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

U.S. Navy Captain Jeanmarie Patnaude-Jonston with her husband Lt. Col. James G. Jonston, USMC, retired.

is a current lymphoma patient, U.S. Navy Captain Jeanmarie Patnaude-Jonston of Alexandria. Jonston was diagnosed with Follicular Lymphoma Stage IV on June 4 of this year.

Jonston said her doctor, Dr. Bruce Cheson, who is also a member of the Lymphoma Research Foundation's Scientific Advisory Board, was the one who first approached her about the ride. Jonston figured that, as a 30-year deputy commander of administration in a variety of hospitals, she would be most effective not by riding, but instead by helping with the event administratively.

"When I first met Dr. Cheson, he asked me if I rode bikes," Jonston said. "I said, 'no, I don't, but that I'd be happy to help administratively.' Then, I thought, I wouldn't be able to solicit or request contributions that way."

Jonston said that although she is not experienced or even all that comfortable on a bike, she is determined to finish her 25-mile ride.

"It's 25 miles, and if I have to carry this bike, I will finish that 25 miles," Jonston said.

Due to her recent diagnosis, she only started fundraising in the last two and a half

SEE BICYCLING, PAGE 9

The pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; the optimist, the opportunity in every difficulty.

—L.P. Jacks

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NEWS

Get Ready for Fort Hunt Park Community Day

Event will celebrate
— and clean up —
local park.

BY ASHLEY CLAIRE SIMPSON
THE GAZETTE

On Sunday, Sept. 29, the first-ever Fort Hunt Park Community Day will take place at the Fort Hunt Community Park, a 197-acre historical park located off the George Washington Memorial Parkway in Alexandria.

The non-profit organization, the Friends of Fort Hunt Park, Incorporated, is co-sponsoring the event with the National Park Service and the National Parks Conservation Association to both celebrate the park and for an official clean up.

"We want to celebrate Fort Hunt Park as a vital part of the community and to enhance its recreational resources and its rich history," FFHPI president Dorothy Canter said.

Centuries rich in American history, the land deemed Fort Hunt has been a recreational park since the 1950s. FFHPI, however, was not established until 2012. According to Cantor, FFHPI signed an official agreement with the National Park Service in late 2012 that formalized a fundraising campaign. Part of the FFHPI mission statement is to "enhance the visitor experience at Fort Hunt Park."

"We expect a very good turnout," said John Elliff, secretary of the FFHPI. "Forty Boy Scouts are expected to be present on the day."

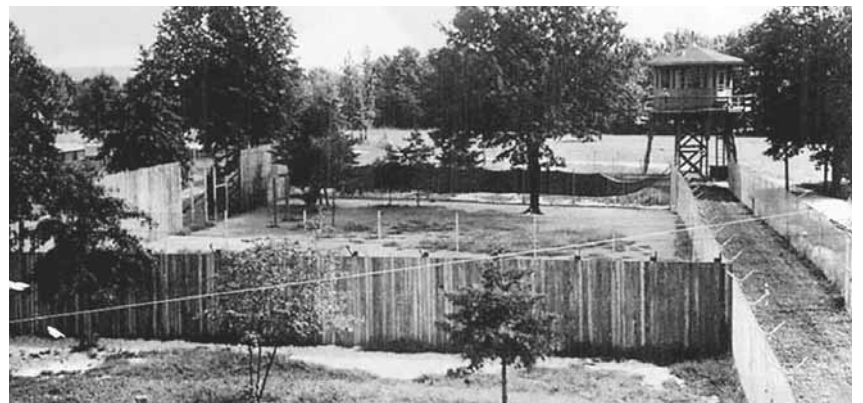
More than 50 fix-up volunteers, many of which are Boy Scouts, have signed up to participate, and volunteers will attend the event, and last minute volunteers are also encouraged.

Elliff said preparation and fundraising for the event began months ago, in February, when the FFHPI board started meeting. He added that he expects mostly members of the Fort Hunt Community to attend.



Gen. Henry Jackson Hunt is the Civil War Union artillery commander at Gettysburg for whom Fort Hunt Park is named.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF
FRIENDS OF FORT HUNT
PARK, INC.



A prisoner of war camp was on the site during World War II.



The Balalaika Orchestra performing at the Summer Sunday Concert Series.



Picnickers by Picnic Pavilion A.

"I expect this event to be attended mostly by the Fort Hunt Community, which is part of the Mount Vernon District of Fairfax County," Elliff said.

The park was originally considered part of George Washington's Mount Vernon estate lands, and is now named for Civil War General Henry Jackson Hunt.

Elliff said that aside from clean-up and celebration of the popular community park, a key element of the day will be to remember the park's namesake.

"Fort Hunt Community Day is a great opportunity for local residents and other park supporters to help the NPS maintain and improve this National Park unit's wonderful recreational resources in a period of declining federal budgets," Elliff said. "We also want to remember General Hunt, an unsung hero of the Battle of Gettysburg 150

years ago."

There will be four elements of the Fort Hunt Community Day, which officially runs from 1-5 p.m.

"At this point, the four elements are celebrating the park by fixing it up, and two, by remembering the Civil War general that it is named after, and what he did in the Civil War," Elliff said. "Third, there is going to be a one-mile walk through the park. Both the talk on General Hunt and the one-mile walk will begin at 3. Finally, there is going to be a program at program at 4 p.m. which includes music by the Mount Vernon Dixieland Band and the presentation of donations to the park by the Friends of Fort Hunt Park."

He added that the FFHPI also plans to announce that there were enough donations to place an arrowhead sign and new sound

equipment at the park.

At the time of the donation presentation and the entertainment portion of the day, Elliff said there will also be light refreshments for the participating volunteers. FFHPI encourages all park supporters to be a part of the commencement event.

The park has been a significant part of history since the 1800s, when it was established as a part of the U.S. coastal defense system. During World War II, it was the site of a top secret military intelligence program.

Elliff said this event will be a "kick-off event," and will be just the start of FFHPI improvement and celebratory events and projects.

"Donations will continue on an ongoing basis for other projects, and this event will possibly be annual," Elliff said. "A similar event will take place every fall."

Aldersgate Prepares Annual Fundraising Golf Outing

Event to benefit variety of charities.

BY NAOMI SMOOT
THE GAZETTE

Elizabeth King, 12, is setting her sights high for her first-ever golf tournament. "I've never done this before. My one hope is that I get a hole in one," she said.

Elizabeth and her family are among those who have signed up for the Aldersgate United Methodist Men's 5th Annual Golf Outing. The event will take place at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 21, at Joint Base Andrews' West Course.

"She's been wanting to go out and play

and this is a great way to do it," said her father, Bob King.

King has been playing in the tournament since it first began. When his son David, 15, became old enough, he joined his dad on the course. Now, Elizabeth will do the same. All three are planning to head out for a day together on the golf course.

The family said the event is a great way to spend time together, playing a sport they enjoy in a noncompetitive environment.

"It's a great, very relaxed atmosphere. It's open to all abilities, and it doesn't really matter how good you are," King said.

Ken Galbreath, chair of the tournament,

Details

Aldersgate United Methodist Men's 5th Annual Golf Outing
2 p.m., Saturday Sept. 21
Joint Base Andrews- West Course
\$110 for the first family member, \$90 for each additional member.

said the day features a number of elements that are meant to reduce the stress and increase the fun for all participants. The tournament is best ball, and also permits mulligans and free throws. Additionally, Galbreath said, this year it will feature "string." Each participant is given 10 feet of string to use as they wish. If a putt winds

up close to the hole, but doesn't quite make it in, either a portion or all of the string can be used in place of another swing, he said.

The result is an environment that is well suited for both individuals and families, he said.

"It would be a good day to come out with your brothers, sisters, husband or wife. We're eliminating the cut throat nature of golf," said Galbreath.

The event is open to members of the church, as well as the community at large, Galbreath said, noting that as of Sept. 7 roughly 20 to 30 people from outside the church had signed up to play.

SEE ALDERSGATE, PAGE 7



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Remembering Those Who Serve

FROM PAGE 1

Staffed by 350 volunteers from the USO of Metropolitan Washington, the USO Warrior and Family Center supports wounded, ill and injured troops, their families and caregivers as well as local active duty troops.

Built at a cost of \$12 million, the center is part of the \$100 million USO fundraising campaign Operation Enduring Care.

Visit www.USOMetro.org

PHOTOS BY
JEANNE THEISMANN
THE GAZETTE



Michelle Obama admires the crafts of some of the children in attendance on Wednesday.



Michelle Obama, with actor and veterans advocate Gary Sinise at her side, delivers cookies from the White House.



"I've made a lot of good friends since moving to the Hermitage."
—John Mutchler



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SOLD



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Aldersgate Prepares Annual Fundraising Golf Outing

FROM PAGE 3

The tournament is the Aldersgate United Methodist Men's largest fundraiser of the year. Galbreath said it has traditionally generated between \$3,000 and \$4,000 for the organization. Nearly 35 percent of that helps support the church's missions projects.

"It's a good way to go out and donate to a good cause," said David King.

The money is put towards local, national, and international projects alike, Galbreath

said. A portion of the funds are used to support New Hope Housing, a local non-profit that operates shelters and other housing for Fairfax County's low-income residents. Funds are also put towards the Ft. Apache Mission in Arizona.

Galbreath said that nearly one-third of the event's proceeds are used to support the Highland Support Project in Guatemala.

"For us, it's a significant investment," he said.

The project helps support indigenous

communities in the highlands of Guatemala. Each year, members of the church travel to the area in an attempt to help improve the lives of the local community. This year, the volunteers' work included building stoves to help reduce the problems of deforestation that plague the area, said David King.

"It's a really cool project, and it's a bunch of fun too," he said.

Those who are interested in registering for the golf tournament are asked to contact Galbreath at 703-975-1166. Registra-

tion is \$110 for the first family member, and \$90 for each additional family member. Sponsorships are also available.

The registration fee includes green fees, cart rentals, range balls, a practice range, and a light supper at the end of the event. Galbreath said a range of door prizes will also be available. These range from free clubs and golf bags to balls, gloves and other golf-related items.

"If you play, you get a prize," he said. Registration closes Sept. 16.

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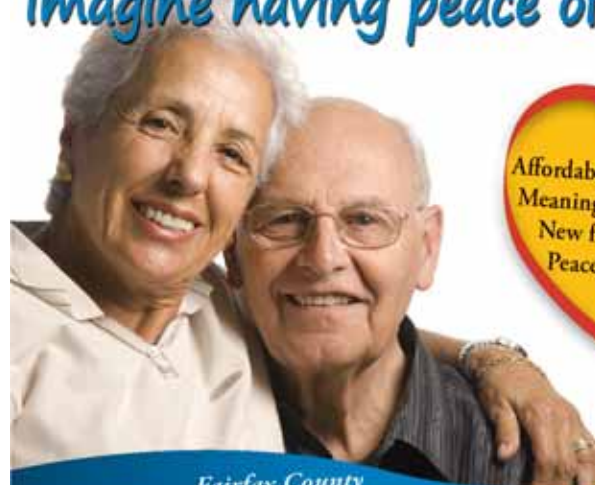
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OPINION

Small Steps to Fight Homelessness

Efficiency apartments would serve retirees, 20-somethings, service workers, and more.

One way to prevent homelessness is to think small. It doesn't take much space to house one person. Sure, many houses in our area have 1,000 square feet and sometimes two or three times that much per person, but that's really not necessary.

In fact 350 square feet can provide space for an excellent efficiency apartment for one person. We have certainly heard a variety of anecdotes about apartments in New York City that are smaller than 150 square feet, and expensive to boot.

A proposal in Fairfax County would allow for the construction of efficiency apartments in a variety of settings, each one subject to approval individually. Efficiency apartments near public transportation could provide reasonably priced housing not just for individuals in danger of being homeless, but also for recent college graduates, for service workers, for older folks who don't want or can't afford to stay in single family homes when they retire. The move to smaller apartments and

condos close to jobs, shopping and public transportation is a national trend. Fairfax County needs to move forward with a flexible proposal to allow construction of efficiency apartments in certain settings, and compatible with existing neighborhoods.

