



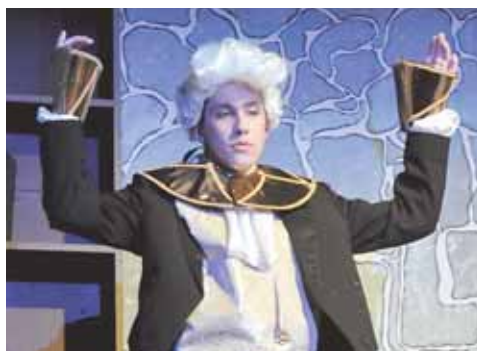
Villagers Claudia Theriot and Lauren O'Farrell greet each other at the market as Belle (Emily Flack) reads one of her favorite books.



Silly girls Cassie Cope, Tessa Madar and Emma Ekman react to the news that Gaston plans on proposing to Belle.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE

'Beauty and the Beast, Jr.' Opens Friday



Lumiere (William Havranek) takes his place on the fireplace mantle in the Beast's castle.

Aldersgate Church Community Theatre raises the curtain Friday evening on its winter performance of Disney's "Beauty and the Beast, Jr." The production is directed by Corey Latta with Karli Eddinger as musical director, choreographer Caroline Austin and producers Michelle Lawrence and Shelagh Roberts.

Show dates are: Friday, Jan. 17 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 18 at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, Jan. 19 at 2 p.m.; Monday, Jan. 20 at 2 p.m.; Friday, Jan. 24 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 25 at 2 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 25 at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, Jan. 26 at 2 p.m. Performances are held in Wesley Hall of Aldersgate United Methodist Church at 1301 Collingwood Road in Alexandria. For ticket information visit <http://www.acctonline.org>



Villagers Lyndsey Lawrence, Lily Vita, Diana Kleiman lift their glasses in song at the local tavern.

Multiple Challenges

Mount Vernon district entering "a transformational era."

BY GERALD A. FILL
THE GAZETTE

This is the third and final part in the series on the accomplishments of 2013 and the priorities for 2014 for Mount Vernon. In this part, community leaders, appointed county officials and the district police commander offer their perspectives.

EARL FLANAGAN, Mount Vernon District Commissioner to the Fairfax County Planning Commission:

In preparation for this year-end review I thought it would be useful to first look back to the 1980s when a county land use planning study concluded and the Board of Supervisors agreed that the county's planned density should be reduced by one half in order to accommodate a transportation system and the anticipated growth in population. Because of that study in 1991 the county rewrote the Comprehensive Plan. That Plan, since amended, now guides all land use actions. The Plan text for Mount Vernon District is essen-

tially as developed by a 1991 Mount Vernon District Task Force. Actions to rezone and grant special exceptions are now the principal agenda items of the Planning Commission. Land owners can still develop as zoned, since land once zoned is the law until changed at the owners request. However, any requests for rezoning or special exception must be compatible with the Comprehensive Plan.

In the present circumstances, with the growth in population, and in particular the unprecedented growth of the military population at Fort Belvoir, and the introduction of rail mass transit as a viable option, there is pressure to extend mass transit along Route 1 to

SEE FACING, PAGE 5



Earl Flanagan

Moran Won't Seek Reelection

Longtime congressman won't run again this year, opening the door to epic primary.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Since 1991, U.S. Jim Moran (D-8) has cut a distinctive figure for himself on Capitol Hill — brash, outspoken, liberal and, at times, unpredictable. Now Moran says he will not seek a 13th term in Congress. In a written statement issued Tuesday

morning, the congressman said it was time to "close this chapter of my life" and "move on to the next challenge."

"I prepare to



Jim Moran

SEE NO 13TH, PAGE 4

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Continuing Revitalization on Richmond Highway

Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation Has Big Plans for 2014.

By JANELLE GERMANOS
THE GAZETTE

Route 1 revitalization has been a major topic in Southeast Fairfax County for several years now, and the Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation will continue this effort into 2014.

Edythe Kelleher, the executive director of SFDC, said that the group has a lot of plans that will impact residents and business owners along the Richmond Highway corridor.

Along with discussing SFDC's continuing Roundtable Speaker Series and other educational events, Kelleher and Lindsey Doane, SFDC marketing and communications director, addressed the history of Route 1, areas to watch out for, and SFDC goals in general.

Q: What are some plans SFDC has scheduled for 2014?

Kelleher: For 2014, we have a lot of great plans. We are hosting a roundtable series, which is a new thing for 2014. It is monthly, with different topics and speakers, and it will be the second Friday of each month at 8:30 a.m. at the Springhill Suites. This month was "Starting and Growing your Business," and we have three panelists who all have established businesses in the area, and they talked about their experience. We'll be going through a bunch of other topics as well. We're also doing our Summit Series, which is an educational series about different development topics. Last year, we did the Economic Outlook Summit, and we're going to repeat that one this year, on April 3, joint with the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce. We've got a busy year coming up. Our overall mission is to encourage revitalization, new development and economic vitality. In fact, we do these educational things for businesses and for residents. We've tried to promote businesses and residents. We do a monthly newsletter. We've been doing hidden businesses, where we profile the businesses. We've had a couple businesses approach us to be profiled.

Doane: We are always looking for businesses that are tucked away on Route 1 to be profiled.

Q: What do you think we can expect from Richmond Highway in 2014?

Kelleher: The big activity we see is towards the northern part of the highway, because that is where the metro is. We're very anxious to hear about the results of the Route 1 multi-modal transit study. We're



A view of Mount Vernon Plaza in the 1970s.

Richmond Highway, pictured here in the 1960s, was booming during this time. According to Kelleher, the executive director of SFDC, the area will soon make a comeback.



participating in that and we'll see what they recommend. Delegate [Scott] Surovell is submitting a budget amendment to follow up that study with preliminary engineering. He wants to move directly into the next stage. If there was more transit on the highway, I think the development would be more consistent. We'll have to see what happens with Jeff Todd Way/Mulligan Road, which will go over to Telegraph and provide another connection to Route 1. It's hard to predict what people's travel patterns will be, but it certainly will provide more accessibility.

Doane: It will provide an easier link to and from the Kingstowne Area, which will be good.

Q: How exactly is SFDC funded?

Kelleher: We're in the Fairfax County community funding pool. But we also have private donations and sponsorships and grants. We have other commercial sponsors. Several of our board members are in various industries that serve the development community, and they make donations and sponsor events. Frankly Fairfax County, back in

2008 and 2009, cut our funding, so our funding is 25 percent less than what we used to get from the county. For the last few years, we have been eating into our reserves. We need additional funding. I don't know that it is going to come from the county anytime soon, but we are always looking for private contributions. People have been great about helping us out. They see the value in what we are doing.

Q: How has your time been since becoming executive director in March?

Kelleher: It's been 10 months. It's been great. It's a lot of fun coming over here. My husband lived off of Fort Hunt Road and grew up here. I was coming over here for 30 years. I have a real connection to the area. It's been fun, and it's a challenge. I've gotten to meet a lot of great people.

Doane: Edythe literally knows everybody.

Q: What else are you looking forward to along Route 1?

Kelleher: We're looking forward to an exciting and busy 2014. We're very excited about the Penn Daw area right now. Hopefully we will get excited about other areas as well, but Penn Daw will be exciting for the next few years.

Doane: Huntington Avenue is definitely an area to also look out for.

Kelleher: Especially if you've got a lot of pedestrians, walking back and forth and commuting to the Huntington Metro.

Q: What else is SFDC working on in 2014?

Kelleher: We're working with the county's Channel 16. Our supervisors have very generously donated some of their production time to us. We have two videos that have been out for a while.

Doane: One is on the revitalization of Richmond Highway, and the second is on the benefits of the revitalization of Richmond Highway and why you should care. The third one is on the history of Richmond Highway in Southeast Fairfax. It's about 200 years of U.S. history in less than seven minutes, from early settlers, founding fathers, all the way up to World War I and World War II.

Kelleher: We are going to have a follow-up video to that picks it up from around the 1920s and takes it to the present. They are just now beginning to interview people for that, such as Mr. Blunt, who owns the Traveler's Motel and has been there forever, and Queenie Cox of the Gum Springs Museum.

Q: So Route 1 really started seeing a lot of changes once the

SEE REVITALIZATION, PAGE 21

Accidental Fire Strikes Duplex

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department units responded to a house fire, Tuesday, Jan. 14, at approximately 12:45 p.m., in the Alexandria area of Fairfax County. The duplex is located at 7035 Stanford Drive.

Firefighters encountered heavy smoke coming from the two-story duplex upon arrival. Firefighters brought the fire under control.

A smoke alarm provided early warn-

ing to the occupant and her dog, both escaping unharmed.

Four adults and six children have been displaced. Red Cross is assisting the displaced occupants.

Firefighters from Fire and Rescue Station 11, Penn Daw, installed a smoke alarm sometime last year as part of the department's Safety In Our Community program. Damage is estimated at \$20,000.

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News

No 13th Term for Moran

FROM PAGE 1

leave Congress feeling very fortunate, grateful for what we've accomplished, and optimistic for the future of Northern Virginia, the Washington Metropolitan Region, and our nation," said Moran in the written statement. "I couldn't be more fortunate to have spent my career working with such wonderful people trying to make this one of the best places in the world to live, work and raise a family."

Moran's status as a veteran lawmaker secured him a spot as the ranking member on the House Appropriations Interior Subcommittee as well as a position as senior member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. He'll be replaced by someone who will be new to Congress, a position that will be complicated by Republican control in the House of Representatives. Nevertheless, a slew of potential Democratic candidates has been waiting in the wings for a generation. "Certainly I would love to have the opportunity to represent and serve the district in Congress," said Alexandria Mayor Bill Euille. "I would seriously consider a run."

Other names that have been raised as potential candidates include people who have already run for Congress such as Bruce Shuttlesworth, who ran against Moran in the 2012 primary and lost. Democrats are also eager to hear about former elected officials eager to make a comeback, including former Mayor Kerry Donley. Members of the House of Delegates also figure prominently, including Del. Scott Surovell (D-44), Del. Mark Sickles (D-43), Del. Patrick Hope (D-47), Del. Charniele Herring (D-46). On the Senate side, potential Democratic candidates include Sen. Barbara Favola (D-31) and Sen. Adam Ebbin

(D-30).

"I am honored that people think I'd make a good congressman," said Ebbin in a written statement. "I will give it the serious consideration it deserves."

The announcement released a floodgate of well-wishers and people eager to thank the congressman for his decades of service. Republicans and Democrats both stepped forward to praise Moran for his support for members of the military and government workers, two constituent groups that form a large percentage of the voters in the eighth congressional district. Some of the praise was bipartisan.

"Jim is more than a colleague in the House. He is a friend," said U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10). "He and I have worked side-by-side on a variety of projects and issues over the years, from getting funding for the new Woodrow Wilson Bridge to improvements on the George Washington Parkway to fighting for federal employees."

Most of the accolades came from fellow Democrats, who described the congressman as an upbeat champion for universal healthcare, a passionate defender of reproductive rights for women and a fiery critic of the war in Iraq. "For the past 35 years, Jim Moran has been a fierce advocate for the people of Northern Virginia, a responsible steward of the federal appropriations process and a voice for so many who are often left on the margins of our society," said Gov. Terry McAuliffe in a written statement. "No one has fought harder for the men and women who serve and sacrifice in the United States Armed Forces, and for the federal employees who are so important to the economy of his district and our entire commonwealth."

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Facing 'a Transformational Era'

FROM PAGE 1

Woodbridge, and pressure for mixed-use development to attract residents and sustain commercial activities in the area. Population growth and the potential to extend mass transit along Route 1 to Woodbridge is a driving force behind what I would characterize as the region entering a transformational era that will change the Mount Vernon area from a suburban drive through commuter region to a urban-suburban region where an increasingly diverse population will live and work in the area instead of commuting elsewhere. Commuting to the D.C. and other areas, although remaining important, will give way to a more urbanized region. Here are some of the actions in the works that will transform Mount Vernon in the years and decades ahead:

- ❖ Metro stations such as in the Huntington neighborhood have been re-planned for higher density; this will encourage mass transit as a primary method of travel over merely auto commuting.