Some neighborhood associations are concerned about the proposal. They envision builders poised to build many apartment buildings filled with nothing but tiny apartments or single family homes split up into small apartment complexes.

There is no chance of such an outcome. The proposed amendment does not allow single family homes to be converted into efficiency apartments.

In fact, as a county, we would be very lucky if this proposal resulted in any efficiency apartments being built at all. The current restrictions are such that developers are unlikely to find incentive to build.

The proposed amendment requires that RSUs "shall be designed so as to be compatible with any existing development on the lot

in terms of intensity, uses and scale. Additionally, the development shall be harmonious with the development on neighboring properties in terms of character, building size, height, intensity and use."

Jeans Day

Jeans Day, coming Oct. 18, is a simple way to fight homelessness, designed for companies and their employees to make a difference.

In partnership with the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness, the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce and Apple Federal Credit Union, the Connection Newspapers is a sponsor of the 3rd Annual Jeans Day to Put the ZIP on Homelessness, scheduled for Friday, Oct. 18, 2013.

Employees are allowed to wear jeans to work on Friday, Oct. 18, (Jeans Day) in exchange for a \$5 employee contribution to the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness. Companies and organizations are encouraged to match employee contributions, but a match is not required. Companies and organizations that sign up by Sept. 20 will get extra exposure.

Sign up for Jeans Day 2013 at <http://jeansday2013.eventbrite.com/>

Fear of Action Opens Way for Diplomacy

This new plan on Syria has Moran's support.

BY JIM MORAN
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE (D-8)

Congress returned to Washington this week with a full plate of contentious issues. The most immediately pressing was President Obama's request for congressional approval to carry out limited surgical strikes in Syria against the regime of Bashar al Assad, responding to his use of chemical weapons to attack Syrian civilians, which killed, in gruesome fashion, 1,429 people, including 426 children.

Most Americans, including a large majority in Northern Virginia, oppose U.S. military intervention in the Syrian conflict (my calls are running 93 percent to 7 percent against). I can understand their deep concern. The Bush Administration deliberately misled the public in seeking authorization for war in Iraq. That conflict, and the challenges we've faced in Afghanistan, have left a war-weary public, distrustful of any effort to engage militarily elsewhere in the world, particularly in the Middle East. It's shameful, the money spent on the Iraq War, especially given that the result was a country more aligned with Iran than the U.S. That money could and should have been used for nation-building here at home. And first and foremost, the lives of American soldiers lost in both conflicts is heart breaking and at least with regard to Iraq, inexcusable.

But the situation in Syria is very different.



Failure to stop Assad from using chemical weapons would be something we would deeply regret, allowing the use of chemical weapons to become a new norm of war fighting and increasing the threat that these attacks could one day be used against future generations of Americans.

What the President has been talking about is not war. It's limited missile strikes, designed to punish Assad, damage his military capability, and deter him from using chemical weapons again in the future. There is ample precedent for such actions. Presidents Reagan and Clinton both used their authority as President to launch limited strikes to achieve positive foreign policy outcomes. President Clinton essentially ended the atrocities in Kosovo and Bosnia through the use of military strikes. The biggest regret of his presidency, he has stated, was not using military force to curtail the Rwandan genocide.

In recent days, the situation has changed dramatically. Russia has agreed, with Syria's approval, to facilitate the securing of their chemical weapons arsenal in exchange for an agreement that the U.S. will not launch a strike. In this case, the fear of U.S. military action has pushed the Russians to finally engage constructively in this conflict. For the past two and a half years, the Russians have stymied every effort at the U.N. Security Council to stop Assad's atrocities against his own people.

This new plan has my support. As an adamant, vocal opponent of the Iraq War, I be-

lieve deeply that the use of military force should be a last resort after diplomatic efforts have been exhausted. If the Russians and Syrians are true to their word, and Assad's use of chemical weapons stops, the long standing international norm against the use of chemical weapons will have been upheld and no further direct U.S. military involvement is necessary. If the Russian intercession proves to be merely a ploy to buy time, forestalling international action while Assad gains ground on the battlefield through the further deployment of chemical weapons, I would be in support of military action.

Russia has long been the key to ending the conflict in Syria through diplomacy. Let us hope that their new tack will set the diplomatic process in motion which will always be the far preferable approach to military action.

AN ASIDE

My wife and I live just a few blocks from George Washington's Mount Vernon home, on land that was once part of his estate. Most mornings, we go out onto the back porch, overlooking beautiful woods, and read the daily newspaper. (Won't tell you which one, lest we reveal our political leanings and alienate some valued readers of this newspaper.)

We like to think that, hundreds of years ago, George rode his horse (whose name, I think, was Romney), across the land we now live on.

I have scoured our property for tangible signs of that, such as ancient hoof prints or lumps of dried horsie "stuff," but to no avail. But, not unlike many of today's Congressional "decisions," the lack of facts is no reason to avoid making an important decision. I rest my case.

— BART HEWITT

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NEWS

Bicycling for Research Funds

FROM PAGE 2

months. Still, due to the support of her military family and friends, she has been able to far surpass her starting goal.

"My first goal was about \$1,000, and that was doable, so I changed my goal to \$5,000," Jonston said. "Then it was \$7,000 ... and I am up to \$7,510 today."

After sending a fundraising request e-mail to about 200 people in her personal and professional networks, she received donations from all over the country, and even from donors in Okinawa, Japan.

"These are military people and some civilian friends that have done this," she said. "It's just, amazing. A few people from my church donated. I am now hoping to raise \$10,000 but I wasn't diagnosed until late ... I only started two months ago."

Jonston said it is important for people to keep advocating for lymphoma research and joining the battle against the disease.

"Nearly 80,000 patients get diagnosed every year with lymphoma, and many don't get diagnosed until the third or fourth stage," Jonston said, who was asymptomatic until she found a swollen lymph node in June. Now, she said, she has the disease everywhere, even in her bone marrow.

Jonston said that since she has been diagnosed with lymphoma, she considers it both a blessing and a duty to be Cheson's first patient in his clinical trial, for which she takes chemo type drugs daily and is scheduled for infusions as well.

"Dr. Cheson is one of the renowned cancer re-

searchers in the country, and he sponsors this protocol and clinical trial," Jonston said. "I was interested in doing something untraditional, because we are not going to be able to move further if we are not doing research. Somebody has got to step up to the plate, and it has to be this new generation of newly diagnosed patients."

In the two and a half months since she has been diagnosed, she has maintained a positive attitude, and attributes it in part to not only her friends and family, but also to the dedicated medical staff at Georgetown.

"I haven't met anyone who is not super dedicated to what they are doing, and that is awesome," Jonston said. "You cannot ask for better treatment, and they are such a dedicated staff."

I couldn't be in a better place. If you are going to get diagnosed with cancer, the D.C. metropolitan area is the best place to be."

Jonston said she is positive about her prognosis, and she would "take her odds to Vegas any day."

"Follicular lymphoma can be treated, but it never goes away," she said. "You can go into remission for a long time, but the cancer can come back. But, there is a 97 percent chance I will go into remission."

Jonston has been training on a stationary bike for these last couple months. Still, she said she is still nervous about the challenge she faces on Sept. 22.

"I'm getting anxious," she said. "I am going to finish this, because my characteristics will not let me not finish. I am not really a big bike rider, but this too shall pass, and it will help me do better next year and raise more money for the cause."

PUBLIC NOTICE

Please be advised that a brief fireworks display will take place as part of private events at George Washington's Mount Vernon on the following dates:

Wednesday, September 18, between 9:15 p.m. – 9:45 p.m. (5 minutes)

Tuesday, September 24, between 7:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. (4 minutes)

Thursday, September 26, between 9:45 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. (10 minutes)

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

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NEWS

Stable Instability

FROM PAGE 1

Church. "We obviously think there's a beauty in what is there in the operations."

THE UNANSWERED question is whether or not the National Trust for Historic Preservation believes there's beauty in the operations. A spokesman for the Trust said the organization has not yet decided whether they want to continue having horses on the property.

As negotiations continue between the parties, the offer of federal money to construct a new barn stands — at least for now.

"We don't want to cause any kind of adverse impact on local life unless it's absolutely unavoidable," said Doug Hecox, spokesman for the Federal Highway Administration. "The project seems like it would be best completed if this option was made available to the landowner."

Smoking Materials Cause Fire

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department units responded to a townhouse fire, Wednesday, Sept. 11, at approximately 1:15 a.m., in the Alexandria area of Fairfax County. The single family townhouse is located at 5254 Cozy Glen Lane.

Firefighters encountered heavy smoke and fire coming from the rear of the three-story townhouse upon arrival. Firefighters conducted an exterior and interior fire attack and brought the fire under control in approximately 20 minutes. The fire originated on the ground floor deck and extended

up and into the attic area.

Two adults and two children awoke upon hearing and seeing the fire burning on the outside of the home and escaped unharmed. Smoke alarms sounded as the fire was burning from the outside to the inside of the home, as the occupants were exiting the burning home. The family has been displaced. Red Cross is assisting the family. There were no injuries.

Damage is estimated at \$150,000.

The cause of the accidental fire was improperly discarded smoking materials.

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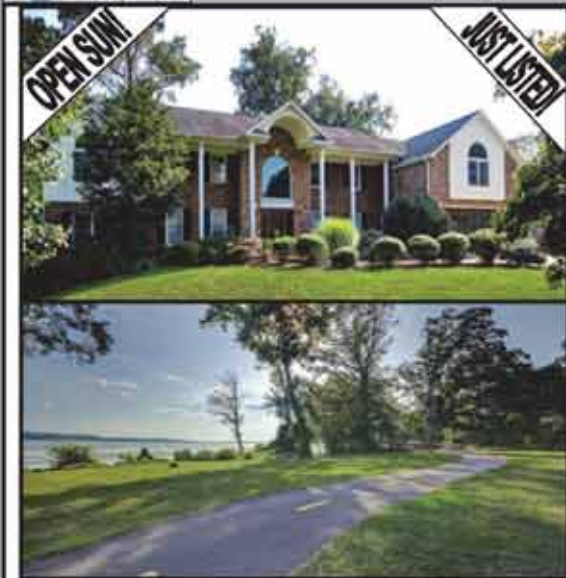
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***Classes begin on Tuesday, September 17th and end on Saturday, October 12th. They will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:00pm - 10:00pm and on Saturdays, 9:00am - 5:00pm during the day.

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Stoneybrooke
6715 STONEYBROOKE LN
JUST LISTED! Fully renovated 4BR/2Den/3.5BA beautiful home on great lot backing up to Stoneybrooke Park with a view of Historic Stone Mansion. Remodeled gourmet kitchen with 42" Thomasville cabinets, granite, SSA includes cooktop and double oven with warming drawer. Large master with new carpet, walk-in closet with custom design.

Cindy Nelson 703.965.7562



\$579,000
Old Town / Westover
"JUST LISTED"

Must see this nicely remodeled and expanded townhouse in popular Westover! 3BR/2BA, large open kitchen with island, deck, screened porch, lower level rec room with walk-out and more. Short and easy walk to the Metro, bike path, and Old Town. Two lights to DC!

Dayna Blumel / Kerry Adams
703.587.7841



\$620,000
Alexandria
6336 OLDE TOWNE CT
Great price! Gorgeous and spacious brick townhome with 4BR/3.5BA, 2 fireplaces, and 2 parking spaces. Fresh and updated with a contemporary flair. Professionally landscaped private brick patio. 1.5 miles from Old Town Alexandria. 2 blocks to Potomac River, walk to shops and restaurants. In Belle Haven! This is a MUST SEE!

Sharon Edwards 703.408.8144



\$739,000
Alex. / Cameron Sta
"SPACIOUS"
Airy and open 4 level home with bump outs on each level. Beautiful updates feature granite, stone backsplash, SSA, custom island, Dacor cooktop, breakfast room in the kitchen with adjacent family room and deck access. The upper levels have 4BR/3BA including a grand owner's suite. Lots of windows. Wood floors on 2 levels. 2 gas fireplaces. Plantation shutters thru-out the home. Fenced yard with stone patio.

Mike Lekas 703.927.9895



\$639,000
Waynewood
1205 PRISCILLA LN
Renovated, Move-in Ready plus Garage. Beautiful kitchen with cherry cabinets, granite, island, opens to DR. Large family room addition with terracotta floors, gas FP opening to private garden/patio. Hardwoods. LR with gas FP. Pool membership and more!

D'Antonio Realty Group
www.waynewoodrealtors.com
Elke, Liz and Anita
202.460.1809 or 703.967.7633



OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!
\$535,000
Alexandria
8320 FT HUNT RD

JUST LISTED! This large 3 level 3BR/2.5BA home with solarium is a "Gardener's Paradise". Skylights and bay windows allow sunshine to flood in. The lush garden provides views of nature and greenery from every window. Freshly painted, replacement windows, warm hardwoods, dining room, family room with FP, fenced yard, new roof, gutter guards. LL easily converted into in-law or au-pair suite.

Martha Deal 703.622.6797



\$925,000
Arlington
"COURTHOUSE TRIANGLE"
Best of Everything! 3 blocks to either Clarendon or Courthouse Metros and across from Whole Foods, Apple Store & Barnes/Noble is steps away. Leave the cars in the 2-car garage and walk to restaurants and shops. 3BR/2.5BA, 4 level townhouse with den on lower level. Corian countertops, lots of natural light and windows. Superb Master Suite.

Margaret Ruhe 703.599.7527



\$729,900
Waynewood
"VERY VERSITILE HOME"
Renovated and expanded Haddon Model with separate addition including a kitchenette, LR and full BA, perfect for in-laws, office, tenants or teens. 4 finished levels, 5BR/3BA, screened porch, fenced backyard. Walk to school, park, pool.

D'Antonio Realty Group / www.waynewoodrealtors.com
Elke Kohler, Liz Bessel and Anita Vida D'Antonio 202.460.1809



OPEN HOUSE 1 - 4!
\$350,000
Rose Hill Farm
6421 ROSE HILL DR
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Patricia Lewis 561.212.0508

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ENTERTAINMENT

Little Theatre's Life in the Farce Lane

Cooney's "Caught in the Net" opens at LTA.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE GAZETTE

Few will ever compare Ray Cooney to Shakespeare. The king of British bawdiness doesn't pretend to be the Bard of high-brow literature, but as Britain's recognized "master of farce," Cooney's comic genius is unmatched and on display in "Caught in the Net," now playing at The Little Theatre of Alexandria.

Written as a sequel to "Run for Your Wife," "Caught in the Net" is a fast-paced farce that finds taxi driver John Smith juggling two

families in different parts of London. When his teenaged children discover each other on the internet and decide to meet, John's already complicated life descends even further into disarray.

The mayhem takes place in the home of John and Mary Smith, who live in Wimbledon, and, simultaneously, the home of John and Barbara Smith, who live in Streatham. When John's daughter Vicki and son Gavin discover how much their fathers have in common — same age, same name, even the same job — John frantically tries to keep them apart and his two marriages together.

This deftly written comedy is expertly performed by an LTA cast led by the incomparable duo of Mike Baker as John and Paul Tamney as his confidante and upstairs Wimbledon tenant Stanley Gardner. Together they handle the intricately synchronized script with unparalleled verbal dexterity and spot-on timing.

Joining Baker and Tamney in the finely-tuned ensemble are Annie Ermlick as Barbara Smith, Tricia O'Neill-Politte as Mary Smith, Luke Markham as Gavin Smith, Eliza Lore as Vicki Smith, and Richard Fiske as Stanley's Dad. As a team they execute with razor-sharp precision Cooney's descent into delirium.

For Markham, a senior at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes High School, "Caught in the Net" is his theater debut.

"This is fantastic," Markham said following the opening night performance. "Everyone has been so welcoming. I couldn't have asked for a better experience."

Lore, a 17-year-old senior at West Potomac High



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/THE GAZETTE

Director Eleanor Tapscott, second from right, celebrates with the cast on the LTA set of "Caught in the Net" following the opening night performance Sept. 7. Seated with her are Richard Fiske, Eliza Lore, Annie Ermlick, Paul Tamney and Tricia O'Neill-Politte with Mike Baker in back.



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

WPHS senior Eliza Lore, at right with fellow cast member Luke Markham, is starring in the LTA production of "Caught in the Net."



PHOTO BY TABITHA RYAN-VAUGHN

Mike Baker (John Smith) dons a disguise in "Caught in the Net."

School, returns to LTA after appearing in "A Christmas Carol" at the age of 12.

"What a great night!" Lore said at the opening night reception. "There's nothing like performing in front of a live audience and hearing their laughter."

Under the tautly timed direction of Eleanore Tapscott, the LTA cast is peerless in delivering an evening of hilarity. "Caught in the Net" is British farce at its best — well staged, well cast and well written with a tale-ending twist you must see for yourself.

"Caught in the Net" is playing now through Sept. 28 at The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. For tickets or more information, call 703-683-0496 or visit www.thelittletheatre.com.

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Art Exhibit. Through Sunday, Sept. 29, see "In the Flesh 4" at the Target Gallery in the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. The exhibit examines contemporary figurative art. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org/target.

Art Exhibit. Through Sunday, Oct. 6, see "Voyage in Tangible Space" by Mei Mei Chang at the Schlesinger Center Margaret W. & Joseph L. Fisher Gallery, 3001 N. Beauregard St. It is a mixed media exhibit. Free. Visit www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/gallery.html for more information.

Art Exhibit. See "Collaborations" through Oct. 20 at Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery in Studio 18 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Artists share inspirations to create pieces combining the input of two or more artists. It is open from

10 a.m.-6 p.m. everyday except on Thursdays when it is open from 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Visit www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com for more.

Art Exhibit. See "Deep, Full, and Not Quite Real" at The Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince St., through Oct. 20. Features four artists exploring concepts of depth and three-dimensionality. Visit <http://www.nvfaa.org/> for more.

Encore Chorale. Mondays 10:30 a.m.-noon at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Dr. Register now for Encore Chorale's fall season. The group of singers, ages 55 and up, practice classical and holiday songs to prepare for December performances. \$150 tuition. Visit encorecreativity.org or call 301-261-5747.

African American Activists Exhibition. Through Saturday, Jan. 4, 2014, Living Legends of Alexandria is an ongoing photo-documentary project created in 2006 by artist-photographer Nina Tisara to identify, honor and chronicle people making current history in Alexandria.

This free exhibit is at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 601 Wythe St. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Visit www.alexblackhistory.org or call 703-746-4356.

Metro Club After-School Program.

From Sept. 9-June 2014, the Metropolitan School of Arts presents an after-school program for grades 1-6. The program is located at both the Lorton studio at Workhouse Arts Center, 9517 Workhouse Way and in Alexandria at 5775 Barclay Drive. Programs will focus on the arts, including music, dance, theatre, yoga and academics, as well as designated homework time. The program will run Mondays, 1-6 p.m., and Tuesday-Friday, 3-6 p.m. Tuition runs from \$130-150. Call 703-339-0444 or visit www.metropolitanarts.org.

Art Exhibit. See the second Front Porch Installation by Ned Egan. "Leci n'est pas une Magrite" is on display at 18 W. Linden St.

ART CLASS REGISTRATION

Fall Classes. Children ages 6-7 can

enjoy a theater class and pretend to be all sorts of characters on Mondays, starting Sept. 16, 4:30-5:30 p.m. at The Little Theatre of Alexandria. \$135 for the 8-week class. Register at www.thelittletheatre.com or 703-683-5778 ext. 2. Classes available for all ages and days.

Art Classes. Tuesdays from 7-8:30 p.m. at Art at the Center, 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. For children ages 12 and up. Begin with drawing figures and lines and work up to drawing in detail and on larger scale. Visit www.artatthecenter.org/registration.htm to register.

Art Classes. Wednesdays from 7-8:30 p.m. for children ages 9 and up. Focuses on clay work in the studio. Begins Sept. 11 at Art at the Center, 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. Visit www.artatthecenter.org/registration.htm to register.

Registration Still Open. The Art League School has openings in over 200 classes and 50 workshops, from painting, jewelry, photography and more. Visit www.theartleague.org to register.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 12

Second Thursday Art Night. 6-9 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Hear performances by local school ensembles, browse art exhibits and more. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

Reception. 6-8 p.m. meet some of the artists of "In the Flesh 4" at the Target Gallery in the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. The exhibit examines contemporary figurative art. There will be a juror talk at 7 p.m. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org/target for more.

Reception. Meet Kreshnik "Nick" Xhiku from 6:30-8 p.m. at The Art League Gallery in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. His exhibit "Structural Elements" explores the bounds between figurative and abstract sculpture. Visit www.theartleague.org or 703-683-1780.

Lecture Series. 7:30-9 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. The Potowmack Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society will

ENTERTAINMENT

'Gee's Bend' At MetroStage

BY CAROLYN GRIFFIN
METROSTAGE PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

The beauty of regional theatre is that each theatre has its own personality, its own character, both on and off the stage. So when seasons are announced there is usually a common theme, thread, tone that connects the choices made by the Artistic Director, reflecting individual interests, passions and personalities.

NOTES FROM THE PRODUCER As scripts cross our desks, actors and directors discover scripts that may be of interest. Media coverage of playwrights and plays are perused and a season slowly takes shape. What may appear as a random series of plays and musicals will ultimately reflect the aesthetic and intent of the theatre company.

Over time music has had an increasingly greater presence at MetroStage. Even though one of our first productions in the 1980s was Maltby & Shire's "Starting Here Starting Now," it took a while for us to realize music was our passion. And this year, as the season took shape, it became apparent that music was the connecting link in all five offerings. That, and the "emotional core" that seems to consistently inform and dominate our work.

This season the choices have a very profound musical component. In our opening production, the women of Gee's Bend sing gospel songs as they quilt. They are making quilts for their families' comfort, and at the same time, creating abstract designs that have been compared to Paul Klee, Frank Stella and Matisse, all the while participating in the Civil Rights movement. These women tell a remarkable story and the 17 songs sung in the gospel tradition add another dimension to this story and the history of Gee's Bend, which includes a visit by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. the night before the famous Selma march.

When you attend a play or musical at MetroStage,



PHOTO COURTESY ALABAMA SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

Margo Moorer, shown in the original production of "Gee's Bend" at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, will reprise her role as Nella at MetroStage.

you are recognizing the commitment we have made for the past 29 years to offer theatre with great artists and enriching stories that will explore your world and engage your intellect and emotions, stories of the human condition in all its complexity and challenges. Music covers the range of human experiences and emotions. Our productions this season will do the same, beginning with the beautiful gospel moments in "Gee's Bend," co-music directed by William Knowles and Alexandria's own William Hubbard.

"Gee's Bend" plays at MetroStage Sept. 12 - Nov. 3. For tickets or more information, call 703-548-9044 or visit www.metrostage.org.

CALENDAR

discuss "Celebrating the Natural Communities of VA." Free. Visit www.vnps-pot.org for more.

Second Thursday Music. 7 p.m. at The Atheneum, 201 Prince St. Jamey Turner will perform. \$10. Visit www.nvfaa.org or 703-548-0035.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 12-15

Fair Trade Oriental Rug Event. Ten Thousand Villages, 915 King St., will present hundreds of rugs from Bunyaad, a fair trade company that works with Pakistani artisans to produce hand-knotted rugs from their villages. Bunyaad ensures that each rug is designed and made by fairly paid adult workers. Ten Thousand Villages will hold a one-hour introduction to the event on Thursday, Sept. 12 at 7 p.m. Registration encouraged. Call 703-684-1435 or visit rugs.tenthousandvillages.com.

SEPT. 12 THROUGH NOV.3

Theater Performance. See the premiere of "Gee's Bend" at MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St. Watch as the true story of the Pettway family unfolds during the Civil Rights Movement and they become famous for their iconic quilts. Performances for Gee's Bend will be Thursdays and Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 3 p.m.

and 8 p.m., Sundays at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. For ticket reservations call 800-494-8497 or go online to www.metrostage.org. For information and group sales call 703-548-9044.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 13

Theater Performance. 8 p.m. at Port City Playhouse, 1819 N. Quaker Lane. See "The Children's Hour" by Lillian Hellman. Visit www.portcityplayhouse.org/ for tickets.