- ❖ Relocation of Route 1 in the Fort Belvoir area will cause the loss of the Woodlawn stables but consolidation of Woodlawn Plantation with Quaker Meeting House and the historic Baptist church buildings and cemetery adjoining the Route 1 historic sites will be preserved.

- ❖ Requests for rezoning for higher residential density near Huntington metro station have been approved or are pending approval for North Gateway, Penn Daw /Kings Crossing, and the Beacon Hill Business centers.

- ❖ South of Fort Belvoir, the south county area is developing rapidly. The former Lorton Reformatory

site is in the midst of substantial new development as a mixed-use site and creative proposals to develop residential housing, including affordable housing, and commercial enterprises are well underway or completed. The Planning Commission is also now considering decisions which will allow for the conversion of the Vulcan Rock Quarry to a local water reservoir and, when the quarry closes, a regional water reservoir for use by the metropolitan area.

For this past year I personally believe the most important accomplishment was revisions to the policies regarding the site location of telecommunication services. Telecommunication policies now favor new less intrusive technologies which will be less visible in the neighborhoods where they are located. This is in part a result of Fairfax County's decision, at the urging of the Mount Vernon Council, and with the support of our Mount Vernon Supervisor, and upheld by a federal court ruling.

As to next year and beyond, adequate transportation will continue to be a major concern of the commission and the Board of Supervisors. The development of metro mass transit areas using urban development standards recently adopted for Tysons Corner that are pedestrian friendly will influence development plans county-wide. Simultaneously, the commission will retain standards for our suburban residential neighborhoods that make Fairfax County a great place to live, work, and play. That includes use of residential studio units as recently adopted by the Board of Supervisors.

SEE MULTIPLE, PAGE 18

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**U.S. Garrison Fort Belvoir
Environmental Restoration
Program
Public Notice for Corrective
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Please join us for a Public Meeting on
February 20, 2014
6:00 p.m. at the
Fairfax County South County Center
8350 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, VA

The U.S. Army, in cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, and in accordance with Fort Belvoir's Hazardous Waste Storage Permit dated 23 October 2004, announces a 60-day public comment period, from **January 15, 2014 to March 15, 2014**, for Corrective Measures Studies (CMSs) for five Compliance Cleanup (CC) sites at the U.S. Army Garrison Fort Belvoir, Virginia. These documents are available for public review at the Lorton Library in Lorton, VA and the Kingstowne Library in Fairfax, VA. The documents are also available via Fort Belvoir's Environmental Documents website at <https://www.belvoir.army.mil/envirodocs.asp>.

The Army will conduct the public meeting on **Thursday, February 20, 2014** to review the results of recently completed CMSs for these sites. Identified in these studies are the options for addressing the contaminants of concern and recommended approaches.

Sites CC-A08, George Washington Village Landfill, and CC-A09, Markham Road Landfill, are inactive, covered sanitary and construction debris landfills located in the South Post area near Dogue Creek. These landfills occupy 23.5 acres and are being addressed together due to their proximity. **The recommended alternative for these sites to address landfill waste is Alternative S-3: engineered vegetative cover enhancement, long-term monitoring, and land-use controls. The recommended alternative to address contaminants in groundwater is Alternative G-2: monitored natural attenuation, land-use controls and long-term monitoring.**

Sites CC-A11, Poe Road Landfill, and CC-A12, Accotink Landfill, are also inactive, covered sanitary and construction debris landfills located within the Accotink Bay Wildlife Refuge directly south of Poe Road. These landfills occupy approximately 40 acres and are being addressed together due to their proximity. **The recommended alternative to address both solid waste and groundwater contamination is Alternative 4: engineered vegetative cover enhancement, long-term monitoring, monitored natural attenuation and land-use controls.**

Site CC-A05, Road and Grounds/Land Management Storage Area where contamination was discovered, is located in the South Post area and occupies approximately 2 acres. **The recommended alternative to address water contamination at this site is Alternative 3: in situ enhanced bioremediation, land-use controls, long-term monitoring and monitored natural attenuation.**

The CMSs and other related documents can be reviewed at the following locations:

Lorton Library 9520 Richmond Highway Lorton, VA 22079-2124 703-704-6000	Kingstowne Library 6500 Landsdowne Centre Alexandria, VA 22315-5011 703-339-4610
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For any questions or comments, please contact:
Amy Martin
Fort Belvoir, Directorate of Public Works
703-805-0048

Fort Belvoir's compliance history during the life of the permit is available from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

PEOPLE

Sailing into Writing

Stephen Ryan authors "The Madonna Files."

BY ISABEL AMEND
THE GAZETTE

Stephen Ryan insisted on Landini Brothers on King Street, Alexandria, to discuss his new book "The Madonna Files." Starbucks seemed fine, but the author reiterated how important the Old Town restaurant was: "My book opens up at that restaurant and five years ago I promised myself I would someday sit down in that place as a published author — and today is that day."

The city of Alexandria has a strong hold on the newly minted author's soul. But like most people who grow up in the same town it was not always that way.

"I had lived in Alexandria pretty much my entire life — MacArthur Elementary School, Bishop Ireton High School and so by the time I finished college at George Washington University I was ready get away, explore the world." Right after college, Ryan found a ride across the Atlantic on a 40-foot sailboat. He traveled from Annapolis to Bermuda, then to the Azores and on to Portugal. The adventure rekindled his interest in writing.

While pursuing a bachelor's degree in economics at George Washington University and living in Alexandria, Ryan thought writing might be his true calling. He worked hard to write a short story for an English class and was shocked when his teacher read it aloud: "I met with her afterward and she said, 'Steve, your voice is unique and appealing — you ought to think about doing more of this.'" As an economics major, he was focused on making money, not writing. "Looking back, I should have asked her more about why she liked it, but I never believed it would lead to anything" Ryan said.

Although Ryan may not have been focused on a potential writing career as he set sail for Europe, he was determined to explore the world of Ernest Hemingway, one of his favorite literary heroes. "I wanted to be like Hemingway," he said. "I bought a motorcycle in Europe. I went to bull fights and drank with the locals."

Ryan, however, encountered some troubles along the way. One day he looked in his wallet and saw \$10 and a one-way plane ticket back to Alexandria. So Ryan reluctantly put down his backpack and picked up a brief case upon returning to Old Town. Marriage arrived followed by children and a career as a financial advisor. When the stock market crashed in 2008, Ryan reconsidered his life path. "What have I done with my life?" he asked himself. To fill the void, Ryan launched a faith-based blog, which quickly received encouragement from other writers. "I started out like every other blogger, and when more people started coming to



Author Stephen Ryan

the site, I began to write more. As I began entering deeper discussions on the website, the idea of a book came into focus."

And the adventure streak never fully went away.

Sailing had always been a part of Ryan's life, his father had owned sailboats for years, and so when his brother Paul invited him to race to Newport, R.I., from Annapolis he quickly agreed to go. Ryan has competed in more than 10 ocean races and well as dozens of other sailboat races, yet the idea of writing a novel remained quietly in the back of his mind. "It wasn't until the strange world of visions of the Virgin Mary collided with my sailing pursuits did the idea for the book come fully into focus," he said.

Ryan discovered fascinating little known facts about the Virgin Mary that inspired

him to write his book. For example, few people know that Ernest Hemingway gave away his Nobel Prize medallion to a shrine of the Virgin Mary in Cuba. Moreover, even fewer people are aware that Mark Twain spent 12 years writing a book about the visions of Joan of Arc. Then there exists the mysterious world of Marian apparitions. "I looked into Fatima and the miracle of the sun, and became very interested in the baffling world

of Marian apparitions," Ryan said.

It started as an interest of his, but then it started to take a hold of him. He combined his interest in supernatural mysteries of the Catholic Church with his love for sailing and travel. Thus Ryan fulfilled his long-dormant desire by penning a contemporary religious thriller that reads "like a cross between Indiana Jones and a Dan Brown mystery."

"The Madonna Files" is, for the most part, set in the near future, but the story begins

SEE THE MADONNA FILES. PAGE 7



PEOPLE

'The Madonna Files'

FROM PAGE 6

with a mysterious event that takes place in Rwanda just as the genocide begins to rip that country apart. From there, the story moves to the cobbled stoned streets of Alexandria where Father Daniel Baronowski finds himself in a deadly race to locate a letter stolen from the Pope's apartment. The letter contains an apocalyptic message. From Rome to Washington D.C., from Alexandria, to Annapo-

lis, to grand cathedrals and secret hideouts, Father Dan must find the letter with the secret message before enemies of the Church find it first. Ryan's debut novel, published by Whiskey Creek Press, challenges the prevailing orthodoxies of American history and Christianity, and the presence of the Virgin Mary throughout the ages.

Ryan is a member of the International Thriller Writers and now lives in Hollin Hills with his wife Tania and their two children.

OBITUARY

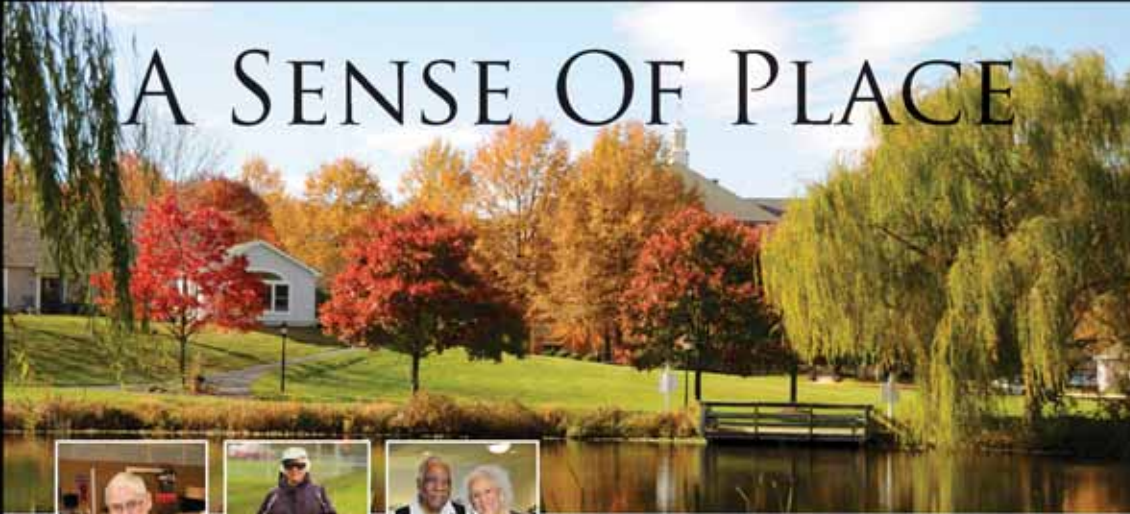
Frances Bliss Simmons




Frances Bliss Simmons, 89, of Alexandria, died on Nov. 13, 2013, at Mount Vernon Hospital surrounded by her family. Mrs. Simmons is preceded in death by her husband, BGen Edwin H. Simmons, USMC. She is survived by her children, Edwin Simmons, Jr., Clarke Simmons, Bliss Simmons Robinson, and Courtney Simmons Elwood; and five grandchildren.

A service will be held at Fort Myer Post Chapel on Jan. 23, at 3 p.m., followed by interment at Arlington National Cemetery and a reception at the Ft. Myer's Officers' Club.

The arrangements are under the direction of Cunningham Turch Funeral Home, Alexandria.