Comedy Improv Performance. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. at The Atheneum, 201 Prince St. For people 18 and older. A dessert reception will follow. \$10. Visit www.nvfaa.org or 703-548-0035.

SATURDAY/SEPT.14

Colonial Market & Fair. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Mount Vernon Estate. Enjoy a re-creation of early-American marketplace with demonstrations, crafts and entertainment. Free Potomac River sightseeing cruises are available while supplies last. Event is included with regular admission \$17/adult; \$8/youth 6-11; children 5 and under free. Visit MountVernon.org/FallEvents for more.

Book Sale. 10 a.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Center.

Find items for all ages. 703-339-4610.

Wag A Tale. 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Children ages 5-12 can register to read aloud to a reading therapy dog. Registration required, 703-339-4610.

Apples from Seed to Pie. 10:30 a.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Children ages 3-8 can learn about plant life cycles with songs and activities. Free.

Registration required, 703-971-0010.
Multicultural Fest. Noon-4 p.m. at Four Mile Run Park and Community Building, 4109 Mount Vernon Ave. Features live music, activities representing the region's culture and more. Free. For more information, visit

www.alexandriava.gov/recreation, or contact Kelly Gilfillen at 703-746-4644.

Concert. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Performance by Bill Kirchen & Too Much Fun, as well as the Daryl Davis Band. Tickets on sale July 12. Visit www.birchmere.com or www.billkirchen.com.

Annual Community Fun Fair. 3 p.m. at Woodlawn Faith United Methodist Church, 7010 Harrison Lane. Events include free health screenings, zumba and nutrition classes, vendors, game trucks, food and more. The day will

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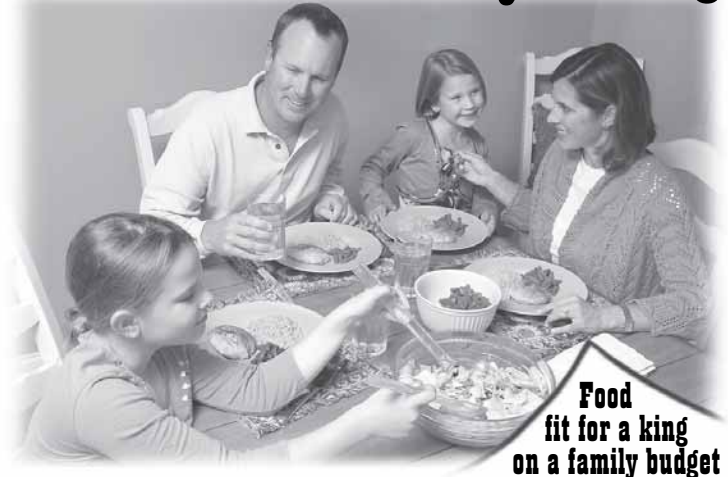
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ENTERTAINMENT

benefit youth and community. Vendor and sponsorship opportunity still available. Call 703-360-9450.

Theater Night. Reception with a buffet from 7-8 p.m. and watch "Gee's Bend" at 8 p.m. at MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St. \$75/person. Visit www.AlexandriaLegends.com to buy tickets.

Theater Performance. 8 p.m. at Port City Playhouse, 1819 N. Quaker Lane. See "The Children's Hour" by Lillian Hellman. Visit www.portcityplayhouse.org/ for tickets.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 15

Colonial Market & Fair. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Mount Vernon Estate. Enjoy a re-creation of early-American marketplace with demonstrations, crafts and entertainment. Free Potomac River sightseeing cruises are available while supplies last. Event is included with regular admission \$17/adult; \$8/youth 6-11; children 5 and under free. Visit MountVernon.org/FallEvents for more.

Civil War Sunday. 1-5 p.m. at Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 N. Union St., #327. Explore an original newspaper detailing the death of a colonel in Alexandria, a Peeps diorama, an exhibit featuring the Civil War drummer boy and more. Free. Visit www.alexandriarchaeology.org or 703-746-4399.

Dance. 2 p.m. at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. This unusual dance performance will investigate the endless cycle of resonance and reciprocity between artist and dancer with choreography by the mother of modern dance, Isadora Duncan, contemporary works by local Duncan Dance artists, as well as

improvisations directly in response to the "Full, Deep, and Not Quite Real" exhibit on display. Free. For more, visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

Performance. 7 p.m. at Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard St. Hear music from Last Train Home. \$18/door; \$15/advance or members. Visit www.focusmusic.org/concerts_alexandria.php or 703-501-6061.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 14-15

Free Admission. In celebration of the Executive Mansion's 200th anniversary, Governor Bob McDonnell and First Lady Maureen McDonnell designated 2013 the "Year of the Historic Home." As a part of that effort, many of Virginia's renowned historic homes and museums will be open admission-free to the public. Visitors just need to visit www.historicalhomes.virginia.gov/timetraveler.cfm to print their 'passport' for free admission to the participating sites.

MONDAY/SEPT. 16

Early Words. 10:30 a.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Children ages 12-23 months can enjoy songs and stories. Registration required, 703-339-4610.

A to Zoo Preschool Storytime. 10:30 a.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Stories and activities for children ages 3-5 with an adult. Registration required. Call 703-971-0010.

Cliffhanger Book Club. 7 p.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614

Fort Hunt Road. Children ages 8-10 can listen to a story being read aloud. Free. Registration required, 703-768-6700.

Spa-liday Event. 7-9 p.m. at Ten Thousand Villages, 915 King St. There will be refreshments, meditation techniques and more. Visit www.alexandria.ten-thousand-villages.com or 703-684-1435.

MONDAY-WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 16-18

Gad Elmale. At The Birchmere 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. \$45. Call 703-549-7500 or visit www.birchmere.com or www.gademaleh.com/.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 17

It's All About Me! 10:30 a.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Children up to age 23 months can enjoy stories, songs and movement activities. Free. Registration required, 703-768-6700.

Opening Reception. 5-7 p.m. at The Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. Artwork by artists over the age 55 will be on display. Meet some of the artists. Free. Exhibit runs from Sept. 18-Jan. 22, 2014.

Author Discussion. 7 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501

Old Town Theater Welcomes 'The Big Meow!'

Specially adapted for young audiences, Jane Franklin Dance offers a family-friendly performance of "The Big Meow!" Little Cat is taunted by neighborhood felines because his meow is just too darn loud. The dance-based performance is adapted from the children's book by Baltimore author Elizabeth Spires and tells the story of an ever-hopeful orange fluffball who desperately wants to belong to the band of neighborhood cats, but is ostracized for his "loud as a lion's roar" meow. Children and parents alike will enjoy the imaginative retelling of this story through dance.

Jane Franklin Dance presents "The Big Meow!" on Sept. 21, Oct. 19 and Nov. 16 at 2 p.m. at Old Town Theater, 815 1/2 King St. Tickets are on sale at \$15. Order in advance at www.oldtowntheater1914.com or purchased at the door. Box office phone: 703-533-5415. Visit www.janefranklin.com.



Sherwood Hall Lane. Adults and teens can discuss "Gaining Ground" by Forrest Pritchard. Free. 703-765-3645.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 18

Presentation on Vintage Dresses. 9:30 a.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Mount Vernon Antique Club presents a discussion on vintage dresses from 1900-1930. Free. 703-765-4573.

Fun for 2's and 3's. 10:30 a.m. or 11 a.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Stories and activities for ages 2 and 3 with an adult. Registration required. Call 703-971-0010.

SEPT. 18-JAN. 22

Art Exhibit. At The Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. Artwork by artists over the age 55 will be on display. Free.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 19

Yappy Hour. 5:30 p.m. Artfully Chocolate, 506 John Carlye Street. Artfully Chocolate has teamed up with pet care company Paw'k Ave to create happy hours with a twist. Call 703-575-8686 or visit www.pawk-ave.com.

Martha's Poetry Discussion. 7 p.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Discuss the poetry of Dorothy Parker. Free. 703-768-6700.

Book Discussion. 7:15 p.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Call for title. Free. 703-971-0010.

Brewing History: Beer Tasting & Dinner Menu. Enjoy dinner and a private Mansion tour at Mount Vernon Estate. There will be four courses paired with beer. \$95/person. Tickets available at mountvernon.org.

Film. 7:30 p.m. at Lloyd House, 220 N. Washington St. Watch an

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6:30 pm Vigil Mass (en Español)

Sunday
7:30 am; 9:00 am (with Sign Language Interpreter & Children's Liturgy of the Word); 10:30 am; 12:00 Noon; 2:00 pm (en Español); 6:30 pm

Weekday & Saturday Mornings: 9:00 am Mass, followed by Rosary (on First Friday, Mass followed by Eucharistic Adoration)

Thursday & First Friday of the Month:
7:30 pm Mass en Español

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ENTERTAINMENT

independent film about Captain John Singleton Mosby's combat operations in Fairfax County. Free. Call 703-746-4554 or visit www.historicalexandria.org.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 20

Wee Got the Beat. 10:30 a.m. or 11:30 a.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Children ages 6 months to 5 years can enjoy singing, movement and instrument play. Free. Reservations required, 703-339-4610.

Friday Affair Market. Noon-4 p.m. at historic Hollin Hall, 1909 Windmill Lane. Purchase baked goods, treats, flowers and crafts from local vendors. Held the first and third Fridays of every month through December. Call 202-256-5332.

Alexandria Poetry Slam. 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. At 7 p.m., Tony Greenberg will perform with poetry at 8 p.m. with Shelly Bell. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org or 703-548-0035.

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Joe Sample & The Creole Joe Band will perform. Visit www.birchmere.com for tickets.

Theater Performance. 8 p.m. at Port City Playhouse, 1819 N. Quaker Lane. See "The Children's Hour" by Lillian Hellman. Visit www.portcityplayhouse.org/ for tickets.

Community Dance and Music. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Enjoy live music, dancing and refreshments. \$4/door. 703-765-4573.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 21

Art and Craft Fair. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at

St. James' Episcopal Church of Mount Vernon, 5614 Old Mill Road. Local artists will sell a variety of handcrafted items including musical instruments, jewelry, paintings and more. Lunch and baked goods will be sold.

Wag A Tale. 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Children ages 5-12 can register to read aloud to a reading therapy dog. Registration required, 703-339-4610.

Preschool Story Time. 10:30 a.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Children ages 3-5 can enjoy stories, songs and fingerplays. Free. Registration required, 703-765-3645.

Carlyle House Fashion Show. 10:30 a.m.-noon at Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St. A living-history interpreter will describe the various styles and types of clothing of the 18th and 19th centuries as they come down the runway. Enjoy a tour of the house after the show. \$10/adult; \$5/child age 5-12. Reservations recommended. Visit www.carlylehouse.org or 703-549-2297.

Opening Day Ceremony. 1 p.m. at Kelley Cares Miracle Field at Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. The ceremony will honor the Miracle Baseball League players and volunteers. Registration is open for children and adults who want to play a less intense game and want to learn new skills and have fun. Visit www.miracleleagueofalexandria.com or 703-746-5402.

Theater Performance. 2 p.m. at Olde Towne Theatre, 815 King St. See a performance of "The Big Meow," adapted from the book by Elizabeth Spire. \$10-\$20/person. Visit www.oldtownetheater1914.com or 703-544-5315.

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PEOPLE

Art at the Center's Big Chalk Draw



Art at the Center held its 5th Big Chalk Draw on Aug. 30. Children like Leal had a great time covering the large, open space, with their work.

Young Kaelin concentrated on her work at the Big Chalk Draw.

PHOTOS BY
RENÉE RUGGLES
THE GAZETTE



Kathryn Coneway, owner and operator of the Art Center, traces around her son Kevin.



Parents and children spread out and covered the pavement, behind Art at the Center, with colorful chalk drawings. The event provides the opportunity to get together before school starts.



Karen Kopp sat, drawing with her younger son Eli. Kopp works for Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services. School supplies were collected at the Big Chalk Draw.



Aaron (left) practices his blending technique as his brother Eli looks on.



Julia points out the chalk drawing she just finished.



Jenna Fornell draws with her sons Leal (left) and Oliver. Oliver seemed more interested in his mom's back as a canvas.