A SENSE OF PLACE



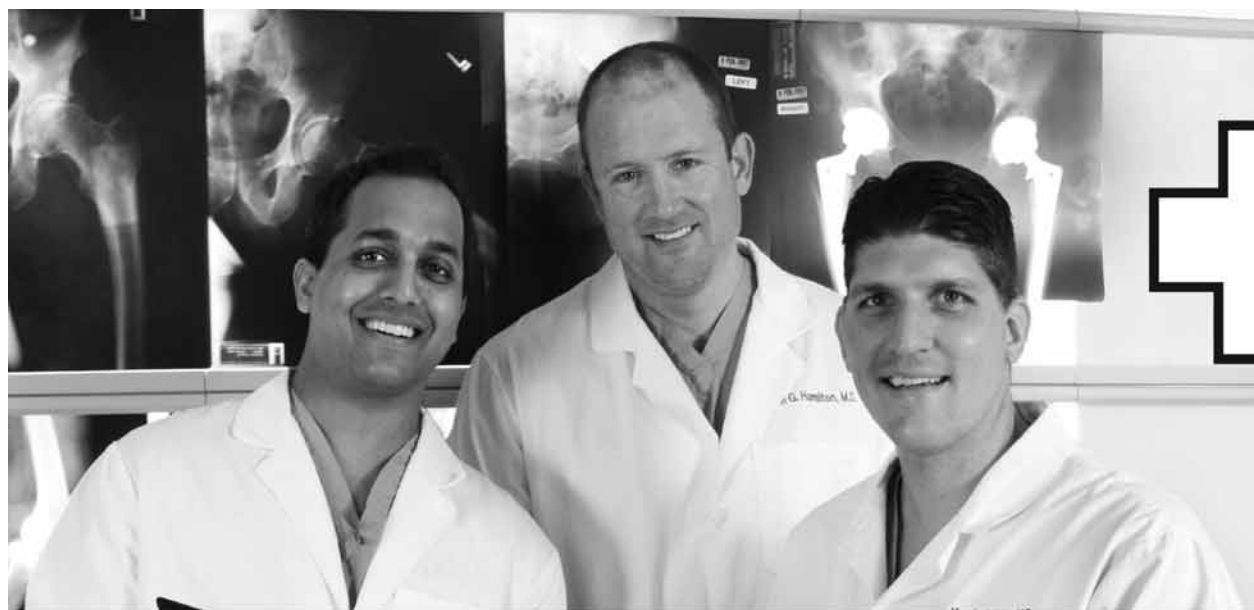




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We proudly welcome Jeanne Warner, who has chosen to represent our services in our Old Town, Alexandria office. Jeanne has been a top producing real estate professional for over twenty-five years and specializes in properties in Northern Virginia and is also licensed in Washington, DC. Please contact Jeanne at 703 980 9106 or jwarner@ttrsir.com.



ALEXANDRIA \$3,700,000 | ttrsir.com/id/AX7731151
George Washington spent his last 4th of July in 1798 in this residence when it was once a tavern. The half-acre lot features a 2-car garage, swimming pool, and carriage house.
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ROXANE NUNES +1 703 470 9903



ALEXANDRIA \$2,950,000 | ttrsir.com/id/FX8249143
This home reminiscent of a French Country Chateau offers stunning views of the Potomac River and over 8,500 sf of elegant living space on .61 acres of landscaped grounds.
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BRITT PATTERSON +1 703 517 0630



ALEXANDRIA \$2,900,000 | ttrsir.com/id/21064841
Exemplifying the heritage of beautiful Virginia architecture, yet embracing today's design elements, this home offers 5 bedrooms, pool and cabana on 1.3 acres, and is only minutes from Old Town.
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ALEXANDRIA \$2,600,000 | ttrsir.com/id/AX8064384
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DAYNA BLUMEL +1 703 597 2252



ALEXANDRIA \$1,998,000 | ttrsir.com/id/AX8202960
This stunning end-unit townhome in Old Town waterfront community offers 3 BRs, library, chef's kitchen, and a family room that leads to a brick patio. 2-car garage.
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ALEXANDRIA \$1,495,000
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OPINION

From Late Night Comedy to Your Bedroom

Why the General Assembly matters more in Virginia than most states.

The Virginia General Assembly began its annual session last week on Jan. 8. The actions of the Virginia General Assembly matter more to localities than it would in many other states. In Virginia, localities have only the power specifically granted by the General Assembly, the Dillon rule.

So, for example, Montgomery County and Prince Georges County in Maryland recently voted to increase the minimum wage in those localities. They didn't need permission from Maryland General Assembly to do so. Arlington and Alexandria might be inclined to follow suit (the District government also voted to increase the minimum wage) but do not have that power.

The General Assembly limits how localities can raise revenue, what kinds of traffic regulations they can implement, whether they can control where guns are allowed, whether school districts can begin classes before Labor Day, and much more.

Fairfax, Arlington and Alexandria sent their members of the Northern Virginia delegation of state senators, all Democrats, and delegates, overwhelmingly Democrats (13-5), to Richmond, where the House of Delegates is overwhelmingly Republican and control of the Senate is still up in the air pending special elections.

Del. Ken Plum (D-36) filed HB536 which would "increase the minimum wage from its current federally mandated level of \$7.25 per

hour to \$8.25 per hour effective July 1, 2014, and to \$9.25 per hour effective July 1, 2015, unless a higher minimum wage is required by the federal Fair Labor Standards Act." It isn't likely to see the light of day.

Anyone can watch the Virginia House of Delegates or Senate on streaming video when either is in session, and the Virginia General Assembly proved last year that it can be worthy of national attention for entertainment. It is in fact well worth tuning in once or twice or more. Visit <http://virginiageneralassembly.gov/> and click on "members and session," and see the "quick links" section for video links.

Legislators will consider literally thousands of bills between now and March 8.

EDITORIAL

Some quite random examples of proposed legislation from local delegates and senators:

❖ Del. Dave Albo (R-42): Driving while intoxicated; refusal of blood or breath tests. This bill would allow a person who has been arrested for driving while intoxicated and who has refused to submit to a blood or breath test be given another opportunity to consent to testing after the arresting officer has advised the person of the consequences of his refusal.

❖ Del. David Bulova (D-37): One bill would allow the employment of lights for the observation of deer (spotlighting) for certain activities authorized by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Another would provide that property used in connection with certain crimes associated with human trafficking is subject to forfeiture to the Commonwealth.

❖ Del. Scott Surovell (D-44) has propose the repeal of last year's hybrid tax, plus a bill that would place a cap on the compensation that may be paid to a special counsel appointed to handle certain legal matters where it would be improper or uneconomical for the Attor-

See for Yourself

Visit <http://virginiageneralassembly.gov/> and click on "members and session," and see the "quick links" section for live video links, information on who your legislators are and how to track bills. Every resident is represented by one state delegate and one state senator; look up your and email to be placed on their mailing lists. Consider attending their local meetings.

ney General, or the Attorney General is unable, to handle such matters. That cap would be the same as allowed for a court appointed attorney, a very small amount.

❖ Del Barbara Comstock (R-34) proposes to allow local school districts to set their own calendars. Another bill would include non-motor vehicles including bicycles among vehicles that any driver must not tailgate. Another would require most state colleges and universities to allocate 75 percent of their slots for in-state students by 2019-2020 school year.

❖ Del. Patrick Hope (D-47) proposes to prohibit firearms on the floor of the House of Delegates. Another bill would require public institutions of higher learning in Virginia to provide a dedicated page on its website to information on mental health resources available to students.

❖ Del. Rob Krupicka (D-45) proposes that an unexpired Virginia driver's license remains valid for purposes of voter identification at the polls notwithstanding the fact that it has been suspended or revoked under certain circumstances. Another bill would clarify that vehicles must stop to allow pedestrians to cross highways at marked crosswalks.

❖ Del. Jim LeMunyon (R-67) proposes an amendment to the U.S. Constitution; "Makes application to the U.S. Congress to call a constitutional convention for the purpose of proposing a constitutional amendment that pertains to the subject of balancing the federal budget."

❖ Del. Kaye Kory (D-38) also proposes to allow local school districts to set their own calendar and to repeal the hybrid tax. Another bill would clarify a law which prohibits a person from overtaking or passing another vehicle stopped at a marked or unmarked crosswalk at an intersection when a pedestrian is present.

❖ Del. Alfonso Lopez (D-49) proposes a Virginia version of the Dream Act, allowing in-state tuition for students who came to the U.S. as children without documentation when certain conditions are met.

❖ Del. Mark Sickles (D-43) proposes to create the Virginia Health Benefit Exchange, which will be established and operated by a new division within the State Corporation Commission.

❖ Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30) proposes the repeal of the constitutional amendment dealing with marriage that was approved by referendum at the November 2006 election.

❖ Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37) would make it a Class 1 misdemeanor for the owner of a website to both post an arrest photo and solicit, request, or accept money for removing the photograph.

❖ Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) proposes to require drivers and passengers to wait for a reasonable opportunity to open vehicle doors on the side adjacent to moving traffic, an effort to prevent the "dooring" of bicyclists.



Delivering Warmth

Stratford Woman's Club members donated 55 warm shirts for the homeless population of the Route 1 corridor. Delivering these gifts are Celia Boertlein, Anne Guenther, Mark W. Cline, mental health therapist at the Gartlan Center, and Dorene Steadman, committee chairman. Supporting this group has been an on-going project of the SWC for many years.

Mount Vernon Gazette

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2014 Session Focuses on Ethics, Medicaid and U.S. 1

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

On Jan. 8, the 2014 General Assembly Session was gavelled into session and I took my third oath of office. The biggest issues on the horizon right now are ethics reform and the expansion of Medicaid.

COMMENTARY Governor McDonnell's problems over the last 12 months have shown a spotlight on Virginia's inadequate gift, disclosure, and campaign finance law.

Two months ago, I wrote a column with six changes that are critical including reporting gifts and transactions between special interests and elected officials' family members and businesses, caps on gifts to elected officials including local government officials, campaign contributions limits, disclosure of all activity during twelve month



periods, restrictions on spending campaign money on personal expenses, and creating an independent ethics commission with audit and enforcement powers.

Last week, a bipartisan group of legislators announced the preliminary agreement about ethics reform but it did not go far enough. The group is now considering feedback provided my members, including myself, to make the reforms tougher. Hopefully, the final proposal will be meaningful.

The expansion of Medicaid is absolutely critical for the 44th District. The 44th District has the largest population receiving healthcare from Medicaid of all 26 delegates from Northern Virginia. This include 9,000 children — if you are under 18 and live in the West Potomac or Mount Vernon High

School pyramids there is a 1 in 3 chance you receive your healthcare from Medicaid. Each one of those children has parents with no health insurance.

INOVA Hospital is providing healthcare without reimbursement for many of these families and everyone ends up paying for it — especially if you have private health insurance. Charity medical care also consumes are huge amount of the General Fund which takes away money for secondary education, higher education, and other priorities.

Virginians are also paying tax dollars to the Federal Government that now go to other states. The Federal Government has agreed to pick up 100 percent of the cost of the Medicaid expansion now and 90 percent in the out years. Leaving billions of Virginians' federal tax dollars sitting on the table to be gobbled up by other states while hard working low income Virginians go without health insurance is political mal-

practice. I am hopeful we can broker a compromise on that issue.

I have introduced over 30 bills of my own this session and about 10 budget amendments including funding the next phase of the study to start engineering transit improvements to U.S. 1.

If you would like more updates on Richmond you can follow me on Twitter (@ssurovell), "Like" my Facebook Page, sign up for email updates on my website (www.scottsurovell.org) or read my online newsletter — The Dixie Pig (scottsurovell.blogspot.com).

Also, please take a moment to complete my 2014 Constituent Survey. You can find a link on my website — www.scottsurovell.org/survey.

Happy New Year

BY LINDA T. "TODDY" PULLER
STATE SENATOR

General Assembly Off to a Busy Start

BY ADAM EBBIN
STATE SENATOR

On Jan. 8, the General Assembly began its 2014 legislative session with many of the traditions established over our nearly 400-year history. All 100 members of the House of Delegates were sworn in and a new senator from Chesapeake elected in a special election joined us. That night, Gov. Bob McDonnell delivered his final State of the Commonwealth address. He recounted his accomplishments

COMMENTARY

and apologized for failing to disclose improperly accepted gifts and loans from a prominent business executive.