SPORTS

WP Girls' XC Finish 7th

The West Potomac girls' cross-country team finished seventh at the Monroe Parker Invitational on Sept. 7 at Burke Lake Park. The Wolverines posted a total of 245, edging Thomas Jefferson (246) for seventh.

Katherine Genuario was the Wolverines' top finisher, placing sixth with a time of 18:04.

Defending state champion Lake Braddock won the team title with a five-harrier total of 159. Madison placed second with at 163, followed by Chantilly (171), South Lakes (185) and Osbourn Park (194).

West Springfield senior Caroline Alcorta, who finished state runner-up last season, won the individual title with a time of 16:58. Lake Braddock's Hannah Christen placed second (17:28) and Lee's Bailey Kolonich placed third (17:55).

In boys' action, West Potomac finished 10th with a total of 312. Defending state champion Chantilly won the team event with a total of 88. Patriot placed second (121) and Robinson finished third (144).

Edison's Louis Colson won the individual title with a time of 14:43. Marshall's MacKenzie Haight placed second (15:05) and Chantilly's Ryan McGorty was third (15:11).

Eric Turner led West Potomac with a 37th-place finish, recording a time of 16:17.



PHOTO BY ED LULL

West Potomac's Katherine Genuario competes at the Monroe Parker Invitational on Sept. 7 at Burke Lake Park.

WP Football Falls to Fairfax

The West Potomac football team lost to Fairfax 39-25 on Sept. 6, dropping the Wolverines' record to 0-2.

Nebraska commit DeMornay Pierson-El played quarterback for the Wolverines. He made the move from running back in the second half of the team's season opener against Centreville on Aug. 29 after the Wolverines' starter was injured. According to stats from the Washington Post, Pierson-El completed 11 of 22 passes for 109 yards against Fairfax. He also carried 15 times for 155 yards and four touchdowns.

West Potomac's Jordan Alexander caught six passes for 74 yards.

Fairfax running back Nick Scott carried 24 times for 278 yards.

West Potomac has a bye this week and will travel to face Woodson at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 20.

Mount Vernon Football Beats Herndon

One week after getting blasted by South County, 56-7, in its season opener, the Mount Vernon football team responded with a 19-17 road victory against Herndon on Sept. 6.

The Majors have a bye this week and will return to action for their home opener against Robinson on Sept. 20.



PHOTO BY RICHARD MAPLE

DeMornay Pierson-El carries the ball against Fairfax on Sept. 6.

BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon.

TUESDAYS/SEPT. 17, 24

Hearing Loss Program. 10 a.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Northern Virginia Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing presents a three-part program titled "I Can't Hear You." Free. Registration required, 703-765-4573 TTY: 711.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 12

Health Talk. 12:30 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Capital Caring presents "Healthy Ways to Cope with Disease and Illness." Free. Reservations required 703-765-4573.

Back to School Night. 5:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon High School. Learn about volunteer opportunities, meet teachers and more. For questions, contact Michelle Lyttle at MLLyttle@fcps.edu or 703-619-3270.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 14

Community Fun Fair. Enjoy live music, Irish dancers, a vendor marketplace, and a moonbounce and safety demonstrations for children. Free. Call 703-360-9450 or visit funfair@woodlawn-umc.org

Tag Day. West Potomac High School students will go door-to-door delivering a "tag" inviting residents to band, drama, chorus, orchestra, guitar and piano events for the year. Because the fine arts are not fully funded by FCPS, these students rely on the generosity of the community to keep these activities at their best. Donations from Tag Day go toward musical instruments, costumes, uniforms, transportation to competitions and events, and more. If you'd like to support the students but will not be home that day, you can go on the school's website and click the "Tag Day Donations" button.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 17

Genealogical Society Meeting. 1 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Features a presentation by Leslie Bouvier entitled "The Dutch and the English: An Overview of Their Legacy on the East Coast." Free. Visit www.mvgenealogy.org for more about the meeting, group or research center.

Meeting. 7 p.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. The Virginia Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability will hold a general meeting. Free. 703-768-6700.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 18

Information Session. 11 a.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Learn about membership for Mount Vernon at Home. Free. 703-303-4060.

WEDNESDAYS/SEPT. 18-OCT. 23

Free Seminar Series. 1-3 p.m. at the Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Join Fairfax County's Independent Living Project, a free seminar series along with exercise classes for strength and balance that help older adults remain independent. The program also offers professional home safety reviews.

Register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/independent.htm, call 703-324-7210, TTY 711 or e-mail Jennifer.Edge@fairfaxcounty.gov.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 19

Kickoff Dinner. 6:30 p.m. at Pema's Restaurant, 8430 Richmond Highway. Mt. Vernon Branch AAUW will discuss their activities for the year. \$27/dinner. RSVP by Sept. 15 at 703-768-8996.

Discussion and Film. 10 a.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Model Railroad Club presents "Railway Journeys of the World." 703-765-4573.

Home Fit. 12:30 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Learn how to stay independent and injury free at home. Free. Reservations required, 703-765-4573.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 21

Celebrate the Groveton Community. 4-6 p.m. at Historic Huntley, 6918 Harrison Lane. Meet neighbors, share memories and meet Charlotte Brown, author of "Groveton." Free. Visit www.historichuntley.org or 703-768-2525.

Art and Craft Fair. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at St. James' Episcopal Church of Mount Vernon, 5614 Old Mill Road. Local artists will sell a variety of handcrafted items including musical instruments, jewelry, paintings and more. Lunch and baked goods will be sold.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 22

NAACP Freedom Fund Meeting. 2-5 p.m. at Waterford Springfield, 6715 Commerce Street. Tickets are \$65. Visit www.fairfaxnaacp.org or call 703-591-4488.

National Falls Prevention Awareness Day. Free fall risk assessments will be conducted by physical therapists and physical therapy assistants from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Kingstowne Center for Active Adults, 6488 Landsdowne Center. No registration required. 703-339-7676 TTY 711.

MONDAY/SEPT. 23

Alzheimer's Association Presentation. 12:30 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Learn about the 10 warning signs. Free. Reservations required, 703-765-4573.

MONDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 23-29

Rabies Awareness Week. Throughout the week, the Virginia Veterinary Medical Association and the Virginia Department of Health will promote guidelines to prevent families and pets from being exposed to rabies, offer educational opportunities to learn more about the destructive virus, and encourage veterinarians to communicate the dangers of rabies with patient families and others in the veterinary medicine community. Dr. Julia Murphy, State Public Health Veterinarian with the Virginia Department of

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 22

SCHOOLS

Gros To Lead Glasgow Middle School

Doctoral candidate to mentor most ethnically diverse school in Alexandria.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE GAZETTE



PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE GAZETTE

Penny Gros is the new principal of Glasgow Middle School in Alexandria.

On July 1, Penny Gros, 43, of Burke was named the new principal of Glasgow Middle School, an ethnically diverse school in Alexandria. It's the best fit for the Spanish-speaking doctoral candidate in her 19th year in education.

"This school is a perfect fit for my background, experience and passions," she said.

As a true melting pot, Glasgow Middle has 1551 students enrolled who were born in 65 different countries and speak 57 languages — Urdu, Spanish, Arabic, Vietnamese, among others.

The school demographics are: 46 percent Hispanic, 24 percent White, 15 percent Asian, 11 percent Black, 31 percent ESOL. There are 16 percent of students in the Level 4/Advanced Academics program and 10 percent in the AVID program. And 75 percent of the students are on the free/reduced lunch program. In terms of student counts, Glasgow has 579 in sixth grade, 480 in seventh grade and 492 in eighth grade.

For goals, Gros hopes to build strong relationships and help shape Glasgow into a great school for learning. "I want to create an environment where teachers are supported to do the work in the classroom," she said. "And where students are pushed

to excel every single day."

THE CHALLENGE is the diversity of the students in terms of ethnicity and academics. To that end, Glasgow has 275 students in the Advanced Academic Center with Level 4 services, which means some kids travel from other schools. Additionally, 40 percent of the enrollment is ESOL students learning English for the first time. Glasgow also offers an IB advanced program, with French, Arabic and Spanish languages, that flow onto Stuart High School.

As an AVID school named as a National Demonstration Site, Glasgow offers a college-readiness program designed to increase school-wide learning.

"One of my goals is to make sure the community is aware of all of the wonderful things going on at Glasgow," said Gros. "And improving the reputation."

Betsy Fenske, retired assistant superintendent for Cluster V Schools who worked with Gros for five years when she was principal of Key Middle School, calls her a hands-on

leader who rolls up her sleeves, gets in the trenches and fosters staff collaboration.

"She's the best there is," said Fenske of Gros's data-driven decision making. "She turned that school (Key Middle) around. I personally attribute that to Penny's leadership."

"Beyond all of her professional attributes, she is a wonderful person and a joy to be around," said Danny Meier, retired principal at Robinson Secondary. "It was a blessing to have her with us at Robinson for a few years, and then she went onto Key (Middle School) and did a tremendous job there."

Glasgow partners with Rotary International, Baileys Crossroad Club, whose Interact Clubs supplied a huge donation of school supplies for the students this fall.

"I think we have a strong and supportive PTA," said Gros. "But I think the challenge we have in middle school is to get more parents involved — finding ways to involve our language-minority parents."

She loves the middle-school age because of the kids' brutal honesty, calling them truth-tellers. "You can't work in a middle school if you don't have a sense of humor," she said. "If you don't find ways to joke around with your colleagues while you're doing serious work, it's hard to last a 30-year career."

As principal, she sees the importance of

setting the right tone for the entire building. "I also think it's important to be in hallways, cafeteria, and to observe what's going on," she said. "And to really get to know them."

Gros graduated from Marshall High School in Vienna and earned degrees in Spanish and English from UVA with a master's in education, leadership and policy studies from Virginia Tech. She is working on her doctorate at Virginia Tech.

SHE STARTED her career in 1994 as a second-grade bilingual teacher in Los Angeles's "Teach for America" program. She moved to Houston for two years then moved to D.C. where she taught junior high Spanish. She transferred to Ravensworth Elementary and taught first-grade Spanish immersion. It was onto Hayfield Secondary where she taught Spanish to eighth-graders. She took the LEAD Fairfax administrative intern program at Herndon High and then became assistant principal there. She moved onto Robinson Secondary where she was assistant principal and then moved to Key Middle School where she was principal. She then moved to Chicago for a couple of years and worked on her doctorate online through Virginia Tech, and just moved back here for the Glasgow position.

Gros has three children ages 14, 12 and 9 with husband Chris.

FCPS to Pilot Soda Ban in Seven High Schools

For the new school year, Fairfax County Public Schools is conducting a regular soda ban pilot in seven of its 25 high schools. Soda products are not currently available in any Fairfax County public school during the school day, except for adult purchases in teachers' lounges.

This ban will remove regular soda products from the after-school soda machines in each of the seven participating schools, which include Chantilly, Falls Church, Langley, Marshall, and West Potomac High Schools; Lake Braddock Secondary School; and Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology. Student and parent after-school fundraisers such as snack bars and booster clubs are excluded from this

pilot.

In the participating schools, 47 existing soda machines will be replaced with 37 new, state-of-the-art glass front beverage machines, with the costs of the new machines covered by the Coca-Cola Company and PepsiCo. The new items will include diet sodas, diet and unsweetened teas, coconut waters, V-8 Fusion Juice, SoBe Lifewaters, Propel® Zeros, and G2 Gatorade® products.

An evaluation of the one-year pilot will be conducted by FCPS' Office of Food and Nutrition Services and will include an examination of revenues, students' product preferences, and acceptance of new products.

SCHOOL NOTES

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon.

Navy Midshipman **William G. Bloom**, son of Elizabeth R. and William G. Bloom of Alexandria, recently completed 'Plebe' Summer at the U.S. Navy Academy. Bloom is a 2013 graduate of Gonzaga College High School of Washington, D. C.

James Walker Slaughter, of Alexandria, graduated from Clemson University in August with

a bachelor of science degree in computer science.

Kurt David Anderson, a graduate of Episcopal High School, has enrolled at Hampden-Sydney College with the class of 2017 as a Patrick Henry Scholar. Kurt is the son of Col. (Ret.) and Mrs. Dave Anderson of Alexandria.