In less than a week more than 2,000 pieces of legislation have been introduced for consideration during our 60-day legislative session. Thus far I have introduced 17 bills. They deal with topics ranging from establishing a more taxpayer-friendly refund process, citizenship initiatives and asbestos worker safety to measures to fight human trafficking, discrimination and legal fraud.

One major bill I've submitted deals with ethics reform and disclosure laws to improve public confidence in state government. My legislation would provide greater transparency on previously undisclosed



transactions between lobbyists and the families of public officials. An online database would provide for greater public access to financial disclosure reports from lawmakers and lobbyists. Additional provisions will be added as the bill advances.

Senate Bill 1 is my effort to repeal the recently-enacted hybrid vehicle tax. I spoke out against this on the Senate floor last year and, along with Del. Scott Surovell of Mount Vernon, launched an online petition which garnered more than 7,300 signatures opposing this irrational tax. After we presented our petition to Governor McDonnell, he amended the original \$100 fee to \$64. However, it is still unreasonable because it arbitrarily taxes hybrid technology — even in those cases where some hybrids get poorer fuel economy than some gasoline-only engines.

It also discourages the purchase of environmentally-friendly cars.

This past Saturday, I had the honor of attending Terry McAuliffe's inauguration as Virginia's 72nd governor. Governor McAuliffe campaigned on a platform of creating jobs and diversifying our economy, and I know he will work tirelessly to pro-

mote Virginia as a great place to do business and raise a family. My former Senate colleagues Ralph Northam and Mark Herring were also sworn in as Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General, and I am confident they too will work to move Virginia in the right direction.

If you're in Richmond between now and March 8, please stop by my office and see me. You can also email me at district30@senate.virginia.gov or call 804-698-7530 with your thoughts on legislation or state-related matters. I am active on Facebook and Twitter (@AdamEbbin) and more information is available at www.adamebbin.com, where I encourage you to sign up for my weekly email updates.

Please join me at Town Hall Meetings this winter:

♦ Mt. Vernon: Jan. 25, 11-12:30 at Mount Vernon Government Center (2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria) with Del. Scott Surovell and Sen. Toddy Puller.

♦ Lee District: Feb. 1, 10-12, Kingstowne Village Center (6090 Kingstowne Village Parkway, Alexandria) with Del. Mark Sickles, Sen. George Barker and Sen. Toddy Puller.

♦ Alexandria/Arlington: Feb. 15, 10-12, exact location to be determined. With Del. Rob Krupicka.

It is an honor to represent the citizens of the 30th Senate District.

This is always an exciting time of year — a new calendar and a return trip to Richmond for another year of General Assembly. This year is extra special for me, as my dear friends Sen. Ralph Northam and Sen. Mark Herring be-



came Lt. Gov. Northam and Attorney General Herring. I also was honored to be part of the Senate Escort Committee for the inauguration of our 72nd governor, Terry McAuliffe.

This is also a budget year and after 23 years in the General Assembly, first as a delegate and now in my 13th year as a senator, the one thing I know for sure is the long session years where we work on a biennial budget are always exciting. With an energetic new governor promising "common ground" and a spirit of bipartisanship, this will be exciting indeed.

Once again, I am carrying several bills to benefit our veterans and military, improve our communities and the lives of those neighbors who are differently abled and moving from training centers to group homes. I am carrying budget amendments for the Special Olympics, Virginia Wounded Warriors Project and Historic Dumfries, Inc, among others.

I will be hosting two town hall meetings this winter: Jan. 25 at the Mount Vernon Government Center from 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. and Feb. 1 at the Kingstowne Thompson Center from 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. I look forward to meeting my constituents at those town halls and giving an update on the legislative session.

As always I am honored to represent the 36th senatorial district of Virginia and look forward to working hard for my constituents. Anyone with an issue or concern should contact my office in Richmond at district36@senate.virginia.gov or by phone: 804-698-7536.

will become accessible. Anything.

The NSA was initially conceived in 1917, during World War I under the War Department, now known at the Department of Defense. At the time, the agency was used to intercept data from foreign countries that thought of any attack on United States Soil. Then, they collected records from the Axis Powers during World War II. During the Vietnam War, they uncovered evidence of

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 23

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

National (In)Security

To the Editor:

Imagine this:

You are at home, watching TV or reading a book when robbers break into your house. They disarm your security alarm without setting it off; they remove your address book, your safe that incidentally holds your Social Security, birth certificate, bank statements, bonds or hidden money. They take

your open laptop that has pictures of your family or your email, Facebook, etc. They even take your cellular phone. And all the while, you are just sitting there, oblivious to the data that is stolen from you.

During our already troubling times, the National (In)Security Agency (NSA) has announced their plan to create a "super" computer that can bypass any encrypted files stored on any computer. This means, any data that is important or private to you



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9009 Captains Row
\$665,000
Great Opportunity!
Stately columned residence
in prime location on
prestigious Captains Row at
exceptionally competitive
price! Large 5BR, 3BA

home with many significant updated items. Special features: updated kitchen with stainless appliances, granite counters, custom trim detail, stained hardwood floors, master with updated bath, 2 fireplaces, gas heat & hot water. Oversize 2 car garage and custom 2 level deck. Priced to sell! **OPEN SUN 1/19, 1-4! GW Pky South; R-Stratford Ln; L-Captains Row.**



8412 Washington Ave
\$425,000
True One Story -
No Stairs!

Expanded Rambler on level lot in prime Mt. Vernon location. All major rooms including bedrooms on one level. Extensive major updates include: thermal windows, kitchen, baths, furnace, electric panel, siding, gutters-in short almost everything! Large back covered deck. One level living in "move-in" condition at remarkable price! **OPEN SUN 1/19, 1-4! GW Pky S, past Estate; R-Old Mt Vernon Rd; L-Woodley Dr; R-Washington Ave.**



8520 Highland Lane
\$479,000
New Home at
Unprecedented Price!

Must see to believe! Priced \$220K below the next lowest priced new SFH in FFX Co. Brand new home by leading custom builder intended for family member but circumstances changed. Result: unique opportunity to acquire top quality new SFH for less than townhouse or used home. Dramatic open interior, luxury kitchen and baths, screen porch, two car garage, stone and stucco exterior. Unique opportunity! **OPEN SUN 1/19, 1-4! Rte 1 S; R-Highland Ln.**



4325 Adrienne Dr
\$598,950
Southwood Gem!

Gorgeous home and grounds, fabulous 4BR Colonial in pristine condition with many major updates including expanded gourmet kitchen w/custom cabinetry,ilestone counters, stainless appliances and large breakfast area. Other features: hwd floors, family room with fireplace, thermal windows and two car garage. Beautiful grounds with brick walk, stone patio & magnificent landscaping. Nothing like it for under \$600,000!



9412 Old Mount Vernon Rd
Craftsman Masterpiece!
\$1,198,950

Former model by Wakefield Homes loaded with options and upgrades. Many fabulous features include: open floor plan, high ceilings, three finished levels, 4 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, gourmet kitchen, 2 car garage. Gorgeous location on elevated lot with extensive landscaping and custom stonework. Priced thousands below current price list.



9305 Allwood Ct
\$519,500
Stunning Value-
Huge Potential!

Spacious home with two car garage on quiet cu-de -sac in prime Mt Vernon location! Features include 3 finished levels, open floor plan with soaring cathedral ceilings, hwd flrs, updated kitchen and large bedrooms. Check the comps-nothing provides the combination of house and lot size in this premier location for close to this price!



1938 Shiver Dr
\$625,000
Totally Updated!

Truly stunning home in prime "close-in" location! Fab features include columned front portico, bright-open floor plan, gourmet kit with custom white cabinets, SS appl, gas cooktop, soapstone countertop & large island. Other features include "Pella" replacement windows, hardwood floors, 2 FPs, 3 full baths, & gorgeous professionally landscaped grounds. All the work has been-just move in & enjoy!

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703-477-0849 (cell)
dianna.campagna@LNF.com

Steve Kindrick
Instructor
703-683-0400 (office)
steve.kindrick@LNF.com

***Classes begin on Saturday, January 25th and end on Saturday, February 22nd. They will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:00pm - 9:30pm and on Saturdays, 9:00am - 5:00pm during the day.

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Bob Wood 703.244.0505



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River Room is superb. Smaller units avail. By app'l.
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Mary Taylor 703.785.5619



\$ 689,000
Alexandria South
"NEW LISTING"

Beautifully remodeled and customized in 2010, this 5BR/2.5BA Colonial is sited on a great street. Spacious rooms, separate dining

room and breakfast room. First floor family room has a gas fireplace. Hardwood floors. Year round porch/sunroom and level backyard space just perfect for outdoor activities.

Louise Devers 703.795.9944



\$ 699,900
Alexandria South
"NEW ALEXANDRIA"

Stately brick residence with extensive landscaping on a large flat lot with winter river views. 3BR/2.5BA, beamed ceiling library, bright sunroom, living room with

fireplace, attached garage, warm wood floors. Across from the Belle Haven Marina, bike path and approximately one mile south of Old Town. Straight up the GW Parkway to the airport and DC.

Michael Manuel 703.615.6317



\$ 519,000
Alexandria South
"EXCELLENT VALUE"

This large 3-4BR / 2.5BA home with a solarium addition will delight nature lovers! The lush garden provides views of nature and greenery from every

window. Skylight, bay windows, warm hardwoods, separate DR. Freshly painted, replacement windows. LL family room with fireplace. Rec room addition. Fenced yard with patio and storage shed. New roof. Meticulously maintained.

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Sean Satkus 703.731.8086



\$ 485,000
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NEW LISTING! Townhome living for the price of a condo! Gorgeous kitchen with granite and GE CAFE appliances, hardwood floors on main level, two master bedrooms with en-suites, deck and two-car garage. Outdoor pool. So close to Eisenhower Metro and Old Town.

Mike Lekas 703.927.9895



RENTALS

10169 Mosby Woods Dr #307 \$1,200
Mosby Woods Garden 1BR / 1BA
Janice Allen 703.509.0906

6605 Potomac Ave #B1 \$1,500
Belle View Garden 2BR / 1BA
Elife Blankini 703.593.2634

424 Nelson Ave E \$1,950
Birdie May Mason Row House 3BR / 1.5BA
Lauren Leggett 703.582.7354

2817 School St \$2,200
Penn Daw Village Detached 3BR / 2BA
Steve Kindrick 703.683.0400

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ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Alexandria resident and retired military pilot James Toler has collected photos of hundreds of pieces of graffiti painted on the concrete walls of the Kandahar base in Afghanistan and will be displaying his photos this weekend at St. Elmo's Coffee Pub in Del Ray.

Tags from the Edge

Photo exhibit features artwork made by soldiers and civilian contractors.

BY AMBER HEALY
THE GAZETTE

Under the cover of darkness, soldiers and civilian contractors are taking to the walls of the Kandahar military base in Afghanistan.

They're using spray paint and stencils, along with their sense of humor and expression, to make the beige concrete walls a little more colorful.

"This is far better than the street art you see around here," said James Toler, who walked around the base, both as a military "VIP pilot" and civilian, with his camera and captured dozens of photos of the graffiti that is filling the walls not just on the Kandahar installation, but smaller bases as well.

The artwork is better because "it's done in a stressful situation," he said. He first noticed the tags in 2011 or 2012, but during his last visit he saw that the numbers had multiplied and the theme of the work had changed.

At first it was military unit logos, a way for a unit passing through to physically mark their presence. But it has evolved, now including characters from movies, such as Will Farrell's Ron Burgundy, TV shows like Beavis and Butthead, sports team logos like the NHL's Detroit Red Wings, and more traditional street art fare, like scantily clad women.

"It's awesome," Toler said of the artwork.

The soldiers are there for undetermined lengths of time and it's likely they've turned to graffiti to make the base homier, in addition to letting off a little steam, he said. They can't hang pictures on the walls, so they make their own on the concrete.

Art therapy is recognized as a treatment for post-traumatic stress conditions, he added.

What's surprising is that the images are staying on

the walls and not being washed on or painted over, he said. How long that will remain true, however, is uncertain.