Katrina Marie Daiga graduated cum laude from James Madison University. Daiga earned a degree in communication studies.

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Bethlehem Baptist Church is having a Vendor Fair on October 12, 2013 from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm as a part of its 150th Anniversary Celebration.

Vendor booths will be available for \$25 and \$50. Bethlehem is located on the corner of Fordson Rd. and Sherwood Hall Lane. To sign up and get more information on the Vendor Fair please go to www.bethlehemofalexandria.org or contact Geanetta Fanning at geanetta@bethlehemofalexandria.org

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21 Announcements

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING is hereby given that Alexandria Renew Enterprises (AlexRenew) will hold a PUBLIC HEARING on its PRELIMINARY BUDGET for the FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2014 on Tuesday, September 17, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at AlexRenew's Administrative (J) Building located at 1500 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA. The preliminary budget is available for examination by the public online at www.alexrenew.com and during regular business hours at the above address. Copies will be made available upon request - phone (703) 549-3381 ext. 2260. August 1st and September 5th
Alexandria Renew Enterprises
BY: William Dickinson
Secretary - Treasurer

21 Announcements

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF VALUABLE IMPROVED REAL ESTATE

Improved by the premises known as
702 Scarborough Way, Alexandria, Virginia

In execution of a Deed of Trust from Christopher J. Camera and Kiersten Camera, dated July 31, 2007, and recorded August 1, 2007, as Instrument numbered 070017988 among the Land Records of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, the undersigned substitute trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the front entrance of the Court House for the City of Alexandria, at 520 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia, on

Tuesday, September 17, 2013 at 11:00 a.m.

the following property being the property contained in said Deed of Trust, described as follows:

Lot 38, Old Town Greens, as the same is shown on a plat attached to a deed of consolidation and resubdivision recorded in Deed Book 1698 at page 1601, among the Land Records of the City of Alexandria, Virginia.

Commonly known as 702 Scarborough Way, Alexandria, Virginia 22314.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of \$50,000.00 or ten percent (10%) of the sale price, whichever amount is less, in the form of cash or its equivalent will be required of the purchaser at the time and place of sale; the balance of the purchase money being due and payable within fifteen (15) days after sale, time expressly being of the essence, with interest at the rate of 6.75 percent per annum from date of sale to date of settlement. Provided, however, that if the holder of the secured promissory note is the successful bidder at the sale, no cash deposit shall be required, and part of or the entire indebtedness, including interest and costs, secured by the Deed of Trust, may be set off against the purchase price.

Any defaulting purchaser shall forfeit the deposit and stand the risk and cost of resale.

Sale shall be made subject to all existing easements and restrictive covenants as the same may lawfully affect the real estate. Sale is further subject to mechanic's and/or materialman's liens of record and not of record. The property will be sold subject to all conditions, covenants, restrictions, rights of redemption of federal lienholders or encumbrances, and agreements of record affecting the same, if any.

In the event the undersigned trustee is unable to convey to the purchaser good title, then purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy shall be in the refund of the deposit paid at the time of sale.

The subject property and all improvements thereon will be sold in "as is" condition without warranty of any kind. Purchaser shall be responsible for any and all building and/or zoning code violations whether of record or not of record, as well as for all unpaid and enforceable homeowners' or condominium owners' association dues and assessments, if any. Purchaser also shall be responsible for obtaining possession of the property at his/her expense. Purchaser shall assume the risk of loss and shall be responsible for any damage, vandalism, theft, destruction, or the like, of or to the property occurring after the time of sale. Conveyance will be by special warranty deed. Conveyancing, recording, transfer taxes, notary fees, examination of title, state stamps, and all other costs of conveyance are to be at the expense of purchaser. State and local taxes, public charges, and special or regular assessments, if any, shall be adjusted to the date of sale and thereafter shall be assumed by the purchaser.

Sale is subject to post-sale confirmation that the borrower(s) did not file for protection under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code prior to the sale, as well as to post-sale confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower(s) entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, the sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of his deposit without interest. Additional terms may be announced at the time of sale. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

DAVID N. PRENSKY
Substitute Trustee

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
David N. Prenskey
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21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE

Sealed bids for the City of Alexandria per specifications will be received in the office of the Purchasing Division until the date and time designated as follows:

Title of Invitation to Bid: ITB #0000092: Rental of Equipment and Vehicles with Personnel

Bid Opening Date and Time: September 27, 2013, 3 p.m., prevailing local time

Non-Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference on Friday, September 13, 2013 at 2 p.m., in the Purchasing Division Conference Room Suite 301 - 100 North Pitt Street, Alexandria VA 22314.

For general inquiries contact Jason Soltis, Contract Specialist at 703.746.4299.

The City of Alexandria reserves the right to reject any and all bids, cancel this solicitation, and to waive any informalities or irregularities in procedure. THE CITY REQUIRES ITS CONTRACTORS TO BE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYERS.

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Estate/Moving Sale
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tibles, home decor and more

YARD SALE: Sept. 14, 8-11
at 8298 Glen Cove Ct off
Collingwood Rd. Furniture,
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28 Yard Sales

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Fri-Sat 13-14 Sep 9am-4pm
Sun 15 Sep 9am-1pm

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21 Announcements

Weatherization ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PUBLIC HEARING

PURSUANT TO 42 U.S.C.6851 et seq., 42 U.S.C. et seq., and 10 CFR 440, the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) hereby announces its intention to hold a Public Hearing to receive comments from interested persons regarding the draft 2013 State Plan for weatherization assistance to low-income persons.

A Public Hearing will be held on Monday, September 16, 2013 from 10:00am until 11:00 a.m. in Conference Room 12 South on the 12th floor of DHCD's offices at 600 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia. Please contact Brett Jackson at (804) 371-7112 to receive a copy of the draft application prior to the hearing. Written comments regarding this proposed plan may be received until 5:00 p.m., September 13, 2013 and should be addressed to:

VA Department of Housing and Community Development
Attention: Nancy Palmer
Main Street Centre
600 East Main Street, Suite 300
Richmond, VA 23219
Nancy.Palmer@dhcd.virginia.gov

21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

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This course includes 8 free concealed carry gifts. Virginia residents can now use coupon code Guns79 to get this course for HALF-PRICE. (Coupon code expires September 20, 2013.) For complete details visit **www.GunSecret.com**.



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FROM PAGE 19

Health, recently recorded a podcast discussing rabies awareness and prevention. She also explains that rabies is most commonly found in Virginia's wildlife; however, it is important to remember that any mammal can get rabies. In the state of Virginia in particular, approximately 10 percent of animals diagnosed with rabies annually are domestic animals such as dogs and cats. For tips on preventing this deadly disease and to hear additional information from Dr. Murphy, download the podcast at www.mmipublicrelations.com/podcasts/entry/virginia-veterinary-medical-association-recognizes-rabies-awareness-week/. Visit www.vdh.virginia.gov.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 25

Vibrant Streets Summit. 8-10 a.m. at Hampton Inn & Suites, 5821 Richmond Highway. Learn about the benefits and challenges of this concept. Hosted by Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation. \$10 donation suggested. Visit ww.sfdc.org for more.

Medicare and Social Security Meeting. 10:30 a.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Free lecture presented by AARP. RSVP to 703-303-4060.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 26

Talk. 9:30 a.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Learn about aging in the home and community. Free. RSVP to 703-303-4060.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 29

Barbeque Fundraiser. Noon-3 p.m. at Lee District Park Shelter adjacent to the Spray Park, 6601 Telegraph Road. Colonial Republican Women's annual fundraiser with Republican leaders and candidates. \$35/individual; \$50/couple; \$60/family. E-mail pauleigh@gmail.com for more.

TUESDAY/OCT. 8

Meet and Greet. 7-9 p.m. at Franconia Governmental Center, 6121 Franconia Road. Meet the candidates for sheriff and state delegates for districts 39, 43 and 44. Co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area and the Lee District Association of Civic Organizations. Contact Peggy Knight at 703-532-4417 or peggy.knight1@verizon.net.

SATURDAY/OCT. 12

Fall Rummage Sale. 9 a.m.-noon at Fort Hunt Preschool, 1909 Windmill Lane. Browse items for infants, children and maternity such as clothing, toys, games and furniture. All sales benefit the preschool.

SATURDAY/OCT. 19

Community Festival. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Mount Vernon Inova Hospital, 2501 Parker's Lane. Enjoy a rock wall, pet adoptions, food, live entertainment, kids' zone and more. Free. Visit www.celebrationMVL.com for more.

THURSDAY/OCT. 24

Meeting. 7 p.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. The Virginia Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability will hold a general meeting. Free. 703-768-6700.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/OCT. 25-26 Family Life Weekend Conference.

John Trent will lead the conference, discussing faith in different aspects of life and how to encourage and build up family members and friends. \$25/couple; \$15/person. Friday, 7-9 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m.-noon at Plymouth Haven Baptist Church, 8600 Plymouth Road. RSVP to www.plymouthhaven.org or 703-360-4370.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Mount Vernon Adult Day Health Care Program needs a volunteer to greet people and answer phones one day per week from 10:30 a.m.-noon to star as soon as possible. Contact Fairfax County's Volunteer Solutions at 703-324-5406, TTY 703-449-1186, VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov, or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices and click on volunteers.

Fairfax County's Meals on Wheels needs drivers and a coordinator. Contact Fairfax County's Volunteer Solutions at 703-324-5406, TTY 703-449-1186, VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices and click on volunteers.

Volunteer to host an exchange student for the school year 2013-14. These foreign teens (15-18 years old) want to attend high school here in Northern Virginia, and experience life as an American teen. Academic Year in America (AYA) is a non-profit organization, and the Department of State does not allow payments to host families. Visit www.academicyear.org or call local coordinator Louise at 540-286-1561. VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov, or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices and click on volunteers.

AARP Tax-Aide, a national volunteer-run tax counseling and preparation service for low to moderate income and elderly citizens, needs volunteers to electronically complete and file federal and state income tax forms for the 2013 tax season. The program offers free five-day training using IRS computers and software. Volunteers become IRS Certified Tax Counselors after completing and passing the IRS examination. Visit www.aarp.org/money/taxes/info-2006/volunteer_aarp_tax_aide.html.

ONGOING

The Groveton High School class of 1964 is looking for contact information for as many classmates as possible. The planning for the 50th reunion is underway, however only a small number of people have been contacted. If you are a Groveton graduate of '64 and interested in attending next September's reunion please email contact information to GHS64@verizon.net.

The New Gum Springs Civic Association will start a new **Cub Scout Pack** for boys ages 6-10 and adult leaders. For more information call 888-740-6009 or visit www.gumsspringscivicassociation.com.

School Board Member, **Dan Storck**, Mount Vernon District representative, hosts community office hours the second Saturday of each month: Sherwood Hall Library: 1-3 p.m. Members of the community are invited to stop by to ask questions or to discuss concerns. No appointment necessary. Contact Dan Storck at Dan.Storck@fcps.edu or his assistant, Barb Larsen at Barbara.Larsen@fcps.edu.

Band musicians are invited to join the **Mount Vernon Community Band**. Rehearsals are Tuesday 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the Mount Vernon High School band room, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road. There are no auditions. 703-768-4172, www.mvbands.com.

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For more information on
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www.therunforveterans.org.

When: Friday, October 4, 2013
5:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Where: Alexandria Toyota
3750 Jefferson Davis Highway
Alexandria, VA 22305

*Parking for the event is being provided in the
shopping center across the street from Alexandria
Toyota, courtesy of Potomac Yard Center.*

Attire: Business Casual/Casual

Ticket price: \$100 per person
\$50 for ages 25 and under

To RSVP or sponsor this event: Preferred
method: Please send your check payable to:
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P.O. Box 299 Alexandria, VA 22313. Or, go to
www.therunforveterans.org to register
on the homepage using PayPal.

For **questions**, contact Erica Grooms: 703-
797-5343 or egrooms@alexandriatoyota.com

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ABOUT ALEXANDRIA'S BRENDAN O'TOOLE

Brendan O'Toole served in the United States Marine Corps from 2008-2012. He enlisted during his senior year at T. C. Williams High School in Alexandria. During his time in the Corps, O'Toole completed two overseas deployments as a communications specialist based out of Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point (N.C.).