Toler is using his photos and the stories they tell to try and create a movement to gain support for bringing a segment or two of these walls back to the United States as a monument or memorial for the war in Afghanistan. It wouldn't cost the government anything to build, and as a pilot in the military for 29 years — he was told his retirement was being delayed after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks — he believes it would be possible to ship a wall out on some of the larger cargo jets, which sometimes fly "in and out" without any cargo.

"Those jets carry tanks and big pieces of equipment," he said. "A piece of cement is nothing."

What he needs to make that happen is the support of the right people in the right places, Toler said. He's been in contact with the Smithsonian and some high-ranking military officials, but so far there are no guarantees or commitments.

"It's like the Berlin wall," a portion of which is on display at the Newseum downtown, he said. The tags in Kandahar are a physical, real-time documentary of life in that space, and a reflection of the men and women working, living and fighting there.

Also like the wall that divided Berlin for decades, the artwork appears at night, and the risk of getting caught with a spray can of paint in hand is very real.

Ideally, he'd like to see the walls, or segments thereof, on the Mall in Washington, "maybe at a big end of the war party with the USO band playing."

Toler said he doesn't know the names of any of the people responsible for the artwork, but he'd like to eventually track some of them down and write a book. For now, he's got the photographs.



Details

Alexandria resident and retired military pilot James Toler will be displaying his collection of photographs showing the graffiti painted on the walls of the Kandahar military base at St. Elmo's Coffee Pub, 2300 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria, from 2-4 p.m. this Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 18 and 19. He'll also be selling a limited number of self-published books featuring his entire collection, the funds from which will be used to create more books. More photos are available online, at <http://cargocollective.com/jtoler> and <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aG2qdBaQsOo>.



CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Solo Artist Preview Exhibit. Runs Jan. 9-23 at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, on the waterfront in Old Town Alexandria at 105 N Union St. Call 703-683-1780 or visit www.theartleague.org. The Art League's Solo Artist Preview Exhibit premieres one piece by each of the

nine solo artists on the 2014 exhibition calendar, which include photographers, collage artists, sculptors, and painters. A panel of outside jurors select the solo exhibits at The Art League in a process that happens two years in advance.

Theater Performance. Aldersgate Church Community Theater presents Disney's "Beauty and the Beast, Jr." The show runs Jan. 17-26. \$10-\$12. Visit accionline.org.

Art Exhibit. See "No Room For Doubt," abstract works on wood, canvas and paper by Kristen Hayes through Jan. 26 at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St.

Free. Visit nvfaa.org or 703-548-0035.

Art Exhibit. Artist John Gascot of Studio 4, 218 N. Lee St., suite 101, creates an art exhibit to honor the life journeys of transgender individuals. It will be on display through January. Gallery hours are Thursday-Saturday, noon-7 p.m. and Sunday from noon-5 p.m. or by appointment. Visit www.studio4oldtown.com for more.

Art Exhibit. See "Primary Colors" art exhibit from Jan. 3-Feb. 2 at The Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Artists use the three primary

colors without mixing them. Free. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org for more.

Theater Performance. See "The Ballad of the Red Knight" by Red Knight Productions at Port City Playhouse, 1819 N. Quaker Lane. Runs Jan. 24 through Feb. 8. Performances are Friday at 8 p.m. and Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. For tickets visit www.portcityplayhouse.org.

Art Exhibit. The results of the latest art challenge issued by Artistic Artifacts, "Mixed Media Metallics," will be exhibited Jan. 18-Feb. 8. Many of the

entries are included in a silent auction benefitting Food for Others. On display at Artistic Artifacts, 4750 Eisenhower Ave. Admission is one non-perishable food item, which will be donated to Food for Others. Visit www.ArtisticArtifacts.com/metallics for more.

Art Exhibit. See a solo photographic exhibit "Darkness Visible" by Timothy Hyde at Multiple Exposures Gallery in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Runs Jan. 7 through Feb. 16. Hyde's photography examines the mysteries hidden in the shadows. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for

January 17-26, 2014

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ENTERTAINMENT

more.

Theater Performance. Arts on the Horizon presents “Under the Canopy,” a 20-minute interactive, nonverbal show for children up to age 4. Performances are Feb. 12-14, 16, 17, 19-21, 23 at 10:30 a.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. \$5/person. Visit www.artsonthehorizon.org for tickets. They can be purchased at the door.

Celebrate Black History Month. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Feb. 1-28 at Mount Vernon Estate. In observance of Black History Month, George Washington's Mount Vernon highlights the lives and contributions of the slaves who built and operated the plantation home of George and Martha Washington. A wreathlaying and presentation occurs daily at the slave memorial site throughout the month of February. Black History Month activities are included in admission: adults, \$18; senior citizens, \$17; children age 6-11, when accompanied by an adult, \$9; and children under age 5, free. Visit www.mountvernon.org or 703-780-2000.

Art Exhibit. See “Reincarnations” art exhibit at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Features art from salvaged items, art from encyclopedias and more. Free. Runs Feb. 7 through March 2. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org for more.

Art Exhibit. See “Frances Gallardo: Meteorology” Jan. 18 through March 2 at the Target Gallery in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org/ target for more.

Art Exhibit. See “Songs of the Shore,” archival inkjet prints by Chantilly resident Peter Toth in the Margaret W. and Joseph L. Fisher Art Gallery, of the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Runs Feb. 7 through March 16. Visit www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/gallery.html for more.

Theater Performance. See “Ella Fitzgerald: First Lady of Song” at MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St., from Jan. 23-March 16. Performances are 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. Tickets may be ordered by calling 1-800-494-8497 or online at boxofficetickets.com. For group sales and information call the theatre at 703-548-9044. Visit www.metrostage.org for more.

Occupied City: Life in Civil War Alexandria Exhibition. At The Lyceum, 201 South Washington St., through Sunday, March 23. This exhibit traces life in Alexandria following Virginia's decision to secede from the Union in May 1861. The Lyceum is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. Suggested admission is \$2. Visit www.alexandriahistory.org or call 703-746-4994.

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

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.

Life Drawing. Del Ray Artisans offers a range of open life drawing sessions for anyone to develop life-drawing

Boys & Girls Club Awards Dinner and Auction

The Annual Dinner will be held at the Carlyle Club in Alexandria Saturday Jan. 25, 7 p.m. The event recognizes community leaders who have made contributions to the youth of the Dunbar Alexandria-Olympic Boys & Girls Club. Through the awards, their achievements and dedication to enduring opportunities for success are celebrated. Former Redskin Joe Theismann will be in attendance as honorary chair. The Dunbar Alexandria-Olympic Boys & Girls Club has been serving youth in the city of Alexandria for more than 77 years. All proceeds from the dinner and silent auction go directly to providing positive after-school and summer experiences for area boys and girls. Tickets are \$100 each and the evening will include dinner, dancing, and an open bar. In addition, there will be a selection of silent auction items to bid on. Business attire. Contact cmérica@bgcgw.org or 703-549-3077 or www.2014bgcdinner.eventbrite.com

Joe Theismann



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

skills further. Just drop-in for the session and bring your supplies to draw or paint our live models. Fee ranges from \$8-\$12. All skill levels are welcome. Del Ray Artisans is located at 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org for a schedule.

Photography Workshop. 10:30 a.m.-noon at Multiple Exposures Gallery on 105 N. Union Street. Photographers and enthusiasts of all skill levels are invited to share work, ideas, and questions at this free workshop held on the last Sunday of each month, except December. No reservations. Call 703-683-2205.

Intro to Machine Sewing for Children. Saturday, Jan. 18 from 10 a.m.-noon at Art at the Center, 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. Learn the basics of a sewing machine and beginning sewing skills. \$35. Visit <http://www.artatthecenter.org/registration.htm> to register.

Quilting for Children. A six-week machine quilting class on Saturdays, Jan. 25-March 1 at Art at the Center, 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. \$180. Kits are available for purchase. For children ages 8 and up. Visit <http://www.artatthecenter.org/registration.htm> to register.

Winter Sewing Classes. A six-week introduction to machine sewing on Thursday, Jan. 23-March 6 or Saturdays, Jan. 25-March 1 at Art at the Center, 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. \$200. For children ages 8 and up. Visit <http://www.artatthecenter.org/registration.htm> to register.

FRIDAY/JAN. 17

Swing Dance. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Dance to live music. \$4/person. 703-765-4573.

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Jackson Edwards (of the WeatherVanes) will open for Junior Brown. Visit www.birchmere.com or 703-549-7500 for tickets.

Music Performance. 8 p.m. at Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill, 3606 Seminary Road. The Singers' Theatre of Washington presents “Ariadne auf Naxos.” \$20/general; \$15/senior and student. Buy tickets at www.singerstheatre.com or at the door.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/JAN. 17-26

Alexandria Restaurant Week. A prix-fixe three-course dinner or dinner for two will be offered at 50

Alexandria restaurants throughout the city. Visit www.visitalexandriava.com or 703-746-3301.

SATURDAY/JAN. 18

Dance Performance. 2 p.m. at Theatre on the Run, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive. Jane Franklin Dance performs “Mouse of Amherst,” adapted from the book “Mouse in House” by Elizabeth Spire. \$15/adult; \$10/child. Visit www.janefranklin.com or 703-933-1111.

Reception. 3-8 p.m. meet some of the artists of “Mixed Media Metallics.” Many of the entries are included in a silent auction benefitting Food for Others. On display at Artistic Artifacts, 4750 Eisenhower Ave. Admission is one non-perishable food, which will be donated to Food for Others. Visit www.ArtisticArtifacts.com/metallics for more.

Opening Reception. 6-9 p.m. artist John Gascot of Studio 4, 218 N. Lee St., suite 101, creates an art exhibit to honor the life journeys of transgender individuals. It will be on display the whole month of January. Gallery hours are Thursday-Saturday, noon-7 p.m. and Sunday from noon-5 p.m. or by appointment. Visit www.studio4oldtown.com for more.

Dance Performance. 7 p.m. at Theatre on the Run, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive. Jane Franklin Dance performs “The Trickster,” a multidisciplinary work in collaboration with percussionist Tom Teasley. \$20/person. Visit www.janefranklin.com or 703-933-1111. Tickets can be purchased at the door.

Performance. 7:30 p.m. at The George Washington Masonic Memorial Theatre, 101 Callahan Drive. Watch Greek dancing by Dynami and a performance of “Dyskolos.” Presented by Ambassador Theater. Tickets are \$15-\$30. Visit www.aticc.org/home/box-office for tickets.

Music Performance. 8 p.m. at Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill, 3606 Seminary Road. The Singers' Theatre of Washington presents “Ariadne auf Naxos.” \$20/general; \$15/senior and student. Buy tickets at www.singerstheatre.com or at the door.

SUNDAY/JAN. 19

Celebrate Community 5k & 1K Fun Run/Walk. 9 a.m. at 2021 Eisenhower Ave., near the U.S.

Patent Office. Benefits ALIVE! Bring a non-perishable food item. Families and strollers welcome. \$25/5K before Jan. 16; \$35/race day. \$15/1K before Jan. 16; \$20/race day. Visit www.prracing.racebx.com or 703-998-6460.

“From Board Game to Book.”

Noon-4 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans gallery at the Nicholas A. Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Stacy Rausch teaches participants to create a one-of-a-kind art book using a board game as the cover with traditional book-binding methods and materials. The fee (all supplies included) is just \$48 for Del Ray Artisans members, \$53 for non-members. Register at www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

Winter Warmer Tea. 3-4:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern, 138 N. Royal St. Eat period-inspired delicacies while enjoying tea and American Heritage Chocolate. A historic guest will be visiting. \$35/person and is all inclusive. Reservations required, shop.alexandriava.gov or 703-746-4242.

Performance. 5 p.m. at The George Washington Masonic Memorial Theatre, 101 Callahan Drive. Watch Greek dancing by Dynami and a performance of “Dyskolos.” Presented by Ambassador Theater. Tickets are \$15-\$30. Visit www.aticc.org/home/box-office for tickets.