On his first deployment (2009), Brendan served as a member of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) which assisted in the Haitian earthquake relief effort, before serving in the Indian Ocean, the country of Djibouti, and patrolling the Gulf of Aden and the east coast of Africa where pirating was a major problem. During their Haitian duty, O'Toole established a functioning communication system that was used to coordinate the distribution of vital humanitarian supplies.

On his second deployment (2011), O'Toole was stationed in Afghanistan with Marine Air Support Squadron 1. Upon his arrival, he was assigned to Regimental Combat Team 6, which was assigned to the western part of the Helmand Province, outside the city of Delaram. O'Toole was responsible for all ground communications efforts of the Direct Air Support Center's area of operation. Sgt. O'Toole established and maintained radio and tactical communications systems used to coordinate air strikes against insurgent forces as well as support medical evacuations, and re-supply to U.S. military and coalition forces throughout the battlefield. It was during his Afghanistan deployment that Brendan started planning for The Run for Veterans.

In June 2012, Brendan completed his active duty military service with the rank of Sergeant. On his return home to Alexandria, he began planning and organizing The Run for Veterans, which was chartered by the State of Virginia in August, 2012.

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7116 Park Terrace Drive \$850,000

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7120 Park Terrace Drive \$850,000

• Elevated Corner Lot on almost One-Half Acre • First Offering of this Customized Floor Plan • Expansive, Open Kitchen w/adjacent Family Room • Glass Sunroom/Breakfast Room at Rear Elevation • Large Formal Living and Dining Rooms • Light-filled Recreation Room w/Raised Hearth Fireplace • Four Spacious Bedrooms – Three Full Baths • Brick & Block Construction – Full Masonry Fireplaces • Beautiful In-ground Pool – Manicured Grounds **Dir: G.W. PKWY South, R on Tulane, follow Partners signs.**



7108 Park Terrace Drive \$825,000

• Custom Rambler with over 4,000 sq.ft. of living space • 5 bedrooms • 3 remodeled baths with granite/custom tiles/jetted tub/heated floor • Beautiful Formal Room for entertaining large groups • Main level hardwoods • 36-ft Rec Room & 40-ft storage room/workshop • Area's best laundry/utility room • 2-car Garage • Storage shed **Dir: G.W. PKWY South, R on Tulane, follow Partners signs.**



7418 Park Terrace Drive \$825,000

• Almost 1/2 Acre lot with mature and private landscaping • Solid brick and block construction • Two masonry fireplaces • Three full ceramic tiled baths • Upgraded eat-in kitchen features Hickory Cabinetry • Large Formal Rooms • A sunroom addition • Upper level features three generous bedrooms, two with double closets and two ceramic tiled baths • Bright walk-out lower level with large expanses of windows • Enormous family room with corner raised hearth fireplace • Oversized 2-car garage provides space for a workshop **Dir: G.W. PKWY South, R on Tulane, follow Partners signs.**



1206 Belle Vista Drive \$975,000

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6906 Park Terrace Drive \$735,000

UNDER CONTRACT



7116 Burtonwood Drive \$889,000

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Fall 2013 HomeLifeStyle



Mount Vernon Gazette



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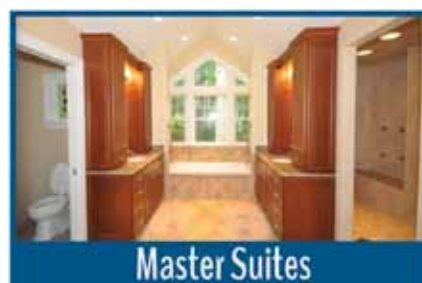
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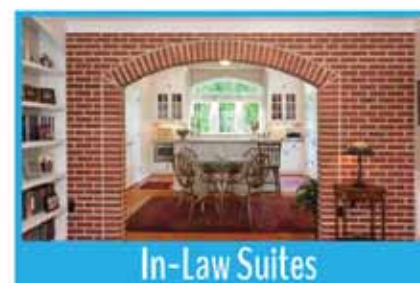
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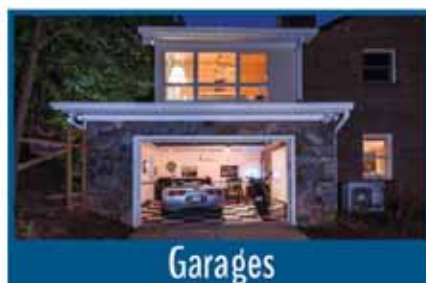
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NVAR Summit at GMU's Mason Inn

Complex shortage of homes for sale likely to persist.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Nationally syndicated columnist and moderator Kenneth R. Harney introduced the expert panel for the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors (NVAR) 17th annual Economic Summit Thursday morning, Sept. 5.

Dr. David Crowe, chief economist and senior vice president of the National Association of Home Builders, joined economic experts David E. Versel, a senior research associate at the George Mason University Center for Regional Analysis, and Dr. Lawrence Yun, senior economist for the National Association of Realtors. The panel addressed a full house — representing the nearly 10,000 realtor and “affiliate business members” that comprise the NVAR — on issues they believe best explain the current housing market and outlook, for both northern Virginia and the United States as a whole.

Though none could offer any “silver bullet” solutions to address all their concerns for housing, all agreed that growth in the market within a genuinely rebounding economy is sustainable, if only at a slower rate than the last year.

HARNEY, WHOSE COLUMN “The Nation’s Housing” appears in The Washington Post and in syndication, opened the program on a positive note, praising the “fortunate” market of the last year. And the increased sales, listings and home prices, he said, are demonstrative of a second, more generally sustainable phase of economic rebound that should give buyers and sellers alike hope.

But Harney was also quick to follow with qualifications and caveats to the optimism. “It may vary where you are,” he said, “but as far as I can tell, the entry-level buyer is still missing in action. They’re out there, but



Members of the Northern Virginia Realtors Association filled the conference hall at the Mason Inn on the campus of George Mason University for the 17th Annual NVAR Economic Summit.

they face hurdles. Student debt load is a big issue. And the job market is a huge constraint for the first-time buyer.”

VERSEL WAS THE FIRST PANELIST to speak, giving more detail regarding past, present and future economic forces in the DC metropolitan area as they relate to housing. A major concern for Northern Virginia is the decline in federal jobs and federal procurement. His data show a continuation of the trends, with one example being a \$14 billion decrease in spending from 2010 to 2017.

“There’s no question the primary economic driver of this region has always been Uncle Sam,” Versel said. “That said, we’re not Detroit. We haven’t been a one-horse town for the last 30 to 40 years. For example, Fairfax County has attracted Volkswagen North American Headquarters. We have that base of brainpower, and hopefully that’s leading into a new generation of economic growth.”

Versel sees a steady increase in building permits as a positive marker. Between 2012 and 2017, he forecasts 55,000 new jobs

being created in the housing industry, which should come as a package with increased construction and greater inventory.

Lack of inventory, Versel explained, is a key impediment to the more rapid strengthening of the market. Families or individuals looking to trade up have fewer options to do so, and first-time or entry-level buyers have fewer options to become involved at all. Versel attributes this mainly to the vast amount of homeowners in northern Virginia between the ages of 45 and 64.

“Nearly half of all homeowners in this region are in the Baby Boomer demographic,” he said. “Let that wash over you for a second.” Versel cited data from the 2010 Census.

“That’s in no small part why inventory remains a problem,” Versel continued. “They don’t want to retire, they don’t plan to retire. Some of it is financial and some of it is lifestyle: ‘I’m not old, I’m never going to get old, and I’m living here forever.’ They’re probably going to stay in these places for another 20 to 30 years. For younger people who want to buy houses in

those areas, unless you have new construction, there just isn’t any inventory to purchase.”

CROWE ECHOED HARNEY’S call out of the missing entry-level buyers, citing national survey data from University of Michigan studies, among others. “No matter what market you’re in, the larger picture does matter. The government is going to react to what the rest of the economy’s going to do.”

Crowe said lifestyle choices — children of Baby Boomers moving in with their parents and deferring marriage, childbirth, etc. — and economic insecurity had and continue to have profound influence on household creation.

“We’re in store for enormous pent up demand,” said Crowe. “When people don’t know what their future’s going to be,” they’re less likely to move out of their parents’ basements, get divorced, have more children, etc. “That’s why we had such a surplus of houses. We didn’t build too many houses — people stopped moving out. That’s coming back again.”

During the last housing peak, Crowe said household creation at the national level was 1.4 million annually. In the slump, that figure dipped to half a million. According to Crowe, it should be at about 1.2 million.

With the slow but now steady growth of the national housing market — contributing a three percent out of a more ideal six percent to GDP — Crowe is optimistic more and more of this pent of demand will emerge as entry-level sales. But there are still potential lags: availability of credit can be limiting and discouraging, the cost of building materials is increasing.

YUN ALSO STRESSED the importance of job creation in helping prop up the missing entry-level segment. He specifically referenced students who, whether they “over-borrowed” or not, collectively feel the weight of loan debut. “What will most help them pay off debt or buy a home,” he said, “is really jobs. If they have jobs, student

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Northern Virginia Designers Awarded Rooms in Showhouse Event

Northern Virginia/metro area interior designers Kelley Proxmire of Kelley Interior Design and Wayne Breeden of E. Wayne Breeden Design are among 17 designers awarded rooms at the benefit Winchester Showhouse & Gardens, open to the public through Sept. 29.

The Showhouse features an 18th century home in the Shenandoah Valley, Long Green, known for its historic and architectural prominence and beautiful vistas.

Landscaping, shopping, artwork and designer sales complement the event, which benefits Blue Ridge Hospice, a not-for-profit hospice organization serving the Piedmont and Shenandoah Valley.

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Long Green, an 18th century home in the Shenandoah Valley, is made over to benefit Blue Ridge Hospice.

Mount Vernon Gazette

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Top-to-Bottom Makeover Embraces Longterm Horizons

The Hollis family wanted a house that would work better today — and long into the future.

By JOHN BYRD

Sometimes it's not limited square footage that makes a house feel inadequate — it's how that square footage is configured.

Take, for example, the circa 1970s Vienna split-level Andre and Katy Hollis purchased in 2005. With more than 3,200 square feet of living space that included four bedrooms, three bathrooms and a large family room, most would consider the house sufficient — even enviable — as the primary home for a family of four.

True, the previous owners had been empty-nesters, which partly explained why there was a soaking tub instead of a shower in an upstairs bathroom allocated to two pre-teen boys.

Still, the structure's two-level main block seemed to have capacity to spare. There was a guest room; a full bathroom on the first floor; a home office.

In fact, it was the lack of need for changes that had prompted the Hollis' to buy the house in the first place.

But while recuperating from an accident a few years ago, Katy Hollis began to reassess. "I decided that I really like our neighborhood and that we could stay in the house indefinitely. But I also saw that I had been ignoring a lot of things that didn't work for us. And the shortcomings were even more obvious when I looked ahead."

All of this sounded familiar to Mindy Mitchell, the Certified Aging-In-Place Specialist at Sun Design Remodeling Katy Hollis called in to talk over some ideas.

"In the last two decades, designers have learned a lot about how to customize a traditional production house floorplan for longterm use," Mitchell said. "Size is less important than how rooms are purposed and configured. The goal is to create a plan that will logically support priorities."

As discussions with Mitchell evolved, Katy Hollis unveiled her larger agenda. To make the house more functional for both current and foreseeable needs, the home-

owner envisioned a series of focused revisions: a spacious first floor bedroom; a gourmet kitchen; television-viewing that's not in the midst of other entertainment zones; a guest suite with dedicated bath; an indoor-outdoor segue to the beautifully wooded backyard.

The new plan had to serve a variety of concurrent scenarios. There should be beautifully articulated front-facing rooms that would support the occasional dinner party. They needed a family gathering area for daily meals and everyday interaction. The new kitchen should be equipped with a gas range, a wine refrigerator and generous food preparation surfaces.

"I found it reassuring to talk about the house as a place we might occupy 30 years from now," Katy Hollis said. "I thought that we probably had the necessary square footage to make the changes I had in mind, but there were many space planning considerations we needed to work out carefully."

Certainly, the current plan was problematic.