Music Performance. 7 p.m. at Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard St. Focus Music presents folk singer-songwriters Joe Crookston with Tiffany Thompson. \$18/door; \$15/advance or member. 703-380-3151.

Music Performance. 2 p.m. at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, 3001 N. Beauregard St. The Capitol Symphonic Youth Orchestras will perform. Visit www.tcsyo.org for more.

MONDAY/JAN. 20

Theatre Production. 12:30 p.m. at Agudas Achim, 2908 Valley Drive. See “The Meeting,” which depicts what might have happened had Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Jr. met before they were assassinated. \$10/adult; \$5/student. Visit 703-998-6460.

Talk. 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Michael Mark Ludlow will discuss “19th Century Conspicuous Consumption: Artistic Examples of Alexandria's Unique Cast Iron Downspouts.” Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org or 703-548-0035.

Give Together. Families with school-

age children can volunteer together at Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road. Register at www.volunteerfairfax.org.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Poster Exhibition and Program. 1-3 p.m. in the Vola Lawson Lobby of City Hall, 301 King t. Browse posters created by local students. There will also be a speaker. Free. 703-746-4706.

TUESDAY/JAN. 21

Special Tour. 1:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon Estate. Take a special tour of the new Fred W. Smith National Library for the study of George Washington. Included in admission. Visit www.mountvernon.org or 703-780-2000.

Jewelry information Session. 12:30 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Bring a piece of jewelry and get information on it, such as how old it is, how to restore and repair it. Free. 703-765-4573.

Chamber Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Pendleton Hall, Episcopal High School, 3900 W. Braddock Road. The National Chamber Players with guest artist Nurit Bar-Josef perform Paganini's Duet for violin and bassoon, Igor Frolov's Divertimento for two violins and piano, and Mozart's Quintet in A Major for clarinet and strings. Free, no tickets required. Call 703-933-4135 or visit www.episcopalhighschool.org/arts.

Birthday Celebration. Jackson 20 is holding specials, including a lobster boil, in honor of the restaurant's 6th birthday. Located at 480 King St. For reservations 703-842-2790.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 22

Art Talk. 10:30 a.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Joan Hart presents “Monet, the Supreme Impressionist: An Overview of the Works of Monet's Artistic Career.” Free. 703-765-4573.

FRIDAY/JAN. 24

Theater Performance. 7 p.m. at West Potomac High School, 6500 Quander Road. See “Peter Pan and Wendy,” recommended for all ages. \$10/person at wphspeterpan.brownpapertickets.com or at the door.

SATURDAY/JAN. 25

A Royal Feline Adoption Event. 1 p.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Cats that have been cared for by King Street Cat volunteers will be looking for their forever home. Visit <http://kingstreetcats.org/> for more.

Dance Performance. 2 p.m. at Theatre on the Run, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive. Jane Franklin Dance performs “Penelope's Pesky Pen,” inspired by a children's book by Frank Dormer. \$10-\$15/person. Visit www.janefranklin.com or 703-933-1111.

Theater Performance. 2 p.m. or 7 p.m. at West Potomac High School, 6500 Quander Road. See “Peter Pan and Wendy,” recommended for all ages. \$10/person at wphspeterpan.brownpapertickets.com or at the door.

Dance Performance. 7 p.m. at Theatre on the Run, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive. Jane Franklin Dance performs “The Trickster,” a multidisciplinary work in collaboration with percussionist Tom Teasley. \$20/person. Visit www.janefranklin.com or 703-933-1111. Tickets can be purchased at the door.

Annual Dinner. 7 p.m. at Carlyle Club, 411 John Carlyle St. The Dunbar Alexandria-Olympic Boys & Girls Club will recognize community leaders. Former Redskin Joe

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

ENTERTAINMENT

Theismann will be in attendance as honorary chair. \$100/person and includes dinner, dancing and silent auction. All proceeds benefit the club. Call 703-549-3077 or visit www.2014bgcdinner.eventbrite.com.

Lecture and Bourbon Tasting. 7 p.m. at Lee-Fendall House Museum and Garden, 614 Oronoco St. Hear about Revolutionary War hero and governor of Virginia, Gen. Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee and his son Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee. A tasting of bourbons will be available after the lecture. \$7/lecture; \$15/tasting or \$20/both. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org/ for more.

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. The Manhattans featuring Gerald Alston and Blue Lovett will perform. \$45. Visit www.birchmere.com or 703-549-7500 for tickets.

Civil War Ball. Doors open at 7:30 p.m., and event from 8-11 p.m. in Gadsby's Tavern Ballroom, 138 N. Royal St. Features dancing, live music, desserts. Period attire or after-five wear. Reservations recommended. Visit shop.alexandriava.gov or 703-746-4242 for tickets.

SUNDAY/JAN. 26

Dance Performance. 2 p.m. at Theatre on the Run, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive. Jane Franklin Dance performs "Penelope's Pesky Pen," inspired by a children's book by Frank Dormer. \$10-\$15/person. Visit www.janefranklin.com or 703-933-1111.

Theater Performance. 2 p.m. at West Potomac High School, 6500 Quander Road. See "Peter Pan and Wendy," recommended for all ages. \$10/person at wphspeterpan.brownpaper tickets.com or at the door.

Winter Warmer Tea. 3-4:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern, 138 N. Royal St. Eat period-inspired delicacies while enjoying tea and American Heritage Chocolate. A historic guest will be visiting. \$35/person and is all inclusive. Reservations required, shop.alexandriava.gov or 703-746-4242.

MONDAY/JAN. 27

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Robin Zander of Cheap Trick will perform a solo concert. \$35. Visit www.birchmere.com or 703-549-7500 for tickets.

Music Performance. Alexandria's Fuse Box will perform at Jammin' Java, 227 E. Maple Ave., Vienna. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., show at 7:30 p.m. \$10/advance; \$13/door. All ages welcome. Visit www.jamminjava.com for more.

At the Library

Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Call 703-768-6700.
Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Call 703-339-4610.
John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Call 703-971-0010.
Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Call 703-765-3645.

THURSDAY/JAN. 16

Martha's Poetry Discussion. 2 p.m. at Martha Washington Library. Discuss the poetry of Emily Dickeson. Free.
Book Discussion. 7:15 p.m. at John Marshall Library. Discuss "Long Walk to Freedom: An Autobiography" by Nelson Mandela. Free.

FRIDAY/JAN. 17

Child and Me Yoga. 10:30 a.m. at Kingstowne Library. Children ages 1-3 can use yoga pose, songs and nursery rhymes to imitate animals you see at the zoo. Bring a yoga mat or beach towel. Free. Registration required.

SATURDAY/JAN. 18

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

Early American Dancing. 10:30 a.m. at John Marshall Library. All ages can learn the history of colonial English country dancing. Free. Registration required.

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

Sherwood Writers Group. 1 p.m. at Sherwood Library. Inaugural meeting for writers interested in meeting twice per month. Free.

MONDAY/JAN. 21

Fairfax County Public Libraries closed.

TUESDAY/JAN. 22

Harambee Readers. 7 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library. For adults. Discuss "Lost in the City" by Edward Jones. Free.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 22

Group Soup. 10:30 a.m. at Martha Washington Library. Stories and activities for children age 2-3. Free. Registration required.

Fun for 2s & 3s. 10:30 a.m. or 11 a.m. at John Marshall Library. Children ages 2-3 can enjoy stories and activities. Free. Registration required.

Reading Buddies. 4:30 p.m. at Sherwood Library. Children in grades 1-3 can bring a book or check one out at the library and then read it to an older Reading Buddy. Reservations required for a 20-minute slot. For children age 5-9.

THURSDAY/JAN. 23

Real Children Read. 7 p.m. at John Marshall Library. Children ages 10-13 can talk to other teens about books that are currently being read. Free. Registration required.

Evening Story Time. 7 p.m. at Sherwood Library. All ages can enjoy stories, songs and fingerplays. Free. Registration required.

SATURDAY/JAN. 25

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

MONDAY/JAN. 27

A to Zoo Storytime. 10:30 a.m. at John Marshall Library. Children ages 3-5 can enjoy stories and activities. Free. Registration required.

Rainbow Readers. 10:30 a.m. at Kingstowne Library. Children ages 3-5 can enjoy stories and songs. Free. Registration required.

Reading Buddies. 3:30 p.m. at Sherwood Library. Children in grades 1-3 can bring a book or check one out at the library and then read it to an older Reading Buddy. Reservations required for a 20-minute slot. For children age 5-9.

TUESDAY/JAN. 28

Mice are Nice. 10:30 a.m. at Martha Washington Library. Children ages 4-5 can enjoy stories, songs and activities about mice. Free. Registration required.

Martha's Mystery Book Discussion. 7 p.m. at Martha Washington Library. Adults can discuss "Red Herring, a Joe Gunther Novel" by Archer Mayor. Free.

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Multiple Challenges

FROM PAGE 5

BETSY MARTIN, Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations, Chair, Environment & Recreation Committee.

Q. What were your committee's priorities for 2013?

A. Support for and comments on the restoration of Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve, and support for legislation that would allow localities to authorize a 5 cent fee for disposable shopping bags to reduce the plastic bag litter. The committee met with Senator Ebbin who will be introducing bag fee legislation in the upcoming General Assembly Session. In addition, the committee publicly supported the establishment of an off-leash dog park at Westgrove Park, which was established by the Park Authority.

The committee keeps informed and, when appropriate, voices its views to the MVCCA board and/or before other public forums on matters of interest such as the restoration of Huntley Meadows Park, new software tools to assess tree cover in Fairfax County, and the proposed Green Energy Park at the Lorton construction debris landfill.

Q. What are the committee's 2014 priorities?

A. We will continue to address the litter problem, monitor the watershed plans and the county's effort to reduce storm water runoff. Also, we will continue to urge efforts to control invasive exotic plants, advocate for parks and trails, and to make our homes, parks, schools, and yards more environmentally friendly.

QUEENIE COX, Chair, MVCCA Consumer Affairs Committee.

Q. What were your committee's most important accomplishments



Elizabeth Martin

in 2013?

A. Determining the feasibility and community support for a farmers market in Belle View Shopping Center. A survey revealed strong support by the community for a farmers market at Belle View Shopping Center. We are now working with the Belle View Merchants Association on the next steps. We also worked on the issue of a one-use plastic bag tax or fee. The committee agrees that there is a problem but objects to charging a fee to responsible consumers to change the behavior of others. At the present time our committee supports action to require merchants to not issue bags to consumers that harm the environment instead of charging a fee to use the bags issued by the merchants.

Q. What else would you like to convey to the readers for the new year?

A. We would like to invite anyone interested in participating in our monthly teleconference meetings to do so. We also welcome ideas on what issues our committee should pursue. You do not have to be a member of the MVCCA to participate in our meetings. We welcome participation from anyone in the Mount Vernon community. Teleconference: 866-866-2244; pass code: 4636258

CAPTAIN RANDY JOYCE, Commander, Mount Vernon Police District:

The Station's strategic plan for 2014 will focus on combating several areas of concern through a combination of prevention, education, and enforcement. We will continue to engage the community with Domestic Violence presentations and outreach to address both domestic assaults and dat-



Queenie Cox

Dealing with Car Title Lenders

Expressing his concern about the uptick in crime in specific areas of the Route 1 corridor and that the presence of car title lenders may be a factor, Supervisor Gerald Hyland, joined by Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay, asked the County Attorney to look into the options available under the board's existing authority to restrict car title lending companies from locating their businesses along the Route 1 corridor.

Hyland pointed out that it had come to his attention that another jurisdiction was able to use their authority to restrict

where the lending companies could locate. In addition, Hyland has asked the police chief and the county executive to look into the method of allocating police officers to take into account the type and serious nature of the violations as a factor in allocating police officers. In that connection he expressed his concern about the recent crimes being committed along the Route 1 corridor, specifically including the Huntington area.

Hyland, a 26-year veteran of the Board of Supervisors, is the chairman of the board's Public Safety Committee.

ing violence among our teen population. The officers of the Mount Vernon District will as always aggressively pursue criminal violations, specifically targeting violent crimes, through "hot spot" patrols, patrol resource allocation, and statistical analysis. Finally, our officers will

once again participate in several agency and station-based initiatives to address vehicular violations along our roadways, to include aggressive and inattentive driving, improper passing, and school/bus passing violations. Also, our Station, through our partnerships with other county entities, charitable resources and faith-based organizations will participate in programs designed to enhance pedestrian safety and engage the homeless along the Richmond Highway corridor

DON DEES, U.S. Fort Belvoir Public Affairs Representative:

In February 2013, Fort Belvoir welcomed a USO-sponsored Warrior and Family Center to Post. The new 20,000-foot facility will provide respite to Soldiers of the Warrior Transition Battalion and their families. Ac-



Captain Randy Joyce

tivities at the center include: physical health and recreation, family strengthening, behavioral health, education, employment, and community reintegration.

In June, a new Army and Air Force Exchange Service shopping Mall was opened. It includes 22 shops in the mall, in addition to the main exchange, and 270,000 s/f of floor space. The Exchange Mall represents savings opportunities to patrons while returning a portion of the generated funds to the Morale Welfare and Recreation program.

In September, a \$11 million Fort Belvoir Community Hospital was dedicated to the treatment of wounded warriors who suffer from traumatic brain injury and post traumatic stress. Called "Intrepid Spirit" the building is the first of nine National Intrepid Centers of Excellence aimed at standardizing a single concept of care for patients dealing with TBI, PTS and other psychological health conditions.

Focused on Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness programs, Fort Belvoir escalated its efforts in resilience. A program designed to teach soldiers, family members and Army civilians to thrive and grow in the face of adversity trained more than 730 Belvoir community members over the last year. Belvoir remains committed to addressing the resilience issue. Learning not only to bounce back from difficult experiences but to grow and develop from them will aid Soldiers, families and Army civilians in facing difficult challenges ahead here at home or when the nation calls again to face down another threat.

Fort Belvoir today is a community of more than 46,000 people who live, work, and play here. Continuous improvements are underway to modernize infrastructure, such as burying existing overhead power lines. Belvoir remains committed to open collaboration with government leaders, business, civic organizations to find opportunities for mutual benefit where possible. The rich history of such cooperation and the potential for future partnerships will help us to achieve the Belvoir vision, to be the place our community calls home.

CATHERINE VOORHEES, Chair, MVCCA Transportation Committee.

Q. What was accomplished in 2013?

A. Funds were obtained for widening
SEE MULTIPLE, PAGE 21

Affordable Housing for Low and Moderate Income Residents

STACY PATTERSON, Fairfax County Public Information Officer. Redevelopment and Housing Authority (FCRHA).

Patterson stated that her agency does not have studies available that analyze the market for affordable independent rental housing for seniors in the Mount Vernon area.

However, she did provide the following information: "In 2003 the FCRHA opened Gum Springs Glen, a 60-unit affordable independent living property. Last year the FCRHA provided a \$3.9 million loan to a private developer for the acquisition, preservation, and rehabilitation of Mount Vernon House, a 130-unit affordable senior rental property. In addition to these properties, there are privately-owned senior housing properties in the Mount Vernon area. An example is Paul Spring Senior Housing,

and there may be others."

ELIZABETH LARDNER, Chair, Fairfax County Rehabilitation and Housing Authority, and Mount Vernon Commissioner to the Authority.

Q. What would you say were the successes of 2013?

A. The opening of Mondlach Place, a partnership between New Hope Housing and Fairfax County. It accommodates 20 single adults in single family housing units. It also provides much needed housing and support for our Richmond Highway corridor neighbors. Furthermore, it also serves as a positive model of how a Residential Studio Unit (RSU) complex can be well integrated into the surrounding neighborhood.

Coan Pond celebrated its 20th year of operation in 2013. Located on the first floor of an office building, it provides efficiency

units for 19 residents.

Q. Please comment on the challenges facing the affordable housing issue in 2014.

A. Change is coming rapidly to the Richmond Highway Corridor, the Huntington metro station area and Laurel Hill areas. Providing affordable housing to these and other communities will continue to be a challenge in 2014. For example, these questions are now before us: Where will the school bus drivers, hospital support staff, entry level teachers, and retail workers live? Where will our elderly neighbors go when leaving their large single family houses in Mount Vernon? A full and rich community needs to provide housing for all if the community is to remain economically vital and retain a high quality of life.

Summer Camp: Start Planning

Applications for many camps open in January.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

The frigid January temperatures can make summer feel like a distant fantasy of sunscreen and popsicles, but it's actually not that far away. If you have children who want to attend camp after the current school year ends, now is the time to start planning, said experts. In fact, registration for many camps begins this month.

"Spaces fill quickly so we encourage parents to register as soon as possible," said Kevin Rechen, director of the Summer at Norwood School camp in Potomac. "Popular classes and programs always fill early." Rechen added that many camps, including Norwood, offer discounts for early registration.

However, choosing the right camp is not always easy with the Washington, D.C., area's many choices, which run the gamut from traditional day camps to specialty camps, sports camps and academic programs. Your child could even attend a camp about Ernest Hemingway.

Linda Stratton of St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School in Alexandria, said the list of the school's summer offerings is growing. "We have some exciting new specialty camps [at SummerTimes], including Hemingway: The Importance of Being Earnest camp, Chesapeake Journey camp, an overnight camp [and] Yoga and Nutrition."

With so many options, it can be hard to choose. Linda Gulyn, Ph.D., a professor of psychology at Marymount University in Arlington, suggested asking, "Is there a variety of activities, opportunities for movement, structured games, arts and crafts?" There needs to be time for socializing, play and rest, and I would avoid camps that are 100-percent outdoors during the summer because of the heat."

Gulyn suggested parents make sure the camp is a good fit socially. "The opportunity to be with other kids of the same age is especially important in elementary school," she said. "A 7-year-old wants to be with other 7-year-olds, particularly of the same gender. They learn from each other, even informal things like speech habits. They learn what's cool. That's very important developmentally. Not to mention that they are developmentally similar and their motor skills, body size, balance [and] coordination tend to be similar."

In fact, you probably want to stay local to help establish long-term friendships. "Summer camp is a time for children to build friendships and for parents to establish relationships with other parents through things like carpooling," said Gulyn. "If you're going to Civil War camp in Alexandria and you live in Arlington, you probably won't be carpooling or keeping in touch with those people. In my opinion, you should stay as local as possible."

Bethesda-based psychologist Lauren Rubenstein, Psy.D., says that parents should also try to learn about the environment of the camps they are considering. "Try and figure out what the culture of the campus is," she said. "Are they focused on celebrating the individual child, creating a positive camp culture and helping kids develop their individual voices?"

In fact, Rubenstein suggested that parents think about summer 2015 and spend time observing different camps' environments. "It is great to do camp visits one summer, thinking about the next summer,"



PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. STEPHEN'S & ST. AGNES SCHOOL

Students in the SummerTimes Lower School Academic Enrichment program at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School listen as a book is read. Experts say summer camps should be an experience that children will remember fondly.

said Rubenstein. "You can read all the brochures and look on the website, but the best way to know what is right for your child and your family is to spend a day there and see what goes on."

Gulyn said parents should ask how camp staff members resolve inevitable conflicts among campers. "How do they manage behavior problems like bullying? Social conflict issues like teasing and exclusion are common and normal at this age, but how does the camp manage it and are you comfortable with their approach?"

You also need to know the staff-to-child ratio because safety is important."

OF COURSE, COST is also important. "I say parents should stay within their own budgets," said Gulyn. "There are a lot of camps that sound perfect for a child and the child gets there and after three days the child doesn't want to go. A pricey camp isn't always the most appropriate."

Rubenstein said, "Speaking as a parent, I don't think there is any correlation between the cost of the camp and the quality of the camp experience."

If you do fall in love with an expensive camp, however, there are often financial options. "Camps will have scholarships for those in need or a sliding scale for more than one camper in the household, so looking for those shouldn't be difficult to find," said Brenda P. Wiggins, Ph.D., an associate professor of parks, recreation and leisure studies at George Mason University's School of Recreation, Health and Tourism in Fairfax.

If your child is unique or has special needs, experts said not to fear, there are still many options. "Camps should offer opportunities to work with any camper, no matter what their physical, emotional or intellectual challenge might be," said Wiggins. "If a parent inquires and can't see that her or his camper will find themselves in a camp that can modify their activities to meet those challenges, then my suggestion would be to inquire with Fairfax County Neighborhood and Community Services' Therapeutic Recreation Section [and comparable offices for other counties] to find camps for individuals with disabilities," she said.

The right camp, experts said, is out there, and will provide experiences children will treasure for years.

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Improving Wolverines Struggle Against Spartans

West Potomac girls' basketball off to winning start.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE GAZETTE

West Potomac girls' basketball coach Kenny Farmer stood on the sideline and watched as West Springfield scored 12 straight points to open Tuesday's contest. Farmer called a timeout to settle his team, but West Springfield continued the onslaught, extending its lead to 20-0.

West Potomac produced one of its best starts in many years this season, winning eight of its first 12 games. But on Jan. 14, the youthful Wolverines received a reminder they still have a long way to go.

Undefeated West Springfield, a traditional power, beat West Potomac 80-37 on Tuesday at West Potomac High School. The Spartans led 23-2 at the end of the first quarter, 42-8 at halftime, and by as many as 40 points in the second half. West Springfield guard Amy Berglund scored a career-high 30 points, making 13 of 14 field-goal attempts. The lopsided loss came one night after the Wolverines put forth a valiant effort against Centreville, losing 51-33 against a team that reached the Northern Region semifinals last season.

"We've got a long way to go," Farmer said. "Most of our kids are working pretty hard, but it's got to be a year-round commitment. You saw tonight a team [West Springfield] that plays year-round ..."

Farmer is in the first season of his second stint as West Potomac head coach. Farmer,



Kenny Farmer is in the first season of his second stint as West Potomac girls' basketball coach.

a 1979 Groveton High School graduate, coached the Wolverines from 1988 to 1993, producing a record of 84-38 while winning the Gunston District championship in 1992 and the district tournament title in 1991. He then spent 12 seasons as head coach of the Mount Vernon girls' basketball program, compiling a record of 223-77. The Majors won nine consecutive district titles with a district record of 125-2. Mount Vernon twice advanced to the state tournament under Farmer, finishing fifth in 1999 and third in 2001.

West Potomac teams have won six games or fewer in recent seasons prior to Farmer's return.

"It's a slow process," Farmer said. "I think you can build a program anywhere, if you give them the direction and you tell them what you want from them and you get some kids that follow you."

West Potomac's two most productive players this season have been 6-foot-2 junior Maddy Zdebski and 5-foot-8 senior

long and lanky. She has a really nice shot."

The Wolverines have many young players on the roster, including three sophomores and three freshmen. Freshman guard Maggie McDonald and sophomore forward Jessica Dorn are team captains, along with senior post Rosie Sheehan.

"I've never had a freshman captain before," Farmer said. "[McDonald has] been with me for the last 10 months. She played AAU, she played summer, she played fall. She's usually one of the first people here. She works harder than anybody we have. Her skills aren't great, but you can go to any of [her teammates], whether they like her or not, [and they will say] she's the hardest working kid we have. ... Her and Jessica Dorn. If you watch them play: why do they play so much? They're not that talented. But there's a type of kid I want in my program and those two are it. They're going to come every day, they're going to give you their best shot, they're going to run until they drop, they're never going to

Ra'Sheika Gregory. On Tuesday, Zdebski led the Wolverines with 14 points and Gregory finished with two.

"We go as Maddy and Ra'Sheika go," Farmer said. "If those two are with us and playing hard, we can be pretty good. When they're not having good nights or they're discouraged, it can go south very quickly. ... They've got a lot of experience. ... Ra'Sheika is incredibly quick and can jump out of the gym. Maddy is



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE

West Potomac senior Ra'Sheika Gregory drives against West Springfield on Tuesday.

complain and they're going to set the example that you want for your program."