The entryway foyer was flanked by an L-shaped galley kitchen to the left and a family room four steps down on the right.

One could proceed to the back of the house from the galley kitchen to a rear dining room, or from the parallel foyer directly to

More

Sun Design Remodeling frequently holds workshops on home remodeling topics at their office in Burke. Visit www.SunDesignRemodelingInc.com or call 703-425-5588.

a small sitting room adjacent to the dining room.

The arrangement often led to bottlenecks. At parties, guests would circulate back to the family room after dinner creating traffic jams in the foyer.

Moreover, a promising view of the pretty backyard was hampered by undersized windows — which made the back of the house too dark.

SUCH PROBLEMS were equally apparent upstairs. The front-facing master bedroom suite was large enough — but the master bathroom could only be accessed through a closet/changing area, and the plan lacked a walk-in closet and privacy. Adding to the inconvenience, the only shower available for second floor guest room was one flight down, on the

ating the TV in the newly remodeled basement allowed us to fully convert the family room into a more formal living room and eliminate the marginally useful sitting room.

Freeing-up the 17-foot-by-8-foot sitting area in the back of the house, Mitchell and team next shifted the dining room to the front (across the foyer from the new living room), allocating 170 square feet in the rear for a gourmet kitchen and family dining area.

A course of large back windows now dramatically improves natural light availability and visual continuum.

THE CENTERPIECE of the new kitchen is an L-shaped food preparation and dining counter. The custom built-in provides seating for four, easy access to the butler's



Following an accident, the Hollis family decided to reconfigure their Vienna home for both improved day-to-to functioning, and long-term use. From left: Alex, Max, Katy and Andre in the newly remodeled family room.



Moving TV-viewing from the living room to an upgraded lower level has made the first floor far more functional while adding an element of privacy to the new master suite.

first floor.

"Our challenge was comprehensively re-imaging how space could be allocated while staying inside the envelope of the house," Mitchell said.

Interestingly, a decision to move TV-watching away from the front-facing family room set the reconfiguration process in motion.

"We saw the rooms in the front of the house as a suite that would better serve all formal entertainment needs," Mitchell said. "Situ-

pantry en route to the new dining room, and a critical leg in a work triangle that facilitates essential cooking and clean up tasks.

"It's much easier to both cook and tend to guests," Katy Hollis said. "The dining room, foyer and new living room are well-unified aesthetically; guests don't even need to see the kitchen."



BEFORE: Living Room



PHOTOS BY BRYAN BURRIS

"We had to scrutinize the footprint closely," Mitchell said. "Fortunately, there were first level utility rooms adjacent to the family room we could either delete or re-assign in our search for space to accommodate a first level master suite." Relocating an upstairs hall bath, thus, gave Mitchell

the option to move the laundry to the second floor. The former master bedroom suite now becomes the coveted guest quarters. A second floor corner bedroom has been transformed into a bathroom for the two boys complete with a double sink vanity.

With the laundry now out of the way, Mitchell and team re-deployed 300 square feet on the rear of the first level for a spacious and very private master bedroom suite that includes a master bath and generous walk-in closets.

A home office behind glass-facing French doors opens directly into the redecorated living room. The first level bath has been refashioned as a handsomely appointed guest powder room.

"It's a terrific solution in every detail," Katy Hollis said. "And knowing we've already made some solid decisions about the future is really quite satisfying."

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BEFORE: Kitchen

The former galley kitchen offered few supports for inspired food preparation.



Home LifeStyle Like Magic

New plan in built-out 1940s colonial gains vital square footage as young family looks ahead.

BY JOHN BYRD

In the end, a skillful spatial reconfiguration is like a deft magician's trick — you've seen it with your own eyes, but you still can't figure out how they did it.

"Really, I don't know how this plan created so much more usable space," Alexandria resident Alice Goulet said, discussing a recent reconfiguration to several rooms in the family's 1,800-square-foot center-hall Colonial.

"All the changes stayed within the house itself, yet there's much more capacity and openness."

Sarah Wolf, the designer at Foster Remodeling Solutions hired by Alice and Paul Goulet to find an alternate floorplan solution, is pleased with the outcome, too, but she's seen this before. She said that owners often think the only way to gain useable square footage is to build an addition.

"The real challenge to converting less into more," Wolf said, "is knowing where existing space is being wasted."

But to start at the beginning: the Goulets purchased this brick-clad circa 1940s three-bedroom house 10 years ago when Alice Goulet was expecting the couple's first child.

As the family grew (there are now two girls and a boy — all under age 10), so, too, did the need to plan ahead. Starting in 2007, in fact, the Goulets hired Foster Remodeling on two occasions: first to finish the basement and enclose a porch; the second time to design an eat-in kitchen.

One fact emerging in the earlier remodelings, however, seemed daunting relative to the future. Under city code, the Goulets learned, the amount of new construction that could be added to the exterior had already been maxed-out.

"That meant we were looking for more usable space inside the existing structure," Wolf explains. "And this is the real frontier in older close-in homes; it's interior space planning that has really revolutionized the



The master bath is articulated in Tuscan accents: natural clay tile combined with maple cabinet facings brushed in black stain; a tile wainscoting unifies the entire room including a spacious soaking tub.

way traditional homes are now being used."

Itemized as a "wish list," the Goulet's goals seemed simple enough. Alice Goulet wanted a soaking tub, and an upstairs location for the washer/dryer. Paul Goulet envisioned a large walk-in shower. Both sought more closet space and "elbow room" in the master suite — plus, a larger bathroom for the kids, a new place for the linen closet...

AND, STILL, there was this lingering question of: what next? Where could more space be found if needed?

"Initially, I found it hard to see how we were going to gain any usable space," Alice Goulet said. "The master suite was pretty built-out."

Specifically, previous owners had constructed a rear elevation two-level wing with the master bedroom on top accessible through a small bedroom in the main house. The suite itself was configured as an L-



BEFORE: No room for a soaking tub here. While Wolf's only deletion was a small linen closet, the designer says that "inches count" in a tight-space plan solution.

shaped sleeping area wrapping a shelled-in enclosure that included a wardrobe closet, a linen closet and a master bath.

"The adjacent room in the main house had become a sort of foyer and dressing area for the master suite," Alice Goulet said. "Since the walk-in-closet was immediately inside the bedroom door, the entrance to the bedroom often got pretty cluttered."

All that changed when Wolf went to work.

Exploring several budget variations, Wolf presented two plans: one that retained the existing space configuration as-is; a second option that "wipes the slate clean" — eliminating the "L" and reapportioning the suite into two parts: a rectangular sleeping area on the wing's eastern side; a walk-in closet and master bath positioned side-by-side on the room's western wall.

"We saw immediately how well the second plan worked," Alice Goulet said. "It makes the bedroom much more functional, and private."

While relocating a small linen closet was the only functional en suite deletion, Wolf's master bathroom layout finds the vital square footage needed for both a soaking tub and a walk-in shower.

The part of the floor previously occupied by the old bath now becomes a 36-square-

More

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foot walk-in closet complete with tray ceilings. The plan also reassigns the former suite foyer as the footprint for a new children's bathroom — which is now twice the size of its predecessor.

The real boon to Wolf's solution, though, is how well the new space works.

"The bedroom feels much larger," Alice Goulet said. "The narrow dressing zone has been eliminated. The whole room is open and airy."

Alice Goulet credits Wolf, too, with interior design that really differentiates the master suite's featured assets.

Choosing lighter reflective colors for wall surfaces, the new scheme draws out the brighter natural ambiance of a room that



BEFORE: The old L-shaped configuration consisted of two converging legs, both too narrow for comfortable habitation, the owners say.

features east-facing French doors, a second window and a skylight.

A new teakwood custom-designed bed and headboard provides a suitably geometrical focal point to a room that is otherwise tranquilly elemental.

By contrast, the master bath is articulated in warm earthy Tuscan accents: natural clay tile combined with maple cabinet facings brushed in black stain; a tile wainscoting that unifies the entire room including a spacious soaking tub.

Alice Goulet said that most of the space planning and finishwork decisions were made at Foster Remodeling's showroom in Lorton.

"The showroom helped to made the process orderly," she said. "So many options inspire creativity."

Thinking ahead, the Goulets had the design team create stair access to a third floor attic, which they plan to eventually build-out as either their son's bedroom or a children's playroom.

"What we really appreciate about the incremental approach we've pursued with Foster is that it allows us to think everything through carefully," Alice Goulet said. "That really matters when you have a growing family."



Designer Sarah Wolf reconfigured an Alexandria couple's master bedroom suite to create a more functional floorplan that gains a 36-square-foot closet and a spa bath with soaking tub and a walk-in shower.

Big Ideas for Small Spaces

Local designers offer ideas for decorating small rooms.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Whether one is sprucing up a small powder room or decorating a studio apartment, space limitations often pose a design challenge. However, local designers say that no matter how a small space's square footage or how awkward the layout, there are plenty of decorative cures for small spaces.

Jean Freeman, a professor of interior design at Marymount University in Arlington, recommends multiuse furniture. "[On] one project I put in a Murphy bed that folded up and there was a desk that could then be put down from the underside of the bed. It was fantastic," she said. "Work and eat on it during the day, clear the table and sleep on it at night."

Designer Debbie Wiener, of Designing Solutions in Silver Spring, Md., also suggests maximizing the use of wall space. "There's only one floor, but there are four walls, so don't just decorate the walls, furnish them," she said. "Tall book cases, floating wall shelves, wall-mounted cabinets, desks and tables that fold up against the wall are all functional pieces that give great storage and work space without taking up any valuable floor space."

LARGE FURNITURE can overwhelm a small space, says Courtney Thomas of The Picket Fence in Burke. "Using small-scale furnishings helps keep things in proportion," she said. "A narrow bookcase is great for small spaces."

Small tables and chairs with folding legs are another good option.

Thomas also said mirrors are a great way to make a small space seem larger. "They help reflect light and bring depth to a space," she said. "Even a small mirror in a narrow hallway or tiny room can make a big difference."

Storage ottomans can serve a dual purpose in small spaces. "They can be used as a coffee table but can also serve as extra



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANN O'SHIELDS

An oversized storage coffee table such as this one can also be ideal in a very small space, says Ann O'Shields. "It will allow enough surface space to use for food and drinks for entertaining."

storage," said Ann O'Shields, of The Nest Egg in Fairfax.

"They are large enough and sturdy enough to be sat on for extra seating and they are also great for ottomans. Choosing a fun fabric is a great way to add some color to your space and they can always be tucked under a console table or into a corner when not in use."

WHEN DESIGNING a small kitchen, Arlington, resident Allie Mann, project designer at Case Design/Remodeling said, "Keep floor coverings such as hardwood the same from the kitchen into the adjacent rooms. If you use floor tiles, use larger format tiles to minimize the amount of grout needed."

When it comes to appliances, Mann suggests mini-models. "Use space saver appliances such as microwaves and built-in organizers for knives and spices," she said. "Additionally, a microwave can be installed in the island or below a cabinet to free counter space."

When it comes to color in small spaces, Sharon Kleinman of Transitions by Sharon Kleinman suggests using bold and dramatic hues, but not patterns. "Use lush fabrics with lots of texture to create interest," she said. "For example, in a small powder room, I might use an antique mirror on one wall and then wallpaper in a rich color on the other walls." She added that it's best to pick wallpaper with a small to medium pattern.

skilled workers.

Yun applauded the multi-skilled workforce in and around DC as "a clustering effect beginning to grow." He believes more businesses will be drawn to the workforce, independent of government, which could in turn help create more jobs in the region.

Finally, noting the rising population of renters, Yun implored the audience (to pass along to their clients) to be wary of inflation over the next year. "We may actually get a 6 percent mortgage next rate next year, if inflation rate pops out. It's something to watch carefully."

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NVAR Summit

FROM PAGE 3

loans are not a problem. It's about job creation. We are creating jobs, but at a slow pace. This is hindering young people in the country."

But like all the panelists, Yun's presentation was peppered with plusses and minuses. A positive for employment seekers, as well as their potential employers, is the concept of "clustering," according to Yun. Clustering takes place when a sizable number of skilled workers congregate in a certain area and that attracts employers, which attracts more

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