Sophomore guard Tenesha Green scored nine points against West Springfield and freshman guard Grace Moery had six.

West Potomac (8-5) will host Annandale at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 17.

SPORTS BRIEFS



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE GAZETTE

The Mount Vernon gymnastics team placed second at a home meet on Jan. 13.

MVHS Gymnastics Finishes Runner-Up At Home Meet

The Mount Vernon gymnastics team placed second at its Jan. 13 home meet.

The Majors finished with a score of 109.9. Washington-Lee won the meet with a score of 135.875. West Springfield placed third (89.1), followed by Falls Church (87.375) and Wakefield (72.9). Mount Vernon's Talayna Reid placed eighth in the all-around with a score of 30.15.

Kyla Watson placed fourth on floor with a score of 8.675. Reid finished sixth on bars (7.15) and Kyla Watson tied for eighth on vault (8.4).

West Potomac Crew Schedules Erg-a-thon For Saturday

West Potomac crew seeks the support of the com-

munity for the upcoming Erg-a-thon fundraiser, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Jan 18, at Hollin Hall Shopping Center. The crew membership has swelled to double its size this year, likely a result from the enthusiasm about the success of last season when a West Potomac boat placed second in the state championship and three boats competed at nationals. Crew receives no funding from Fairfax County Public Schools and raises its own budget every year. Fundraising is an important part of the program, with all members required to work at our wreath sales and other fundraisers. All fundraising is done in the fall and winter seasons so the team can focus on technique and racing by the time spring arrives. The team is incredibly excited about its sudden growth. There are twice as many participants in winter conditioning as there were at this point last year.

For more information contact Head Coach Leslie Shinnars at lshinnars@aol.com or 703-599-0744 or Publicity Chair Debra McKeown at lawmckeown@aol.com or 703-403-7051. Additionally, www.wpcrow.org is full of information and includes an electronic donation button for those wishing to support the team.

Multiple Challenges

FROM PAGE 18

Route 1 through Fort Belvoir; we highlighted the priority need for the extension of the Yellow line down Route 1; and worked with county officials to locate a transit center on Route 1 for use as a metro stop; brought to the attention of county officials their authority through section 17-201 of the Zoning Ordinance and transportation impact fees to require "by right" developments to provide transportation infrastructure; and urged county officials to enforce proffers. We also stressed the need for a safe bike trail to be established on Fort Hunt road in the vicinity of the Belle Haven Country Club; and commented on the transportation needs in connection with the development around Kings Highway and U.S. Route 1 and Huntington Avenue.



Catherine Voorhees

Belle View Boulevard and Morningside Lane. In addition, we will urge that the following be looked into: the need for a VDOT safety study of Fort Hunt Road; the need for underground storm sewers; pressing the county and the Corps of Engineers to install previously approved bike trails connecting Route 1 with Telegraph Road along Cameron Run. The trail could be constructed on the surface of the Dike, similar to those established for other bike trails.

Ensure that Mt Vernon District receives its fair share of transportation funds including the funds to repair state feeder roads such as: Route 235, Quander Road; Old Mill Road; Old Mount Vernon Highway, and Sherwood Hall lane.

Revitalization

FROM PAGE 3
interstates were built?

Kelleher: There was an article written by one of our board members, Tom Shaw, who passed away a couple of months ago, and he wrote an article that was published that was called "The Highway of Cool." He talks about the history of the highway. You have that Route 66 in the West, and Route 1 was a similar type of thing. If you look at it, you can see that the restaurants, motels and businesses that popped up were really there to serve the travelers. And then when Interstate 95 came up, this really became like the tumbleweed towns in the West. The highway came through, and cut off all the traffic, and so the motels didn't have the clients they used to have. The road entered into a period of decline. I think it is coming back.

Q. What issues will you take up in 2014?

A. We will monitor and comment on the Virginia transit study of Route 1 which will determine the scope and character of transportation and development for years to come; monitor and comment as needed re: Mulligan Road (Jeff Todd Way); and continue to press for the development of a bike trail between Belle Haven road and Route 1 along Fort Hunt Road; call attention to the transportation safety issues with the U.S. Park Service and County and state elected officials concerning the safety issues inherent in accessing the Mount Vernon Bike Trail,

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-Thomas A. Edison

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-William Van Horne

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Obituary

Obituary

Frances Bliss Simmons

Frances Bliss
Simmons, 89, of
Alexandria, died
peacefully on
November 13, 2013,
at Mount Vernon
Hospital surrounded
by her family. Mrs.
Simmons is preceded
in death by her hus-
band, BGen Edwin
H. Simmons, USMC.
She is survived by
her children, Edwin
Simmons, Jr., Clarke
Simmons, Bliss
Simmons Robinson,
and Courtney
Simmons Elwood;
and 5 grandchildren.
A service will be held
at Fort Myer Post
Chapel on January 23,
2013, at 3pm, fol-
lowed by interment
at Arlington National
Cemetery and a
reception at the Ft.
Myer's Officers' Club.
The arrangements are
under the direction of
Cunningham Turch
Funeral Home,
Alexandria, VA.

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE

Green Paradise Alexandria, LLC trading New Grand Mart, 6255 Little River Tnpk, Alexandria, VA 22312. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for Wine and Beer Off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Lydia Lee, member, LLC

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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Legal Notices

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

21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

OBITUARY



Thomas "Tommy" Y. Johnson, Sr.

Thomas Y. Johnson, 88, of Alexandria, died on January 13, 2014 at Woodbine Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Mr. Johnson is preceded in death by his siblings: Reba Evans, Susie Blue, Estelle "Tillie" Butler, Morris "Brother" Johnson, and Matthew "Neil" Johnson. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Dorothy "Wanda" Johnson; his son, Thomas Y. "Jay" Johnson, Jr.; and 9 nieces and nephews.

Mr. Johnson was a former volunteer at Alexandria Volunteer Fire Department, a member of the Potomac Truck and Engine Company #2, and a member of the Odd Fellows Lodge #38.

The family will receive friends from 2pm to 4pm, and 6pm to 8pm Friday, January 17, 2014, at Cunningham Turch Funeral Home, 811 Cameron St. Alexandria, VA 22314. A Life Celebration Service will be held at the funeral home on Saturday, January 18, 2014 at 10:30am, followed by interment at Ivy Hill Cemetery, Alexandria, VA.

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements



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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 11

North Korea launching an attack on the USS Maddox.

The purpose of the organization was to seize and provide information to secure the U.S. Now however, they collect data from every American born citizen with no motive and no credible reason. The Washington Examiner reported a recent meeting between Obama and the key lawmakers, he "has also praised the NSA, saying he was certain they were not engaged in unlawful "snooping." In fact, the NSA blatantly violates the Fourth Amendment.

"The right of the people to be secure in the persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or their things to be seized."

The Framers were clear in their meaning.

Over the years, the NSA has become unaccountable, corrupt and deceitful. First reported in September 2013, the NSA now cracks any and all data on smart phones.

One way to prevent further NSA infiltration into your personal lives: if you are on the internet and an error comes up saying "Windows/Mac is trying to fix the problem, would you like to send this report in?"

Say "No" or "Cancel."

This is a pressing matter, every time you send in a report, a little kilobyte of that report states your IP Address, which is any companies' key to accessing your computer. When you chat on the mobile of landline phone, it is tapped to monitor any conversation.

If you ever saw "The Simpsons Movie" that was released in 2007, when Marge, Bart, Lisa, and Maggie are on the train heading back to Springfield, their own "private" discussion was monitored by the government agency. In that small segment you heard them listening to a couple that was saying goodnight after an allegedly intimate tête-à-tête. At the time, this was a joke, something to laugh at, but now that was and is what our government is doing.

There are nearly 30 projects conducted by the NSA, and most of them have to do with tracking every day citizens. The PRISM project, leaked by Edward Snowden, shows how corrupt the NSA and our very own legislative, executive, and judicial branch is. Coincidentally, while visiting Germany, President Obama stated to the outraged public, that this is "a circumscribed, narrow system directed at us being able to protect our people."

This is wrong.

It does not protect the citizens, or the private sector workers, it protects the government. After the leak and the Administration's defending say on the matter, the New York Times stripped back the comments, canards, and obfuscations and stated, "the [Obama] Administration has now lost all credibility on the issue."

At the beginning, the NSA said this new computer would be done in a decade, however, like all numbers being "fixed" (i.e. unemployment percentage), this will be completed sooner, giving Big Brother and Uncle Sam more insight on the American

citizen's daily and personal lives then ever thought possible. Even by the standards of Orwell or Hollywood.

They are destroying everything the Founding Fathers fought against. Uncle Sam is becoming King George III while Big Brother Dons the Redcoat.

Author Alan Moore wrote in the novel, V for Vendetta: "People should not be afraid of their Governments, Governments should be afraid of their people."

This quote has a striking relevance to today's events and should hold true to every individual who stands together against the corruption of government.

T.M. Shirley/Mount Vernon

Choosing To Lose

To the Editor:

In 2013, the Republicans nominated Ken Cuccinelli for Governor in a convention rather than in a primary election, bypassing mainstream voters and blocking more moderate Lt. Governor William T. "Bill" Bolling from running as a Republican. He briefly flirted with running anyway, then stood down. Thousands of voters, angered by this backroom deal, protested by voting for Libertarian candidate Robert Sarvis who set a record for a third party candidate by garnering 6.6 percent of the vote. This was at least partially responsible for the election of the ethically-challenged Terry McAuliffe as Governor.

Sen. Mark Herring (D-33) was elected Attorney General, leaving his Senate seat open. Republicans need to win Herring's former seat at the Jan. 21 election to maintain control of the Senate. One would think they learned their lesson from Mr. Cuccinelli's loss. Apparently not. Republicans nominated John Whitbeck at a "mass meeting" of 500 Republican operatives, not a public process. Del. Joe T. May, a Republican, who wanted to be considered for the Republican nomination, is unhappy with the nominating process and is running for the seat as an independent. Of course, May will likely take votes away from Whitbeck thereby helping the candidacy of Democrat Jennifer Wexton. At a rally for Cuccinelli last year, Whitbeck told an anti-Semitic joke for which he later had to apologize.

What a mess! Republicans don't seem to understand the perceptions of the voting public. Ken Cuccinelli is a man of integrity with a great command of the issues. However, his positions on social issues turned off many voters. Voters also resented being precluded from voting for the more moderate Bolling who likely would have defeated McAuliffe. Now a backroom deal has nominated a man who told an anti-Semitic joke at a political rally, and froze out another person (May) who doesn't carry that baggage. It sure looks like the extreme right wing fringe of the Republican party would rather win the nomination than the election.

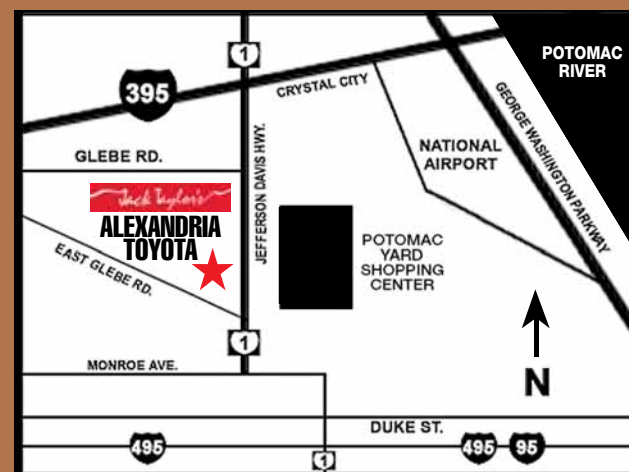
This reminds me of the epitaph "He had the right of way." Yes you did, but now you're dead. If this same mentality controls nominations for Republican candidates for contested U.S. Senate seats this year, we can look forward to two more years of Harry Reid's "leadership" of the Senate.

H. Jay Spiegel/Mount Vernon

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